

# Biological Diversity Conservation activities in the Black Sea



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# The Legal Framework










- Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention, 1992)
- The first regional environmental agreement signed by all Black Sea coastal countries (i.e. Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine)

# Black Sea Commission (BSC)



- BSC is the regional governing body of the Bucharest Convention

The Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution						
Permanent Secretariat						
Advisory Groups						
AG ESAS	AG PMA	AG LBS	AG ICZM	AG CBD	AG FOMLR	AG IDE
Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AG ESAS)	Pollution Monitoring and Assessment	Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources	Development of the Common Methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Conservation of Biological Diversity	Environmental Aspects of Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources Management	Information and Data Exchange
Regional Activity Centers						
Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AC ESAS), <u>Varna</u> , Bulgaria	Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (AC PMA), <u>Odessa</u> , Ukraine	Control of Pollution from Land Based Sources (AC LBS), <u>Istanbul</u> , Turkey	Development of Common Methodologies for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (AG ICZM), <u>Krasnodar</u> , Russian Federation	Conservation of Biological Diversity (AC CBD), <u>Batumi</u> , Georgia	Environmental Aspects of Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources Management (AG FOMLR), <u>Constanta</u> , Romania	Information and Data Exchange (AC IDE), <u>Istanbul</u> , Turkey
						
National Focal Points						
Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua	Ua, Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr	Tr, Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Ua	Ru, Bg, Ge, Ro, Tr, Ua	Ge, Bg, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua	Ro, Bg, Ge, Ru, Tr, Ua	Bg, Ge, Ro, Ru, Tr, Ua

Last week was the annual meeting of CBD AG in Istanbul.

# First Protocols to the convention



## **Pollution related**

- **Land based sources**
- **Cooperation in emergency situations**
- **Dumping**

***1996: Strategic Action Plan for the  
Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black  
Sea***

# Biodiversity Protocol

**The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution was signed in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2002 only by Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.**

**It has 3 Annexes:**

- ✓ **Protected Areas,**
- ✓ **List of Species of the Black Sea Importance**
- ✓ **Conservation of Species and Management of Their Habitats**



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# Biodiversity Protocol



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**Georgia signed “The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol” this year during the Ministerial Meeting again in Sofia, Bulgaria (April 2009).**

**4th Annex is agreed by CBD AG:**





# List of Species Whose Exploitation Should be Regulated by the Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (Annex 4)

Taxonomic groups	AG CBD
Crustacea	5
Insecta	1
Pisces	29
Aves	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>

**Mollusca:** *Mytilus galloprovincialis*,  
*Rapana venosa*

# BS Red Data Book species

Taxonomic groups	BS	TDA <sup>2007</sup>	AG CBD <sup>2005</sup>	AG CBD <sup>2008</sup>
Algae	RDB <sup>1999</sup> 6	9	5	5
Vascular plants	36	35	36	4
Porifera	1	1		
Hydrozoa	1	1	1	
Mollusca	5	29		8
Polychaeta	1	1		5
Hirudinea		3		
Crustacea	29	28	17	13
Halacarida	1			
Insecta	4	3	6	
Echinodermata	1			1
Acrania	1			
Pisces	41	60	22	29
Amphibia		1		
Reptilia		1		
Aves	25	78	23	22
Mammalia	6	9	4	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>91</b>

Hirudinea

Amphibia

Reptilia

*Teredo navalis*



# Last finding new exotic species in the Black Sea

2009 – сем. Sagartidae

Анто О.А. Косарова



2009 - *Saduria* (=Mesidotea) *entomon*



2006 - *Alexandrium* *ostenfeldii*



2006 - *Tridentiger* *trigonocephalus*



2005 - *Penaeus* *semisulcatus*



2006 - *Syngnathus* *acus*



## Comparative characteristic of the BS exotic species list

Mnemiopsis  
database

Group of hydrobionts	AG CBD (April, 2004)	TDA (May, 2007)	Update (July, 2009)
Marine fungi	2	0	12
Phytoplankton	31	38	51
Microphytobenthos	0	6	7
Macroalgae	1	11	25
Vascular plants	2	<b>27</b>	5
Zooplankton	3	33	37
Zoobenthos	34	63	73
Parasites	0	0	4
Fishes	6	<b>33</b>	25
Marine birds	0	0	2
Marine mammals	1	6	3
<b>TOTALY</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>244</b>

