Ship Strikes

Collisions between cetaceans and vessels

Animals can be injured or killed and vessels can sustain damage.

Most reports of collisions between whales and vessels involve large whales, but all species can be affected.

Collisions with large vessels often go unnoticed and unreported.

Main Threats

Cargos

Ferries

Speed boats

The Mediterranean Sea

Every year, 220,000 ships greater than 100 tons cross the Mediterranean basin. 30% of international seaborne volume originates from or is directed towards 300 Mediterranean ports. The most threatened whale species are two: fin whales and sperm whales.

Sources: International Whaling Commission, Tethys Research Institute, International Chamber of Shipping.

Photo credits: European Commission

Ship Strikes

The conservation of marine habitat

According to Friend of the Sea Sustainable Shipping Program, ship owners should:

- Have in place an on-board full-time marine mammal observation program to cover the area in front of the vessels (120° minimum), including at night.
- Share real-time observations and make them available to all ships in the area and for statistical purposes.
- Allow Friend of the Sea to access real-time data on company vessels and nearby marine mammals on online platform.
- Have a procedure in place to react to and avoid nearby marine mammals.

According to IUCN Red List:

- Bowhead whale ( Least Concern (2006))
- Bryde's whale (Data Deficient)
- Cuvier's beaked whale (Least Concern)
- Humpback whale (Endangered)
- Sperm whale (Endangered)
- Fin whale (Vulnerable)
- Bryde's whale (Data Deficient)
- Blue whale (Endangered)
- Hauraki Gulf
- Bering Strait
- Mediterranean Sea
- Oman
- Sri Lanka
- SRI LANKA