



First Announcement

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CETACEAN BYCATCH WITHIN THE ACCOBAMS AREA

Organized by ACCOBAMS and GFCM

Rome (FAO HQs), Italy, 17-18 September 2008

Context and objectives

The Secretariat of ACCOBAMS, in collaboration with the General Fisheries Commission for Mediterranean (GFCM), is convening a workshop on cetacean incidental captures within the Area of the Agreement (Rome, 7– 18 September 2008), according to the decisions of the Third Meeting of the Parties of ACCOBAMS (Resolution 3.12) and as part of the project for the “*Assessment and mitigation of the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS Area*” (also known as ByCBAMS), supported by the ACCOBAMS Contracting Parties in 2004 (Resolution 2.21).

The by-catch of cetaceans still represents a concern in the ACCOBAMS area, especially but not only because of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fisheries (ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee Recommendation SC4.2). However, information on the magnitude and potential consequences of this problem are still deficient even for regular fishing practices in many ACCOBAMS countries. At the Second Meeting of the Parties (Palma de Majorca, Spain 2004) Resolution 2.21 was adopted, which called for the assessment and mitigation of the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS Area. With this Resolution, Parties aimed to: 1) collect historical data about cetacean by-catch in the project area; 2) provide assistance to national authorities at their request to implement independent observer schemes for fishing fleets; 3) collect data about present cetacean by-catch in the project area; 4) test the most appropriate mitigation measures; 5) help Countries undertaking information campaigns for fishermen with special focus on handling procedures in case of incidental catch of cetaceans.

The Workshop is aimed to address the following issues:

- National overviews on the current status of cetacean-fisheries conflicts, including bycatch and depredation, and critical review of historical data (10-15' presentation each);
- Discussion of the draft standard protocols for data collection prepared for the ACCOBAMS area; and
- Status of the implementation ByCBAMS framework within the ACCOBAMS area.



The tentative agenda for the meeting is presented as **Annex A**.

The workshop will be open to international Organisations, to the ACCOBAMS Focal Points or official contact Points from Countries not yet Party to the Agreement and to one scientist from each Country. This scientist should be directly involved in the monitoring and/or the mitigation of the interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities. In order to achieve the objectives of the workshop he/she will have to coordinate the drafting of a report reviewing the current knowledge of cetacean by-catch and other fishery interactions at the national level. This simple summary report should be conducted following the attached template (**Annex B**) prepared by the Workshop Steering Committee (Matthew Camilleri, Caterina Fortuna, Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, Simon Northridge and Chedly Rais) that includes all aspects that should be considered. A tentative list of scientists that could provide a significant contribution to the workshop has been prepared by the Secretariat and it is attached to this letter.

I would be very pleased to receive the confirmation of your personal participation (or the participation of your representative) to the workshop and your opinion/suggestion as for the participation of the expert from your country appearing in the attached list in **Annex C**. Your reply no later than 31st **May 2008** will be highly appreciated.

The available budget allows to cover only the participation fees of participants from Parties that are developing Countries or Countries with economies in transition. The participants from these countries are invited to contact the Secretariat if they need financial support to cover their participation fees, this will be considered according to the available amount.

Please be also informed that the **GFCM, in collaboration with ACCOBAMS will organize a meeting of the SCMEE/SCSA transversal Working Group** from the 15th to the 16th September 2008 in FAO head quarters to discuss on **by catch/incidental catches**. This workshop is open to all participants of the “International Workshop on cetacean bycatch within the ACCOBAMS Area”.

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. **Date and venue:**

September 17 (Wednesday) to 18 (Thursday), 2008 (Registration starts at 09:00 am, 17 September).
Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 17:30.

The meeting will be held at:

FAO HQs,
Vial delle Terme di Caracalla
Rome 00153, Italy

2. **Contact information**

- ACCOBAMS Secretariat:

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- GFCM Secretariat:

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3. **Steering Committee:**

Dr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara (Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee)
Dr. Matthew Camilleri (GFCM Secretariat)
Dr. Simon Northridge (University of St Andrews)
Dr. Caterina Fortuna (ICRAM, scientific coordinator of the “Bycatch ACCOBAMS-Italia” project”)
Dr. Chedly Rais (ACCOBAMS coordinator of the Bycatch-ACCOBAMS project)

4. Language

Scientific documents can be transmitted in English or French. The Working languages will be English and French.

5. Call for technical papers and Data

Participants are invited to submit relevant papers and data. Regarding national overviews on the current status of cetacean-fisheries conflicts including bycatch and depredation with a critical review of any historical data, participants are invited to follow the format given in Annex B.

6. Registration

Participants are invited to confirm their personal participation (or the participation of their representative) to the workshop no later than 31st **May 2008**.

