

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)





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SEARCHABLE METADATA ON CETACEANS' TISSUES BANKS IN ACCOBAMS AREA

SEARCHABLE METADATA ON CETACEANS' TISSUES BANKS IN ACCOBAMS AREA¹

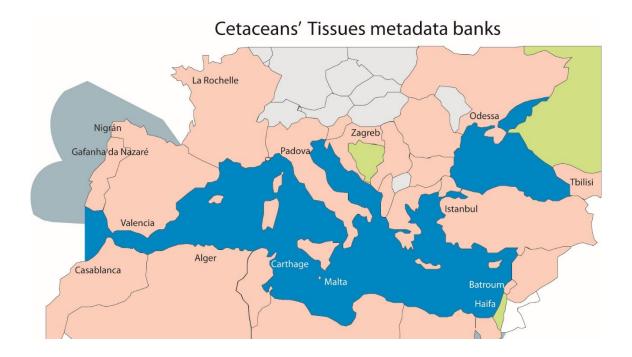
In line with actions CA.1b and 2 of the 2017/2019 program of Work², the Secretariat launched in spring 2018 a questionnaire to all Focal Points related to their national stranding networks. One of the questions focused on the cetacean's tissues banks.

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.



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

² ACCOBAMS Resolution 6.5 program of work 2017-2019,

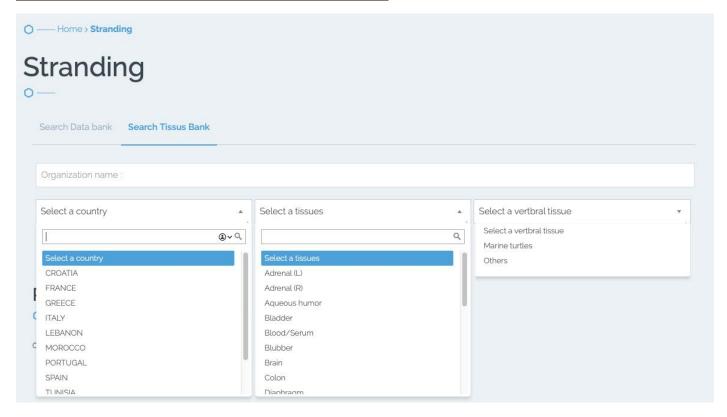
³ As this databank was devoted for scientific uses, the Permanent Secretariat went further than the managers identified by the National Focal Points by cross crossing several scientific sources of information.

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



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 <u>you are managing a marine mammal stranding data bank</u>? 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";

^{• &}quot;develop the systems for collecting data on observations, by-catches, strandings, epizootics and other phenomena related to cetaceans ";

^{• &}quot;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 PHOCOENIDAE		Please quote (X)
		` '
Phocoena phocoena	Harbour porpoise	
DELPHINIDAE		
Steno bredanensis	Rough-toothed dolphin	
Grampus griseus	Risso's dophin	
Tursiops truncatus	Bottlenose dolphin	
Stenella coeruleoalba	Striped dolphin	
Delphinus delphis	Short-beaked common dolphin	
Pseudorca crassidens	False killer whale	
Orcinus orca	Killer whale	
Globicephala melas	Long-finned pilot whale	
ZIPHIIDAE		
Mesoplodon densirostris	Blainville's beaked whale	
Ziphius cavirostris	Cuvier's beaked whale	
PHYS	ETERIDAE	
Physeter macrocephalus	Sperm whale	
KOGIIDAE		
Kogia simus	Dwarf sperm whale	
BALAENIDAE		
Eubalaena glacialis	Northern right whale	
Eubaldena glacialis	Northern right whale	
ΒΔΙΔΕΝ	 NOPTERIDAE	
Balaenoptera acutorostrata	Minke whale	
Balaenoptera borealis	Sei whale	
Balaenoptera physalus	Fin whale	
Megaptera novaeangliae	Humpback whale	
	· ·	
Oi	thers marine vertebrates	
Marine turtles		
Sea birds		
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 Maÿlis 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)