

# Report on the main results of the surveillance under article 11 for annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

0.1 Member State	GR
0.2.1 Species code	1351
0.2.2 Species name	<b>Phocoena phocoena</b>
0.2.3 Alternative species scientific name	N/A
0.2.4 Common name	Fokena

## 1. National Level

### 1.1 Maps

1.1.1 Distribution Map	Yes
1.1.1a Sensitive species	No
1.1.2 Method used - map	Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling (2)
1.1.3 Year or period	2007-2012
1.1.4 Additional map	No
1.1.5 Range map	Yes

## 2. Biogeographical Or Marine Level

### 2.1 Biogeographical Region

### 2.2 Published sources

#### Marine Mediterranean (MMED)

Birkun A. Jr., Frantzis A., 2006. Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena relicta* (Black Sea subspecies). Pp. 39-47 in Reeves R., Notarartolo di Sciara G. (compilers and editors). The status and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea. IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, Malaga, Spain. 137 pp.

Cucknell A-C., Frantzis A., Boisseau O., Romagosa M., Ryan, C., Tonay A. M., Alexiadou P., Öztürk A. A., Moscrop A. Harbour porpoises in the Aegean Sea, Eastern Mediterranean: the species' presence is confirmed. Submitted paper in 2014.

Fontaine M.C., Alodie Snirc A., Frantzis A., Koutrakis E., Birkun A. Jr., Öztürk B., Öztürk A.A., Austerlitz F., 2012. A history of expansion and anthropogenic collapse in a top marine predator of the Black Sea estimated from genetic data. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 109(38): E2569–E2576.

Frantzis A., Gordon J., Hassidis G., Komnenou A. 2001. The enigma of harbor porpoise presence in the Mediterranean Sea. *Mar. Mammal Sci.* 17(4): 937-943. Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute. Unpublished data from strandings and opportunistic sightings (1993-2007).

Frantzis A., Alexiadou P., Paximadis G., Politi E., Gannier A., Corsini-Foka M., 2003. Current knowledge of the cetacean fauna of the Greek Seas. *The Journal of Cetacean Research Management.* 5(3): 219-232.

Frantzis A., Alexiadou P., 2005. Towards a Conservation Plan for the Mediterranean Harbour Porpoise. A Proposal prepared for the 3rd Meeting of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS. Document SC3/15. Pp. 19.

Rosel P.E., Frantzis A., Lockyer C., Komnenou A. 2003. Source of Aegean Sea harbour porpoises. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.* 247: 257-261.

Frantzis A. 2009. Cetaceans in Greece: Present status of knowledge. Initiative for the Conservation of Cetaceans in Greece, Athens, Greece, 94 pp.

Ryan, C., Cucknell, A.C., Romagosa, M., Boisseau, O., Moscrop, A., Frantzis, A. and McLanaghan, R. 2014. A Visual and Acoustic Survey for Marine Mammals in the Western Mediterranean Sea during summer 2013. Final Report, pp. 56.

Viaud-Martinnez K.A., Martinnez Vergara M., Gol'din P.E., Ridoux V., Ozturk A.A.,

# Report on the main results of the surveillance under article 11 for annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

Ozturk B., Rosel P.E., Frantzis A., Komnenou A., Bohonak A.J., 2007.  
Morphological and genetic differentiation of the Black Sea harbour porpoise  
*Phocoena phocoena* Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser. 338: 281-294.

## 2.3 Range

2.3.1 Surface area - Range (km <sup>2</sup> )	6211
2.3.2 Method - Range surface area	Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling (2)
2.3.3 Short-term trend period	2001-2012
2.3.4 Short-term trend direction	unknown (x)
2.3.5 Short-term trend magnitude	min max
2.3.6 Long-term trend period	
2.3.7 Long-term trend direction	N/A
2.3.8 Long-term trend magnitude	min max
2.3.9 Favourable reference range	area (km <sup>2</sup> ) operator N/A unknown Yes method
2.3.10 Reason for change	Improved knowledge/more accurate dataUse of different method

## 2.4 Population

2.4.1 Population size (individuals or agreed exception)	Unit number of individuals (i) min 30 max 300
2.4.2 Population size (other than individuals)	Unit N/A min max
2.4.3 Additional information	Definition of locality Conversion method Problems
2.4.4 Year or period	2012
2.4.5 Method – population size	Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling (2)
2.4.6 Short-term trend period	2001-2012
2.4.7 Short term trend direction	decrease (-)
2.4.8 Short-term trend magnitude	min max confidence interval
2.4.9 Short-term trend method	Estimate based on expert opinion with no or minimal sampling (1)
2.4.10 Long-term trend period	
2.4.11 Long term trend direction	N/A
2.4.12 Long-term trend magnitude	min max confidence interval
2.4.13 Long-term trend method	N/A
2.4.14 Favourable reference population	number operator more than (>) unknown No method
2.4.15 Reason for change	Improved knowledge/more accurate data

