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ASI SPECIAL ISSUE IN FRONTIERS FOR MARINE SCIENCES CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Presented by the Secretariat

Issue: presentation of the on-going call for abstracts and contribution in ASI special issue in Frontiers for Marine sciences

1. Action requested

The Scientific Committee is invited to note the information provided on the on-going call for abstracts and contribution in ASI special issue in Frontiers for Marine sciences

2. Background

The main results of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative are estimates of abundance and distribution of cetaceans, marine mega-fauna and marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Black Sea. In line with the data policy and terms of use established in 2018 for the Mediterranean survey data, many requests have been submitted to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, aiming at examining different parts of the multi-target datasets collected during the campaign with a view to develop specific scientific papers.

Following the suggestion by the Chair of Scientific Committee/ASI Scientific Coordinator early 2020, the ASI Steering Committee agreed that the development of scientific peer reviewed papers / Special Volume based on the ASI/CeNoBS data and results would be relevant as an added value to the ASI effort and would improve the Survey visibility and the credibility of its outcome.

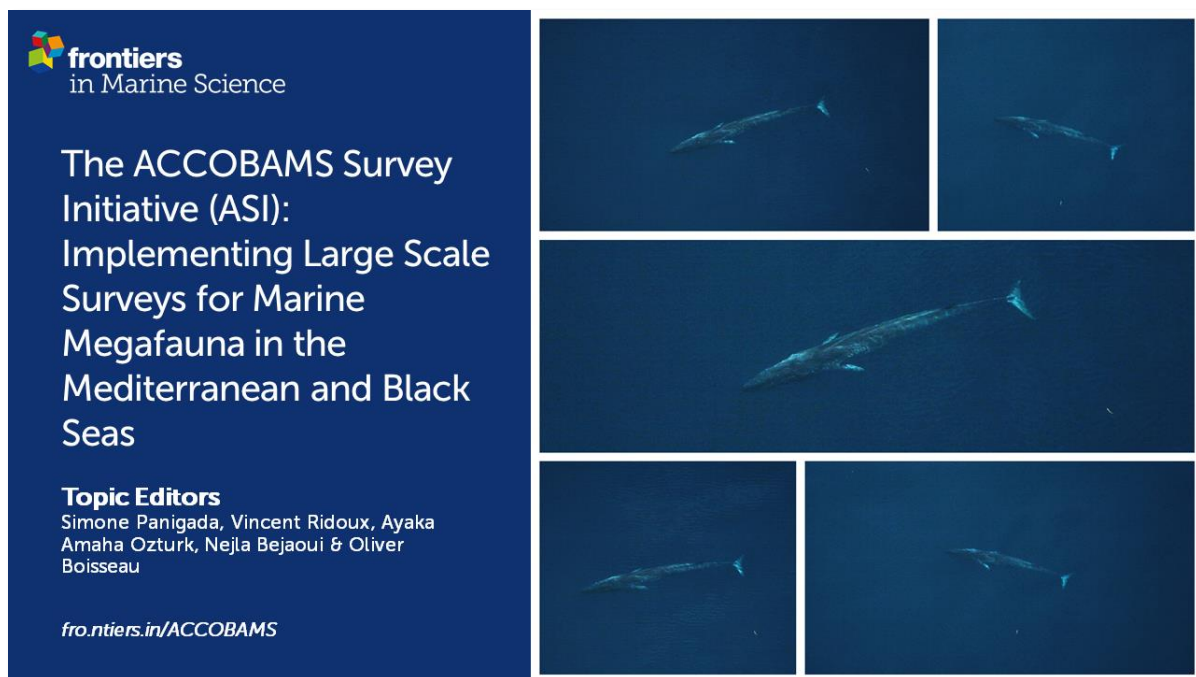
The ACCOBAMS Bureau was consulted on the matter during its 13th Meeting in December 2020 and following its deliberation the proposal was circulated to all National Focal Points in March 2021. Subsequently, the topic Editors Simone Panigada, Vincent Ridoux, Ayaka Amaha Ozturk, Nejla Bejaoui & Oliver Boisseau launched the opening of a Research topic in the scientific journal Frontiers in Marine Science: [The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative \(ASI\): Implementing Large Scale Surveys for Marine Megafauna in the Mediterranean and Black Seas](#).

The main goal of this special issue is to bring together original research papers, perspectives, and reviews focusing on the results collected and the data arising from the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative.

The topic Editors will receive and review abstracts (or a short description outlining the general idea) by 31 December 2021 and the documents for peer-review by 29 April 2022.

In this process, geographical and gender balance in relation to authorship will be sought by the Topic Editors, in accordance with the ACCOBAMS Bureau's recommendation.

Thanks to a Voluntary contribution from Italy, a financial support to overcome publication fees is foreseen as to be provided by ACCOBAMS to interested researchers who are invited to indicate such need when contacting the Topic Editors.



Dear all,

We are co-editing a Research Topic titled "[The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative \(ASI\): Implementing Large Scale Surveys for Marine Megafauna in the Mediterranean and Black Seas](#)", within the journal *Frontiers in Marine Science* and would very much like you to participate.

Our main goal is to bring together *original research papers, perspectives, and reviews* focusing on the results collected and the data arising from this large scale initiative. These data will improve the current knowledge on status of the target species and our understanding of underlying ecological processes, facilitate the development of targeted conservation and mitigation measures and allow for the follow-up to international obligations (EU, UNEP-MAP). Given your expertise, we would like to encourage you to contribute to this collection. All submissions will undergo rigorous peer review to guarantee high scientific quality and relevance to the subject.

We would like to receive abstracts (or a short description outlining your general idea) by December 31st and manuscripts for peer-review by **April 29th, 2022**. Of course, these deadlines can be discussed case by case to take into account possible delays.

We think this Research Topic will be well received by the community and we would be honoured if you agreed to contribute. In case you are not interested in participating, but know someone that might be, please feel free to share this information with them. Thanks for considering and we look forward to your reply.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to directly contact the *Frontiers in Marine Science* team (marinescience@frontiersin.org), the ACCOBAMS Secretariat or the Topic Editors.

All the best,

The Topic Editors: Simone Panigada, Vincent Ridoux, Ayaka Amaha Ozturk, Nejla Bejaoui & Oliver Boisseau

Frontiers' Research Topics - Important information

We achieve our mission of making science available to all through our Open Access model. With this model, articles are subject to publication fees. Please note that we have a Fee Support Program and institutional agreements to help researchers overcome any financial barriers to publication. You can also read a detailed description of our fee policy here.

If your institution/funder can't cover the entire cost of the Open Access publishing fee, we encourage you to apply to support here: https://frontiers.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_55Ut0SVDNNsXsVv. When filling out your application, it is extremely important for you to use the commentary box to thoroughly explain your funding situation, explicitly stating (with numerical values where possible) the maximum amount that you have available for publishing fees. You can submit an application alongside or in advance of the submission of your manuscript.

If fees are still an issue after you have received a discount from Frontiers, please contact the Editorial Office at marinescience@frontiersin.org, as the team will be happy to discuss other options to help ensure that fees are not a barrier for you.

Different article types (Original Research, Methods, Hypothesis & Theory, etc.) are accepted, please see the full list here: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science#article-types>