**Vascular plants** – **180 exotic species** in Ukrainian part of the DD (Dubyna&Zhud, 2003)

**Fishes** - 48 exotic species totally in Ukraine; **34 freshwater species** (Aleksandrov et al., 2007)



# SAP 2009 (Signed also during the Ministerial Meeting in April 2009)



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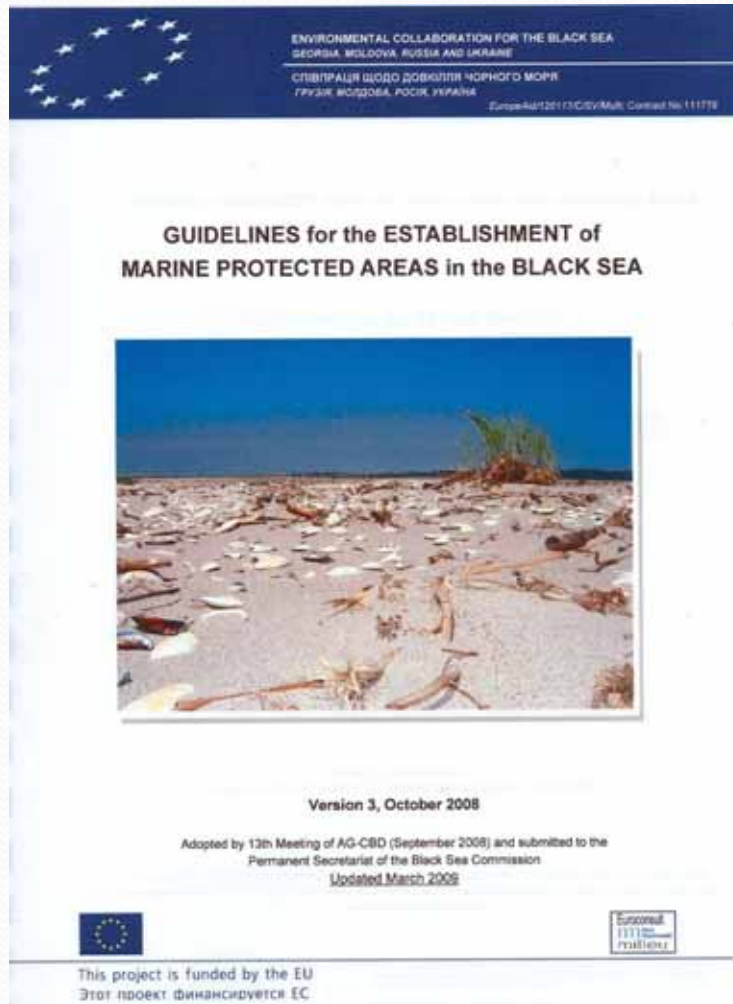
- Adopt and implement a Regional Agreement for **fisheries** and conservation of living resources of the Black Sea.
- Develop and introduce **methodologies** to assess the condition of populations of commercial marine living resources.
- Finalise, adopt and implement the regional **SAP for Black Sea Biodiversity** and undertake 5 yearly regional update of the list of conservation status of threatened coastal and marine species as well as list of critical habitats for these species.
- All six BS countries adopt and implement a regional **Conservation Plan** for Black Sea endangered species and develop national action plans.
- Assess impacts of **climate change** on Black Sea ecosystem and sustainable development of the coastal population
- Consider the necessity of creation of new and/or expansion of existing **protected areas**, including transboundary areas in consultation with the relevant Black Sea countries with particular attention to marine protected areas. Establish or extend these areas where necessary.



