



Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente, conclu sous l'égide de la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la Faune Sauvage (CMS)



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SEARCHABLE METADATA ON CETACEANS' TISSUES BANKS IN ACCOBAMS AREA

*Delegates are kindly invited to bring their own documents to the Meeting.
This document will be available only in electronic format during the Meeting.*

SEARCHABLE METADATA ON CETACEANS' TISSUES BANKS IN ACCOBAMS AREA¹

In line with actions CA.1b and 2 of the 2017/2019 program of Work², the Secretariat launched in spring 2018 a questionnaire to all Focal Points related to their national stranding networks. One of the questions focused on the cetacean's tissues banks.

The results of this survey were presented in a special event at the European Cetaceans Society Conference held on 6th April 2018 in La Spezia (Italy) and its recommendations were discussed in the ACCOBAMS' 12th Scientific Committee (oct 2018) who "*recognises the benefits of a well-documented, searchable database on entities involved in stranding networks, databanks and tissues banks (NETCCOBAMS)*".

The managers of tissues banks³, primarily identified from the stranding network inventory⁴, were invited by the ACCOBAMS' Permanent Secretariat to participate to a collective effort, by filling questionnaires (in [Annex](#)) sent on 6th August 2018. To facilitate their tasks, the ACCOBAMS Permanent open a prefilled questionnaire on the NETCCOBAMS website http://www.netccobams.com/Stranding/Default.aspx?Clef_PAGES3=1455

In September 2019 the Permanent Secretariat contact some of the owners by phone to further assist them in finalizing the online questionnaires.

With this new step the Secretariat was able to refresh the information previously collected and build a searchable source of metadata on cetacean tissues banks currently covering 11 entities in 10 riparian countries.

Cetaceans' Tissues metadata banks



¹ ACCOBAMS Resolution 2.10 on the facilitation of exchanges of tissue samples;

² ACCOBAMS Resolution 6.5 program of work 2017-2019,

³ As this databank was devoted for scientific uses, the Permanent Secretariat went further than the managers identified by the National Focal Points by cross crossing several scientific sources of information.

⁴ Cf MOP7. inf 43

The databank presents the main kind of tissues and species, the potential for exchanges of specimens, providing analysis or participate to trainings; with their conditions (deontological code, charges, ...). Each of these topics open to research in the bank.

The ACCOBAMS 'exchange of cetaceans' specimens facilities is provided in ACCOBAMS Resolution 2.10 in link with CITES Conf 11.15 ⁵

NETCCOBAMS searchable Tissues metadata banks information

The screenshot displays the 'Stranding' search interface. At the top, there is a breadcrumb 'Home > Stranding' and a search bar. Below the search bar, there are two tabs: 'Search Data bank' and 'Search Tissus Bank'. A search input field is labeled 'Organization name :'. Below this, there are three dropdown menus for filtering search results:

- Select a country:** A dropdown menu with a search icon and a list of countries: CROATIA, FRANCE, GREECE, ITALY, LEBANON, MOROCCO, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, and TUNISIA.
- Select a tissues:** A dropdown menu with a search icon and a list of tissues: Adrenal (L), Adrenal (R), Aqueous humor, Bladder, Blood/Serum, Blubber, Brain, Colon, and Diaphragm.
- Select a vertebral tissue:** A dropdown menu with a search icon and a list of vertebral tissues: Marine turtles and Others.

⁵ <https://www.cites.org/eng/res/11/11-15R12.php>

ANNEX

Questionnaire on Metadata concerning Tissues banks

Dear data bank manager,

Your data were provided to the ACCOBAMS⁶ Permanent Secretariat through a survey on the national cetaceans stranding networks⁷.

We are now working towards building a more efficient networking by a better understanding of the potential offers by the various entities identified.

Should you wish to participate to this collective effort, could you please complete or update the following questionnaire⁸.

Updated at: 08.10.2019 by

1/ At first, could you confirm that **you are managing a marine mammal stranding data bank**? The Mediterranean Marine Mammal Tissue Bank collects and preserves biological material sampled from marine mammals stranded along the Italian coasts of the Mediterranean Sea, in cooperation with the University of Padova, the Italian Ministry of the Environment, the Institutes for Animal Health, and with several other non-profit Italian organizations dedicated to the marine mammal research.

2/ Your organization / Institution

- a) Complete name of the organization / institution:
- b) Full address:
- c) Name of the manager:
- d) Name of the contact person:
- e) Phone of the contact person (00 [country code] Tel number):
- f) Email of the contact person:
- g) Website
 General:
 Specific pages regarding stranding data bank:

3/ Your data bank

- a. What is the content of your data bank?

