

## SYNTHESIS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCOBAMS BY PARTIES

Article VIII (paragraph b) of ACCOBAMS invites Parties to prepare for each ordinary session of their Meeting a report on the implementation of the Agreement.

In order to assist ACCOBAMS Focal Points, some parts of the national report template were previously and partially filled in by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, as possible, by taking into account existing information gathered from:

- previous National Reports submitted to ACCOBAMS MOP;
- reports, if any, on “Implementation levels of the Work Programme 2020-2022” completed by Countries for the Fifth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS National Representatives, July 2021;
- Reports of regions presented by the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Regional Representatives during SC13, February 2020, and during SC14, November 2021.

In order to gain efficiency for a better knowledge of Parties needs and *in fine* for a better implementation of the ACCOBAMS The objective was to assist ACCOBAMS countries in accomplishing the obligation foreseen in Article VIII (paragraph b) of the Agreement.

The Secretariat has inserted the existing information (gathered from the above-mentioned sources) in the respective National Reports, so that National Focal Points would then be able to add, modify, adapt and/or delete any part of the report template.

Therefore, ACCOBAMS Focal Points were invited by the Secretariat to confirm, adapt and/or revise the information pre-filled in the reporting system regarding their respective countries and amend it as appropriate, with the view to presenting national reports to MOP8 (document ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf03).

The current document is a brief synthesis of the relevant activities undertaken, and as reported, by ACCOBAMS Parties, during the triennium 2020-2022 in the framework of the implementation of the Agreement.

Yes - **Y**  
No - **N**  
Partially - **P**  
Not Relevant- **NR**  
No Information - **NI**

ALB = Albania; ALG= Algeria; BUL= Bulgaria; CRO= Croatia; CYP= Cyprus; EGY= Egypt; FRA= France; GEO= Georgia; GRE= Greece; ITA= Italy; LEB= Lebanon; LIB= Libya; MAL= Malta; MC= Monaco; MNT= Montenegro; MOR= Morocco; POR= Portugal; ROM= Romania; SLO= Slovenia; SP=SPAIN; SYR= Syria; TUN= Tunisia; TÜR= Türkiye; UKR= Ukraine

Specific questions and requests from Parties are annexed to the present report.

	ALB	ALG	BUL	CRO	CYP	EGY	FRA	GEO	GRE	ITA	LEB	LIB	MAL	MC	MNT	MOR	POR	ROM	SLO	SP	SYR	TUN	TÜR	UKR
NATIONAL FOCAL POINT, NATIONAL REPORTS, MAIN ISSUES AND NEEDS																								
National Focal Point is designated	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
National reports updated by Focal Points in 2022	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Specific questions and requests	Please refer to the <a href="#">Annex</a>																							

	ALB	ALG	BUL	CRO	CYP	EGY	FRA	GEO	GRE	ITA	LEB	LIB	MAL	MC	MNT	MOR	POR	ROM	SLO	SP	SYR	TUN	TÜR	UKR
MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT																								
ACCOBAMS is ratified	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Amendment of Article 2 of the Conservation Plan concerning the driftnets (Resolution A3.1) – regulation on the use of driftnets	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	NI
Amendment concerning the extension of the ACCOBAMS geographical scope (Res. A4.1 and 6.10) has been accepted, signed or ratified	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	NR	Y
National authorities, administrations are designated or mandated for ACCOBAMS implementation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
National NGOs are supporting activities on cetaceans	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
National research centres, universities are working on cetaceans	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	NI	Y
National Rescue Centres	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	Y	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI
National Dolphinarium	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	NI	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
National Whale watching operators	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	Y	N	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI
National legislative and regulatory texts pertinent or specific for conservation of cetaceans are adopted and enforced	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y
Funds are earmarked for activities for the conservation of cetaceans	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	Y	NI	Y
Country is Party to most of international or regional instruments involved in conservation of cetaceans	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Country has bilateral or multilateral fishing agreement	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	NI	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	Y

