

Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC) in action: SUPPORTING CETACEAN CONSERVATION IN THE PELAGOS SANCTUARY

Online Technical
Workshop
18 November
9.00 - 13.00 CET



Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC) in action: supporting cetacean conservation in the Pelagos Sanctuary

*Contributions from MBPC's projects to the work of the Pelagos
Agreement: the application of systematic conservation planning
principles*

Technical Workshop - November 18 from 9.00 to 13.00 hrs

Videoconference

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BACKGROUND

When signed in 1999, the Pelagos Agreement aligned the three signatory parties (France, Italy and Monaco) to cooperate for the conservation of marine mammals within the region. The Agreement was at the forefront of transboundary maritime spatial planning, providing a framework for the integration of conservation measures into wider management of this economically important and diverse region.

The Agreement provides a basis for coordination when identifying and implementing systematic conservation measures in the region, including area-based measures (e.g., MPAs and PSSAs) or direct threat reduction at sectoral level (e.g., shipping and MPAs governance). Moreover, the successful application of global and regional tools, in a coordinated manner, would give the Agreement and its authorities important support for the implementation of their objectives.

The Mediterranean Biodiversity Protection Community (MBPC)¹ brings together several projects, institutions and researchers that can assist the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement and the Pelagos Working Groups in the evaluation and proposals to the Parties for the reduction of threats to cetaceans in the Pelagos region. This includes knowledge about the impact of shipping traffic, the application of guidelines for disturbance, and the transfer of knowledge and experience for the integration of Marine Protected areas (MPA) into the broader Pelagos Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).

With a view to the strong integration of MPAs and MSP (i.e. defining the balance between the allocation of resources and environmental conservation), the MBPC and the Pelagos Secretariat, with help from several Interreg Mediterranean projects, organise a half-day online technical workshop to showcase the relevant results of their work undertaken and to plan and propose to the authorities of the Agreement further collaborations. This activity is organized in the frame of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in December 2021 between the Pelagos Agreement and MBPC, as well as AMARE, FISHMPABLUE2 PLUS, MPA NETWORKS and PLASTIC BUSTERS MPAs projects to promote and facilitate technical and scientific transboundary co-operation.

The projects presenting tools developed and activities carried out within the Pelagos Sanctuary that can contribute to meet the Pelagos Agreement's conservation objectives are:

- MBPC and Blue Growth community projects
 - [Knowledge platform](#) and Guidelines for the sustainability of cruising and recreational boating in the Mediterranean region
 - SAIS-EBSA Governance framework
- MPA NETWORKS - key results
- AMARE PLUS - geoportal
- PHAROS4MPAS - guidelines on maritime transport

Methods, results and lessons learned will be discussed with the objective of developing further co-operative efforts to support the implementation of the Pelagos Agreement Management and Action Plan, 2022- 2027 and its Work Plan 2022-2023².

¹ <https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/>

² <https://www.sanctuaire-pelagos.org/en/resources/official-documents/english-version>

The workshop will be open to all interested stakeholders, including the Pelagos Agreement National Focal Points, Chair and members of the Technical Scientific Committee and the Working Groups.

Provisional agenda

09.00 - 09.30 | Session 1: Opening and introduction

- Workshop goals and structure (Dania Abdul Malak - ETC-UMA)
- The Pelagos Sanctuary and its 2022-2027 Management and Action Plan (Costanza Favilli – Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Agreement)
- Cooperation between the Pelagos Sanctuary and the MBPC (Viola Cattani - Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Pelagos Agreement)

09.30 - 10.30 | Session 2: Pressures and impacts of maritime traffic within the Pelagos Sanctuary: potential measures to minimise the effects on the marine ecosystem

- Risk of collision between fin whales and ships within the proposed North-Western Mediterranean Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) (Caterina Fortuna - ISPRA and David Rodriguez Rodriguez - ETC-UMA) [15 min speech + 5 min "Q&A"]
- Cruising and recreational boating in the Pelagos Sanctuary: guidelines from Blue Growth and MBPC Communities, including PHAROS4MPAs project's guidelines (Céline Dubreuil - Plan Bleu) [15 min speech + 5 min "Q&A"]
- Discussion with the audience (20 min)

10.30 - 10.45 | Coffee Break

10.45 - 12.00 | Session 3: Contributions of existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other related initiatives to the Pelagos Sanctuary objectives

- Key results from the MPAs Networks project (Marianne Lang, MedPAN) [15 min speech + 5 min "Q&A"]
- Supporting MPA managers for a more effective prioritization of their activities: the AMAre geoportal (Simonetta Frascchetti tbc, CONISMA) [15 min speech + 5 min "Q&A"]
- Existing protection measures and their effectiveness: evidences from the MBPC Knowledge Platform and from Plan Bleu Observatory ([WESR/MapX](#)) (Emanuele Mancosu, ETC-UMA) [15 min speech + 5 min "Q&A"]
- Discussion with the audience [15 min]

12.00 - 13.00 | Session 4: Discussion and conclusions in the context of the 2022-2027 Management and Action Plan of the Pelagos Agreement

- Discussion amongst participants on the results and lessons learned from the projects, and potential hints for the implementation of the Management and Action Plan (2022-2027) of the Pelagos Agreement (coordinated by Caterina Fortuna - ISPRA Italy) [40 min]
- Options for future potential cooperative actions, *including the SAIS EBSA initiative* and new focus in the context of the work of relevant Pelagos WGs and for the implementation of the Pelagos Action Plan 2022-2027 (Peter Mackelworth - Blue World) [20 min]

Expected results

1. Short technical paper on the achievements of “MBPC-related projects’ relevant to the Pelagos Sanctuary and the lessons learned”;
2. Report of the technical workshop including recommendations for potential future co-operative actions in the context of the work of relevant Pelagos WGs and for the implementation of the Pelagos Action Plan 2022-2027