



Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)



Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente, conclu sous l'égide de la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la Faune Sauvage (CMS)

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ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE DATA POLICY

*Delegates are kindly invited to bring their own documents to the Meeting.
This document will be available only in electronic format during the Meeting.*

ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE DATA POLICY

Note of the Secretariat:

This document was prepared within the framework of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative project. It is aimed at presenting the data use and sharing policy to be applied to the data collected during the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative in the Mediterranean Sea. This document was elaborated taking into consideration the conclusions of the "Preparatory study for an information management system for cetacean survey data in the ACCOBAMS Agreement area" (document ACCOBAMS-BU_EXT4/2019/Inf07) and further discussions within the ASI Project Steering Committee. It was presented to the Fourth Meeting of the Extended Bureau (Monaco, 18-19 April 2019) for review by the Bureau Members, before its circulation to the ACCOBAMS Focal Points and ASI Contact Group Members.

The integrated and coordinated monitoring scheme for cetaceans, that the ASI seeks to establish in the Agreement area, indispensably requires a system for data archiving and use. This would allow to host the data collected during the ASI - the ASI data is composed of the data sets from the aerial surveys and from the ship-based surveys- , as well as to support and administer their use, either that being for scientific publications purposes, national reports and/or for developing multilevel supportive documents for conservation management.

In this regard, a Preparatory study was conducted with the objective to identify the possibilities for developing a management system for cetacean survey data collected during the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative¹. After assessing the different scenarios proposed in the study, and in light of the available means at ACCOBAMS level, the ASI Steering Committee validated the scenario of a Basic framework with manual download to make data available to users (see 4.2.1 of the Study). The ACCOBAMS or NETCCOBAMS website would be suitable for this framework, with a page dedicated to the ASI project containing the data to be accessed through a conventional downloading service (i.e. click to download). Such a system does not require specific long-term management or maintenance and the need for funding would easily be covered by the current regular fund allocated to ACCOBAMS website.

On this basis, the ASI Steering Committee proposes the following data administration modalities:

- 1- The ASI full sets of data are available to all ACCOBAMS Parties. A description of the databases content (metadata) is presented in Annex 1.
- 2- ACCOBAMS being an Intergovernmental Agreement aimed at promoting conservation of cetaceans, it therefore appears appropriate and advisable that the data collected under the ASI be made available for the widest possible use for conservation related purposes.
- 3- The ASI data set will be prepared for being openly shared through a simplified format (Exchange Data): this will include sightings, taxon, number of individuals, date/time of sighting, location (geocoordinates, blocks, region), observer and metadata, along with the map of blocks and transects.
- 4- The Exchange Data will be downloadable from the ACCOBAMS Website, upon filling in of a short form to provide information on the intended use of the data, and agreement to respect the ACCOBAMS Terms of Use (Annex 2). The ASI Exchange Data will be made accessible at the time of the ASI special event to be held the 4th of November 2019, in Istanbul, before MoP7.

¹ Preparatory study for an information management system for cetacean survey data in the ACCOBAMS Agreement area, SINAY 2019

- 5- Meanwhile, (i.e. before the ASI special event of MoP7), all the requests to use the data received will be assessed on a case by case basis by the ASI steering Committee. (Collaboration will be developed by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat for data use, when relevant, in the context of the ASI.)
- 6- The raw data will be made available upon request to the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat after the ASI report on the distribution and abundance of cetaceans is finalized (November 2020). Request holders will be asked to complete a detailed data request form to identify the intended use of the data and expected outputs of the work. If the aim complies with the aims of the ASI Terms of Use (*i.e.* “datasets related to the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative may be used for any scientific and biodiversity conservation purposes”), the Permanent Secretariat will establish a Short Data Exchange Agreement.
- 7- It is intended that the ASI Exchange Data will be accessible through other platforms such as OBIS-SEAMAP² (in accordance with Resolution 6.13) and IMAP Monitoring Data information system of the Barcelona Convention. Details and conditions will be assessed when contacting the relevant Organizations managing the platforms.