## 2.5 Habitat for the Species

2.5.1 Surface area - Habitat (km <sup>2</sup> )	6211
2.5.2 Year or period	2001-2012
2.5.3 Method used - habitat	Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling (2)
2.5.4 a) Quality of habitat	Bad

# Report on the main results of the surveillance under article 11 for annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

2.5.4 b) Quality of habitat - method	Based on the very high fishing pressure in the habitat of the species and climate change, given that the species is locally at the southern edge (and hotter waters) of its distribution
2.5.5 Short term trend period	2001-2012
2.5.6 Short term trend direction	decrease (-)
2.5.7 Long-term trend period	
2.5.8 Long term trend direction	N/A
2.5.9 Area of suitable habitat (km <sup>2</sup> )	6211
2.5.10 Reason for change	Improved knowledge/more accurate data Use of different method

## 2.6 Main Pressures

Pressure	ranking	pollution qualifier(s)
temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) (M01.01)	high importance (H)	N/A
netting (F02.01.02)	medium importance (M)	N/A
Professional active fishing (F02.02)	medium importance (M)	N/A

2.6.1 Method used – pressures mainly based on expert judgement and other data (2)

## 2.7 Main Threats

Threat	ranking	pollution qualifier(s)
temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) (M01.01)	high importance (H)	N/A
netting (F02.01.02)	medium importance (M)	N/A
Professional active fishing (F02.02)	medium importance (M)	N/A

2.7.1 Method used – threats expert opinion (1)

## 2.8 Complementary Information

2.8.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends

2.8.2 Other relevant Information

This is the last population of harbour porpoises in the entire Mediterranean Sea, and consists of extremely few or very few animals! Globally, the species usually inhabits shallow, often very coastal waters, at depths of less than 200 m over the continental shelf, and occasionally, can cross deep offshore waters. However, in a recent survey in the North Aegean, it was detected only close to the coasts and at depths up to 50 m. There are 6 stranding cases recorded further south than the reported range in the map (both at the west and east coast of the Central Aegean in Greece and Turkey), but so far they seem to represent occasional explorative excursions of individuals or sick animals.

Considering that the species has a very limited distribution, the minimum proposed is the absolute possible minimum for a population to inhabit the North Aegean Sea (30 individuals), considering the number of detections made in a recent survey. Based on the same data and the fact that the coverage of the harbour porpoise habitat was dense and repeated twice during the survey the maximum (300 individuals) is unlikely to be higher than tenfold.

Although our knowledge regarding this population is limited, there is little doubt that the future prospects are poor or even bad, since there is an important competition with local fisheries for prey. For the same reason there is clear deterioration of the habitat due to rapid depletion of prey fish stocks, but most

# Report on the main results of the surveillance under article 11 for annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

importantly due to climate change.

The values proposed as minimum and maximum population within the limits of Natura 2000 sites (in 3.1.1 b and 3.1.1 c) are purely indicative, because the marine area of such sites in the range of *Phocoena phocoena* is too coastal and too small for a valid estimation to be possible and to have a meaning. The reality is that individuals from the neighboring to the Natura 2000 sites population of *P. phocoena* may occasionally enter in their limits for a very short period, but by no means we are allowed to say that a certain number of individuals live within their limits. The Natura 2000 sites in the Thracian Sea include a very tiny and insignificant part of the habitat of *P. phocoena* in the area and therefore those sites have to be significantly expanded offshore to have a meaning in the conservation efforts for this species.

*Phocoena phocoena* distribution does not include SAC GR1110004 due to insufficient data, but it is included in the species' range and as mentioned in the species reporting format a future expansion of the existing sea SACs for the species is essential and will be considered.

## 2.8.3 Trans-boundary assessment

## 2.9 Conclusions (assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)

2.9.1 Range	assessment Unknown (XX) qualifiers N/A
2.9.2. Population	assessment Unknown (XX) qualifiers N/A
2.9.3. Habitat	assessment Bad (U2) qualifiers declining (-)
2.9.4. Future prospects	assessment Bad (U2) qualifiers declining (-)
2.9.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Bad (U2)
2.9.5 Overall trend in Conservation Status	declining (-)

## 3. Natura 2000 coverage and conservation measures - Annex II species

### 3.1 Population

3.1.1 Population Size	Unit number of individuals (i) min 1 max 2
3.1.2 Method used	Complete survey/Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate (3)
3.1.3 Trend of population size within	N/A

### 3.2 Conversation Measures

3.2.1 Measure	3.2.2 Type	3.2.3 Ranking	3.2.4 Location	3.2.5 Broad Evaluation
Establish protected areas/sites (6.1)	Legal One-off	medium importance (M)	Inside	Enhance Long term
Legal protection of habitats and species (6.3)	Legal	high importance (H)	Both	Enhance