	ALB	ALG	BUL	CRO	CYP	EGY	FRA	GEO	GRE	ITA	LEB	LIB	MAL	MC	MNT	MOR	POR	ROM	SLO	SP	SYR	TUN	TÜR	UKR
<b>CONSERVATIONS ACTIONS FOR CETACEANS / RESEARCH AND MONITORING</b>																								
Research programs and research projects related to cetaceans (national, bi-lateral or multi-lateral) are conducted in national waters	NI	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y
A national Cetacean stranding network is in place	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	P	Y	P	NI	NI	Y	Y	NY	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y
The evaluation of the status of cetacean in national waters (or at the sub regional level) has been conducted and species afforded specific protections measures	NI	N	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	Y	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y
Conservation management plan for cetacean species have been developed	P	P	NI	Y	P	NI	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y	P	P	P	NI	Y	NI	Y	NI	Y
<b>CONSERVATIONS ACTIONS FOR CETACEANS / MANAGEMENT MEASURES</b>																								
Interaction between fisheries and cetacean (by catch and depredation) are taken into consideration	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI	NR	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	N	Y
Navigation regulations are in place in sensitive areas for reducing ship strikes (navigation schemes, observers on board)	P	Y	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	NR	NI	NI	Y	NI	P	NI	NI	NI	NI	N	P
Underwater anthropogenic noise is regulated	N	Y	P	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	Y	N	P
Whale watching, and other commercial tourism activities are regulated (or no carried out)	P	NI	NI	P	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	P	NI	Y	NI	NI	NI	N	P
Marine pollution, including marine debris, is managed using national legislation or regional instruments (such as the Barcelona and Bucharest Conventions)	NI	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	Y	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI	Y	NI
Emergency plans for specific events (pollution, strandings) are adopted and implemented	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	N	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	Y	N	Y
Captivity related issues and Dolphinarium are banned / No captivity	Y	NI	N	Y	Y	NI	P	N	NI	NI	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI	P	Y
Marine protected areas (MPA), fishery zones, fisheries reserves, or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM-CBD) are in place and relevant for conservation and management of cetaceans.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	NI	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	Y
<b>CONSERVATIONS ACTIONS FOR CETACEANS / COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS</b>																								
Events (meeting, symposium, awareness activities, etc.) are organized / attended and products (newsletter, brochure, leaflet, poster, video, sticker, etc.) are produced and disseminated	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	NI	Y
<b>CONSERVATIONS ACTIONS FOR CETACEANS / CAPACITY BUILDING</b>																								
Capacity building on cetaceans, including training sessions, lectures and syllabus are realised at the national level or attended abroad	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	Y	Y	NI	Y	NI	NI	Y	NI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NI	NI	Y	Y	Y

## Annex - Specific questions and requests from Parties

### ALBANIA

- Training activities for the capacity building, in particular necropsy for veterinarians is a necessity. National stranding network to be established as soon as possible. So far only incidental cases of stranding are reported by the fisherman.

### ALGERIA

- Examen et validation du plan national de suivi des cétacés le long du littoral algérien ;
- Formation en nécropsies ;
- Enquête sur la déprédation et le bycatch;
- Evaluer l'état de conservation des cétacés conformément à la méthodologie de la liste rouge de l'UICN ;
- Les parties sont tenues de faire des efforts pour présenter dans le future un plan de gestion national pour la conservation et la préservation des populations de cétacés.
- Prévoir des ateliers techniques pour la discussion sur les méthodes de protection des habitats et de gestion des cétacés, notamment des modèles de plans de gestion des aires marines protégées.
- Evoquer les mesures incitatives pour la motivation des différents acteurs intervenant dans la protection et la conservation des cétacés.
- Le suivi des cétacés nécessite un cadre réglementaire qui est en cours de finalisation. En effet, le cadre juridique (la loi 01-11 du 03 juillet 2001, modifiée et complétée) prévoit la mise en place de dispositions réglementaires pour la protection et la préservation des ressources biologiques marines.
- La prise en charge des échouages de cétacés se fait en coordination entre les services locaux relevant des différents départements ministériels en collaboration avec les associations environnementales à but non lucratif. Cependant, ce travail mérite d'être formalisé à travers la mise en place d'un cadre réglementaire fixant les conditions d'organisation et de fonctionnement de ce réseau.
- Need of assistance from the ACCOBAMS Secretariat in order to implement a **National Action Plan**

