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 (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	Tursiops truncatus (Montagu, 1821)

1.5. Common Name(s)

English:	bottlenose dolphin
Spanish:	delfin mular, tursion
French:	grand dauphin, soufleur
Italian:	delfino maggiore
Portuguese:	peixe-boto

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).

2.2. Population (estimates and trends)

The species is said to be common in several parts of the Mediterranean (Viale, 1982; Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983) but no information on population size is available.

2.3. Habitat (short description and trends)

In the western Mediterranean the species is found in waters ranging from 18°C to 23°C (Viale, 1982); some pelagic and demersal fishes are eaten by bottlenose dolphins in the area (Viale, 1982; Northridge, 1984).

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

According to Viale (1982) bottlenose dolphins move to the northern part of the western Mediterranean in summer and return to the southern part in winter. These movements are associated with the migration of prey species as a result of seasonal variations in water temperature.

3. Threat data

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

Duguy and Hussenot (1982) reported on harpooning of dolphins in the Mediterranean for consumption at sea. Although the species reported were common dolphins (Delphinus delphis) and striped dolphins (Stenella coeruleoalba) it is likely that bottlenose dolphins may have been caught as well.

Incidental catches have been reported in trawl fisheries (Duguy and Hussenot, 1982) and in the drifnet swordfish fishery (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). There are reports of DDT, PCBs and heavy metals in bottlenose dolphins from the western Mediterranean, with higher levels of DDT and its metabolites (Viale, 1978; Focardi et al., 1990).

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 either over-exploited or reduced by pollution (Northridge, 1984).

3.4. Threats connected especially with migrations

No information.

3.5. National and international utilization

No information (but 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

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

4.3. Additional protection needs

Studies on biology and ecology, and estimations of population size are required. It is important to assess the level of fishery interactions and the effects of high levels of pollutants in the vital cycle of this and other cetacean species in the area.

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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Forcadi, S., L. Marsili, F. Fabbri and R. Carlini. 1990. Preliminary study of chlorinated hydrocarbon levels in cetacea stranded along the Tyrrhenian coast of Latium (central Italy). Fourth Ann. Conf. Europ. Cet. Soc. Palma de Mallorca, 2-4 March 1990. Abstracts:51.

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