

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	2035
0.2.2 Species name	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>
0.2.3 Alternative species scientific name	N/A
0.2.4 Common name	Zifios

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)

ACCOBAMS 2013. Report of the Fifth Meeting of the parties to ACCOBAMS, Tangier 5-8 November 2013. Recommendation 8.6: Recommendation on the conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean. "Areas of Special Concern for Beaked Whales" (ASC-BW) and mitigation protocols for anthropogenic activities using intense underwater sound sources. Appendix 1: Mediterranean beaked whale mortality events associated with naval manoeuvres and/or use of military sonar

Canadas A. 2006. Cuvier's beaked whale *Ziphius cavirostris* (Mediterranean subpopulation). Pp. 83-90 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.

Frantzis A., 1998. Does acoustic testing strand whales? *Nature*, 392: 29.

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., 2004. The first mass stranding that was associated with the use of active sonar (Kyparissiakos Gulf, Greece, 1996). In: *Proceedings of the workshop: "Active sonar and cetaceans"*. 8 March 2003, Las Palmas, Gran Canaria. ECS newsletter 42 (special issue): pp. 14-20.

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

Notarartolo di Sciara G., Birkun A. Jr., 2010. (compilers and editors). *Conserving whales, dolphins and porpoises in the Mediterranean and Black Seas: an ACCOBAMS status report, 2010*. ACCOBAMS, Monaco, 211 pp.

Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute. Unpublished data from strandings (1993-2014) and surveys (1998-2014) along the Hellenic Trench and the Aegean Sea.

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

2.3 Range

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

2.3.1 Surface area - Range (km ²)	421843
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	decrease (-)
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 ²) operator approximately equal to (≈) unknown No method
2.3.10 Reason for change	Use of different method

2.4 Population

2.4.1 Population size (individuals or agreed exception)	Unit N/A min max
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	1996-2012
2.4.5 Method – population size	Absent data (0)
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 partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling (2)
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	Genuine

2.5 Habitat for the Species

2.5.1 Surface area - Habitat (km ²)	421843
2.5.2 Year or period	1996-2012
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
2.5.4 b) Quality of habitat - method	The repeated naval exercises with use of military sonar (which has provoked tens of whale killings) and the start of seismic surveys in the very habitat of this species along the Hellenic Trench both contribute to a very bad quality of habitat for the species.

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

2.5.5 Short term trend period	2002-2012
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 ²)	421843
2.5.10 Reason for change	Use of different method

2.6 Main Pressures

Pressure	ranking	pollution qualifier(s)
Military manoeuvres (G04.01)	high importance (H)	N/A
Noise nuisance, noise pollution (H06.01)	high importance (H)	N/A
Seismic exploration, explosions (H06.05)	high importance (H)	N/A
marine macro-pollution (i.e. plastic bags, styrofoam) (H03.03)	medium importance (M)	N/A

2.6.1 Method used – pressures based exclusively or to a larger extent on real data from sites/occurrences or other

2.7 Main Threats

Threat	ranking	pollution qualifier(s)
Military manoeuvres (G04.01)	high importance (H)	N/A
Noise nuisance, noise pollution (H06.01)	high importance (H)	N/A
Seismic exploration, explosions (H06.05)	high importance (H)	N/A
marine macro-pollution (i.e. plastic bags, styrofoam) (H03.03)	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 species inhabits offshore waters, mainly above the continental slope and depths between 500 and 1500 meters. Deeper offshore waters are also inhabited. The population size of this species was unknown during the last assessment of its conservation status (2006) and remains unknown, since this is the most elusive species of the Mediterranean cetacean fauna, particularly difficult to study. Consequently, the available data do not allow the estimation of the absolute abundance of this species.

However, the trend for the population, the range and the habitat are “Decreasing”. Entire population units may vanish after a naval exercise where military sonar is used. This has happened repeatedly since 1996 when the first mass stranding has been recorded in Kyparissiakos Gulf (an area of important Cuvier’s beaked whale presence before the NATO exercise of 1996). During at least the 15 years that followed the use of military sonar, no whales were observed despite the numerous surveys in the area. At least three more mass strandings have been recorded from 1997 to 2014 (in the Ionian Sea twice and in south Crete), two of them during the last 6 years (in 2011 and 2014). During the use of military sonar (and the subsequent mass strandings) important numbers of animals are likely to be anthropogenically removed from the population and at the same time important sea areas may be depleted from this species.

In addition to the use of military sonar there is deterioration of the species habitat because of rapid increase of the anthropogenic noise levels introduced to the marine environment by seismic surveys and marine traffic and pollution by plastic debris swallowed by Cuvier’s beaked whales.

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

Although many parameters regarding the species population are unknown, the threat by the use of military sonar is extremely high, since one single exercise in a geographical zone could rapidly erase an entire population unit from the map.

2.8.3 Trans-boundary assessment

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

2.9.1 Range	assessment Inadequate (U1) qualifiers N/A
2.9.2. Population	assessment Inadequate (U1) qualifiers declining (-)
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	N/A	
	min		max
3.1.2 Method used	N/A		
3.1.3 Trend of population size within	N/A		

3.2 Conversation Measures