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Facilitate the designation of MPAs in  
the region, pursue development of  
related projects

# EU Project “Environmental collaboration for the BS: Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine”



The Draft **Guiding Principles for the Establishment of Marine Protected Areas in the Black Sea** were developed through a stakeholder consultation process (approved by the CBD AG on **5 September, 2008**).

**Ukraine** – (**Conservation of biodiversity**) - Pilot projects on the establishment of the first marine protected area in the Black Sea (Small Phyllophora Field) in Karkinitsky Bay.





ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATION FOR THE BLACK SEA  
GEORGIA. MOLDOVA. RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

СПІВПРАЦЯ ЩОДО ДОВКІЛЛЯ ЧОРНОГО МОРЯ  
ГРУЗІЯ, МОЛДОВА, РОСІЯ, УКРАЇНА

EuropeAid/120117/C/SV/Multi; Contract No.111779

## The Small Phyllophora Field in Karkinitsky Bay, Black Sea, Ukraine

### Background Information for the Establishment of a Marine Protected Area



English version, January 2009



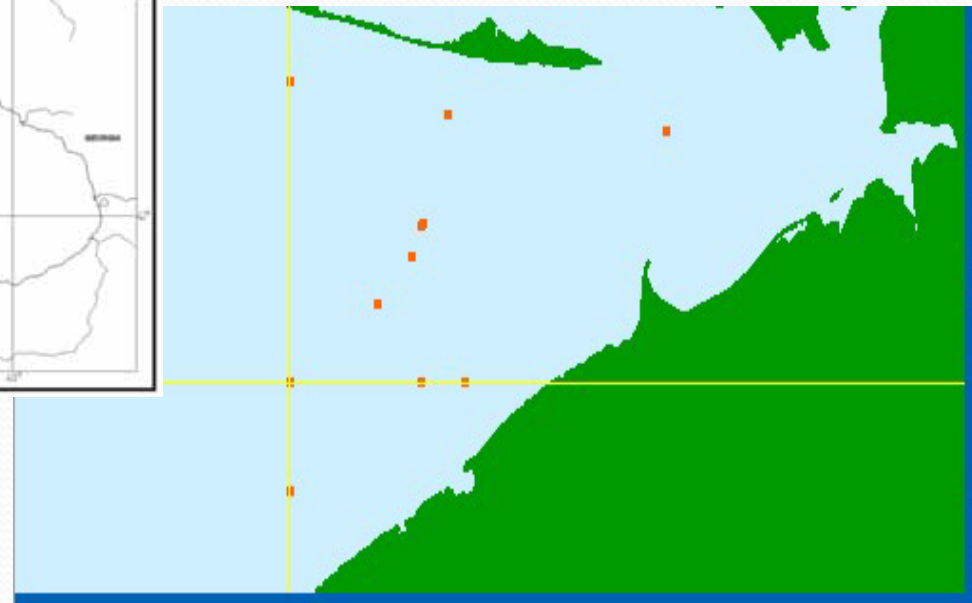
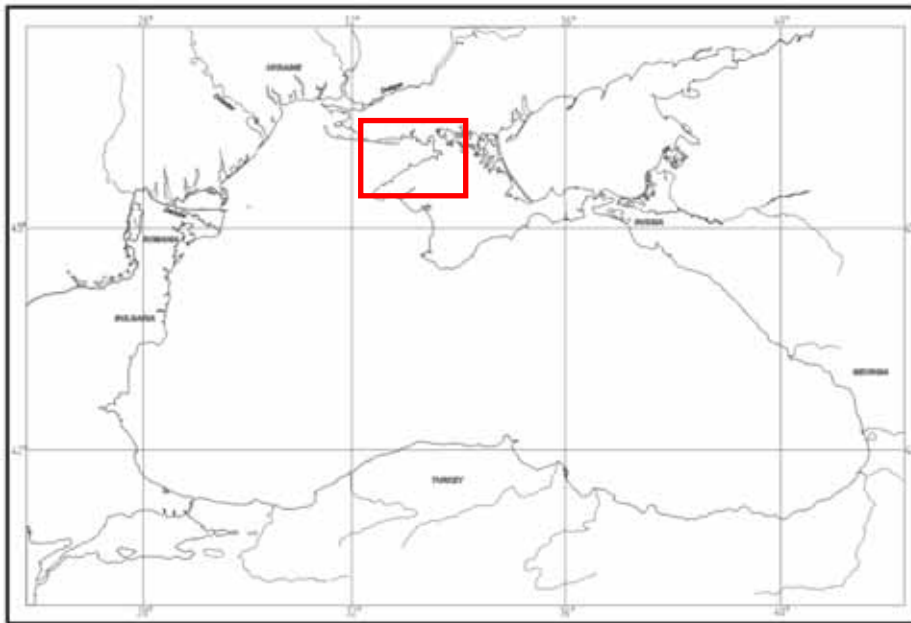
This project is funded by the EU  
Этот проект финансируется ЕС



