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## **ASSESSING THE VULNERABILITY OF THE BLACK SEA MARINE ECOSYSTEM TO HUMAN PRESSURES (ANEMONE)**

**GA 4 Enhance stakeholders participation and public awareness on  
environmental issues.**

**AT 4.1 Public engagement workshops**

**Workshop Topic**

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The main purpose of the template is to harmonise and facilitate the preparation of Public Engagement workshops that ANEMONE partners are in charge of organising. This document will help partners in the workshop organization process, representing the basis of the information that will be used during the workshop. It contains a description of the topic addressed during the workshop and details about the workshop. This document is useful for presenting the workshop topic for the participants, dissemination and press releases.

This workshop topic template, together with workshops partner reports, will help Mare Nostrum to collate the results into deliverable T4.1.1 Workshop integrated report.

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## 1. Details about the workshop

Workshop Round (1 or 2)	2
Workshop Topic	Cetaceans
Date	November 21, 2019
Country	Ukraine
City	Odesa
Format of the workshop (method)	Focus Group
Partner Name	UkrSCES
Person in charge	Yuriy Denga
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## 2. Topic description

The problem of the conservation of Black Sea cetaceans is closely linked to major problems of biodiversity and environment conservation and sustainable development in the Black Sea region. Since cetaceans are high level predators, they occupy the top of the trophic web and have a stabilizing effect on the ecosystem in a whole.

There are three species of Black Sea cetaceans and all of them are endemic subspecies protected at the national and international levels. Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus* Barabasch-Nikiforov, 1940), Short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis ponticus* Barabash, 1935) and Black Sea harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena relicta* Abel, 1905) are listed in the Red Data Book of Ukraine (2009), Black Sea Red Data Book (1999), The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Also included to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention), Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, Appendix II), and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS).

Cetaceans are mammals with unique characteristics of biology, physiology and behavior, however, their study and conservation, in particular, in the Black Sea region, is associated with a number of problems and difficulties. There are common threats to all three species of Black Sea cetaceans - epizootic with unidentified origin, pollution including chemical, marine noise and litter, depletion of the fish stock, etc. And also, there are species-specific threats: for the bottlenose dolphin it means unillegal catch for the dolphinariums and oceanariums, for the harbor porpoise it is entanglement in the bottom gill nets (especially due to the poaching) and for the common dolphin it could be the accidental death in fishing gear - trawl nets.

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\*\*\* Each partner will include in this section a description of the marine environmental issues chosen for the workshop (e.g. marine litter, cetacean, pollution, etc.). This will ask at the question “Why is this topic a problem?”. Provide a brief description of the topic. (1 page maximum)

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### **3. Current topic situation in Ukraine**

Marine litter (ML) is any persistent, manufactured or processed solid material discarded, disposed of or abandoned in the marine and coastal environment. Marine litter consists of items that have been made or used by people and deliberately discarded into the sea or rivers or on beaches; brought indirectly to the sea with rivers, sewage, storm water or winds; accidentally lost, including material lost at sea in bad weather (fishing gear, cargo); or deliberately left by people on beaches and shores. [2, 3].

In view of this, all sources of anthropogenic pollution of the Black Sea, relatively conditionally, can be divided into five generalized types: industrial enterprises, transport; objects of municipal services; recreational centers; agricultural land; ports and port facilities, swimming vehicles, military bases. The coastal zone of the northwest shelf is highly developed and industrialized. Accidents on outdated sewers and pumping stations create additional sources of pollution. Industrial enterprises, located in the zone of direct influence on the water, cause the receipt of the largest number of pollutants in the marine environment [4, 5]. All this applies to the common sources of pollution of the Black Sea.

The main contribution to pollution of the marine environment belongs to the largest rivers of Ukraine - the Danube, the Dnipro River, as well as the Dniester and Southern Bug. In general, at least 60 rivers flow to the Black Sea from the Ukrainian part. The basins of large rivers cover a large part of the country's regions, in which hundreds of thousands of people live. A significant factor in the pollution of the sea is the flow of rivers. Each year, the waters of the rivers of Ukraine to the Black Sea comes 653 thousand tons of suspended matter, more than 8 thousand tons of organic substances [10].

Ukraine has 18 maritime trading ports, three fishing ports and a large number of different terminals - the largest number of seaports among all the countries of the Black Sea-Azov basin [6]. The number of transported passengers is more than 500,000 people by the end of 2018 [3, 8, 9]. The length of the Black Sea coastline within Ukraine is 1 540 km, along which there are at least 13 resorts.

For the first time UkrSCES joined to the monitoring of marine litter during the implementation of the International Project EMBLAS during 2016-2017. Within the framework of this project, litter was monitored on 2 rivers (Danube and Dniester); on 2 beaches (one within Odesa and one in the region). Marine litter monitoring was carried out along the coast of the city of Odessa, on the high seas as part of expeditions to study the status of the Black Sea and periodic trips on ferries from Odessa to Batumi, Odessa-Istanbul.

\*\*\* Each partner will include in this section a presentation about the current situation of the marine environmental issues in his country (e.g. marine litter, cetacean, pollution, etc.). (1 page maximum)

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#### **4. Challenges for Ukraine**

Sources of pollution, first of all, are objects of housing and communal services, maritime transport, industry, agriculture and recreation - in fact, these objects are actual and potential sources of environmental hazard.

Ukraine has the following specificities which worsen the impacts of marine litter and render the issue of tackling it a great challenge:

- In general, at least 60 rivers flow to the Black Sea from the Ukrainian part.
- Ukraine has 18 maritime trading ports, three fishing ports and a large number of different terminals.
- The number of transported passengers is more than 500,000 people for year.
- Some the coastal area is exploited for tourism activities.
- Pollution from agricultural land.
- The lack of a separate collection of waste. Low level of organized garbage collection in rural areas.
- Low ecological consciousness of citizens.

To face these challenges the necessary measures needed at regional level include:

- Increasing awareness of the population about the issue of marine litter.
- Implementation of a separate waste collection in cities.
- Development and introduction of a system of fines for pollution by garbage (litter) of the environment.
- Development of measures for the purification of rivers and seas from litter.
- Conducting of marine litter monitoring for the further development of measures to reduce pollution of the marine environment and rivers.

Equally important is the coordination of efforts on issues of marine litter between countries located in the Black Sea basin. The prevention of waste generation should be in the first place in the issue of overcoming the garbage problem.

Being able to distinguish between the waste that is generated locally, regionally and globally, is important when deciding on appropriate measures to prevent ML in a certain area [5].

*\*\*\* Each partner will include in this section the challenges of the marine environmental issues in his country (e.g. marine litter, cetacean, pollution, etc.). (1 page maximum)*

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