

APPENDIX 1

Template of the Application forms for Pelagos Agreement call for consultancy services

Consultancy service 1 - ASSESSMENT OF SPECIES ABUNDANCE, DISTRIBUTION AND HABITATS IN THE PELAGOS SANCTUARY, WITH A PRIORITY GIVEN TO THE CUVIER'S BEAKED WHALE, THE FIN WHALE, THE SPERM WHALE AND THE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

The assessment will be based on the analysis of data made available by: **(i)** the Parties (monitoring data under the Habitats Directive and the MSFD); **(ii)** the "ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative" (already available to the Permanent Secretariat); **(iii)** Pelagos partners, and **(iv)** the organisations working in the Sanctuary wishing to join this initiative, as well as other data that may be identified by the proponents and to which they have access.

This assessment will provide:

- i. an overall estimate of species abundance within the sanctuary borders based on the data available, if possible, within three consecutive periods (e.g., before 2004; 2004-2013; 2014-2023).*
- ii. a general distribution map for each of the priority species based on the data available, if possible, within three consecutive periods (e.g., before 2004; 2004-2013; 2014-2023).*
- iii. maps identifying important habitats for priority species.*
- iv. assessments of any trends in abundance and distribution within the Sanctuary over these periods.*

This consultancy aims to lay down basic elements useful for future assessments. Besides providing an initial evaluation on distribution, abundance and preferred habitat of four species, the consultant will be asked to support the Secretariat and the coordinators of relevant WGs to draw a simple but structured plan for further improved analysis and approaches.

Data for Consultancy service 1

The data that will be made available from the Secretariat are listed in [Annex 1](#)¹. Please indicate here (a) the data from that Annex that you propose to use for both cetaceans and potential explanatory variables and (b) and, if applicable, additional data that you propose to use that you have personal access to.

A simple list will suffice.

Methods of the Consultancy service 1 (up to 30/100 points)

Indicate here the method(s) that you propose to use with respect to abundance, distribution and habitat descriptors (noting the time periods provided in the terms of reference).

If existing method(s) are proposed, then it is sufficient to include a brief description with reference to one or more key papers or reports that illustrate the method(s). Where possible, these should be references for which you are an author.

¹ Data details.

If you are proposing one or more novel methods, a fuller description is required that can be attached as PDF at the end.

Robustness of results (up to 20/100 points)

Indicate here how you will characterise the robustness of your results to the inevitable uncertainty with respect to data quality/availability, natural variability, analytical methods and assumptions (including population structure). This is important both in terms of numbers (e.g., abundance) but also distribution and/or habitat maps.

CV (up to 50/100 points)

Attach a **short** CV for each applicant that **focuses** on their experience and relevant references in the context of the proposal being made and their ability to meet the terms of reference in a timely fashion. Please, also include your h-index by Scopus and Google Scholar.

Consultancy service 2- ASSESSMENT OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF MARITIME TRAFFIC AND ANTHROPOGENIC UNDERWATER NOISE IN THE PELAGOS SANCTUARY AND INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS ON THEIR POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE PRIORITY SPECIES (CUVIER'S BEAKED WHALE, THE FIN WHALE, THE SPERM WHALE AND THE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN)

The assessment will be based on the analysis of data made available by: (i) the Parties (monitoring data under the Habitats Directive and the MSFD), (ii) Pelagos partners and (iii) the organisations working in the Sanctuary wishing to join this initiative, as well as other data that may be identified by the proponents and to which they have access.

This assessment will provide:

- i. seasonal status maps (on commercial and recreational maritime traffic; anthropogenic underwater noise).
- ii. a maritime traffic and noise risk assessment, taking into account "co-occurrence" and "species vulnerability" (risk maps for the four species based only on existing knowledge of their distribution and, if possible, based on results from the Consultancy Service 1).
- iii. assessments should also include any seasonal and annual trends, where possible.

This consultancy aims to lay down basic elements useful for future assessments. Besides providing an initial evaluation on the distribution and seasonality of maritime traffic and underwater noise, and on potential implications for cetacean species (based on their known hearing sensitivity), the consultant will be asked to support the Secretariat and the coordinators of relevant WGs to draw a simple but structured plan for further improved analysis and approaches.

