

**Decision IG.26/4****Amendments to Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean**

*The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols at their 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Recalling further, General Assembly resolution A/RES/73/284 of 1 March 2019, entitled “United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030)”,*

*Recalling also* the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.5 of 7 March 2022, entitled “Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development”,

*Recalling* the United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/296 of 21 July 2022, entitled “Our ocean, our future, our responsibility”,

*Recalling* the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), its goals A and B and targets 4, 5 and 9 and other important decisions underpinning its implementation adopted by 15th Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Montreal, Canada 7 - 19 December 2022),

*Having regard* to Article 10 of the Barcelona Convention, and the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, and in particular Articles 14 and 16 thereof, on the procedure to amend the annexes to the Protocol and the adoption of common criteria for the inclusion of additional species in the annexes to the Protocol respectively,

*Recalling* Decision IG.17/14 on the Common Criteria for proposing amendments to Annexes II and III of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 15<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP 15) (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008),

*Reaffirming* the need to ensure that the lists of species appearing in Annexes II and III to the Protocol are updated, taking into account the evolution of the conservation status of species, the need for additional protection and the emergence of new scientific data,

*Considering* the proposal submitted by France at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Focal Points (Malta, 22-24 May 2023) to amend Annexes II and III to the Protocol to include:

- a) Six species of cartilaginous fishes in Annex II “List of endangered or threatened species”: *Aetomylaeus bovinus* (Geoffroy St. Hilaire, 1817), *Alopias superciliosus* (Lowe, 1841), *Bathytoshia lata* (Garman, 1880), *Dasyatis pastinaca* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Myliobatis aquila* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Rhinoptera marginata* (Geoffroy St. Hilaire, 1817), listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List as “critically endangered”, “endangered”, “vulnerable”, “vulnerable”, “vulnerable” and “critically endangered”, respectively, and
- b) Three species of cartilaginous fishes in Annex III “List of species whose exploitation is regulated”: *Dasyatis marmorata* (Steindachner, 1892), *Hexanchus griseus* (Bonnaterre, 1788), and *Pteroplatytrygon violacea* (Bonaparte, 1832), listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List as “near threatened”.

*Recalling also* with regard to Decision IG.25/11 on the Post-2020 Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Region (Post-2020 SAPBIO), and its goals aiming to reduce the threats to biodiversity and ensure that biodiversity is preserved and maintained or enhanced in order to meet people's needs, targets and actions, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (COP 22) (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021),

*Recalling* the mandate of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC), as laid down in Decision IG.19/5 on the Mandates of the Components of MAP, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP 16) (Marrakesh, Morocco, 3-5 November 2009), and its relevance to the implementation of this Decision,

*Having considered* the report of the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity Focal Points (Malta, 22-24 May 2023),

1. *Adopt* the amendments to Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, as set out in the Annex to the present decision<sup>1</sup>;
2. *Request* the Depositary to communicate without delay to all Contracting Parties the adopted amendments, pursuant to Article 23 (2) (iii) of the Barcelona Convention;
3. *Urge* the Contracting Parties to take, at national level, the necessary measures for the effective implementation of conservation of the species included in the annexes II and III to the SPA/DB Protocol;
4. *Request* the secretariat (SPA/RAC) to assist the Contracting Parties, based on the available budget, in the implementation of the necessary conservation and management measures of the species included in the annexes II and III to the SPA/DB Protocol, including through resource mobilisation activities.

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<sup>1</sup> Reservation by Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The European Union also raised a reservation for one species in Annex II (*Myliobatis Aquila*).

**Annex**

**Amendments to Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and  
Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean**

