



5th Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries

Online, 13 - 15 April 2021

Host Country : Lebanon

ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE, REINFORCEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY OF MONITORING EFFORTS

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Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



The designations employed in this document do not reflect any ACCOBAMS position concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or concerning the delimitation of their frontiers or boundaries.



MONITORING OF CETACEANS POPULATIONS

REDUCE THREATS TO CETACEANS BY IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE

- Strengthen the knowledge on populations distribution /abundance
- Estimate of populations trends
- to evaluate conservation efforts over time

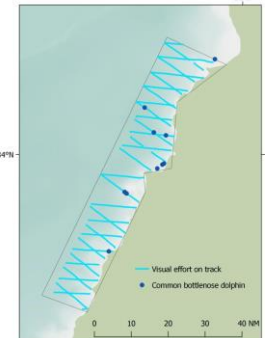
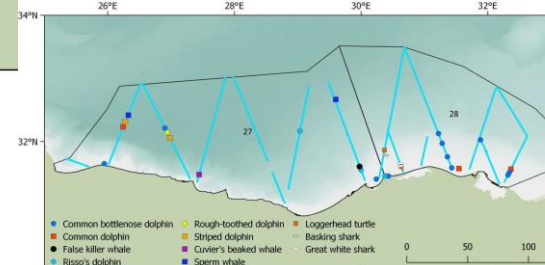
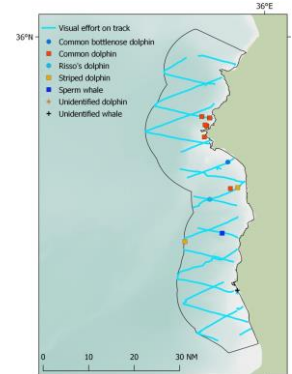
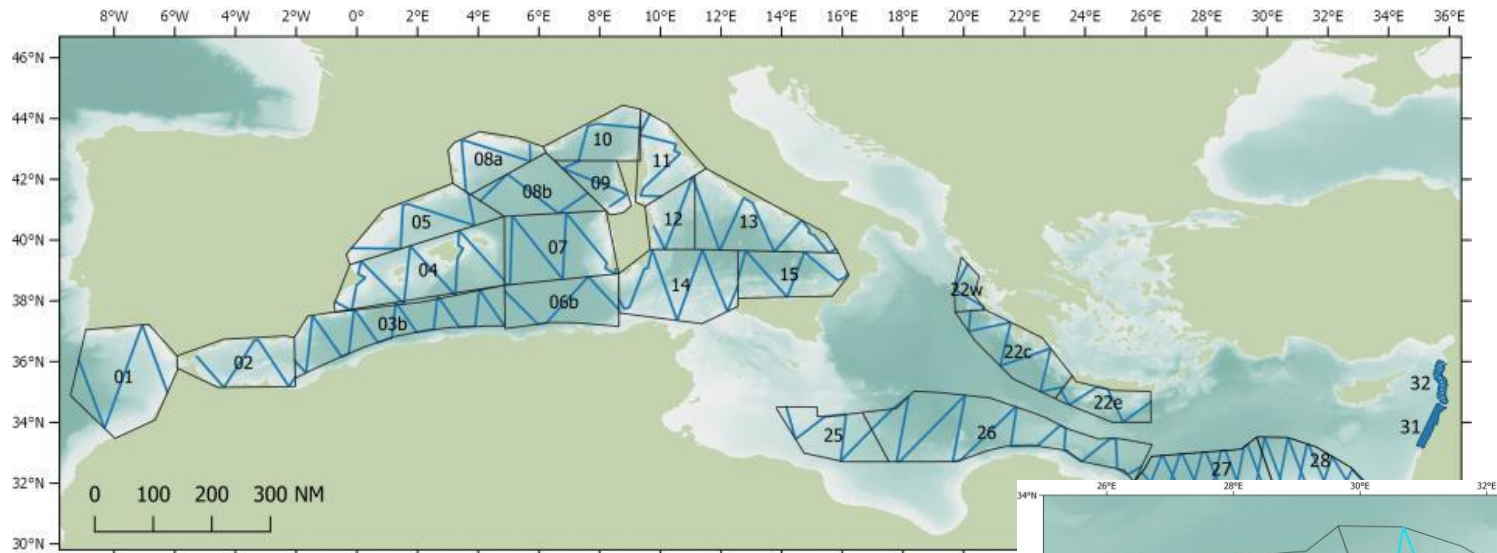
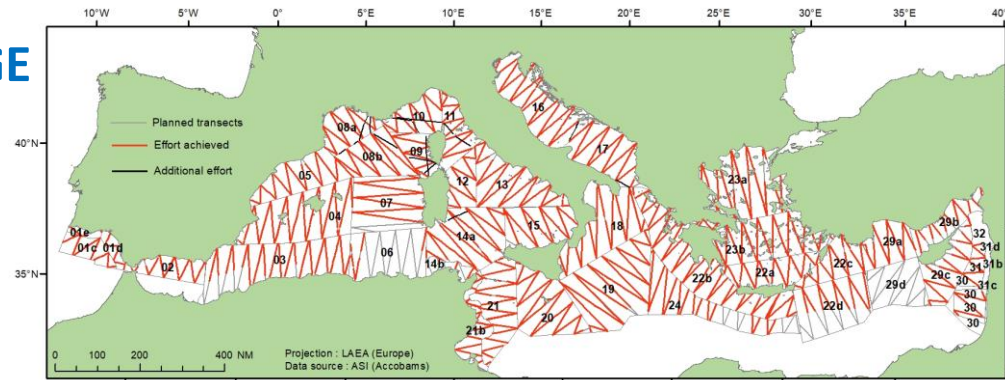
Dedicated section of ACCOBAMS Programme of Work

