

Current cetacean bycatch issues in European waters, Monday 17 April 2023

ECS Workshop, Monday 17 April 2023

Review of Available Data on Cetacean Bycatch in National Stranding Databases



Review of Available Data on Cetacean Bycatch in National Stranding Databases

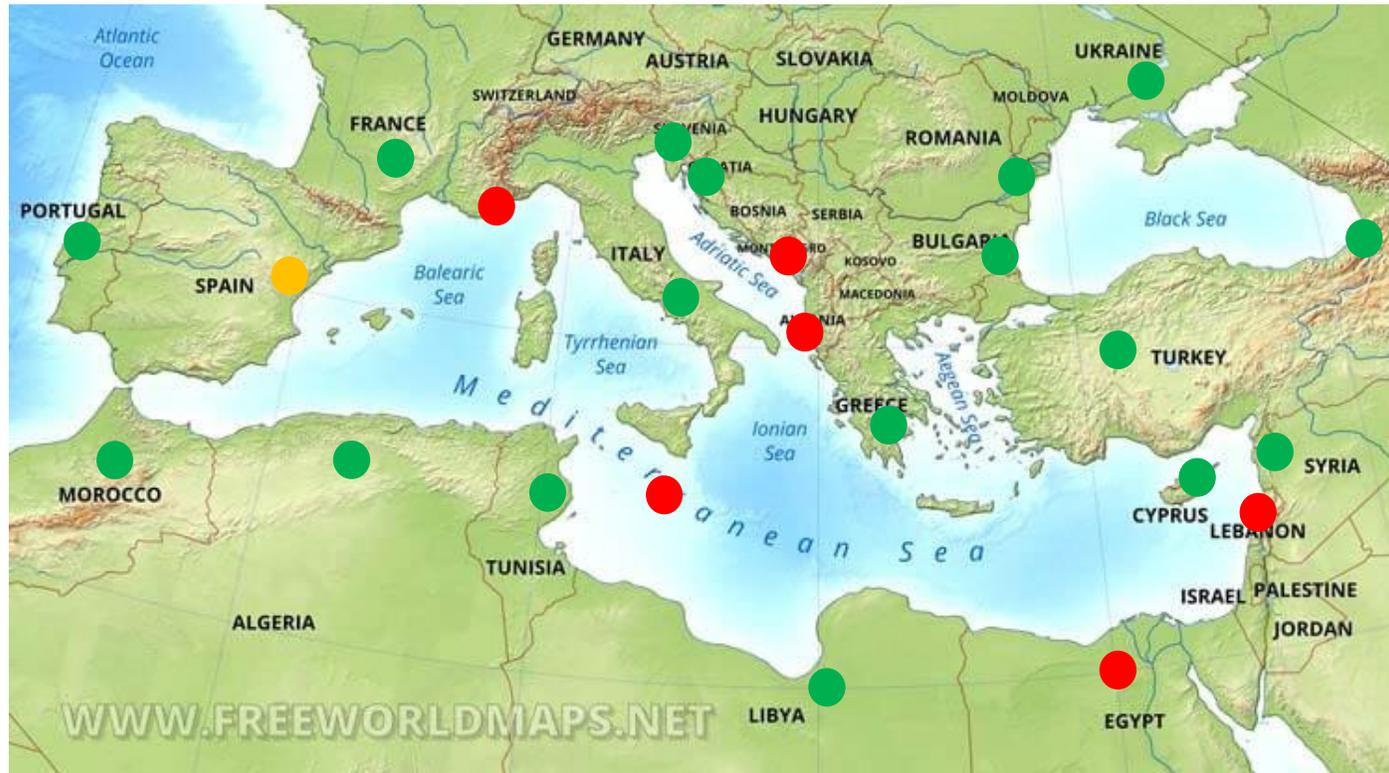
Review's objectives:

- ▶ **Collate information on strandings** whose causes of death have been related to interactions with fishing gear
- ▶ **Review the examinations** usually performed and what evidences are considered to determine if the causes of death are being due to bycatch (postmortem examination, external evidences...)
- ▶ **Identify the gaps to be covered** in order to improve the data collection for bycatch-related strandings.

ACCOBAMS, 2021. Review of available data on cetacean bycatch in national stranding databases. By Gonzalvo J. & Lamouti S. Ed. ACCOBAMS, Monaco, 20 pp.