### CYPRUS

- Review ACCOBAMS members implementation of «RESOLUTION 3.10 GUIDELINES TO ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE ON MARINE MAMMALS IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA» and ACCOBAMS METHODOLOGICAL GUIDANCE ON UNDERWATER NOISE MITIGATION MEASURES.

### GEORGIA

- Every kind of support is important.
- There is a need for research and monitoring programs for noise and anthropogenic pressure on cetaceans.
- Enactive, long-term resolution of the con would require further detailed research on the frequency of damage suffered by fishermen and the potential impact of repellent devices as a way to mitigate the conflict. Which will be the base for creating financial opportunities for fishermen to implement effective mitigation measures and sustainable use and protection of the Black Sea biodiversity.
- Keep in mind that the main cause of death is represented by bycatch.
- Filling out the ASI with the Black Sea component for complete coverage of the ACCOBAMS area, will achieve better knowledge and fill out the gaps on the basin scale.
- Encourage and sustain research for the offshore area.

- International support for establishing MPAs, including transboundary areas, is desirable.
- Mass mortalities events showed a lack in managing the situation at the Party's level, it stresses the need for a databank, analysis, and expertise in pathology at the regional level.
- Organizing key skills workshops for a wide range of stakeholders will increase research capacities.
- Close collaboration with academic and scientific bodies, decision-makers, and forums or commissions (eg. Black Sea Commission, Black Sea Advisory Council) will increase the research capacities and threat assessment which will correctly target the needed conservation efforts.

## **ITALY**

- For the next reports, Italy would like to advance the proposal to use following tool, created within the UN, and named DaRT (<https://dart.informea.org/>). Better known as "The Data Reporting Tool for MEA, which is the first tool that supports the Parties in the effective use of synergies in the field of knowledge and information management for national reporting to conventions related to biodiversity. The DaRT is developed by the Program of United Nations for the Environment (UNEP) with the support of the SCBD, was approved by the InforMEA Initiative which brings together Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) and is financially supported by the European Union and Switzerland" the utilization of such instrument will provide the Parties with a broaden vision and understanding of the complexity of migratory species. Moreover, it will provide more updated data.
- Italy suggests the recommendation of utmost caution in the case of studies that require study practices that make use of potentially invasive techniques. Indeed, any activities involving the disturbance of species of Annex IV of the Habitats Directive, such as biopsies, satellite markings, active acoustics experiments (including the use of pingers), etc, must be authorized by derogation, as expressed by the art 16 of the up mentioned Eu Directive.
- Besides, it should be remembered that studies of toxicology, genetics, diet of the species, medium / long-term displacements make use of two types of techniques: 1) skin biopsy 2) satellite telemetry and such techniques, if not correctly conducted (there are international studies produced in the light of various experiences in various parts of the world) can cause serious disturbance and have harmful effects to the specimens. In particular, these techniques, especially skin biopsy, have spread strongly in the Mediterranean and are now also used by nascent groups with little or no experience, elements that increase the danger of causing harm.
- Therefore, Italy requests more attention on the release of authorizations, which must be carefully evaluated according to the species concerned, the experience of the operator, the actual need in consideration of the type of study or analysis proposed. Besides, Italy recalls the attention of the Scientific Committee on such matter

## **MALTA**

- To continue providing capacity building in terms of national stranding networks and including necropsy training for veterinarians
- To further evaluate the functioning of the stranding networks;
- To further help countries to set up a tissue bank; (4) To organise passive acoustic training.
- Noting that impacts from marine litter, underwater noise and ship strikes are omnipresent throughout the Mediterranean, it is deemed pertinent to continue providing capacity building regarding common methodologies for assessment of such impacts.

