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REPORT OF THE ASI TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

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Presented by the Chair of the Scientific Committee

Issue: Outcomes from the ASI Technical Recommendations workshop (October 2021)

1. Action requested

The Scientific Committee is invited to:

a) **note** the information provided in the report of the ASI Technical Recommendations workshop and to consider the recommendations presented in this report when developing the 14th Scientific Committee Meeting recommendations.

2. Background

One of the major expected developments of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative was to build on the project achievements and to turn the survey results into conservation outputs for cetacean conservation and management of human uses of the sea.

A first step towards this key objective was addressed through the organization of a regional workshop dedicated to the development of conservation recommendations, covering several conservation related aspects, including the relationship between science and policy.

Recommendations and results that emerged from this collaborative effort are reflected in the workshop Report and are aimed to be used through ACCOBAMS channels in particular the Scientific Committee, and all relevant stakeholders.

The report is presented here as a consolidated draft. Respective annexes will be completed and added to the report so to be circulated to the workshop participants, after the Scientific Committee meeting.



**ASI Technical Recommendations
Workshop**
Moving from science to conservation
11- 12 and 14-15 October 2021

DRAFT REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

The [ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative \(ASI\)](#) project was designed to establish an integrated, collaborative and coordinated monitoring system for the status of cetacean populations at the ACCOBAMS geographical scale, with the ultimate aim of strengthening conservation policy-making on cetacean species. Coordinated by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and supported by riparian countries and local scientists the ASI led in 2018 and 2019 to the collection of an unprecedented amount of data on marine wildlife (*i.e.*, cetaceans and other marine megafauna) and some anthropogenic pressures (*e.g.*, marine litter and boat presence) thanks to basin-wide surveys conducted throughout the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The implementing project in the Black Sea was the EU-funded CeNoBS project¹.

Established in the framework of the Convention on Migratory Species, ACCOBAMS focuses on regional cooperation to improve the conservation status of cetaceans in the Mediterranean, Black Sea and adjacent Atlantic area, by advancing knowledge and assist Contracting Parties (CPs) to identify and implement science-based conservation measures. Through its action, ACCOBAMS also contributes to the implementation of regional policies for monitoring the marine environment (*e.g.*, the Ecosystem-based approach policies of the Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions, the EU Habitats Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive) and to strengthening the integration of the conservation of cetaceans and their habitats in sectorial policies (*e.g.*, fisheries, maritime traffic). As such, the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative has been a major concrete achievement for the Agreement. This initiative has reached four key milestones essential to the implementation of effective conservation measures for cetaceans: (1) collection of standardized baseline data on distribution and abundance at the Agreement scale; (2) implementation of effective regional cooperation on monitoring activities; (3) concrete enhancement of regional monitoring capacity; and (4) enhanced scientific cooperation on data analyses.

A major expected outcome of the ASI was to turn those results into conservation outputs for cetacean conservation and management of human uses of the sea. The first step toward this key objective was addressed through the organization of a regional workshop dedicated to the development of conservation recommendations, which covered several conservation related aspects, including relationship between science and policy. As such, the workshop was designed as a multi-stakeholder workshop, including scientists, representatives from the private sector and sea industries, experts and decision-makers. In total, over 110 persons registered either to one or several sessions of the workshop ([Annex 2](#)). Due to the moderation methodology led by Dialogue Matters the number of participants at session 3 was limited.

The recommendations and results that emerged from this collaborative effort are intended to be used through ACCOBAMS channels, in particular by the Scientific Committee, with the intention of being brought to the attention of ACCOBAMS Parties at the next Meeting of the Parties in 2022 (MOP8) and to all relevant stakeholders.

➤ **Workshop preparation process**

The preparation of the workshop was initiated early 2020 with the support of the ASI Steering Committee; followed by the intervention of Caterina Fortuna, designated Workshop Coordinator, and a dedicated Consultation Support Group who drafted the respective Terms of reference.

As a key cetacean-conservation event for ACCOBAMS, the development of the workshop aimed at tackling a participatory process involving the ACCOBAMS community and the largest possible panel of cetacean conservation experts and organizations. The ToRs of the workshop were first circulated late

¹ EU-funded project "Support MSFD implementation in the Black Sea through establishing a regional monitoring system of cetaceans (D1) and noise monitoring (D11) for achieving GES"

2020 within the ACCOBAMS network, including ACCOBAMS National Focal Points, Scientific Committee and its Working groups and ACCOBAMS Partners. Their feedback was used to complete and update the workshop ToRs.

While the workshop was originally scheduled to be held in person in 2020, the constraints due to the Covid crisis forced its postponement to 2021 and eventually its adaptation to an online format. It was decided to implement the workshop through three online sessions over a week (see the workshop Agenda in [Annex 1](#)) preceded by an intensive preparatory work with a group of experts - lead speakers - and contributors.

➤ **Lead speakers**

For each topic, lead speakers were identified by the Secretariat, the workshop Coordinator and the Consultation Support Group on the basis of their expertise and the ASI Data requests received at the ACCOBAMS Secretariat. In turn, each lead speaker was invited to involve and coordinate a group of contributors to prepare his/her topic material. Lead speakers and contributors' work was instrumental in reaching the objective of the workshop. The working documents they elaborated served to develop pre-recommendations for each session ahead of the workshop. In a second step the working documents supported the discussions with all participants during the workshop and facilitated the drafting of recommendations during the last sessions.

