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Jessica Alessi, PhD in Marine Science

Education

- Jan 2010 – Apr 2013 **Università degli Studi di Genova**
Ph.D., Marine Science
Genoa, Italy
- 2006 – 2009 **Università degli Studi di Genova**
Master Degree in Life Science
Genoa, Italy
- 2006 – 2009 **Università degli Studi di Milano**
Bachelor Degree in Life Science
Milano, Italy

Professional Experience

- 2015 – present **PostDoc Position**
Research activities on the distribution and habitat use of sperm whales, through techniques of visual sightings and acoustic detection; definition of navigation rules for the protection of whales from collisions. Analysis of the acoustic data provided by the project Life+ WHALESAFE
Università degli Studi di Genova, Department of Earth, Environmental and Life Science
Genoa, Italy
- 2012 – present **Teaching assistant**
For the university course: Cetacean Biology and Monitoring techniques
Università degli Studi di Genova, Department of Earth, Environmental and Life Science
Genoa, Italy
- 2012 – present **President**
Of the no profit organization: Associazione Me.Ri.S. Mediterraneo Ricerca e Sviluppo
Agrigento, Italy
- 2013-2015 **PostDoc Position**
Analysis of environmental and acoustic data provided by the project Life+ ARION. Definition of a management plan for bottlenose dolphins in the ARION Project Area
Università degli Studi di Genova, Department of Physics

- Genoa, Italy
 2012-2013 **Research fellow**
Research activity on the Bottlenose dolphin habitat use in the Portofino MPA, using acoustic techniques.
 Università degli Studi di Genova, Department for the Study of land and its resources
 Genoa, Italy
- 2011-2012 **Research fellow**
Research on the distribution of bottlenose dolphins in the Ligurian Sea, through techniques of visual sightings and acoustic detection; Define rules for the protection of bottlenose dolphins from collisions and negative impacts with human activities
 Università degli Studi di Genova, Department of Biology
 Genoa, Italy
- 2010 **Scholarship holder**
Research on the distribution and abundance of sperm whales in the International Sanctuary for marine mammals 'Pelagos'
 Università degli Studi di Genova, Department of Biology
 Genoa, Italy

Selected Research Project

Title	Start-End	Total Budget	Organization Assigned by	Brief project description	Duties/Role in the specific project
WHALESAFE- <i>WHALE protection from Strike by Active cetaceans detection and alarm issue to ships and FERries in pelagos sanctuary</i> LIFE13 NAT/IT/001061	2014-2017	1,847,167 €	Life + Nature	The project will deploy an interference avoidance system capable to detect and track sperm whale, thanks to a fixed acoustic station, to identify the threats and to prevent collisions and other risks by issuing warning messages in real time to ships in the area.	<i>Post Doc Researcher. I'm responsible of sperm whale acoustic and habitat use analysis. I defined rules to reduce anthropic impacts on the target species.</i>
ARION – <i>Systems for coastal dolphin conservation in the Ligurian Sea</i> LIFE09 NAT/IT/000190	2010-2015	1,733,377€	Life + Nature	Implementation of a permanent passive acoustic station, able to detect and track in real-time <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> and vessels in the area.	<i>Postdoc Researcher-Bottlenose dolphins habitat use through acoustic data analysis. Realization of the management plan for bottlenose dolphin conservation in the Portofino MPA</i>