ANNEX A

AGENDA

1. Introductory items
 - 1.1 Welcome of the convener and hosts
 - 1.2 Appointment of Chair and co-Chair
 - 1.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs
 - 1.4 Review of documents
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. National overviews on the current status of cetacean-fisheries conflicts, including by catch and depredation, and critical review of historical data (Chairman: Simon Northridge)
5. Discussion of the draft standard protocols for data collection prepared for the ACCOBAMS area by Simon Northridge
6. Experience from the US project GLOBAL (<http://bycatch.env.duke.edu/>) and potential future coordinated efforts
7. Discussion on the implementation of the ByCBAMS framework (Chedly Rais)



ANNEX B

Format for the submission of National overviews on the current status of cetacean-fisheries conflicts including bycatch and depredation with a critical review of any historical data

1. Overview of relevant fisheries¹, for example
 - Inshore trammel and gillnet fisheries (include details on, for example, mesh size, total length, area of deployment, etc.)
 - Driftnet fisheries (include details on, for example, mesh size, total length, area of deployment, etc.)
 - Lampara
 - Longline (include details on, for example, hook size, total number of hooks, area of deployment, etc.)

Please, for common names and explanatory figures see the FAO website:
<http://www.fao.org/fi/website/FISearch.do?dom=geartype> (see also Table 1).

Including a geographical overview of the extent of such fisheries (approximate number of fishing units in each sector in appropriate geographical zones. Please, together with the name of the location, indicate also the GFCM Sub-Area codes).

2. Overview of the nature and extent of any known conflicts including a summary of any anecdotal information on bycatch and/or depredation – both recent and historical.
 - a. Species of cetacean involved
 - b. Fishery involved and nature of interaction
 - Note particularly any reliable quantitative information regarding such conflicts, for example estimates of fish losses, number of vessels impacted, frequency of bycatch in a given fishery / area.
3. Summary of any cetacean-fishery interactions studies that have been done in the past or are currently underway, including bibliographic details.
4. Summary of areas and fisheries where no information on such conflicts is known.
5. Existing direct observers monitoring programmes or studies
6. Summary of any cetacean abundance studies that have been done in the past or are currently underway, including bibliographic details.
7. Existing relevant legislation.
8. Contact detail of the compiler.

¹ “Relevant” in this context means having potentials to cause bycatch or being subjected to depredation.



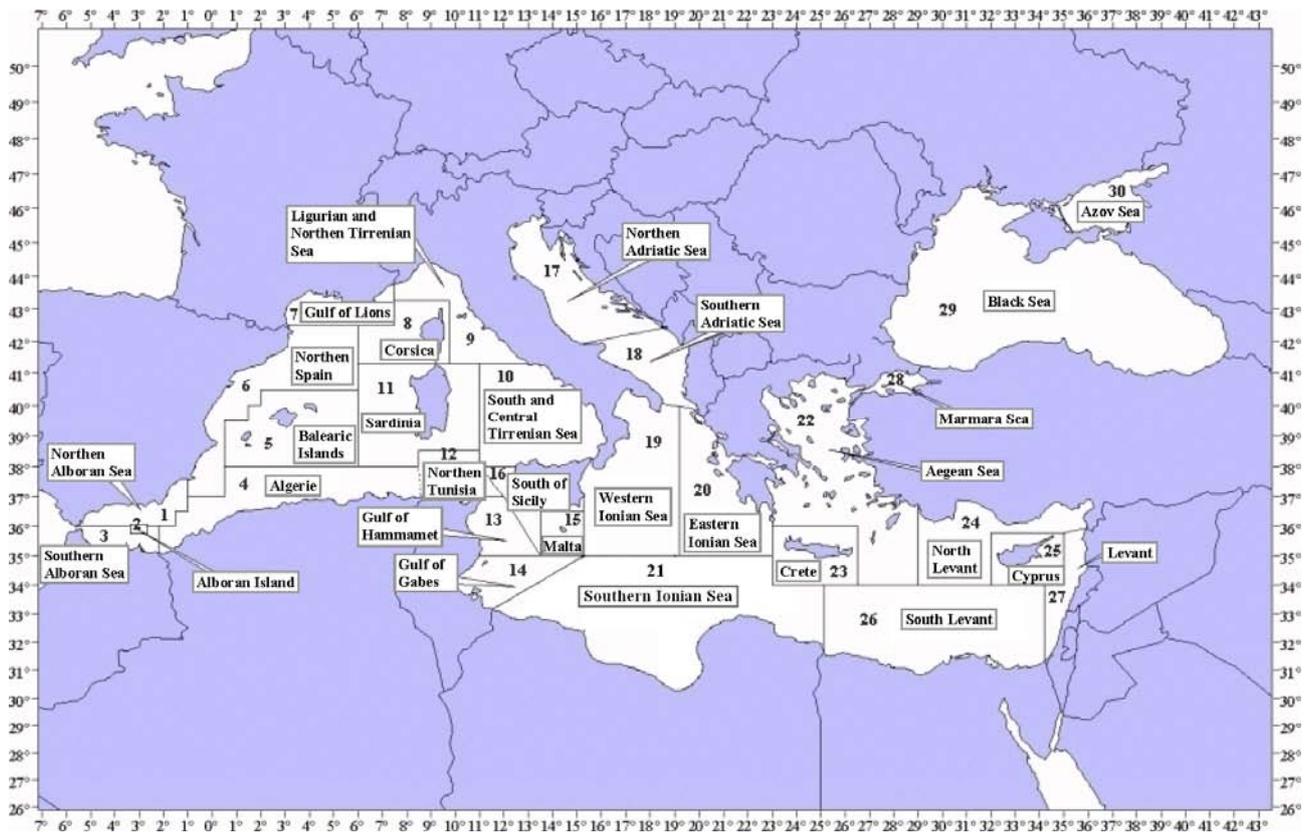
Table 1 - FAO FISHING GEAR DESCRIPTION AND CODES

