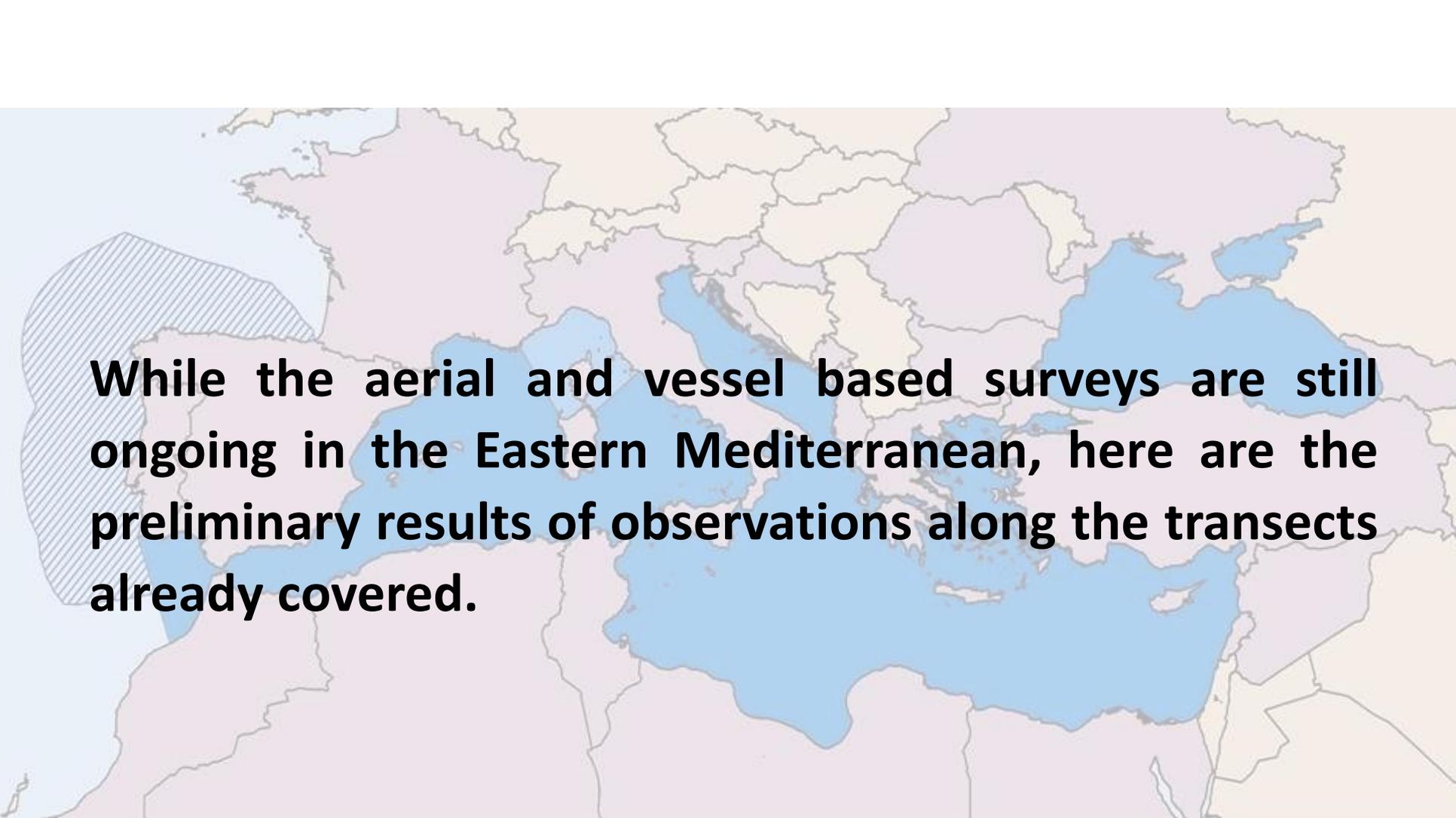




**Preliminary results of the Mediterranean synoptic survey sightings, along the aerial and vessel transects, for cetaceans, megafauna and marine litters**



**While the aerial and vessel based surveys are still ongoing in the Eastern Mediterranean, here are the preliminary results of observations along the transects already covered.**

