

## PRESS RELEASE

### Collisions ships / whales: Ship owner meeting at the Monaco Yacht Show

On 26 September 2013, the Pelagos Sanctuary and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) organise a meeting at the Yacht Club of Monaco with support from the association Souffleurs d'Ecume. Objectives: Raise the awareness of shipping companies and yachting ship owners on collision risks between ships and large Mediterranean cetaceans and present to them a tool to reduce those risks: **the REPCET system**.

#### Ship strikes: major cause of mortality for whales

In the Mediterranean Sea, the risk is particularly high given the density of shipping traffic. For example, more than 220,000 commercial ships cross the western Mediterranean Sea every year and 9,000 ships cross the Corso-Liguro-Provençal basin each day.

The Pelagos Sanctuary has been identified as a very sensitive area regarding ship strike risks: extensive studies have shown that more than 6% of photo-identified cetaceans bear mutilation marks caused by ship strikes and about 20% of identified dead fin whales were killed by a collision.

#### On-board safety

Beyond the ecological aspect, ship strikes are a concern for fast ship passenger safety. Striking a whale at 30 or 40 knots can breach the hull and water ingress is then possible. On top of that risk, the concerned company also faces health concerns (carcass elimination), schedule keeping issues and repairing and image costs.



#### REPCET, a system to localise whales in real time

To deal with these issues, the REPCET system was developed ([www.repcet.com](http://www.repcet.com)). Collaborative computer tool to be used in commercial shipping, it allows the real-time localisation of cetaceans, thus avoiding ship strikes.

Organised on 26 September 2013 at the Yacht Club of Monaco during the Monaco Yacht Show, the meeting intends to federate ship owners (shipping companies and yachting) around the REPCET system.

Morning will be dedicated to discussions on the ship strike issue and the REPCET system with Mediterranean cetacean specialists, ship captains that had to deal with ship strikes and shipping companies already using the system.

**At 12h00 am, a press conference and a cocktail will be held at the Stars'N'Bars, partner of this event** on ([www.starsnbarsmonaco.com](http://www.starsnbarsmonaco.com))\*, with scientists, ship owners and French, Monegasque and Italian representatives.

Full programme on [www.repcet.com/en](http://www.repcet.com/en)

\*Press card required to enter

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