PROMETEOS <i>PROtection of the MEdiTERRanean Open Seas Contributing to the establishment of Marine Protected Areas over offshore seamounts and submarine canyons</i>	2011 - 2014	200 K€	IUCN – Mava Foundation	Study on Seamount effect in aggregating cetaceans and other pelagic top predators	<i>Researcher. Visual and acoustic survey and data analysis.</i>
“Tartarughe e delfini dell’Arcipelago Toscano: Ricerca e Divulgazione” (Sea turtles and dolphins of the Tuscan Archipelago: Research and Divulgation)	2014-2015	12,619 €	Regional Administration of Tuscany	Monitoring survey of the bottlenose dolphins population in the Tuscan Archipelago and dissemination activities on marine mammals.	<i>Researcher. Photo-identification specialist. Visual survey. Bottlenose dolphins distribution and photo-id analysis.</i>
ISHMAEL - Investigating Sperm whale Habitat in the MARineEnvironment of the Liguria and corsica seas	2009-2011	300 K€	Total Foundation	Study of the sperm whale critical habitat within the Pelagos Sanctuary	<i>Researcher. Visual and acoustic survey and photo-id data analysis.</i>
Go Green Mare 2012	2012-2013	50,080 €	Regional Administration of Tuscany	Monitoring survey of the bottlenose dolphins population in the Tuscan Archipelago and measurement of the noise pollution levels.	<i>Research manager for the activities: Monitoring survey on bottlenose dolphins and measurement of the noise pollution levels”. Scientific committee member. Photo-id trainer.</i>

Skills & Activities

Skills Cetaceans, Marine Mammal Research, Conservation, Marine Biology, Bioacoustics, Community Structure, Population abundance, Mark-Recapture, Photo-id, species distribution modeling, Geostatistics, GIS, Sampling techniques and Statistical sampling design

Languages Italian, English, Spanish

Scientific Memberships Associazione Me.Ri.S. Mediterraneo Ricerca e Sviluppo (*President*)

CONISMA – Consorzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare

Selected Publication

Book Chapters

- María Gomez-Ballester, Juan-Tomás Vázquez, Desiree Palomino, Marzia Rovere, Marzia Bo, **Jessica Alessi**, Cristina Fiori, Maurizio Würtz: 2. *Seamounts and Seamount-like Structures of the Western Mediterranean*. Atlas of the Mediterranean seamounts and seamount-like structures, Edited by Maurizio Würtz, Marzia Rovere, 01/2016: pages 59-109; IUCN, ISBN: 978-2-8317-1750-0
- Marzia Rovere, Marzia Bo, **Jessica Alessi**, Chiara Paoli, Natasha Villani, Paolo Vassallo, Cristina Fiori, Nicolò Roccatagliata: 3. *Seamounts and Seamount-Like Structures of the Tyrrhenian Sea*. Atlas of the Mediterranean seamounts and seamount-like structures, Edited by Maurizio Würtz, Marzia Rovere, 01/2016: pages 111-184; IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Málaga, Spain., ISBN: 978-2-8317-1750-0
- Mehdi Aissi, Cristina Fiori, **Jessica Alessi**: *Mediterranean Submarine Canyons as stepping stones for pelagic top predators: the case of sperm whale*. Mediterranean Submarine Canyons: Ecology and Governance, Edited by Maurizio Würtz, 01/2012: pages 99-103; IUCN.

Journal Publications

- Marco Brunoldi, Giorgio Bozzini, Alessandra Casale, Pietro Corvisiero, Daniele Grosso, Nicodemo Magnoli, **Jessica Alessi**, Carlo Nike Bianchi, Alberta Mandich, Carla Morri, Paolo Povero, Maurizio Würtz, Christian Melchiorre, Gianni Viano, Valentina Cappanera, Giorgio Fanciulli, Massimiliano Bei, Nicola Stasi, Mauro Taiuti: *A Permanent Automated Real-Time Passive Acoustic Monitoring System for Bottlenose Dolphin Conservation in the Mediterranean Sea*. PLoS ONE 01/2016; 11(1):e0145362. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0145362
- Cristina Fiori, **Jessica Alessi**, Alberta Mandich, Chiara Paoli, Paolo Vassallo: *INDAGINE SUL POTERE ATTRATTIVO DELLE MONTAGNE SOTTOMARINE TIRRENICHE SU STENELLA COERULEOALBA*. Biol. Mar. Mediterr. (2015), 22 (1): 250-257
- Cristina Fiori, Chiara Paoli, **Jessica Alessi**, Alberta Mandich, Paolo Vassallo: *Seamount attractiveness to top predators in the southern Tyrrhenian Sea (central Mediterranean)*. Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the UK 11/2015; DOI:10.1017/S002531541500171X.
- Valentina Cafaro, Dario Angeletti, Bruno Bellisario, Armando Macali, Claudio Carere, **Jessica Alessi**: *Habitat overlap between bottlenose dolphins and seabirds: a pilot study to identify high-presence coastal areas in the Tyrrhenian Sea*. Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the UK 08/2015; DOI:10.1017/S0025315415001447
- Cristina Fiori, Luca Giancardo, Mehdi Aissi, **Jessica Alessi**, Paolo Vassallo: *Geostatistical modelling of spatial distribution of sperm whales in the Pelagos Sanctuary based on sparse count data and heterogeneous observations*. Aquatic Conservation Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 07/2014; DOI:10.1002/aqc.2428

