

## **Appendix X**

### **Recommendations for further implementation of the ACTION PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

**as adopted by the Contracting Parties (Malta, 27-30 October 1999)**

1. To elaborate guidelines for improving national legislation and where necessary, making them conform to the provisions of the relevant international Agreements in the field of cetacean conservation.
2. To invite the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to ratify, if they have not done so, the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area.
3. Noting that the government of France, Italy and Monaco have relaunched the procedure for signing an agreement for the purpose of establishing a sanctuary in the Sardinia-Corsica-Liguria-Provence Basin, the Meeting recommends that the Contracting Parties undertake all necessary action to support the conclusion of the said international agreement as soon as possible.
4. The experts recommend that countries and organizations take into account and develop the work related to the effects of chemical pollution on health and reproductive cycles of marine mammals and of the species on which they feed.
5. To define and implement co-ordinated survey programmes aiming at identifying the status and distribution of cetaceans in the Mediterranean. This work should include organization of a workshop on the most appropriate methodologies to be applied in the common interest, taking into account the need for information about the eastern and southern part of the basin.
6. To promote the establishment of national plans and networks for the study of cetacean strandings, using standardized methods for the collection of data. It is necessary to collect data validated by the Parties on cetacean strandings in the Mediterranean in a common file including basic data on the reported strandings. The keeping of this common file shall be entrusted to a body belonging to one of Mediterranean intergovernmental organizations. The file must be continuously updated.
7. Co-ordination at the Mediterranean level in the field of study of cetacean strandings should be established on the basis of existing national networks and, where they are absent, on the institutions and researchers carrying out monitoring of cetacean strandings. Bilateral Cooperation should be encouraged in order to facilitate the exchange of experience between countries having experience in the study of cetacean strandings and those countries willing to develop this activity.
8. To entrust the Secretariat with the elaboration of a feasibility study (including a financial evaluation) on a Mediterranean network for the study of cetacean strandings. This

feasibility study will be submitted to the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

9. To organize a Mediterranean workshop on methods and techniques related to the monitoring and study of cetacean strandings.
10. Interactions between fisheries and cetaceans should be investigated by designing and implementing appropriate research and awareness initiatives. The experts invite the countries, not members of the European Union, to consider the banning of driftnet use.
11. To elaborate a code of conduct for whale-watching in the Mediterranean, to be included in the conditions to be respected by every boat that practises whale-watching for either commercial or non-commercial ends; and to investigate the possibilities of the integration of the code of conduct in the national legislation.
12. The use of powerful noise sources - such as low-frequency active sonar - should be avoided in those areas known to be highly frequented by cetaceans.
13. Elaborate a Directory of organizations (NGOs, laboratories, etc.) active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean.
14. To develop, in co-ordination with the relevant intergovernmental organizations and interested NGOs, informative and educational tools on Mediterranean cetaceans, to be used in all the Mediterranean countries to support awareness and public participation.