

THE ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE II: A CRUCIAL COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO PRESERVE CETACEANS IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS

Wednesday 11th June 2025 - Théâtre de la Cité, Nice

12:00 – *Cocktail Reception & Photo Exhibition* by **Greg Lecoeur**

12:50 – *Welcome and Opening Speech* by **Maylis Salivas**, ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary

13:00 – *Celebrating ASI-I Achievements and Conservation Impacts*

Part 1: Unprecedented Scientific Effort & Achievements

- **Simone Panigada**, Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, ASI-I Scientific Coordinator

Part 2: Major Conservation Outcomes

- UNEP-MAP: **Tatjana Hema**, MAP Coordinator
- IUCN-Med: **Maher Mahjoub**, Director
- IWC: **Iain Staniland**, IWC Science Conservation and Management Head
- FAO/GFCM: **Anis Zarrouk**, Fisheries Ecosystems Officer

Part 3: Empowering a Regional Team – The ASI I Legacy and Strategic Foundations' Contributions

- SPA/RAC: **Mahmoud Elyes Hamza**, Director
- Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission: **Irina Makarenko**, Pollution Monitoring and Assessment Officer
- Prince Albert II Foundation: **Hélène Onoforo Sanaia**, Head of Projects Department
- IFAW / MRC: **Sharon Livermore**, Director Marine Conservation & **Richard McLanaghan**, MCR Director
- Biodivearth: **Paule Gros**, Co-Founder & CEO

13:40 – *Official Launch of ASI II* by **Marie Thérèse Gambin**, Chair of ACCOBAMS

Country and Organization Interventions:

- Italy: **Francesco Tomas**, TBM Direttore generale, Direzione generale tutela della biodiversità e del mare
- Monaco: **Isabelle Rosabrunetto**, Directeur Général, Département des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération
- France: **Vincent Szeleper**, Sous-directeur Ecosystèmes littoraux et marins, Direction de l'eau et de la biodiversité, Direction Générale de l'Aménagement, du Logement et de la Nature
- Cyprus: **Lavrentios Vasiliades**, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the European Union
- Malta: **Marie Thérèse Gambin**, Unit Manager Thematic, Biodiversity & Water, Environment & Resources Authority
- Spain (TBC): **Fernando Magdaleno**, Deputy Director for Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity, Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge
- Croatia: **Katja Jelić**, Head of the Department for monitoring and assessment the state of marine ecosystems
- Georgia: **Tornike Zautashvili**, Chief Specialist of the Department of Biodiversity and Forestry,
- IHO: **Luigi Sinapi**, International Hydrographic Organization Director
- UNEP-MAP (TBC): **Marc Attallah**, Associate Project Officer for the Bolstering Mediterranean Biodiversity and Marine and Coastal Protected Areas for nature -SEMPA Project
- CMS: **Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma**, IOSEA Turtle MOU Coordinator & CMS Aquatic Species Team

14:30 – *Closing Remarks & Ribbon Cutting*