➤ **Moderation approach**

In order to enhance the informal dialogue and enable a favorable environment for open discussion and exchange, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat have commissioned early 2020 a team of professional facilitators - [Dialogue Matters](#). Their assistance focused on preparing the workshop in the most participatory way possible, in spite of the constraints of a tight schedule and the many subjects to be tackled.

Their implication in the workshop preparation process implied that some changes to the initial approach had to be made including the integration of moderation methods while taking advantage of the work already done by the lead speakers.

Dialogue Matters provided advice to the Secretariat with a view to optimizing sessions 1 and 2, which included the use of an online tool that would enable written comments to be considered and a voting or system to prioritize possible recommendations or actions to be taken.

Dialogue Matters managed the entire session 3, which was dedicated to discuss the interactions between human uses of the sea and cetaceans, bearing in mind the underlying question of how the ASI data could be used to inform any management actions.

1. SESSION 1

The first session was organized on Monday 11 October PM from 2 to 5.30 PM. Around 60 participants attended the session moderated by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, as reflected in the workshop agenda ([Annex 1](#)) This session was dedicated to:

1/ Provide a general introduction on the subject 'from data to policy'. Introductory information was presented by Susana Salvador, Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS, Diana Pound (Dialogue Matters) and through examples of existing cetacean-related management frameworks by Mark Dickey-Collas (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea - ICES), Russel Leaper (International Maritime Organization - IMO) and Greg Donovan (International Whaling Commission - IWC).

2/ Engaging the discussion on proposed recommendations on general ASI related conservation aspects for 'setting and on regional cooperation aspects: following the presentation of the different topics and the proposed recommendations by their respective lead speakers (see [Annex 1](#)), participants were invited to share their comments to vote for the recommendations they would consider the most important through the online tool set up by Dialogue Matters. Results of the voting exercise are presented below.

TITLE	VOTES ▼
Set up the ACCOBAMS long-term monitoring programme (LTMP).	37
Have systematic synergies among countries to synchronise national efforts.	33
To monitor real impacts of human activities across their part of the ACCOBAMS area (via stranding networks, observers on fishing and commercial vessels, passive acoustic monitoring).	30
Repeat surveys to infer population trends every 6 years or less.	29
To support to analyse ASI/CeNoBS human activities data to link pressures to potential and actual threats and impacts on cetaceans	29
To increase ASI coverage especially in the eastern part of the basin.	28
To increase collaboration and create synergies with other similar initiatives in EU countries in order to increase coverage and data quality.	27
Replicate ASI at regular intervals (ideally 6 years).	26
To improve the ship-based acoustic survey in order to better define the presence of the species, identify shifts in habitat use and trend in animal occurrence and to incorporate additional sampling techniques in the boat-based effort such as biopsy sampling for genetic analyses.	24
To replicate ASI/CeNoBS regularly (~6 y) to monitor human pressures and track changes against the 2018 ASI/CeNoBS baseline and , and assess need and efficiency of mitigation measures.	18
Create and regularly update a specific protocol for administrative/logistic/bureaucratic activities (as part of ACCOBAMS large-scale monitoring programme)	17
Update data collection protocols.	16
To increase involvement of more people with high expertise on cetaceans to build capacities and increase the balance of cost and benefits.	13
To fully share data and results on marine litter collected by ASI with competent organisations, calling for urgent actions to help conservation of marine megafauna.	12

Figure 1 - Results of Session 1 voting exercise on Group Map - Setting the Scene

TITLE	VOTES ▼
To establish a formal basin-wide cooperation to develop the identification, implementation and assessment of appropriate mitigation measures, combining space-based and threat-based mitigation approaches.	33
Enhance/Build national capacities through multi-stages training programme on data handling, specific analysis methods and interpretation.	28
Implement a capacity building programme on monitoring techniques (including live strandings and necropsies) and produce simplified operational and field manuals.	27
Implement a capacity building programme on new and innovative survey methods.	23
To optimize data sharing, ensure the interoperability of ASI Data Sets with other relevant databases (for exchange data)	23
To foster cooperation and partnerships between experts of the whole Agreement's range to analyse ASI data and identify bottlenecks preventing a larger and geographically more balance participation to research and conservation activities.	22
To continue strengthening the development of joint actions and working relationships between specialists and Parties administrations.	20
Increase the visibility of ASI datasets and related results, encourage the widest use possible and ultimately provide support for decision making on conservation aspects (ex. PSSA proposal)	20
In view of the existing geographic unbalance of the requests for ASI Data, to promote activities or programmes aimed at ensuring that sufficient resources to analyse and use ASI data are in place in all countries of the ACCOBAMS Area (ex. mentorships, support trainings and joint publications...)	20
Ensure that the outputs of the various ASI data requests are made available to ACCOBAMS , in particular for supporting relevant work of ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and working groups, to the extent possible.	19
Analyse the use of the ASI Data in order to understand the extent of the influence of such knowledge base, with a view to demonstrate the importance of continuing monitoring effort over the long run (ACCOBAMS LTMP)	15
To develop a strategy identifying and promoting possible collaborative activities between existing local expertise in data analysis and naturalist expertise already identified	12

Figure 2 - Results of Session 1 voting exercise on Group Map - Regional Cooperation

All working documents, presentations and pre-drafted recommendations prepared by lead speakers and contributors for this session are attached in [Annex 3](#)

2. [SESSION 2](#)

The second Session held on 12 October from 3 to 6.30 PM gathered around 50 participants. Moderated by Prof Phil Hammond, it aimed at reviewing analytical methods and interpreting the ASI results. The *modus operandi* was the same used during the first session. Following presentations on different topics by lead speakers (see all details in Agenda in [Annex 1](#)), proposed recommendations were discussed and prioritized by participants so to provide a relative indication of their importance. Results of the voting are presented below.

