



The OceanCare Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**Supplementary Information to OceanCare's
Quadrennial Report to ECOSOC, 2019**





Since 1989, OceanCare has worked for the protection of marine species and the oceans, and proudly developed international recognition as a research, advocacy and education nongovernmental organisation (NGO), that champions the protection of marine flora and fauna.

Our effectiveness has been amplified by welcoming others to join our path including many intergovernmental organisations and being entrusted as partners and members of key United Nations bodies. Strong alliances and partnerships have been formed with solution-oriented scientific experts, committees and conservation organisation partners around the world.

In 2011, OceanCare was granted United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Consultative Status, through a United Nations (UN) endorsement process which is one of the most stringent and difficult to achieve. This year we celebrate an important milestone: OceanCare has submitted our second Quadrennial (four-year) Report to ECOSOC.

To report to the UN is an honour and welcome recognition of our work around the world. ECOSOC is one of six main bodies of the UN established by the UN Charter in 1946. It is the highest United Nations body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues.

This report serves as a supplement to the formal OceanCare ECOSOC Quadrennial Report for 2019. It contains additional detail about the conservation projects and technical information OceanCare has proudly delivered since 2011.

Throughout this eight-year period, OceanCare has been accredited as a Major Group to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), the governing body of UNEP, and is a part of the UNEP Global Partnership on Marine Litter. In 2016, OceanCare became a partner organisation of the General Fisheries Commission (GFCM) for the Mediterranean, and implemented fisheries monitoring and education programs on the conservation of common and bottlenose dolphins (Greece,

Italy and France), Amazon River dolphins (Peru) and West African manatee (Guinea Bissau). OceanCare has maintained a strong involvement in research and conservation programs to reduce ship collisions, fervently addressed the impact of ocean noise pollution and marine debris and the interactions between fisheries and sperm whales, bottlenose dolphins (Greece, France), Cuvier's beaked whales (Mediterranean), humpback whales, fin whales and orcas (Canada) and loggerhead sea turtles (Malta).

We have provided ranger support to monitor pupping grounds for Mediterranean monk seals, administered educational programs for fishermen and the local community (Mauretania), and encouraged decision makers at the Abidjan Convention in Côte d'Ivoire about decisive action needed against poaching of protected aquatic animal species in West, Central and South Africa.

OceanCare is associated with the coalition that contributed to the purchase of the Sea Lion Island Group in the Falkland Islands, which serves as a nature reserve (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), and supported policy advocacy for sea lion protection from ocean noise pollution (Australia).

We have participated in a plankton research program (France), undertaken conservation research on striped and Risso's dolphins, pilot and fin whales for the central '*Ocean Biogeographic Information System Spatial Ecological Analysis of Megavertebrate Populations*' database (Mediterranean), and taken part in the '*5-Gyres Project*' by collecting plastic samples for lab analysis (global oceans).

OceanCare advanced international efforts for the protection of polar bears from climate change, habitat loss, unsustainable hunting and trade (Norway, Russia, United States of America, Canada, Greenland), and sought global whale and small cetaceans protection since its inception with elevated efforts during the previous eight years which addressed hunting activities in European waters (Iceland, Norway, Faroe Islands, Greenland).



OceanCare has acted as a strong and consistent advocacy voice for reducing ocean noise pollution in the world's seas, and has presented the Silent Oceans campaign to the tables of power at the UN General Assembly, to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), to the Food and Agriculture Organization Committee on Fisheries (FAO/COFI), the General Fisheries Commission (GFCM) for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and to the European Union. In 2018, after 18 years of tireless campaigning, OceanCare realised an important milestone when a major UN conference granted ocean noise centre stage.

OceanCare's outreach and technical knowledge about the need to reduce ocean noise pollution has been fundamental in the two regional Agreements on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), and the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS). This expertise has been delivered via multi-lingual educational materials and capacity building initiatives for ACCOBAMS Range States.

To report these achievements to the UN, and to have our members' voices heard for protection of marine species in the highest level of international decision making is a special and proud moment for OceanCare and our members.



Sigrid Lüber
President and founder, OceanCare
May 2019

PS. The World Oceans Day Theme for 2019 is "Gender and Oceans". In OceanCare's experience, exceptional women and men can be drivers for real change. An outstanding example for such an ocean champion is our dear friend and colleague, Joanna Toole.



In memory of Joanna Toole, an outstandingly committed young woman who devoted her life to animal welfare and ocean conservation issues. Joanna joined OceanCare between 2017 and 2018 as an Ocean Policy Consultant and brought her depth of experience of working within high level, policy making forums including the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme, and the International Maritime Organization to our organisation. During this time, she worked to establish, and then served as the coordinator for the Abidjan Aquatic Wildlife Partnership leaving another lasting legacy of her profound and wonderful commitment to wildlife. Joanna guided us through the process of submitting our SDG commitments in the context with the first UN Oceans Conference 2017, where she delivered our statement on SDGs and Ocean Noise in the Hall of Humanity. Joanna tragically lost her life on 10 March 2019 in the Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) plane crash as she travelled to Nairobi to attend the UN Environment Assembly on behalf of the FAO.

*“To be truly radical
is to make hope possible
rather than despair convincing!”*
Raymond Williams





Sustainable Development Goals

SDGs



Working towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Central to the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will shape national development plans until 2030.

OceanCare remains fully committed to contributing input to SDG14, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, and has endorsed several sub-targets to steer our work.

- By 2025, seek to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution — ocean noise, chemical and plastics pollution (SDG sub-target 14.1).
- By 2020, support effective regulated harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices (SDG sub-target 14.1).
- By 2030 strive to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law (SDG sub-target 14.C) guiding OceanCare's work on hunting and governance.

OceanCare has adopted further voluntary commitments, including:

- Working through research, conservation projects, campaigns and education to better the environment for wildlife in the world's oceans: [#OceanAction16022](#)
- Informing global policies to reduce ocean noise for the benefit of marine life protection and the sustainability of global fisheries: [#OceanAction16030](#)
- Labouring towards plastic free oceans: [#OceanAction16050](#)
- Addressing the driving factors of aquatic wild meat for sustainable development: [#OceanAction16046](#)

- Securing protection for the ocean giants: [#OceanAction16054](#)

In 2011, OceanCare was granted ECOSOC Special Consultative Status. In 2015, OceanCare submitted a supplemental report to ECOSOC that outlined our work in support of the Millennium Development Goals. Since that report, OceanCare has strategically focused on activity that supports Sustainable Development Goal 14, which addresses the impact of Ocean Noise Pollution, Marine Debris, Aquatic Wildmeat and Hunting and other cross-cutting SDGs.

