



Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem:



The Pelagos Sanctuary for Marine Mammals



The **Pelagos Sanctuary for Marine Mammals** is a large transboundary Marine Protected Area (MPA) (~90 000 km²) in the NW Mediterranean Sea between Italy, Monaco, France and the Island of Sardinia.

MPA established to protect significant feeding and breeding habitat for the cetacean populations

Dominant species (80%)

Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalys*)

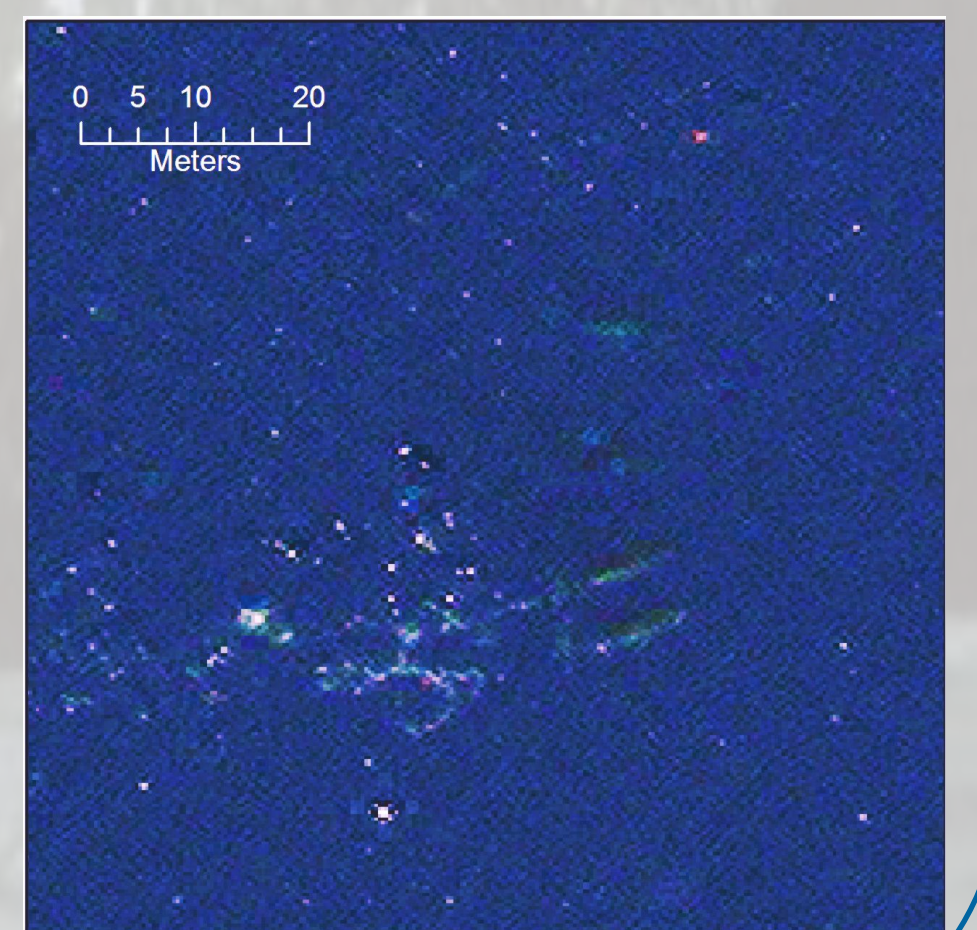
Striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*)

MPA's management strategy is:

Ecosystem based: *variables linked to the natural environment and socio-economic context;*

Dynamical: *the action plan will be continually evaluated and modified according to the results;*

Functional: *facilitating collaboration among different organizations.*



Group of Humpback Whales, WorldView3

MPA use:

High **touristic** and **existence** value

High levels of **human pressure**

(e.g. coastal infrastructure, tourism, shipping)



Whale watching in the Pelagos Sanctuary



Boat, WorldView3