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FIRST EXCHANGE WORKSHOP ON DOLPHIN DEPREDATION IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES

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Presented by the Secretariat

Issue: Exchange workshop on dolphin depredation in Mediterranean fisheries

1. Action requested

The Scientific Committee is invited to:

- a. **note** the information provided in this document.

2. Background

The MAVA Depredation project includes activities aimed at promoting exchanges of experience and lessons learnt across the region, in particular through the organization of workshops.

Due to COVID19 pandemic situation, the first exchange workshop of the project was held online from 16 to 18 November 2020. It enabled 45 participants to exchange information and share lessons learnt by national teams involved in the Depredation project, but also to benefit from the experience of other experts/organizations working on depredation assessment/mitigation in the Mediterranean area and beyond.

The present document includes workshop conclusions, alongside with the respective agenda and list of participants.

A second Exchange workshop on depredation will be organised mid-2022 in the context of the MAVA-funded Depredation project.

MITIGATING DOLPHIN DEPREDAION IN MEDITERRANEAN FISHERIES
JOINING EFFORTS FOR STRENGTHENING CETACEAN CONSERVATION
AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
 (The MAVA Depredation2 project)

First exchange workshop (online), 16-18 November 2020

Workshop Conclusions

A summary of the conclusions from the presentations and the discussions is presented below.

State of play on depredation monitoring & assessment

- Depredation caused by Bottlenose dolphins is not a new phenomenon but a growing concern for several fisheries around the Mediterranean and in the contiguous Atlantic area (south of Portugal)
- All the projects presented during the workshop aimed to address the depredation issue with similar objectives:
 - o Improving the knowledge on the dolphin populations involved in depredation and understanding of their behaviour;
 - o Assessing the impacts of depredation, including the economic losses for the fishers, and in some cases, supporting the national authorities in the development of compensatory schemes;
 - o Collecting more details on the fishing operations and on the interactions to identify potential mitigation measures (management measures or technical measures) and testing their efficiency over the time.
- The number of organizations working on this topic is an opportunity to strengthen the links between teams and experts to facilitate exchanges of knowledge and experience (with positive and negative results), in particular at the sub-regional scale when considering the same fisheries. In this view, a similar workshop will be organized in 2021 to present the progress of the different projects;
- Standardizing monitoring/assessment methodology, based on existing methodologies and protocols, is needed to allow comparison of results between similar fisheries or to provide an assessment at the regional scale;
- On-board observations are important to confirm the results obtained through the questionnaires (but this is difficult when considering the characteristics of the Mediterranean artisanal fisheries vessels) and as much as other possible data should be collected along with depredation data (e.g. incidental catches)
- Fishers are active members of the projects, and their participation/contribution/engagement is critical for ensuring data collection, and identifying/testing mitigation measures.

State of play on depredation mitigation measures

- The strengthened net tested in Mediterranean Moroccan purse seine fishery demonstrated positive results with an increased resistance of the net (smaller tears), even if its efficiency

decreases with time (the more the net is damaged over the time, the less efficient it is). There are still needs to adapt the weight of the net to the different categories and power of the fishing vessels.

- The new generation of pingers (DDD and DiD) have demonstrated positive results to reduce depredation in the South of Portugal gillnet fisheries but their efficiency seems to decrease with time (even if it takes more time than with the older models of pingers, it seems that there is still an habituation effect)
- Using pingers is to be carefully considered, as they represent an additional source of noise in the marine environment, with risks for the dolphins of physical injuries and of habitat exclusion.
- In addition to technical measures, the management measures, such as the reduction of the fishing effort (e.g. geographical/temporal closures), should be also considered in the mix of solutions to reduce depredation. For this, co-management and bottom-up approach will be key for gaining the real engagement and co-responsibility of fishers.

Next steps for the MAVA Depredation2 project partners:

- Development of the Phase2 work plans of the national partners in Italy, Malta and Spain to continue depredation monitoring and identify mitigation measures to be tested based on Phase1 results
- National partners in Morocco and Tunisia to pursue their ongoing activities defined during Phase1
- Promote and facilitate exchanges between the national teams and with the technical assistance experts to support the implementation of the project activities
- Development of transversal activities related to the development of monitoring methodology and the review of the state of depredation
- Organise another workshop end of 2021 to present and discuss the progress in the activities of the MAVA Depredation2 and other interested/relevant projects/initiatives including:
 - o INCA project - Addressing the interaction between small scale fisheries and marine megafauna in Greece),
 - o Dolphins-small scale fisheries interactions in Torre Guaceto MPA, Puglia, Italy,
 - o Project iNOVPESCA – Cetacean interactions with Algarve (Southern Portugal) coastal fisheries and mitigation approaches,
 - o Bottlenose dolphin compatibility with small scale fisheries in marine protected areas (ANSE),
 - o Dolphins-small scale fisheries interactions in the Balearic Islands,
 - o Lowering interactions of cetaceans with fisheries in the Mediterranean “LIFE Delfi project”.



