

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	5031
0.2.2 Species name	Physeter catodon
0.2.3 Alternative species scientific name	Physeter macrocephalus
0.2.4 Common name	Fisitiras

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)

- Boisseau O, Lacey C, Lewis T, Moscrop A, Danbolt M, McLanagan R. 2010. Encounter rates of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* 90(8): 1589-1599. [\[2\]](#)
- Frantzis A., Swift R., Gillespie D., Menhennett C., Gordon J., Gialinakis S., 1999. Sperm whale presence off South-West Crete, Greece, Eastern Mediterranean Sea. In: *European Research on Cetaceans - 13. Proc. 13th Ann. Conf. ECS, Valencia, 20-24 April, 1999*, pp. 214-217. [\[2\]](#)
- 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. [\[2\]](#)
- Frantzis A. 2009. Cetaceans in Greece: Present status of knowledge. *Initiative for the Conservation of Cetaceans in Greece*, Athens, Greece, 94 pp. [\[2\]](#)
- Frantzis A., Alexiadou P., Gkikopoulou K.C. 2014. Sperm whale occurrence, site fidelity and social organization along the Hellenic Trench (Greece, Mediterranean Sea). *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 24(Suppl. 1): 83-102. [\[2\]](#)
- Lewis T, Gillespie D, Lacey C, Matthews J, Danbolt M, Leaper R, McLanaghan R, Moscrop A. 2007. Sperm whale abundance estimates from acoustic surveys of the Ionian Sea and Straits of Sicily in 2003. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* 87: 353-357. [\[2\]](#)
- Notarbartolo di Sciara G., Frantzis A., Bearzi G., Reeves R.R. 2006. Sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus* (Mediterranean subpopulation). Pp. 45-56 in Reeves R., Notarbartolo 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. [\[2\]](#)
- Notarbartolo 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. [\[2\]](#)
- Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute. Unpublished data from strandings (1993-2014) and surveys (1998-2014) along the Hellenic Trench and the Aegean Sea and photo-identification database (1994-2014). [\[2\]](#)

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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. Song of the Whale Research Team. 2007. Some Results of Cetacean Surveys between 2003 and 2007 in the Mediterranean's Western and Eastern Basins. ACCOBAMS, MOP3/2007/Inf 16.

2.3 Range

2.3.1 Surface area - Range (km ²)	414209
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 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 number of individuals (i) min 180 max 280
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	1998-2009
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	1990-2012
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	Estimate based on expert opinion with no or minimal sampling (1)
2.4.14 Favourable reference population	number operator more than (>) unknown No method
2.4.15 Reason for change	

2.5 Habitat for the Species

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2.5.1 Surface area - Habitat (km ²)	414209
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
2.5.4 b) Quality of habitat - method	Based on modelling of collision risk with large passing vessels
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 ²)	414209
2.5.10 Reason for change	Use of different method

2.6 Main Pressures

Pressure	ranking	pollution qualifier(s)
Shipping lanes (D03.02)	high importance (H)	N/A
death or injury by collision (G05.11)	high importance (H)	N/A
Noise nuisance, noise pollution (H06.01)	high importance (H)	N/A
Seismic exploration, explosions (H06.05)	medium importance (M)	N/A
Military manoeuvres (G04.01)	medium importance (M)	N/A
pelagic trawling (F02.02.02)	low importance (L)	N/A
marine macro-pollution (i.e. plastic bags, styrofoam) (H03.03)	low importance (L)	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)
Shipping lanes (D03.02)	high importance (H)	N/A
death or injury by collision (G05.11)	high importance (H)	N/A
Noise nuisance, noise pollution (H06.01)	high importance (H)	N/A
Seismic exploration, explosions (H06.05)	medium importance (M)	N/A
Military manoeuvres (G04.01)	medium importance (M)	N/A
oil spills in the sea (H03.01)	medium importance (M)	N/A
pelagic trawling (F02.02.02)	low importance (L)	N/A
marine macro-pollution (i.e. plastic bags, styrofoam) (H03.03)	low importance (L)	N/A
wildlife watching (G02.09)	low importance (L)	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

The species is present in offshore waters, mainly above the continental slope and depths between 500 and 1500 meters. Deeper offshore waters are also inhabited, but to a lesser degree. The core of its habitat along the Hellenic Trench coincides with heavy shipping lanes that cause mortalities. Due to local species distribution, short displacement of shipping lanes would solve the problem and secure species survival in the eastern Mediterranean.

2.8.3 Trans-boundary assessment

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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 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