**Annex II:**

**List of endangered or threatened species**

<b>Magnoliophyta</b>
<i>Cymodocea nodosa</i> (Ucria) Ascherson <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> (Linnaeus) Delile <i>Zostera marina</i> Linnaeus <i>Zostera noltii</i> Hornemann
<b>Chlorophyta</b>
<i>Caulerpa ollivieri</i> Dostál
<b>Heterokontophyta</b>
<i>Cystoseira</i> genus (except <i>Cystoseira compressa</i> ) <i>Fucus virsoides</i> J. Agardh <i>Laminaria rodriguezii</i> Bornet <i>Sargassum acinarium</i> (Linnaeus) Setchell <i>Sargassum flavifolium</i> Kützing <i>Sargassum hornschurchii</i> C. Agardh <i>Sargassum trichocarpum</i> J. Agardh
<b>Rhodophyta</b>
<i>Gymnogongrus crenulatus</i> (Turner) J. Agardh <i>Kallymenia spathulata</i> (J. Agardh) P.G. Parkinson <i>Lithophyllum byssoides</i> (Lamarck) Foslie (Synon. <i>Lithophyllum lichenoides</i> ) <i>Ptilophora mediterranea</i> (H. Huvé) R.E. Norris <i>Schimmelmannia schousboei</i> (J. Agardh) J. Agardh <i>Sphaerococcus rhizophylloides</i> J.J. Rodríguez <i>Tenarea tortuosa</i> (Esper) Lemoine <i>Titanoderma ramosissimum</i> (Heydrich) Bressan & Cabioch (Synon. <i>Goniolithon byssoides</i> ) <i>Titanoderma trochanter</i> (Bory) Benhissoune et al.
<b>Porifera</b>
<i>Aplysina</i> sp. plur. <i>Asbestopluma hypogea</i> Vacelet & Boury-Esnault, 1995 <i>Axinella cannabina</i> (Esper, 1794) <i>Axinella polypoides</i> Schmidt, 1862 <i>Geodia hydronium</i> (Jameson, 1811) <i>Petrobiona massiliana</i> (Vacelet & Lévi, 1958) <i>Sarcotragus foetidus</i> Schmidt, 1862* (synon. <i>Ircina foetida</i> ) <i>Sarcotragus pipetta</i> (Schmidt, 1868)* (synon. <i>Ircinia pipetta</i> ) <i>Tethya</i> sp. plur.
<b>Cnidaria</b>
<i>Antipathella subpinnata</i> (Ellis & Solander, 1786) <i>Antipathes dichotoma</i> (Pallas, 1766) <i>Antipathes fragilis</i> (Gravier, 1918) <i>Astroides calycularis</i> (Pallas, 1766) <i>Callogorgia verticillata</i> (Pallas, 1766) <i>Cladocora caespitosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1767) <i>Cladocora debilis</i> (Milne Edwards & Haime, 1849) <i>Dendrophyllia cornigera</i> (Lamarck, 1816) <i>Dendrophyllia ramea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Desmophyllum dianthus</i> (Esper, 1794) <i>Ellisella paraplexauroides</i> (Stiasny, 1936) <i>Errina aspera</i> (Linnaeus, 1767) <i>Isidella elongata</i> (Esper, 1788) <i>Leiopathes glaberrima</i> (Esper, 1792) <i>Lophelia pertusa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)

<i>Madrepora oculata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Parantipathes larix</i> (Esper, 1790) <i>Savalia savaglia</i> Nardo, 1844 (synon. <i>Gerardia savaglia</i> )
<b>Bryozoa</b>
<i>Hornera lichenoides</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
<b>Mollusca</b>
<i>Charonia lampas</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (= <i>Ch. Rubicunda</i> = <i>Ch. Nodifera</i> ) <i>Charonia tritonis variegata</i> (Lamarck, 1816) (= <i>Ch. Seguenziae</i> ) <i>Dendropoma petraeum</i> (Monterosato, 1884) <i>Erosaria spurca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Gibbula nivosa</i> (Adams, 1851) <i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Luria lurida</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (= <i>Cypraea lurida</i> ) <i>Mitra zonata</i> (Marryat, 1818) <i>Patella ferruginea</i> (Gmelin, 1791) <i>Patella nigra</i> (Da Costa, 1771) <i>Pholas dactylus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Pinna nobilis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Pinna rudis</i> (= <i>P. pernula</i> ) (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Ranella olearia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Schilderia achatidea</i> (Gray in G.B. Sowerby II, 1837) <i>Tonna galea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Zonaria pyrum</i> (Gmelin, 1791)
<b>Crustacea</b>
<i>Ocypode cursor</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Pachylasma giganteum</i> (Philippi, 1836)
<b>Echinodermata</b>
<i>Asterina pancerii</i> (Gasco, 1870) <i>Centrostephanus longispinus</i> (Philippi, 1845) <i>Ophidiaster ophidianus</i> (Lamarck, 1816)
<b>Pisces</b>
<i>Acipenser naccarii</i> (Bonaparte, 1836) <i>Acipenser sturio</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Aetomylaeus bovinus</i> (Geoffroy St. Hilaire, 1817) <i>Alopias superciliosus</i> (Lowe, 1841) <i>Aphanius fasciatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1821) <i>Aphanius iberus</i> (Valenciennes, 1846) <i>Bathytoshia lata</i> (Garman, 1880) <i>Carcharias taurus</i> (Rafinesque, 1810) <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Cetorhinus maximus</i> (Gunnerus, 1765) <i>Dasyatis Pastinaca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Dipturus batis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Gymnura altavela</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i> (Cuvier, 1829) (synon. <i>Hippocampus ramulosus</i> ) <i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Huso huso</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> (Rafinesque, 1810) <i>Lamna nasus</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788) <i>Lethenteron zanandreae</i> (Vladykov, 1955) <i>Leucoraja circularis</i> (Couch, 1838) <i>Leucoraja melitensis</i> (Clark, 1926)

*Mobula mobular* (Bonnaterre, 1788)  
*Myliobatis aquila* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Odontaspis ferox* (Risso, 1810)  
*Oxynotus centrina* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Pomatoschistus canestrini* (Ninni, 1883)  
*Pomatoschistus tortonesei* (Miller, 1969)  
*Pristis pectinata* (Latham, 1794)  
*Pristis pristis* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Rhinobatos cemiculus* (E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1817)  
*Rhinoptera marginata* (Geoffroy St. Hilaire, 1817)  
*Rhinobatos rhinobatos* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Rostroraja alba* (Lacépède, 1803)  
*Sphyrna lewini* (Griffith & Smith, 1834)  
*Sphyrna mokarran* (Rüppell, 1837)  
*Sphyrna zygaena* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Squatina aculeata* (Dumeril, in Cuvier, 1817)  
*Squatina oculata* (Bonaparte, 1840)  
*Squatina squatina* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Valencia hispanica* (Valenciennes, 1846)  
*Valencia letourneuxi* (Sauvage, 1880)