## **MONTENEGRO**

- Support to put in place national stranding network is absolutely necessary including equipment needed to perform necropsy. Also support in relation to set up tissue bank and training on MMO-PAM is of high relevance. Support to the development of Management plan for Cetaceans would be also very welcome
- Strategy on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Adriatic Sea for the period 2016 - 2025 - recognize a threat and their impacts on cetaceans in the Adriatic Sea. To date when Strategy was developed (2015.), eight types of threats have been identified, with bycatch and marine debris being assessed as the most significant ones in terms of severity of impacts and number of cetacean species they may affect. However, it should be stressed that assumptions were given based on scarce data about actual impact. For instance, existing stranding data indicates relevance of bycatch, but do not show the accurate state. The significance of climate change is least known, but due to geographical features of the Adriatic, it is expected this is an important issue to tackle in the future.

## **MOROCCO**

- L'observation des dauphins et autres cétacés dans leur milieu naturel est un outil efficace en matière de sensibilisation des gens vis à vis de l'importance et de la noblesse de ces créatures. Grace au grand appui de l'ACCOBAMS, le Royaume du Maroc a parcouru un long chemin vers l'intégration de cette activité touristique parmi les activités de pêche. Le Royaume du Maroc a tout intérêt à réussir cette approche écosystémique dans la mesure où cela constitue une occasion pour approcher le maximum de personnes dans un but d'information et de formation sur les bonnes pratiques de comportement avec les cétacés. L'appui de l'ACCOBAMS restera toujours souhaitable pour implémenter durablement ce projet au Maroc notamment en matière d'accompagnement et d'équipement des navires candidats à abriter ce type d'activité.
- La zone du détroit de Gibraltar et les espaces avoisinants en Méditerranée et en Atlantique constituent une zone critique pour les cétacés car de nombreuses espèces fréquentent cet espace de manière continue ou saisonnière. Des populations connues d'Orques, de Grands dauphins et de Globicéphales noir y résident continuellement et effectuent des mouvements saisonniers. De nombreuses autres espèces l'empruntent pour effectuer des migrations de et vers la Méditerranée. Selon les statistiques, un trafic intense se développe au niveau de cette zone. Plus de 100000 bateaux de commerce la traversent annuellement, ce qui constitue un danger majeur pour ce groupe d'espèces, particulièrement du point de vue bruit anthropique engendré par ce trafic. Le Maroc ne dispose pas d'un état des lieux, ni d'expérience lui permettant de décrire et d'évaluer l'impact du bruit sur le comportement des cétacés. Par conséquent, une assistance de l'ACCOBAMS à ce sujet serait fort souhaitable notamment via l'élaboration de projet de formation, de sensibilisation et d'accompagnement portant sur le renforcement des capacités des scientifiques de l'INRH et d'autres parties prenantes dans le domaine de la certification des Observateurs des Mammifères Mains (MMO) Hautement qualifiés et de la Surveillance Acoustique Passive (PAM).
- Un projet scientifique pourrait être réfléchi et orienté vers l'élaboration d'une stratégie permettant au Maroc d'appréhender les expériences des autres pays plus développés en matière d'observation des mammifères marins et de se doter d'un plan d'action lui procurant la protection des cétacés contre les menaces engendrées par le trafic maritime du détroit de Gibraltar. Il est proposé d'organiser un atelier sous l'égide de l'ACCOBAMS en invitant le Maroc, l'Espagne et peut être le Portugal pour débattre sur ce sujet et établir un réseau régional afin de constituer une plateforme servant à l'identification de ces problématiques et à la prospection des mesures potentielles d'atténuation