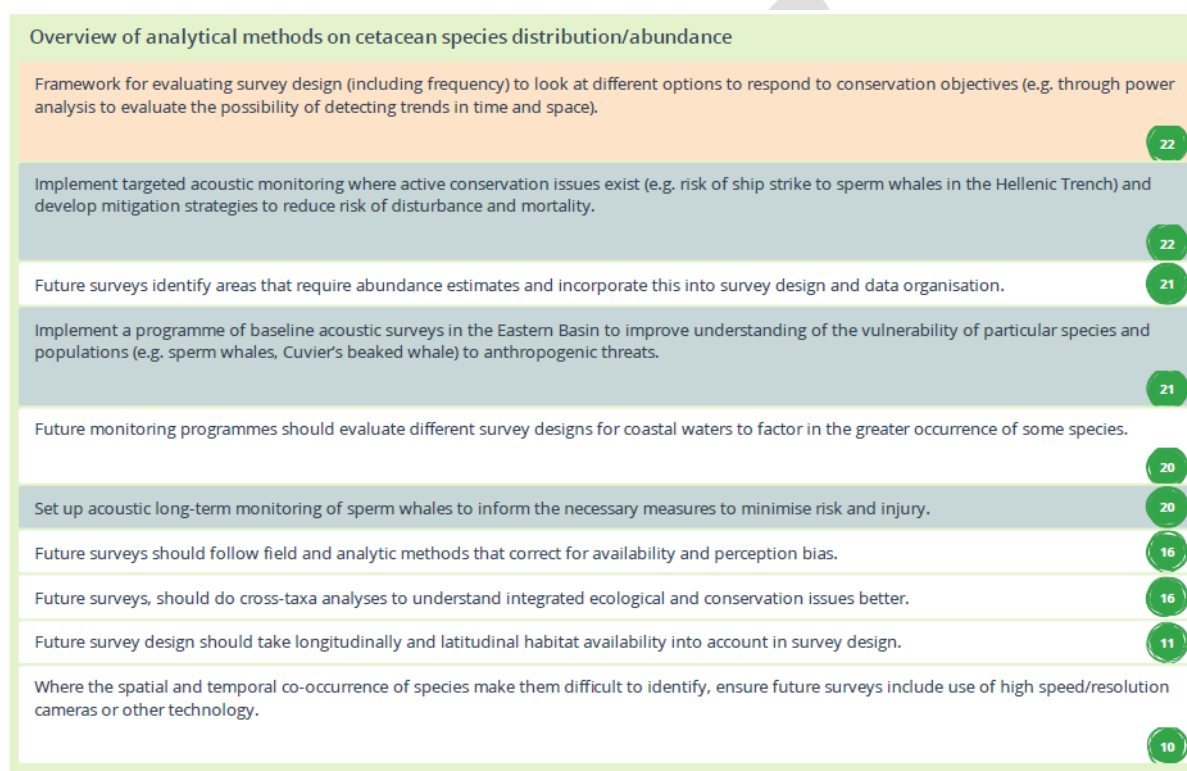


Figure 3 - Results of Session 2 voting exercise on Group Map - Analytical methods on cetacean species distribution/abundance



Figure 4 - Results of Session 2 voting exercise on Group Map – ASI boat presence and Marine litter

Overview on other species & multi-taxa/disciplinary approach	
When multidisciplinary and multitaxa approaches are needed develop intensive training of scientific staff (observers) to guarantee data quality.	28
To develop multidisciplinary and multi-taxa approaches when scientific and management goals justify doing so.	24
Carry out winter and non-summer surveys to understand seasonal movements.	20
Promote the participation of multidisciplinary and multi-taxa experts to Scientific Committee and other technical meetings.	14
Future surveys should adjust for availability bias for diving species by collecting concurrent dive information on turtles and fish and working closely with regional experts and datasets.	11
Apply methods to collect perpendicular distance sampling for turtles and seabirds in future surveys	8

Figure 5 - Results of Session 2 voting exercise on Group Map – Other species and Multi-taxa/disciplinary approach

All working documents, including presentations and pre-drafted recommendations prepared by lead speakers & contributors under this session are reflected in [Annex 4](#).

3. [SESSION 3](#)

The third session on 14-15 October was moderated by [Dialogue Matters](#). A new approach was followed in order to stimulate a frank and open dialogue between ACCOBAMS representatives and other stakeholders. The session was conducted as a mix of plenary sub-sessions and small discussion groups, each facilitated by a moderator. Sub-sessions were interactive and designed to sequence through a number of questions on both general and specific topics (see details in [Annex 5](#)).

Lead speakers involved in the preparation of this session started by introducing the topic on which they had developed working documents and draft recommendations, namely on Marine Spatial Planning (Dr Andrea Barbanti), on Area-based conservation measures (Maria Del Mar Otero), on Offshore Industries Seismic surveys and military exercises (Alessio Maglio), on Tourism and Whale Watching (Helene Labach) and on Fishery and aquaculture (Dimitar Popov).

