

WHAT CAN WE DO ?

What can we do to help ensure a future for these animals and make the Mediterranean Sea a better place? As individuals, we can do a lot. Individual choices make a difference and all of us can do something.

As **voters**, we can empower sensible politicians and support those who advocate sustainable fisheries and marine protected areas.

As **consumers**, we can influence the markets and buy responsibly. Avoid eating large marine predators like swordfish and tuna. Consider the implications of buying fish when capture may involve detrimental fishing methods or ecosystem damage.

As **committed citizens**, we can join environmental organizations and support initiatives for marine conservation (see What You Can Do at www.coastaldolphins.org).

Don't throw litter in the sea. Recycle paper, glass and whatever can be re-used. Try to avoid waste and limit consumption.

*Love and respect all animals, not only dolphins.
Every living being has its place and function in nature.
Every form of life is a masterpiece that deserves your interest.*

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.



The short-beaked common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

Mediterranean common dolphins are vanishing



For more information:

www.coastaldolphins.org

Photos: © Chris Johnson / www.earthocean.tv (cover inset: two common dolphins in the Alborán Sea exhale before surfacing); © Giovanni Bearzi / Tethys (inset: two common dolphins near Kalamos, Greece); © Stefano Agazzi / Tethys (background photos and graph inset: common dolphins near Kalamos).
Design: Giovanni Bearzi (2007).

Support ACTION to protect them !

www.coastaldolphins.org



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 that may result in common dolphin recovery.

Political inaction is bringing yet another dolphin population to the brink of extinction.

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.

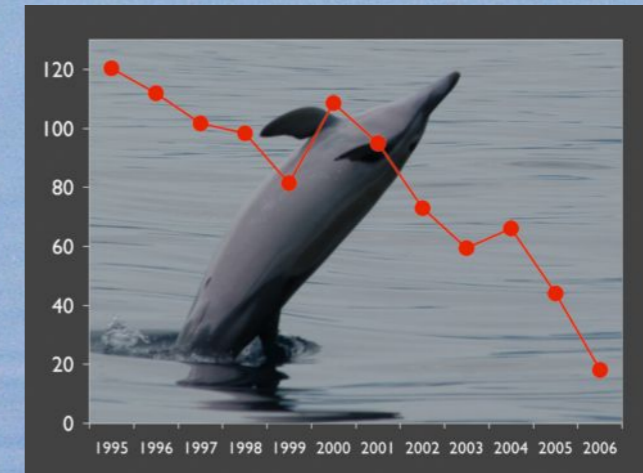
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| 1995 | 120 common dolphins |
| 2006 | 18 common dolphins |
| 2010 | <i>expected to be locally extinct</i> |

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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The decline of common dolphins around Kalamos in years 1995-2006