 Agreement area

 Extension

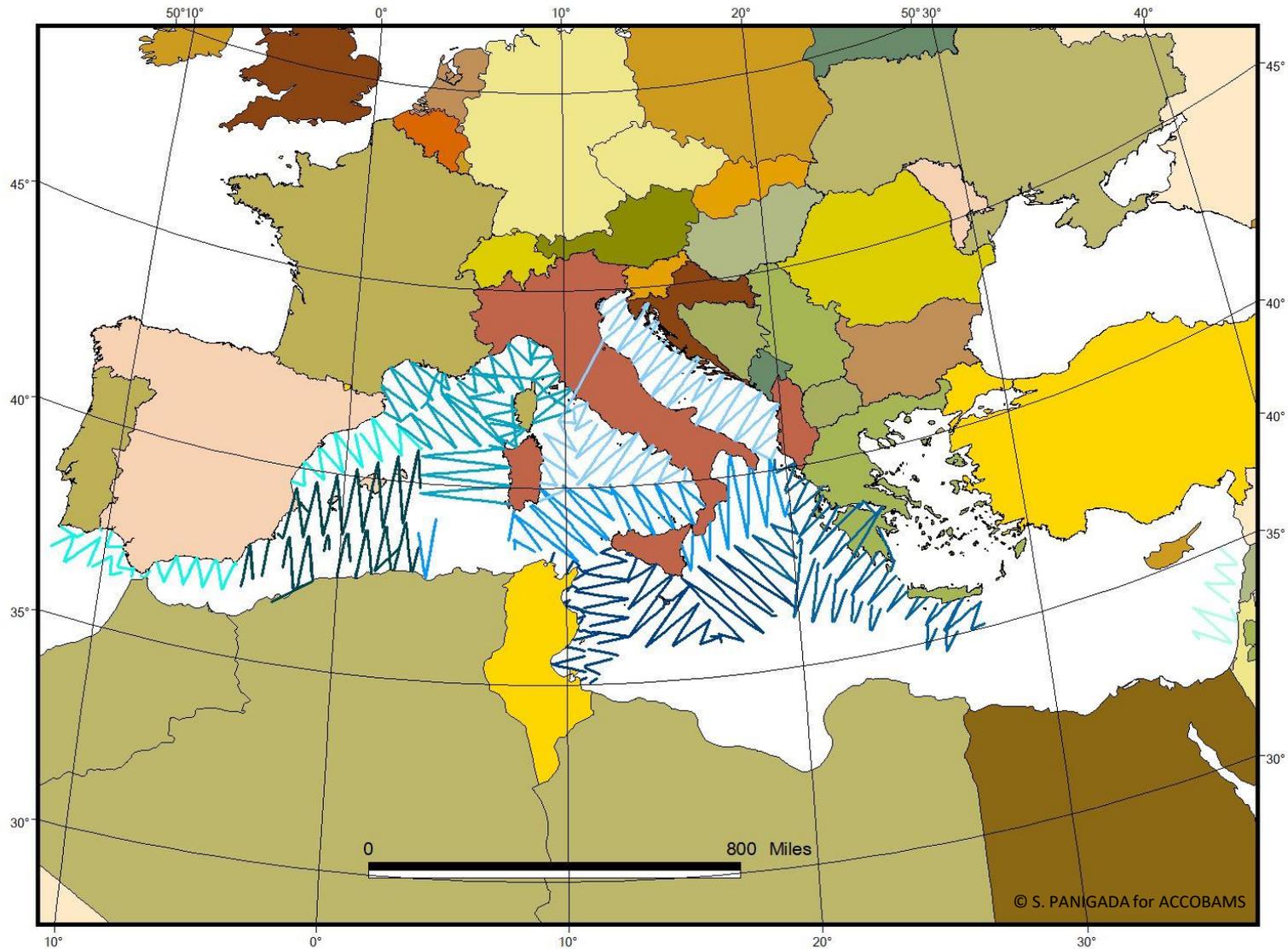
 Parties to ACCOBAMS

 Pelagos Sanctuary

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# Aerial Survey

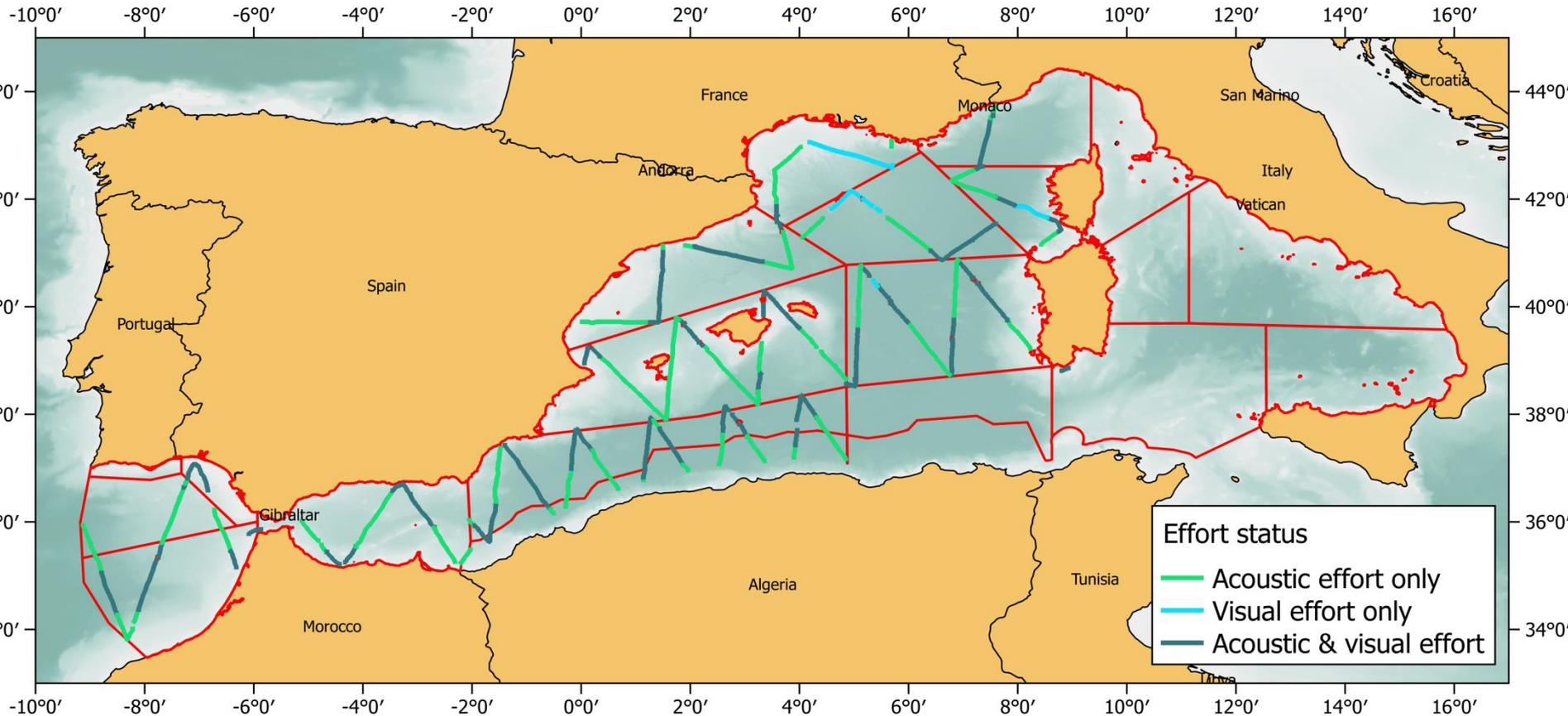
## Updated effort - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2018



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# Boat Survey with R/V Song of the Whale

