

CeNoBS a step closer in completing a generation dream: basin-wide survey of cetaceans in ACCOBAMS area



Paiu Romulus-Marian, Mare Nostrum NGO, romulus.marian@gmail.com

Ayaka Amaha Ozturk, Turkish Marine Research Foundation
Alina Spînu, National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa”
Celia Le Ravallec, ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat
Ertug Duzgunes, Karadeniz Technical University, Marine Science Faculty
Florence Descroix-Comanducci, ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat
Galina Meshkova, Green Balkans NGO

Julie Belmont, ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat
Marina Panayotova, Institute of oceanology – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Mihaela Mirea-Candea, Mare Nostrum NGO
Miroslava Robinson, Black Sea Basin Directorate
Otilia Mihail, Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests
Pavel Gol'din, Ukrainian Scientific Center of Ecology of the Sea



Introduction

The Black Sea is a semi-enclosed sea with a narrow connection to the Mediterranean, containing the largest anoxic water mass on the planet and three cetacean species: bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*), common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis ponticus*) and harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena relicta*).

CeNoBS project (QR code) is designed to “Support MSFD implementation in the Black Sea through establishing a regional monitoring system of cetaceans (D1 - Biodiversity) and noise monitoring (D11-Energy) for achieving GES”.

Activities

- Cetacean distribution & abundance monitoring
- Cetacean bycatch monitoring
- Noise monitoring

By implementing a dedicated aerial survey using the line transect distance sampling method, in summer 2019, CeNoBS project will strongly contribute in providing the baseline data, regarding cetacean population, which have been missing in the Black Sea for over a generation (Fig.1).