² <http://seamap.env.duke.edu/>

ANNEX 1a - ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative Metadata Aerial Survey

Field Name / Nom du champ	Definition in English	Unit or value / Unité ou Valeur	Définition en Français
EFFORT INFORMATION / INFORMATION SUR L'EFFORT			
region	Region of the survey	MED	Code de la région
survey	Name of the survey	ASI	Nom de la campagne de suivi
subRegion	Subdivision of the area (not used for this survey): MED	MED	Code de la Sous-région
strate	Label of the strata block	1 (1c, 1d, 1e) -> 31	Identifiant de la strate/bloc
strateType	Type of strata (not used for this survey)	S	Catégorie de la strate/bloc (si utilisée par exemple : néréétique, océanique...)
transect	Transect label (strata number/Line number)	02/101	Numéro du transect
flight	Flight number incremented by team	1 --> 375	Numéro du vol
computer	Name of the computer allocated to a team for a period of time	A--> H	Identifiant de l'ordinateur
routeType	Only effort (LEG) is selected in this data set (LEG, TRANSIT, CB)	LEG / CB / TRANSIT	Type de trajet, LEG= effort; CB= circle back ou TRANSIT
effortGrp	Key index for a transect between beginning and end of the effort	ex :G1-10-A	Clef d'identification pour les points collectés sur le même transect
effort	Key index for a Leg with homogenous environmental condition	ex: L1-10-A	Clef d'identification pour les points collectés sur le même Leg
status	Status of the effort	BEGIN, ADD, END	Statut du point d'effort
date_	Date of the effort	dd/mm/yyyy	Date
hhmmss	HourMinutesSecond HHMMSS (all in UTC excepted flights 1 to 4 in UTC-1)	ex: 124237 (12h42:37)	HeureMinutesSecondes HHMMSS (UTC sauf flights 1 to 4 en UTC-1)
seaState	Sea state (Beaufort scale)	0/1/2/3/4/5	Etat de la mer (échelle Beaufort)
swell	Swell	0 / 1/ 2	Houle
turbidity	Water turbidity	0 / 1/ 2 /9	Turbidité
skyGlint	Silvery shine (present or not)	0 / 1	Réflexion des nuages à la surface de l'eau
glareFrom	Angle of the begining of the glare measured clockwise	0-360°	Eblouissement de ...
glareTo	Angle of the end of the glare measured clockwise	0-360°	Eblouissement jusqu'à
glareSever	glare severity	0 / 1/ 2 /3	Sévérité de l'éblouissement
glareUnder	glare affect the 200m strip both sides of the plane	0 / 1	Eblouissement sous l'avion
cloudCover	Cloud cover	0/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8	Couverture nuageuse
subjective	Observer subjective view givel all condition	E/G/M/P/L/X	Condition d'observation subjectives

left_	initial of the observer (see list Observers)	initial	Initiale de l'observateur (voir table Observers)
right_	initial of the observer (see list Observers)	initial	Initiale de l'observateur (voir table Observers)
center_	initial of the observer (see list Observers)	initial	Initiale de l'observateur (voir table Observers)
lat	latitude beginning of the leg	decimal degree	Latitude début du leg
lon	longitude beginning of the leg	decimal degree	Longitude fin du leg
altitude	approximative altitude of the plane (from GPS)		Altitude approx (par le GPS)
aircraft	Aircraft registration	XX-XXXX	Immatriculation de l'avion
comment	Comment		Commentaires
DATE_TIME	Date of the day	dd/mm/yyyy	Date

SIGHTINGS INFORMATION / INFORMATION D'OBSERVATION

region	Region of the survey	MED	Code de la région
survey	Name of the survey	ASI	Nom de campagne
subRegion	Subdivision of the area (not used for this survey): MED	MED	Code de la Sous-région
strateType	Type of strata (not used for this survey)	S	Catégorie de la strate (si utilisée par exemple : néréétique, océanique...)
strate	Label of the strata block	1 (1c, 1d, 1e) -> 31	Identifiant strate/bloc
transect	Transect label (strata number/Line number)	02/101	Numéro du transect
flight	Flight number incremented by team	1 --> 375	Numéro du vol
computer	Name of the computer allocated to a team for a period of time	A--> H	Identifiant de l'ordinateur
routeType	Only effort (LEG) is selected in this data set (LEG, TRANSIT, CB)	LEG / CB / TRANSIT	Type de trajet, LEG= effort; CB= circle back ou TRANSIT
effortGrp	Key index for a transect between beginning and end of the effort	ex :G1-10-A	Clef d'identification pour les points collectés sur le même transect
effort	Key index for a Leg with homogenous environmental condition	ex: L1-10-A	Clef d'identification pour les points collectés sur le même Leg
sighting	Key index for the sighting	S2-10-A	Index pour l'observation
date_	Date of the effort	dd/mm/yyyy	Date
hhmmss	HourMinutesSecond HHMMSS (UTC excepted UTC-1 for flights 1 to 4)	ex: 124237 (12h42:37)	HeureMinuteSeconde de l'observation
taxon	Taxa of the sighting	Other Marine Wildlife, Human activity, Marine mammal, Seabird, Landbird, Coastal bird	Grand groupe objets/taxons
group_	Group or genus of the sighting	Ref. table of specie/table des espèces	Groupe objets/espèces
family	Family of the sighting	Ref. table of specie/table des espèces	Famille objets et famille ou genre espèces
species	Species code	Ref. table of specie/table des espèces	Code espèce
speciesNam	Name of the category	Ref. table of specie/table des espèces	Nom français objet/espèce
speciesLat	Latin name (see table of species)		Nom latin de l'espèce

