



Once one of the most common cetacean species in the Mediterranean, common dolphins have declined dramatically in the past 30-40 years.

No relevant action has been taken to aid the recovery of common dolphins. Political inaction is bringing yet another dolphin population to the brink of extinction.

Mediterranean common dolphins are vanishing

Conservation problems have been recognized since the 1970s ...

The UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (1975) recommended strong conservation measures to protect the species www.unep.org

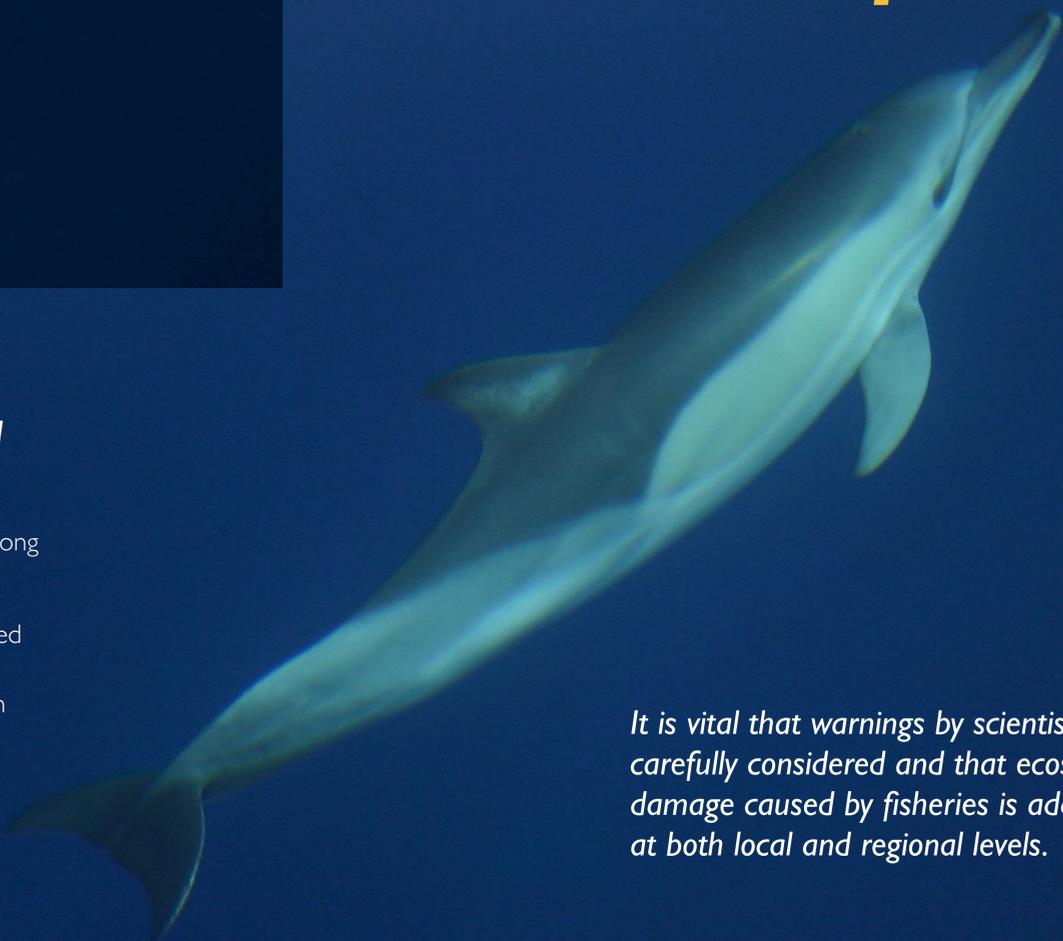
The 2000-2010 IUCN Action Plan for the world's cetaceans noted that common dolphins had declined dramatically in the central and eastern Mediterranean and stressed that conservation action was urgently needed www.iucn.org

In 2003 the Mediterranean population of common dolphins was classified as Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals www.iucnredlist.org

In 2004, ACCOBAMS presented a 90-page Conservation Plan for Mediterranean common dolphins, that was welcomed at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Parties www.accobams.org

In 2005, the Mediterranean population of common dolphins was included in Appendix I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species www.cms.int

... but still no significant change has occurred.



It is vital that warnings by scientists are carefully considered and that ecosystem damage caused by fisheries is addressed at both local and regional levels.

30 years of talking is enough: we need action NOW

ONE MEDITERRANEAN CASE STUDY

KALAMOS *former common dolphin paradise*

Seeing common dolphins was a frequent event around the Greek island of Kalamos until the late 1990s.

Today, common dolphins have become a rare sight in this EC Site of Community Importance. Their numbers dropped by one order of magnitude in only ten years.

Large marine predators like tuna and swordfish have also become rare, and fishermen lament a decline in landings.

The main reason behind ecosystem collapse is fishery mismanagement resulting in overfishing.

1995	120 common dolphins
2006	18 common dolphins
2010	<i>expected to be locally extinct</i>

Main threats: overfishing and mortality in fishing gear.

Solution: reduce fishing effort and ban detrimental fishing gear (used by a relatively small number of boats).

Benefits: ecosystem recovery, increased biodiversity, increased aesthetic and cultural value of the area, survival of artisanal fishing, nature tourism.



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For more information:
www.coastaldolphins.org