**PORTUGAL**

- Sighting survey from platform of opportunity, such as ferry lines, should be developed in countries with less opportunity to make dedicated surveys on a regular basis. The existing network and common standard protocols ensure reliability of data and compatibility for analyses at the Mediterranean scale. The MMO/PAM certification should be used and promoted by all Parties to the Agreement.
- Furthermore, the mitigation measure of noise impact on cetaceans should go forward with a systematic Impact Assessment Study before every noise generating human activity at sea, and the possibility for a cetacean expert to postpone the activity in order to avoid areas or periods of cetacean higher encounter rates, and associated exposure risk.
- More generally, every initiative that could contribute to reduce the bias between the northern and southern parts of the sub-region in terms of cetacean research, monitoring and conservation should be promoted. They can be large cooperative projects providing opportunities to put hands on by actively participating to the project (e.g., the ASI) or smaller sized initiatives like training workshops or North-South or South-South transboundary actions. In both cases, external funding would be needed

**ROMANIA**

- water pollution due to residential or recreational activities, water transport, application of fertilisers, use of plant protection chemicals in agriculture, underwater noise
- the war which started in February 2022 and put the cetaceans, but not only, under the threat due to bombardments, contamination with explosives and ammunition;
- reduction of species/prey populations
- disturbance of species
- bycatch and incidental killing due to fishing activities
- climate change
- implementation of the conservation measures to stop the biodiversity loss
- monitoring by-catch in turbot nets which is the main cause of cetaceans' mortality
- establishing the functionality of the national cetacean stranding monitoring network involving authorities, institutes, NGOs etc
- monitoring the strandings to reduce the mortality induced by fishing activity
- identify funds for implementing the Work Programme 2023-2025

**SPAIN**

- Underwater noise

**TUNISIA**

- Les données existantes sur l'abondance et la densité sont très anciennes (campagne INSTM-2005 ) et aussi limitées géographiquement (ASI-2018).
- La réalisation des campagnes de prospection tout le long des côtes Tunisiennes.
- Standardisation de la technique d'observation et analyse des données.
- Identification des zones IMMA et CCH.
- En Tunisie comme la plupart des pays en Méditerranée, les menaces encourues par les cétacés sont liées généralement à la concentration des activités humaines et principalement à l'activité de pêche . Les dauphins

sont aujourd'hui considérés par les pêcheurs professionnels comme de réels compétiteurs pour l'accès aux ressources halieutiques d'où les problèmes de la déprédation le bycatch et l'échouage