A total of 63 participants attended Session 3, or part of it. All working documents, presentations and pre-drafted recommendations prepared by Lead speakers & contributors under this session are attached in s in [Annex 5](#).

4. [FINAL SESSION](#)

The last part of the workshop conducted on 15 October afternoon was dedicated to presenting the different recommendations and outcomes of the workshop. The following sets of information were presented:

a) Recommendations from Sessions 1 and 2

A work of compilation and reorganization of the recommendations issued from sessions 1 and 2 was made by the Workshop Coordinator with support from the Simone Panigada, Greg Donovan, and the Secretariat, taking into account all comments received and the voting results. The outcomes of both Sessions 1 and 2 were presented during the final session, and also shared by email to collect final comments from all participants.

The workshop recommendations are available in [Annex 6](#) and will be presented at the next meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (23-25 November 2021) in view to be brought to the attention of ACCOBAMS Parties during the upcoming Meeting of the Parties in 2022 (MOP8), and to all other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

b) Outcomes from Session 3

All draft material presented at, and resulting from, Session 3 was presented by the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary, as provided by Dialogue Matters. The open dialogue promoted during Session 3 resulted in many ideas and suggestions regarding the most appropriate actions to be taken, and the most needed recommendations to be made and submitted to the next ACCOBAMS MOP, in 2022. All related information is available [Annex 7](#) and will be further examined and used, as appropriate, including to streamline the draft recommendations identified and to elaborate additional ones, if necessary. Ideas gathered may also serve as to reflect on new work strands for ACCOBAMS.

c) Other issues

During the final session the critical issue of high rates of bycatch occurring in the black Sea was referred, in the follow-up of the presentation of recommendations issued from sessions 1 & 2. It was agreed that this important matter would be submitted for discussion to the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee meeting.

5. [ANNEXES](#)

5.1. ANNEX 1 - Agenda of the Workshop



ASI Technical Recommendations Workshop

Moving from science to conservation

October 11th, 12th and 14th & 15th

AGENDA

SESSION 1 – ONLINE WORKSHOP Monday 11 October 2021 (2:00pm - 5:30pm CET)	
FROM DATA TO POLICY: GENERAL INTRODUCTION (14:00-15:00)	
14:00-14:20	Welcome and introduction to the workshop ACCOBAMS institutional and policy context: Susana Salvador Organisational remarks
14:20-15:00	From Science to Policy to Impact - Dialogue Matters: Diana Pound Available guiding approaches & tools in global and regional contexts to go “from data to policy”? Examples of existing cetacean-related management frameworks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICES: Mark Dickey-Collas • IMO: Russell Leaper • International Whaling Commission: Greg Donovan
FROM DATA TO POLICY: SETTING THE SCENE (15:00-15:45)	
Each of the following topics will be addressed as follow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the topic by the lead speaker (5 min). • 5 min for questions from the audience. 	
15:00-15:10	Summary of results of the IUCN assessment/reassessment and update on the 2020 ACCOBAMS Status report: Catherine Numa
15:10-15:20	Overview on human threats to cetaceans: Pauline Gauffier & Pavel Gold'in
15:20-15:30	Overview on ASI data/results: Simone Panigada
15:30-15:35	Comments and voting on received recommendations (online tool)
REGIONAL COOPERATION (16:00-17:00)	
15:35 -15:45	Network gaps - Strengthening (scientific) collaboration: Vincent Ridoux
15:45-16:00	Break
16:30-16:45	Building capacity on monitoring: Ibrahim Benamer
16:45 -17:00	ASI data sharing and use: Julie Belmont
17:00 -17:05	Comments and voting on received recommendations (online tool)
17:00- 17:30	CONCLUSIONS OF DAY 1 (17:00-17:30)



SESSION 2 – ONLINE WORKSHOP Tuesday 12 October 2021 (3:00pm - 6:30pm CET)	
15:00-15:15	Welcome: Susana Salvador Organisational remarks: Phil Hammond Summary of the previous webinar: Caterina Fortuna
REVIEW OF ANALYTICAL METHODS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS ON DISTRIBUTION & ABUNDANCE	
15:15-15:30	Overview reviewing analytical methods on cetacean species distribution and abundance - visual surveys: potential interpretation of results, methods strengths and limits and recommendations: Simone Panigada
15:30-15:45	Overview reviewing analytical methods on cetacean species distribution and abundance - acoustic surveys: potential interpretation of results, methods strengths and limits and recommendations: Oliver Boisseau
15:45-16:15	Questions & Answers / Discussion / voting on received recommendations
16:15-16:25	Break
16:25-16:40	Overview on ASI boat presence results: strengths, limits and recommendations: Lea David
16:40-16:55	Overview on marine litter results in relation to cetacean species: strengths, limits and recommendations: Charlotte Lambert
16:55-17:15	Questions & Answers / Discussion / voting on received recommendations
17:15-17:30	Overview ASI other species results: strengths, limits and recommendations: Andrew di Matteo
17:30-17:45	Strengths & Technical issues arising from multi-taxa and multi-disciplinary approach: Vincent Ridoux
17:45-18:00	Questions & Answers / Discussion / voting on received recommendations
18:00 - (...)	Conclusion: Phil Hammond

