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PROGRESS IN THE ASSESSMENT/RE-ASSESSMENT OF THE IUCN STATUS OF CETACEAN SPECIES IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA

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Presented by the Chair of the Scientific Committee

Issue: assessment/re-assessments of the IUCN status of cetacean species in the ACCOBAMS Area

1. Action requested

The Scientific Committee is invited to:

a) **note** the information provided on progress made regarding the assessments/re-assessments of the IUCN status of cetacean species in the ACCOBAMS Area

2. Background

The ACCOBAMS Work program foresees - as a Scientific Committee assignment within the CA1 Conservation Action related to improve knowledge about state of cetaceans and monitor cetacean status - 'to assess IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area and update it regularly, and more specifically to gather information to assess the data deficient species.

Following the Recommendation 10.3 of the 10th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (Nice, France, 20-22 October 2015) and Resolution 6.15, adopted by the Sixth Meeting of the Parties (Monaco, 22-25 November 2016) regarding the assessment of the IUCN conservation status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area, the Scientific Committee decided during its 11th Meeting (Monaco, 7-9 February 2017) to assess the status of killer whale in priority and to postpone the (re)assessment of the other species for after the results of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI), when updated information and robust data on population abundance and distribution would be available.

Thus, considering the results of the ASI project that are currently available, as well as other data and observations collected over the last few years, new assessments of the conservation status of Mediterranean and Black Sea cetaceans and update of existing ones according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria were launched at the end of 2019.

This initiative results from a collaboration between ACCOBAMS and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation in making use of all new sources of information towards an updated Red List Status of Mediterranean and Black Sea cetaceans.

Under the coordination of the Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, it led to the assessment of 15 taxa (corresponding to 3 subspecies inhabiting the black sea and 13 different subpopulations of 9 species occurring in the Mediterranean Sea).

The process will soon be completed, with the updated status of most Mediterranean species expected to be published in the coming month, whereas the update of Black Sea species is currently under review by Red List Authorities.

Red List status of cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black seas

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Focus	Family	Species	Category 2021	Previous Category	Status
Black Sea	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Delphinus delphis ssp. ponticus</i>	VU A2cde (provisional)	VU A2cde (2010)	Under review
Black Sea	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Tursiops truncatus ssp. ponticus</i>	EN A2bcde (provisional)	EN A2cde (2008)	Under review
Black Sea	PHOCOENIDAE	<i>Phocoena phocoena ssp. relicta</i>	EN A4cde (provisional)	EN A1d+4cde (2008)	Under review
Mediterranean	BALAENOPTERIDAE	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> Mediterranean subpopulation	EN C2a(ii)	VU C2a(ii) (2011)	In press (December 2021)
Mediterranean	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Delphinus delphis</i> Gulf of Corinth subpopulation	CR D		Published (2021 errata)
Mediterranean	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Delphinus delphis</i> Inner Mediterranean subpopulation	EN A2cde; C1		In press (December 2021)
Mediterranean	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Globicephala melas</i> Inner Mediterranean subpopulation	EN C2a(ii)		In press (December 2021)
Mediterranean	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Globicephala melas</i> Strait of Gibraltar subpopulation	CR C2a(ii)		In press (December 2021)
Mediterranean	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Grampus griseus</i> Mediterranean subpopulation	EN A2bc	DD	In press (December 2021)
Mediterranean	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> Mediterranean subpopulation	LC	VU A2 bcde (2010)	In press (December 2021)
Mediterranean	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> Gulf of Corinth subpopulation	EN B1ab(iii)		Under review
Mediterranean	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Steno bredanensis</i> Mediterranean subpopulation	NT D1		In press (December 2021)
Mediterranean	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> Gulf of Ambracia subpopulation	CR C2a(ii)		In press (December 2021)
Mediterranean	DELPHINIDAE	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> Mediterranean subpopulation	LC	VU A2cde (2008)	In press (December 2021)
Mediterranean	PHYSETERIDAE	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> Mediterranean subpopulation	EN C2a(ii)	EN C2a(ii) (2010)	In press (December 2021)
Mediterranean	ZIPHIIDAE	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> Mediterranean subpopulation		VU C2a(ii) (2018)	Published (2018)

Final results:

Black Sea 3 subspecies

- 3 threatened

Mediterranean Sea: 13 subpopulations of 9 species

- 10 threatened
- 1 Near Threatened
- 2 Least Concern