## UKRAINE

- Military activities producing underwater noise: According to the Resolution 3.22 "Marine protected areas for cetaceans", among the Areas of special importance for the Black Sea cetaceans there is "The Kerch Strait for the bottlenose dolphin and the harbour porpoise". At present, the independent monitors' access to this region is limited. Meanwhile, it is known that the government of the Russian Federation is doing construction works and transformation of marine environment which can be harmful for cetaceans. Therefore, an appropriate measure can be deployment of the international mission of environmental monitoring in waters of the Kerch Strait, based on international law regulations. In addition, multiple military activities producing underwater noise were conducted by the naval ships of the Russian Federation in the EEZ of Ukraine during 2022
- There is a need of research and monitoring programs of noise and development of mitigation actions guides and legislative tools relevant to the conservation of cetaceans in regard with anthropogenic pressure like seismic surveys, drilling, marine traffic, fisheries etc. The main cause of death of the harbour porpoise in the Black Sea is the bycatch. Therefore, effective, long-term resolution of the conflict with fisheries would require further detailed research on the frequency of damages suffered by fishermen and the potential impact of repellent devices and passive tools as a way to mitigate the conflict. It will be the base for creating financial opportunities for fishermen to implement effective mitigation measures and sustainable use and protection of the Black Sea biodiversity. Filling out the ASI with the Black Sea component for a complete coverage of the ACCOBAMS area, which will achieve a better knowledge and fill out the gaps on the basin-wide scale. Encourage and sustain research for the offshore area. International support for establishing MPAs, including transboundary areas, is desirable. Mass mortalities events showed a lack in managing the situation at the Parties level, it stresses the need for a databank, analysis, and expertise in pathology at the regional level. Organizing key skills workshops to a wide range of stakeholders will increase research capacities. A close collaboration with academic and scientific bodies, decision makers and forums or commissions will increase the research capacities and threat assessment which will correctly target the needed conservation efforts
- The continuous oil and gas related activities (seismic, drilling) in the region and no concrete legislation at national level in order to assure the monitoring and conservation of cetaceans. Knowledge gaps, mainly for offshore areas, slows the process for development of conservative measures and tools. Systematic surveys are in urgent need to continue in order to fill the knowledge gaps which are long missing in the area and currently under heavy human pressure. Unclear reports on illegal capture and trade by captive bottlenose dolphins should be investigated, and the dolphinarium should be strictly monitored (a punctual problem raised by Ukraine).
- There is a need of research and monitoring programs of noise and development of mitigation actions guidelines and legislative tools relevant to the conservation of cetaceans in regard with anthropogenic pressure like seismic surveys, drilling, marine traffic, fisheries etc. Noise monitoring. Of critical importance for noise monitoring is the development and distribution of standardized instruments for measuring underwater noise. It is very important to conduct international trainings and widely disseminate uniform methodological manuals, as well as annual meetings (possibly on the Internet) to discuss monitoring results, as well as methods for improving it. A separate problem for the Black Sea is the assessment of noise impact on aquatic organisms, including marine mammals, during NATO military training, for example, the study of the effects of underwater explosions (detonations). Effective, long-term resolution of the conflict would require further detailed research on the frequency of damage suffered by fishermen and the potential impact of repellent

devices as a way to mitigate the conflict. Which will be the base for creating financial opportunities for fishermen to implement effective mitigation measures and sustainable use and protection of the Black Sea biodiversity. Having in mind that the main cause of death is represented by bycatch. Mitigation of the effects of fishing. Deaths of dolphins due to entering into the trawl during fishing are widely known. Moreover, it is known that part of marine mammals specializes in feeding fish leaving the nets during fishing. One of the monitoring tasks may be the photoidentification of dolphins during the trawl fishery to determine the number of animals that have adapted to such way of eating. It is possible that dolphins recognize fishing vessels by the characteristic underwater noise they produce.