Jessica Alessi, Mehdi Aïssi, Cristina Fiori: *Photo-identification of sperm whales in the north-western Mediterranean Sea: An assessment of natural markings*. Aquatic Conservation Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 07/2014; DOI:10.1002/aqc.2427

Mehdi Aïssi, Ahmed Ouammi, Cristina Fiori, **Jessica Alessi**: *Modelling predicted sperm whale habitat in the central Mediterranean Sea: Requirement for protection beyond the Pelagos Sanctuary boundaries*. Aquatic Conservation Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 07/2014; 24(S1). DOI:10.1002/aqc.2411

Jessica Alessi, Cristina Fiori: *From science to policy-a geostatistical approach to identifying potential areas for cetacean conservation: A case study of bottlenose dolphins in the Pelagos sanctuary (Mediterranean Sea)*. Journal of Coastal Conservation 06/2014; DOI:10.1007/s11852-014-0330-3

Guido Gnone, Michela Bellingeri, Frank Dhermain, Franck Dupraz, Silvio Nuti, Davide Bedocchi, Aurelie Moulins, Massimiliano Rosso, **Jessica Alessi**, Rachel S. McCrea, Arianna Azzellino, Sabina Airoidi, Nicola Portunato, Sophie Laran, Lea David, Nathalie Di Meglio, Patrizia Bonelli, Gionata Montesi, Roberta Trucchi, Fulvio Fossa, Maurizio Wurtz: *Distribution, abundance, and movements of the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the Pelagos Sanctuary MPA (northwest Mediterranean Sea)*. Aquatic Conservation Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 06/2011; 21(4):372 - 388. DOI:10.1002/aqc.1191

Conference Proceedings

Jessica Alessi, Alberta Mandich, Paolo Vassallo, Giorgio Bozzini, Marco Brunoldi, Alessandra Casale, Nicolò Falzoi, Daniele Grosso, Mario Petrillo, Carlo Nike Bianchi, Carla Morri, Alessandra Pesce, Ornella Cavalleri, Guido Gnone, Bruna Valettini, Claudia Gili, Valentina Cappanera, Giorgio Fanciulli, Christian Melchiorre, Gianni Viano, Nicola Stasi, Maurizio Wurtz, Mauro Taiuti: *Fixed acoustic stations for sperm whale and bottlenose dolphins real time monitoring. The case studies of the Life projects WHALESAFE and ARION*. 30th Annual Conference of European Cetacean Society, Funchal, Madeira; 03/2016. Accepted

Valentina Cafaro, Fabrizio Bruccoleri, **Jessica Alessi**: *Citizen Science: an instrument to gain information on cetacean presence and distribution in understudied areas*. 30th Annual Conference of European Cetacean Society, Funchal, Madeira; 03/2016. Accepted

Jessica Alessi, Alberta Mandich, Nicolò Falzoi, Paolo Vassallo, Mario Petrillo, Marco Brunoldi, Daniele Grosso, Alessandra Pesce, Ornella Cavalleri, Guido Gnone, Bruna Valettini, Christian Melchiorre, Gianni Viano, Mauro Taiuti: *The project life + WHALESAFE: development of a permanent acoustic station for the protection of sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) from collisions in the Ligurian Sea*. 47° Congresso della Società Italiana di Biologia Marina, Torino; 06/2016. Accepted

