

HD16 First video documented presence of Mediterranean monk seal in Southern Apulia (Italy)

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Sightings of Endangered monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) specimens have been increasingly reported along the coasts of its historic Mediterranean distribution over the last two decades, even from countries where the species was considered extinct for about half a century. These encounters have been documented and verified particularly along the coasts of the Adriatic-Ionian basin. The activities carried out in Salento (Southern Apulia, Italy) since 2012, engaging with local protected areas, authorities and different stakeholders (organizations, museums, universities, fishermen's cooperatives and tourism sectors enterprises) allowed us to record and verify 10 monk seal sightings (from 2009 to 2014) in the area. However, the last sighting with photographic documentation dates back to 1973. In June 2017, after six years of monitoring and awareness of the territory, immediately after the sighting, we received a video evidence of such presence. The footage, and the resulting interview with the witnesses, documented the presence of a Mediterranean monk seal's specimen, about 2 meters in length, along the coast of Tricase (Lecce, Apulia). This new event has a remarkable importance to the hypothesis that Salento and the Adriatic-Ionian basin might play an important role in the overall conservation of the species.

~~HD17 Large-scale movements of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) within the Macaronesia (NE Atlantic): dolphins with an international playground~~

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~~The movements of the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) are well documented in each of the Macaronesian archipelagos of the Canaries, Madeira and the Azores. Nevertheless, little is known about the connectivity of the species among these three oceanic archipelagos. This study aimed to identify wide-range movements between the archipelagos of Madeira-Azores (~ 1000 km), Madeira-Canaries (~ 500 km) and Azores-Canaries (~ 1500 km). This was done through the compilation and comparison of bottlenose dolphin's photo-identification catalogues of the different archipelagos and, the creation of a common Macaronesia catalogue. We compared one catalog from Madeira (n=363); two catalogues from different areas in the Azores (n=495, n= 176), and four catalogues from different islands of the Canaries (n=182, n=110, n=142, n=281), summing up to 1791 photos. The results showed a total of 26 individual matches, mostly between Madeira-Canaries (n=23), and three between Madeira-Azores. No matches were found between the Canary Islands and the Azores, as well as among the three archipelagos. The minimum time recorded for an individual travelling between the Canary Islands (La Palma) and Madeira (~ 460 km) was 62 days. Four individuals were seen together in La Palma and in Madeira, less than three months apart, suggesting that these individuals may have travelled together. The considerably higher number of individuals that were re-sighted between Madeira and the Canary Islands might be explained by the proximity of these two archipelagos. This study shows the first inter-archipelago movements of bottlenose dolphins within the Macaronesia region, emphasizing the high mobility of this species and supporting the high gene flow described for oceanic animals inhabiting the North Atlantic. The dynamic of these wide-range movements strongly denotes the need to review marine protected areas established for this species in each archipelago, calling for resolutions from three autonomous regions and two different countries.~~

~~HD18 Gradient in "hotness": Using and evaluating emerging hot spot analysis to test long-term changes in dolphin distribution off Kaikoura, New Zealand~~

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