

A collaborative approach to reducing collisions between ships and large cetaceans within the Pelagos Sanctuary

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1. Souffleurs d'Écume (www.souffleursdecume.com), 2. Chrisar Software Technology (www.chrisar.fr), 3. Pelagos Sanctuary (www.sanctuaire-pelagos.org), 4. Fondation Nicolas Hulot (www.nh.org), 5. Pôle Mer Méditerranée (www.polemermediterranee.com), 6. ACCOBAMS (www.accobams.org), 7. GIS3M, 8. Armateurs de France (www.armateursdefrance.com), 9. La Méditerranée (www.lamediterranee.fr), 10. MedPAN (www.medpan.org), 11. Member of the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council, 12. CIRCE (www.circe.info), 13. French Expert for IUCN.

✓ Mediterranean ship strikes issue



- Intense maritime traffic in Mediterranean Sea, particularly in the Pelagos Sanctuary¹.
- High risks of ship strikes for Mediterranean isolated populations of fin whales and sperm whales
- For 1 to 2 known cases per year, 8.4 to 40 Mediterranean's fin whales would be actually killed due to these kinds of accidents².

✓ Pelagos Sanctuary: a pilot area to test mitigation measures

→ Local "Collisions Network"

For a better understanding of the issue, a regional "Collision Network" involving ship owners and ports authorities has been implemented for transmitting strikes events to the Pelagos scientific community.

→ Annual training of watch-keeping personnel

Each year since 2005, around 100 officers, seamen, and cadets of the French Merchant Navy (Marseilles) are educated to mitigate ship strikes.

→ REPCET: a collaborative tool to protect whales

REPCET³ is an onboard computer system which allows seafarers to inform each other of the latest whereabouts of cetaceans spotted on their route via satellite communication. Indeed, it is possible to increase the whales' detectability with broadcasting to the crew the potential risks areas.



1. SPAMI of 87,500 sq km, covering a part of open seas, in which France, Italy and Monaco collaborate together for conciliating humans activities development with marine mammals and their related habitats protection, according to an agreement entered into force in 2002.
2. Panigada S., Pesante G., Zanardelli M., Capoulade F., Gannier A. Weinrich M.T. (2006) – Mediterranean fin whales at risk from fatal ship strikes. *MPA 52*: 1287-1298
3. Real-time Plotting of CETaceans (www.repcet.com). Approved by the Pôle Mer Méditerranée.