Review of Available Data on Cetacean Bycatch in National Stranding Databases

A questionnaire was distributed among 24 countries of Mediterranean and Black Sea



Review of Available Data on Cetacean Bycatch in National Stranding Databases

A questionnaire was distributed among 24 countries of Mediterranean and Black Sea

▶ Questionnaires received from **18 countries**

- Cyprus, Syria and Georgia declared not to have an operative CSN
- 15 countries have reportedly a CSN (Greece, Algeria, Portugal and Spain reported to have more than one)
- in Algeria, Portugal and Spain the various CSNs deal with different regions/territories

▶ 6 countries did not respond



Different status of stranding networks (official recognition & well-coordinated one / voluntary data collection by experts or organizations)

Review of Available Data on Cetacean Bycatch in National Stranding Databases

Participants in this review were asked to provide detail on all cetacean strandings they had recorded in their CSNs since June 2016:

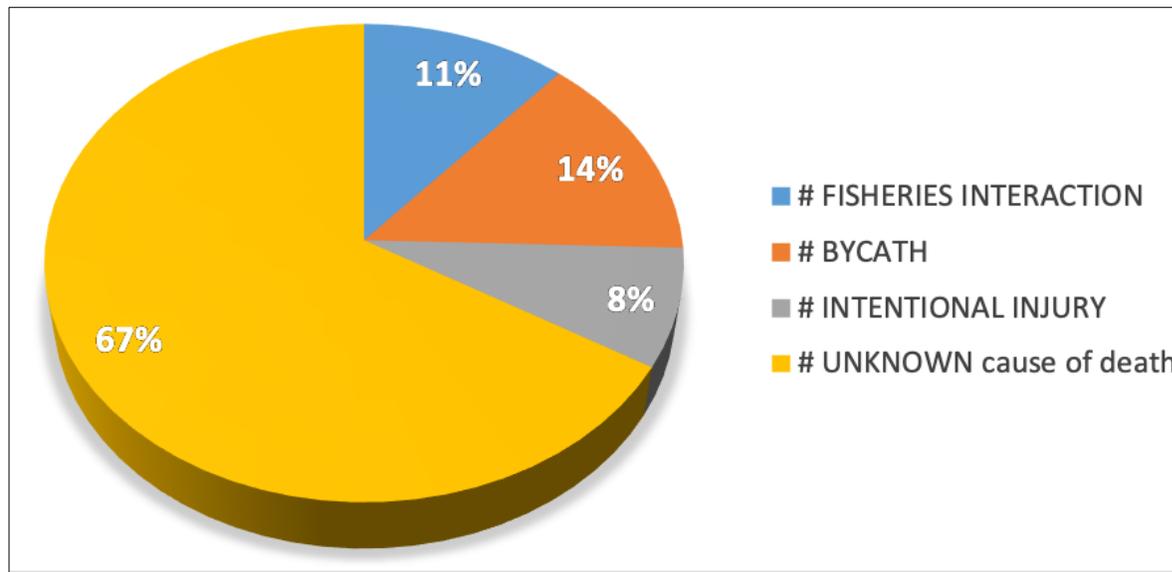
 **4,690 cetacean strandings** for 27 different species were reported (+ three generic categories when species identification had not been possible)

Review of Available Data on Cetacean Bycatch in National Stranding Databases

Participants in this review were asked to provide detail on all cetacean strandings they had recorded in their CSNs since June 2016:

➔ **4,690 cetacean strandings** for 27 different species were reported (+ three generic categories when species identification had not been possible)

➔ Details on the causes of death were provided for **2,838 records**:



- Fishery Interaction (n=300)
- Bycatch (n=417)
- Intentional injury (n=207)
- unknow cause of death (n=1914)

Review of Available Data on Cetacean Bycatch in National Stranding Databases

The most frequently observed evidences of fisheries interaction during post-mortem examination were:

- ❖ external presence of fishing gears,
- ❖ sharp and penetrating wounds,
- ❖ presence of recent feeding and
- ❖ marks/linear signs.

These were followed to some lesser extent by fractures, fishing gear around larynx and fishing gear or fragments in the gastrointestinal tracts.

Review of Available Data on Cetacean Bycatch in National Stranding Databases

Conclusion:

For a large majority (67%) of the close to 3,000 strandings reported in the five years previous to this review, it was not possible to establish precisely the cause of death.

The remaining 33% of strandings were somehow related to fisheries, since they were recorded as caused by bycatch, fishery interaction or as result of intentional injuries.



Training and funding are the most frequently reported needs by the respondents to improve data collection and capacity for identifying the causes of death of a stranded cetacean



Thank you for your
attention!

ACCOBAMS

www.accobams.org



@ACCOBAMSDolphinsAndWhales



@ACCOBAMS