#### Reptiles

*Caretta caretta* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Dermochelys coriacea* (Vandelli, 1761)  
*Eretmochelys imbricata* (Linnaeus, 1766)  
*Lepidochelys kempii* (Garman, 1880)  
*Trionyx triunguis* (Forskål, 1775)

#### Aves

*Calonectris diomedea* (Scopoli, 1769)  
*Ceryle rudis* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Charadrius alexandrinus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Charadrius leschenaultii columbinus* (Lesson, 1826)  
*Falco eleonora* (Géné, 1834)  
*Gelochelidon nilotica* (Gmelin, JF, 1789)  
*Halcyon smyrnensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Hydrobates pelagicus ssp. Melitensis* (Schembri, 1843)  
*Hydroprogne caspia* (Pallas, 1770)  
*Larus armenicus* (Buturlin, 1934)  
*Larus audouinii* (Payraudeau, 1826)  
*Larus genei* (Breme, 1839)  
*Larus melanocephalus* (Temminck, 1820)  
*Microcarbo pygmaeus* (Pallas, 1773)  
*Numenius tenuirostris* (Viellot, 1817)  
*Pandion haliaetus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Pelecanus crispus* (Bruch, 1832)  
*Pelecanus onocrotalus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Phalacrocorax aristotelis ssp. desmarestii* (Payraudeau, 1826)  
*Phoenicopterus roseus* (Pallas, 1811)  
*Puffinus mauretanicus* (Lowe, PR, 1921)  
*Puffinus yelkouan* (Brünnich, 1764)  
*Sternula albifrons* (Pallas, 1764)  
*Thalasseus bengalensis* (Lesson, 1831)  
*Thalasseus sandvicensis* (Latham, 1878)

#### Mammalia

*Balaenoptera acutorostrata* (Lacépède, 1804)

*Balaenoptera borealis* (Lesson, 1828)  
*Balaenoptera physalus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Delphinus delphis* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Eubalaena glacialis* (Müller, 1776)  
*Globicephala melas* (Trail, 1809)  
*Grampus griseus* (Cuvier G., 1812)  
*Kogia simus* (Owen, 1866)  
*Megaptera novaeangliae* (Borowski, 1781)  
*Mesoplodon densirostris* (de Blainville, 1817)  
*Monachus monachus* (Hermann, 1779)  
*Orcinus orca* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Phocoena phocoena* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Physeter macrocephalus* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
*Pseudorca crassidens* (Owen, 1846)  
*Stenella coeruleoalba* (Meyen, 1833)  
*Steno bredanensis* (Cuvier in Lesson, 1828)  
*Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu, 1821)  
*Ziphius cavirostris* (Cuvier G., 1832)

**Annex III:**  
**List of species whose exploitation is regulated**

<b>Porifera</b>
<i>Hippospongia communis</i> (Lamarck, 1813) <i>Spongia (Spongia) lamella</i> (Schulze, 1872) (synon. <i>Spongia agaricina</i> ) <i>Spongia (Spongia) officinalis adriatica</i> (Schmidt, 1862) <i>Spongia (Spongia) officinalis officinalis</i> (Linnaeus, 1759) <i>Spongia (Spongia) zimocca</i> (Schmidt, 1862)
<b>Cnidaria</b>
<i>Antipathes</i> sp. plur. <i>Corallium rubrum</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
<b>Crustacea</b>
<i>Homarus gammarus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Maja squinado</i> (Herbst, 1788) <i>Palinurus elephas</i> (Fabricius, 1787) <i>Scyllarides latus</i> (Latreille, 1803) <i>Scyllarus arctus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Scyllarus pygmaeus</i> (Bate, 1888)
<b>Echinodermata</b>
<i>Paracentrotus lividus</i> (Lamarck, 1816)
<b>Pisces</b>
<i>Alopias vulpinus</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788) <i>Alosa alosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Alosa fallax</i> (Lacépède, 1803) <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i> (Nardo, 1827) <i>Centrophorus granulosus</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801) <i>Epinephelus marginatus</i> (Lowe, 1834) <i>Dasyatis marmorata</i> (Steindachner, 1892) <i>Heptranchias perlo</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788) <i>Hexanchus griseus</i> (Bonnaterre, 1788) <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Mustelus asterias</i> (Cloquet, 1821) <i>Mustelus mustelus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Mustelus punctulatus</i> (Risso, 1826) <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i> (Bonaparte, 1832) <i>Prionace glauca</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Sciaena umbra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Squalus acanthias</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Umbrina cirrosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) <i>Xiphias gladius</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)