## Updated effort - July 19<sup>th</sup> 2018



**10,283 km (76 %) survey transects completed since 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

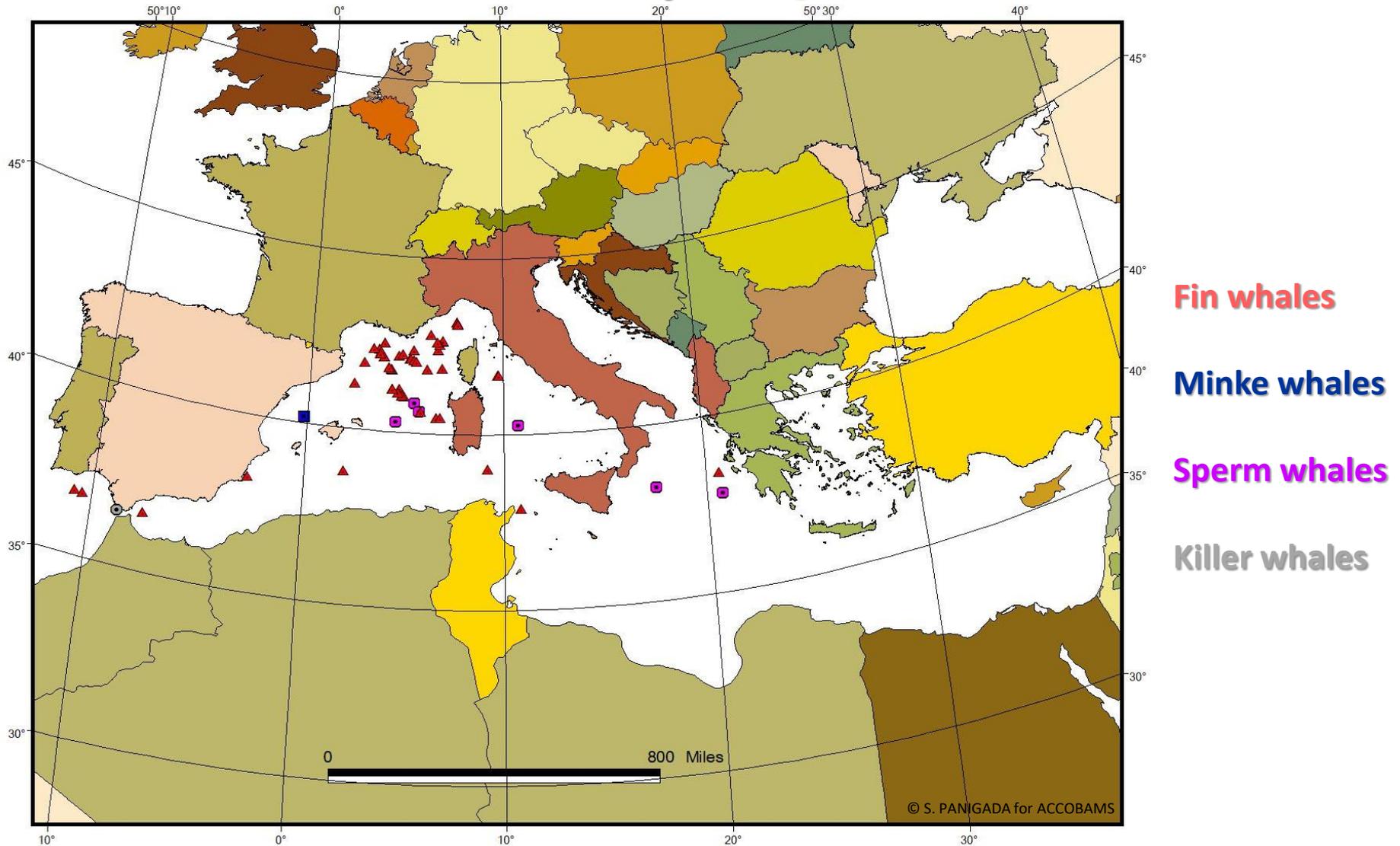
**Over 75% of the planned tracks to be covered by ship has been surveyed. Boats are still out at sea collecting data in other areas.**

In the framework of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, aimed at improving the understanding of the conservation status of cetaceans at the Mediterranean/Black Sea macroregional level, the first synoptic survey of the whole Mediterranean Sea is ongoing since June 2018. It is carried out by combining aerial- and vessel-based visual survey methods and passive acoustic monitoring (PAM), following a harmonized scientific methodology.

Five Research Vessels, eight aircrafts and nearly a hundred observers from all the Mediterranean countries having received a specific training, have been surveying the whole Mediterranean during the months of June and July, to collect data on cetaceans' population distribution and abundance but also on other threatened megafauna species, e.g., sea turtles and sea birds. Marine litter from 40 cm size were also surveyed from planes.

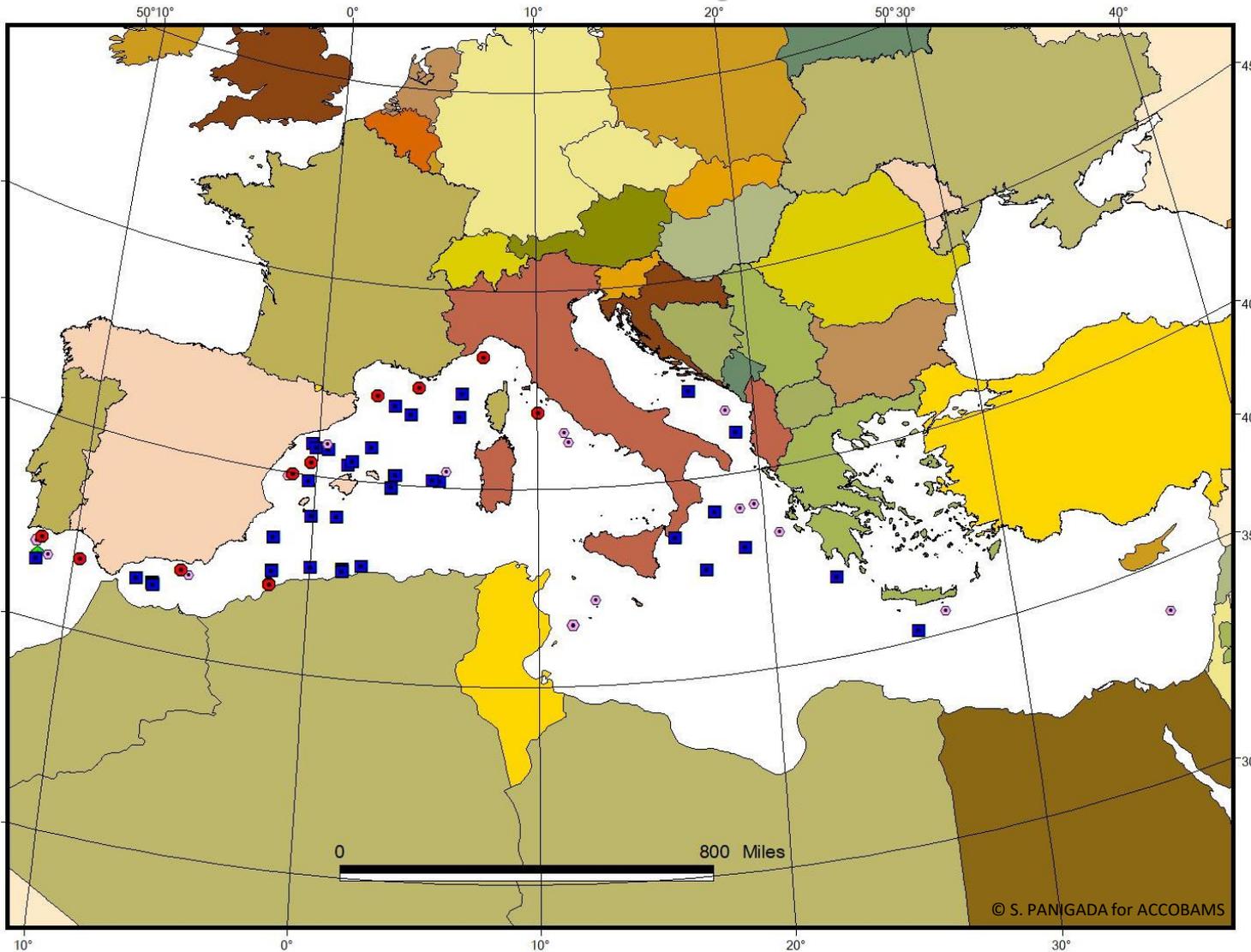
**- Following are the very preliminary results -**