Data for Consultancy service 2

The data that will be made available from the Secretariat are listed in [Annex 1](#)². Please indicate here (a) the data from that Annex that you propose to use to characterise seasonally maritime traffic, underwater noise and risks to cetaceans and (b) and, if applicable, additional data that you propose to use that you have personal access to.

A simple list will suffice.

² Data details.

Methods of the Consultancy service 2 (up to 30/100 points)

Indicate here the method(s) that you propose to use with respect to maritime traffic, underwater noise and potential risks to cetaceans (noting the time periods provided in the terms of reference).

If existing method(s) are proposed, then it is sufficient to include a brief description with reference to one or more key papers or reports that illustrate the method(s). Where possible, these should be references for which you are an author.

If you are proposing one or more novel methods, a fuller description is required that can be attached as PDF at the end.

Robustness of results (up to 20/100 points)

Indicate here how you will characterise the robustness of your results to the inevitable uncertainty with respect to data quality/availability, natural variability, analytical methods and assumptions (including population structure). This is important both in terms of future risk assessment and also distribution/density and anthropogenic activity maps.

CV (up to 50/100 points)

Attach a **short** CV for each applicant that **focuses** on their experience and relevant references in the context of the proposal being made and their ability to meet the terms of reference in a timely fashion. Please, also include your h-index by Scopus and Google Scholar.

Consultancy service 3 - ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL POLLUTION STATUS IN THE SANCTUARY

The assessment will be based primarily on analyses of data:

(1) that have already been published, in particular (i) existing maps; (ii) published data and reports on national and international projects funded by the Agreement; (iii) information available in open-source databases; (iv) relevant national reporting; (v) official data from the competent authorities; (vi) peer-review publications, etc.

(2) made available by: (i) the Parties (monitoring data under the Habitats Directive and the MSFD), (ii) the "ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative" (e.g. on marine litter distribution), (iii) Pelagos partners and (iv) the organisations working in the Sanctuary wishing to join this initiative, as well as other data that may be identified by the proponents and to which they have access.

Where possible taking into account seasonal pollution source assessments, the proposal will:

- i. identify important pollution sources.
- ii. map contaminants and assess potential the risk in relation to species (if possible) or suggest how this might be achieved in the future.
- iii. design and produce an information booklet on the topic.

This consultancy aims to lay down basic elements useful for future assessments. Besides providing an initial evaluation on the type of pollutants and litter found within the Pelagos Sanctuary, and on their distribution and relative prevalence, and draft a factsheet on this issue, the consultant will be asked to support the Secretariat and the coordinators of relevant WGs to draw a simple but structured plan for further improved analysis and approaches.

Data for Consultancy service 3

This will primarily rely on existing analyses as well as any new analysis that you may wish to propose. Please indicate the sources you intend to use and, if applicable, additional data that you propose to analyse that you have personal access to on pollution, including plastic litter. In addition, cetacean and other data available from the Secretariat are listed in [Annex 1](#)³. Please indicate if you intend to use these.

A simple list will suffice.

Methods of the Consultancy service 3 (up to 30/100 points)

Indicate here the method(s) that you propose to use with respect to characterising chemical and biological pollution and addressing the question of impact on cetaceans and their habitat.

If existing method(s) are proposed, then it is sufficient to include a brief description with reference to one or more key papers or reports that illustrate the method(s). Where possible, these should be references for which you are an author.

Please describe the approach that you will take to develop the informative booklet and the target audience(s)

If you are proposing one or more novel methods, a fuller description is required that can be attached as PDF at the end.

Robustness of results (up to 20/100 points)

Indicate here how you will characterise the robustness of your results to the inevitable uncertainty with respect to data quality/availability, natural variability, analytical methods and assumptions (including population structure). This is important both in terms of risk assessment and the mapping of contaminants.

CV (up to 50/100 points)

*Attach a **short** CV for each applicant that **focusses** on their experience and relevant references in the context of the proposal being made and their ability to meet the terms of reference in a timely fashion. Please, also include your h-index by Scopus and Google Scholar.*

Consultancy service 4- PROTOCOLS AND ASSESSMENT OF PATHOLOGICAL EFFECTS, INCLUDING MORTALITY RESULTING FROM CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL CONTAMINATION IN CETACEANS OF THE PELAGOS SANCTUARY

The assessment will be primarily based on the analysis of data made available by: (i) the Parties (monitoring data under the Habitats Directive and the MSFD), (ii) Pelagos partners and (iii) the organisations working in the Sanctuary wishing to join this initiative, as well as other data that may be identified by the proponents and to which they have access.

