

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

A. PROPOSAL

To include *Globicephala melaena* in Appendix II of the Convention; only the populations of the Baltic Sea and the North Sea.

B. PROPONENT

Kingdom of The Netherlands

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1 Classis	Mammalia
1.2 Ordo	Cetacea
1.3 Familia	Delphinidae
1.4 Genus and species	<i>Globicephala melaena</i> (Traill 1809)
1.5 Common names	
English	Long-finned pilot whale
French	Globicephale noir
Spanish	Calderon negro
Dutch	Griend

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution (current and historical) - see also 5

Long-finned pilot whales are found in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The two populations are geographically separated and have sometimes been given specific or subspecific rank, the southern form as edwardi and the northern form as melaena. Van Bree (1971) demonstrated osteologically that there are two clearly defined species of Globicephala, G. melaena including edwardii) and G. macrorhynchus. G. macrorhynchus is found in tropical and low-temperate waters of the world. Only in the North Pacific is the distinction not quite clear as there may be two forms of G. macrorhynchus there, the other being the nominal species G. scammoni.

In the North Atlantic G. melaena ranges from Greenland, Iceland and the Barents Sea to Cape Hatteras in the west and northwest Africa, including the Mediterranean in the east (Mitchell 1975a). A number of observations have recently been made in the Mediterranean, showing that off the French and Italian coasts to Corsica, the main concentration occurs in July and calving and mating have been recorded in late September (Vallon, Guigo & Duguy 1976).

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

An inshore movement may occur in summer, but in general very little is known about migrations (Evans 1987).

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threat of the population (factors, intensity)

The species is reported to be involved in some by-catching in fisheries (Mitchell 1975). L. acutus has been kept in captivity.

3.2 Habitat destruction (quality of changes; quantity of loss)

The overfishing, particularly in the North Sea, may be affecting the population (Van Bree 1977). Also disturbance, such as by ships and mineral surveys, and pollution change the North Sea habitat (Evans 1987).

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

No information.

3.4 Threat connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5 National and international utilization

No products from this species are in demand. Some specimens have been kept in captivity.

4. Protection status

4.1 National protection status (Baltic, North Sea)

Belgium:	
Denmark:	Protected
Federal Republic of Germany:	
Finland:	
France:	Protected
German Democratic Republic:	
Norway:	
Poland:	
Sweden:	Protected
The Netherlands:	Not protected
Union of Socialist Soviet Republics:	
United Kingdom:	Protected

4.2 International protection status

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4.3 Additional protection needs

Further information is needed on the biology, populations and distribution. The possible changes in distribution and impact of industrial activity on the North Sea populations should be investigated as should the impact of the overfishing in the area. Information on strandings and incidental taking is particularly important.

5. Range states (North Sea, Baltic)

Belgium? Denmark, France, The Netherlands, United Kingdom,
international waters.

6. Comments from Range States

None received.

7. Additional remarks

None.

8. References

- Aguayo, A. 1978. Smaller cetaceans in the Baltic Sea. Rep. Int. Whal. Comm. 28. SC/29/Doc. 1. p. 131-146.
- Bree, P.J.H. van. 1977. On former and recent strandings of cetaceans on the coast of the Netherlands. ZL. Säugetierk. 42. p. 101-107.
- Evans, P.G.H. 1987. The natural history of whales and dolphins. Christopher Helm, London, 343 p.
- Mitchell, E.D. (ed.) 1975. Review of the biology and fisheries for smaller cetaceans. Report of the meeting on smaller cetaceans. International Whaling Commission. J. Fish. Res. Board Can. 32. p. 875-1240.
- Sergeant, D.E. & H.D. Fisher 1957. The smaller Cetacea of Eastern Canadian waters. J. Fish. Res. Board Can. 14. p. 83-115.