



United Nations
Environment Programme



Mediterranean Action Plan
Barcelona Convention



SPA/RAC

*The Mediterranean
Biodiversity
Centre*

SPA/RAC activities for the Conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean 2020-2021

Lobna BEN NAKHLA
Chargée de Programme

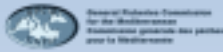
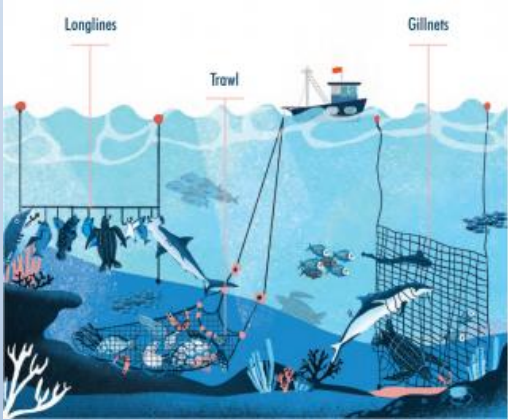
A **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** was signed between SPA/RAC and ACCOBAMS Secretariat in October 2020, a joint work programme (2021-2023) was defined.

Provide assistance to the Mediterranean countries in mitigating the impacts of the interactions occurring between cetacean species and fishing activities



OBJECTIVES / RESULTS

- To provide robust data on the impact of fishing operations on marine megafauna
- To demonstrate the viability of technical mitigation measures that can reduce the impact of bycatch on vulnerable species
- To promote measures that address Bycatch to be adopted within GFCM and the EU
- To raise awareness on the issue of bycatch of vulnerable species and build support for actions that tackle this problem
- To facilitate replication across the Mediterranean





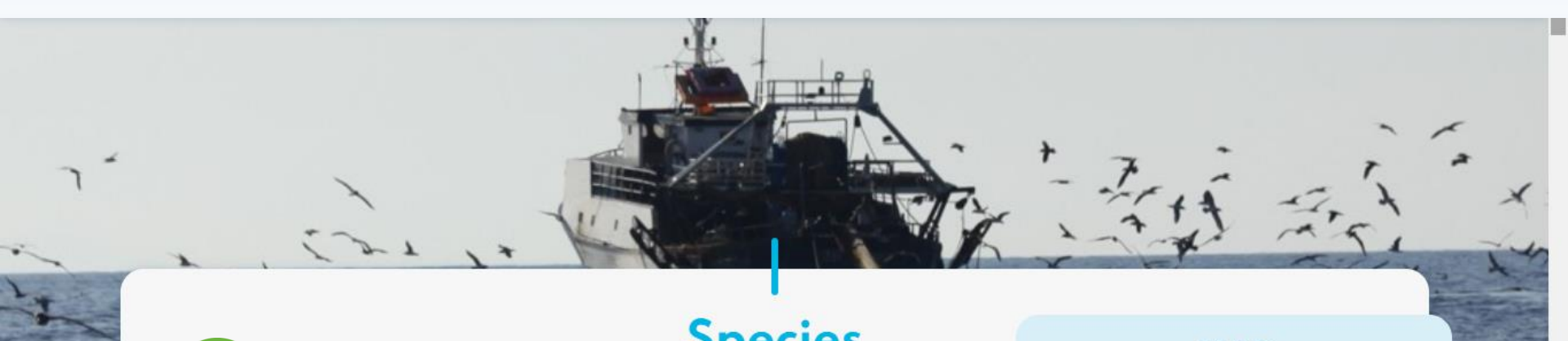
Mitigating dolphin depredation



OBJECTIVES / RESULTS

To assess and mitigate in a harmonized way depredation caused by cetaceans in purse seine fisheries in Morocco and Tunisia and in small-scale fisheries in Andalucía (Spain), in Sicily (Italy) and Malta.





Species Knowledge 2018 - 2022



OBJECTIVES / RESULTS

Expand the state of knowledge of these vulnerable species' (marine mammals, sea turtles elasmobranchs, and seabirds) distribution, range, migratory routes, habitat use.

Compile existing data sources, carry out a gap analysis, and acquire new data before identifying new important areas for biodiversity for each species (potential KBAs, IMMAs, IBAS, EBSAs, CCHs...etc.).