SESSION 3 – ONLINE WORKSHOP LED BY DIALOGUE MATTERS Thursday 14 October 2021 – from 9 AM to 5.30 PM (CET) & Friday 15 October 2021 AM – from 9 AM to 1 PM (CET)
INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HUMAN USES OF THE SEA AND CETACEANS: HOW THE ASI DATA CAN INFORM MANAGEMENT
<p>Ecosystem-based Management and Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean</p> <p>How ASI data can serve area-based conservation measures' (IMMAs, CCHS, large MPAs, OECMs)</p> <p>How ASI data can be used to assess impact or inform management of human uses of the sea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fishery and aquaculture - Marine traffic - Offshore Industries, Seismic surveys and military exercises - Tourism & Whale Watching
FINAL SESSION – ONLINE WORKSHOP Friday 15 October 2021 – from 2.30 to 4.30 PM (CET)
<p>Presentation of conclusions and recommendations by the workshop Caterina Fortuna</p> <p>Final remarks from participants</p> <p>Next steps Susana Salvador</p>

5.2. ANNEX 2 - List of registered participants

	Participant	Organisation/Position
Workshop Lead Speakers and organisers	Charlotte Lambert	PhD - Marine top predator spatial ecology, La Rochelle University
	Hélène LABACH	Director, MIRACETI
	Andrea Barbanti	Research Manager – CNR-ISMAR
	Pauline Gauffier	Marine Ecologist, PhD
	Sara Bonanomi	Researcher, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Italy
	alessio Maglio	SINAY
	Simone Panigada	Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee
	Andrew Di matteo	CheloniData LLC
	Mark Dickey-Collas	ICES
	Ibrahim Benamer	Projects Coordinator and Consultant: Species Programme, RAC SPA
	Catherine Numa	IUCN-Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
	Greg Donovan	IWC
	Pavel Gol'din	Leading Researcher/Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology & UkrSCES, Ukraine
	Oliver Boisseau	Marine Conservation Research
	Russell Leaper	IFAW
	Dania Abdul Malak	ETC-UMA Director
	Lea David	EcoOcean Institut
	Maria del Mar Otero	IUCN-Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
	Dimitar Popov	Project manager/Green Balkans NGO
	Phil Hammond	St Andrews University
	Caterina Fortuna	ACCOBAMS Consultant, ASI Workshop Coordinator
Registered Participants	Julie Belmont	ACCOBAMS Project Officer
	Susana Salvador	ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary
	Vincent Ridoux	Researcher, PELAGIS La Rochelle University- CNRS
	Sophie Laran	Researcher, PELAGIS La Rochelle University- CNRS
	Pilar Hernandez	GFCM
	Ross Compton	IAGC
	Alex Loureiro	IAGC
	Harvey Johnstone	IOGP
	Marine Julliard	TOTAL/IOGP
	David Barthelemy	TOTAL
	Mihaela Mirea Candea	Black Sea Advisory Council & Mare Nostrum NGO
	Renée Melkert	DG MARE
	Rosa Caggiano	Executive Secretary MEDAC Mediterranean Advisory Council
	André Grosset	Adjoint au chef du pôle « Protection et aménagement durable de l'espace marin »
	Eric Baudin	Préfecture maritime de la MéditerranéePréfecture maritime de la Méditerranée
	Marine Sequeira	Bureau Veritas - PIAQUO Project
	Rimel Benmessaoud	Biologist / ICNF - ACCOBAMS National Focal Point
	Mourad Cherif	INAT
	Auriane Virgili	INAT
	Susana Gallon	Research engineer - PELAGIS La Rochelle University- CNRS
	Florian Champion	MedPan
	Anne Vissio	RAMOGE
	Cristina Cervera Núñez	RAMOGE
	Tilen Genov	Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)/ Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)
	Camille ASSALI	President / Morigenos - Slovenian Marine Mammal Society
	Lobna BEN NAKHLA	MSPMED task officer / Office Français de la Biodiversité (Parc naturel marin du golfe du Lion)
		Programme Officer, SPA/RAC

Dr. Juan A. Camiñas	Presidente Asociación Herpetológica Española (AHE)
Elvira Garcia-Bellido	Ministry for Ecological Transition-Spain
Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara	CMS CoP-appointed Councillor for aquatic mammals
Ana Moscrop	Marine Conservation Research
Mónica Campillos-Llanos	MSP Technician / Spanish Institute of Oceanography
Loriane Mendez	CIESM
Giancarlo Lauriano	ISPRA ASI Steering Committee
Jelena Knezevic	UNEP/MAP, Monitoring and Assessment Officer
LAVRENTIOS VASILIADES	FISHERIES OFFICER/DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESEARCH, CYPRUS
Houda RIGHI	Membre du Comité de Pilotage de la Stratégie de Communication ACCOBAMS
Naciba NEGHLI	Point Focal National/ACCOBAMS/Algérie
Patricia Gozalbes	technician. University of Valencia
Juan Antonio Raga	Professor/ University of Valencia

