

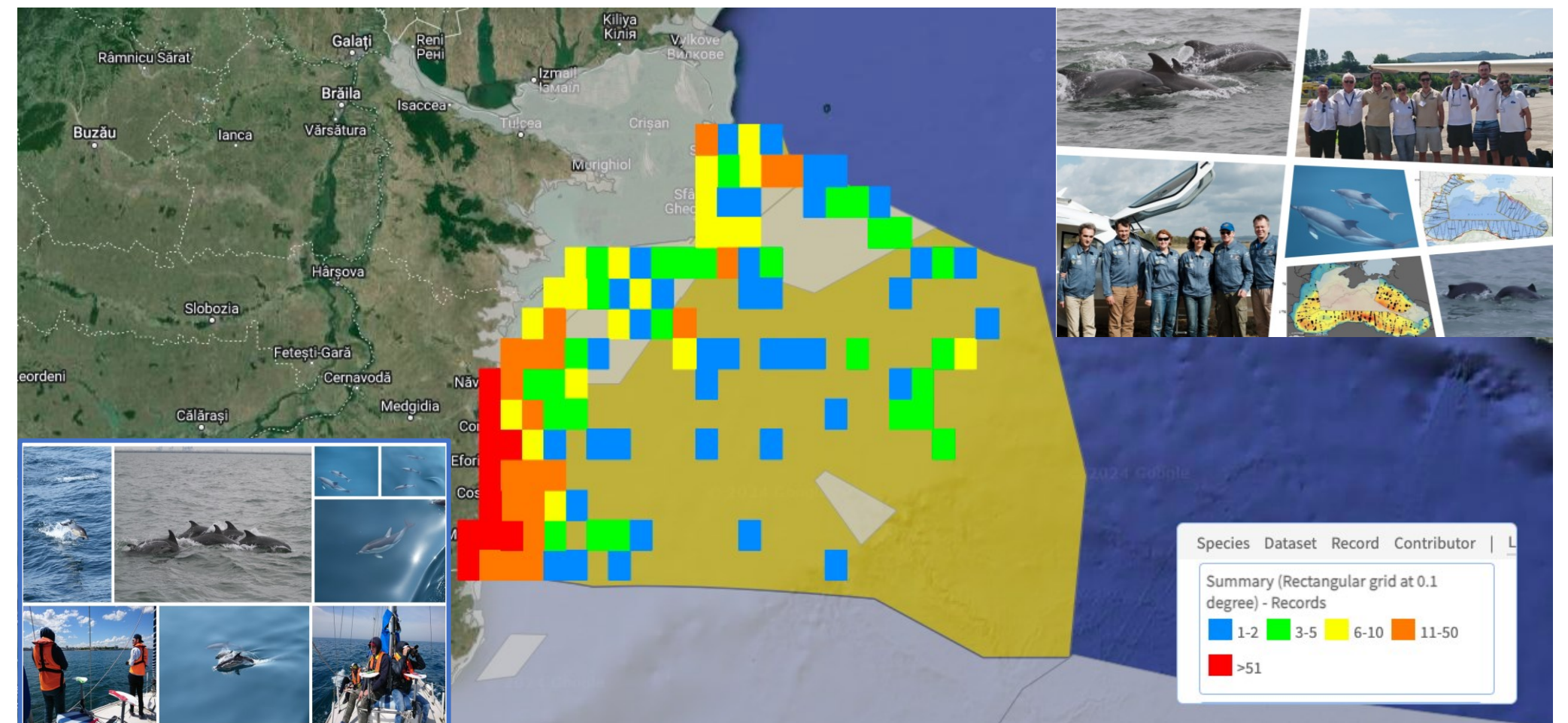
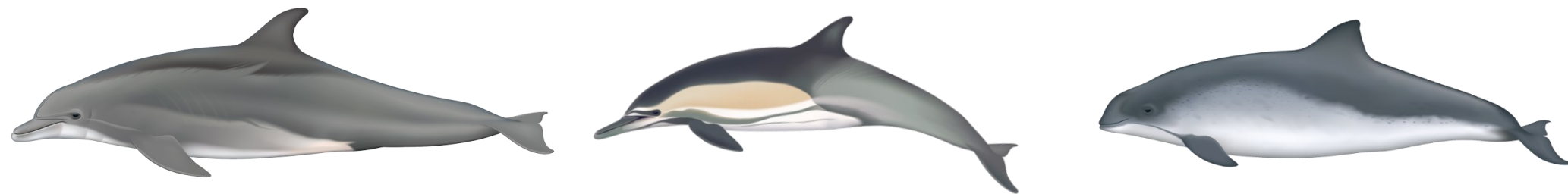
THE IMPORTANCE OF KEY INFORMATION FOR DETERMINING THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF CETACEANS IN THE BLACK SEA