- A strong investment in capacity-building on monitoring methods, data collection, data analysis
- Efforts to harmonize monitoring approaches at the regional level
- Collaborations and synergies with relevant organizations & environmental monitoring policies (IMAP, MFSD)
- reinforcing and synchronizing efforts



A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR KNOWLEDGE

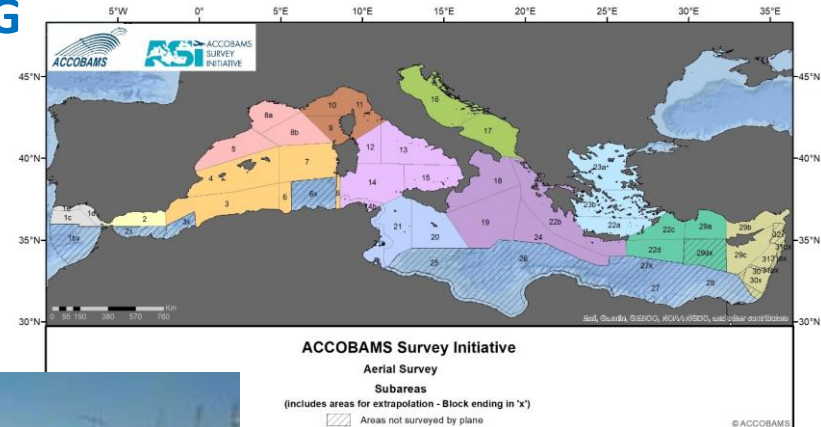
- Regional state of reference on Distribution + Abundance
- first extensive surveys in the East/South and in poor-data areas





A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING

- 100 scientists trained for the ASI Survey
- Serie of workshops on methods, software use & data analysis



A MAJOR SUPPORT TO MARINE CONSERVATION

- IUCN Red list (re) Assessments of Mediterranean Species
 - Unprecedented source of data (Megafauna, marine litter..)
- ASI Data : Online access <https://accobams.org/asi-data-presentation/>



IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS



The first cetaceans large-scale survey covering the whole Mediterranean and Black Seas

RELEASE OF THE ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE RESULTS

PUBLICATION DES RESULTATS DE L'ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE

22 April 2021 - Online event



JOIN US FOR THE
ASI RESULTS RELEASE
ONLINE EVENT
APRIL 22ND !

