

2024 FINAL REPORT

THESSALONIKI, 2024

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ABOUT US



The Environmental Organisation iSea was founded in 2016 with headquarters in Thessaloniki. Its main objective is to protect the water ecosystems of Greece and the flora and fauna that live in them through research, awareness raising and the promotion of protection policies.

OUR VALUES



Collaboration

Transparency

Teamwork

Scientificity

OUR VISION

A healthy Mediterranean Sea supporting the sustainable development and resilience of the local coastal communities.

OUR MISSION

We work with local communities for preserving and restoring Mediterranean marine life.



PILLARS



AQUATIC LITTER

CITIZEN SCIENCE

HUMAN & AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

VULNERABLE SPECIES

VULNERABLE SPECIES

PILLAR



Biodiversity is fundamental for healthy ecosystems. Limited knowledge of Mediterranean species populations indicates the problem, as 1/3 of marine species cannot be assessed due to insufficient data. According to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14, "Life on Water", sustainable management and protection measures for marine and coastal ecosystems must be taken to achieve the goal of healthy and productive oceans. In this context, iSea aims to increase and disseminate existing knowledge about vulnerable species to enhance scientific-based management and ensure their conservation, protection, and restoration to the extent that they fulfill their ecological role in achieving healthy and functional ecosystems.

CETACEANS IN GREECE



Cetaceans are important for the health of our seas. Greek waters are home to 8 species of cetaceans, which face various pressures that threaten the abundance of their populations. These resident species are the common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), the short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), the striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), the Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), the harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), the fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), the sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) and the Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*). However, many other cetaceans are sighted occasionally in Greece.



Despite their importance, there are still gaps in our knowledge regarding their distribution or abundance in certain areas. Cetaceans face a number of anthropogenic threats in the world's seas and oceans, including collisions with ships, accidental entanglement in fishing nets or damage from fishing gear, prey depletion due to overfishing and noise pollution. It is therefore important to know the status of populations and their distribution in order to develop effective conservation measures.

THERMAIKOS



BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Thermaikos Biodiversity Project aims to study the cetacean populations and raise awareness of marine biodiversity among guests at Sani resort. The Gulf of Thermaikos includes a complex of estuaries, marshes and lagoons that provide an important habitat for wildlife. In addition, it is an important area for the Greek economy, as it is included in the route of many vessels, which impact on marine life.

The project focuses on the systematic monitoring of cetaceans in the area of East Thermaikos, using the photo-identification method to estimate the abundance of dolphin populations, as well as studying their behaviour and interactions with potential threats.

On the other hand, the project also aims to contribute to the recovery of an endangered species of skate endemic to the Mediterranean, the rough skate (*Raja radula*), through an ex-situ conservation programme.