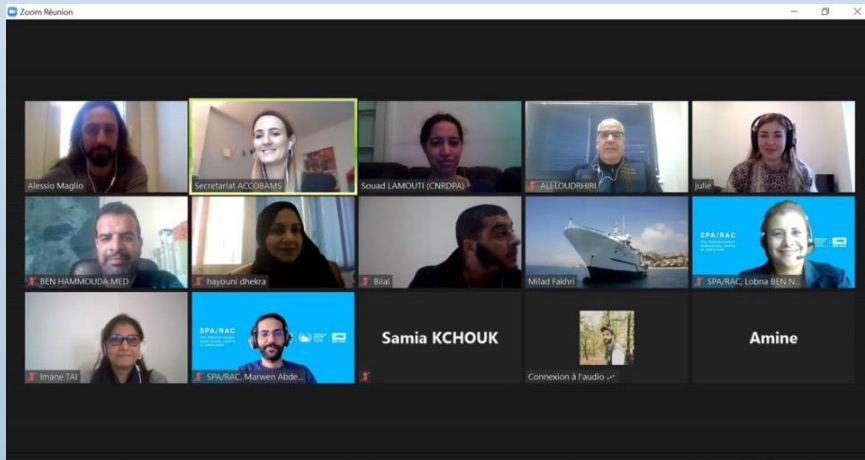


MEDASSET
Mediterranean Association
to Save the Sea Turtles

Promote achievement and awareness on the anthropogenic noise impacts on cetaceans, in particular through the implementation of projects such as the EU funded projects QUIETMED 2 and QUIETSEA

quietMED2

Joint Programme for GES assessment on D11-noise in the Mediterranean Marine Region (2019-2021)



French-speaking training on monitoring anthropogenic activities generating impulsive noise at sea 14/ (12/2020)



Assisting cooperation for the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive on underwater noise (2021-2023)

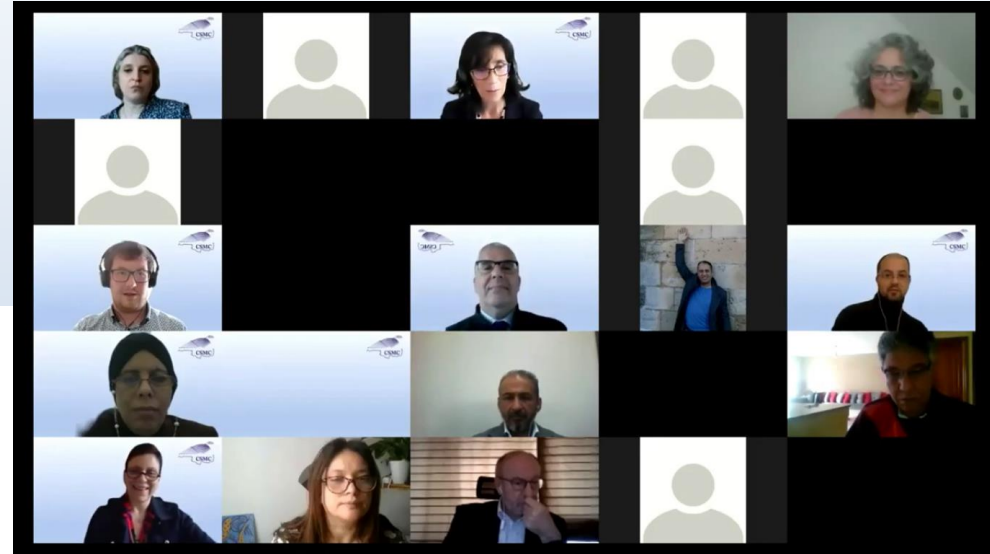


The organization of conferences for the conservation of cetaceans in Southern Mediterranean countries



Fifth Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries (CSMC5)

The 5th Conference on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the South Mediterranean Countries (CSMC5), hosted by the National Centre for Marine Sciences of Lebanon (CNRS-L), was held online from 13 to 15 April 2021. This Conference was organised by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (UNEP/MAP-SPA/RAC) and was financially supported by the Principality of Monaco.



