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# **ETUDE WWF FRANCE 2019 - ANALYSE DE LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE LA REGLEMENTATION RELATIVE AUX COLLISIONS AVEC LES GRANDS CETACES DANS LE SANCTUAIRE PELAGOS**

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### **Note of the Secretariat**

This document is a document from WWF France. It is an analysis of the implementation of regulations on ships strikes with large cetaceans in the Pelagos Sanctuary.

Here is the English translated conclusion of the study:

“Nearly all ships subject to the obligation to fit the REPCET anti-collision system are already in compliance with Article 106 of the French law on biodiversity. However, this represents only a rather small number of vessels, especially since an even smaller number of vessels actually contribute to the system through daytime observations in the Pelagos area. Vessels under the Italian flag equipped on a voluntary basis make a very significant contribution to this effort and this can be welcomed.

If all vessels under the flags of the States Parties to the Pelagos Agreement applied the same rule, the coverage of the system would be tripled overall, and this is to be recommended.

This study shows the importance of having trained and motivated crews to improve the quality of observations feeding into the system but is rather reassuring on this point.

Finally, the REPCET system had no impact on the trajectories or speeds of vessels when they crossed risk areas.

This is one of the limits of the system that has to be resolved in the medium term (5-10 years) with technological developments that would allow real-time localisation of large cetaceans by day and night. The REPCET interface connected to this new source of information would then enable crews to engage in real avoidance manoeuvres in almost all ship strike situations. This is one of the conditions, along with noise reduction, for envisaging a harmonious cohabitation between growing maritime traffic and large cetacean populations.”