Registered Participants	<p>Lucy Babey Amalia Alberini Spyros Kotomatas Jose Antonio Vazquez Imane TAI Fossi Maria Cristina Aylin Akkaya Belen Yildirim Patrick Lyne Neil Alloncle Dr. Elena Gissi Androniki Pardalou Harry Coccossis Michelle Borg Milena Batakovic Matthew Laspina Dr Nathalie Di-Meglio Clara Monaco ZEROUAL Hanane BENHADDA Abir KHODJA IHCENE BENMOKRANE Sihem Saadia MEHIAOUI</p> <p>Florian Expert hayouni dhekra Djoued Kahina Zina Seghira Maša Frleta-Valić Majda BOUHANNACHE Marian Paiu Costin Timofte Jure Miočić Stošić < Draško Holcer Arda Tonay Ayaka Amaha Ozturk Nour el Houda Belkacem < Boutaleb Amina Silvia Frey Jenny Renell Costanza Favili</p>	<p>Head of Science & Conservation, ORCA Marine biodiversity officer/WWF Greece Senior marine conservation officer/WWF Greece Technical Researcher -(IEO-CSIC) INRH / Morocco Full Professor/UNISI Founder/DMAD Researcher/DMAD Acoustician/DMAD Office Français de la Biodiversité Visiting Scholar / Stanford University; Senior research, National Research Council; Researcher/AUTh em.Professor / University of Thessaly, Greece Unit Manager / Planning Authority Malta Senior Advisor / Environmental Protection Agency Department of Fisheries Malta Directrice/ EcoOcean Institut University of Catania/ MAVA Depredation project PhD student at marine science FSNV - UMAB Mostaganem- Algeria PhD student tin Marine Sciences /University Abdelhamid Ibn Badis Mostaganem- Algeria Phd student/ University of Mostaganem, Algeria PhD student in university of Mostaganem PhD Chargé de mission espèces marines / PFN ACCOBAMS, Ministère de la transition écologique Direction générale de la pêche et de l'aquaculture Tunisie Algerian University Student in ENSSMAL Researcher/ Blue World Institute MARENOSTRUM/ PROBIOM Expert/ Mare Nostrum Expert/ Mare Nostrum Blue World Institute/Croatian Natural History Museum Blue World Institute/Croatian Natural History Museum Istanbul University / TUDAV Advisor/TUDAV, Lecturer/Istanbul University PhD student in Marine Sciences/ University Abdel Hamid Ibn Badis Mostaganem- Algeria. PhD student in Marine Sciences/ University Abdel Hamid Ibn Badis Mostaganem- Algeria. KYMA sea conservation & research - Director & Marine Conservation Biologist Coordinator/ASCOBANS Secretariat Executive Secretary/Pelagos Agreement</p>
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Théa Jacob	Marine Species and Fisheries Officer/ WWF France - Bureau Marseille
Mehdi Aissi	SPA RAC
Carlotta Bianchi	WWF Italia
Brian Christie	Environment Protection Officer, Environment and Resources Authority (Malta)
Souad Lamouti	Researcher/ CNRDPA
Gaelle Darmon	Researcher / INDICIT II Project
Nino Pierantonio	Researcher/ Tethys Research Institute
Peter Evans	Researcher/ Bangor University

5.3. ANNEX 3 - SESSION 1 : Presentations and working documents

(TO BE COMPLETED)

5.4. ANNEX 4 - SESSION 2 : Presentations and working documents

(TO BE COMPLETED)

5.5. ANNEX 5 - SESSION 3 : Agenda, Presentations and working documents

ACCOBAMS From Science to Conservation

Session 3 Workshop

- This Agenda sets out indicative timing and the sessions (minor refinements may be made between now and the workshop).

08:50 CET	Registration and starting activity	
09:00	Welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Briefing and scene setting ▪ Facilitator's introduction 	<p>Susana Salvador</p> <p>Diana Pound -Dialogue Matters</p>
	<p>Q Imagine it is 2030 and you are at an event celebrating the conservation outcomes of ACCOBAMS hard work. The one thing that pleases you most is...</p> <p><i>Add your thought to those of others</i></p>	
	Part 1: Sharing understanding of the dynamic ever-changing context for ACCOBAMS work	
	<p>Q What trends and changes - in the wider Mediterranean and Black Sea system/s - do we need to factor into our thinking? (Political, Economic, Social and cultural, Technological, Law/Policy, Environmental, Human uses and activity)</p>	
10:30	15 minute break	
	Part 2: Understanding Marine Sectors - And helping them make the most of ASI Data	
	<p>You will work in one of these topic groups and answer the following questions:</p>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Fishery 2 Aquaculture 3 Marine Traffic 4 Seismic survey and Offshore Industries 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Military exercises 6 Tourism 7 Whale Watching
	Current situation:	
	<p>Q What are the trends and changes in this sector we need to be aware of?</p> <p>Q For cetaceans and this sector what is working well and changing for the better?</p> <p>Q What needs to change?</p>	
	Data questions:	
	<p>Q What can the ASI data do to help and influence this for the better?</p> <p>Q What can't the ASI data do (that people might have wanted)?</p>	
11:50	20 minutes break	
	For ACCOBAMS to engage this sector effectively in dialogue:	
	<p>Q What do we need to know about this sector (the sectors priorities, drivers, needs, culture and organisation)?</p>	

Q In the light of that what do you suggest ACCOBAMS could do to engage them?

Priorities

Q In the light of all your discussion, what are the top priority/highest impact recommendations for ACCOBAMS to take? (And to which part of ACCOBAMS?)

Q Of these which do you want to suggest as the top recommendations?

13:00 **45 Lunch Break**

Part 3: Management approaches and ASI Data

You will work in one of these topic groups and answer the following questions:

1. MSP and ASI data
2. Ecosystem Based Management and ASI data

Q What do people working on this need to know about cetaceans, to make wise decisions? (If you are working on this please say what you need to know).

Q What do you think the ASI data can contribute to this?

Q How can we help people doing this work access and make the most of the data?

Q Of what you have discussed what are the highest impact recommendations? (And to which part of ACCOBAMS?)

