

**RESOLUTION 8.12**  
**IUCN RED LIST STATUS OF CETACEAN SPECIES IN ACCOBAMS AREA**

*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Acting upon recommendation 14.2 of the Scientific Committee,*

*Recalling* Resolution 2.22 on strengthening relations with IUCN, Resolution 3.19 on the IUCN Red List of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and Resolution 6.15 on the assessment of IUCN conservation status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area,

*Bearing in mind* that the IUCN Red List provides a simple way of classifying the status of taxa at species or lower taxonomic levels such as subspecies, variety or subpopulation into one of eight categories: Data Deficient, Least Concern, Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild, and Extinct,

*Aware* that all cetaceans regularly present in the Mediterranean and Black Seas have now been assessed or re-assessed and that the Scientific Committee has completed the work assigned to it in Resolution 6.15 (Assessment of IUCN Conservation Status in the ACCOBAMS Area), being greatly supported in this ambitious task by the data collected under the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, as well as by other data collected since the previous assessments,

*Deeply concerned* about the critical consequences of the armed aggression and military activities in the Black and Azov Seas within the ranges of species listed in the Red List,

*Taking into account* proposals to develop a Black Sea cetacean conservation plan, in the form of separate conservation plans for each of the three species,

*Expressing* its gratitude for the work carried out by the Scientific Committee, the experts, the assessors and IUCN for the 2018-2021 assessments,

*Recalling* that numerous conservation measures have been developed by the Scientific Committee and have been endorsed and adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in different Resolutions towards a favourable conservation status of cetacean species within the Agreement Area,

*Taking into consideration* Decision IG.25/13 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention, in particular its Annex 1 on the Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea,

*Noting* with satisfaction that the status of two species in the Mediterranean Sea (the striped and common bottlenose dolphins) has improved from Vulnerable to Least Concern,

*Noting* that the status of the three Black Sea species<sup>28</sup> have remained the same (Vulnerable for the Black Sea common dolphin and Endangered for the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin and the Black Sea harbour porpoise), as has the status

---

<sup>28</sup> These classifications are provisional as the assessments are under review by IUCN and the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group.

of Mediterranean sperm whales (Endangered) and Mediterranean common dolphins (Endangered), although for the latter the Alborán Sea is now excluded and the subpopulation is called the Inner Mediterranean subpopulation,

*Noting* with concern that the status of the Mediterranean fin whale has worsened from Vulnerable to Endangered,

*Acknowledging* that Mediterranean rough-toothed dolphins have been identified as a subpopulation and have been assessed as Near Threatened, that Mediterranean Cuvier's beaked whales have been assessed in 2018 as Vulnerable, while in 2006 they had been classified as Data Deficient, and that Risso's dolphins, previously assessed as Data Deficient in 2012, have now been assessed as Endangered,

*Appreciating* that Mediterranean long-finned pilot whales are now considered two subpopulations (Inner Mediterranean long-finned pilot whales are Endangered, whilst those in the Strait of Gibraltar are Critically Endangered) and that four subpopulations of other species have also been agreed and assessed (Gulf of Corinth common dolphins – Critically Endangered; Gulf of Ambracia bottlenose dolphins - Critically Endangered; Gulf of Corinth striped dolphins – Endangered (in review); Strait of Gibraltar killer whales – Critically Endangered),

*Noting* that four draft Conservation Management Plans are close to completion,

1. *Invites* Parties to take note of the IUCN Red List status of cetacean species following the 2018-2021 assessments as well as of the changes occurred since the previous assessments:

Species	Previous IUCN Red List status		IUCN Red List status following the 2018-2021 assessments	
Bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Vulnerable	Inner Mediterranean subpopulation	Least Concern
			Gulf of Ambracia subpopulation	Critically Endangered
Bottlenose Dolphin Black Sea subspecies <i>Tursiops truncatus ssp. ponticus</i>	Black Sea subspecies	Endangered	Black Sea subspecies	Endangered <sup>1</sup>
Common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered	Inner Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered
			Gulf of Corinth subpopulation	Critically Endangered
Common dolphin Black Sea subspecies <i>Delphinus delphis ssp. ponticus</i>	Black Sea subspecies	Vulnerable	Black Sea subspecies	Vulnerable <sup>1</sup>
Cuvier's beaked whale <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Data Deficient	Mediterranean subpopulation	Vulnerable
Fin whale <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	Vulnerable	Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered
Harbour porpoise Black Sea subspecies <i>Phocoena phocoena ssp. relicta</i>	Black Sea subspecies	Endangered	Black Sea subspecies	Endangered <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> These classifications are provisional as the assessments are under review by IUCN and the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group.

Species	Previous IUCN Red List status		IUCN Red List status following the 2018-2021 assessments	
	Killer whale <i>Orcinus orca</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Not Evaluated</b>	Strait of Gibraltar subpopulation
Long-finned pilot whale <i>Globicephala melas</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Data Deficient</b>	Inner Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Endangered</b>
			Strait of Gibraltar subpopulation	<b>Critically Endangered</b>
Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Data Deficient</b>	Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Endangered</b>
Sperm whale <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Endangered</b>	Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Endangered</b>
Striped dolphin <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Vulnerable</b>	Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Least Concern</b>
			Gulf of Corinth subpopulation	<b>Endangered</b>
Rough-toothed dolphin <i>Steno bredanensis</i>	Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Not Evaluated</b>	Mediterranean subpopulation	<b>Near Threatened</b>

2. *Urges* Parties to implement measures to address the threats posed to the populations assessed according to the list above, with particular regard to Critically Endangered and Endangered populations, and to update their national Red Lists;
3. *Recommends* that the draft Conservation Management Plan for common dolphins pays special attention to the Gulf of Corinth common dolphins that have been newly assessed as “Critically Endangered”;
4. *Strongly urges* Parties and *asks* non-Parties to pay particular attention to those “sub-populations” that have been assessed as Critically Endangered or Endangered or Vulnerable and to take appropriate conservation actions, including in case of species for which Conservation Management Plans have not yet been developed;
5. *Calls on* Parties to take into account the military and anthropogenic impacts of military operations during the implementation of Conservation Management Plan in the Black Sea;
6. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolutions 3.19 and 6.15.