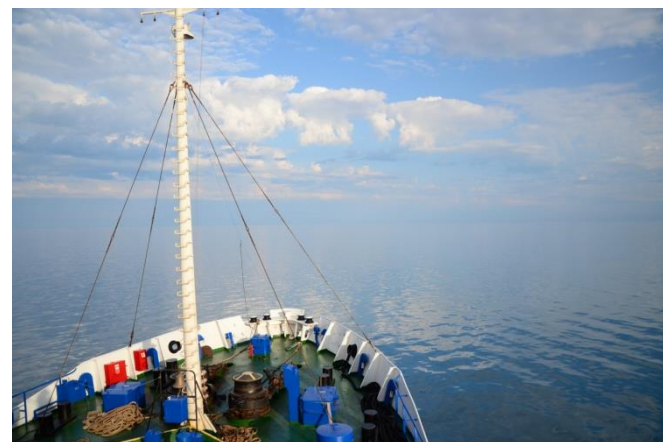




# Report of the **Black Sea** Sub-Regional Coordination Unit

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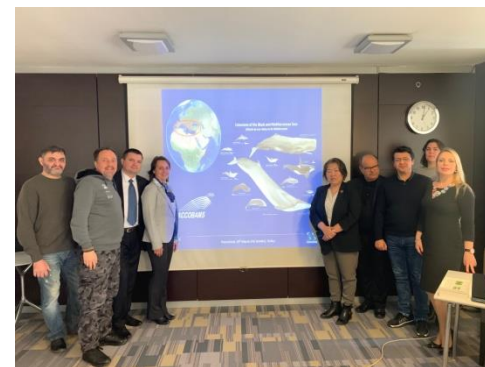
- Since 2002, in line with **Memorandum of Understanding** between the **Black Sea Commission** and ACCOBAMS, the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) exercises its role of the **Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit for ACCOBAMS** in regards to the conservation of the cetaceans of the Black Sea:
- (1) the Black Sea Commission and ACCOBAMS are **observers** to each other since 2001;
- (2) the first **MoU** was signed in 2002 and later **revised in November, 2012**;
- (3) Work Plan with the detailed list of activities is annexed to the MoU (**work on updates for upcoming biennium**).



- BSC PS participated in the **work of relevant ACCOBAMS bodies/working groups** (5<sup>th</sup> MoP of ACCOBAMS Parties, SC, ACCOBAMS Scientific Conference); **ACCOBAMS Secretariat joins us** to the extent possible (34<sup>th</sup> BSC Regular Meeting; EMBLAS Project meeting etc.);
- Regular meetings of **ACCOBAMS-BSC Secretariats** are taking place;
- Cetacean conservation activities were included in **all relevant regional strategic documents** (BSIMAP 2017-2022 and **draft BSIMAP 2022-2027**, revised reporting format , Regional Action Plan on ML etc.);
- Ratification of ACCOBAMS agreement by the **Republic of Turkey**; negotiations with the **Russian Federation** are ongoing;

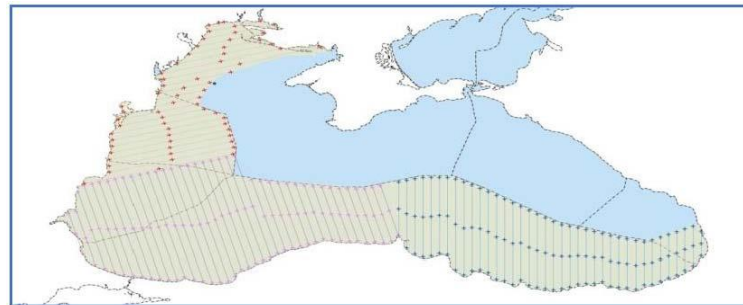


- **Revision of Draft Cetacean Conservation Plan** (next FOMLR AG meeting, Cetaceans Workshop);
- **Joint initiatives with GFCM** (High-level meeting, Sofia Declaration on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture etc., Black4 Fish Project), **CBD Convention** (Sol Meeting, EBSA workshop took place in Azerbaijan in April 2017 etc.), **EC** (projects, ocean governance, MSFD directive, UNEP (SDG 14) etc.) and **UN** (Regular Progress and WOA II);
- Participated as partners in **call of proposals lead by ACOBAMS for implementation of MSFD for cetaceans and as member of AB for CENOBS Project.**