podSize	Group size of the sighting	ex: 2	Nombre d'individus observés
age	Adult, Immature, Juvenile only for Lariids and Boobies		Age (pour Laridés et Sulidés)
decAngle	Angle measurement (of the perpendicular distance)	0, 1, 2, 3	Mesure de l'angle d'inclinaison pour la distance perpendiculaire
cue	visual signal allowing to detect the animal	U,A, 2,3,5,6,7,8,9	Signal visuel ayant permis la détection
behaviour	Dominant behavior	SW, MI, BR, FE, FA, LO, SB, OT	Comportement dominant de l'observation
swimDir	Swimming direction	360, 90, 180, 270	Direction de nage
calves	Number of calves in the pod,		Nombre de jeunes dans le groupe
photo	photo taken yes or no	0, 1	Prise de photos oui ou non
observer	Initial of the observer	Ref Observers_Tab / table observateur	Initiales de l'observateur
side	Side of the sighting	RIGHT, LEFT	Coté de la détection
status	status of the sighting	NEW, CB	Statut de l'observation
lat	Latitude	decimal degree	Latitude
lon	Longitude	decimal degree	Longitude
speed	Speed from the GPS	km/h	Vitesse par le GPS
altitude	Altitude from the GPS	m	Altitude par le GPS
aircraft	Aircraft registration	XX-XXXX	Immatriculation de l'avion
comment	Comment	Texte	Commentaire
DATE_TIME	Date	dd/mm/yyyy	Date
PerpDist	Perpendicular distance of the sighting (from angle with 600 feet of altitude)	ex 200	Distance perpendiculaire (d'après l'angle et une altitude de 600 pieds)

ANNEX 1b - ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative Metadata Vessel Surveys

Field Name / Nom du champ	Definition in English	Unit or value / Unité ou Valeur	Définition en Français
EFFORT INFORMATION / INFORMATION SUR L'EFFORT			
key	Unique identifier for each segment of survey effort	0, 1, 2...	Identifiant pour chaque segment d'effort de suivi
region	Region of the survey	MED	Code de la région
survey	Name of the survey	ASI	Nom de la campagne de suivi
date	Date of survey effort	dd/mm/yyyy	Date
time	Time of survey effort (hour:minute:second) in UTC	hh:mm:ss	Temps (heure:minute:seconde) UTC
latitude	Latitude at beginning of the segment of survey effort	decimal degree	Latitude début du segment
longitude	Longitude at beginning of the segment of survey effort	decimal degree	Longitude fin du segment
stratum	Block number/label	1-31	Identifiant de la strate/bloc
effort	Status of survey effort for the segment of survey effort	e.g. P or TAV	Statut du point d'effort
transect_visual	Transect label (stratum/line number) when on visual effort	e.g. B01T01	Numéro du transect (strate/numéro transect) pendant effort visuel
transect_acoustic	Transect label (stratum/line number) when on acoustic effort	e.g. B01T01	Numéro du transect (strate/numéro transect) pendant effort acoustique
observers_platform	Number of observers on the elevated observation platform	0-2	Nombre d'observateurs sur la plateforme d'observation surélevée
observers_deck	Number of observers on deck	0-2	Nombre d'observateurs sur le pont
sea_state	Sea state (Beaufort scale)	0-6	Etat de la mer (échelle Beaufort)
wave_height	Wave height (m)	ex: 0.3	Hauteur de vague (m)
swell_height	Swell height (m)	ex: 1.2	Hauteur de houle (m)
cloud_cover	Cloud cover (subjective scale)	0-10	Couverture nuageuse (échelle subjective)
visibility	Visibility (subjective scale)	0-3	Visibilité (échelle subjective)
pressure	Barometric pressure (millibars)	1009-103	Pression (millibars)
glare_intensity	Glare intensity (subjective scale)	0 -2	Sévérité de l'éblouissement (échelle subjective)
glare_start	Angle of the start of any glare (° relative to boat)	0-360	Angle de début d'éblouissement (° par rapport au bateau)
glare_stop	Angle of the end of any glare (° relative to boat)	0-360	Angle de fin d'éblouissement (° par rapport au bateau)
sail_start	Angle of the start of any obstructive sails (° relative to boat)	0-360	Angle de début de présence obstructive de bateau (° par rapport au bateau)
sail_stop	Angle of the end of any obstructive sails (° relative to boat)	0-360	Angle de fin de présence obstructive de bateau e (° par rapport au bateau)
comment	Any notes regarding survey effort		Commentaires

