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Title of Proposed Workshop: Towards coordinated marine mammal monitoring programmes for MSFD second cycle 2020-2026

Theme: Conservation, Human Dimensions, Policy and Management

Summary of Proposed Workshop:

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD, 2008/56/EC) aims to restore the Good Ecological Status (GES) of European marine waters through six-year action cycles. The first cycle started in 2012 with an initial evaluation of the GES and the definition of environmental targets, followed by the adoption of monitoring programmes in 2014 and of programmes of measures in 2016.

In its 2017 evaluation of MSFD national monitoring programmes, the European Commissionrecommends that "Member states should continue to implement, where they exist, coordinated and joint monitoring programmes developed at regional or subregional level, for instance by OSPAR and United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)."

The aim of this workshop is to answer this requirement and discuss the opportunity to include large-scale surveys in the 2020-2026 monitoring programmes of involved member states, in order to ensure their continued existence as part of an European public policy.

Expanded description for posting on workshop registration page:

The workshop will focus on large and collaborative surveys efforts, considered as the most appropriate approach to provide assessment of cetaceans status at large scale. The mains surveys identified for discussion are regional plane and boat surveys (SCANS, ASI, REMMOA), surveys from scientific vessels (Megascope) or ferries (FLT MedNet, ORCA) and telemetry surveys, but could also include other topics of transnational interest (Photo-ID databases, Passive Accoustic Monitoring, etc.).

This event will target participants involved or responsible for the implementation of the Marine Mammals Monitoring as part of the D1 MFSD implementation in EU countries, and the Ecosystem Approach processes in the Mediterranean and Black Seas countries (UNEP/MAP and Bucharest Convention) as well as representatives of relevant regional organizations (ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, UNEP/MAP/SPA-RAC, Bucharest Convention...) and coordinators of large-scale surveys.

Objectives of the event include:

- Reviewing of existing and in development monitoring programmes. For example, a draft of the French marine mammal monitoring programme for MSFD 2nd cycle (2020-2026) will be presented,
- Fostering collaboration and transboundary consultations,
- Establish recommendations for ensuring synchronization of national monitoring efforts.

Attendee Support and Opportunities:

ACCOBAMS may support the registration fees of some participants from the ACCOBAMS Agreement Area. Conditions will be provided at a later stage.

Relevance:

Coordinate large-scale marine mammal surveys at the European level

Primary Audience:

MSFD marine mammal monitoring programme coordinators in EU member states

Dissemination of Workshop Results:

European Commission, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, OSPAR, HELCOM, Barcelona and Bucharest conventions, UNEP/MAP/SPA-RAC...

Format:

Series of speakers and a panel followed by discussion

Minimum Number of Participants: 30

Maximum Number of Participants: 40

Preferred Date of Workshop: Sunday, December 8 2019

Is an alternative date acceptable?: Yes

Duration of Proposed Workshop: 1/2 day (4 hours)