2024 GOALS



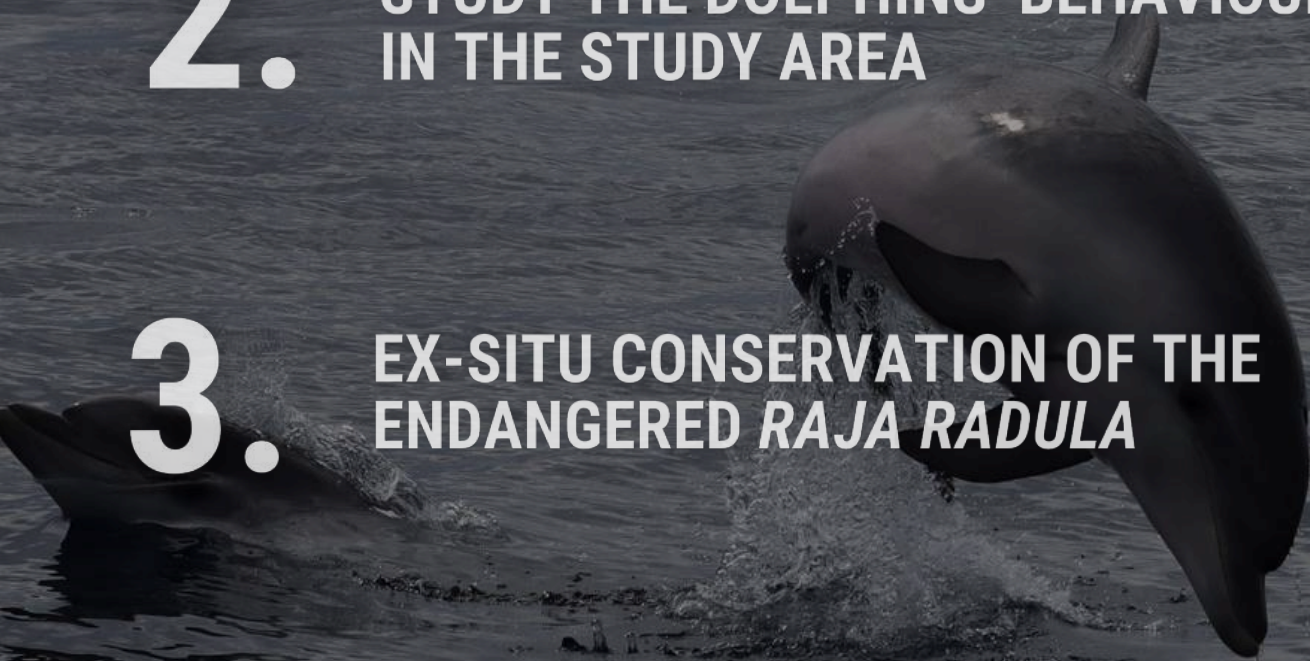
**1. ASSESSMENT OF DOLPHIN
ABUNDANCE IN THE STUDY AREA**

**2. STUDY THE DOLPHINS' BEHAVIOUR
IN THE STUDY AREA**

**3. EX-SITU CONSERVATION OF THE
ENDANGERED *RAJA RADULA***

**4. BIODIVERSITY MONITORING
THROUGH CITIZEN SCIENCE**

5. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



THERMAIKOS



BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

2024 IN NUMBERS

24 Dolphin
surveys

40 Educational
activities

22 Encounters
with dolphins

25 Snorkelling
trips

3091 Photos
collected

2 Egg cases
of *Raja radula*

TEAM 2024



FIELD TEAM



**Andrea
Tomé Pérez**



**Ioannis
Giovos**



**Nikoletta
Sidiropoulou**

EDUCATION TEAM



**Andrea
Tomé Pérez**



**Anastasia
Charitou**

DOLPHIN SURVEYS



2024

CATALOGUES



Bottlenose dolphins are the most common species sighted in the area

We have identified
119
new dolphins since last year



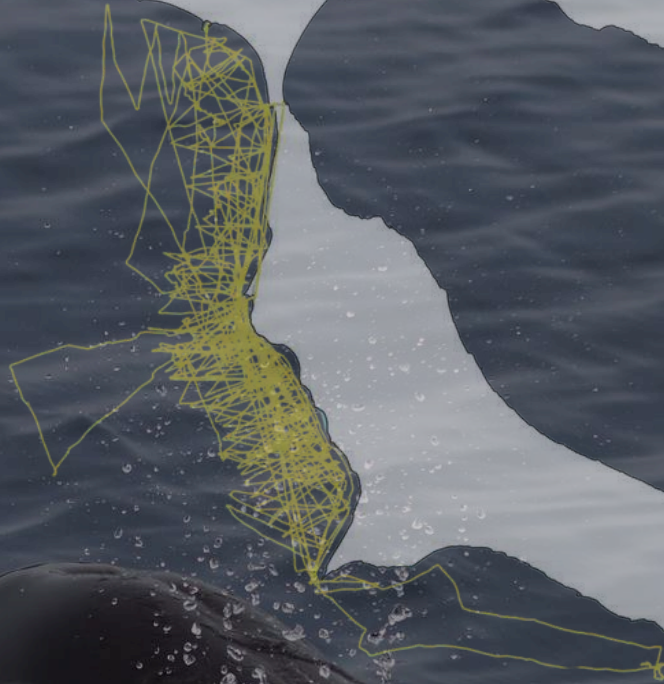
We have created a new catalogue of striped dolphins, sighted for the first time during this year

DOLPHIN SURVEYS

2024



Our survey
effort



The field team of iSea have surveyed

1577,874 km

along the coast of West Kassandria, including one off shore survey

TANK WITH EGG CASES



As part of an ex-situ conservation project, suitable incubation conditions have been created for the critically endangered Rough Skate (*Raja radula*). A total of 2 egg cases of this endemic Mediterranean species have been found in females that did not survive after being caught in fishing nets.

6 Egg cases

4 Species

In addition, 4 egg cases of another species not originally targeted by the project were found. These species are the White Skate (*Rostroraja alba*), the Thornback Skate (*Raja clavata*), and the Smallspotted Catshark (*Scyliorhinus canicula*).

SNORKELLING BIODIVERSITY TRIPS



A total of

161

guests from SANI Resort have participated in the snorkelling biodiversity trips held at the Water Sports of Sani Club in the 2024 season.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Participants on the snorkelling trips attend a presentation on coastal marine fauna and habitats. Afterwards, they take a guided tour in shallow waters, where they can spot some of the animals mentioned in the presentation.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES 2024



In this season, the iSea team has carried out
40 activities in the gardens of Sani Resort
with children attending the kids' clubs.

A total of
children have
participated in
these activities

531

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The activities include charts of marine animals, a map of Greece and silhouettes of the different cetaceans that inhabit Greek seas, so that they can learn about the biodiversity of the surrounding area.

They also have the opportunity to do puzzles, as well as match pictures of dolphins' dorsal fins to learn about photo identification.

COMMUNICATION 2024



1 PRESS
RELEASE

5 POSTS

1 PROMOTIONAL
VIDEO



7055



1270

2835

13200

***Total reach**