SIGHTINGS INFORMATION / INFORMATION D'OBSERVATION

key	Unique identifier for each sighting	0, 1, 2...	Index pour l'observation
region	Region of the survey	MED	Code de la région
survey	Name of the survey	ASI	Nom de campagne
date	Date of sighting	dd/mm/yyyy	Date
time	Time of sighting (hour:minute:second) in UTC	hh:mm:ss	Temps (heure:minute:seconde) UTC
latitude	Latitude of sighting	decimal degree	Latitude
longitude	Longitude of sighting	decimal degree	Longitude
stratum	Block number/label	1-31	Identifiant de la strate/bloc
effort	Status of survey effort when sighting was made	e.g. P or TAV	Statut du point d'effort
transect	Transect label (stratum/line number)	e.g. B01T01	Numéro du transect
taxon	Taxa of the sighting	Ref. table of species/table des espèces	Grand groupe objets/taxons
group	Group or genus of the sighting	Ref. table of species/table des espèces	Groupe objets/espèces
family	Family of the sighting	Ref. table of species/table des espèces	Famille objets et famille ou genre espèces
species	Species code	Ref. table of species/table des espèces	Code espèce
species_name	Species name	Ref. table of species/table des espèces	Nom français objet/espèce
species_scientific	Scientific name	Ref. table of species/table des espèces	Nom scientifique de l'espèce
species2	Species code for second species (if any) in group	Ref. table of species/table des espèces	Code pour la deuxième espèce (si existante dans le groupe)
species2_name	Species name for second species (if any) in group	Ref. table of species/table des espèces	Nom pour la deuxième espèce (si existante dans le groupe)
species2_scientific	Scientific name for second species (if any) in group	Ref. table of species/table des espèces	Nom scientifique pour la deuxième espèce (si existante dans le groupe)
confidence	Confidence level of the species ID (subjective scale)	Definite, possible, probable	Niveau de confiance de l'identité de l'espèce
cue	Visual cue that alerted the observer to the animals' presence	e.g. blow	Signal visuel ayant permis la détection
angle_magnetic	Magnetic bearing of the sighting (° magnetic)	0-360	Relevé magnétique de la visée (° magnétique)
angle_radial	Radial bearing of the sighting (° relative)	0-360	Relevé radial de l'observation (° relative)
distance_radial	Radial distance of the sighting (m)	0-8000	Distance radiale de l'observation (m)
min_group	Group size of the sighting (minimum number)	1-6	Taille du groupe (Nombre minimum d'individus observés)
max_group	Group size of the sighting (maximum number)	1-100	Taille du groupe (Nombre maximum d'individus observés)
adults	Number of adults in group (if identifiable)	1-100	Nombre d'adultes dans le groupe (si identifiable)
juveniles	Number of juveniles in group (if identifiable)	1-100	Nombre de juvéniles dans le groupe (si identifiable)
calves	Number of calves in group (if identifiable)	1-100	Nombre de petits dans le groupe (si identifiable)
birds	Indication of any birds associated with the sighting	no/yes	Indication de tout oiseau associé à l'observation
observer_effort	Observer's effort status for sighting	dedicated/incidental	État de l'observation