# Aerial Survey - Large cetaceans



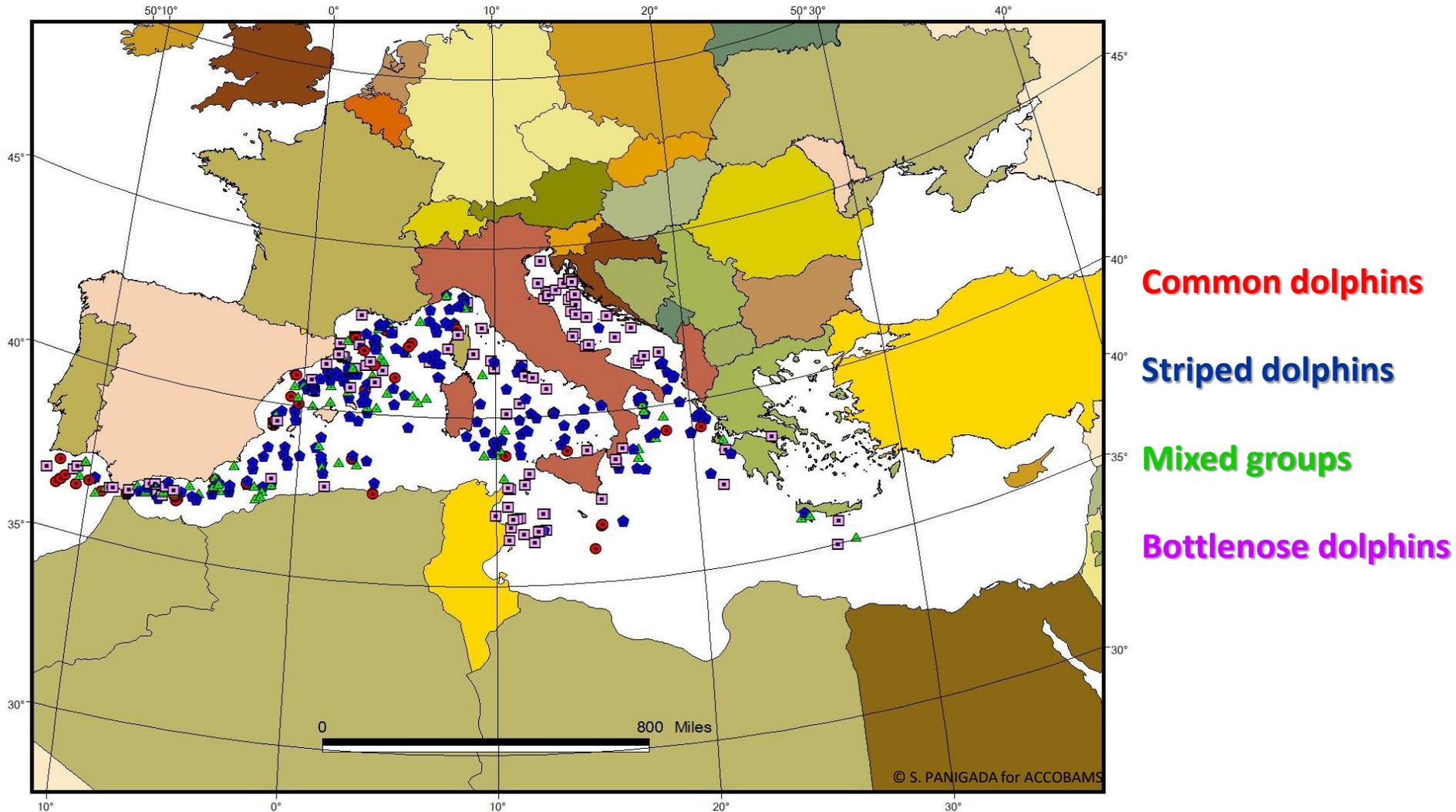
Fin whales have been regularly sighted in the Ligurian Sea, Gulf of Lions and Gulf of Cadiz. Sperm whales have been sighted along the Hellenic Trench and in the offshore waters of the Sardinia Sea. One rare sighting of a minke whale occurred close to the Balearic Islands. The Strait of Gibraltar offered a great sighting of killer whales.

