

NOTE ON DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIERS: INCLUDING PROPOSED LIST OF DOCUMENTS THAT COULD BE ASSIGNED A DOI



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THAT COULD BE ASSIGNED A DOI**

Note of the Secretariat:

At its **Fifteenth Meeting (Monaco, hybrid format, 22–23 November 2023)**, the ACCOBAMS Bureau requested the Secretariat to assign **Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)** to all relevant ACCOBAMS documents. This process aims to facilitate easier access to key documents in force, as well as to the Decisions of the Parties.

To streamline this process, a consultant, Ms. Pauline GAUFFIER, was engaged and worked to implement the DOI system on the ACCOBAMS website to all Rules of Procedure, Guidelines, and Best Practices in force.

Such developments were presented during the **Seventeenth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau (13-14 February 2025, Hybrid, Monaco)**.

During the **Sixth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Extended Bureau (Nice, 23-24 April 2025)**, the Secretariat presented a document *“Note on Digital Object Identifiers: Including proposed list of documents that could be assigned a DOI”* including:

- a) an explanation about what is a DOI and its managing organisation;
- b) a proposed list of documents available on the ACCOBAMS website that could be assigned a DOI (e.g. Resolutions, meetings, reports, etc.).

I. An explanation about what is a DOI and its managing organisation

1. What is the Digital Object Identifier (DOI)?

A DOI name is a digital identifier of an object, any object — physical, digital, or abstract that ensures permanent and reliable access online. DOIs allow to keep track of content by identifying objects persistently. They allow things to be uniquely identified and accessed reliably are designed to be used by humans as well as machines.

A DOI has several sections, including a prefix and a suffix. A DOI will always follow this structure:

<https://doi.org/> [institutional prefix]/[unique suffix of the content]

ACCOBAMS DOI prefix is 10.70978, so ACCOBAMS DOIs will look like:

<https://doi.org/10.70978/XXXXXXX>

DOIs must be unique and persistent, so they cannot be modified after been registered. DOI strings also need to be opaque, i.e. have no meaning or sequential numbering. Metadata associated to a DOI string need to be maintained, i.e. corrected or updated if needed. These include the bibliographic information associated to the content and its landing page (i.e. the page where the user lands when clicking on the DOIs URL). If the URL of a landing page changes, ACCOBAMS will update the DOI's metadata with the new URL, ensuring the DOI's persistence. This way the reader will always be able to find the content by clicking on the DOIs URL.

DOIs are considered a core publishing best practice. Benefits include:

1. Reliability and Permanence
2. Integrity of Citations
3. Discoverability and Impact
4. International Standardization

2. How does ACCOBAMS register DOIs

ACCOBAMS registers DOIs with the registering agency Crossref, a not-for-profit membership organization that makes research outputs easy to find, cite, link, and assess.

Each registered content will have a unique landing page on the ACCOBAMS website containing specific information, such as (from Crossref guidelines):

- Full bibliographic information: so that the user can verify they have been delivered to the correct item
- The DOI displayed as a URL: so that if a reader wishes to cite this item, they can just copy and paste the DOI link
- A way to access the full text of the content: e.g. a link to a pdf.

Example of ACCOBAMS landing page:

<https://accobams.org/documents-resolutions/guidelines/guidelines-to-address-the-impact-of-anthropogenic-noise/>

Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area

Guidelines [English]

<https://doi.org/10.70978/NPRS8964>

Links: [Download document \(pdf\)](#)

Abstract: No abstract

Additional publication details

Publication type	Report
Publication Subtype	Guidelines
Title	Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area
DOI	10.70978/NPRS8964
Author(s)	-
Status	In force
Year Published	2019
Adopted by	Resolution 7.13 (MOP7)
Version in force	Version 2
Previous versions	2010
Language	ENGLISH
Translations	ENGLISH, FRENCH
Publisher	ACCOBAMS
Description	12 p.

3. What content types can be registered

Currently Crossref allows several content types to be registered. The following content types could be useful for ACCOBAMS:

- Reports and working papers.
- Books, chapters, and reference works.
- Conference proceedings.
- Datasets.
- Grants.

4. Basic metadata associated with registered content

Crossref metadata requirements for content registration are minimal (e.g. Title, Contributors, Dates, Page numbers) to register successful contents and DOIs, but optional metadata is recommended to improve discoverability. There are best practices for both different types of content and different types of metadata.

The most common optional metadata include Abstract, Funding, License, Translated content, References, Relationships, Versioning.

For example, to register reports, metadata should include their title and publication date, contributors, publisher and institution details, and can also include abstracts, approval dates, edition numbers, contract numbers, ISBN,

funding, license information, and relationships. Contributor metadata can include contributor names, roles, identifiers, alternate names, and affiliation information. A contributor can be a single person (<person_name>) or a group of people/organization (<organization>) that has contributed in some way to the content being registered. An author may be *first* or *additional* and follow the order of the metadata.

Crossref currently supports the following main contributor roles:

- author
- editor
- chair
- reviewer
- translator

This means that, from a practical perspective, one of these contributor roles will need to be chosen for each registered content. The role choice will have a consequence on the citation format. Reference list citations are highly variable depending on the source but will generally follow a common citation format such as:

If there are identified authors (person or organisation):

[**authors**].[**year**].[**title**].[editors if any].[publisher location].[**publisher**].[pages]. [**doi url**]

If there are no authors, but there are editors (person or organisation):

[**editors**].[**year**].[**title**].[publisher location].[**publisher**].[pages]. [**doi url**]

In general, in-text citation doesn't vary depending on source type and will be displayed as [author], [date] or [editors], [year].

