ROLE OF EXPERTS FROM REGIONS

Note of the Secretariat

During the Ninth Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS (MOP9, Cyprus, November 2025), Parties adopted **Resolution 9.4** and appointed, as members of the Scientific Committee the following Experts from Regions:
- Souad LAMOUTI and Vincent RIDOUX, for the Western Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic area,
- Martina ĐURAS and Giancarlo LAURIANO, for the Central Mediterranean,
- Anastasia KOMNENOU and Céline MAHFOUZ, for the Eastern Mediterranean,
- Pavel GOL'DIN and Natia KOPALIANI, for the Black Sea.

As stated in Article 5, paragraph 4 of the **Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee annexed to Resolution 9.4**: *"The experts from regions shall work together to provide a report to the meetings of the Scientific Committee on the conservation status of cetaceans and relevant activities in their respective region."*

During its Sixteenth Meeting (SC16, Barcelona, Spain, December 2024), the Scientific Committee:
- highlighted the need to clarify the role of **Experts from Regions (ERs)** in relation to Article V of the Agreement, which assigns the **Sub-Regional Coordination Units (SRCUs)** the responsibility to lead the preparation of reports, coordinate information, and support the Scientific Committee,
- recommended drafting of a **single triennial report** drafted in the year before the MOP following the template presented here below, integrating the contributions of SRCUs and ERs, and supported by revised formats of National and Partner Reports.

REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF CETACEANS AND RELEVANT ACTIVITIES IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA

1. RATIONALE

The aim of this report is to provide an update on cetacean research and monitoring activities (by Sub-regional Coordination Units), as well as on potential changes to the cetacean conservation status relative to the latest IUCN Red list Assessment (by Experts from Regions - ER).

The report also includes recommendations, proposed by Sub-regional Coordination Units and Experts from Regions, on important research and conservation actions, which are deemed necessary for the following triennium. These recommendations are submitted to the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee for its consideration.

[Generally, the reporting period is the one between the last IUCN Red list Assessment for each subpopulation and three months before the last meeting of the SC before the MOP, but in case of exceptional events this rule can be relaxed. Reports from the last triennium should also be used as background information on which to build the new report]

2. OVERVIEW ON MONITORING-RELATED ACTIVITIES

[These sections are compiled by the two sub-regional Coordination Units based on National Reports, working documents or information gathered from NFPs, ACCOBAMS Partners and any other relevant organisations in the ACCOBAMS Area.

The SRCUs are encouraged to get in contact with ACCOBAMS Task Managers and the Secretariat to get an update on relevant activities carried out in their regions.]

2.1 Cetacean monitoring
2.2 Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situations
2.3 Whale watching operations
2.4 Captivity-related issues

3. OVERVIEW ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF ACCOBAMS CETACEAN SUBPOPULATIONS

*[ERs summarise **only new scientific information** for each species/subpopulation assessed by IUCN/ACCOBAMS on the topic listed (as an example) in sections from 3.1.1. to 3.1.4. Include a **list new papers/reports** under each relevant heading.*

*In this section **National projects should not be listed** as this information is included in the National Reports.*

ERs are encouraged to get in contact with ACCOBAMS Task Managers and the Secretariat to get an update on relevant activities carried out in their regions.

For topics with no new information, please, write "No new information available".

If some new information is relative only to part of the range of the species/subpopulation considered by the IUCN assessment, please specify it with a reference to relevant countries/subregions.]

Table 1 shows a qualitative overall assessment of potential improvements or worsening of the ACCOBAMS cetacean species and subpopulations, relative to the latest IUCN Assessment. This Table has been filled by the ERs after considering all new information summarised in the following sections (3.1-3.11).

The aim of this table is to highlight potential conservation issues or improvements, which could suggest conducting a full reassessment or implement specific conservation measures.

Table 1 - Summary of the overall qualitative assessment on the potential new status of cetacean species

Species	IUCN listing (category / year)	Range index	Distribution index	Abundance index	Mortality index	Reproduction index	Health index	Improved legal protection index	Overall qualitative assessment	Assessment update (Y / N / ?)
Genus species1	VU (2019)	=	=	?	↘	↘	?	…	☹	?
Genus species2	EN (2020)	=	=	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	☺	Y
Genus species3										
Genus species4										

Key: ↗ **improving** relative to previous IUCN classification; **=** "**nothing to declare"** (assumed as previous); ↘ **worsening** relative to previous IUCN classification; **?** no information / uncertain; ☺ **potentially worsening;** 😐 **potentially unchanged;** ☹ **potentially improving.**

[For each species in Table 1, please, use the following four sub-items to provide updates that justify what is in Table1.
Please note that climate change is cross-cutting factor and can be considered potentially under each relevant sub-item (e.g., effects on distribution, abundance, demographic parameters, etc.)]