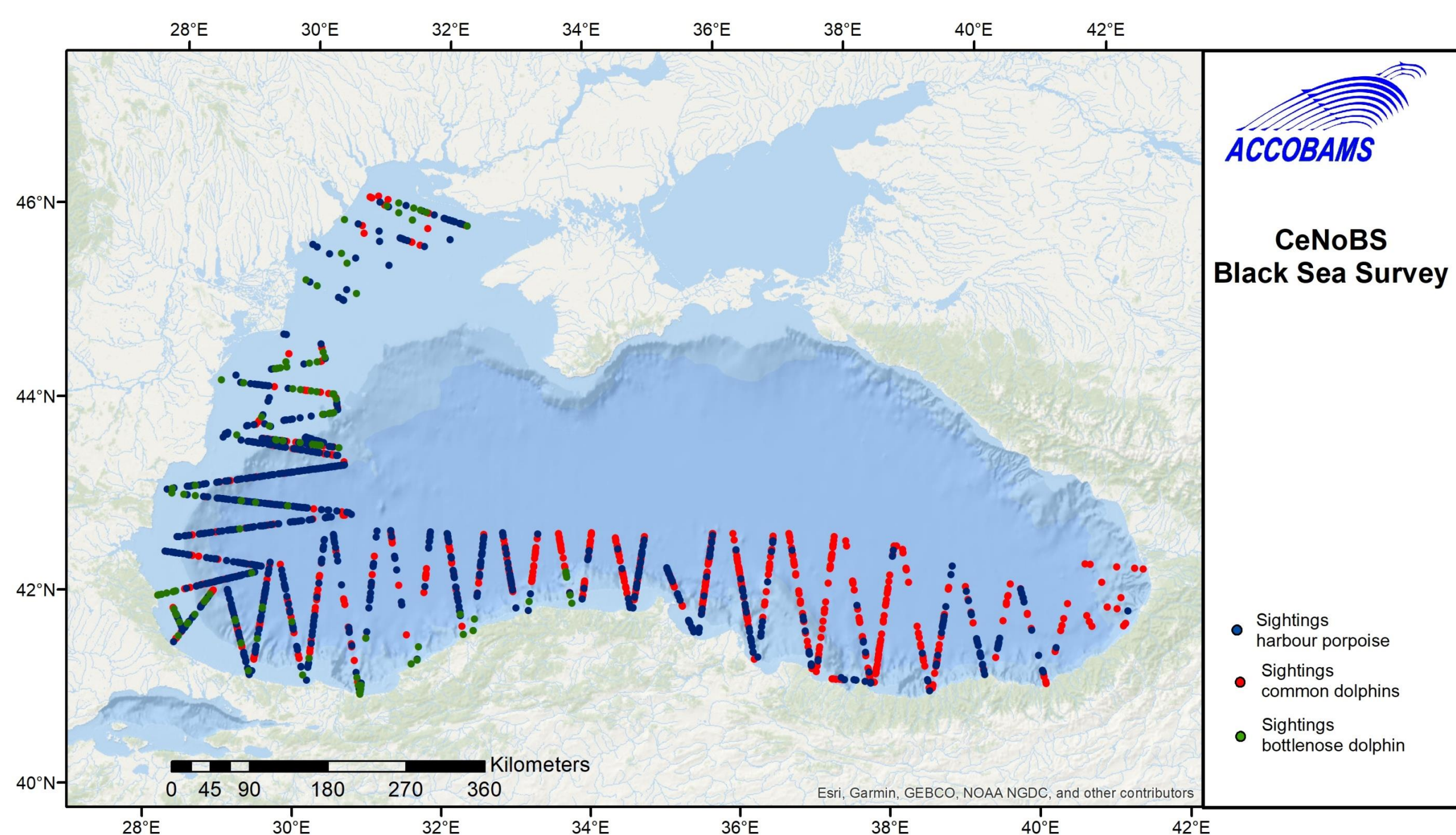
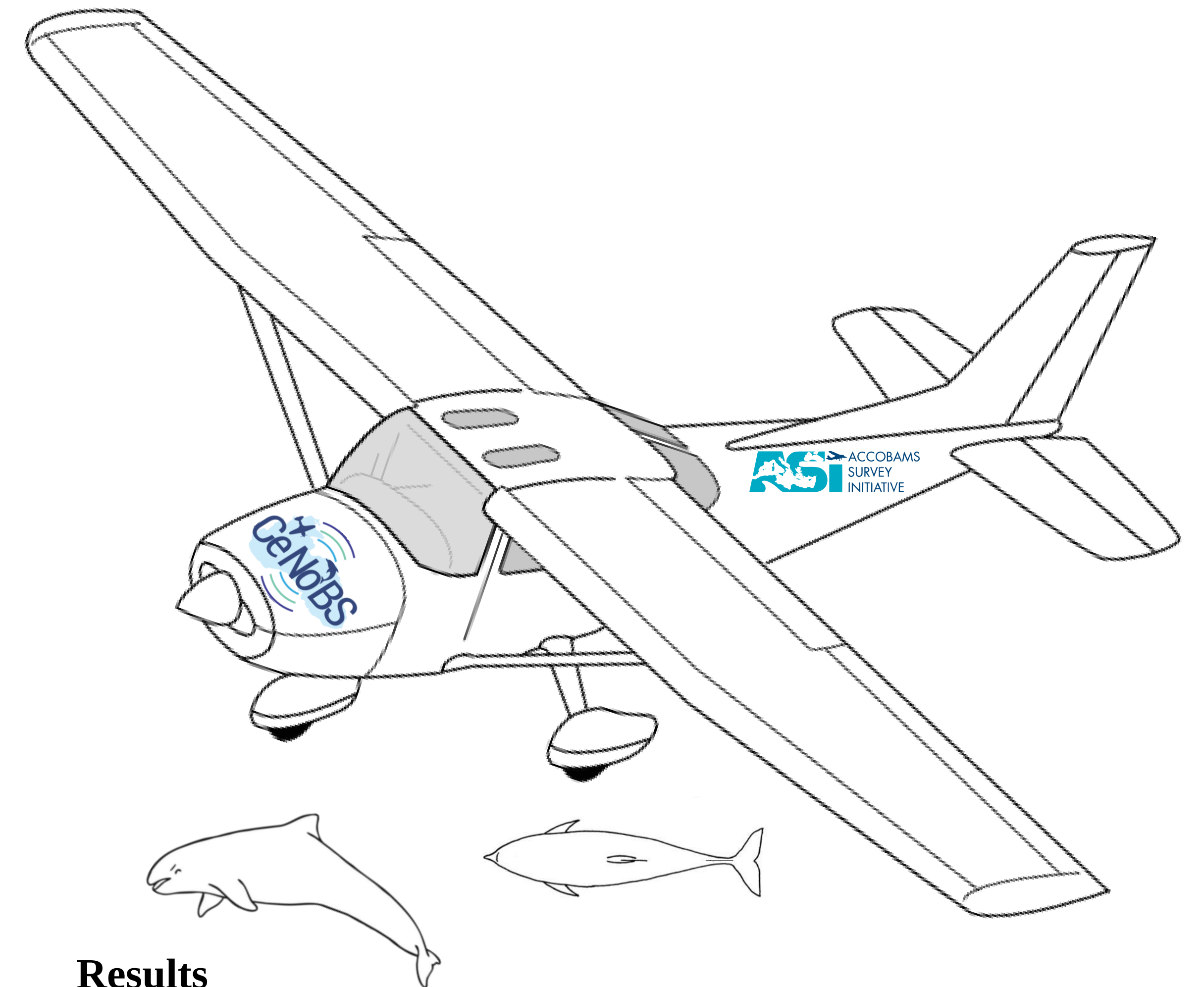
