



# GIS3M

## An association of marine mammal scientists to facilitate exchange and collaboration in Mediterranean cetology

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The GIS3M (Scientific Interest Group for Mediterranean Marine Mammals and their environment) is a non-profit association (loi 1901, France) of people involved in the study and protection of marine mammals in the Mediterranean Sea.

### BIRTH OF THE GIS3M

#### Context :

- The richness and diversity of marine mammals in the north western Mediterranean Sea with the constant development of human activities make the study of marine mammals in this area an essential issue. The scientific research on marine mammals in the French Mediterranean Sea is quite recent and is the priority of the associations.
- To develop the study of marine mammals in the PELAGOS area and evaluate the threats to their populations, the Sanctuary developed scientific partnerships.

#### Creation :

- In order to facilitate partnerships, the PELAGOS Sanctuary suggested and helped for the creation of a group of scientists.
- In 2007, the GIS3M was created.

### OBJECTIVES

According to the articles of association, the GIS3M aims to sustain, directly or indirectly, research and develop expertise on Mediterranean marine mammals and their environment, and in particular :

- Develop knowledge in the areas of study, protection, environmental management, training and improve awareness on Mediterranean marine mammals in their environment .
- Facilitate collaboration between people involved in research on marine mammals in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Develop shared research projects and international partnerships.

### FONCTIONNING

- When created, the association counted 9 members from 6 different organizations; today 18 people are members and new ones wish to join every year.
- The GIS3M is managed by a governing board elected by the general assembly.
- In June 2010, the GIS3M hired its first employee, she is in charge of administrative and financial management, development and coordination of projects and communication and representation of the association and its members.

### GIS3M ACTIVITIES

#### PELAGOS research programme 2007-2009 :

Di-Méglio N. & David L., 2010. PELAGOS Sanctuary temporal monitoring by monthly offshore line transects . PELAGOS research programme 2007-2009. Final report GIS3M. 200 p.

Laran S., Castellote M., Caudal F., Glotin H., 2009. Acoustic monitoring of cetacean populations in the north of the Sanctuary. PELAGOS research programme 2007-2009. Final report GIS3M. 81 p.

Laran S., Praca E., Tapie N., Budzinski H., Legavre T. & Ody D., 2010. Toxic contamination level of odontocetes and mysticetes in the PELAGOS Sanctuary. PELAGOS research programme 2007-2009. Final report GIS3M. 112 p.

Di-Méglio N., David L., Capoulade F., Gambaiani D., Mayol P., McKenzie C., McKenzie E. & Schneider M., 2010. State of knowledge on maritime traffic impact on cetaceans. PELAGOS research programme 2007-2009. Final report GIS3M. 67 p.

David L. & Di-Méglio N., 2010. Large cetaceans ship strikes prevention. PELAGOS research programme 2007-2009. Final report GIS3M. 262 p.

Delacourtie F., Laran S., David L. & Di-Méglio N., 2009. Cetacean spatio-temporal distribution in relation with environmental parameters. PELAGOS research programme 2007-2009. Final report GIS3M. 262 p.

Labach H., Dhermain F., Dupraz F. & Colombey M., 2009. Bottlenose dolphin and Risso's dolphin populations monitoring around Hyères Islands. PELAGOS research programme 2007-2009. Final report GIS3M. 43 p.

Dhermain F., 2009. Cetacean strandings report on French Mediterranean coasts between 2005 and 2009. PELAGOS research programme 2007-2009. Final report GIS3M. 133 p.

#### PELAGOS research programme 2010-2012 :

- Stranding monitoring along the Mediterranean coast. Coordinated by GECEM
- Bottlenose dolphin population's monitoring along the French "Provencale" coast. Coordinated by GECEM
- Pilot whales and sperm whales toxic contamination level in the PELAGOS Sanctuary. Coordinated by WWF-France
- Risso's dolphin population monitoring in the north western Mediterranean Sea. Coordinated by GECEM
- Genetic structure and conservation status of fin whales in the north western Mediterranean Sea. Coordinated by WWF-France
- Fin whales reproductive status evaluated by blubber hormonal analysis. Coordinated by WWF-France
- Monitoring ferry : Seasonal monitoring of cetacean populations of the PELAGOS Sanctuary and validation of the REPCET interest in terms of monitoring. Coordinated by ISPRA
- Whale-watching and boating : knowledge and management measure. Coordinated by Souffleurs d'Ecume

Preliminary file to be submitted to the IMO for the designation of the PELAGOS Sanctuary as a PSSA

### MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

#### Board :

**President :** Ody Denis, WWF-France

**Vice-president :** David Léa, EOI

**Secretary :** Mayol Pascal, Souffleurs d'Ecume

**Treasurer :** Eynaudi Amandine , AAMP

**Executive secretary :** Labach Hélène, GECEM

#### Members :

Capoulade Frédéric, Souffleurs d'Ecume

Cotté Cédric, LOCEAN – IPSL, CEBC

Delacourtie Fabienne

Di-Méglio Nathalie, EOI

Dhermain Frank, GECEM

Dupraz Franck, GECEM

Glotin Hervé, LSIS

Gambaiani Delphine, Souffleurs d'Ecume

Gnone Guido, Acquario di Genova

Laran Sophie, CRM

Origné Laurent, CHRISAR

Tasciotti Aurélie, WWF-France

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### LIFE AND EVOLUTION

#### Evolution :

The GIS3M works to develop more collaborative and international projects, to gather more people willing to participate to the Mediterranean marine mammals study and management and will create collaborative tools to facilitate data exchanges.

#### Difficulties :

The main difficulty resides in gathering people belonging to different structures with different functioning and objectives. For example, conventions could be written in the same project for associations with voluntary workers, NGOs, universities, foreign partners, small private structures, etc.

### CONCLUSION

The GIS3M, born from the PELAGOS Sanctuary need, with and thanks to the willingness of scientists, represents an innovative idea and a concept in constant development. Four years conducted to a better visibility of cetology in the Mediterranean Sea, an increase of data exchanges, the creation of a pool of experts, and an easier dialog with funders and administrators.