The choice of the contributor role for the purpose of DOI registration is therefore important for the citation of ACCOBAMS work. However, independently of this “practical choice”, additional contributor information can be displayed on the landing page and on the PDF of the content (including personal authors if only “corporate authors”, i.e. organisation was used in the DOI, or other contributors, supporting staff, reviewers, translators, etc.).

5. Consistent citations

Another benefit is that the metadata recorded in the DOI is machine-readable, which can make the publication more discoverable and ensure correct citations via Library managers (Endnote, Mendeley, Zotero, etc.).

6. Tracking updates with Crossmark

The Crossmark button gives readers quick and easy access to the current status of a registered content, including any corrections, retractions, or updates to that record. It can be displayed on the landing page but also embedded in PDFs. The latter allows to alert readers of changes to a record even months or years after the file was downloaded.



Benefits include:

- Members can report updates to readers and showcase additional metadata.
- Researchers and librarians can easily see the changes to the content they are reading.

II. A list of documents available on the ACCOBAMS website that could be assigned a DOI (e.g. Resolutions, meeting reports, etc.)

1. Meetings

- a. MOP reports
- b. Scientific Committee reports
- c. Conferences on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries
 - i. Final reports
 - ii. Proceedings

2. Documents

- a. Agreement text
- b. Resolutions
- c. ACCOBAMS strategy (included in a resolution)
- d. Rules of Procedure
- e. Guidelines and Best Practices

3. Conservation actions

- a. Noise:
 - [Overview of the Noise Hotspots in the ACCOBAMS area – Part I the Mediterranean Sea](#)
 - [Methodological guide: Guidance on underwater noise mitigation measures](#)
- b. Cetacean populations
 - *The conservation status of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea. Trends and changes after a decade of conservation efforts* (in collaboration with IUCN).
- c. Cetacean watching
 - Only resolutions and HQWW (see par. 4c)
- d. Climate change
 - Final report on the [ACCOBAMS workshop on The Impact of Climate Change on Cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black Seas](#)
- e. Marine Litter
 - Report of [Workshop on ingested marine litter and entanglement evidences in the ACCOBAMS area – Recommendations](#) (6-7 April 2024, Catania, Italy)
 - A [Monaco Declaration](#)
- f. Population Genetics
 - The [ACCOBAMS Best Practices on Cetacean Population Genetics](#)
 - Database of existing cetacean samples in the ACCOBAMS area
 - Database of suitable genetic laboratories
- g. Protected Areas
 - Workshop report: 2017 “[Inputs to the ACCOBAMS ongoing effort to map human threats on cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas](#)”, 31st ECS Conference (30th April 2017, Middelfart, Denmark)
 - Workshop report: 2022 “[Cetacean Critical Habitats \(CCH\) Process](#)”
- h. Ship strikes
 - Report of the [Joint IWC-ACCOBAMS Workshop on Reducing Risk of Collisions between Vessels and Cetaceans](#) (Beaulieu-sur-Mer, France from 21-24 September 2010)

- [Joint IWC-IUCN-ACCOBAMS workshop](#) to evaluate how the data and process used to identify Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) can assist the IWC to identify areas of high risk for ship strike (6-7 April 2019: Messina, Greece).

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i. Strandings

- [Report on the ACCOBAMS/Pelagos Workshop on Cetacean Live Stranding](#) (Monaco, 29-30 October 2014)
- [ACCOBAMS-MOP6/2016/Inf27](#): Review of the functioning of MEDACES
- [ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Doc33](#): Best practice on cetacean post mortem investigation and tissue sampling (joint ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS document)

4. Initiatives & Projects

a. ASI materials

- [Conserving Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises in the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and adjacent areas: an ACCOBAMS status report 2021](#)
- Mediterranean report: [Estimates of abundance and distribution of cetaceans, marine mega fauna and marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea from 2018 2019 surveys](#)
- Black Sea report: [Estimates of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea from 2019 surveys](#)
- ASI data could be referenced with a DOI so that they can be cited in future publications.

b. ACCOBAMS Call for Proposals

- https://www.accobams.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/WCC_Doc02_Final_Report_ACCOBAMS_workshop_climate_change.pdf

c. High Quality Whale Watching Certificate

- Governing Rules of the Certificate

d. Certification for Highly Qualified MMO/PAM Operators

- Is there a document apart from the Resolution?

e. ToR Working groups

- Anthropogenic Noise
- Bycatch
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- Marine Mammal Observers
- Whale Watching
- [Terms of Reference for an ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee on semi-enclosed facilities](#) (Guidelines for Best Practices During the Installation and Management of Semi-enclosed Facilities for Cetacean Species in the ACCOBAMS Area)

5. Species

a. Species Conservation Management Plans

- 2004 Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea
- 2006 Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans
- Upcoming ones

6. Publications

- 2023-2025 ACCOBAMS Work Programme
- Strengthening Capacity for Effective Cetacean Conservation – 25 years of ACCOBAMS support
- ACCOBAMS Conservation Status Reports

- 2002: Cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black Seas: State of Knowledge and Conservation Strategies
- 2010: Conserving whales, dolphins and porpoises in the Mediterranean and Black Seas
- 2021: Conserving Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises in the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and adjacent areas: an ACCOBAMS status report