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NATIONAL LEVEL

1. General information

1.1 Member State	**GR**
1.2 Species code	**2624**
1.3 Species scientific name	**Physeter macrocephalus**
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name (in national language)	Fisitiras

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

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.
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.
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. 2009. Cetaceans in Greece: Present status of knowledge. Initiative for the Conservation of Cetaceans in Greece, Athens, Greece, 94 pp.
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.
Frantzis A., Leaper R., Alexiadou P., Prospathopoulos A., Lekkas D., 2019. Shipping routes through core habitat of
endangered sperm whales along the Hellenic Trench, Greece: Can we reduce collision risks? PLoS ONE 14(2):
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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.
Notarbartolo di Sciara G., Frantzis A., Bearzi G., Reeves R.R. 2006. Sperm whale Physeter macrocephalus (Mediterranean subpopulation). Pp. 45-56 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.
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 and photo-identification database (1994-2014).
Rendell L. and Frantzis A., 2016. Mediterranean Sperm Whales, Physeter macrocephalus: The Precarious State of a Lost Tribe. In: Giuseppe Notarbartolo Di Sciara, Michela Podestà and Barbara E. Curry, editors, Advances in Marine Biology, Vol. 75, Oxford: Academic Press, pp. 37-74.
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 Mediteranean 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.

5. Range

5.1 Surface area	414209
5.2 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018
5.3 Short-term trend Direction	Unknown (x)
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 Approximately equal to (≈) c) Unknown d) Method
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

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6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)	a) Unit	number of individuals (i)
	b) Minimum	180
	c) Maximum	280
	d) Best single value	
6.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate	
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	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
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 expert opinion with very limited 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	
7.9 Additional information	The surface area of the habitat is estimated at 414209 km2 (equal to range) and its quality is bad. Short-term method based on modelling of collision risk with large passing vessels.

8. Main pressures and threats

8.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

Pressure	Ranking
Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, Styrofoam) (F22)	H
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
Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations (E02)	H
Land, water and air transport activities generating noise, light and other forms of pollution (E08)	H
Military, paramilitary or police exercises and operations in the freshwater and marine environment (H02)	M

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
Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations (E02)	H
Land, water and air transport activities generating noise, light and other forms of pollution (E08)	H
Military, paramilitary or police exercises and operations in the freshwater and marine environment (H02)	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	

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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		
9.3 Location of the measures taken		
9.4 Response to the measures		
9.5 List of main conservation measures		

Implement climate change adaptation measures (CN02)

Reduce/eliminate marine contamination with litter (CF08)

Adapt/manage exploitation of energy resources (CC02)

Reduce impact of transport operation and infrastructure (CE01)

Manage/reduce/eliminate noise, light and other forms of pollution from transport (CE05)

Reduce impact of military installations and activities (CH01)

9.6 Additional information

10. Future prospects

10.1 Future prospects of parameters	a) Range	Unknown
	b) Population	Poor
	c) Habitat of the species	Bad
10.2 Additional information		

11. Conclusions

11.1. Range	Unknown (XX)
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:

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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
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	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.