Alessi J, Bianchi C.N., Bozzini G., Brunoldi M., Cappanera V., Casale A., Cavalleri O., Corvisiero P., Fanciulli G., Falzoi N., Grosso D., Magnoli N., Mandich A, Melchiorre C., Morri C., Pesce A., Povero P., Stasi N., Taiuti M., Viano G., Wurtz M.: *First steps into WhaleSafe project. Design of a detector for sperm whale clicks in acoustic signals*. SIF, Roma; 09/2015

Daniele Grosso, **Alessi J**, Bianchi C.N., Bozzini G., Brunoldi M., Cappanera V., Casale A., Cavalleri O., Corvisiero P., Fanciulli G., Grosso D., Magnoli N., Mandich H, Melchiorre C., Morri C., Pesce A.,

Povero P., Stasi N., Taiuti M., Viano G., Wurtz M.: *Statistical evaluation of the background signal in acoustic data from ARION project*. SIF, Roma; 09/2015

Cristina Fiori, **Jessica Alessi**, Alberta Mandich, Chiara Paoli, Paolo Vassallo: *Indagine sul potere attrattivo delle montagne sottomarine tirreniche su Stenella coeruleoalba*. 46° Congresso della Società Italiana di Biologia Marina, Roma; 06/2015

D. S. Pace, B. Mussi, S. Airoidi, **J. Alessi**, A. Arcangeli, F. Atzori, M. Azzolin, I. Campana, A. Celona, C. Fiori, C. Giacoma, G. Gnone, C. Luperini, R. Mangano, A. Miragliuolo, A. Moulins, S. Nuti, G. Pellegrino, M. Rosso, F. Salvio, P. Tepsich, M. Tringali: *New insights on the presence and distribution of the endangered short-beaked common dolphin Delphinus delphis in Italian waters..* Congress of Società Italiana di Biologia Marina, Rome; 06/2015

Jessica Alessi, Alberta Mandich, Cristina Fiori: *Occurrence of Short-beaked Common Dolphins (Delphinus delphis) near the seamounts of the Tyrrhenian sea*. 29th Annual Conference of European Cetacean Society, St. Julian, Malta; 03/2015

Cristina Fiori, **Jessica Alessi**, Chiara Paoli, Alberta Mandich, Paolo Vassallo: *PROMETEOS Project: results from two years of research. Knowledge improvements on Mediterranean seamounts*. 29th Annual Conference European Cetacean Society, St. Julians, Malta; 03/2015

Rimel Benmessaoud, **Jessica Alessi**, Nejla Bejaoui: *Analyse de la structure sociale de la population de Tursiops truncatus de la région Nord-Est de la Tunisie*. Troisième Conférence Biennale sur la Conservation des Cétacés dans les Pays du Sud de la Méditerranée (CSMC3), Jounieh-Liban; 10/2014

C Fiori, **J Alessi**: *Un esempio di rete multidisciplinare su scala mediterranea: progetto prometeos. I cetacei come indicatori della biodiversità nell'ecosistema delle " montagne sottomarine "* *An example of multidisciplinary network on mediterranean scale: prometeos project. The role of cetaceans as biodiversity indicators of the seamount ecosystems*. 45° Congresso della Società Italiana di Biologia Marina, VENEZIA; 05/2014

Natasha Villani, **Jessica Alessi**, Nicolò Roccatagliata, Cristina Fiori: *Tyrrhenian seamounts influence on pelagic visitors: cetaceans, sea birds, sea turtles and pelagic fishes*. 28th annual conference of the European Cetacean Society; 04/2014

Cristina Fiori, **Jessica Alessi**, Nicolò Roccatagliata: *Tyrrhenian seamounts: the influence of morphologic variables on striped dolphin*. 28th annual conference of the European Cetacean Society; 04/2014

