



**REPORT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS OF THE  
BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND  
CONTIGUOUS ATLANTIC AREA (ACCOBAMS)  
DURING THE PERIOD 2012-2013**

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### **1. Scientific research and monitoring**

The research programs of the experts from the National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa" were focused on the following topics:

- assessments of incidental catching dolphins
- analysis of the current fishing practices,
- assessment of the fishing effort and the risk,
- elaborate recommendations supporting dolphins' protection.

During the period 2012 - 2013 the projects related to dolphins were as follows:

- Reducing the impact of marine bio-resources exploitation by elaborating ecological efficient solutions, funded through the National Program NUCLEU;

- Improving the conservation status of marine biodiversity in the Romanian costal zone, particularly dolphins, funded by Sectoral Operational Programme Environment, carried out in the Danube Delta, the marine area, coordinated by NGO Mare Nostrum in partnership with the National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa";

- *“Photo-identification of dolphins from the Romanian Black Sea coastal waters”*, funded by ACCOBAMS, coordinated by NGO Mare Nostrum in partnership with the National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa".

-Studies for carrying out the Common Fisheries Policy: the adverse fisheries impacts on cetacean populations in the Black Sea.

## **2. Education and awareness**

The actions have been taken by the NGO "Mare Nostrum" in collaboration with the National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa" for reducing the human impact on the conservation status of dolphins.

During the project, "*Photo-identification of dolphins from the Romanian Black Sea coastal waters*" which covered the South part of Romanian *Black Sea* coast, the NGO "Mare Nostrum" collected new data about the cetacean species: stranded alive, found dead on the coast, entangled in fishing gears and outline measures for preventing cases of increased mortalities.

The initial goal of the project was to improve the research of dolphins ecology, introducing the photo-identification method and also offers the opportunity to train on this method.

The project's activities were focused on:

- ❖ the organization and development of photo-identification sessions for data collection;
- ❖ organizing a photo-identification training for Romanian specialists;
- ❖ data collection concerning dolphin occurrence in Romanian coastal waters, accidental catches and strandings in the area between Navodari (Cape Midia) and Vama Veche;
- ❖ development of the volunteer's network strandings and sightings surveys at the Romanian Black Sea coast, named "*Volunteers for saving dolphins*".

Other activities for public awareness:

- ❖ Celebrate the "*Dolphin Week*;"
- ❖ National consultation workshop with the local stakeholders for the implementation of the National Action Plan for dolphins' conservation;

- ❖ Events, posters, scientific papers presented in different national and international workshops, itinerary exhibition and website ([www.delfini.cier.ro](http://www.delfini.cier.ro));
- ❖ Setting by the NGO Mare Nostrum, so-called the Green Phone Line – 0800 800 078, for announcing the sighting of a dead or alive dolphins.

### **3. Strengthening institutional capacity**

- Three training courses for Romanian experts related to dolphins photo-identification;
- Establish the national/international partnerships.

### **4. International cooperation**

- Cooperation between the Black Sea riparian countries for rationally managing the marine ecosystem and its resources;
- Advisory Group on Environmental Aspects of Management of Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources (Black Sea Commission) related to environment management;
- Regional meetings on the implementation of the ACCOBAMS resolutions in the Black Sea region with the participation of the ACCOBAMS National Focal Points;
- Black Sea Ad-Hoc Working Group on Fisheries.

### **5. Protection of migratory species, conservation measures**

In the frame of the project “*Reducing the impact of marine bio-resources exploitation by elaborating ecological efficient solutions*” carried out by the National Institute for Marine Research and Development „Grigore Antipa”, funded through the National Program NUCLEU (2012-2013) the main activities focused on:

- Experimentation of technical solution to reduce the mortality induced by fishing activities;
  - Assessing the current status of dolphin populations threatened by industrial fishing;
- Other measures:
- Use a new type of fishing gear after an environmental impact assessment;

- Use the turbot fishing nets with mesh side equal to or greater than 200 mm and the fineness of the yarn equal or less than 0.50 mm;
- Prohibiting the use of gill nets without marking their position with buoys and identification marks;
- Equipping with devices hidro-acoustic turbot gillnets for preventing the intersection of these tools with dolphins;
- Protect the spawning areas, feeding and wintering fishery.

## **6. Administrative, institutional, legislative measures**

- Order No. 374/2004 for Action Plan on Cetaceans Conservation in the Black Sea Romanian waters;
- Government Emergency Ordinance No. 23/2008 on fishing and aquaculture;
- Order No. 342/2008 on minimal size of the aquatic living resources;
- Order No. 449/2008 on technical characteristics and practice conditions for fishing gears used in the commercial fishing;
- Annual fishing prohibition Orders;
- Law No. 253/2011 amending paragraph (3) of art. 67 of Government Emergency Ordinance No. 23/2008 on fishing and aquaculture.

The overall responsibility for fisheries policy in Romania falls under authority of the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, subordinated to the Ministry of Environmental and Climate Changes.

Ministry of Environment and Climate Changes draws up specific legal acts regarding environment protection, waters management as well as authorization procedures for all activities, including fisheries enterprises.

## **7. Activities planned for next year**

- ❖ Monitoring the strandings to reduced the mortality induced by fishing activity;
- ❖ Special protection of spawning areas, feeding and wintering fishery resources and marine mammals;

- ❖ Promote the research for the purpose of improving gear, equipment and fishing techniques;
- ❖ Exchange of scientific research data between ACCOBAMS Parties;
- ❖ Developing the inter-institutional partnerships;
- ❖ Legislative and regulatory reforms to improve biodiversity protection, taking into account the European Marine Strategy;
- ❖ Development of research methodology, public awareness and scientific partnerships in the fields of monitoring, control, protection and management of the Black Sea ecosystem and its living resources.