

Proposal for Inclusion of Species on the Appendices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

A. Proposal: Inclusion of Tursiops truncatus (Black Sea population) in Appendix II

B. Proponent:

C. Supporting Statement

1. Taxon

1.1. Classis	Mammalia
1.2. Ordo	CETACEA
1.3. Familia	Delphinidae
1.4. Genus/Species/Subspecies	<u>Tursiops truncatus</u> (Montagu, 1821)
1.5. Common Name(s)	
English:	bottlenose dolphin
Spanish:	delfin mular, tursion
French:	grand dauphin, souffleur
Russian:	afalina, bolshoi delfin
Turkish:	afalina

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution (current and historical)

Bottlenose dolphins are found in all temperate and tropical seas around the world. The species is absent only from very high latitudes. Two forms have been identified in most areas where the systematics of the species has been studied, an inshore form and an offshore form, the latter including residents of coastal and oceanic islands (Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983), but it is not clear whether these forms correspond with each other in different regions (W.F. Perrin, pers. comm.).

2.2. Population (estimates and trends)

Estimates for the Black Sea population were based on aerial and ship surveys, but problems in the methodology of the surveys precluded confident results (Smith, 1982; IWC, 1983). The population, however, is considered severely reduced by overhunting (see details below). A recent estimate of nearly half a million individuals been published by Celikkale et al. (1988, 1989) for the pooled dolphin population (which involve at least three species) inhabiting the Black Sea but this report also needs further evaluation.

2.3. Habitat (short description and trends)

Bottlenose dolphins exploit a wide variety of habitats. A coastal habitat seems to be preferred in the Black Sea, with limited movements into offshore waters (Tomilin, 1967). Dolphins in the Black Sea feed primarily on anchovy, sprat, horse mackerel, red mullet and gray mullet (Celikkale et al., 1988).

2.4. Migrations (kinds of movement, distance, proportion of the population migrating)

In the Black Sea bottlenose dolphins are said to be found in coastal waters all the way between Odessa and Batumi, but migrations have not been well studied (Tomilin, 1967). However movements in search of prey are expected.

3. Threat data

3.1. Direct threats to the population (factors, intensity)

A directed fishery for harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin and common dolphin existed for several years in the Black Sea. This fishery was started in 1870 by the USSR, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. Purse seines were used, and up to 2,500 dolphins and porpoises were reportedly taken in a single haul (Tomilin, 1967; Celikkale, et al. 1988, 1989). Statistics refer only to total catch, without indications of the catch composition. Russian fishing reached a peak in 1938 with a total catch of 135,000-140,000 dolphins and porpoises. After a very small catch in 1964-1966, the dolphin fishery was closed by the USSR, Bulgaria and Romania in 1967 (Smith, 1982; Celikkale et al., 1988). Turkey continued the hunting until 1983. According to the records, 157,000-185,000 animals were taken in the Turkish fishery between 1951 and 1958 and about 1,300,000 were taken between 1967 and 1981 (IWC, 1983). An average annual take of 34,000 to 44,000 animals was estimated from weight data for the period 1976-1981 (IWC, 1984: 151). Statistics provided recently by M. Celikkale (pers. comm.) from official sources give a total catch of nearly 10,000 tons for the period 1954-1983. This would yield an approximate 8,000 dolphins per year. As can be seen from these different figures, the question about the extent of the dolphin fishery in the Black Sea is yet unresolved.

3.2. Habitat destruction (quality of changes, quantity of loss)

According to Tomilin (1967) the absence of dolphins and porpoises in the Azov Sea is the result of the high levels of contamination of these waters. The main sources of pollution in the Black Sea are the industrial wastes carried for several rivers that drain into the Sea, domestic effluents and pesticides (Celikkale, 1990).

3.3. Indirect threat (e.g. reduction of breeding success by pesticide contamination)

Fisheries operating in the Black Sea take around 560,000 tons of fish every year, the most important being the European anchovy and the Mediterranean horse mackerel, important prey species for the dolphin populations in the Black Sea (Northridge, 1984; Celikkale, 1990).

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

No information

3.5. National and international utilization

The main products obtained from dolphins in the Black Sea were meal and oil. Exportation of these to the European Economic Community is no longer possible because of a prohibition of imports of cetacean products (Klinowska, in press; Perrin, 1988).

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

The species is protected by specific legislations in the USSR, Romania and Bulgaria. A temporary ban has been adopted by Turkey, where the dolphin fishery is scheduled to be reopened when a stock assessment has been completed (Berkes, 1977; Klinowska, in press; Perrin, 1988).

4.2. International protection status

Tursiops truncatus is listed in Appendix II of CITES. Within the European Economic Community regulations on trade are more strict and the species is considered as if listed in CITES Appendix I. It is also listed in Appendix II of the Berne Convention (Klinowska, in press). Further protection is provided by the International Convention on Marine Resources of the Black Sea.

The species is categorized as "Not Threatened" by the IUCN (Perrin, 1989).

4.3. Additional protection needs

Establishment of a co-operative research effort between the Black Sea nations for limitation of pollution sources, accurate estimations of abundance and a review of existing statistics of the dolphin fishery are urgently needed. Estimation of reproductive parameters and study of the evolution of pelagic fisheries will be necessary for future management decisions.

5. Range States

Bulgaria, Romania, the USSR and Turkey.

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

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