# Aerial Survey - Medium cetaceans



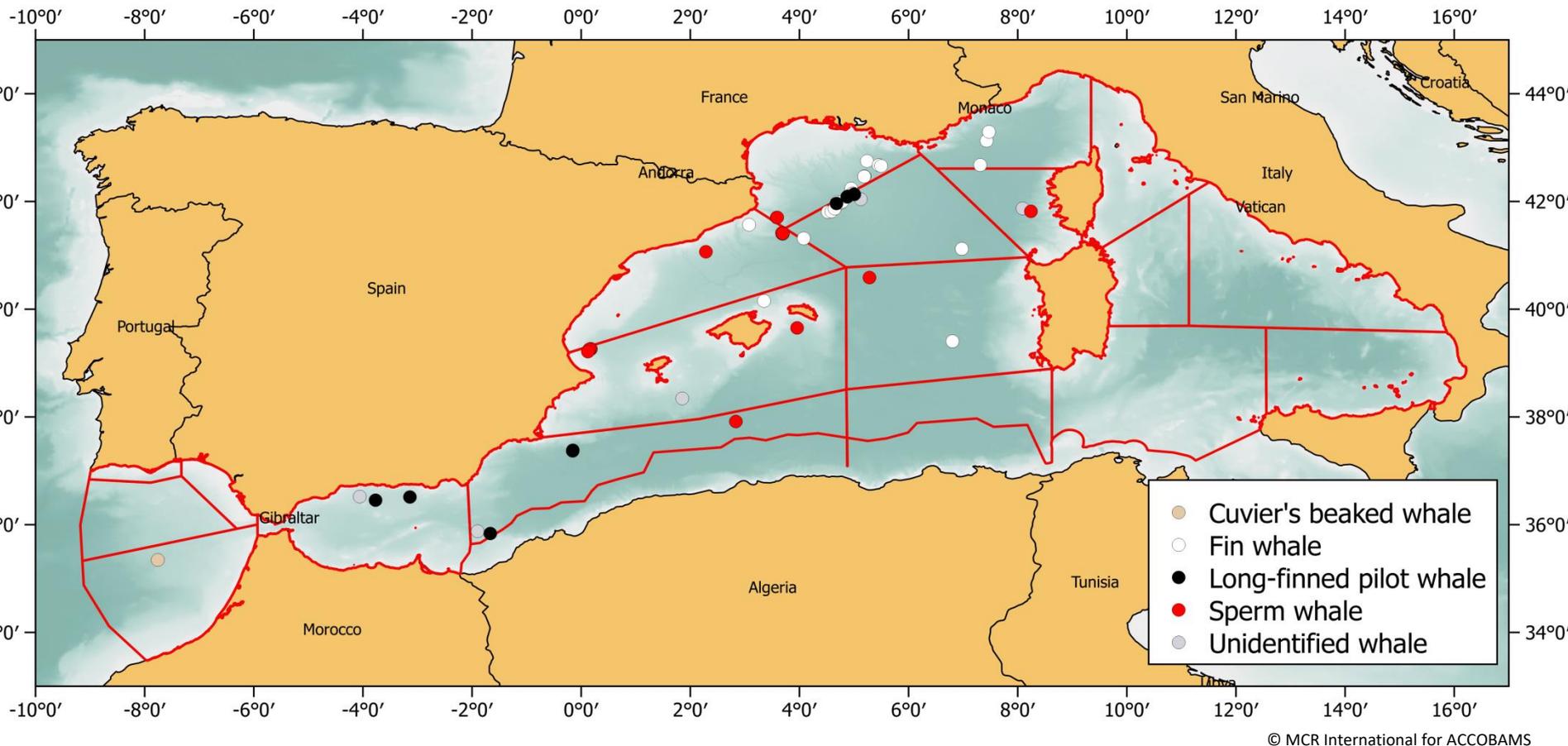
Risso's dolphins have been sighted more offshore than originally expected for a species which prefers slope areas. Pilot whales have been observed all along the Western Mediterranean, more in the northern portion, while Cuvier's beaked whales have been mostly sighted in canyon areas, as expected.

# Aerial Survey - Small cetaceans



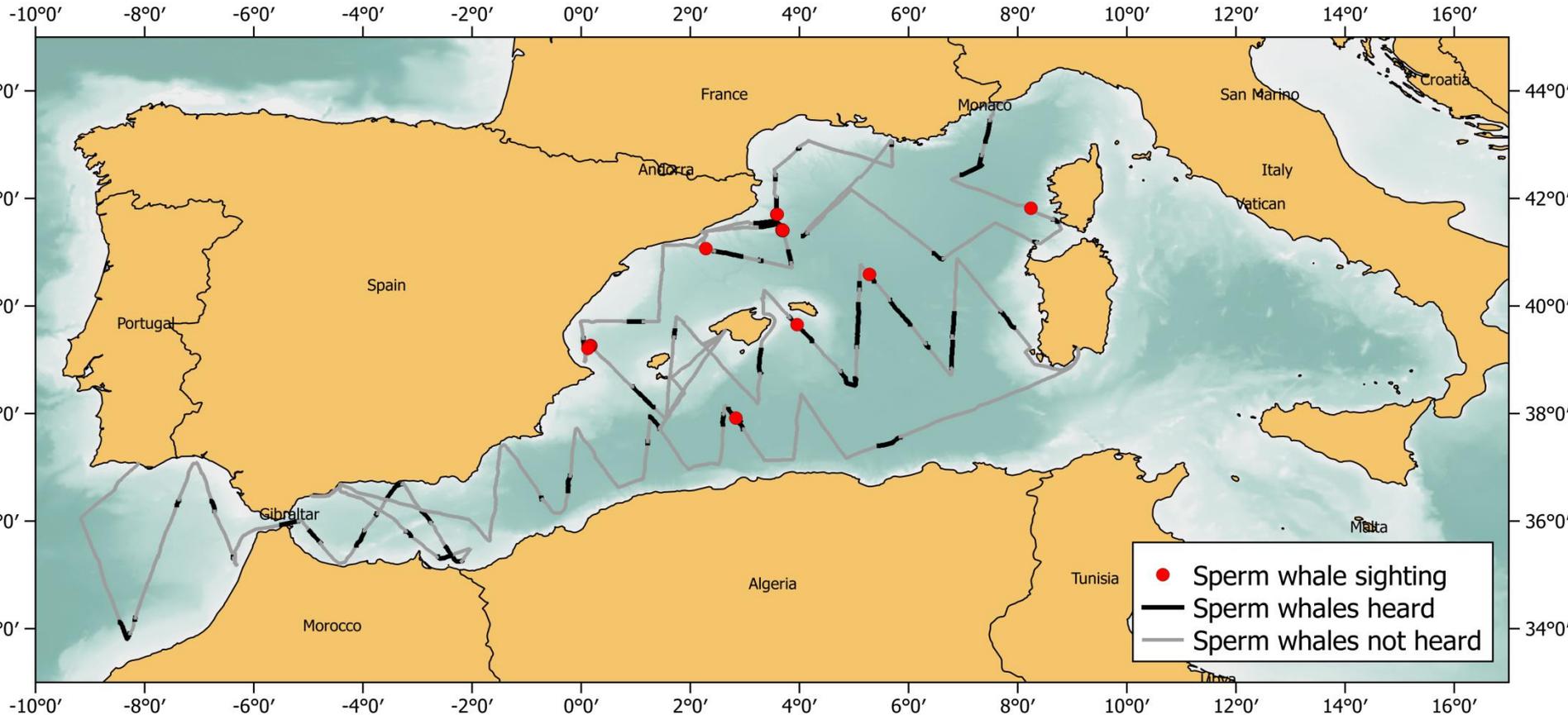
Common dolphins have been mostly sighted in the Western portion of the Basin and in the Strait of Sicily. Bottlenose dolphins appear to be very common in the northern portion of the Adriatic Sea, in the Strait of Sicily and along the coast, with some sighting more offshore. Striped dolphins are mostly distributed in the offshore waters and appear to be the most abundant species.