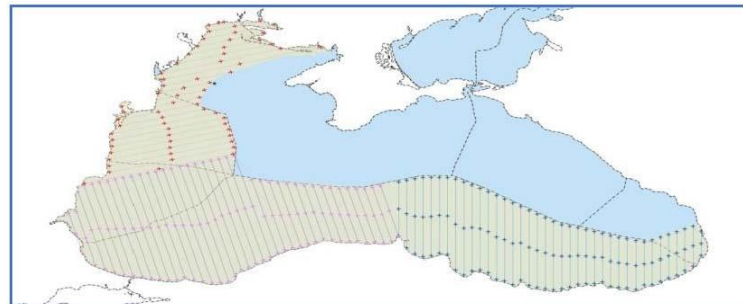


- On 20th March, 2019 BSC PS helped ACCOBAMS to carry out **Public Awareness event on ACCOBAMS Master Course** in cetacean conservation in Mediterranean and Black Sea;
- The purpose of this public event, back to back with the ACCOBAMS Master course, was to raise awareness on the urgent need to address the conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea, to provide deeper knowledge on the relevant ACCOBAMS and BSC PS activities, in particular the unprecedented large scale ASI implemented in summer 2019, as well as to present the structure and modalities of the **ACCOBAMS Master Course in cetacean conservation being held at Istanbul University from 18 to 21 March 2019**;
- BSC PS assisted the ACCOBAMS Secretariat in **preparation of the MoP of ACCOBAMS Parties** in Istanbul (5-8th November, 2019).





- **BLACK SEA CETACEANS SURVEY – SUMMER 2019**
- The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat developed collaboration with **Russian scientific organizations** in order to simultaneously conduct the cetacean survey in the Russian waters during the summer 2019;
- **UNDP/EC project EMBLAS+ and ANEMONE Project** were an opportunity for collaboration, all efforts were coordinated.



## • **BLACK SEA CETACEANS SURVEY – SUMMER 2019**

- CeNoBS already led to the successful implementation of the largest regional aerial survey ever conducted in the Black Sea which was conducted in **Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Georgia and Turkey in June 2019**;
- This effort was complemented later in the summer by an aerial cetacean survey in **Russian Federation**, thanks to the involvement of several Russian partnering Organizations, and the support and collaboration of ACCOBAMS and the EU-UNDP EMBLAS+ project;
- CeNoBS was also supporting **pilot monitoring activities in Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Ukraine in the view of completing gaps on distribution, intensity and effects of bycatch pressure on cetaceans**.
- This unprecedented regional successful collaboration was highlighted during the ACCOBAMS MoP7, now the results of the ongoing data analysis will be released and they will be used by the Black Sea Commission and its partners, to **initiate the definition of thresholds values for cetaceans related indicators and criteria on abundance and distribution in particular**.



- **Conclusions:**
- Account on a support and expertise for **drafting and improving the relevant documents** (in particular the Conservation Plan for Cetaceans, BSIMAP 2022-2027, updates to short format of BSC annual reporting, dedicated Chapter on Cetaceans in the next State of Environment Report 2015-2022);
- Importance of deliverables: Work on MSFD **Descriptor 1**: Biodiversity, Marine mammals and **Descriptor 11**: Marine noise in the Black Sea, as of today the BSC has no threshold values for D1, as well as no system of monitoring marine noise, therefore, this work is needed for future edition of BSIMAP;
- The Proposal for **Black Sea basin monitoring program for cetaceans** will be discussed for complete introduction into the text of our upcoming BSIMAP for 2022-2027.





- **Conclusions:**
- The **BSC and BSC PS are taking steps** to promote regional cooperation on conservation of cetaceans by establishing partnerships and joint initiatives with ACCOBAMS and other relevant partners (GFCM, CBD Convention, EC etc.);
- **Appreciate level of cooperation and assistance of ACCOBAMS and other relevant partners**, waiting forward to continue this important collaboration (i.e. Pilot Project on cetacean by-catch; Cetacean conservation modules in other Black Sea universities; work on underwater noise and ML etc.);
- Seek further support and expertise for **drafting and improving the relevant documents** (i.e. Conservation Plan for Cetaceans, next SoE 2015-2020 etc.);
- Stand **ready to contribute** to other relevant ACCOBAMS activities, in particular to sustainability of **ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative in the Black Sea**.



**Thank you for your kind attention!**

For more information please visit:

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