



Bottlenose Dolphin conservation in French MPAs

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2. Agence des Aires Marines Protégées www.aires-marines.fr 3. MEDPAN, www.medpan.org

CONTEXT

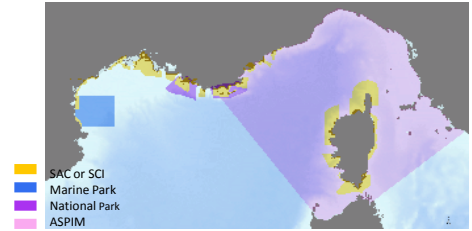
The Mediterranean bottlenose dolphin's sub-population is listed by IUCN as "vulnerable". It is one of the two cetacean species listed on Annex II of the European Habitats Directive for which Special Areas of Conservation have to be implemented. In the Mediterranean Sea, many Marine Protected Areas exist along the coast, but few of them implement conservation measures for this species. In 2013, the GIS3M launched GDEGeM, a collaborative and multi-disciplinary three years project to improve the conservation of the bottlenose dolphin occurring in the North-Western Mediterranean Sea.

GDEGeM PROJECT www.gedgem.org

Bottlenose Dolphin Study and Management in the Mediterranean Sea

Objectives

- Improve the knowledge on the population
- Provide technical support to MPA managers
- Strengthen the MPA's network to provide a global regional management tool.



French Mediterranean MPAs

(source : Cartomer-Agence des aires marines protégées)

QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to initiate these 2 last objectives, a questionnaire has been sent to 24 managers representing around 37 French Mediterranean MPAs potentially concerned by the bottlenose dolphin" (SAC or SCI, National and Marine Park, ASPIM)

- 24 main and 9 optional questions covering 4 main topics

Objectives

- Apprehend existing capacities for bottlenose dolphin conservation in the French Mediterranean MPAs
- Initiate a concerted reflection and work to improve the conservation of this species in the North-Western Mediterranean Sea

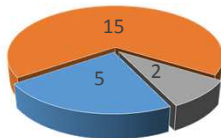
RESULTS

- 22 MPA managers answered the questionnaire (92%)

Bottlenose dolphin in North-Western Mediterranean Sea

Knowledge on the species and its status in the NW Med Sea

- Poor
- Medium
- Good

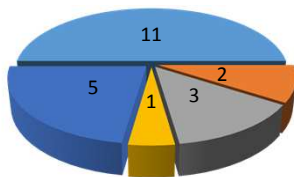


Bottlenose dolphin in the MPAs

- Bottlenose dolphin has been sighted in **100%** of answering MPAs
- It is **listed in 95%** of the management plans
- **Only 14%** are implementing specific measures for the species, but 82% plan to implement some
- 50% of managers identify issues for the species in their MPAs

Issues concerning the bottlenose dolphins in the MPAs

- None
- Interactions with fisheries
- whale-watching disturbances
- Population decrease
- Other (lack of data)



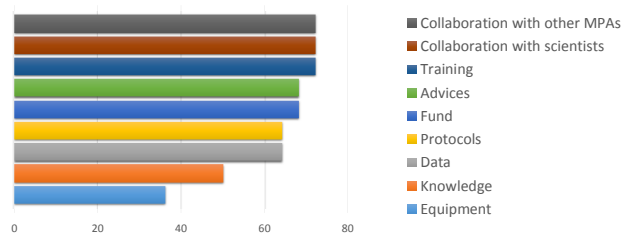
Regulatory and legislative context

- Good knowledge of the **Pelagos Sanctuary** and its actions
- Medium knowledge of the **ACCOBAMS** and the last **national decree**
- Good knowledge of the **National Stranded Network**, medium knowledge on the process in case of cetacean stranding, few capacitated people in the MPAs' staff (13%)

Improvement of bottlenose dolphin's conservation in the MPA's network

- 95% think **BD's conservation could be improved in their MPA**
- 91% think their AMP could, at least in part, **contribute to the conservation of the species at the North-Western Mediterranean scale**
- Main needs identified :

Percentage of answering managers identifying the need



CONCLUSION & PERSPECTIVES

Improve collaboration with scientists and between MPAs, provide standard protocols, common database and technical support could allow to turn the French Mediterranean **MPA's network** into a **strong and consistent tool for the monitoring and conservation of this mobile species.**