

SPAIN. PROGRESS REPORT ON CETACEAN RESEARCH, APRIL 2002 TO APRIL 2003, WITH STATISTICAL DATA FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2002

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This report summarises information obtained from: Centre for the Recuperation of Endangered Marine Species of Andalucía (CREMA). GRAMPUS/SECEM. Ministry of the Environment (ME). Spanish Institute of Oceanography, of the Ministry of Science and Technology (IEO).

1. Species and stocks studied

Common name	Scientific name	Area/stock(s)	Items referred to
Common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	NE Atlantic/Mediterranean	2.1, 4.3, 7.1
Striped dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	NE Atlantic/Mediterranean	4.3, 7.2
White sided dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	NW Atlantic	4.2, 7.3
Bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	NE Atlantic/Mediterranean	4.3, 7.1
Risso's dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Mediterranean	7.2
Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	NE Atlantic	4.3, 7.2
Unidentified dolphins		NE Atlantic/Mediterranean	4.3
Killer whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	NE Atlantic	4.3
Minke whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	NE Atlantic/Mediterranean	4.3, 6.2
Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	NE Atlantic	2.1
Fin whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	NE Atlantic	4.3
Long finned pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Mediterranean	4.3, 7.1
Cuvier's beaked whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Mediterranean	7.1
Sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Mediterranean	4.3, 6.2

2. Sightings data

2.1 Field work

2.1.1 SYSTEMATIC

2.1.2 OPPORTUNISTIC, PLATFORMS OF OPPORTUNITY

After the "Prestige" oil spill accident (13/11/2002) opportunistic sightings were conducted during multipurposes oceanographic surveys along the Galician continental shelf (NW Spain). Between 7 and 22 December 2002, a 12 days journey was completed. The searching effort covered a total of 644 nautical miles. Eleven sightings of cetaceans were made. The only species identified was the common dolphin (7 observations). The animals sighted were showing a normal behaviour and no dead or oiled specimens were found (Lens, 2003) (IEO).

A solitary humpback whale was observed during February and March 2003, for at least 40 days, wondering around in several Galician rías. The whale was sighted and photographed on many occasions, showing the typical behaviour of the species. At dawn was normally seen in the vicinity of docks, where abundant biomass of grey mullets exist. This is the first recorded coastal sighting of a humpback whale in the Atlantic Spanish peninsular coast (IEO).

Opportunistic cetacean observations were carried out during transects for red tides monitoring in the Galician rías (IEO).

3. Marking data

None

4. Tissue/biological samples collected

4.1 Biopsy samples

None

4.2 Samples from directed catches or bycatches

Species	Area/stock	2002	Archived (Y/N)	Tissue type(s)*	Contact person/institute
White sided dolphin	NW Atlantic	1	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle	Lens (IEO)

4.3 Samples from stranded animals

Species	Area/stock	Year 2002	Archived (Y/N)	Tissue type(s)*	Contact person/institute
Common dolphin	NE Atlantic	5	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle, teeth	Grampus/ Lens (IEO)
Common dolphin	Mediterran.	?	Y	All tissues	Mons (CREMA)
Striped dolphin	NE Atlantic	4	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle	Grampus
Striped dolphin	Mediterran.	?	Y	All tissues	Mons (CREMA)
Bottlenose dolphin	NE Atlantic	5	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle	Grampus
Bottlenose dolphin	Mediterran.	?	Y	All tissues	Mons (CREMA)
Harbour porpoise	NE Atlantic	2	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle	Grampus
Killer whale	NE Atlantic	1	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle	Lens (IEO)
Fin whale	NE Atlantic	1	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle	Grampus
Minke whale	NE Atlantic	2	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle	Grampus
Minke whale	Mediterran.	1	Y	All tissues	Mons (CREMA)
Unidentified dolphins	NE Atlantic	3	Y	Skin, blubber, muscle	Grampus
Long finned pilot whale	Mediterran.	?	Y	All tissues	Mons (CREMA)
Sperm whale	Mediterran.	1	Y	All tissues	Mons (CREMA)
Unidentified dolphin	Mediterran.	?	Y	All tissues	Mons (CREMA)

6. Statistics for large cetaceans

6.1 Direct catches (commercial, aboriginal and scientific permits) for the calendar year 2002

None

6.2 Other non-natural mortality for the calendar year 2002

Species	Area/stock	Males	Females	Total	Cause	Methodology
Minke whale	Mediterranean			2	Fishing interaction	
Sperm whale	Mediterranean			3	Ship strike	

7. Statistics for small cetaceans

7.1 For the calendar year 2002

Species	Area/stock	Directed catch		Incidental mortality			Live-capture
		Reported	Est. total	Reported	Est. total	Source*	Reported
White sided dolphin	NW Atlantic			2		Bottom trawl	
Common dolphin	Mediterranean			6		Fishing interaction Ship strike	
Striped dolphin	Mediterranean			12		Fishing interact.	
Long finned pilot whale	Mediterranean			4		Fishing interact.	
Bottlenose dolphin	Mediterranean			1		Fishing interact.	
Cuvier's beaked whale	Mediterranean			1		Fishing interact.	
Unidentified dolphin	Mediterranean			1		Fishing interact.	

7.2 Earlier years' statistics

Revised statistics for the calendar year 2000.

Species	Area/stock	Directed catch		Incidental mortality			Live-capture
		Reported	Est. total	Reported	Est. total	Source*	Reported
Cuvier's beaked whale	Canary Is			1		Ship strike	
Probable pilot whale	Canary Is			2		Ship strike	
Common dolphin	NE Atlantic			3		Trawl/Gillnet/ Net	
Peale's dolphin	SW Atlantic			1		Trawl	
Striped dolphin	Mediterranean			1		Longline	
Risso's dolphin	Mediterranean			1		Longline	
Atlantic spotted dolphin	Central N Atlantic			1		Longline	
Harbour porpoise	NE Atlantic			2		Net	
Unidentified dolphin	NE Atlantic			12		Pair trawl	

8. Strandings

Different organizations and institutions collect information on strandings along the Spanish coasts. In the Mediterranean: Marine Animals Recuperation Centre of Catalunya (CRAM), University of Valencia (UV) and Centre for the Recuperation of Endangered Marine Species of Andalucía (CREMA). In the Atlantic: GRAMPUS, CEMMA, SGHN, UO, MMC, IEO.

9. Other studies and analyses

A project oriented to the conservation of the bottlenose dolphin was finished in July 2002. The populations of this species were studied as well as the interactions with the fisheries resources. The main lines of the project were the improvement of the sensitiveness of the fishing sector, development of systems to diminish competence between fishers and dolphins, determine population structure and rate of mixing between subpopulations and elaborate guidelines for a possible Conservation or Recuperation Plan (ME).

Up until now 46 “Sites of Community Importance” to protect the bottlenose populations in areas of Galicia, Ceuta, Murcia, Valencia, Cataluña and the Balearic Islands have been proposed to the European Commission to be part of Natura 2000. Another 5 “Sites of Community Importance” to protect the populations of harbour porpoises in Ceuta and Galicia have also been proposed (ME).

Incidental catches of cetaceans were monitored in different long distance Spanish fishing fleets. Observer’s schemes were in operation in the trawl fisheries in the SW Atlantic, NAFO and Svalbard areas (355, 1094, 403 hauls observed respectively) as well as in Hatton Bank (483 hauls) and Reikjanes Ridge (117 hauls). The longline fishery for swordfish was also monitored in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans (163, 87 and 99 sets respectively). Observers collected information on incidental catches and sightings of cetaceans in experimental longline fishing surveys carried out in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. (IEO).

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