# Boat Survey - Whale Sightings



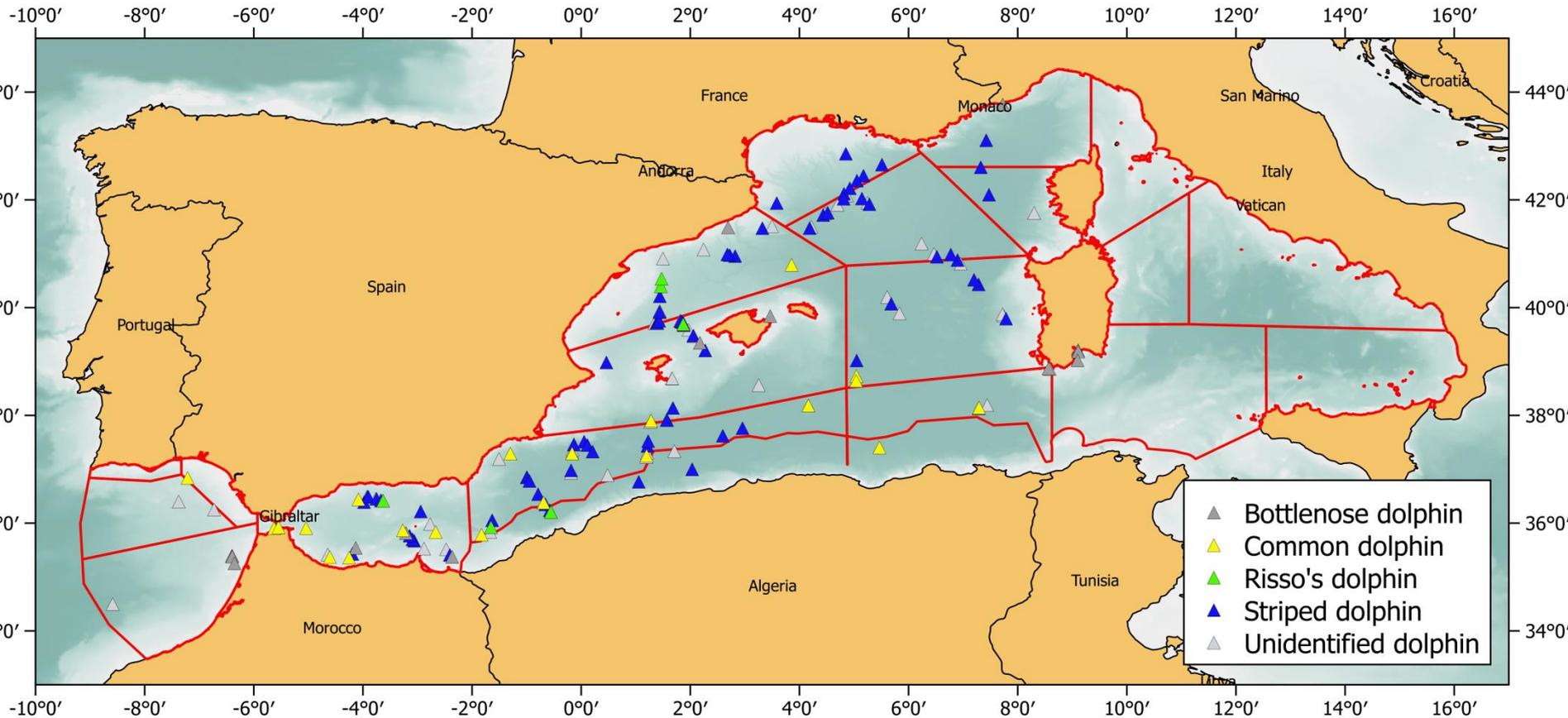
**As resulted from aerial monitoring, fin whales were mainly observed in the northern part of the Basin, while sperm whales appear to be present in deeper waters.**

# Boat Survey - Sperm Whale Acoustic Detections



**Sperm whales were acoustically detected throughout the survey in deeper waters.**

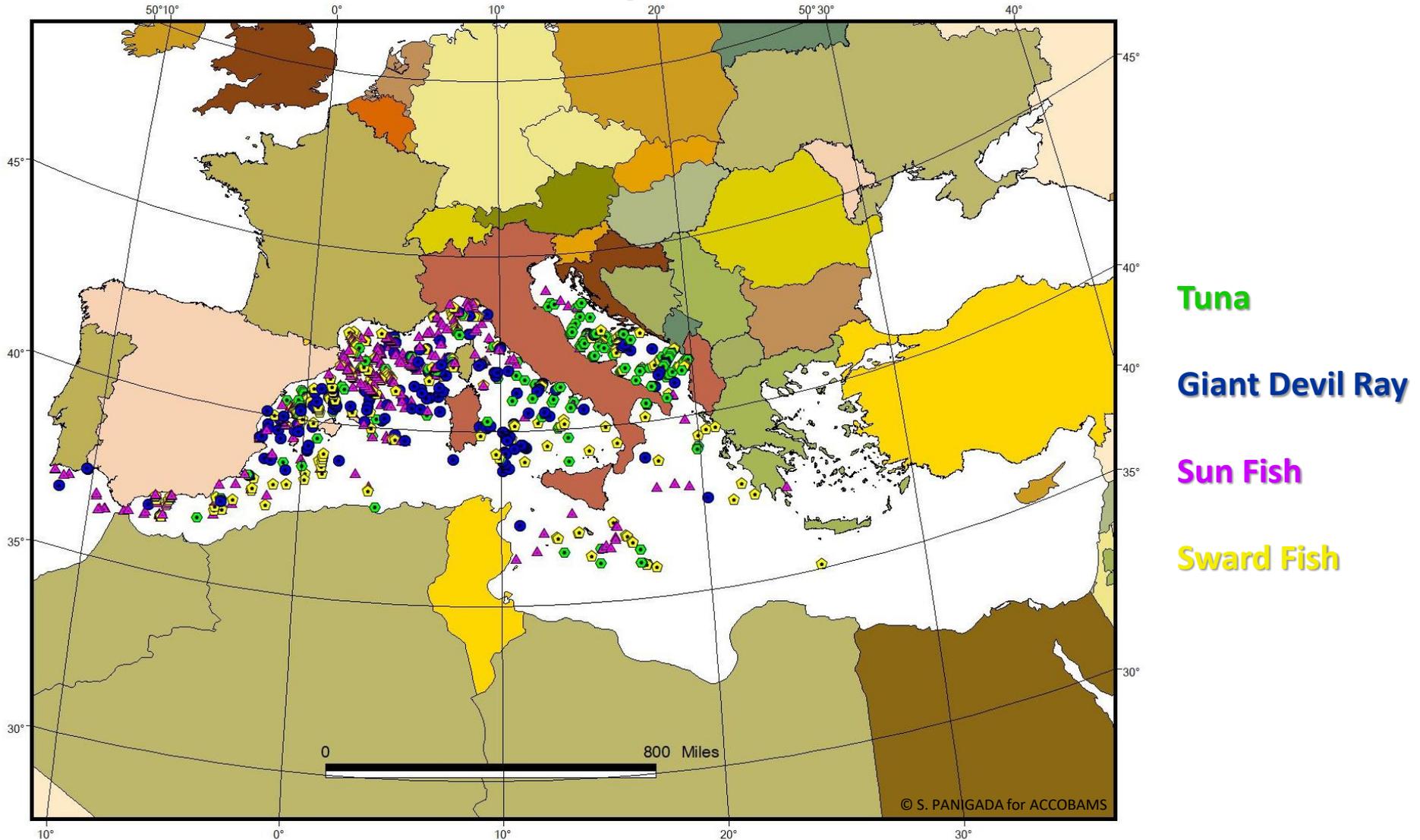
# Boat Survey - Dolphin Sightings



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**Four different species of dolphins have been sighted, with striped dolphins being the most sighted one.**

