

Information regarding the distribution of marine mammals in Greece still remains scarce because no long term studies have been undertaken in the region until now. Detailed information on the subject is only available for the Mediterranean Monk seal (RONALD and DUGUY 1978; CEBRIAN and VLACHOUTSIKOU 1991).

*Preliminary data on the distribution of cetaceans in Greece are presented.

Methods

Data were obtained by means of direct observation and also with the aid of an identification file sent to the Port Police and to environmental groups involved with the Sea. The files are a Greek translation of the one used for the C.I.E.S.M. International Programme for the Registration of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean, and were collected by the N.C.M.R. (National Centre for Marine Research).

Results

The following 11 species have been recorded during the research period in Greek Waters: *Stenella coeruleoalba*, *Delphinus delphis*, *Tursiops truncatus*, *Ziphius cavirostris*, *Mesoplodon densirostris*, *Globicephala melaena*, *Grampus griseus*, *Orcinus orca*, *Physeter catodon*, *Balaenoptera physalus* and *Delphinapterus leucas*.

The information available gives the following distribution patterns:

Stenella coeruleoalba

Present in all the Ionian Sea, Saronikos Gulf, Mirton Sea, Evia, Gulf, Dodekanisos, Krete, Rodos. East Aegean and Chalkidiki. The species is registered in waters shallower than 200 m:

Delphinus delphis

Also present in the Ionian Sea. Mesolonghi lagoon. Southern Peloponnissos, Krete, Karpathos, Rodos. Southern Evia, Central Cyclades, Lesbos, Chios, Northern Aegean. Also inhabits waters shallower than 200 m.

Tursiops truncatus

The scarce data available locate them in Southern Peloponnissos, Krete. Karpathos. Northern Cyclades, Southern Evia, Chalkidiki and Thermaikos Gulf.

Ziphius cavirostris

Four individuals stranded in Rodos, one in Alonissos, one doubtful in Krete and one doubtful in Karpathos.

Mesoplodon densirostris

One dead individual floating offshore Mani. Southern Peloponnissos (POULOPOULOS pers com). Only another record of the species exists in the Mediterranean, a female stranded South of Barcelona (DUGUY *et al.*, 1983).

Globicephala melaena

Recorded offshore Antikithira and at the tips of Chalkidiki. Seems to be scarce.

Grampus griseus

Observed in Othoni (NW from Kerkira), offshore Western Crete, also in Southern Evia, Karpathos. and South from Chalkidiki. Its presence was considered before as limited to the Western Basin (DUGUY *et al.*, 1983).

Orcinus orca

Only one record from Southwestern Peloponnissos.

Physeter catodon

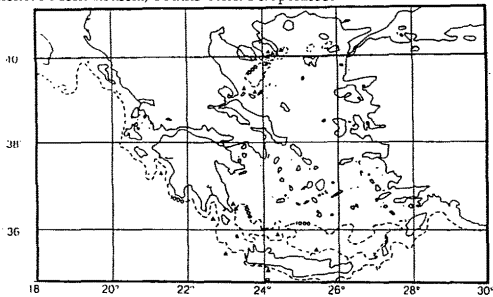
Associated with deep waters, more than 1000 m depth (fig. 1). Present along the canyons North and South from Krete, and South from Chalkidiki. Also recorded in Southern and Western Peloponnissos and at the North face of Sporades Islands. Possible harems sighted in Southern Chalkidiki and Western Peloponnissos.

Delphinapterus leucas

Exceptional record of this Arctic species in the Southern Black Sea. The individual evidently passed across the Aegean Sea.

Balaenoptera physalus

Two individuals sighted together in the Lakonikos Gulf, Southern Peloponnissos. Another record offshore Monembassia, Southeastern Peloponnissos.



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