observer	Initial of the observer	Ref. table of observers/table observateur	Initiales de l'observateur
platform	Observation platform from which the sighting was made	e.g. A-frame, deck	Plateforme d'observation pour l'observation
eye_height	Eye height above sea level of the observer (m)	e.g. 5.2	Hauteur de l'observateur (m)
orientation	Orientation of the animals when first observed (° relative)	0-360	Orientation des animaux (° relatif)
heading	Direction of travel (if any) of the animals (° relative)	0-360	Direction de nage (° relatif)
behaviour1	Observed behaviour	e.g. bowriding, travelling, breaching	Comportement observé
behaviour2	Observed behaviour	e.g. bowriding, travelling, breaching	Comportement observé
behaviour3	Observed behaviour	e.g. bowriding, travelling, breaching	Comportement observé
comment	Any notes regarding the sighting		Commentaire
sea_state	Sea state (Beaufort scale)	0-6	Etat de la mer (échelle Beaufort)
wave_height	Wave height (m)	ex: 0.3	Hauteur de vagues (m)
swell_height	Swell height (m)	ex: 1.2	Hauteur de houle (m)
cloud_cover	Cloud cover (subjective scale)	0-10	Couverture nuageuse (échelle subjective)
visibility	Visibility (subjective scale)	0-3	Visibilité (échelle subjective)
pressure	Barometric pressure (millibars)	1009-103	Pression (millibars)
glare_intensity	Glare intensity (subjective scale)	0 -2	Sévérité de l'éblouissement
glare_start	Angle of the start of any glare (° relative to boat)	0-360	Angle de début d'éblouissement (° par rapport au bateau)
glare_stop	Angle of the end of any glare (° relative to boat)	0-360	Angle de fin d'éblouissement (° par rapport au bateau)
sail_start	Angle of the start of any obstructive sails (° relative to boat)	0-360	Angle de début de présence obstructive de bateau (° par rapport au bateau)
sail_stop	Angle of the end of any obstructive sails (° relative to boat)	0-360	Angle de fin de présence obstructive de bateau e (° par rapport au bateau)
wind_speed	Wind speed (knots)	0-45	Vitesse du vent (nœuds)
wind_direction	Wind direction (° magnetic)	0-360	Direction du vent (degrés magnétiques)
temperature	Sea surface temperature (°C)	14-30	Température de la surface de la mer (°C)
vessel_speed	Speed of the survey vessel (knots)	0-10	Vitesse du bateau (nœuds)
vessel_heading	Heading of the survey vessel (° magnetic)	0-360	Cap du bateau (° magnétique)

ANNEX 2 – ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative Data Terms and Conditions of Use

1. In pursuance of the objectives of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (hereinafter referred to as “ACCOBAMS”), the following conditions apply:

Provisions

2. Datasets related to the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (hereinafter referred to as “ASI data”) may be used, unchanged and in whole, for any scientific and biodiversity conservation purposes provided that:
 - a. ACCOBAMS is identified as the source; the way for citing the source is the following:
ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, 2018
 - b. No mention is made that the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat endorsed in any way the purpose of using the ASI data of concern
 - c. ASI data are not redistributed to a third party, in part or in whole. Where distribution is deemed necessary to third parties, such third parties should be referred to [[URL of the webpage where data will be downloadable](#)] or to the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat in case data are not available in the website.
 - d. The following disclaimer shall be added to any map produced using ASI data:
“Taking into account Art. I, para. 1, sub-para. b and c, of the ACCOBAMS, the designations employed and the presentation of the data in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat concerning the legal status of any State, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of their frontiers or boundaries, including maritime boundaries. Any opinion or interpretation expressed with reference to this map is that of the author(s) and does not necessarily represent the view of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat”.
 - e. The user shall be committed to apply any other specific condition, related to the requested dataset(s) or portions of ASI data, as communicated by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat to the user.

Disclaimer

3. By using ASI data provided by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, the user recognizes and agrees on the following:
 - a. ASI data made available by the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat have been compiled and presented with the utmost care. However, these may be incomplete and/or incorrect to some extent.
 - b. The available ASI data may be revised and changed and withdrawn partially or entirely without notice.
 - c. ASI data have been generated solely for ACCOBAMS’s own purposes and consequently may be less or not fit for use for other purposes.
 - d. The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat shall not be liable for any damages, direct or indirect, ensuing in whatsoever way from (but not limited to) the use of ASI data and the use of the ACCOBAMS website.