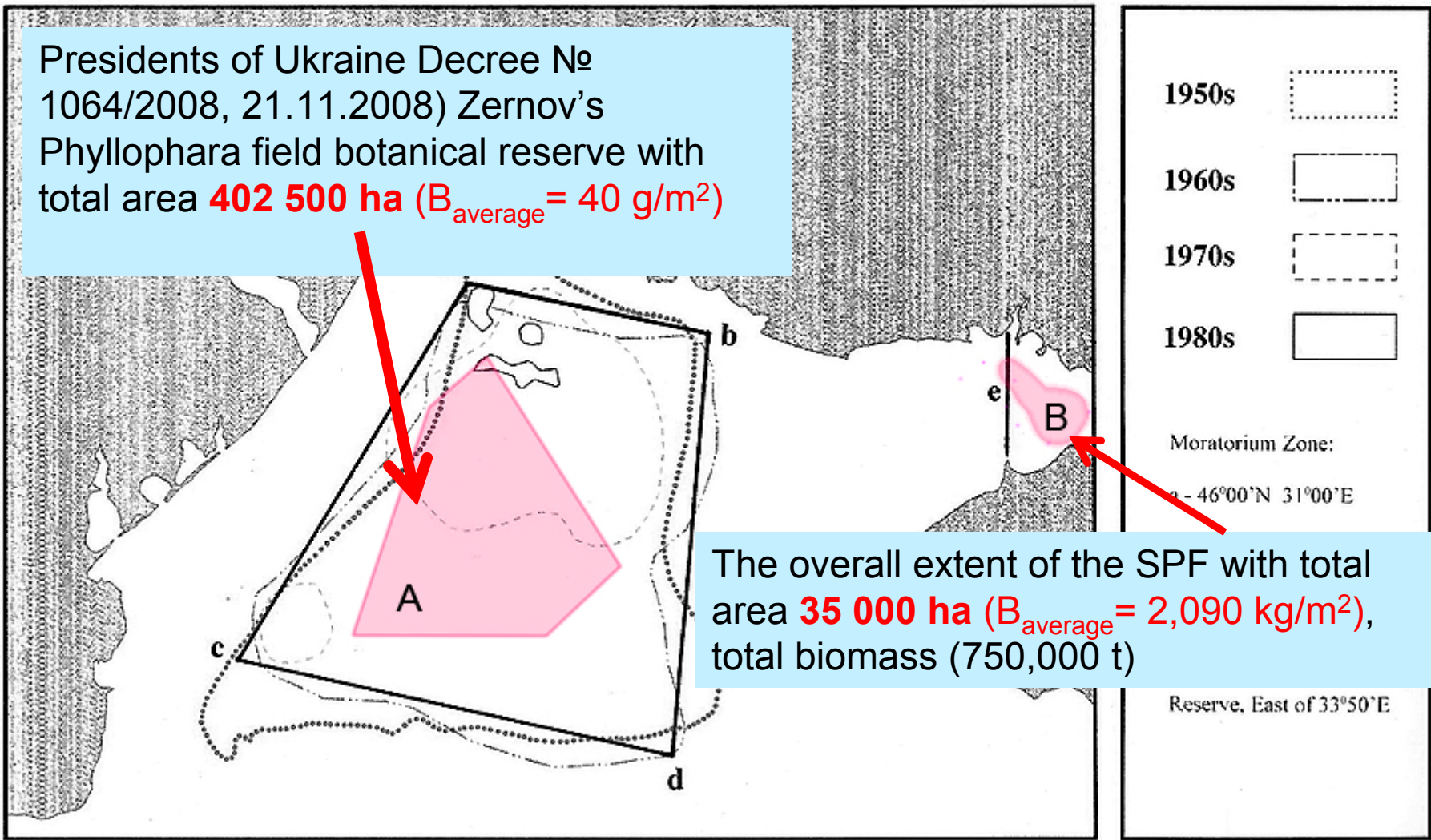
English and Russian versions of Report have been prepared on **38** pages, Illustrated by **13** figures and **13** tables, bibliography – **45** sources.