Feedback to hear the work of other groups

15:20 **20 minute Break**

Part 4: Area Based Conservation and ASI Data

Q See questions for Session 3

Wrap up the day

- Next steps
- Feedback
- Thanks

17:30 **Finish no later than this**

Friday 15th October

CET **Registration**

09:00 **Welcome**

- Facilitator's welcome

Diana Pound -Dialogue Matters

Part 5: Prioritising the area-based conservation measure recommendations

Look at the recommendations, prioritise the top few from your perspective:

1. MSP and ASI data
2. Ecosystem Based Management and ASI data
3. Area based conservation measures

	Take a short break when you have finished the task
09:45	Facilitators feedback the results of the prioritisation
	Part 6: ACCOBAMS Momentum for the future
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitators feedback the starting vision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Building ACCOBAMS reputation, profile, and influence B. Fostering cooperation with and between Stakeholders/actors for cetacean conservation C. Making the data more accessible D. Understanding and promoting cetaceans' role in Nature Based Solutions E. Connecting with the latest initiatives (30x30, the CBD COP15 Framework, Nature positive economies) F. Learning from our survey success story
	Q a/ What are we doing well towards this?
	Q b/ How do we build on that?
	Q c/ Any new/ different/novel ideas or innovations towards this?
	Q d/ Out of what you've heard/read what are the top actions?
	Q e/ Offers you could make towards this?
	Q a/ What went well [F. only]
	Q b/ What would we do differently next time [F. only]
	Q c/ How can we transfer our approach to others who can benefit from what we have learned? [F. only]
11:30	15 minutes break
	Part 7: ACCOBAMS providing Scientific and Technical Advice for Conservation Purposes
	Q What assets and skills do we already have to do this?
	Q What more capacity/skills do we need?
	Q What are we doing well to provide advice already?
	Q What more do we need to do?
	Q What will be most effective?
	Wrap up the morning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reporting - Next steps ▪ Feedback ▪ Thanks
13:00	Finish morning not later than this
	Lunch Break
	Finishing Session - Led by ACCOBAMS Secretariat

(TO BE COMPLETED)

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5.6. ANNEX 6 – Workshop Recommendations (Sessions 1 & 2)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DAY 1 AND DAY 2

Recommendations are grouped under higher-level topics/objectives

1. ACCOBAMS Long-Term Monitoring Programme (LTMP)

[R1] To Parties to fully commit to and facilitate the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Long-Term Monitoring Programme (LTMP) [37] to help meet relevant national and international commitments, which may include Barcelona Convention Ecosystem Approach/Integrated Monitoring Action Plan (EcAp/IMAP), EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive, etc.

Therefore, Parties instruct the Scientific Committee and/or the Permanent Secretariat to develop the following components:

COMPONENT 1. *[Scientific Committee]* **To develop a Simulation framework to examine the ability of different surveys strategies (including frequency and geographical extent) to detect trends and meet ACCOBAMS conservation objectives [23]**

COMPONENT 2. **To carry out periodic basin-wide surveys (as in the ASI), at least every 6 years (and see Component 1) [26] & [18]**

[R2] *[Scientific Committee]* To review and update as necessary the protocols [16] for basin-wide and national data collection (marine megafauna and human activities [22]) and to consider new developments of technology and methods to analyse data. The review will include consideration of:

[R2a] habitat availability by species (e.g., coastal habitat for species such as bottlenose dolphins) [12] & [20]

[R2b] field and analytical approaches that correct for availability and perception bias [17] & [11]

[R2c] increased coverage in some regions (e.g., eastern Mediterranean) [28]

[R2d] having longer training sessions, with more time allocated to species identification, general survey procedures and protocols (including multidisciplinary and multitaxa approaches where agreed) [28]

[R2e] other similar initiatives in EU countries to capitalise on lessons learnt elsewhere [26]

[R2f] improvements in ship-based surveys, including acoustic and biopsy sampling [24]

[R2g] multidisciplinary and multi-taxa approaches in light of scientific and management objectives [24]

[R2h] national and other management needs (e.g., reporting and data organisation, Risk Assessments, etc.) when designing strata to obtain abundance estimates [22]

[R2i] improved methods to identify similar species (e.g., use of high speed/resolution cameras) [10]

COMPONENT 3. To develop an implementation protocol to address logistic, bureaucratic and administrative aspects.

[R3] *[Permanent Secretariat]* To create and regularly update, in cooperation with the Scientific Committee, a specific protocol for administrative/logistic/bureaucratic activities [17]. This will include preparing a long-term plan for basin-wide surveys to be approved by all relevant authorities, which includes a roadmap and agreed procedures for:

- obtaining necessary permits (e.g., research: aviation and ship permits, visas, insurances, etc.);
- designating national officers/representatives to follow administrative procedures at national level considering linguistic needs;
- updating information on restrictions (area and personnel);
- identifying appropriate research platforms (e.g., certified, insured, able to spend extended time offshore, crew with offshore experience, willingness to take part in the survey);
- obtaining the tentative survey design from the Scientific Committee at least one year earlier than the survey to allow logistic consideration. This should be shared with pilots and relevant national authorities to discuss further chances of improvement, identify permanent or temporary no-access areas and possibly identify strategies to overcome related issues.

