



5th Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries

Online, 13 - 15 April 2021

Host Country : Lebanon

TOWARD THE IDENTIFICATION OF IMPORTANT CETACEAN'S AREAS AT A REGIONAL SCALE

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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.



ACCOBAMS Parties Commitments regarding Habitats protection

Implement a **detailed Conservation Plan** to achieve and maintain a favorable conservation status for cetaceans.

This commitment combines **total protection of threatened species with stronger habitat protection.**

- **Legislative measures**
 - **Assessment & management of interactions between human activities and cetaceans**
 - **Habitats protection**
 - **Research and monitoring**
 - **Capacity building**
 - **Information, training and education programs**
 - **Responses to emergency situations**

A CONSERVATION APPROACH BY THREAT ON CETACEANS : CCH process

Human Activities

+

Important areas for cetaceans

= Threats for cetaceans

1- Knowledge of human activities within the ACCOBAMS area

+

2- Knowledge of the distribution of the different species

= **3- Better knowledge of threats** for cetaceans

4- Implementation of an integrated management:
=find solutions to **conciliate human activities and cetacean conservation**



CETACEAN CRITICAL HABITATS

“**Cetacean Critical Habitat** (CCH) refers to those parts of a cetacean’s range that are essential for day-to-day well-being and survival, as well as for maintaining a healthy population growth rate” (Hoyt 2011).

- Areas used by cetaceans for feeding, breeding, calving, nursing and social behaviour;
- Migration routes and corridors and related resting areas;
- Areas where there are seasonal concentrations of cetacean species;
-

Moreover, CCH incorporate the concept of **actual and/or human activities and potential threats** at the population level.

CETACEAN CRITICAL HABITATS

News areas defined as Cetacean Critical Habitats

Scientists

Area-based measures :

- creation of new specific MPAs
- extension of existing neighboring MPAs
- Identification of relevant OECM

Implementation of other conservation tools

Scientists, professionals of the sea,
decision makers,...

• specific **seasonal measures?**

• specific **sectorial management measures** (maritime traffic, fisheries activities, oil and gas, ...) - tools such as **IMO recommendations, TSS, PSSA / Fisheries Restrictive Areas / whale-watching labels / highly qualified MMO-PAM ...**



SYNERGY WITH IMMAs

Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) - 2016 ...next in 2026 ?

Map of IMMAs, biocentric process

North West Mediterranean Sea, Slope and Canyon System IMMA

Summary: The North West Mediterranean has a set of geomorphological and oceanographic characteristics, including canyon systems and upwellings, which promote levels of productivity of extraordinary biological and ecological significance for the region. The Pelagos Sanctuary area, within the Provençal-Corsican-Ligurian Basin - complemented by an extension to the West encompassing the offshore portion of the Gulf of Lion to the Balearic sub-basin - contains habitat supporting a diversity of cetacean species regularly found in the Mediterranean Sea. In particular, this area contains important habitat for Vulnerable Mediterranean fin whales, Endangered sperm whales, and Risso's dolphins.

Region: Mediterranean

Criteria: Criterion A - Species or Population Vulnerability; Criterion B - Distribution and Abundance; Criterion C - Key Life Cycle Activities; Criterion D - Special Attributes

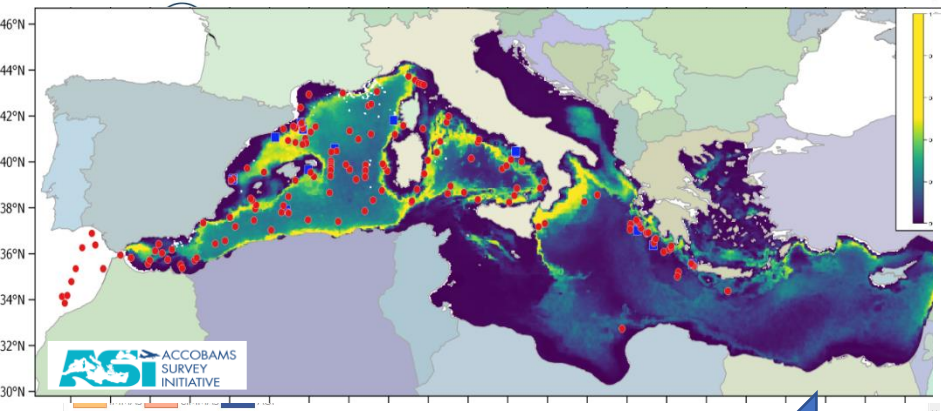
Species: *Balaenoptera physalus*, *Physeter macrocephalus*, *Grampus griseus*