# Small Phyllophora Field

- **300-400 km<sup>2</sup>** area in the shallow water (corner) part of Karkinitzky Bay of the Black Sea is located to the east of Bakalsky Spit and Bakalsky banks. This area has been included in the wetlands of international significance

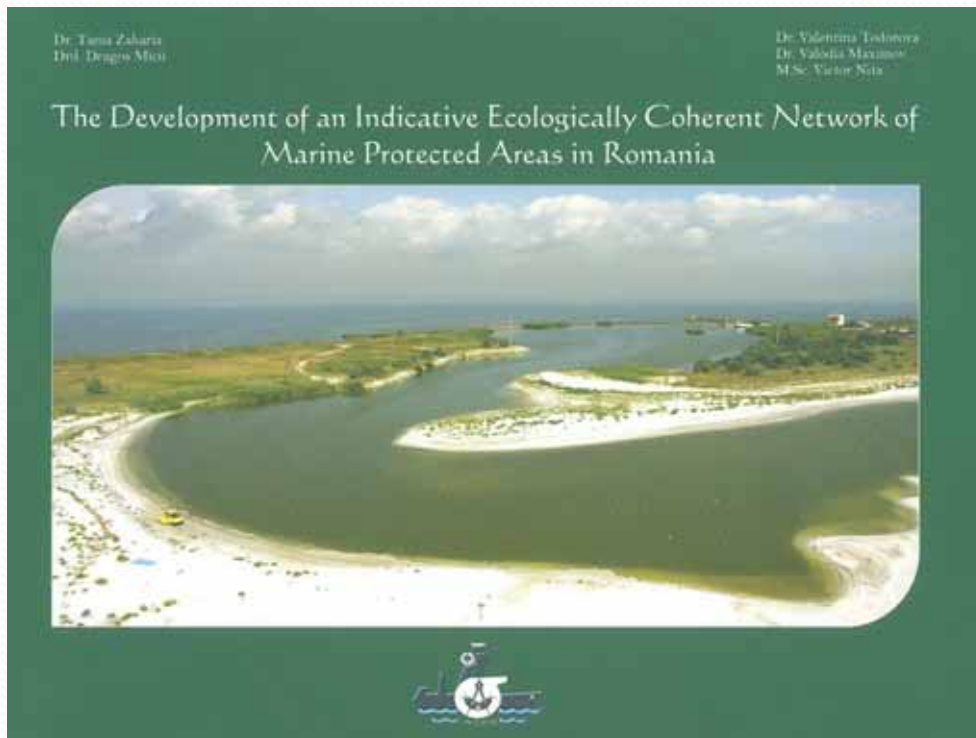


Progressive reduction of the Zernov's "Phyllophora field" on the NWS and proposed protection areas



Section B.3.1 - Fig 1. Catastrophic loss of the "Zernov" phyllophora field in the NW Black Sea. Phyllophora represented a keystone species for the entire NW shelf ecosystem (see text for details). The proposed protection areas are those referred to in Table:3.2.1. Source: BSEP Biodiversity Technical Series Publication.





