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NATIONAL LEVEL

1. General information

1.1 Member State	**GR**
1.2 Species code	**2035**
1.3 Species scientific name	**Ziphius cavirostris**
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name (in national language)	Zifios

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	2015
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.4 Distribution map Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
2.5 Additional maps	Yes

3. Information related to Annex V Species (Art. 14)

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild/exploited?	No	
3.2 Which of the measures in Art. 14 have been taken?	a) regulations regarding access to property	No
	b) temporary or local prohibition of the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation	No
	c) regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens	No
	d) application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations	No
	e) establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas	No
	f) regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale or transport for sale of specimens	No
	g) breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species	No
	h) other measures	No

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3.3 Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)

a) Unit

b) Statistics/ quantity taken	Provide statistics/quantity per hunting season or per year (where season is not used) over the reporting period					
	Season/ year 1	Season/ year 2	Season/ year 3	Season/ year 4	Season/ year 5	Season/ year 6
Min. (raw, ie. not rounded)						
Max. (raw, ie. not rounded)						
Unknown	No	No	No	No	No	No

3.4. Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild Method used

3.5. Additional information

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs

Marine Mediterranean (MMED)

4.2 Sources of information

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 isssue): 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.
Frantzis, A., 2015. Short report on the mass stranding of Cuvier's beaked whales that occurred on the 1st of April 2014 in South Crete, Greece, during naval exercises. FINS 6 (1), 10–11.

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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.
Podestà M., Azzellino, A., Canadas, A., Frantzis, A., Moulins, A., Rosso, M., Tepsich P., Lanfredi C., 2016. Cuvier's Beaked Whale, Ziphius cavirostris, Distribution and Occurrence in the Mediterranean Sea: High-Use Areas and Conservation Threats. In: Giuseppe Notarbartolo Di Sciara, Michela Podestà and Barbara E. Curry, editors, Advances in Marine Biology, Vol. 75, Oxford: Academic Press, pp. 103-140.
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 Mediteranean Sea during summer 2013. Final Report, pp. 56.

5. Range

5.1 Surface area	421843	
5.2 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018	
5.3 Short-term trend Direction	Decreasing (-)	
5.4 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	b) Maximum
5.5 Short-term trend Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
5.6 Long-term trend Period		
5.7 Long-term trend Direction		
5.8 Long-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	b) Maximum
5.9 Long-term trend Method used		
5.10 Favourable reference range	a) Area (km²) b) Operator c) Unknown d) Method	Approximately equal to (≈)
5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	No change The change is mainly due to:	
5.12 Additional information		

6. Population

6.1 Year or period	2015	
6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)	a) Unit b) Minimum c) Maximum d) Best single value	
6.3 Type of estimate		

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6.4 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)	a) Unit	
	b) Minimum	
	c) Maximum	
	d) Best single value	
6.5 Type of estimate		
6.6 Population size Method used	Insufficient or no data available	
6.7 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018	
6.8 Short-term trend Direction	Decreasing (-)	
6.9 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	
6.10 Short-term trend Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
6.11 Long-term trend Period		
6.12 Long-term trend Direction		
6.13 Long-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	
6.14 Long-term trend Method used		
6.15 Favourable reference population (using the unit in 6.2 or 6.4)	a) Population size	
	b) Operator	More than (>)
	c) Unknown	
	d) Method	
6.16 Change and reason for change in population size	No change	
	The change is mainly due to:	
6.17 Additional information		

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat	a) Are area and quality of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)?	No
	b) Is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (for long-term survival)?	Unknown
7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
7.3 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018	
7.4 Short-term trend Direction	Decreasing (-)	
7.5 Short-term trend Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
7.6 Long-term trend Period		
7.7 Long-term trend Direction		
7.8 Long-term trend Method used		

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7.9 Additional information

The surface area of the habitat is estimated at 421843 km2 (equal to range) and its quality is bad.
The repeated naval exercises with the 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 with the Hellenic Trench contribute to a very bad quality of habitat for the species.

8. Main pressures and threats

8.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

Pressure	Ranking
Geotechnical surveying (C09)	H
Decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change (N07)	M
Military, paramilitary or police exercises and operations in the freshwater and marine environment (H02)	H
Land, water and air transport activities generating noise, light and other forms of pollution (E08)	M
Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, Styrofoam) (F22)	H

Threat	Ranking
Geotechnical surveying (C09)	H
Decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change (N07)	M
Extraction of oil and gas, including infrastructure (C03)	M
Military, paramilitary or police exercises and operations in the freshwater and marine environment (H02)	H
Land, water and air transport activities generating noise, light and other forms of pollution (E08)	M
Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, Styrofoam) (F22)	M

8.2 Sources of information

PRESSURES: Based exclusively or to a larger extent on real data from sites/occurrences or other data sources.
THREATS: Based on expert opinion.

8.3 Additional information

9. Conservation measures

9.1 Status of measures

a) Are measures needed? Yes

b) Indicate the status of measures Measures identified, but none yet taken

9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken

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9.3 Location of the measures taken

9.4 Response to the measures

9.5 List of main conservation measures

Manage/reduce/eliminate noise, light and other forms of pollution from transport (CE05)
Reduce/eliminate marine contamination with litter (CF08)
Adapt/manage exploitation of energy resources (CC02)
Implement climate change adaptation measures (CN02)
Reduce impact of military installations and activities (CH01)

9.6 Additional information

10. Future prospects

10.1 Future prospects of parameters

a) Range	Poor
b) Population	Poor
c) Habitat of the species	Bad

10.2 Additional information

11. Conclusions

11.1. Range	Unfavourable - Inadequate (U1)
11.2. Population	Unfavourable - Inadequate (U1)
11.3. Habitat for the species	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
11.4. Future prospects	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Unfavourable - Bad (U2)
11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	Deteriorating (-)

11.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend

a) Overall assessment of conservation status

No change

The change is mainly due to:

b) Overall trend in conservation status

No change

The change is mainly due to:

11.8 Additional information

12. Natura 2000 (pSCIs, SCIs and SACs) coverage for Annex II species

12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present)

a) Unit

b) Minimum

c) Maximum

d) Best single value

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12.2 Type of estimate

12.3 Population size inside the network Method used

12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network Direction

12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network Method used

12.6 Additional information

13. Complementary information

13.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends

13.2 Trans-boundary assessment

13.3 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.
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.