Jessica Alessi, Carlo Nike Bianchi, Giorgio Bozzini, Marco Brunoldi, Valentina Cappanera, Alessandra Casale, Pietro Corvisiero, Giorgio Fanciulli, Daniele Grosso, Nicodemo Magnoli, Christian Melchiorre, Carla Morri, Paolo Povero, Nicola Stasi, Mauro Taiuti, Gianni Viano, Maurizio Würtz: *ARION: a tool for real time bottlenose dolphin monitoring in the Portofino MPA*. 28th Annual Conference of the EUROPEAN CETACEAN SOCIETY, Liege, Belgium; 03/2014

Alessi J, Bianchi C.N, Bozzini G, Brunoldi M, Cappanera V, Casale A, Corvisiero P, Fanciulli G, Grosso D, Magnoli N, Melchiorre C, Morri C, Povero P, Stasi N, Taiuti M, Viano G, Wurtz M, DIFI_ University of Genova, DISTAV - University of Genova, Portofino MPA, Softeco Sismat, Direzione Marittima di Genova: *Systems for Coastal Dolphin Conservation in the Ligurian Sea*. 3rd International Marine Protected Area Congress, Marseille; 10/2013

Alessi J., Bianchi C.N., Bozzini G., Brunoldi M., Cappanera V., Casale A., Fanciulli G., Grosso D., Magnoli N., Melchiorre C., Morri C., Povero P., Stasi N., Taiuti M., Viano G., Wurtz M.: *ARION, a LIFE+*

project for coastal dolphin conservation in the Ligurian Sea: configuration, installation, calibration, first results.. Società Italiana di Fisica XCIX CONGRESSO NAZIONALE, Trieste, 23-27 september 2013; 08/2013

Mehdi Aissi, **Jessica Alessi**, Cristina Fiori: *PROMETEOS Project: Evidence of seamounts and submarine canyons effects on cetacean aggregation in the central Mediterranean Sea. 27th Conference of European Cetacean Society, Setúbal - PORTUGAL; 05/2013*

Giulia Altariva, Paola Luzzi, **Jessica Alessi**, Amleto De Santanna, Cristina Fiori, Ilaria Traversi, Alberta Mandich: *Localization of cytokeratins in vascular smooth muscle cells of cetacean dermis. Biology and ecotoxicology of large marine vertebrates: potential sentinels of Good Environmental Status of marine environment, implication on European Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Siena, Italy; 01/2012*

M. Aïssi, C. Fiori, **J. Alessi**: *Mediterranean submarine canyons as stepping stones for pelagic top predators: The case of sperm whale (Physeter catodon). Knowledge and conservation of submarine canyons of the Mediterranean; 01/2011*

Jessica Alessi, Massimiliano Rosso: *Heterogeneity from natural marks in bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus). 23rd Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society; 03/2009*

Jessica Alessi, Tepsich P., Moulins A. Rosso M.: *Analyse du comportement des Tursiops truncatus en presence de chalut. RIMMO, 11e conférence internationale sur les cétacés de Méditerranée; 11/2008*

Technical Reports

Elio Filidei Jr, **Jessica Alessi**, Antonella Arcangeli, Marta Azzolin, Micaela Bacchetta, Davide Bedocchi, Michela Bellingeri, Luca Bittau, Alberto Castelli, Simona Clò, Bruno Cozzi, Bruno Díaz Lòpez, Giovanni Di Guardo, Cristina Fiori, Fulvio Fossa, Maria Cristina Fossi, Alberto Fozzi, Alberto Marco Gattoni, Maristella Giurisato, Guido Gnone, Gabriella La Manna, Giancarlo Lauriano, Francesca Magnone, Luca Marini, Letizia Marsili, Sandro Mazzariol, Walter Mignone, Aurelie Moulins, Silvio Nuti, Lidia Orsi Relini, Elena Papale, Gianni Pavan, Michela Podestà, Marina Pulcini, Massimiliano Rosso, Roberto Rutigliano, Milena Tempesta, Paola Tepsich, Cristiana Tittarelli, Mario Tringali, Maurizio Wurtz, Francesca Zardin, Caterina Maria Fortuna: *Italy. Progress report on cetacean research, January to December 2010, with statistical data for the calendar year 2010.*