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

A. Proposal: Inclusion of Stenella coeruleoalba (western Mediterranean 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>Stenella coeruleoalba</u> (Meyen, 1833)
1.5. Common Name(s)	
English:	striped dolphin
Spanish:	delfin listado
French:	dauphin bleu et blanc
Portuguese:	golfinho riscado

2. Biological data

2.1. Distribution (current and historical)

The striped dolphin is found in all temperate, subtropical, and tropical waters of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and in the Mediterranean and Red Seas. Its presence has been recorded as far south as New Zealand and as far north as Greenland (Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983; Wilson et al., 1987).

2.2. Population (estimates and trends)

The large number of distribution records from the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean suggest that substantial populations exist there, although no population size estimates are available (Wilson et al., 1987).

2.3. Habitat (short description and trends)

Striped dolphins are basically pelagic, travelling in large groups of several hundreds and even thousands of individuals. Information from the Mediterranean shows that these dolphins may be found at waters deeper than 100 m (Aguilar et al., 1984; Forcada et al., 1990). The diet comprises a variety of fish such as anchovies and sardines (Di Natale, 1983), cephalopods and crustaceans (Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983).

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

Seasonal migrations have also been observed in the western Mediterranean. The dolphins move towards the northern part of the basin as the sea surface temperatures in the southern part increase (Viale, 1985; McBrearty et al., 1986). The few observations, however, do not indicate any kind of segregation within the schools.

3. Threat data

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

In the Northeast Atlantic striped and common dolphins are harpooned to supply food for consumption on board fishing vessels or to scare them away from tuna trolling lines. It is possible that about 100-200 dolphins are taken every year in the Mediterranean for the same reasons (Duguy and Hussenot, 1982; Collet, 1983).

A drift net fishery for swordfish in the waters surrounding the Italian Peninsula was reported to catch 68 striped dolphins among several other cetaceans in the period 1986-1988. The actual extent of the catch remains unknown (Podesta and Magnaghi, 1989; Notarbartolo-di-Sciara, 1990).

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

The Mediterranean is a highly polluted sea, receiving a large amount of domestic and industrial effluents. Some areas are under severe ecological stress (Jeftic, 1988). Extremely high concentrations of heavy metals, DDT and PCBs are reported in specimens from the Mediterranean, Ligurian, Adriatic and Tyrrhenian Seas (Alzieu and Duguy, 1979; Capelli et al., 1989; Carlini and Fabbri, 1989).

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

The presence of high levels of heavy metals was associated with lung pathology in Mediterranean cetaceans (Viale, 1981). The European anchovy is the most heavily exploited pelagic resource in the Mediterranean, where some other stocks of pelagic fishes are already over-exploited (Northridge, 1984).

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

No information.

3.5. National and international utilization

Some animals are used for human consumption (see 3.1.).

4. Protection status and needs

4.1. National protection status

Specific legislation on cetaceans protect the species in Spain, France and Italy (Klinowska, in press; Aguilar, pers. comm.). No information on other countries of the region are available.

4.2. International protection status

Stenella coeruleoalba is listed in Appendix II of CITES and in Appendix II of the Berne Convention, but no other international legislation specifically refers to this species (Klinowska, in press).

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

4.3. Additional protection needs

Actions to be taken involve research on stock identity and abundance, the magnitude of direct and incidental mortality and the effects of pollutants and other sources of habitat degradation on the population.

5. Range States

Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia

6. Comments from Range States

7. Additional remarks

8. References

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