Initiatives adopted by OceanCare in support of the Sustainable Development Goals include:

- Fisheries monitoring and education programs; conservation of megafauna and prey, Greece, Italy, France, Peru, Western-Africa;
- Research and conservation programs into ship collisions; impacts of ocean noise pollution; marine debris and interactions with fisheries for sperm whales, bottlenose dolphins (Greece, France), Cuvier's beaked whales (Mediterranean governments), humpback whales, fin whales and orcas (Canada), loggerhead sea turtles (Malta) and blue whales (New Zealand);
- Ranger support monitoring pupping grounds for Mediterranean Monk Seal; and fishermen and local community education (Mauretania);
- Support policy advocacy for sea lion protection from anthropogenic ocean noise pollution, and governmental adoption of the CMS Noise Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines (Australia);
- Conservation research on striped and Risso's dolphins, pilot and fin whales for central *Ocean Bio-*



geographic Information System Spatial Ecological Analysis of Megavertebrate Populations database (Mediterranean governments);

- Macro- and microplastic counts and analysis (Mediterranean Sea);
- International support for protecting polar bears from climate change, habitat loss, unsustainable hunting and trade (Norway, Russia, USA, Canada);
- Global protection of whales and small cetaceans with elevated efforts addressing hunting activities in European waters (Iceland, Norway, Faroe Islands, Greenland);
- Transitioning from whaling to whale watching in support of ecotourism and ecosystem services;
- Assist government in the West African region to address the rise in hunting and consumption of aquatic wildmeat, including the associated human health risks of this consumption, and address the impact of distant water fleets on fisheries declines, and availability of historical, local fisheries resources;
- Measuring the value and contribution of civil society to intergovernmental processes, particularly in relation to the Convention on Migratory Species.

OceanCare's allegiance to the Sustainable Development Goals is actioned through research, managing conservation projects and delivering education. We focus on domestic and international legislative engagement by providing technical information to international and regional processes in North, Central and South America, Europe and Africa. This work is advanced by collaborating with solution-oriented scientific committees and associated partners.

To support and represent this work, OceanCare regularly engages in intergovernmental meetings related to the organisation's conservation work, including:

- Ad Hoc Open-Ended Informal Working Group on Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction
- Preparatory Committee Meetings I, II, III and IV for

the legally binding instrument for biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ)

- Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects
- Ad-hoc open-ended working group, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277 entitled "Towards a Global Pact for the Environment"
- Ad-hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on marine plastic litter and microplastics established by the Members of the UN Environment Assembly
- Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) Scientific Committee
- Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) Advisory Committee
- Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) Meeting of the Parties
- Common Implementation Strategy of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) related Working and Coordination Groups (Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG) & Global Environmental Society (GES)), as well as Technical Advisory Group (TG Noise)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of the Parties
- Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Conference of the Parties
- Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Scientific Council
- European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission Directorate-General for the Environment (DG ENV)
- Food and Agriculture Organization Committee on Fisheries (FAO/COFI)
- High Level Segment Annual Ministerial Review, 'Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
- International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- Intergovernmental Conference on an internationally legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction
- United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement
- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- United Nations Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS ICP)
- United National Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Note: The following pages provide details of the work we have contributed to these fora.



Ocean noise pollution

SDGs

1

2

8

9

13

14

Striving for Silent Oceans

In many parts of the world, ocean noise pollution, caused by the military, oil and gas industries, construction and shipping has doubled every decade for the past 60 years. This has become a life threatening trend for marine species and is quickly emerging as a threat to already depleted fish stocks. A review, commissioned by OceanCare, of 115 primary studies encompassing various human-produced underwater noise sources reveals up to 66 fish species and 36 species of invertebrates are impacted by ocean noise pollution.

Noise impacts include those affecting development, anatomy, stress levels and overall physiology, behaviour, distribution, abundance, and commercial catch rates. Noise also causes masking, or the obscuring of biologically important signals. Most importantly, ecological services were compromised by noise and zooplankton suffered high mortality in the presence of noise thus affecting the entire food-web.

OceanCare presents scientific evidence and information to relevant international and regional forums and coordinates action between allied organisations and bodies also instrumental in protecting oceans from the threat of ocean noise.

Through the Silent Oceans campaign, and as a founding member of the International Ocean Noise Coalition (IONC), OceanCare has acted to prevent and reduce ocean noise since 2002, including the incorporation of management measures for underwater noise into the provisions for EIAs and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

OceanCare will continue to address these important issues and will solicit governments, fisheries bodies and the fishing industry to tackle the negative im-

pacts of ocean noise on fish and the sustainability of our oceans. OceanCare will also continue to participate in capacity building and awareness raising initiatives about this threat at regional and global levels.

OceanCare notes with satisfaction its achievements towards reaching SDG 14.1, which include:

- Providing assistance during the development of the certification program for highly qualified marine mammal observers (MMOs) by the ACCOBAMS, and the announcement of the first three MMOs certified;
- Contributing to quietMED, quieten the Mediterranean Sea for the implementation of the second cycle of the MSFD;
- Participating in the 19th UNICPOLOS meeting on Anthropogenic Underwater Noise as a panelist and officiating two side events: "The Role of Environmental Impact Assessment in Managing the Impacts of Noise on Marine Food Web and Higher Trophic Levels" and "Managing Ocean Noise Pollution through the new BBNJ Instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea";
- Attending the 33rd FAO/COFI where OceanCare advised the fisheries sector and identified the potential role of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Council to conduct further studies on the impacts of anthropogenic noise on fish and invertebrates, marine resources and associated socioeconomic impacts. The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) encouraged the FAO to conduct such a review. OceanCare developed a concept note for a possible study by FAO and proposed to the GFCM

at its 42nd meeting a joint workshop to consider the Mediterranean region. As a partner of the GFCM Fish Forum, OceanCare organised a side event on underwater noise and its impact on fish stocks and the marine food chain to address central questions and propose solutions on this issue;

- Participating at the BBNJ PrepCom and Intergovernmental Conferences (IGC1 and 2) and advocating for specific measures to manage anthropogenic ocean noise pollution under 1) the element implementing environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments to prevent, reduce and control transboundary marine pollutants, and 2) the element for establishing a legal framework for the application of area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, to identify, designate and manage ocean areas in need of enhanced protection;
- Applying general conservation principles and approaches in planning and decision making in all provisions of international legally binding instrument (ILBI), including best available scientific evidence, global best practice standards, ecosystem-based management, inter-generational stewardship, transparency, meaningful oversight and consultation, and the precautionary principle.

OceanCare seeks to ensure that ocean noise pollution is credited by world leaders and included in the Sustainable Development Agenda across all relevant inter-governmental forums.

To support this work, OceanCare will implement the following:

- Support the work of the GFCM in its efforts to preserve endangered species and promote marine conservation via an MoU and work plan until the end of 2019 and beyond. Provide the Commission with information and recommendations relevant to its work on key issues such as ocean noise pollution, marine debris, illegal fishing and bycatch and to collaborate on activities and projects which serve to progress the development of solutions and mitigation measures in these areas;
- Global research, conservation and education activities designed to deliver information to governmental and intergovernmental processes that support the delivery of international commitments. As a long standing observer and active participant in many forums relevant to ocean protection, OceanCare has an excellent oversight of the work spanning these different bodies and can identify and promote synergies and the streamlining of effort, highlighting inconsistencies as they occur and provide information and recommendations as needed.