MORE INFO

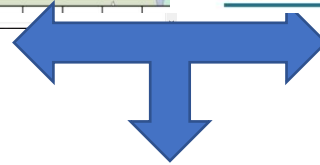
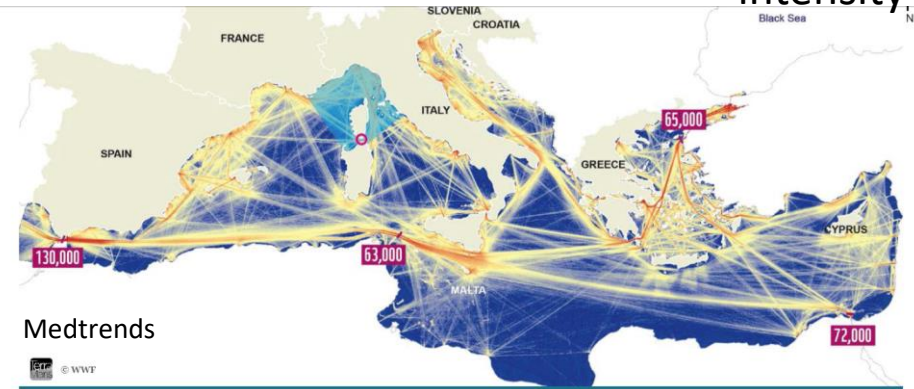
<https://www.marinemammalhabitat.org/immas>

Process of identification of new CCH

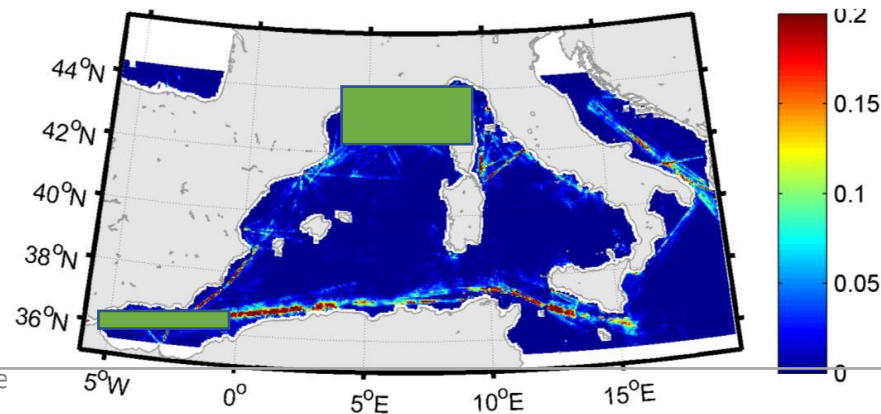
Maps of cetaceans distribution and quantities



