

Area Size

Qualifying Species and Criteria

Mediterranean monk seal - *Monachus monachus* Criterion A; C (i, ii)

Summary

The northern coast area of Cyprus includes many important biological features. It contains breeding and pupping habitats of the Endangered Mediterranean monk seal (Monachus monachus). There are some feeding areas of monk seals on the northern coast of Cyprus where seals have been reported to feed. Monk seals are known to feed on cephalopods and fish in coastal habitats. Approximately 40 individuals are estimated to inhabit the area which extends seawards towards the 200m isobath.

Northern Coast of Cyprus Important Marine Mammal Area - IMMA

Description

Criterion A - Species or Population Vulnerability

The Mediterranean monk seal, *Monachus monachus*, is assessed as Endangered [EN C2a(i)] in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The population inhabiting the area was estimated to be around 40 individuals of the species and are now at a critical stage in the northern coastal area of Cyprus.

Criterion C: Key Life Cycle Activities Sub-criterion Ci: Reproductive Areas

The sea caves present in this area offer resting and pup nursing areas for the monk seal. There are only a handful of such caves on the island that were located in the monk seal surveys carried out and this area contains some of them. A juvenile female (<1 years old) was observed during the survey. Eight caves were identified as suitable for pupping and pup nursing.

Criterion C: Key Life Cycle Activities Sub-criterion Cii: Feeding Areas

There is evidence of feeding areas of monk seals on the northern coast of Cyprus where seals have been reported to feed. The monk seals are known to feed on cephalopod and fish species in coastal habitats.

Supporting Information

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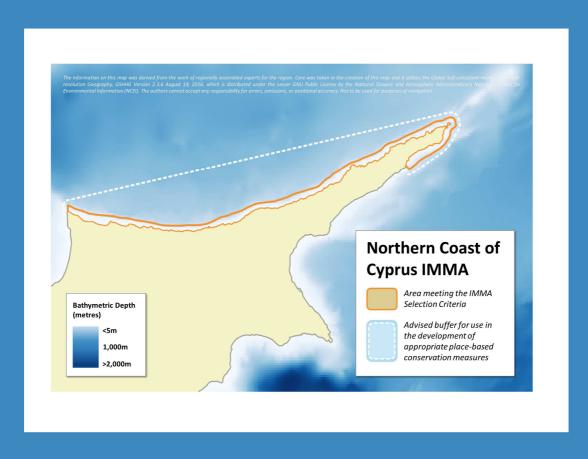


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Annex I

Supplementary Maps



Annex II

List of Primary and Secondary Species

Primary Species – Meet the IMMA Selection Criteria

Scientific Name	Common Name of Species	Population / Subpopulation Name	IUCN Red List Status
Monachus monachus	Mediterranean monk seal	Eastern Mediterranean subpopulation	Endangered

Secondary Species – Do not individually meet the IMMA Selection Criteria but are present within the area

Scientific Name	Common Name of Species	Population / Subpopulation Name	IUCN Red List Status
NA	NA	NA	NA