⁶ The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) is a **legal conservation tool** based on cooperation. Its purpose is to **reduce threats to cetaceans** notably by **improving current knowledge** on these animals.

The ACCOBAMS Agreement text and, more precisely, in the Conservation Plan which ask to:

- develop “systematic research programs on dead, stranded, wounded or sick animals, to determine the main interactions with human activities and to identify present and potential threats”;
- “develop the systems for collecting data on observations, by-catches, strandings, epizootics and other phenomena related to cetaceans “;
- “establish, as appropriate, a sub-regional or regional data bank for the storage of information collected”.

⁷ <http://www.accobams.org/conservations-action/strandings/>

⁸ Although covering as much as possible all the national structures of stranding networks, this scientifically based directory is intended to be more exhaustive and the presence of any entity (members of informal networks, NGOs, etc.) within it cannot be considered as political recognition by ACCOBAMS.

SPECIES		Please quote (X)
PHOCOENIDAE		
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbour porpoise	
DELPHINIDAE		
<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	Rough-toothed dolphin	
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's dophin	
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenose dolphin	
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Striped dolphin	
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Short-beaked common dolphin	
<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	False killer whale	
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Killer whale	
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Long-finned pilot whale	
ZIPHIIDAE		
<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i>	Blainville's beaked whale	
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Cuvier's beaked whale	
PHYSETERIDAE		
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Sperm whale	
KOGIIDAE		
<i>Kogia simus</i>	Dwarf sperm whale	
BALAENIDAE		
<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Northern right whale	
BALAENOPTERIDAE		
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Minke whale	
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei whale	
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin whale	
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback whale	
Others marine vertebrates		
<i>Marine turtles</i>		
<i>Sea birds</i>		
Others		

b. Period covered

From:

Until:

c. Are the data available in line?

Please provide the link:

d. What is the geographical coverage of your data?

Please refer to the layer "Study areas" in Netccobams:

http://www.netccobams.com/PortailCartographique/Default.aspx?Clef_PAGES3=1182

Please quote (X)	
Adjacent Atlantic Area	
<u>Med - Western Basin</u>	
Alboran Sea	
Balearic Sea	
North West of the Basin	
Strait of Gibraltar	
Thyrrhenian Sea	
<u>Med - Eastern Basin</u>	
Adriatic Sea	
Aegean Sea	
Ionian Sea	
North East of the Basin	
South East of the Basin	
South West of the Basin	
<u>Black Sea</u>	
North of the Black Sea	
South of the Black Sea	
Sea of Azov	
Sea of Marmara	

e. Are you willing to, and at what conditions (deontological code, free/costs, ...)?

i. Receive data?

	(Y/N)
Deontological code	
Free of charge	
Other conditions	

- ii. Provide data to a general data bank covering the ACCOBAMS' (or wider) area?

	(Y/N)
Deontological code	
Free of charge	
Other conditions	

4/ Data management, what kind?

Please quote (X)	
Dynamic mapping	
Necropsies	
Death origin	
Just spotted specimens	
Marine debris in necropsies	
Others (please specify below)	
Tissue sample	

5/ Are you publishing reports? NO

If Yes, could you provide us with the link?

6/ Do you participate in active networks link with marine vertebrates? The Italian Stranding Network

If Yes, could you provide us with the link?

7/ Do you know other data bank containing stranding Cetaceans information?

If Yes, could you provide us with the link?

8/ Are you lined with some tissues bank? The Mediterranean Marine Mammal Tissue Bank in mainly a tissue bank

If Yes, could you provide us with related information?

9/ Could you provide us with other specificities of your bank or suggestions for an efficient building of the ACCOBAMS cetaceans stranding network?

This questionnaire could be filed in line at: <http://www.netccobams.com/>

or sent to the ACCOBAMS permanent Secretariat To Maýlis Salivas: msalivas@accobams.net

References

- [ACCOBAMS Resolution 1.10 on cooperation between national networks of cetacean strandings and the creation of a database;](#)
- [ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.18 Guidelines on the granting of exceptions to Article II, paragraph 1, for the purpose of non-lethal in situ research in the Agreement area;](#)
- [ACCOBAMS Resolution 2.10 on the facilitation of exchanges of tissue samples;](#)
- [ACCOBAMS Resolution 6.22 on Cetacean Live strandings \(in particular annex 2 appendix III, V\)](#)