- **ASI Results available** for the best and widest possible use at the service of the conservation of the marine environment.
- **ASI Technical recommendations Workshop 'Moving from Science to Policy'**
29 June, 1 July and 6-7 July
- **Publication of the ACCOBAMS Status report for the 25th Anniversary of ACCOBAMS**



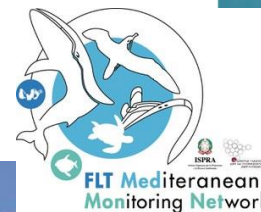
SUSTAINABILITY OF REGIONAL MONITORING

- ACCOBAMS Long Term Monitoring Programme in dev.
- Collaboration with EcAp MedIII
- ABIOMMED Project 2021-2022

OTHER MONITORING APPROACHES

- Photo ID (trainings, assistance) through several projects
- explorative studies on UAVs / drones
- Use of platforms of opportunity :
 - Multi disciplinary surveys (ex. Fishery surveys)
 - FLT ferry surveys

→ to provide complementary monitoring methods and sources of data





THANK YOU!





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**ASI DATABASE ENHANCEMENT THROUGH PUBLICATION IN A
SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL FRONTIERS IN MARINE SCIENCE**

Nejla Bejaoui



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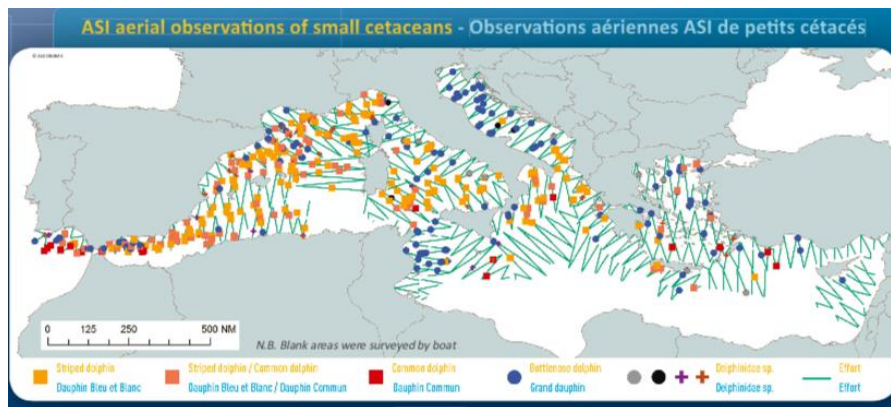
National Council for Scientific Research



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An unprecedented database on abundance and distribution of Cetaceans, marine megafauna and marine litter in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.



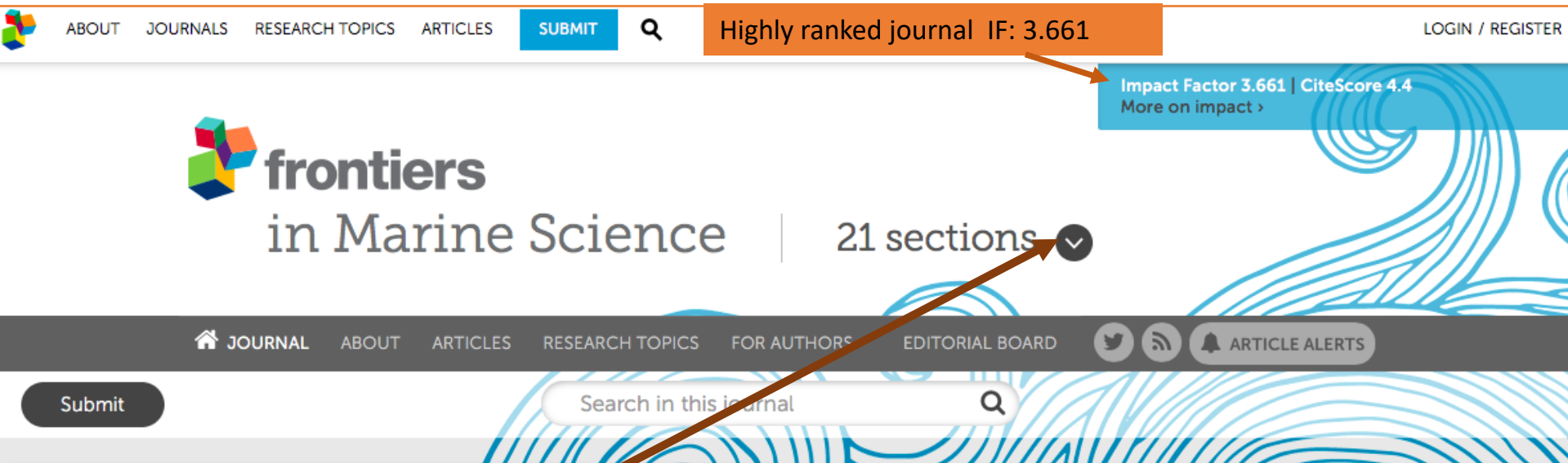
ACCOBAMS (2019)



Data requests for data collected submitted to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.