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Mare Nostrum is a non-governmental ecologist organization, from Romania, established in 1994, concerned about the degradation of the Black Sea marine and coastal ecosystems. The conservation of marine biodiversity (especially cetaceans) and management of natural resources are two of the major topics the organization is focusing on.

*Tursiops truncatus ssp. ponticus* (Barabash-Nikiforov, 1940) Black Sea Bottlenose dolphin **EN**  
*Delphinus delphis ssp. ponticus* (Barabash-Nikiforov, 1935) Black Sea Common dolphin **VU**  
*Phocoena phocoena ssp. relicta* (Abel, 1905) Black Sea Harbour porpoise **EN**



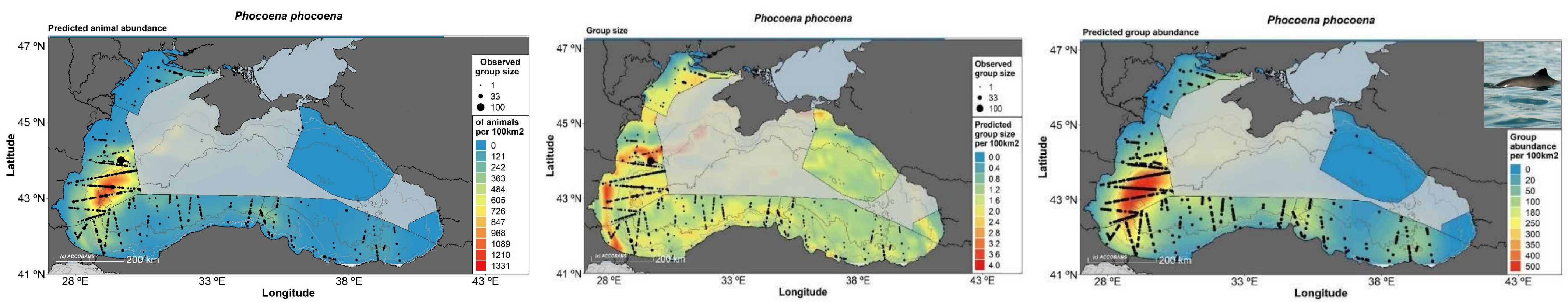
Spatial distribution and concentration of Black Sea Cetacean species within the Romanian waters, based on the Mare Nostrum's data collection program.

From 2010 a continuous cetacean dedicated monitoring program was established targeting mainly the marine mammal strandings and sightings with the objective of assessing the abundances, densities and trends along the Romanian Black Sea waters. This was complemented with actions addressing diseases and human induced mortality research (eg. bycatch), localized visual observation (eg. photo-identification and vantage point) and acoustic monitoring (eg. F-PODs). A major achievement was reached in summer of 2019, when through CeNoBS project (lead by the organization) the first comprehensive density and abundance estimates of cetaceans in the Black Sea through aerial surveys was performed within the framework of ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE (ASI), covering 62% of the entire Black Sea surface.



Dolphin sighting from a specialized airplane, equipped with bubble windows.

Below, are presented the distribution maps and predictions of animal abundance, group size and predicted group abundances for Black Sea harbour porpoise (N2K species code 1351). More results can be accessed through the website [www.cenobs.eu](http://www.cenobs.eu)



2030 BLUE ECONOMY AND CONSERVATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLACK SEA

To develop a coherent monitoring system for the cetaceans in the Black Seas, based on objective, robust and comparable data, with a view to improving the conservation status of these species and their habitats through appropriate management common efforts and funding is mandatory. Mare Nostrum pledge for further update the abundance, distribution and conservation status for the Black Sea dolphins and porpoises, as long as resources allows it.