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First exchange workshop (online), 16-18 November 2020

This workshop is organized as part of the MAVA Depredation2 project coordinated by ACCOBAMS, GFCM, SPA/RAC and LIFE. It is aimed at promoting the exchanges of information and lessons learnt between the national teams involved in the project, and also with other experts/organizations working on depredation assessment/mitigation in the Mediterranean and outside.

❖ **Final agenda**

Day 1 – Monday, 16 November	
Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/96631691207	
The meeting room will be opened at 9:15.	
09:30 – 10:00 (CET time)	Opening of the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome of the organizers - Introduction of the participants
10:00 – 10:20 (CET time)	Introduction and objectives of the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the MAVA Depredation2 project - Arrangements and objectives of the workshop
10:20 – 11:45 (CET time)	Available knowledge on depredation and ongoing/planned activities in the Alboran Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactions between bottlenose dolphins and small pelagic purse seine fisheries in the Mediterranean Moroccan waters - INRH (M. Mohamed Malouli / Ms. Kenza Mokhtar-Jamaï) – 30 minutes - Interactions between bottlenose dolphins and small-scale fisheries in Andalucía - AHE (Ms. Raquel Aguilera / Mr. Juan Antonio Caminas / Mr. José Carlos Báez) – 30 minutes <p style="text-align: center;"><i>15 minutes of questions & answers after each presentation</i></p>

Day 2 – Tuesday, 17 November	
Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/97432703345	
The meeting room will be opened at 10:15.	
10:30 – 12:45 (CET time)	<p>Available knowledge on depredation and ongoing/planned activities in the Sicily Strait and Tunisian Plateau area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interactions between bottlenose dolphins and small pelagic purse seine fisheries in Tunisia – INAT/INST (Ms. Rimel Benmessaoud / Mr. Mourad Cherif) – 30 minutes - The Floating Laboratories Initiative. Interaction between cetaceans and small-scale fisheries in Sicily, Italy – MareCamp Association (Ms. Clara Monaco) – 30 minutes - Interactions between bottlenose dolphins and small-scale fisheries in Malta – MCAST/DFA (Ms. Kimberly Terribile / Ms. Alicia Said / Mr. Matthew Laspina) – 30 minutes <p><i>15 minutes of questions & answers after each presentation</i></p>

Day 3 – Wednesday, 18 November	
Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/92169125242	
The meeting room will be opened at 9:15.	
9:30 – 10:40 (CET time)	<p>Other projects/Initiatives addressing depredation in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dolphins-small scale fisheries interactions in Torre Guaceto MPA, Puglia, Italy - Tethys Research Institute (Mr. Joan Gonzalvo) – 10 minutes - Addressing the interaction between small scale fisheries and marine megafauna in Greece - WWF Greece (Ms. Amalia Alberini) – 15 minutes - Project iNOVPESCA – Cetacean interactions with Algarve (Southern Portugal) coastal fisheries and mitigation approaches - CCMAR (Centre of Marine Sciences)/University of Algarve (Ana Marçalo) – 15 minutes <p><i>10 minutes of questions & answers after each presentation</i></p>
10:40 - 11:00 (CET time)	<i>Short break</i>
11:00-12:15 (CET time)	<p>Other projects/Initiatives addressing depredation in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bottlenose dolphin compatibility with small scale fisheries in marine protected areas - Asociación de Naturalistas del Sureste – ANSE (Philippe Verborgh) – 15 minutes - Dolphins-small scale fisheries interactions in the Balearic Islands - Tursiops association (Ms. Magda Cerda / Mr. Txema Bortons) – 15 minutes - Lowering interactions of cetaceans with fisheries in the Mediterranean “LIFE Delfi project” – CNR (Mr. Alessandro Luccheti) – 15 minutes <p><i>10 minutes of questions & answers after each presentation</i></p>
12:15 – 13:30 (CET time)	Discussions on possible mitigation measures, general recommendations and next steps



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❖ **List of participants**

ABDERRAHIM Marwan

Projects Assistant - Species Programme
United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan
Regional Activity Centre for Specially
Protected Areas
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat - B.P. 337
1080 Tunis Cedex – Tunisia
Email: marwan.abderrahim@spa-rac.org