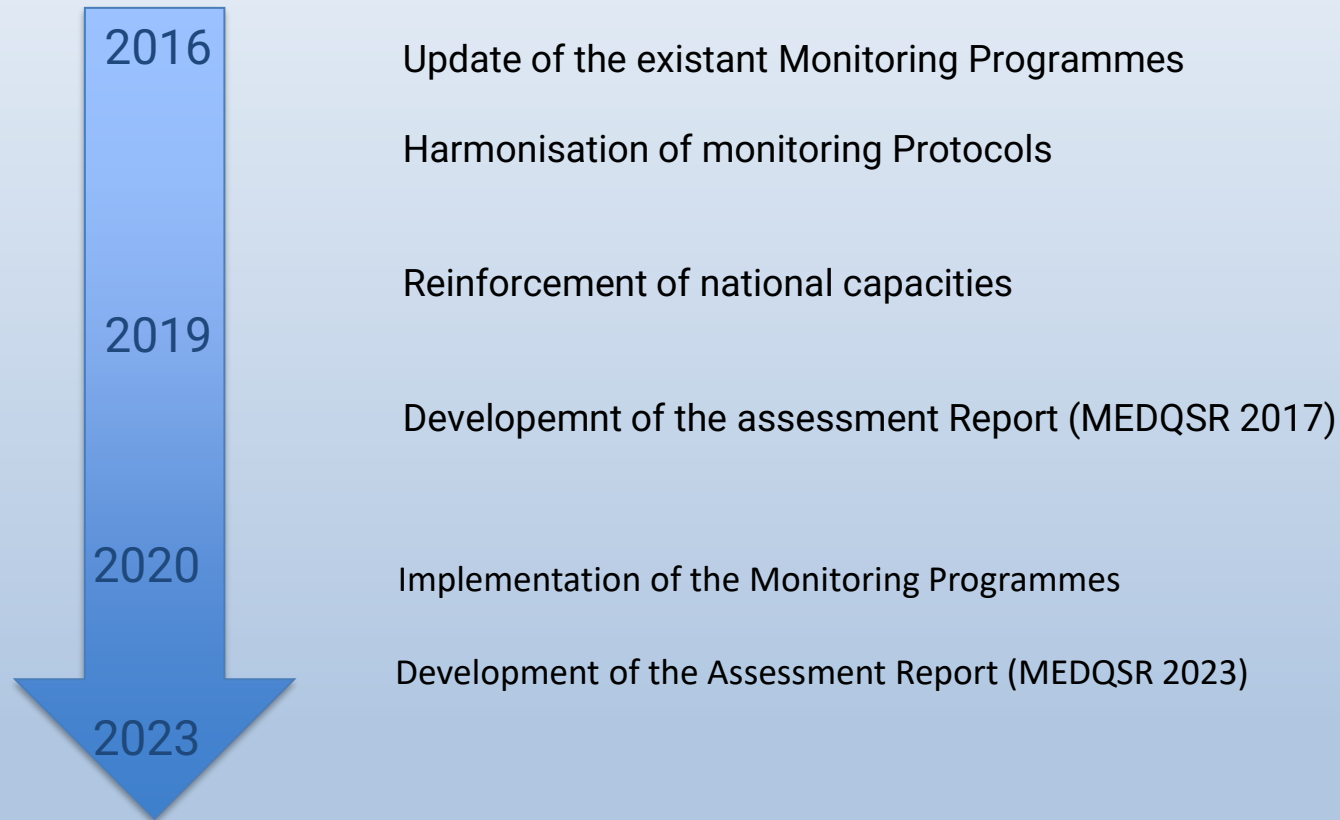
Five scientific sessions were organised on the following topics:

- interactions between cetaceans and human activities – fisheries and bycatch, underwater noise, whale watching –
- cetacean strandings
- monitoring of cetacean populations
- areas of importance for cetaceans

Contribute to the implementation, assessment and the update of Mediterranean Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans.

- By Decision IG.24/07 of their 21st Meeting (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019), the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans has been assessed and updated during biennium 2020-2021
- The proposed updates consider also new scientific knowledge & The monitoring sections are updated to be in line with the monitoring requirements in the Mediterranean region mainly the MAP Ecological objectives, IMAP and its related monitoring Protocols.
- The draft updated AP is submitted to the (MAP) Focal Points 2021 (Teleconference, 10, 13, 14, 15 and 17 September 2021) for consideration and possible transmission to the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22) (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021)
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- **Sharing data and experiences issued from ASI in order to support the implementation of cetacean monitoring programmes identified within EcAp Med III project in the south Mediterranean countries; the preparation of the 2023 Quality Status report and their Dissemination in relevant regional fora.**



IMAP-MPA and EcAp MEDIII Project activities

- Further assist the Southern Mediterranean Contracting Parties to **implement the IMAP**, adopted in 2016, as part of the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap
- Test the implementation of integrated monitoring in specific pilot areas in beneficiary countries: at least one in a low-pressure area (e.g. marine protected area/ Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and one in a high-pressure area from human activity.
- Delivery of quality-assured data to the regional database, useful for the next assessment report MEDQSR 2023.