- As an authority, support the Silent Oceans campaign to call for the protection of marine animals from ocean noise pollution, by providing expert input into developments within the ACCOBAMS. In particular, OceanCare contributes towards the development of a certification program for highly trained Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) so marine mammals may be detected, thereby providing the opportunity for real time mitigation advice in relation to various human activities, including seismic surveys.

Silent Oceans: 12 step blueprint against ocean noise

Oceans are our oxygen. They feed us with fish, shellfish and seaweed. Their waters cover over 70 percent of the Earth's surface. This vast environment is home to a broader range of higher animal taxa than exist on land. Most ocean species rely on sound for their vital life functions, including communication, orientation, prey and predator detection, and for sensing surroundings. Yet, levels of noise in the ocean have doubled in some regions, every decade for the past 60 years. Increasing ocean noise (anthropogenic underwater noise) is a trend now threatening many ocean species and populations. The industries generating this noise need to be held more accountable for the impact they create.

OceanCare proposes twelve important actions for governments to embrace to reduce this alarming trend:

1. Include specific language in the United Nations General Assembly Oceans Resolution, Sustainable Fisheries Resolution, and within domestic legislation, to explicitly recognise ocean noise as a serious and pervasive form of transboundary pollution to be mitigated and addressed.
2. Progress a global strategy that seeks to reverse the trend of rising ocean noise levels.
3. Support the incorporation of measures to manage ocean noise into the new international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
4. Recognise ocean noise as a form of marine pollution to be addressed under Sustainable Development Goal 14.1 which seeks to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds by 2025.
5. Adopt a precautionary approach, by carefully assessing all future ocean noise-generating activities and legislating for Best Available Technology and Best Environmental Practice to be used for any activities given approval.
6. Transpose the International Maritime Organization Ship Quieting Guidelines and the Convention on Migratory Species Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities into domestic legislation.

7. Implement monetary and management measures which allow for a transition from fossil fuels.
8. Require robust, comprehensive and transparent Environmental Impact Assessments prior to approval of applications for noise-generating activities to take place.
9. Ensure regulators and decision makers have robust, defensible, and impartial information on which to base their decisions about ocean noise-generating activities.
10. Take into account previous, simultaneous, ongoing, and planned activities in the same or adjoining areas of proposed ocean noise-generating activities to consider potential cumulative or synergistic impacts, both from other noise and non-noise threats.
11. Establish 'quiet zones', using scientific advice contained in Areas of Interest for Important Marine Mammal Areas and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas to assist with prioritising where to focus efforts.
12. Support and encourage the Food and Agriculture Organization to conduct studies on the impacts of ocean noise on fish, invertebrates and fish catch rates, as well as associated socioeconomic effects.

Split Workshop

During a 2-day workshop on the 22nd and 23rd of November 2017 in Split, Croatia, 62 participants from 17 countries discussed impacts of underwater noise on marine wildlife in south eastern Mediterranean waters.

Workshop participants included officials from environmental and energy ministries and authorities, international environmental agreements, and the EU Commission, as well as tourism and fisheries interest groups, scientists and NGOs. The region in question has been increasingly targeted by the oil industry in recent years, with numerous seismic activities being planned.

INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS REACHED

Since 2011, OceanCare has worked alongside government towards a series of important decisions to regulate anthropogenic marine noise, as follows:

European Union Directive

The 2008/56/EC Directive, known as the MSFD requires Member States to achieve GES by 2020 which means, in context to ocean noise, "Introduction of energy, including underwater noise, is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment."

OceanCare is proactively participating in the Technical Group (TG Noise), as well as working groups on GES and the Marine Strategy Coordination Group to promote the implementation of effective measures by Member States. A previous analysis undertaken by the organisa-



tion evaluating some of those national Programmes of Measures by 13 Member States came to the almost same conclusion as the evaluation of the EU Commission being that it is unlikely Member States will achieve GES by 2020, in context to noise pollution. OceanCare will continue working in partnership with stakeholders to promote achieving this aim at the earliest possible stage.

The 2014/52/EU EIA Directive introduction now directs European Union Member States:

"[w]ith a view to ensuring a high level of protection of the marine environment, especially species and habitats, environmental impact assessment and screening procedures for projects in the marine environment should take into account the characteristics of those projects with particular regard to the technologies used (for example seismic surveys using active sonars)."

The majority of EU Member States currently request EIAs be undertaken prior to activities involving impulsive sound, such as seismic surveys. OceanCare continues to intensify capacity and awareness raising efforts towards those governments still reluctant to impose EIAs and other related Assessments prior to activities which pose a severe threat to marine wildlife. In addition, OceanCare promotes the application of the CMS EIA Guidelines prior to noise-generating activities as adopted within CMS Resolution 10.24.

The overarching objective of OceanCare is to promote an EU-wide shipping strategy that connect efforts to reduce emissions as well as noise levels, and furthermore to promote the establishment of "quiet zones" in European waters as well as achieving a phase-out strategy for new hydrocarbon exploration activities in line with the Paris Agreement.



FAO/COFI and FAO/GFCM

OceanCare participated in the 33rd Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries, Rome, July 2018 and has participated in COFI 28 and 29, under the umbrella of the IONC, promoting the socioeconomic study on the impact of ocean noise pollution on fish stocks and fisheries.

In 2016, OceanCare entered into a partnership with the FAO/GFCM to jointly address the impacts of underwater noise, marine debris, bycatch and illegal fishing. The agreement further involves environmental education activities, specialist trainings, and the facilitation of information exchange on a regular basis. Therefore, OceanCare supports the Fisheries Commission in its efforts to preserve endangered species and promote marine conservation. OceanCare participated at the FAO/GFCM Commission Meeting 40, 41 and 42, and at the Scientific and Advisory Committee 20th session and the FishForum2018.

In February 2019, together with GFCM, OceanCare co-hosted a workshop on anthropogenic underwater noise and impacts on fish, invertebrates and fish resources. The participants endorsed a set of recommendations which included encouragement to ensure coherence in the implementation of policies adopted at e.g. the CMS, CBD and International Maritime Organization (IMO); make Range States comply with strict protection of fisheries restricted areas also from the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise (e.g. seismic surveys); and encourage a study on the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on fish stocks and fishing catch rates, as well as associated socioeconomic effects, in the GFCM Area.

CBD

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) *Decision XII/23: Marine and coastal biodiversity: Impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity of anthropogenic underwater noise* encourages CBD Parties:

“... to take appropriate measures... to avoid, minimise and mitigate the potential significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity.”

