



Convention on the Conservation of
Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)



CMS Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities – a tool for decision-makers

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Overview of the Convention on Migratory Species

- Overall Goal of CMS:
Conservation of migratory species and their habitats throughout their entire range
- Strict protection for endangered species
- Habitat conservation
- Threat mitigation
- Conservation strategies
- Two Appendices
- Agreements and MOUs
- Resolutions, Action Plans and Decisions



Birds



Terrestrial
Mammals



Marine Mammals



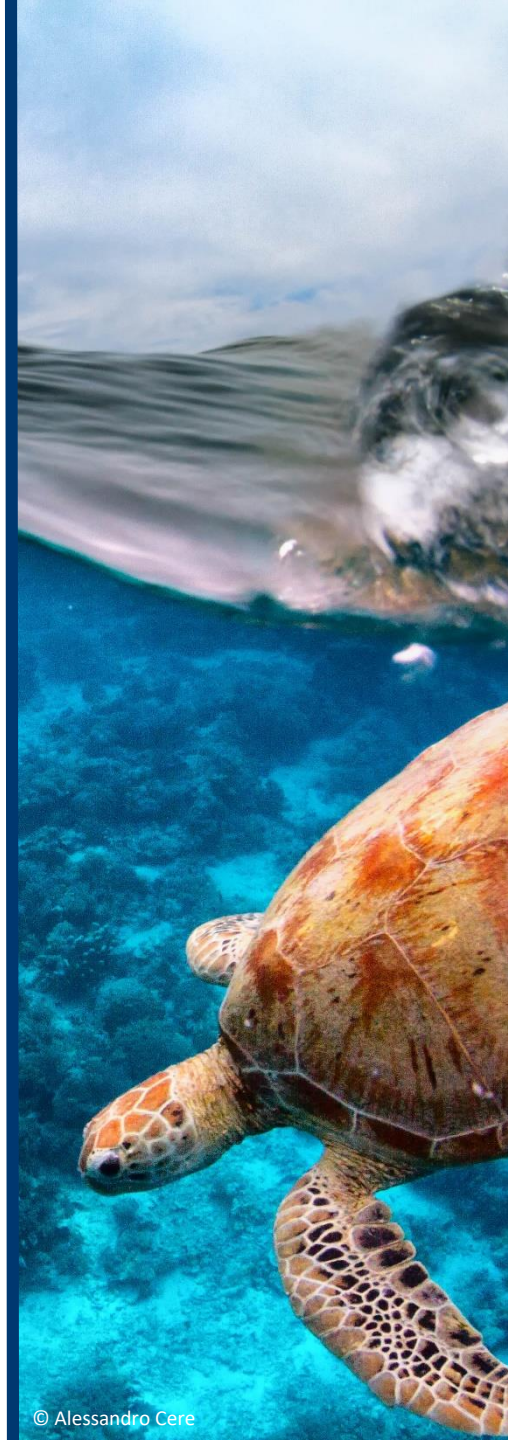
Reptiles



Fish

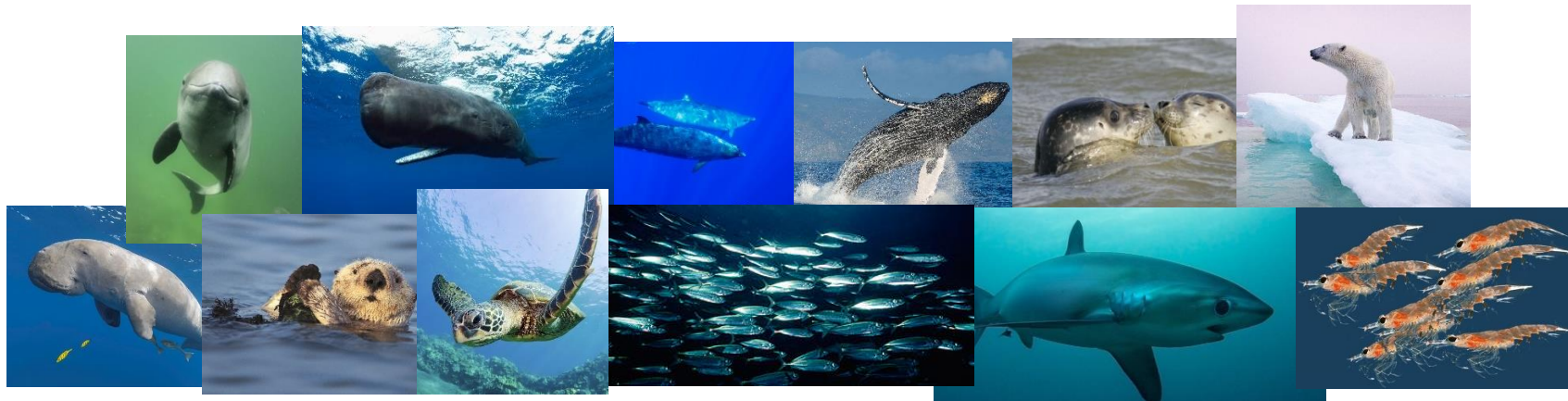


Insects



CMS & Marine Noise

- COP9 in 2008 and COP10 in 2011 adopted Resolutions on Underwater Noise, recognizing it as a serious threat to marine species
- Affects CMS-listed species, species covered by CMS Agreements and MOUs, and prey species