The following activities will be implemented under the consultancy:

i. taking into account any existing protocols (e.g., Ramoge, ACCOBAMS and EU), undertake the drafting of a proposal for a joint (FR, IT, MC) protocol that includes indicators for the long-term monitoring of chemical and biological contamination of cetaceans in the Sanctuary (including contamination from

³ Data details.

floriculture activities, intensive crops, livestock farming, industrial waste dumps, bathing areas, fuel oils, bilge water, anti-fouling paints, new contaminants), and assessment of the relation between these activities and the occurrence of pathologies.

ii. preliminary assessment (test) of the proposed indicators for all Sanctuary's species.

iii. overall assessment of **(a)** the level of key contaminants in the Sanctuary's marine mammals, **(b)** the relationship between their incidence (and any trends in these over time/area) and any actual or potential impact of pollutants on individual species' health, including the link with any pathologies.

iv. development of an advisory fact sheet on the actual and potential impact of macro- and microplastics ingestion including relevant toxicological effects.

This consultancy aims to lay down basic elements useful for future assessments. Besides providing an initial evaluation on the pathological effects, including mortality resulting from chemical and biological contamination in cetaceans within the Pelagos Sanctuary, drafting a joint protocol on long-term monitoring of chemical and biological contamination of cetaceans in the Sanctuary and a factsheet on these issues, the consultant will be asked to support the Secretariat and the coordinators of relevant WGs to draw a simple but structured plan for further improved analysis and approaches.

Data for Consultancy service 4

This will primarily rely on existing analyses/protocols as well as any new analyses you may wish to propose. Please indicate the general sources you intend to use and, if applicable, additional data that you propose to analyse that you have personal access to. In addition, cetacean and other data available from the Secretariat are listed in [Annex1](#)⁴. Please indicate if you intend to use these.

A simple list will suffice.

Methods of the Consultancy service 4 (up to 30/100 points)

Indicate here the method(s) that you propose to use with respect to (a) developing common protocols and indicators characterising and monitoring chemical and biological contamination of cetaceans in the Sanctuary, (b) evaluation of proposed indicators and (c) assessment of contaminant levels by species and potential impacts on cetaceans including pathologies.

If existing method(s) are proposed, then it is sufficient to include a brief description with reference to one or more key papers or reports that illustrate the method(s). Where possible, these should be references for which you are an author.

Please describe the approach that you will take to develop: (a) the joint protocol on long-term monitoring of chemical and biological contamination of cetaceans; and (b) the Fact Sheet and the target audience(s)

If you are proposing one or more novel methods, a fuller description is required that can be attached as PDF at the end.

Robustness of results (up to 20/100 points)

Indicate here how you will characterise the robustness of your results to the inevitable uncertainty with respect to data quality/availability, natural variability, analytical methods and assumptions (including population structure). This is important both in terms of risk assessment and the mapping of contaminants.

⁴ Data details.

CV (up to 50/100 points)

Attach a **short** CV for each applicant that **focusses** on their experience and relevant references in the context of the proposal being made and their ability to meet the terms of reference in a timely fashion. Please, also include your h-index by Scopus and Google Scholar.

Consultancy service 5- SUSTAINABLE PORTS IN PELAGOS SANCTUARY

The assessment will be based primarily on the analysis of data made available by: **(i)** the Parties (monitoring data under the Habitats Directive and the MSFD), **(ii)** Pelagos partners, **(iii)** the organisations working in the Sanctuary wishing to join this initiative; and **(iv)** on a bibliographic review.

The following activities will be implemented under the consultancy:

- i. overall assessment of the impact of tourist activities (bathing, recreational activities, boating, etc.) and associated pollution on habitat quality, with a focus on cetacean habitat.
- ii. drafting of advisory material (to be agreed with the Permanent Secretariat) to raise awareness among port authorities, shipping companies and tourism organisations on good practices in sustainable port activities, bathing and recreational activities (e.g., jet skiing), sustainable boating, etc.