COMPONENT 4. To develop and implement coherent synergies for ASI, subregional, national programmes (including methods, timing and frequency)
GENERAL MONITORING

[R4] *[Parties]* Relevant authorities should synchronise long-term national, sub-regional cetacean monitoring programmes (via all agreed tools), including ongoing activities under the HD, MSFD and EcAp/IMAP [33]

[R5] *[Parties]* Implement sub-regional non-summer surveys to understand seasonal movements and densities [20]

ACOUSTIC MONITORING

[R6] *[Scientific Committee]* To consider designing a plan for acoustic long-term monitoring of sperm and Cuvier's beaked whales, in line with the ongoing monitoring plans, such as those under the MSFD and EcAp/IMAP, including the Eastern Basin [22]

MARINE LITTER

[R7] *[Scientific Committee]* To coordinate scientific efforts to improve knowledge of marine litter (including seasonal distribution, quantification of floating marine litter in the SE Mediterranean, identify hotspots of marine litter to propose mitigation measures) and establish basin-scale monitoring on a regular basis to track changes over time [9]

COMPONENT 5. To carry out data analysis necessary to inform conservation and management actions in the ACCOBAMS region

HUMAN PRESSURES

[R8] *[Scientific Committee]* To carry out modelling exercises on relevant boat data or other human activities, including those collected during ASI to examine and map co-occurrence to assess and prioritise areas of mitigation of threats **[18]**

MULTITAXA

[R9] *[Scientific Committee]* To facilitate cross-taxa analyses of the ASI and other data to address ecological integrated conservation concerns **[17]**

COMPONENT 6. To develop an ACCOBAMS Risk Assessment framework

[R10] *[Scientific Committee]* To conduct Risk Assessment of specific human activities (e.g., bycatch and ship strikes **[29]**, marine litter **[10]**).

[R11] *[Scientific Committee]* To assess the need for and effectiveness of mitigation measures **[18]**

2 Basin-wide cooperation and synergies

[R12] *[Parties]* To establish a formal basin-wide cooperation strategy to identify, implement and assess appropriate mitigation measures, combining area-based and threat-based mitigation approaches **[33]**

[R12a] *[Scientific Committee]* To improve cooperation with experts in the ACCOBAMS region to further work on criteria to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas and Cetacean Critical Habitats, in relation to local pressure indicators, and identify mitigation measures.

[R12b] *[Parties]* To support the development of multidisciplinary programmes to build national capacities on:

- data handling, data analysis and results interpretation, with particular focus on habitat modelling, including use of data collected from opportunistic platforms **[28]**
- monitoring techniques (including the use of simplified operational and field methods), response to stranding events (including live strandings), necropsies and related methods to collect and store samples **[27]**
- use of tools, such as drones, taking into account any protocols developed within the EcAp/IMAP and MSFD frameworks **[23]**

[R12c] *[Parties & Secretariat]* To promote the full participation of multidisciplinary and multi-taxa expert to the Scientific Committee and other relevant meetings to enhance collaborations with other disciplines relevant to cetacean conservation **[14]**

[R12d] *[Parties]* To develop a strategy identifying and promoting possible collaborative activities among existing local/national expertise in statistics and modelling (e.g., on fisheries, agriculture, economic and social interests) and marine biologists in areas where such expertise to improve cetacean conservation is lacking **[12]**

3 Data use and sharing

[R13] *[Secretariat]* To optimize data sharing, ensure the interoperability of ASI Data Sets with other relevant databases (e.g., EMODnet, INFO Map Data Repository) for data exchange **[23]**

[R14] *[Parties and the Secretariat]* To identify ways to foster cooperation and partnerships between experts throughout the Agreement's range, including:

- analysis of ASI data
- identify and remove bottlenecks preventing a larger participation in research and conservation activities **[22]**
- development of joint actions and working relationships between specialists and Parties administrations **[20]**
- ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to make best use of ASI data throughout the ACCOBAMS area (e.g., through financial support for mentorship schemes, training and joint publications) **[20]**

[R15] *[Parties & Secretariat]* Increase the visibility of ASI datasets and related results, encourage the widest use possible to contribute towards decision making on conservation matters (e.g., PSSA proposal in the north-western Mediterranean Sea) **[20]**

[R16] *[Secretariat]* Ensure that the protocol for obtaining access to the ASI data includes a component that states that the outputs of any analyses using ASI data are made available to ACCOBAMS (with appropriate publication safeguards) **[19]** so that:

- the outputs can be used by the Scientific Committee (and its sub-groups) to contribute to its ability to give the best scientific advice; and
- the Secretariat can monitor the use and influence of the knowledge base to assist in illustrating the broader value of the ASI and to assist in improving the undertaking and data collection on future surveys as part of the ACCOBAMS LTMP **[15]**

4 Recommendation for an immediate conservation action

[R17] *[Parties/Secretariat]* Given the basin-wide data and results on marine litter density and distribution, to call upon all competent organisations on pollution issues (e.g., EU, Barcelona Convention, IMO) for urgent improvement and enforcement of their management measures on land- and on ship-related pollution **[23] & [12]**

[Refer to the Scientific Committee: outside of the ToR of the workshop] *As a matter of priority, to work in close cooperation with IMO, GFCM, the Barcelona Convention, EU and national relevant authorities and any relevant Fora to implement and/or enforce all necessary measures to minimise direct mortality and risk of injury particularly in known sperm and Cuvier's beaked whales' habitats (e.g., through a stronger enforcement of fishery ban on driftnets starting from higher density area mitigation and preparing the material for a TSS proposal) [21] & [22]*

5.7. ANNEX 7 – SESSION 3 Raw outputs

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