The Romanian MPA network consists of 6 sites and has A total area of **116286 ha** (3,88% of the Romanian shelf)

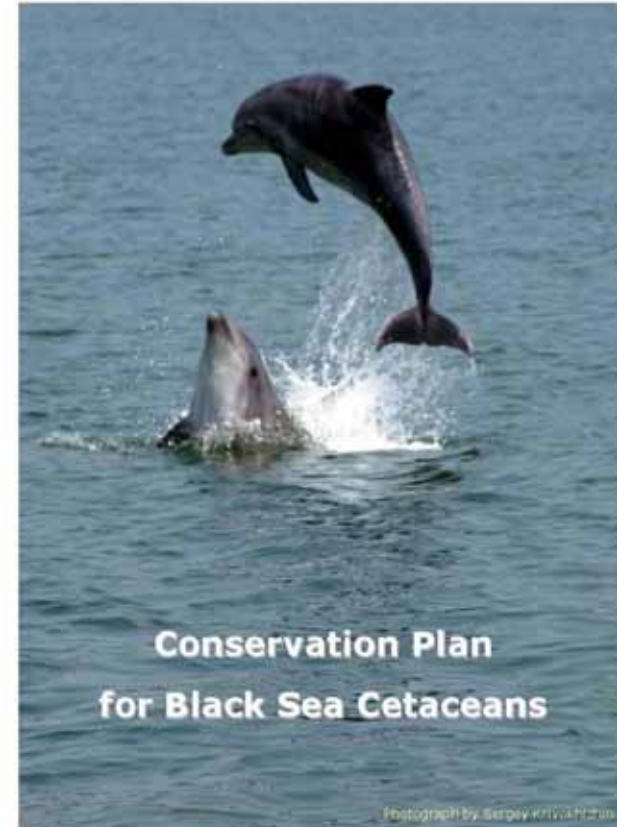


14 sites include marine area was proposed with total surface of **61100 ha** (9,4% Bulgarian waters)

## CPBSC

- prepared under the auspices of the ACCOBAMS and BSC Secretariats by international group of experts (2005)
- considered and supported by the Round Table on Conservation of Black Sea Cetaceans (May 2006)
- commended by the ACCOBAMS SC4 and the 15th Meeting of the Black Sea Commission (November 2006)
- adopted by the ACCOBAMS MoP3 (Res. 3.11, October 2007)
- partly incorporated into the Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (adopted in April 2009)

Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans  
of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area  
(ACCOBAMS)  
*and*  
the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution  
(the Black Sea Commission)



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Gheorghe Radu and Marie-Christine van Klaveren