ALBERINI Amalia

Cetacean Conservation Officer
WWF Greece
21 Lempesi St.117 43 Athens, Greece
Email: a.alberini@wwf.gr

BAEZ Jose Carlos

Instituto Español de Oceanografía
Centro Oceanográfico de Málaga
puerto pesquero s/n
Fuengirola, 29640 Spain
Email: josecarlos.baez@ieo.es

BELMONT Julie

Project Officer
ACCOBAMS Secretariat
Jardin de l'UNESCO
Terrasses de Fontvieille
98000 Monaco
Email: jbelmont@accobams.net

BEN NAKHLA Lobna

Programme Officer
United Nations Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan
Regional Activity Centre for Specially
Protected Areas
Boulevard du Leader Yasser Arafat - B.P. 337
1080 Tunis Cedex – Tunisia
Email: lobna.bennakhla@spa-rac.org

BENMESSAOUD Rimel

Assistante d'enseignement Supérieur Agricole
- Cétologie
Département de Génie Halieutique et
Environnement (GHE)
Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie
(INAT)
43 Avenue Charles Nicolle, Tunis, 1082
Tunisia
Email: benmessaoud_rimel@yahoo.fr

BROTONS Txema

Scientific Director
Asociación TURSIOPS
C/ Safareig, 27
07141, Marratxi, Illes Balears – Spain
Email: txemabrotons@asociaciontursiops.org

CAMIÑAS Juan Antonio

President
Asociación Herpetológica Española (AHE)
Email: caminas.fao@gmail.com

CANDEA MIREA Mihaela

Executive Director
Mare Nostrum NGO
Bogdan Voda Street, No 16
900711 Constanta, Romania
Email: mihaela_candea@marenostrum.ro

CARPENTIERI Paolo

Fishery Resources Monitoring Specialist
GFCM Secretariat
Palazzo Blumenstihl
Via Vittoria Colonna, 1,
00193, Rome – Italy
Email: Paolo.Carpentieri@fao.org

CAVALLÉ Marta

Mediterranean coordinator
Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE)
Email: med@lifeplatform.eu

CERDÀ Marga

Asociación TURSIOPS
C/ Safareig, 27
07141, Marratxi, Illes Balears – Spain
Email: m.cerda@asociaciontursiops.org

CHERIF Mourad

Maitre-Assistant de l'enseignement superieur
agricole INSTM
Port de pêche La goulette 2060 Tunis - Tunisia
Email: mourad.cherif@instm.rnrt.tn

CLORENNEC Dominique

Project Acoustic Expert
QUIET-OCEANS
525 Avenue Alexis de Rochon
29280 Plouzané, France
Email: dominique.clorennec@quiet-oceans.com

FARRUGIA Krista

Nature Trust (Malta) – FEE
PO Box 9,
Valletta. VLT 1000 – Malta
Email: falzon.krista@gmail.com

FORTUNA Caterina

Researcher
Italian National Institute for Environmental
Protection and Research (ISPRA)
Via Vitaliano Brancati 48
00144 Roma - Italy
Email: caterina.fortuna@isprambiente.it ;
fortuna.cm@gmail.com

GALASSO Gabriele

Marine biologist
Marecamp Association
via Lungomare Scardamiano 1,
95021 Aci Castello (CT) – Italy
Email: gabriele_galasso@hotmail.it

GOL'DIN Pavel

Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology
vul. Bogdana Khmelnytskogo, 15, 01030, Kyiv
Ukraine
Email: pavelgoldin412@gmail.com

GONÇALVES Jorge Manuel dos Santos

Senior Researcher
CCMAR - Centro de Ciências do Mar,
Universidade do Algarve
Campus de Gambelas, 8005-139 Faro -
Portugal
Email: jgoncal@ualg.pt

GONZALVO Joan

Task Manager on Interactions with Fisheries of
the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee
Tethys Research Institute
Viale G.B.Gadio 2
20121 Milano – ITALY
Email: Joan.gonzalvo@gmail.com

HOLCER Drasko

President
Blue World Institute of Marine Research and
Conservation
Kastel 24, 51551 Veli Losinj - Croatia
Email: Drasko.Holcer@blue-world.org

KOTOMATAS Spyros

Senior Marine Conservation Officer
WWF Greece
21 Lempesi St.117 43 Athens, Greece
Email: s.kotomatas@wwf.gr

LAMOUTI Souad

Vice-Task Manager on Interactions with
Fisheries of the ACCOBAMS Scientific
Committee
Researcher
Centre National de Recherche et de
Développement de la Pêche et de
l'Aquaculture
11 bvd Colonel Amirouche
42415 Bou Ismail - Algeria
Email: souad.lamouti@gmail.com

