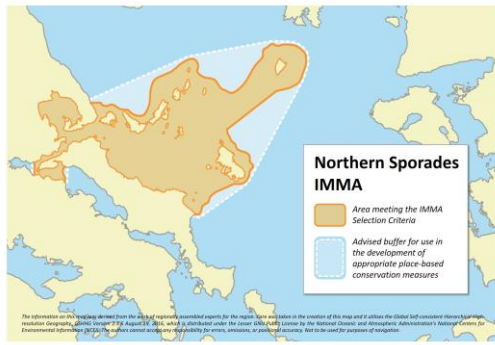


Northern Sporades Important Marine Mammal Area - IMMA

Description

Area includes rocky shores and small islands, and extends to 200 m isobath. The Northern Aegean Sea is one of the most productive of the Eastern Mediterranean. Data is based on long-time direct observations by MOM, a specialised NGO, and park personnel. The National Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades (NPANS) had 52 adult individuals in 2009 (Legakis and Marangou, 2009) and contains 34 marine caves identified as monk seal pupping and resting habitat (Dendrinos et al, 2007). Agios Efstratios and Northern Evia are also two important breeding areas for monk seals (Legakis and Maragou, 2009). Northern Evia is considered to host 30 – 50 individuals of monk seals, i.e. 10% of the Greek population (Kotzageorgis et al., 2015). The Mediterranean Monk Seal is listed as Endangered by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Mean length of adults is 2.4 m for males and 2.0 to 2.4 m for females; mean weight is 315 and 300 kg for adult males and females respectively. Monk seal pups measure approximately 1 m, weigh 15-18 kg at birth and reach sexual maturity between 5 and 6 years, although some females may mature as early as 3 or 4 years. The species is still widely distributed throughout coastal and insular Greece; important sub-populations can be found in the Northern Sporades, Kimolos, Gyaros and Karpathos. The minimum population size estimate for Greece is 179 adult individuals, which represents 40% to 51% of the world's total population size estimate. Major threats to the species are a) habitat deterioration and loss by human coastal development, b) deliberate killing and accidental entanglement in fishing gear, c) decreased food availability due to overfishing, d) marine pollution and e) stochastic events, such as disease out- breaks. Conservation measures for the species focus on the establishment of marine protected areas,



Area Size

10,623 km²

Qualifying Species and Criteria

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

Marine Mammal Diversity

[*Delphinus delphis*, *Tursiops truncatus*,
Stenella coeruleoalba, *Grampus griseus*,
Ziphius cavirostris, *Physeter macrocephalus*]

Summary

This area includes the National Marine Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades, which was established specifically to protect a colony of Endangered Mediterranean monk seals (*Monachus monachus*). The area extends eastward to include the island of Agios Eustratios as well as the coastal waters of the northern Evia island, where monk seal pupping is regularly reported. The seal population in the Northern Sporades is estimated at 52 adult individuals, and as such it can be considered a major concentration at the species level.

rescue and rehabilitation of orphaned or injured seals, environmental education and public awareness. The species is strictly protected under Greek law, European Directives and International Conventions.

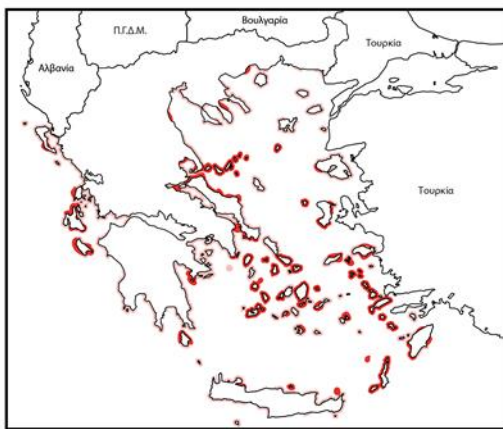
Criterion A - Species or Population Vulnerability

The Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus* is assessed as Endangered [EN C2a(i)] in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Karamanlidis and Dendrinis, 2015). Minimum number estimated 60 animals including pups in the area, according to Legakis and Maragou, 2009, which represents 9.2% of the global population, based on Karamanlidis and Dendrinis, 2015.