Data are currently being analysed.

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat / the ASI steering committee have developed a proposal for a **PEER-REVIEWED SERIES** OF PUBLICATIONS based on the results in a special issue on the journal **FRONTIERS IN MARINE SCIENCE**.



The image shows the top navigation bar of the Frontiers in Marine Science website. It includes a logo on the left, followed by links for ABOUT, JOURNALS, RESEARCH TOPICS, ARTICLES, and a blue SUBMIT button. A search icon is also present. To the right of the search icon is an orange box containing the text 'Highly ranked journal IF: 3.661'. Further right are links for LOGIN / REGISTER. Below the navigation bar is a large banner with the journal's logo and name 'frontiers in Marine Science'. To the right of the name is a dropdown menu labeled '21 sections'. Below the banner is a dark grey navigation bar with links for JOURNAL, ABOUT, ARTICLES, RESEARCH TOPICS, FOR AUTHORS, and EDITORIAL BOARD. There are also social media icons for Twitter, RSS, and a bell icon for ARTICLE ALERTS. Below this is a white search bar with the placeholder text 'Search in this journal' and a search icon. A blue box on the left contains the word 'Scope'.

ABOUT JOURNALS RESEARCH TOPICS ARTICLES SUBMIT

Highly ranked journal IF: 3.661

LOGIN / REGISTER

frontiers in Marine Science

21 sections

JOURNAL ABOUT ARTICLES RESEARCH TOPICS FOR AUTHORS EDITORIAL BOARD

Submit

Search in this journal

Impact Factor 3.661 | CiteScore 4.4
More on impact >

Marine Megafauna

The Marine Megafauna section publishes research on the biology, physiology, ecology and evolution of megafauna inhabiting the world's oceans, including cetaceans, pinnipeds, sirenians, marine and estuarine reptiles, large fishes such as billfishes, tunas, sharks and rays and seabirds.

Scope

Frontiers in Marine Science publishes rigorously peer-reviewed research that advances our understanding of all aspects of the environment, biology, ecosystem functioning and human interactions with the oceans.

Indexed in Scopus and more.

[Read more >](#)



Submission of research papers that address the use of ASI data on marine megafauna of different taxa, from **Cetaceans to sea turtles, birds and large fishes and elasmobranchs, including interactions between marine megafauna species and marine litter.**

Methodological papers

Articles on ecology, conservation and management



frontiers
in Marine Science

Topic editors *developing the Special Issue* :

Simone Panigada (Italy)

Vincent Ridoux (France)

Ayaka Amaha Ozturk (Turkey)

Oliver Boisseau (United Kingdom)

Nejla Bejaoui (Tunisia)



The main article topics to address the use of ASI data on marine megafauna

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat listed

- **estimate density and abundance through both visual and acoustic data**
- **explore ecological mechanisms related to the distribution of marine megafauna**
- **examine potential interactions with human activities and human-induced threats such as marine litter**
- **provide conservation indication**
- **suggest mitigation measures**
- **enhance place-based conservation**
- **discuss methodological issues and implications**



Data requests received by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat are geographically unbalanced

Topic editors encourage researchers covering wider geographical range to express their interest in analysing the data

This is a unique opportunity to :

- be part of the scientific community that analyses the multi-species dataset collected during the campaigns;**
- develop your own research project using the ASI dataset;**
- publish in a highly ranked journal.**



Timeline

2021

- Expression of interest: requests for data to be sent to ACCOBAMS Secretariat
- Collaborative joint requests are more than welcome
- Identification of authors/co-authors / data analysis

2022

Deadline to submission in *Frontiers in Marine Science*

Publication fees

Cost per paper is range between 2,950 US\$ to 1,850 US\$, depending on the article type.

Topic editors /Journal Editorial board looking for solutions allowing costs to be reduced.

Opportunity to apply for financial support



Thank you for your attention