November 2006



# CPBSC consists of 18 actions

Actions		Aims
1	Broadening the ACCOBAMS scope	Achieve that all six Black Sea riparian states are the Contracting Parties to ACCOBAMS; disseminate the ACCOBAMS process in the countries which have indirect outlet to the Black Sea through the rivers and exert their influence on the Black Sea environment and biota (including cetaceans) by means of fluvial discharges and marine-riverine traffic.
2	Proper conservation status of cetacean populations	Ensure that Black Sea cetacean species – the harbour porpoise, the short-beaked common dolphin and the common bottlenose dolphin – are properly classified in the international documents aimed to protect the Black Sea environment, ecosystems, living resources and biodiversity.
3	Cetacean conservation approach in fishery regulations	Ensure that Black Sea intergovernmental agreements and national regulations, purposed to manage Black Sea living resources and their exploitation, include items concerned in the conservation of cetaceans
4	Improvement and harmonization of national legislation	Ensure that in the Black Sea states their laws intended to regulate conservation activities, sustainable use and management of marine environment and resources are brought in accordance with international legislation standards related to cetacean conservation.
5	Retrospective analysis of human-induced cetacean mortality	Investigate the feasibility of obtaining meaningful estimates of human-induced cetacean mortality over the 20th century with the view of historical reconstruction of the 'initial' population sizes and, thereby, more clear evaluation of present status and trends of Black Sea cetacean populations.
6	Strategy for reducing cetacean bycatches	Develop a system of concordant measures able to decrease cetacean mortality in fishing gear at least to sustainable levels, with ultimate long-term goal of reducing it to zero if possible.
7	Mitigation of conflicts between cetaceans and fishery	Address the problem of adverse cetacean/fisheries interactions (other than bycatches) and develop measures for this problem solution.
8	Elimination of live capture of Black Sea cetaceans	Restrain intentional removal of live cetaceans from the wild.
9	Mitigation of disturbance caused by shipping	Address the problem of adverse impact of heavy marine traffic on Black Sea cetacean populations and develop appropriate conservation/management measures.
10	Management of threats from gas-and-oil producing industry	Address the problem of potential threats to cetaceans from gas and oil industry operating at sea, and develop pertinent management measures.
11	Network of existing protected areas eligible for cetaceans	Develop regional network of already operating protected areas containing cetacean habitats within their boundaries, taking into account the ACCOBAMS 2010 targets and the ACCOBAMS Criteria for Protected Areas of Importance for Cetacean Conservation.

Actions		Aims
12	Special marine protected areas for cetacean conservation	Set up particular cetacean protection modes in well- defined key areas containing cetacean habitats which are vitally important, first of all, for harbour porpoises and bottlenose dolphins, taking into account the ACCOBAMS 2010 targets and the ACCOBAMS Criteria for Protected Areas of Importance for Cetacean Conservation.
13	Basic cetacean surveys	Obtain and periodically refresh reliable basin-wide information on cetacean abundance and distribution.
14	<b>Cetacean photo-identification programme</b>	Consolidation of cetacean photo-identification studies in order to provide information on population structure, seasonal movements and ranging patterns of Black Sea cetaceans, mostly, bottlenose dolphins and common dolphins.
15	Regional cetacean stranding network	Basin-wide systematic study of cetacean strandings in order to monitor mortality levels in cetacean populations, and to provide samples for research of cetacean genetics, life history, ecology, pathology, parasitology, ecotoxicology, <i>etc.</i>
16	Strategies for capacity building and raising awareness	Develop long-term capacity building and public awareness strategies in order to provide explicit improvement of cetacean research, conservation and management in the Black Sea region on basis of consolidated educational activities.
17	Access to information and cetacean libraries	Provide unimpeded access to the results of cetacean research and conservation activities implemented in the Black Sea region and beyond; accumulate, systematize, store and make available relevant published information by means of proper data carriers.
18	Measures for responding to emergency situations	Develop regional strategy, guidelines and operational network able to provide urgent and competent assistance to Black Sea cetaceans involved in emergencies.

**All 18 actions proposed are important for the conservation of Black Sea cetaceans.**

**These actions consist of 57 smaller actions or sub-actions (activities) which were prioritized according their significance (primary and secondary) in the relation to each other.**

**Action 6. Strategy for reducing cetacean bycatches**  
**S/action A. Establishing regional bycatch network**



**3 projects were implemented in Ukraine and Turkey in 2008-2009 to address the bycatch problem**

**3 project proposals were prepared by research teams in Bulgaria, Georgia and Romania. These proposals are submitted to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for financial support**

NOT REALISED

**Action 13. Basic cetacean surveys**

**S/action A. Carrying out region-wide survey and assessment of cetacean abundance, distribution and hot spots**

**Action 11. Network of existing PAs eligible for cetaceans**

**S/action B. Developing regional network of eligible PAs**