Criterion C: Key Life Cycle Activities

Sub-criterion Ci: Reproductive Areas

The main criterion upon which the candidate IMMA was identified was based on the knowledge that the area contains breeding nuclei of monk seals (Legakis and Maragou, 2009). Therefore, Ci (and by consequence, Cii) obviously applies. Information on the occurrence of pupping in the area is robust, recent, and undisputed, as collected by the NPANS personnel, and collaborating scientists (e.g., Legakis and Maragou, 2009).



Locations of known monk seal distribution – Pink; important pupping habitat – Red; Although monk seal pupping habitat is obviously widely spread throughout the Aegean Sea, the area of the Northern Sporades (in the red circle) is particularly well known for the density of pupping and justified the establishment there of the “National Marine Park of Alonissos and Northern Sporades”. (Legakis and Maragou, 2009).

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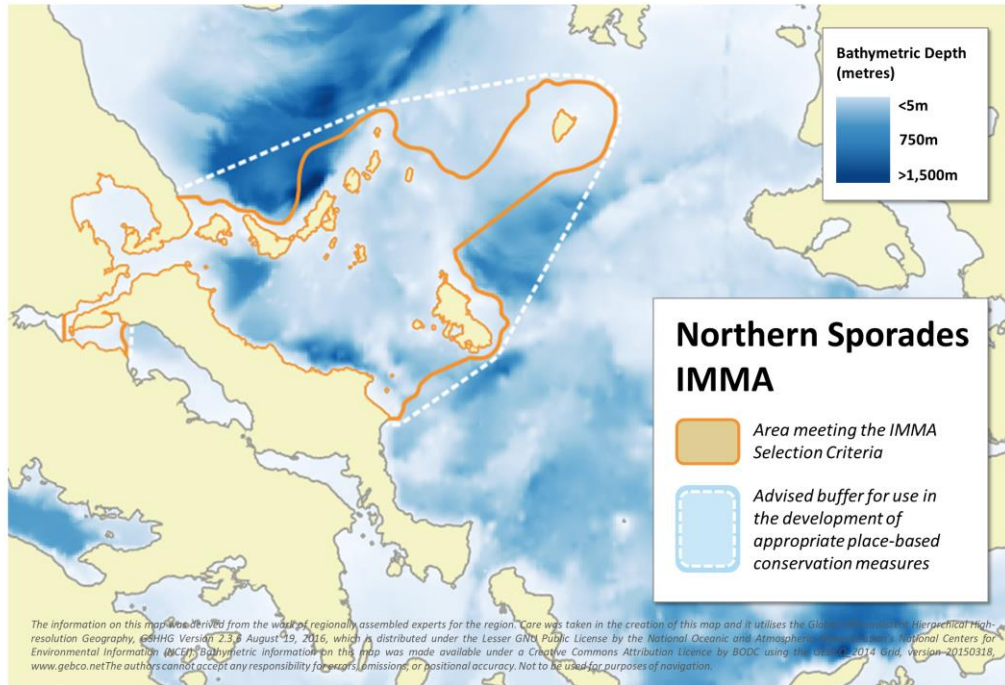
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Annex I

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
<i>Monachus monachus</i>	Mediterranean monk seal	Aegean 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
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Common dolphin	Mediterranean Subpopulation	Endangered
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Common bottlenose dolphin	Mediterranean Subpopulation	Vulnerable
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Striped dolphin	Mediterranean Subpopulation	Vulnerable
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's dolphin	Mediterranean Subpopulation	Data Deficient
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Cuvier's beaked whale	Mediterranean Subpopulation	Data Deficient
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Sperm whale	Mediterranean Subpopulation	Endangered