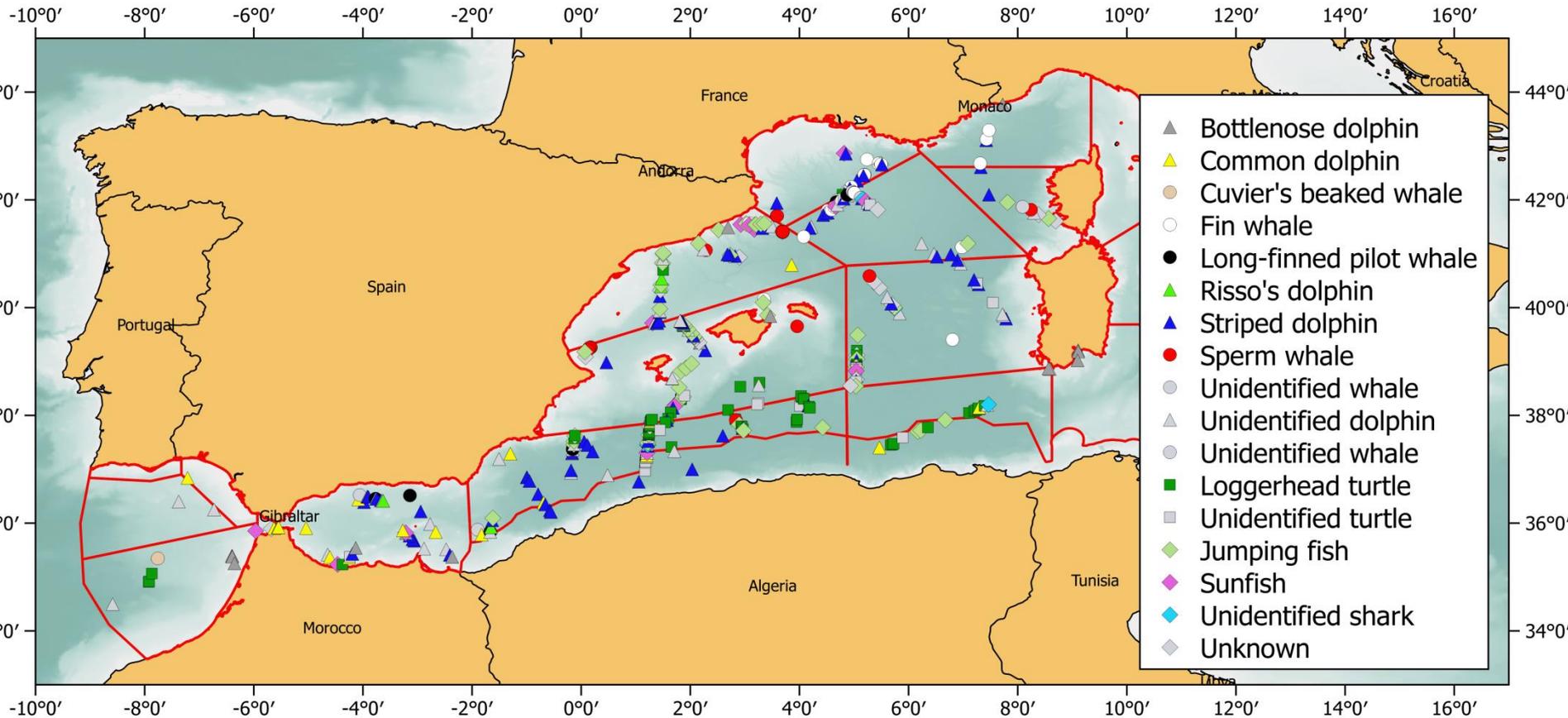
# Aerial Survey - Other marine fauna



Large marine megafauna has been regularly observed during the flights, with a predominance of turtles, Atlantic sun fish and giant devil rays, confirming how these species are frequent and abundant throughout the Mediterranean Basin.

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# Boat Survey - All Sightings