- When fishing with fixed nets, or more precisely enslaving nets, legislative restriction of fishing rules, for example, introducing restrictions on the mesh size, as was done in Ukraine in 2018 for the Danube area of the sea, can be of great importance for reducing the number of dolphins (first harbor porpoise) killed in nets. Encourage and sustain research for the offshore area. Offshore areas. In 2019, Ukraine prepared an application for participation in the third session of the International Conference at UNCLOS (UN Convention on the Sea Law), which addresses to maritime regions in open sea, outside the jurisdiction of states, such as Antarctica waters. International support for establishing MPAs, including transboundary areas, is desirable. MPAs for dolphins. During the 4-th regional meeting of ACCOBAMS for the parties from Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea (Tunis, 11-12 May 2018) Ukraine has proposed creating a reserve for the reproduction of dolphins in the area of Cape Ayia near Balaklava (South Coast of Crimea), as well as expanding the borders Dzharylhach National Nature Park. Mass mortalities events showed a lack in managing the situation at the Parties level, it stresses the need for a databank, analysis, and expertise in pathology at the regional level. Organizing key skills workshops to a wide range of stakeholders will increase research capacities. Databank, analysis and expertise in pathology. The poorly studied side of infection of organisms with parasites, as well as pathogens of viral and bacterial diseases, is the complexity of the life cycles of organisms. In this regard, an important aspect in the life of marine mammals is their dependence on food organisms (fish and invertebrates). For human life, early warning of the transfer of pathogenic organisms from dead dolphins to farm animals is extremely important. Creating a bank of biological materials will solve many problems of the population ecology of marine mammals.
- In 2019, at the Institute of Marine Biology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, a special room was equipped for preparation of dead dolphins in order to diagnose the causes of their death. For this, a major repair was made in the room with a total area of 26.8 m<sup>2</sup>. Professional table for dissection of animals, the air extractor, and racks for storing samples fixed with formalin and alcohol were purchased and mounted. Storage of biological materials (teeth, tissues, blood smears, parasites) is planned in the same room. Soon it is planned to purchase a freezer. There is a preliminary discussion to sign an agreement with the Institute of Zoology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine on the creation of a joint bank of biological materials for cetaceans, fish and their parasites. Institute of Marine Biology National of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine has signed the joint agreements on the investigation of marine mammals on the shore with 8 reserves of Ukraine, within the boundaries of which there are marine waters. A close collaboration with academic and scientific bodies, decision makers and forums or commissions (e.g. Black Sea Commission, Black Sea Advisory Council) will increase the research capacities and threat assessment which will correctly target the needed conservation efforts. Collaboration with academic and scientific bodies, the Black Sea Commission. In recent years, Ukraine has been paying special attention to academic science in solving the main environmental problems of the Black Sea. In particular, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine agreed with draft of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine institutes of a number of important laws: "On Amendments to the Marine Doctrine of Ukraine for the period until 2035" and the Scientific Program "Support for implementation of monitoring of the fauna during investigations of aquatic biological resources of the Azov-Black Sea basin and inland waters within the boundaries of nature reserves for 2019-2023", "National Environmental Action Plan for 2020-2025", "About the Emerald network of Ukraine», «On the approval of the

procedure for issuing permits for the special use of wildlife objects as natural resources of general state significance”.

- Two advisory groups of the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (CBD- Conservation of biological diversity, FOMLR - Environmental aspects of the Management of Fisheries and other Marine Living Resources) regularly discuss the problems of the study and protection of marine mammals, coordinate work with representatives of ACCOBAMS. The Chairman of AG CBD from 2004 and until his tragic death in 2019 was the representative of Ukraine Dr Borys Aleksandrov. Unclear reports on illegal capture and trade by captive bottlenose dolphins should be investigated, and the dolphinarium should be strictly monitored (a punctual problem raised by Ukraine). In accordance with Decision No. 17.299 of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, when issuing permits for the temporary export of bottlenose dolphins *Tursiops truncatus ponticus* from the dolphinarium of Ukraine, starting from 2018 a mandatory blood test and the issuance of a genetic report for each exported animal are carried out. Genetic examination is carried out at the Department of Genetics and Molecular Biology of the Biological Faculty of I.I. Mechnikov Odessa State University. During the reporting period, 6 dolphins were genetically examined. One of the key difficulties that needs to be addressed first by international scientific organizations is the genetic isolation of bottlenose dolphins in the Black Sea and Atlantic area.
- Unfortunately, to date, these subspecies can only be distinguished morphometrically, according to the measurements of the skulls of the studied animals. The achievements of Ukrainian scientists in conducting genetic examinations of animals from dolphinariums were supported at the 4th regional meeting of ACCOBAMS on May 11-12, 2018 (Tunis). Other difficulties in Ukraine are: lack of legal instrument and administrative mechanism for shifting ACCOBAMS provisions and resolutions from decisions, agreed and adopted on the international level, to real day-to-day activities on-site; lack of due information about ACCOBAMS as well as relevant guidelines and training for authorities operating at the local level; lack of adequate funds to implement the Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans which is already translated into Ukrainian and available from the ACCOBAMS web site.