Workshop : Coordinated monitoring and coherent assessment of population status

Southern Europe, Mediterranean and Black Seas - ACCOBAMS -

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Introduction

ACCOBAMS Area
Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area

In March 2016
23 Parties to ACCOBAMS

The designations employed and the presentation of the information on this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ACCOBAMS concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
Research and monitoring programs and projects done to improve knowledge about the biology, ecology and conservation of cetaceans

Information from 2013 National Reports
Cetacean Monitoring Programs

National and sub-regional Cetacean Monitoring Programs identified in the ACCOBAMS SC Regional reports in 2015

- Less actions undertaken in countries having a delicate geopolitical situation...
- Only at national level, so not coordinated between countries
- Gaps
To establish a coherent monitoring system for the species concerned in the Mediterranean ecoregion, based on objective, robust and comparable data, with a view to improving the conservation status of these species and their habitats through appropriate management.

Providing a deeper understanding of the abundance and distribution of the species at the Mediterranean Sea regional level.

Strengthening international cooperation and synergies between the countries.

The project will provide essential supports to the countries to meet their international and regional commitments (EcAp process, EU Directives, CBD Aichi targets, Bern Convention...)

Plan for research platforms (10 macro-areas, 11 aircrafts, 2 ships and 3 acoustic ships)

2017
Relevant international/regional Organizations addressing cetacean monitoring

- ACCOBAMS Parties
  also EU Member States

(Biodiversity descriptor – D1)
Monitoring included both existing and new schemes (only 1 MS has a *de novo* programme).

Contents of Measure programmes often unclear (lack of ambition or delay in the implementation?).

Questionnaire survey of national practices relative to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive cetacean aspects in ACCOBAMS Contracting Parties

7 - Monitoring and Measure Programs for Cetaceans?

11 respondents out of 23 Parties of the ACCOBAMS
Monitoring and Measure Programmes for Cetaceans?

Monitoring programmes expected to be partially operational by 2015 in most MS.

Operability of the programme of measures seems less clear.

11 respondents out of 23 Parties of the ACCOBAMS
Relevant international/regional Organizations addressing cetacean monitoring

- ACCOBAMS Parties
- also Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention

EcAP Process

Ecological Objective 1
“biodiversity”
Relevant international/regional Organizations addressing cetacean monitoring
Relevant international/regional Organizations addressing cetacean monitoring

- ACCOBAMS Parties also members of The Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution
### Other ACCOBAMS Initiatives to improve cetacean monitoring

#### Assessment of data-deficient species/all species under the IUCN red list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sperm whale, Mediterranean population</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-beaked common dolphin, Mediterranean population</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common bottlenose dolphin, Black Sea sub-species</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped dolphin, Mediterranean population</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fin whale, Mediterranean population</td>
<td>Data deficient</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuvier’s beaked whale, Mediterranean population</td>
<td>Data deficient</td>
<td>Data deficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-finned pilot whale, Mediterranean population</td>
<td>Data deficient</td>
<td>Data deficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risso’s dolphin, Mediterranean population</td>
<td>Data deficient</td>
<td>Data deficient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACCOBAMS–IUCN workshop for the establishment of a Red List of cetaceans in ACCOBAMS area, Monaco, 5–7 March 2006**

Work is ongoing for Cuvier’s beaked whale and Long-finned pilot whale
Other ACCOBAMS Initiatives to improve cetacean monitoring

Ongoing effort on Cetacean Critical Habitats

Areas of importance

Maritime transports


Oil & gas + marine renewable energy


http://seamap.env.duke.edu/
Main relevant Recommendations from SC10

Facilitation of the release of research permits for research activities to be conducted in the Agreement area in line with the actions presented in the ACCOBAMS work-plan.

Parties and Range States should ensure that any proposed national programmes on the study of abundance and distribution of cetaceans are compatible with the development of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative.

EU Member States, but also Non-EU-Member States [Parties to ACCOBAMS and of the Barcelona Convention under which the EcAp initiative is being developed] should be encouraged to include cetaceans in all 5 potentially relevant descriptors (D1, D4, D8, D10 & D11) as threat to GES.

EU Member States, but also Non-EU-Member States [Parties to ACCOBAMS] should be encouraged to integrate conservation action reflecting objectives, decisions, recommendations and information by ACCOBAMS that suit reaching GES within their national Programme of Measures.
Main relevant Recommendations from SC10

Consideration is given by the initial assessors as to whether there is sufficient new information to re-assess the species that are still Data Deficient, and if so, submit new assessment for consideration by the appropriate evaluators.

Consideration is given whether there is sufficient information to evaluate species within the region not previously assessed (e.g. the rough-toothed dolphin) and if so, an assessment is submitted for consideration by the appropriate evaluators.

Importance to liaise with the coordinators of the Marine Mammal Task Force of IUCN concerning the IMMA status.

=> Because working together made things become greater!
Many thanks

More information:

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http://accobams.org/

http://www.netccobams.com/

http://accobams.geo2i.com/
Questionnaire survey of national practices relative to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive cetacean aspects in ACCOBAMS Contracting Parties

SO WHAT?

✓ 11 respondents out of 23 Parties of the ACCOBAMS:
✓ Exploratory analysis focusing mainly on the answer forms, not on the content of the documents attached with the filled questionnaires;
✓ Several salient features in MSFD implementation among Parties: heterogeneity in (1) methodology of MSFD national transposition, (2) perceived importance of cetaceans as component of GES, IA, GES, etc...), (3) ambition placed in the monitoring and measure programmes;
✓ Part of the heterogeneity may stem from ambiguity of some of the questionnaire items;