This consultancy aims to lay down basic elements useful for future assessments. Besides providing an initial evaluation the impact of tourist activities (bathing, recreational activities, boating, etc.) and associated pollution on habitat quality within the Pelagos Sanctuary, with a focus on cetacean habitat, and drafting advisory material targeting relevant stakeholders, the consultant will be asked to support the Secretariat and the coordinators of relevant WGs to draw a simple but structured plan for further improved analysis and approaches.

Data for Consultancy service 5

This will primarily rely on existing analyses/protocols as well as any new analyses you may wish to propose. Please indicate the general sources you intend to use and, if applicable, additional data that you propose to analyse that you have personal access to. In addition, cetacean and other data available from the Secretariat are listed in [Annex 1](#)⁵. Please indicate if you intend to use these.

A simple list will suffice.

Methods of the Consultancy service 5 (up to 30/100 points)

Indicate here the method(s) that you propose to use with respect to (a) assessing the impact of tourist activities on cetaceans and their habitat within the sanctuary, (b) developing advisory material to raise the awareness of port authorities, shipping companies and tourism organisations to good practices for 'sustainable' activities.

If existing method(s) are proposed, then it is sufficient to include a brief description with reference to one or more key papers or reports that illustrate the method(s). Where possible, these should be references for which you are an author.

If you are proposing one or more novel methods, a fuller description is required that can be attached as PDF at the end.

⁵ Data details.

Robustness of results (up to 20/100 points)

Indicate here how you will characterise the robustness of your results to the inevitable uncertainty with respect to data quality/availability, natural variability, analytical methods and assumptions (including population structure). This is important both in terms of assessment and the mapping of activities.

CV (up to 50/100 points)

Attach a **short** CV for each applicant that **focuses** on their experience and relevant references in the context of the proposal being made and their ability to meet the terms of reference in a timely fashion. Please, also include your h-index by Scopus and Google Scholar.

Consultancy service 6- ASSESSMENT OF FISHING-RELATED IMPACTS ON CETACEAN SPECIES AND THEIR HABITAT IN THE PELAGOS SANCTUARY: STATE OF THE ART

This activity will produce an initial evaluation on:

- i. the issue of ghost nets and cetaceans within the framework of existing national initiatives in the three countries of the Pelagos Agreement.
- ii. the present state of fisheries in the Sanctuary (type, fleet, target species, effort distribution, catches and assessments of any biomass reduction), where possible in the context of the past and likely future developments.
- iii. the problem of interactions between bottlenose dolphins and fisheries (especially artisanal) in the Sanctuary.

This consultancy aims to lay down basic elements useful for future assessments. Besides providing an initial overall evaluation the extent and impact of fishing activities within the Pelagos Sanctuary, the consultant will be asked to support the Secretariat and the coordinators of relevant WGs to draw a simple but structured plan for further improved analysis and approaches.

Data for Consultancy service 6

This will primarily rely on existing analyses/protocols as well as any new analyses you may wish to propose. Please indicate the general sources you intend to use and, if applicable, additional data that you propose to analyse that you have personal access to. In addition, cetacean and other data available from the Secretariat are listed in [Annex 1⁶](#). Please indicate if you intend to use these.

A simple list will suffice.

Methods of the Consultancy service 6 (up to 30/100 points)

Indicate here the method(s) that you propose to use with respect to assessing and evaluating within the Sanctuary (a) ghost gear and national initiatives, (b) past, present and likely status of the various fisheries and their effect of biomass and (c) interactions between bottlenose dolphins and fisheries (especially artisanal fisheries).

If existing method(s) are proposed, then it is sufficient to include a brief description with reference to one or more key papers or reports that illustrate the method(s). Where possible, these should be references for which you are an author.

⁶ Data details.

If you are proposing one or more novel methods, a fuller description is required that can be attached as PDF at the end.

Robustness of results (up to 20/100 points)

Indicate here how you will characterise the robustness of your results to the inevitable uncertainty with respect to data quality/availability, natural variability, analytical methods and assumptions (including population structure).

CV (up to 50/100 points)

*Attach a **short** CV for each applicant that **focusses** on their experience and relevant references in the context of the proposal being made and their ability to meet the terms of reference in a timely fashion. Please, also include your h-index by Scopus and Google Scholar.*