In Decision XII/23 CBD, Parties agreed to a checklist of technical commitments, including gathering additional data about noise intensity and noise types, and building capacity in developing regions where scientific capacity can be strengthened.

Decision XII/23 urges the transfer to quieter technologies and the application of best available practice in all relevant activities. The CBD Parties advocate for mapping spatial and temporal distribution of sound through EIAs and combining this acoustic mapping with habitat mapping of sound-sensitive species with regard to spatial risk assessments to identify areas where species may be exposed to noise impacts. They also advocate mitigating impact through the use of spatio-temporal management of activities.

OceanCare has since coordinated efforts directly with the CBD Secretariat, providing technical information as required.

CMS

CMS Resolution 10.24: Further Steps to Abate Underwater Noise Pollution for the Protection of Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species encourages CMS Parties to:

“... prevent adverse effects on cetaceans and other migratory marine species by restricting the emission of underwater noise, understood as keeping it to the lowest necessary level with particular priority given to situations where impacts on cetaceans are known to be heavy” and “[u]rges Parties to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments take into account the effects of activities on cetaceans and to consider potential impacts on marine biota and their migration routes...”

Resolution 10.24 further articulates that CMS Parties ensure Environmental Impact Assessments take into account the impact of anthropogenic marine noise on marine species, apply Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP), and integrate the issue of anthropogenic noise into the management plans of marine protected areas.

OceanCare supported the development of the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment*

for Marine Noise-generating Activities and the extensive Technical Support Information that underpin these Guidelines. The Guidelines were endorsed by the CMS Parties through Resolution.

ACCOBAMS

ACCOBAMS Resolution 5.13: Conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean and Resolution 5.15: Addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise reinforces the commitments made in Resolution 4.17: Guidelines to Address the Impact of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area (ACCOBAMS Noise Guidelines) that urges ACCOBAMS Parties to:

"[r]ecogniz[e] that anthropogenic ocean noise is a form of pollution, caused by the introduction of energy into the marine environment, that can have adverse effects on marine life, ranging from disturbance to injury and death."

This Resolution encourages ACCOBAMS Parties to:

"... address fully the issue of anthropogenic noise in the marine environment, including cumulative effects, in the light of the best scientific information available and taking into consideration the applicable legislation of the Parties, particularly as regards the need for thorough environmental impact assessments being undertaken before granting approval to proposed noise-producing activities."

The ACCOBAMS Noise Guidelines provide further comprehensive detail specific considerations relating to military sonar, seismic surveys and offshore drilling, shipping and offshore renewable energy developments.

OceanCare attended the 6th ACCOBAMS Meeting of the Parties, Monaco, November 2016, 11th and 12th Scientific Committee Meetings of ACCOBAMS, Monaco, 2017, resp. 2018. Within this partnership we contributed our data to the central database OBIS/SEAMAP and provided educational material in all the languages of the Range states of the Mediterranean Sea. OceanCare is currently working on feasibility studies for whale watching programs in Morocco and Tunisia and is elaborating a National Conservation Action Plan for Tunisia.

At MOP6 Resolution 6.17 on Anthropogenic Noise was adopted. Among others, the Resolution "calls on the Parties to undertake Strategic Impact Assessments (SIA), EIAs and other relevant assessments such as Appropriate Assessments (AA) under the EU Habitat Directive prior to plans, programmes and projects that may affect cetaceans and especially those involving impulsive noise." Furthermore, the Secretariat is asked to "organise a workshop inviting NATO and national navies to show how the ACCOBAMS Scientific



Committee can provide advice and assistance with respect to mitigating adverse effects on cetaceans for any future exercises." Such activity demonstrates an important commitment by Range States to undertake collaborative efforts to identify a way forward addressing noise-generating military activities which are sensitive by nature.

UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea / UN Fish Stocks Agreement

OceanCare attended the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea meetings to draw member state attention to the emerging problem of "The role of seafood in global food security," Marine debris, plastics and microplastics and "Anthropogenic Underwater Noise", and attended the Review Conference of United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement to draw member state attention to the negative impact of ocean noise pollution on fish stocks and fisheries.

Almost all OceanCare recommendations have been reflected in the Co-Chairs report to the UNGA and several of them – in particular on anthropogenic underwater noise and its potential consequences on fish resources and food security – have been included into the UNGA Oceans Resolution and Sustainable fisheries Resolution.

UN DOALOS

OceanCare participated and contributed to the UN DOALOS Prep Com I, II, III, IV — new legally binding Instrument for Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction, 2017, 2018. Advised on the UN DOALOS IGC1, IGC2, the international legally binding instrument under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, and participated in the 16th, 17th, 19th United Nations Open-Ended Informal Consultative Process — Oceans and the Law of the Sea, United Nations, New York, 2015, 2016, 2018.



Marine debris

SDGs

2

3

6

8

9

12

14

Towards a proper circular economy and protecting wildlife and their habitats from marine plastic pollution

Since 2002, OceanCare has strategically focused on the reduction of ocean pollution. Macro- and microplastic debris in the oceans is a death trap for millions of marine animals. Plastic pollution is suffocating marine ecosystems and microplastics and harmful toxins lead to the contamination of vital food webs. OceanCare fully supports the existence of SDG14.1 on the reduction of marine pollution and continues its enduring commitment towards the reduction of marine plastic pollution by:

Supporting the collection of scientific data through collaborative research programs, and contributing acquired data to relevant forums in the aim of increasing global understanding and awareness of the magnitude of marine plastic debris, as well as its trends in key hot-spots;

Highlighting the extent and harmful effects of plastic pollution among consumers, across relevant industries and governments, and underscoring the importance of developing and implementing plastic free, plastic reduction and recycling-oriented solutions, including the promotion of circular economy and full life cycle approaches;

Working towards a new legally binding global convention on marine plastic pollution to elevate the issue to be a joint responsibility, focusing political urgency with prioritised actions by all stakeholders;

Participating in collaborative efforts towards specific marine plastic pollution reducing objectives via coalitions, networks, strategic partnerships and through multilateral environmental forums;

Enhancing capacity building on marine animal rescue programmes. Currently supporting programs within the UK and South Africa and with the planned expansion

of at least one more supported location by 2018.

In 2017, OceanCare launched the I-CARE campaign aimed at empowering the public to reduce plastic consumption and waste. The campaign strongly focuses on social media with an integrated campaign song by an environmentally conscious rock band. The campaign includes a website where the public is asked to pledge to reduce their disposable plastic consumption, and a real time calculator measures the impact of such commitment in terms of the reduced yearly consumption of disposable plastics.

OceanCare believes that innovative campaigns such as I-CARE will significantly alter the public's current attitude towards plastic use and are committed to finding innovative methods to raise awareness about the issue of marine plastic pollution.