FAO FISHING GEAR CATEGORIES:			
<i>SURROUNDING NETS</i>		<i>FALLING GEAR</i>	
With purse lines	PS	Cast nets	FCN
One-boat operated purse seines	PS1	Falling gear (not specified)	FG
Two-boat operated purse seines	PS2	<i>GILLNETS AND ENTANGLING GEAR</i>	
Without purse lines (lampara)	LA	Set gillnets (anchored)	GNS
<i>SEINE NETS</i>		Driftnets	GND
Beach seines	SB	Encircling gillnets	GNC
Boat seines	SV	Fixed gillnets (on stakes)	GNF
Danish seines	SDN	Trammel nets	GTR
Scottish seines	SSC	Combined gillnet-trammel nets	GTN
Pair seines	SPR	Gillnets and entangling gillnets (not specified)	GEN
Seine nets (not specified)	SX	Gillnets (not specified)	GN
<i>TRAWLS</i>		<i>TRAPS</i>	
Bottom trawls	TBB	Stationary uncovered pounds nets	FPN
Beam trawl	OTB	Pots	FPO
Otter trawls (side or stern)	PTB	Fyke nets	FYK
Pair trawls	TBN	Stow nets	FSN
Nephrops trawls	TBS	Barriers, fences, weirs, etc	FWR
Shrimp trawls (not specified)	TM	Aerial traps	FAR
Midwater trawls		Traps (not specified)	FIX
Otter trawls (side or stern)	OTM	<i>HOOKS AND LINES</i>	
Pair trawls	PTM	Handlines and pole-lines (hand operated)	LHP
Shrimp trawls	TMS	Handlines and pole-lines (mechanised)	LHM
Midwater trawls (not specified)	TM	Set longlines	LLS
Otter twin trawls	OTT	Drifting longlines	LLD
Otter trawls (not specified)	OT	Longlines (not specified)	LL
Pair trawls (not specified)	PT	Trolling lines	LTL
Other trawls (not specified)	TX	Hooks and lines (not specified)	LX
<i>DREDGES</i>		<i>GRAPPLING AND WOUNDING</i>	
Boat dredges	DRB	Harpoons	HAR
Hand dredges	DRH	<i>HARVESTING MACHINES</i>	
<i>LIFT NETS</i>		Pumps	HMP
Portable lift nets	LPN	Mechanised dredges	HM
			D
Boat-operated lift nets	LNB	Harvesting machines (not specified)	HM
			X
Shore operated stationary lift nets	LNS	<i>MISCELLANEOUS GEAR</i>	MIS
Lift nets (not specified)	LN	<i>RECREATIONAL FISHING GEAR</i>	RG
		<i>GEAR NOT KNOWN OR NOT SPECIFIED</i>	NK
		<i>SHARK CONTROL NETS</i>	NSC
NOTE: For more details, explanations and figures, please check at the FAO official web page: http://www.fao.org/fi/website/FISearch.do?dom=geartype			

Table 2 – Adapted from FAO and GFCM CODES for SUB-REGIONAL AREAS

FAO SUBAREA	FAO STATISTICS DIVISIONS	GSA PROPOSAL (Rome, 2007)
ATLANTIC		00 Contiguous Atlantic
WESTERN		0 Gibraltar Strait
WESTERN	1.1 BALEARIC	5 Balearic Island
		6 Northern Spain
		4 Algeria
		1 Northern Alboran Sea
		2 Alboran Island
		3 Southern Alboran Sea
	1.2 GULF OF LIONS	7 Gulf of Lions
		7 Gulf of Lions
	1.3 SARDINIA	8 Corsica Island
		11 Sardinia
		10 South and Central Tirrenian Sea
		9 Ligurian and North Tirrenian Sea
10 South Tirrenian Sea		
	12 Northern Tunisia	
CENTRAL	2.1 ADRIATIC	17 Northern Adriatic
		18 Southern Adriatic Sea
	2.2 IONIAN	19 Western Ionian Sea
		20 Eastern Ionian Sea
		15 Malta Island
		16 South of Sicily
		13 Gulf of Hammamet
		14 Gulf of Gabes
		21 Southern Ionian Sea
EASTERN	3.1 AEGEAN	22 Aegean Sea
		23 Crete Island
	3.2 LEVANT	25 Cyprus Island
		24 North Levant
		27 Levant
	26 South Levant	
BLACK SEA	4.1 MARMARA	28 Marmara Sea
	4.2 BLACK SEA	29 Black Sea
	4.3 AZOV SEA	30 Azov Sea





ANNEX C

Provisional list of experts

<i>Name (affiliation)</i>	<i>Email</i>
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