3.1 *Balaenoptera physalus*

3.1.1 Distribution

[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.1.2 Population structure

[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.1.3 Human-induced mortality

[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.1.4 Health status

[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.2 *Physeter macrocephalus*

3.2.1 Distribution

[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.2.2 Population structure

[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.2.3 Human-induced mortality

[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.2.4 Health status

[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.3 *Ziphius cavirostris*

3.3.1 Distribution

[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.3.2 Population structure

[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.3.3 HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY

[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.3.4 HEALTH STATUS

[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.4 *Globicephala melas*

3.4.1 DISTRIBUTION

[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.4.2 POPULATION STRUCTURE

[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.4.3 HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY

[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.4.4 HEALTH STATUS

[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.5 *Grampus griseus*

3.5.1 DISTRIBUTION

[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.5.2 POPULATION STRUCTURE

[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.5.3 HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY

[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.5.4 HEALTH STATUS

[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.6 *Tursiops truncatus*

3.6.1 MEDITERRANEAN SUBPOPULATION

3.6.1.1 Distribution

[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.6.1.2 Population structure

[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.6.1.3 Human-induced mortality

[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.6.1.4 Health status

[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.6.2 GULF OF AMBRACIA SUBPOPULATION

3.6.2.1 Distribution
[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.6.2.2 Population structure
[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.6.2.3 Human-induced mortality
[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.6.2.4 Health status
[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.6.3 TURSIOPS TRUNCATUS SSP PONTICUS

3.6.3.1 Distribution
[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.6.3.2 Population structure
[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.6.3.3 Human-induced mortality
[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.6.3.4 Health status
[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.7 *Delphinus delphis*

3.7.1 INNER MEDITERRANEAN SUBPOPULATION

3.7.1.1 Distribution
[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.7.1.2 Population structure
[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.7.1.3 Human-induced mortality
[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.7.1.4 Health status
[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.7.2 *GULF OF CORINTH SUBPOPULATION*

3.7.2.1 Distribution
[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.7.2.2 Population structure
[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.7.2.3 Human-induced mortality
[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.7.2.4 Health status
[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.7.3 *DELPHINUS DELPHIS SSP PONTICUS*

3.7.3.1 Distribution
[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.7.3.2 Population structure
[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.7.3.3 Human-induced mortality
[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.7.3.4 Health status
[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.8 *Steno bredanensis*

3.8.1 Distribution

[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.8.2 Population structure

[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.8.3 Human-induced mortality

[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.8.4 Health status

[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.9 *Stenella coeruleoalba*

3.9.1 Mediterranean subpopulation

3.9.1.1 Distribution
[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.9.1.2 Population structure
[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.9.1.3 Human-induced mortality
[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.9.1.4 Health status
[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.9.2 *Gulf of Corinth subpopulation*

3.9.2.1 Distribution
[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.9.2.2 Population structure
[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.9.2.3 Human-induced mortality
[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.9.2.4 Health status
[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.10 *Phocoena phocoena*

3.10.1 Phocoena phocoena (European assessment)

3.10.1.1 Distribution
[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.10.1.2 Population structure

[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.10.1.3 Human-induced mortality

[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.10.1.4 Health status

[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.10.2 *PHOCOENA PHOCOENA SSP RELICTA*

3.10.2.1 Distribution

[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.10.2.2 Population structure

[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.10.2.3 Human-induced mortality

[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.10.2.4 Health status

[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

3.11 Orcinus orca (Strait of Gibraltar subpopulation)

3.11.1 DISTRIBUTION

[Summary of new information on distributional range, distributional pattern and abundance]

3.11.2 POPULATION STRUCTURE

[Summary of new information on population/sub-population characteristics via genetics, isotopes, behaviour/culture, etc.]

3.11.3 HUMAN-INDUCED MORTALITY

[Summary of new information on mortality from interactions with fisheries / aquaculture, ship strikes, anthropogenic underwater noise]

3.11.4 HEALTH STATUS

[information on stressors such as chemical & biological pollution /pathogens, marine litter, non-lethal underwater acoustic pollution]

4. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

[Based on the above information and the conclusions in the summary table, the sub-regional Coordination Units and ERs should identify the main high-priority recommendations to be submitted to the ACCOBAMS SC for its consideration.

The text of recommendation needs to be SMART:

> ***Specific**: the recommendation clearly states **what** should be done and **who** is supposed to do it.*
> ***Measurable**: the recommendation includes how the progress on the action will be measured.*
> ***Achievable**: the recommendation is realistic and implementable.*
> ***Relevant**: the recommendation is in line with ACCOBAMS strategic plan, ACCOBAMS work Programme or linked to an urgent emerging issue.*
> ***Time-bound**: the recommendation has a specific timeline for completion (preferably within the upcoming triennium.]*