OceanCare promotes initiatives such as Veggiebags preventing disposable bags when shopping for fruit and vegetables, and Guppy Friend Bags which prevent microfibers entering the waterways. OceanCare's edutainment video, shown at various exhibitions, used at workshops and in schools and at other occasions, on plastic pollution, is available in nine languages across the Mediterranean region.

OceanCare has undertaken several beach cleaning activities in Spain and Italy as well as educational outreach projects with schools in Mallorca and Sicily.

OceanCare has a cooperation with Gebr. Heinemann duty free, which in the past two years reduced plastic bags by 70% from 8,8 Mio. in 2016 to 2,5 Mio. bags in 2017. In 2018, the company joined the UN Global Compact programme.

OceanCare commits to the following initiatives in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Plastic debris sampling program in different areas in the Mediterranean Sea to assess the local extent of the plastic pollution at the water surface.

Country/s: broader Mediterranean region

Partner/s: Alnitak

Small microplastic sampling to understand the contamination levels of microplastic in commercially used fish, crustaceans and squid.

Country/s: Viareggio, Italy, Ligurian Sea

Partner/s: N/A

- Plastic debris sampling program in different areas in the world oceans for lab analysis to assess the total amount of plastics in the oceans worldwide.

Country/s: various

Partner/s: 5-Gyres

- Broad marine debris project to raise the awareness of the general community.

Country/s: various

Partner/s: United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), Stop Plastic Pollution Switzerland (STOPPP)

Participation at UNEA-4: Marine Plastic Pollution and Toward a New Global Convention

At UNEA-4, OceanCare worked in support of several resolutions designed to increase international action to halt plastic pollution. The first, proposed by Norway, Japan, and Sri Lanka, sought to strengthen international cooperation and coordination on marine plastic litter and microplastics, including through considering a possible new legally binding agreement. The second, proposed by India, sought to promote the phase-out of single-use plastics worldwide. Language was secured that allowed the building of future actions. Also, the mandate of the expert working group established at UNEA-3 was extended to continue its work, including by identifying technical and financial resources or mechanisms, and to report on its progress in considering response options at UNEA-5 (2021). The extension of this mandate keeps plastic on the international agenda and provides an opportunity to consider a future legally binding agreement. OceanCare will actively engage in this process and continue its work within the expert working group.

Substantive Sessions towards the Global Pact for the Environment.

In March 2019, OceanCare participated in the second substantive session of the Ad hoc open-ended working



group, established by UN General Assembly resolution 72/277. The aim of the deliberations has been, *inter alia*, to discuss the “possible options to address the possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, as appropriate, and, if deemed necessary, the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument...” (GA Res. 72/277, para. 2). With the discussions of the first and second substantive sessions in mind, OceanCare will attend the third substantive session in May 2019, and believes that the Member States should recommend to the General Assembly the convening of an intergovernmental conference and that a new legally binding instrument should apply where there is a vacuum of multilateral environmental agreements or regulations without renegotiating or weakening existing ones. This progress can be driven by a Stockholm+50 process which will provide considerable impetus and ambition to progress in a timely manner.

GFCM/FAO FishForum 2018

At the FishForum2018, OceanCare and UNEP/MAP held a joint workshop on the prevention and reduction of marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea. The elaborations and discussions among the participants based on the panelist's presentations were developed into recommendations. Among the detailed list of recommendations OceanCare submitted to the GFCM four matters of particular urgency:

1. Efforts and approaches on regional and international scale must be harmonised and coordinated;
2. Such coordinated efforts should incentivise best practice approaches towards a measurable reduction of litter;
3. Solutions for macro- and microplastics in the marine environment must go far beyond the problem of waste – we need a functioning circular-flow economy that deals sustainably with raw materials and reduces waste to a minimum;
4. The workshop has confirmed that ports are largely lacking disposal facilities for fishing gear and marine litter. Harbour reception and waste management need to be improved for fishing gear and other litter retrieved from the sea. Incentive programs need to be developed and implemented.



Marine animal hunting

SDGs



A local issue with global responsibility

Since its inception, OceanCare has strategically focused on the prevention of hunting marine animals – dolphins, turtles, and sharks – by seeking government acknowledgment of the need to regulate wild meat hunting of species, including the manatee and small cetaceans. OceanCare supports the Peruvian government enforcement of existing laws on dolphin and shark protection, and works with local partners to raise awareness about dolphin and shark conservation, sustainable fishing practices, and alternative sources of income in key fishing ports.

OceanCare's initial work focus is in the West Africa region where opportunity exists to make progress via a proposed, nonbinding Abidjan Convention Partnership to Combat Trade, Illegal Logging, Direct Consumption and Other Uses of Endangered, Threatened or Protected Coastal and Marine Species. OceanCare will contribute to this proposed Partnership through projects aimed to fill significant data gaps about scale, trends and drivers in the region, enabling coastal communities and stakeholders to address this issue via locally relevant solutions.

OceanCare experts actively contribute to a dedicated discussion for the Aquatic Wildmeat Working group of the CMS Scientific Council, operating through the CMS Scientific Council Workspace.

Abidjan Convention COP12

OceanCare participated in the Abidjan Convention in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, March 2017. OceanCare and the World Bank have been working closely with several organisations in the build up to the conference including the Abidjan Convention Secretariat, West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA BiCC), Wetlands Inter-

national Africa and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). A joint side event, organised by WA BiCC was well attended by national and international delegates and resulted in some thought provoking discussion and sharing of ideas. OceanCare participated on the panel to provide an international perspective and spoke of the need for increased information and collaboration and to provide distinction between incidental harvest i.e. bycatch and intended or directed hunts.

Addressing levels of aquatic wildmeat harvest in West Africa

From 2017, OceanCare spent 18 months working alongside founding partners; the Abidjan Convention, the USAid funded WA BiCC Program and Wild Migration to develop a much-needed partnership from concept to reality – the Abidjan Aquatic Wildlife Partnership (AAWP). The Partnership seeks to build information and capacity through coastal western Africa to address aquatic wildmeat harvests and aquatic wildlife hunting and trade. Over forty participants, including African and international experts from academia and non-governmental organisations, governments from West Africa and representatives from relevant international bodies joined to frame the AAWPs objectives, structure and function and discussed priorities for collaborative action to form the beginning of a regional action plan intrinsically linked to food security, human livelihoods and poverty.

Running parallel with the commitment to the AAWP OceanCare has also launched a major, multi-year project to collect information about the rise in levels of aquatic wildmeat consumption in Benin, Togo and Ghana, the drivers for this rise, the impacts to local fishing communities, and to support West African govern-

ments to address the ecological and human health impacts of aquatic wildmeat consumption in the region. This work is being delivered in partnership with the Benin Environmental Education Society (BEES), and with the support of the CMS ScC Aquatic Wildmeat Working Group.

