

Increased awareness on the presence and conservation needs of Cetaceans and Sea Turtles

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The project is co-funded by the European Union,
Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

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Why is public awareness important?

- 1 Sea, 5 countries, shared Cetacean and Turtle populations
- Need of a common conservation strategy
- Local communities and decision makers are key in its implementation

However:

- Lack of awareness of occurrence and threats
- Better information can reduce unintentional threats



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Objectives and Actions

Project objective:

➤ to increase local actors and public awareness of the presence and conservation needs of cetaceans and sea turtles

4 actions for 4 target categories:

- Fishermen
- Boat drivers
- Schoolchildren
- General public



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Fishermen /1

Objective: to reduce the impact of fishing on sea turtles

How: Best practices to reduce post-release mortality.

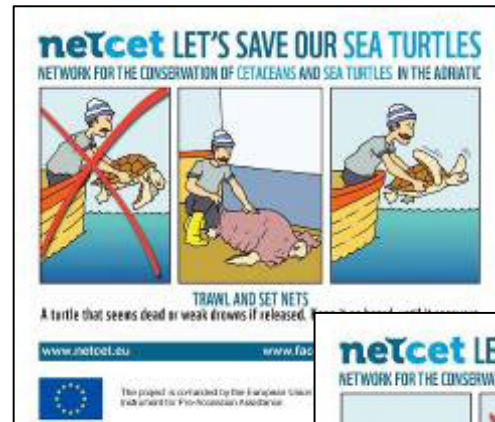
- **Trawl nets.** Turtles in a comatose state will die if released in this state. Fishermen can let them recover on board.

- **Longlines.** Turtles released with a long tract of line attached will probably die. Fishermen can remove the line.



Fishermen /2

- Meetings
- Posters
- T-shirts
- Stickers



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Fishermen /3

- **75** meetings
- **800** fishermen informed
- **6600** turtles/yr potentially captured and correctly treated by these fishermen



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Boat drivers /1

Objective: to reduce the impact of boat traffic on cetaceans & sea turtles

How: Best practices to reduce disturbance and collisions

- **Turtles:** Reduce speed and scan the sea
- **Cetaceans:** Correct approach and driving



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Boat drivers /2

Posters

- 97 ports
- 4200 leisure boats potentially informed



netcet
HOW NOT TO HARM CETACEANS AND TURTLES WITH YOUR BOAT
 PROJECT NETCET - NETWORK FOR THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND SEA TURTLES IN THE ADRIATIC

BOATS, TURTLES AND CETACEANS

Boats periodically go to the surface to breathe and they spend long hours at anchor for waiting and loading. They may not be able to avoid an accidental collision with a cetacean or turtle, especially if they are in the vicinity of the boat or the propeller has come loose and started to rotate in the water.

Cetaceans periodically go to the surface to breathe and they spend long hours at anchor for waiting and loading. They may not be able to avoid an accidental collision with a cetacean or turtle, especially if they are in the vicinity of the boat or the propeller has come loose and started to rotate in the water.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

By making a slow start, you can avoid collisions with cetaceans and turtles. If you are in the vicinity of a cetacean or turtle, you should avoid using the engine and avoid making any sudden movements. If you are in the vicinity of a cetacean or turtle, you should avoid using the engine and avoid making any sudden movements.

SEA TURTLES AND CETACEANS OF THE ADRIATIC

The Mediterranean monk seal is the most endangered cetacean in the world. It is found in the Adriatic Sea, the Aegean Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.

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IN CASE OF DOUBTS, PROBLEMS OR TO REPORT A FINDING, PLEASE CALL COAST GUARD 1530 OR FRUII-VENEZIA GOLIA: 040.224147 VENEZIA: 040.2686472 - EMILIA-ROMAGNA E MARCHE: 0541691557 - ABRUZZO: 02.58240050 - PUGLIA: 080.5210307

Schoolchildren /1

Objective: to inform local communities on cetaceans & sea turtles conservation issues

How: by informing the new generations



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Schoolchildren /3

- 200 frontal lessons
- 3300+ schoolchildren informed



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General public /1

Objective: to increase public awareness of the presence and conservation needs of cetaceans and sea turtles

How: public events (sea turtle release), with local public and media



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General public /2

- 94 public events
- 3.5 million people potentially informed



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Summary

- 800 fishermen, 4200 leisure boats, 3300 schoolchildren, 3.5 million people
- First time same contents (priorities) are provided to key categories in the 5 Adriatic countries
- Cetacean and sea turtles begin to be perceived as a common Adriatic heritage
- Expected public support to current and future conservation measures

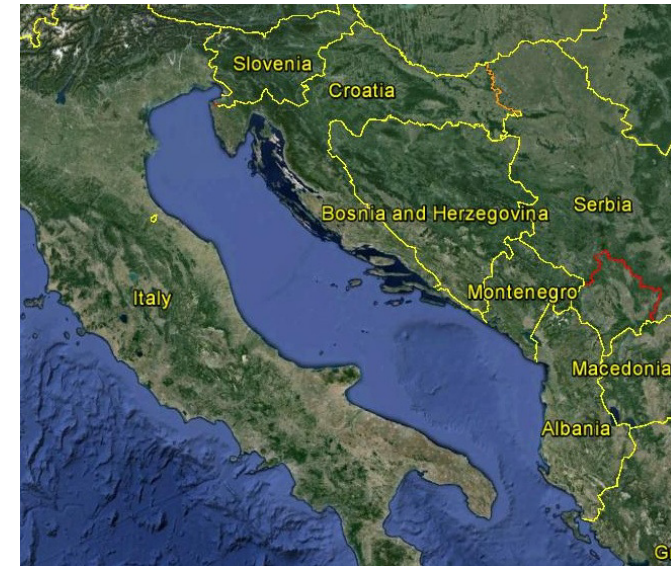


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Next steps

Post-NETCET Adriatic network:

- Coordination of information contents (changing with time)
- Support to future conservation actions
- More stakeholders and general public reached
- More organizations included in the network



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Thank you for your attention!

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