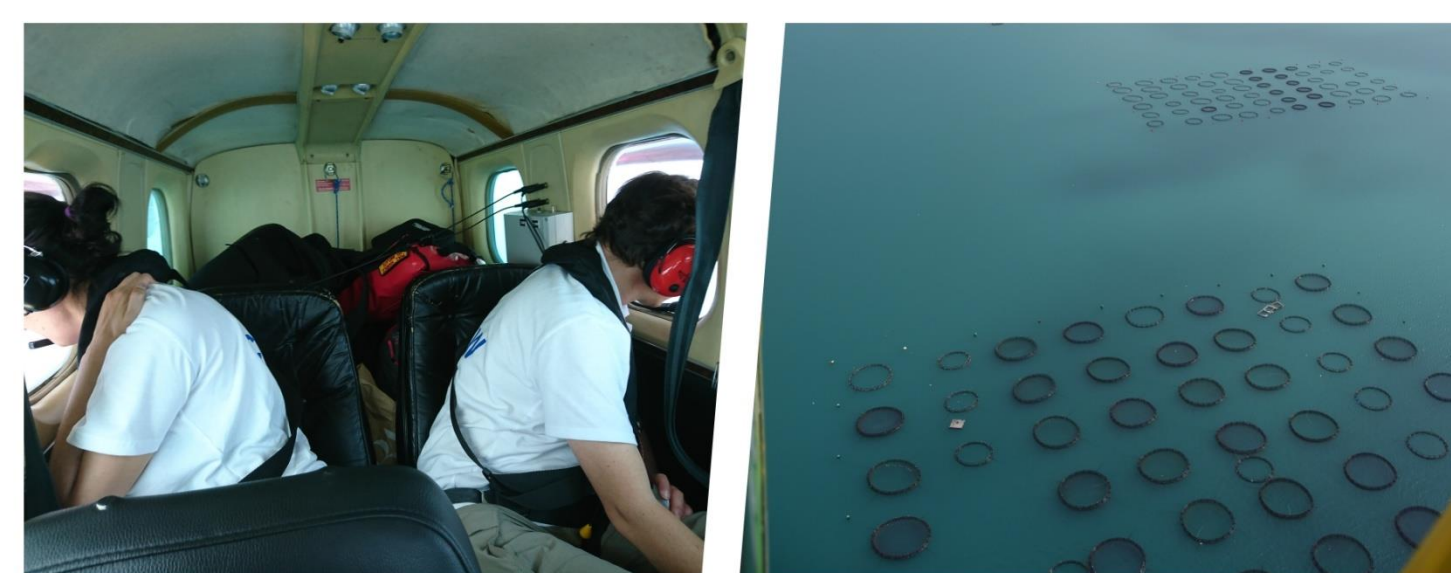
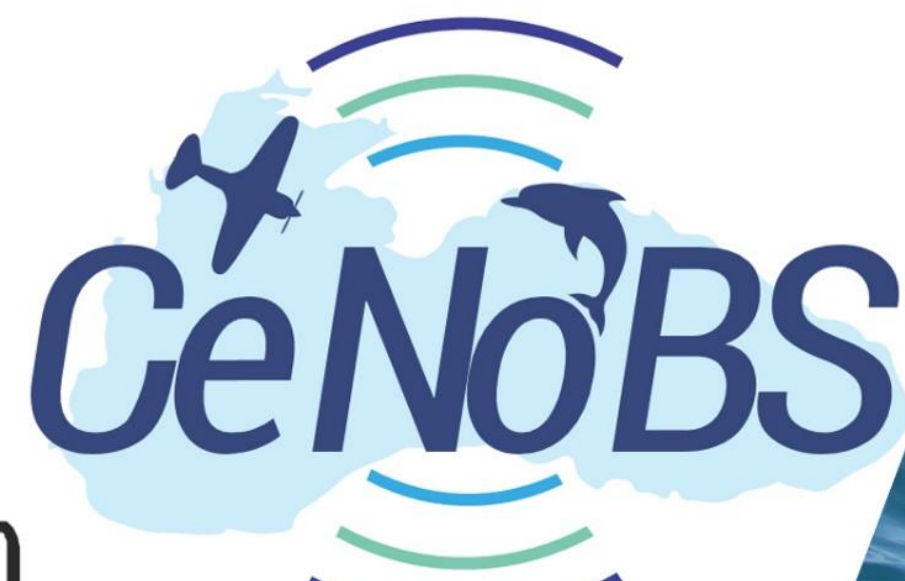