OceanCare commits to the following additional initiatives in support of the SDG 14.2:

- Invested into studies for alternative livelihoods for the sealers and support for advocacy within Canadian political processes. Unfortunately, due to the remote areas and the high numbers of hunters, it was considered that ecotourism activities in these regions is not feasible.

Country/s: Canada

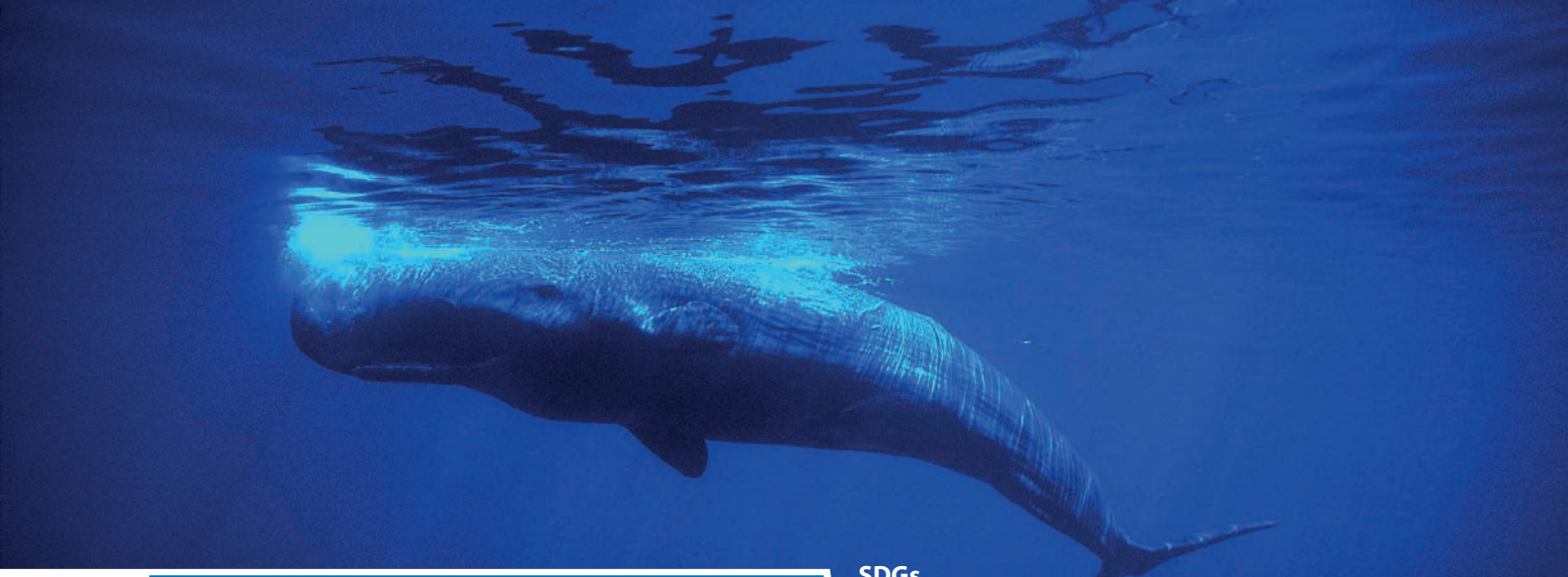
Partner/s: Fondation Franz Weber, IFAW

- Project support for local NGOs and consumer protection organisations to promote the information about the health risk of the consumption of contaminated cetacean products.

Country/s: Faroe Islands, Japan

Partner/s: Environmental Investigation Agency, Animal Welfare Institute, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, Pro Wildlife, Campaign Whale, Cetacean Society International, Elsa Nature Conservancy.





Species conservation

SDGs

2

3

8

12

13

14

Conserving species, addressing threats

Between 2015–2019, OceanCare invested approximately €500,600 annually in programs designed to deliver information to government and intergovernmental process, and to support the delivery of international commitments. In addition, OceanCare travelled the globe to form research and conservation programs into ship collisions and marine debris, interact with fisheries to support Sperm, Cuvier's beaked, and Humpback whales, and provide ranger support to monitor pupping grounds for the Mediterranean monk seal. OceanCare's initiatives have included the education of fishermen and local communities, supporting policy advocacy for sea lion protection from marine noise in Australia, and purchasing the Sea Lion Island Nature Reserve in the Falkland Islands.

OceanCare is committed to securing protection for whales in the world's oceans. In particular, OceanCare has shed light on the health risks of whale meat consumption and as a long standing observer of the IWC, OceanCare has worked extensively to input and improve the effectiveness of the Commission in its conservation work. OceanCare particularly maintains pressure pertaining to the commercial whaling activities carried out in European waters.

OceanCare views the SDGs as an opportunity for the world's leaders to address the whaling issue from a more holistic perspective than what has been possible to-date, taking into account the valuable socio-economic benefits that whales bring in terms of ecotourism and ecosystem services, which contribute towards healthy oceans and fisheries. As such, OceanCare is committed to bringing its extensive background of work on cetacean protection into the relevant SDG discussions, providing stakeholders with the necessary information to have informed discussions and to

promote a more collaborative approach between the IWC, relevant UN agreements and by engaging in dialogues to help build bridges between differing views and cultures in whaling nations and anti-whaling nations alike.

Sperm whales

- Research, education and conservation projects on sperm whale social behaviour as well as spatial and temporal distribution. Projects have focused on the Tyrrhenian Sea, the Hellenic Trench, the southern Menorca and seas of southern France.
- Three important publications were published in peer-reviewed journals.

Country/s: Italy, Greece, Spain, France, broader Mediterranean Sea

Partner/s: Oceanomare Delphis Onlus, Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, KAI Marine, Alnitak

- Development of a pilot sperm whale listening system for conservation and avoidance of ship strikes in the Mediterranean Sea. This project strives for a technology assisted solution to a cross-disciplinary project which has commenced (involving ocean acoustics, applied mathematics and computer networking) by developing an automated system that listens for sperm whales across busy routes of shipping traffic, and provides timely information that can lead to avoidance of ship strikes.

Country/s: broader Mediterranean region

Partner/s: Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, University of Basel, University of Algarve, FORTH Research Center

Cuvier's beaked whales

- Conservation project focused on Cuvier's beaked whales, a species highly sensitive to anthropogenic noise pollution.

Country/s: Greece

Partner/s: Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute.

- Policy advocacy to increase Mediterranean protection of Cuvier's beaked whales from habitat loss caused by anthropogenic marine noise.
- This work focused on securing a CMS Appendix I listing and establishing of Quiet Zones.

Country/s: ACCOBAMS Parties

Partner/s: Humane Society International, NRDC

Amazon River dolphins

- Conservation and education program for the protection of the rare Amazon River dolphin, which is threatened by fisheries activities and captures for public display.

