REPCET
real time plotting of cetaceans
Newsletter - March 2016

Update on the network

Three additional ships joined the REPCET network in the last months. Convinced of the usefulness of the system since the equipment of GDF SUEZ GLOBAL ENERGY in 2013, ENGIE and its subsidiary GAZOCEAN decided to equip two additional long-distance LNG carriers: GASELYS and PROVALYS. Cruising in the Mediterranean but also in many other seas of the globe, these two ships therefore become the ambassadors of REPCET.

Moreover, the TLV-TVM company connecting mainland France and the Hyeres Islands also wished to get involved in the REPCET system by equipping one of its passenger boats.

The REPCET network is now composed of 12 mobile units and 3 fixed units. A great thank to these new-comers and to La Méridionale and Orange Marine for renewing their subscriptions in 2015.

REPCET network March 2016



French MPs at REPCET's bedside

Two amendments related to ship strikes and the equipment of ships were proposed and accepted in the Parliament these last weeks.

The first one is an amendment to article 46 *ter* of the "Biodiversity" bill. Examined and adopted in first lecture by the Senate on 21 January 2016, it proposes that "*an anti-collision device shall be tested on State ships longer than 25 metres when they do not take part to security or national defence activities and when they sail in the waters under French jurisdiction within the Pelagos and Agoa sanctuaries*".
Link (French)

The second amendment is related to the "Blue Economy" bill. Adopted by the National Assembly on 29 January 2016, it completes the previous article by stating that a "*position sharing device aiming at avoiding collisions with cetaceans shall equip pleasure boats and commercial ships larger than 24 metres under French flag when they sail in the Pelagos and Agoa sanctuaries for marine mammals*". This addition to the current bill still needs to be validated by the Senate.
Link (French)





REPCET on your smartphone

For several weeks, the REPCET App has been available for smartphones and tablets under Android! Developed thanks to the support of the *Agence de l'Eau*, this simplified version of REPCET mainly targets High Quality Whale Watching®[1] certified whale watching operators and other sea users capable of correctly identifying cetacean species. In order not to increase pressure on animals, the REPCET App only enables to send cetacean observations to members of the network; app users will not receive the observations made by contributors.



This first version also enables to send sea turtle observations that will be shared with the French Mediterranean Sea Turtle Network (*Réseau des Tortues Marines de Méditerranée Française*). Other threatened or emblematic species may also be included in the near future.

For more information, download the full description of the app.

If you wish to download the app, please fill in the application form and send it to appli@repcet.com

[1] www.whale-watching-label.com

WWF supports REPCET

WWF France has launched a financial support project in favour of a dozen initiatives for the protection of the environment. The panda NGO has been working on the protection of Mediterranean ecosystems for more than 15 years. Cetacean study and protection is one of its conservation lines. WWF France therefore chose to support REPCET. The objective is to fund the equipment of new ships in the waters of the Pelagos Sanctuary[1]. A study on AIS data was carried out in order to identify ships with the highest risks to be equipped as a priority. A good perspective for REPCET for 2016!

[1] www.sanctuaire-pelagos.org

"Maritime traffic and Mediterranean cetaceans" training course: registration is open!



For the 12th consecutive year, the Pelagos Sanctuary and Souffleurs d'Ecume organise a training course for shipping company personnel and student officers of the French National Superior School of Shipping of Marseille. A first module for professionals with several speakers will take place on 25 March. A second module for student officers will take place on 31 March. This training focuses on the issue of ship strikes with the presentation of existing measures to reduce that risk (e.g. REPCET).

Supported by the Conseil Régional PACA, Armateurs de France, the ACCOBAMS[1] Agreement and the Fondation Nicolas Hulot, this initiative is also open to the French Navy and the Maritime Affairs.

Registration is open until 11 March; all the information on the training course is available here.
Information and registration: formation@souffleursdecume.com

[1] Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, www.accobams.net

Many thanks to SCUBAPRO

We would like to thank the team of SCUBAPRO for having sold hats to the public during the *Salon de la Plongée* that took place in Paris on 8-11 January 2016. All the revenues were donated to the NGO Souffleurs d'Ecume.

See you on the Hello Asso platform!

If you wish to help us in our actions to reduce the risk of ship strikes, you can now donate online via the Hello Asso platform. For each donation, a receipt is provided so that you can benefit from a 66-% tax deduction for private individuals and a 60-% tax deduction for companies. Thank you for your support!

click here

Redaction : Souffleurs d'Ecume
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