Fig. 1. Sightings of the three cetacean species recorded during the aerial survey, summer 2019.

Moreover, CeNoBS aims to elucidate the bycatch pressure and enhance the methodology of bycatch assessment, as well as to reinforce national expertise to implement effective noise monitoring. A great number of partners from the Black Sea riparian countries (Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Georgia) and western Europe collaborate to implement the largest cetacean survey ever conducted in the Black Sea basin. This will complement the macro regional approach undertaken by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, through the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (ASI) for improving cetacean related knowledge, the conservation measures and their habitats in the agreement area.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Results

First results of the aerial survey are presented in the table below (Table 1). In 2020 the complete analysis will be ready and final results published. The activity performed is supporting not only the MSFD implementation in Romania and Bulgaria but also the cetacean research in both Black Sea basin and at ACCOBAMS region.

Species	Number of sightings	Number of individuals
Bottlenose dolphin	121	339
Common dolphin	716	1751
Delphinids	33	55
Harbour porpoise	885	1524
Total	1755	3669

Table 1. The total number of sightings and individuals recorded during the aerial surveys.

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our thanks to all those involved in the action and whose names we could not include as co-authors: Simone Panigada, Lea David (scientific advisors), Dimitar Popov, Ayhan Dede, Arda M. Tonay, Costin Timofte (observers), in addition to the project teams, partners, funders, pilots, staff of Government Offices and airports etc.

The authors are thankful to: msfd.eu, bing.com, twinkl.ae and blogs.solidworks.com for the available sketches that were used in the poster.

Stay tuned following our websites
and social media accounts



@CeNoBS



Delfinii din Marea Neagră/
Black Sea dolphins