Maps of human activities distribution and intensity



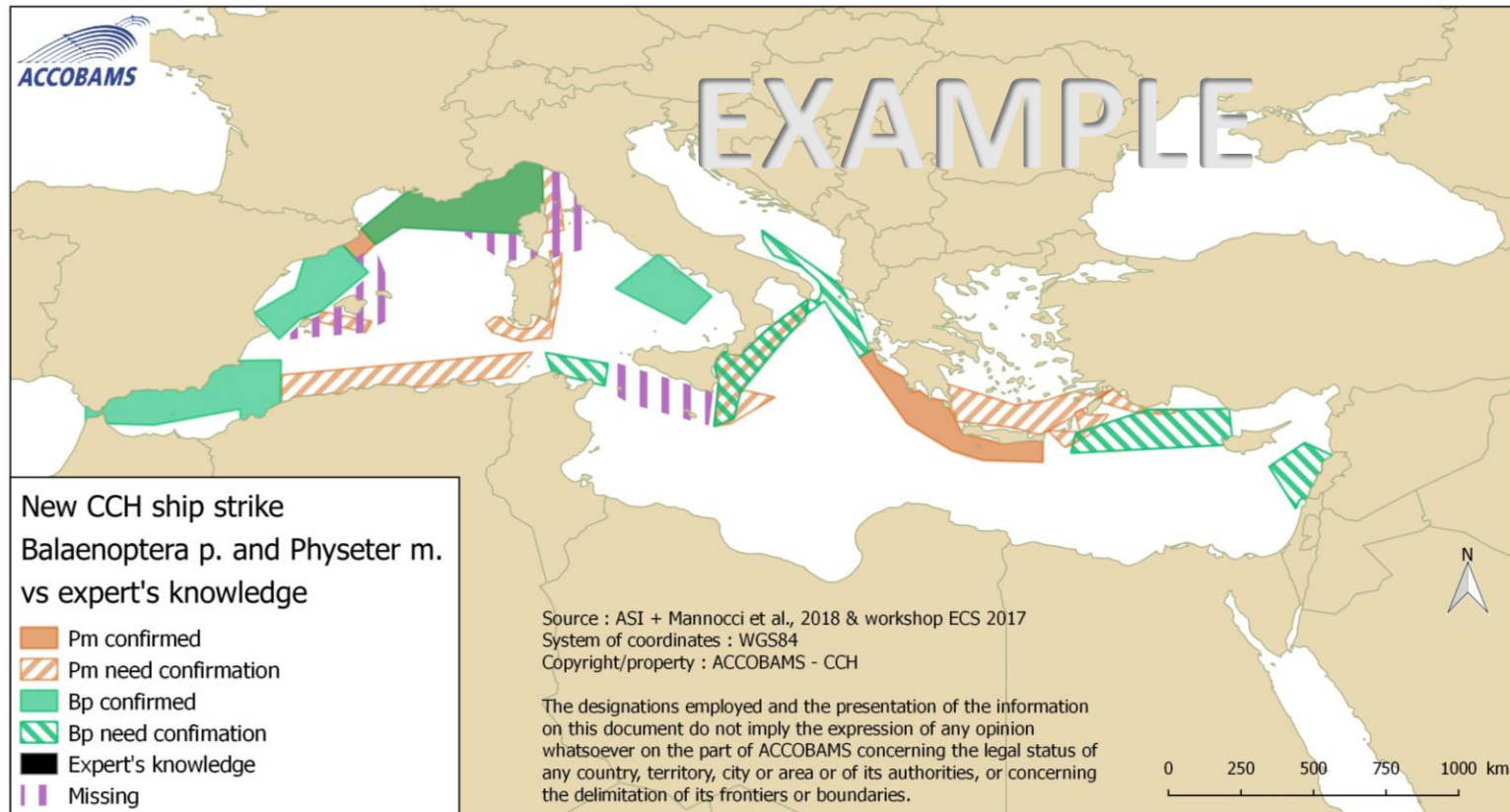
Maps of risk areas for cetaceans



“which species”,
“when”,
“where” and
“what impact”

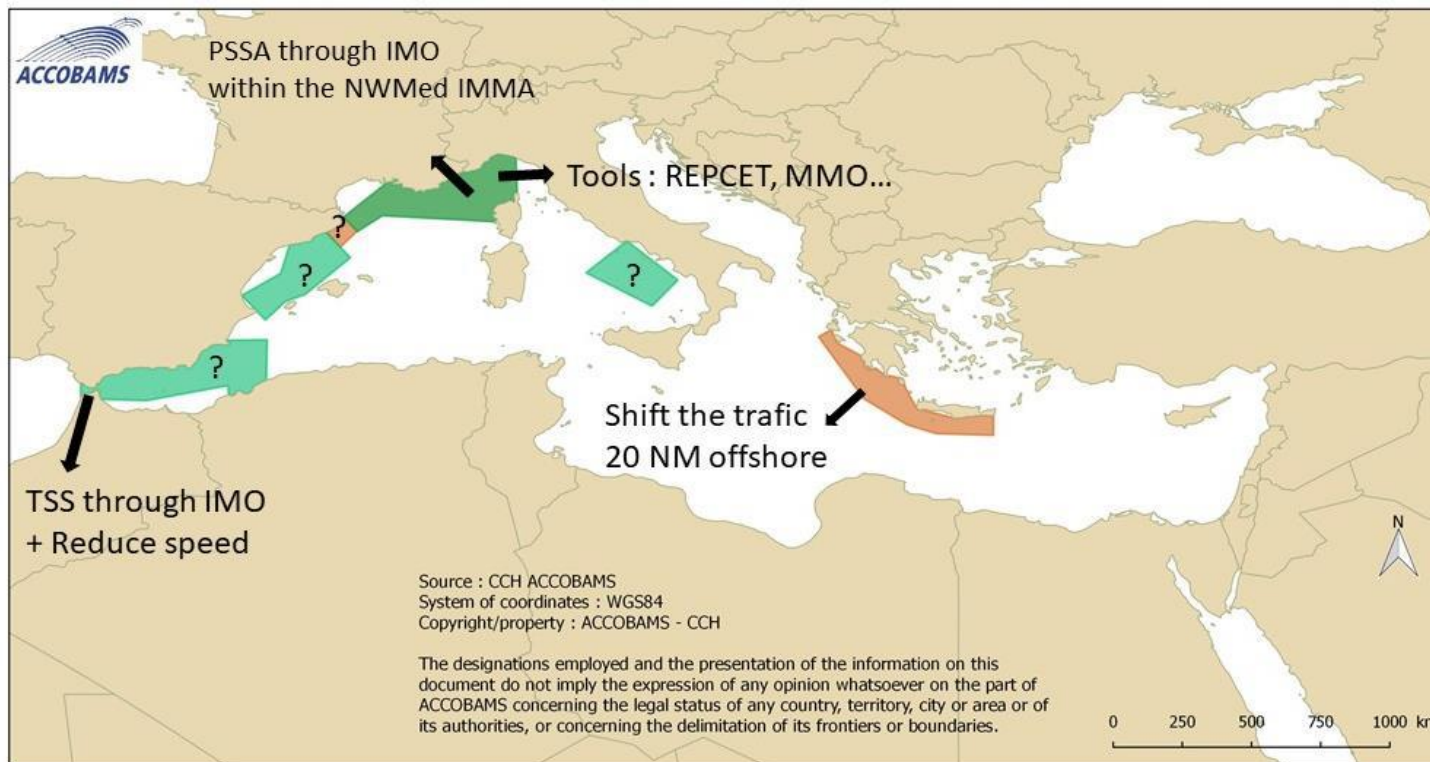
Process of identification of new CCH

Map of new CCH « ship strikes with Fin whale (Bp) and Sperm whale (Pm) »



Implementation of relevant management / mitigation measures

Example of management/mitigation measures addressing Ship strikes threat for large cetaceans species





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