Country/s: Peru

Partner/s: Mundo Azul, Fundacion Ballena Azul

Common dolphins

- Research and conservation projects on common dolphins, focused on habitat use by the species, population size and development, and the impact of anthropogenic activities on the species. Projects have been focused on the Ionian Sea, Gulf of Corinth, Tyrrhenian Sea and the seas around Malta.

Country/s: Greece, Italy, Malta

Partner/s: Tethys Research Institute, Oceanomare Delphis Onlus, Dolphin Biology and Conservation, KAI Marine



Striped dolphins

- Study on the ecology, population size and development of a resident population of striped dolphins in the semi-enclosed Gulf of Corinth. The project has shown that the resident population is much bigger than previously thought and has provided detailed insights into the habitat use of the species.
- The results are a basis for the designation and establishment of protected areas in the Gulf.

Country/s: Greece

Partner/s: Dolphin Biology and Conservation





Polar bear

- Policy advocacy to increase global protection of polar bear from habitat loss caused by climate change.
- This work focused on securing a CMS Appendix II listing.

Country/s: Norway, Canada, Russia, USA, Greenland
Partner/s: Humane Society International, NRDC, Wild Migration

Fin whales, humpback whales and orcas

- Research project on fin whales, humpback whales and orcas by the whale research station at Gil Island.

Country/s: Canada
Partner/s: North Coast Cetacean Society

Cetaceans of the Mediterranean Sea

- Data collection on all cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea for the central data base OBIS-SEAMAP to provide a holistic picture about the abundance and trends of Mediterranean cetaceans.

Country/s: broader Mediterranean Sea
Partner/s: Tethys Research Institute, Alnitak

- Consultancy to ACCOBAMS for the preparation of the National Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in Morocco.

Country/s: Morocco
Partner/s: ACCOBAMS

- Collaboration with regional coalition in the Balearic Islands, as well as regional and international scientists, promoting the establishment of a protected area in the waters between the Balears and the Spanish mainland. Resulting in the Declaration of a Whale Migration Corridor (SPAMI) through the Barcelona Convention in December 2018. The development of a conservation management plan is to follow. A number of whale species will benefit, including fin whales, sperm whales and other toothed whales.

Country/s: Spain
Partner/s: Alianza Mar Blava

Ganges River dolphin

- Conservation project focused on population monitoring of Ganges River dolphin and a survey of more than 300 local fishers to analyse the fishing methods and fisher perspectives about the river dolphins and their protection.
- The project involves a mobile exhibition to educate the local community on the Sundarbans.

Country/s: Bangladesh
Partner/s: Wildlife Conservation Society, Bangladesh Cetacean Diversity Project

Bottlenose dolphins

- Project focused on the bottlenose dolphins within the semi-closed Gulf of Amvrakikos, including fisheries monitoring, education of fishers and the local public. The project has provided insight into the role of bottlenose dolphins in the food web.

Country/s: Greece
Partner/s: Tethys Research Institute

- Monitoring project on bottlenose dolphins in the northern and southern Gulfs of Evia. Project findings have shown populations of bottlenose dolphins exist in both gulfs. In the northern Gulf of Evia the species is threatened by industrial contaminants and intensive aquaculture farming.
- The results will serve as a basis for protection measures that will be proposed to the Greek Government.

Country/s: Greece
Partner/s: Dolphin Biology and Conservation

West African manatee

- Conservation, research, monitoring and education project in Guinea Bissau on the West African manatee.

tee present along the coasts and in the river system of the Orango National Park.

- The project seeks to reduce bycatch and directed hunting and has also supported beach cleaning activities in the National Park.

Country/s: Guinea Bissau

Partner/s: CBD Habitat

Mediterranean monk seal

- Conservation project for the Mediterranean monk seal population in Mauretania. This project contains the work of Rangers, monitoring of the caves where the monk seals give birth as well as an education program for fishermen and the local public.

Country/s: Mauretania, Albania and Greece

Partner/s: CBD Habitat, Spain, Archipelagos-ambiente e sviluppo, Italy and Archipelagos-environment and development, Greece

Sea lions

- Support for the purchase of the Sea Lion Islands Group in the South Atlantic near the Falkland Islands to establish a nature reserve for the sea lions and sea elephant colonies in this area.

Country/s: United Kingdom

Partner/s: Antarctic Research Trust

- Policy advocacy to increase decision maker awareness of the impact of anthropogenic noise on sea lions, as well as the need for increased EIA conservation relating the offshore petroleum exploration.

Country/s: Australia

Partner/s: Wild Migration

Fisheries monitoring

- Fisheries monitoring activities in the marine protected area of Sinis Peninsula and Mal di Ventre Island, Italy and the Gulf of Corinth, Gulf of Argos, and southern Gulf of Evia in Greece.
- The surveys provide insight into the fisheries devices used locally, the catches, environmental problems perceived by fishers, and interactions with dolphins, seals, and other marine species.

Country/s: Greece, Italy

Partner/s: Dolphin Biology and Conservation, Municipality of Cabras (Italy)

Climate change

- Awareness raising project on the impact of ocean



acidification caused through CO₂ saturation. This project has focused on the German-speaking region in Europe (A, CH, G) to support the community to evaluate their personal ecological foot print. We continue to strive for the compliance of the Paris Agreement for a fossil free energy and pursue this also through our noise program (see page 6).

Country/s: Germany, Austria, Switzerland

Partner/s: Ocean Mammal Institute Animal Welfare Institute, High Seas Alliance, Antarctic Ocean Alliance

Fish consumption

- Awareness raising project on responsible fish consumption targeted to the German-speaking public in Europe.

Country/s: Germany, Austria, Switzerland

Partner/s: Fair Fish, Pew Charitable Trust

Stranding networks

- Support to stranding networks to ensure local communities are equipped with professional tools and devices such as pontoons, medication, and rescue kits.

Country/s: United Kingdom, Maldives, France Spain, South Africa, Peru and Venezuela

Partner/s: British Divers Marine Life Rescue, CaribbeanSharks.org, Equinac, Fundacion Ballena Azul, Ligue de Protection des Animaux, Ocean Research, Olive Ridley Project.

Whale and dolphin watching

- Assessment of whale and dolphin watching activities to improve the practice and local regulations.
- Overview and preliminary inventory on cetacean watching activities in the ACCOBAMS area.

Country/s: various

Partner/s: ACCOBAMS, various travel agencies

Workshop on respectful wildlife tourism with Swiss Travel Agencies and International School of Tourism.



Committed to formal processes

OceanCare is committed to establishing and operating written policies on governance transparency, civil society access and responsibility to national, regional and international decision making, and forming ethical relationships that reflect solid core values.

- Establish solid written policy and visible track-records that exemplify our beliefs and stance for operating in the world.
- Vigorously pursue OceanCare's positions on civil society access to international process, and act with consistency, transparency and due process during key international discussions.
- Seek compliance with decisions taken, transparent processes, appropriate relationships, and the inclusion of civil society in all work undertaken.
- Continue to support intergovernmental organisations.

