

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

The 2020-2022 ACCOBAMS Work program foresaw 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. This is a Scientific Committee assignment within the CA1 Conservation Action related to improve knowledge about state of cetaceans and monitor cetacean status.

Following Recommendation 10.3, adopted by the 10th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (Nice, France, 20-22 October 2015) and Resolution 6.15, adopted by the 6th Meeting of the Parties (Monaco, 22-25 November 2016) regarding the assessment of IUCN conservation status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area, the Scientific Committee decided, during its 11th Meeting (Monaco, 7-9 February 2017), to first assess the status of killer whale and to postpone the (re)assessment of other species until the results of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI) are accessible, when updated information and robust data on population abundance and distribution would be available.

Thus, in face of the ASI results, as well as other data and observations collected over the last few years, new assessments on the conservation status of Mediterranean and Black Sea cetaceans were launched end of 2019, as well as updates of existing ones according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.

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 getting an updated Red List Status of Mediterranean and Black Sea cetaceans.

During MOP8, Parties were invited to take note of the IUCN Red List status of cetacean species, following the 2018-2021 assessments, as well as of the changes occurred since previous assessments, and finally adopted Resolution 8.12 "IUCN Red List status of cetacean species in ACCOBAMS Area".

Species	Previous IUCN Red List status		IUCN Red List status following the 2018-2021 assessments	
Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Vulnerable	Inner Mediterranean subpopulation	Least Concern
			Gulf of Ambracia subpopulation	Critically Endangered
Bottlenose Dolphin Black Sea subspecies <i>Tursiops truncatus ssp. ponticus</i>	Black Sea subspecies	Endangered	Black Sea subspecies	Endangered ¹
Common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered	Inner Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered
			Gulf of Corinth subpopulation	Critically Endangered

¹ These classifications are provisional as the assessments are under review by IUCN and IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group.

Participants are kindly invited to bring their own documents to the Meeting.
This document will be available only in electronic format during the Meeting.

Common dolphin Black Sea subspecies <i>Delphinus delphis ssp. ponticus</i>	Black Sea subspecies	Vulnerable	Black Sea subspecies	Vulnerable¹
Cuvier's beaked whale <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Data Deficient	Mediterranean subpopulation	Vulnerable
Fin whale <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Vulnerable	Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered
Harbour porpoise Black Sea subspecies <i>Phocoena phocoena ssp. relicta</i>	Black Sea subspecies	Endangered	Black Sea subspecies	Endangered¹
Killer whale <i>Orcinus orca</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Not Evaluated	Strait of Gibraltar subpopulation	Critically Endangered
Long-finned pilot whale <i>Globicephala melas</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Data Deficient	Inner Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered
			Strait of Gibraltar subpopulation	Critically Endangered
Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Data Deficient	Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered
Sperm whale <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered	Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered
Striped dolphin <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Vulnerable	Mediterranean subpopulation	Least Concern
			Gulf of Corinth subpopulation	Endangered
Rough-toothed dolphin <i>Steno bredanensis</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Not Evaluated	Mediterranean subpopulation	Near Threatened

A short IUCN report will be published in the coming weeks.