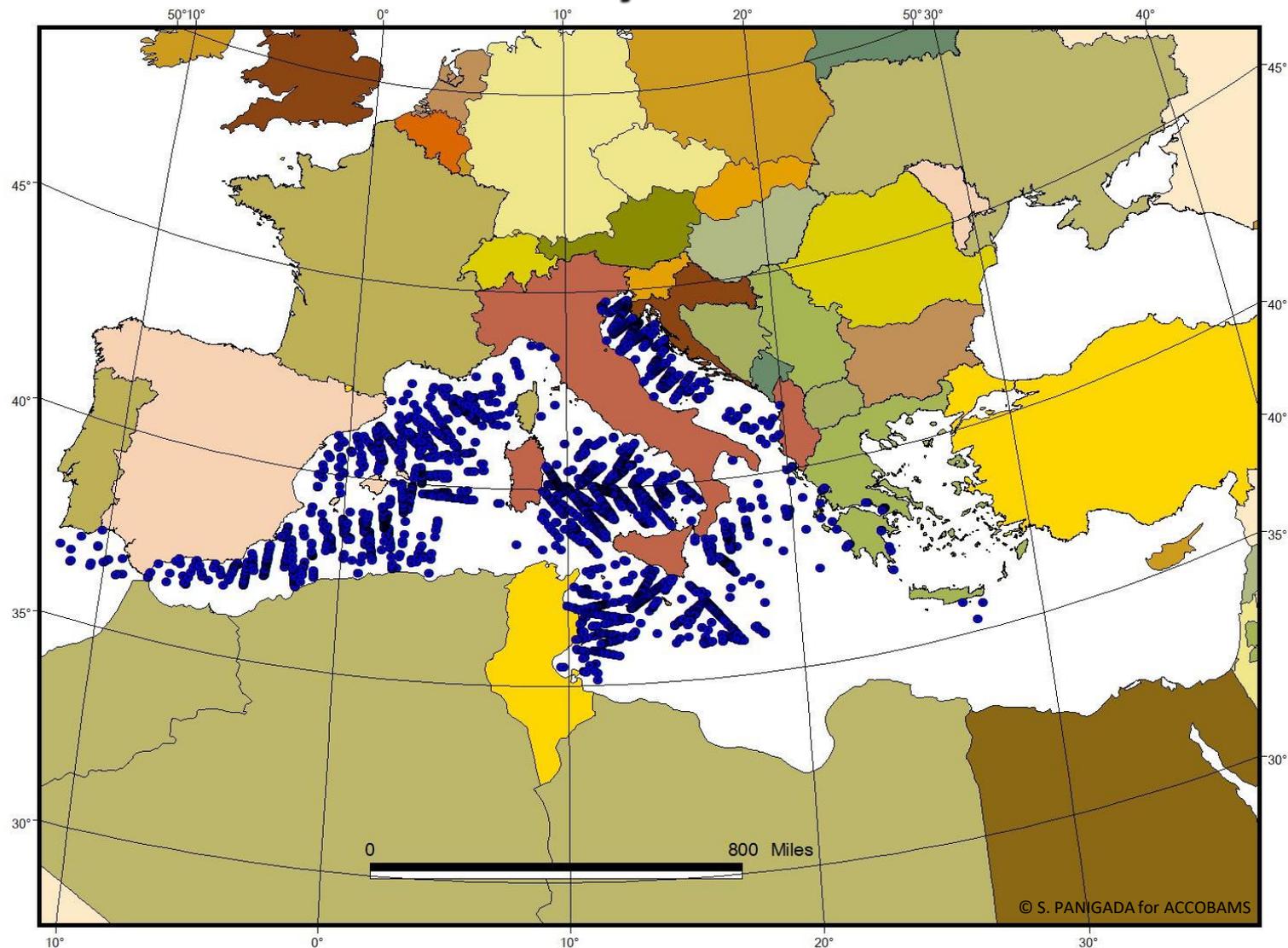


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**All marine mammals and megafauna logged as sightings**

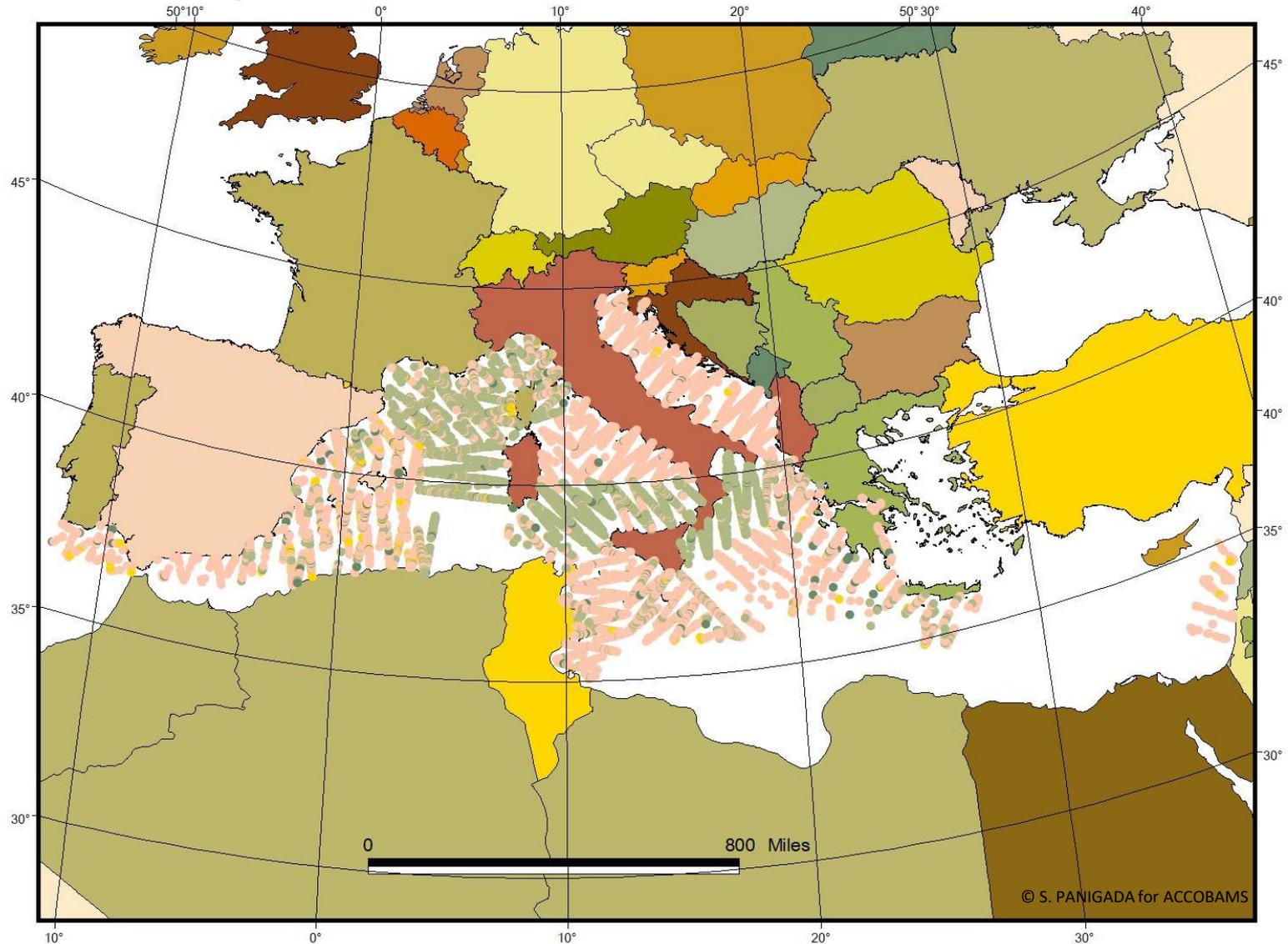
**Almost all the cetaceans regularly present in the Mediterranean Sea have been sighted along the tracks. Data logging includes large megafauna such as turtles, fish and sharks.**

# Aerial Survey - Marine turtles



Marine turtles were regularly observed during the flights, confirming how this species is frequent and abundant throughout the Mediterranean Basin.

# Aerial Survey - Marine litter - plastic and trash: **over 11 000 items**



Marine litter, here represented by plastic and general trash is widely distributed in every area of the Mediterranean Sea and unfortunately resulted to be the most sighted item.