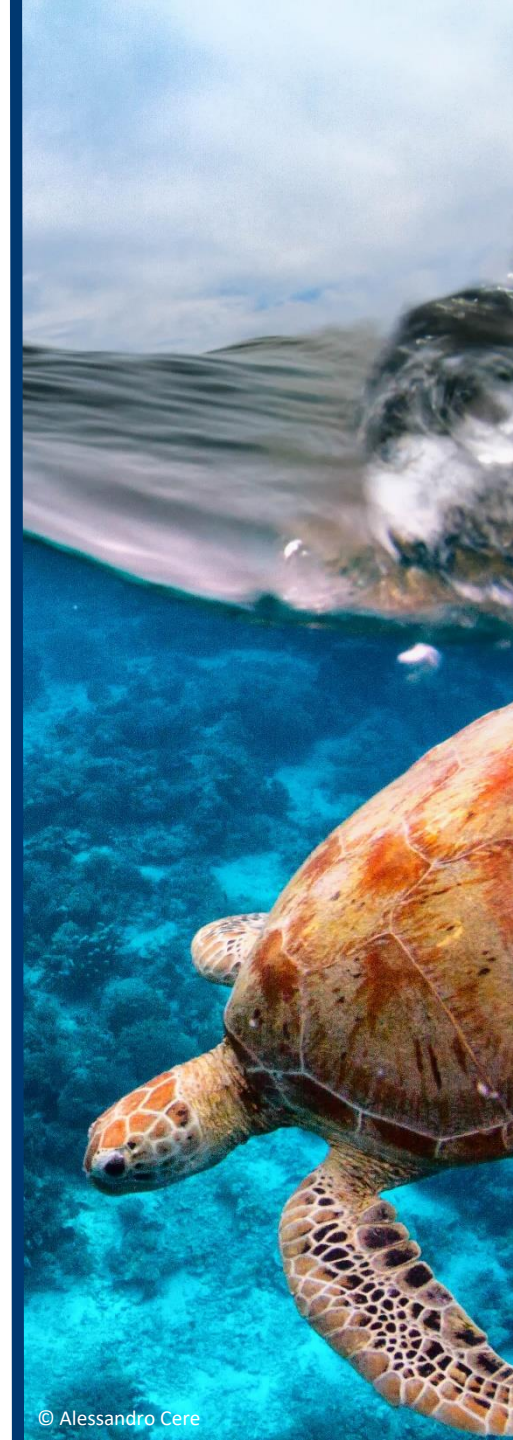
The Need for Guidelines for EIAs

- Those entrusted with granting approvals and permits for activities in the marine environment need ways of assessing in advance what the impact on marine life will be
- The best way to achieve this is by making effective use of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)



The Need for Guidelines for EIAs

- In 2015, CMS started the development of guidelines for noise-related Environmental Impact Assessments
- Consultants developed the modules with a range of experts on the different species and topics
- An iterative consultation process was conducted on drafts, gathering input from various stakeholders and governments



Guidelines for EIAs Endorsed at CMS COP12



- 23-28 October 2017
- **Resolution 12.14 on Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species**
EIA Guidelines annexed
- www.cms.int/en/cop12



CMS Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities

Contain:

- Introduction
- Technical Advisory Notes
- Separate modules for different industries
- A link to detailed Technical Support Information (CMS/COP12/Inf.11)

CMS Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities

- Aim: ensure that decision-makers are presented with sufficient evidence to make an informed judgement of impacts of a proposed activity



Industries/noise sources addressed:

- Military and civil high-powered sonar
- Shipping and vessel traffic
- Seismic surveys (air gun and alternative technologies)
- Construction works
- Offshore platforms
- Playback and sound exposure experiments
- Pingers (acoustic deterrent/harassment devices, navigation)
- Other noise-generating activities (acoustic data transmission; wind, tidal and wave turbines, future technologies)



Structure of the CMS Guidelines

For each activity, details required for the following components are outlined:

- 1) Description of area
- 2) Description of the equipment and activity
- 3) Modelling of noise propagation loss
- 4) Species impact
- 5) Mitigation and monitoring plans
- 6) Reporting plans
- 7) Consultation and independent review





Where to find the CMS Guidelines

www.cms.int/en/cop12docs

Tab “Resolutions”:

Resolution 12.14 – Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species

Tab “Information Documents”:

Inf.11/Rev.1 – Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise Generating Activities