OceanCare consciously invests in working through formal intergovernmental processes. In the 2011-2019 period these efforts have focused on the following bodies.

UNEP

OceanCare is an Accredited Member Group to the United Nations Environment Program and the United Nations Environment Assembly and has a UNEP Partnership on Marine Litter, and participated in the UN "Ocean" Conference, SDG 14 June 2017, UN headquarter New York, and the UNEA-3 and UNEA-4, 2017, 2019, and UN headquarter Nairobi.

UNDOALOS

OceanCare participated and contributed to the UN DOALOS Prep Com I, II, III, IV — new legally binding Instrument for Marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of Nation-

al Jurisdiction, 2017, 2018. Advised on the UN DOALOS IGC1, IGC2, the international legally binding instrument under United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. OceanCare also participated at the Second and Third Substantive Sessions towards a Global Pact for the Environment.

CITES

OceanCare has participated at CITES meetings in the past to promote the conservation of marine species in general and whales, dolphins, manatees, seals, sharks and polar bears through trade restrictions or bans. OceanCare further works on CITES issues under the umbrella of the Species Survival Network.

CMS

OceanCare participated in the 12th CMS Conference of the Parties, Philippines, October 2017, the 45th, 46th, 47th Standing Committee to CMS, 2016, 2017, 2018, and the 18th Scientific Council to CMS in 2014, and 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council of CMS, 2016, 2017, 2018. OceanCare has provided considerable technical information about marine noise mitigation, the Appendix I listing of Cuvier's beaked whales, and the Appendix II listing of polar bears. OceanCare was also a core collaborating organisation in the development of Resolution 11.11: Enhancing the Relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society.

European Union

OceanCare has an ongoing and productive cooperation with representatives of the EU Commission, especially DG MARE and DG Environment, focusing on species

protection, fisheries management, reduction of ocean noise and marine litter pollution, establishment and management of marine protected areas and activities in context to regional and international agreements. Productive collaboration also takes place with some Members of the European Parliament and related Committees, as well as individual governments.

FAO/COFI and FAO/GFCM

OceanCare participated at the 28th, 29th and 33rd FAO/COFI meeting as well as at the 40th, 41st and 42nd GFCM Commission meeting focusing on the impact of ocean noise pollution on fish resources and socio economic consequences.





Partnerships

Strength in cooperation

There is strength in cooperation and OceanCare recognises our achievements are shared with others. We have developed an effective and targeted network of partnerships and relationships with intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society groups.

Formal roles served by OceanCare

- Co-Chair of the Joint Noise Working Group for ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS and provides multilingual educational materials for the ACCOBAMS Range States
- Coordinator International Ocean Noise Coalition
- Expert to the IWC Scientific Committee

IGO partnerships

- ACCOBAMS Partner Organisation
- CMS Partner Organisation
- FAO/GFCM Partner Organisation
- Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
- Accredited Member Organisation to the United Nations Environment Program and the United Nations Environment Assembly
- UNEP Partnership on Marine Litter

NGO/civil society partners

- Aliança Mar Blava, Spain
- Alnitak, Spain
- Animal Welfare Institute, USA
- Archipelagos, Albania and Greece
- Asociacion Ondine, Spain

- BCDP, Bangladesh
- Blue Voice, USA
- BDMLR, UK
- CBD Habitat, Spain
- Centro de Conservación Cetáceos, Chile
- CIT, Venezuela
- Dolphin Biology and Conservation, Italy
- Dolphin Watch Alliance, Switzerland
- Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness, International
- Environmental Investigation Agency, International
- Equinac, Spain
- Fair Fish, Switzerland
- Fondation Franz Weber, Switzerland
- Fundación Ballena Azul, Peru
- Greenbalkans.org, Regional
- Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas, Argentina,
- IFAW, International
- Ionian Dolphin Project, Greece
- LPA Calais, France
- M.E.E.R. ev. Germany
- Morigenos Cetacean Research Institute, Slovenia
- Mundo Azul, Peru
- NABU, Germany
- NRDC, USA
- Ocean Conservation Research, USA
- Ocean Mammal Institute, USA
- Ocean Research, South Africa
- Org. Conservación Cetáceos, Uruguay
- Olive Ridley Project, Maldives
- Parvati.org, Canada
- Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, Greece
- Pro Wildlife, Germany
- Salvia Team, Spain
- Shark Project, Germany
- Shifting Values E.U., Austria
- Tethys Research Institute, Italy

- 
- ❑ Trash Hero World, International
 - ❑ UPA, Peru
 - ❑ Vivamar Society for the Sustainable Development for the Sea, Slovenia
 - ❑ WA BiCC - US Aid, Western Africa
 - ❑ Whale and Dolphin Conservation, International
 - ❑ Wildlife Conservation Society, USA
 - ❑ Wild Migration, Australia
 - ❑ World Animal Protection, International
 - ❑ WWF Peru

NGO/civil society alliances and coalitions

- ❑ Antarctic Ocean Alliance
- ❑ Asia for Animals Coalition
- ❑ Beat the Microbead
- ❑ Break Free From Plastic Coalition
- ❑ Dolphinarium Free Europe
- ❑ High Seas Alliance
- ❑ International Ocean Noise Coalition
- ❑ Make Stewardship Count
- ❑ Mission Blue
- ❑ Ocean Clean Wash
- ❑ Plastic Pollution Coalition
- ❑ Seas at Risk
- ❑ Silent Oceans Coalition
- ❑ Species Survival Network





To receive further information about this report, or OceanCare's work, please contact:

Sigrid Lüber
Founder and President
slueber@oceancare.org

Fabienne McLellan
Director International Relations
fmclellan@oceancare.org

Nicolas Entrup
Senior Ocean Policy Expert
nentrup@oceancare.org

OceanCare
Gerbestrasse 6
P.O. Box 372
CH-8820 Wädenswil
Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0) 44 780 66 88
Fax: +41 (0) 44 780 68 08

www.oceancare.org

Photo Credits

Cover page: Shutterstock
2-3: Shutterstock
3: Manuela Matt | privat
4-5: Shutterstock/Jo Crebbin
6: iStock
8-9: Shutterstock/Tracey Winholt
10: NOAA
11: globalgarbage.org
12: Shutterstock
13: Shutterstock
14: Dolphin Biology and Conservation
15: Pelagos Research Institute
16: Dolphin Biology and Conservation
16-17: Shutterstock/Sylvie Bouchard
18: Shutterstock/Andrea Izzotti
19: FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto
20: OceanCare
21: Shutterstock
22-23 : Sandra Walser

Illustrations: Roman Richter

Suggested citation: *Supplementary Information to OceanCare's Quadrennial Report to ECOSOC 2019: Supplementary Information to OceanCare's Quadrennial Report to ECOSOC 2019*, OceanCare, Switzerland, 2019