LASPINA Matthew

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of
Malta
Government Farm Għammieri
Triq L-Ingiered, Marsa - Malta
Email: matthew.laspina.1@gov.mt

LE RAVALLEC Celia

Programme & Project Officer
ACCOBAMS Secretariat
Jardin de l'UNESCO
Terrasses de Fontvieille
98000 Monaco
Email: cleravallec@accobams.net

LUCCHETTI Alessandro

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Istituto
per le risorse Biologiche e Biotecnologie
Marine
IRBIM-CNR
Largo Fiera della Pesca
60125 Ancona – Italy
Email: alessandro.lucchetti@cnr.it

MAHFOUZ Celine

Researcher
National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS
Liban)
Marine Research Centre
189 Jounieh - Lebanon
Email: celine.mahfouz@gmail.com

MALLAT Hamed

Sea turtle conservation expert
Email : mallat.hamed@gmail.com

MALOULI IDRISSE Mohamed

Institut National de Recherche Halieutique
Chef du Centre Régional de l'INRH à Tanger
BP 5268 Draded, Tanger - Morocco
Email: malouli@inrh.ma /
idrissi.malouli@gmail.com

MARÇALO Ana

Fisheries biologist; Post Doc; Invited Assistant
Professor
CCMAR - Centro de Ciências do Mar,
Universidade do Algarve
Campus de Gambelas, 8005-139 Faro -
Portugal
Email: amarcalo@ualg.pt ;
amarcalo@gmail.com

MOKHTAR-JAMAÏ Kenza

Oceanography / Marine Biology and Ecology
Laboratory of Fishery
Institut National de Recherche Halieutique
Agadir - Morocco
Email: mokhtarjamaikenza@hotmail.com

MONACO Clara

Research Director
Marecamp Association
via Lungomare Scardamiano 1,
95021 Aci Castello (CT) – Italy
Email: clamonaco@unict.it

MESHKOVA Galina

Green Balkans
1 Skopie str., office 10
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Email : gmeschkova@greenbalkans.org

MOULIN Aurélie

Project Cetaceans Monitoring Expert
Senior Researcher
CIMA Research Foundation
Via Magliotto, 2 -17100 Savona - Italy
Email: aurelie.moulin@cimafoundation.org

ODY Denis

Responsable Programmes Cétacés
WWF France - Mission Océans et Côtes
6, rue des Fabres - 13001 Marseille – France
Email: dody@wwf.fr

OZTURK Ayaka Amaha

Member of the ACCOBAMS Scientific
Committee
Co-Chair of the Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS
Working Group on Bycatch
Faculty of Aquatic Sciences, Istanbul
University, Turkey
Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV)
Email: ayakamaha@hotmail.co.jp

PAIU Romulus-Marian

Mare Nostrum NGO
Expert in ecology
Biodiversity Conservation Department
Bogdan Voda Street, No 16
900711 Constanta, Romania
Email : marian_paiu@marenostrom.ro

PETROU Antonis

Marine Biologist / Director
AP Marine Environmental Consultancy Ltd
Email: apmarine@valicom.com.cy

POPOV Dimitar

Green Balkans
1 Skopie str., office 10
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Email : dpopov@greenbalkans.org

RAFFA Alessandra

Marine biologist
Marecamp association
via Lungomare Scardamiano 1,
95021 Aci Castello (CT) – Italy
Email: alessandra.raffa92@gmail.com

RAJA Atik

INRH MedBycatch Observer
Email: atic.raja@gmail.com

SACCHI Jacques

Project Fishing gear technologist
Consultant
Email: jacques.sacchi@gmail.com

SAID Alicia

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of
Malta
Government Farm Għammieri
Triq L-Ingiered, Marsa - Malta
Email: alicia.said.1@gov.mt

SEQUEIRA Marina

Member of the ACCOBAMS Scientific
Committee
Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das
Florestas, I.P.
Divisão de Gestão de Espécies da Fauna e da
Flora
Av. da República, 16 – 16B
1050-191 Lisboa - Portugal
Email: marina.sequeira@icnf.pt

TERRIBILE Kimberly

Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics & Animal
Sciences
Institute of Applied Sciences
Malta College for Arts, Science & Technology
Luqa Road, Qormi - Malta
Email: kimberly.terribile@mcast.edu.mt

VERBORGH Philippe

Asociación de Naturalistas del Sureste (ANSE)
Plaza Pintor José María Párraga, 11. Bajo.
30002 Murcia – Spain
Email: philippeverborgh@gmail.com

