



Jessica Alessi

Contact

+39 347 1430 619

alessijessica@gmail.com

info.meris@gmail.com

Summary

I'm a cetacean specialist. In 2013 I earned, with the highest grades, the PhD in Marine Science, with research on the conservation of the Mediterranean bottlenose dolphin population. My research activities focus on the functioning of marine ecosystems and the protection of cetaceans, through studies of abundance, movements, social structure, and habitat use. I'm engaged in the mitigation of interactions between cetaceans and human activities. I lead my research through several approaches such as photo-identification, bio-acoustic and spatial modeling.

Experience

CONTRACT PROFESSOR - 03/2017 to Present

UNIVERSITY OF GENOA, GENOA

- University Course Cetaceans Biology and Monitoring Techniques (2017-TODAY)
- *Post Lauream* Specialization Course "Monitoring Techniques for Cetaceans Study" (2017, 2018)

OPERATIVE & SCIENTIFIC MANAGER - 11/2020 to 01/2021

MARINE PROTECTED AREA OF PELAGIE ISLANDS, LAMPEDUSA

- Management of the Pelagie Islands MPA.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT - 2017 to Present

- 2021-2019 Marine Protected Area of Pelagie Islands. Monitoring, population studies, distribution, and management of cetaceans. Eco-sustainable dolphin watching courses for artisanal fishermen.
- 2020- UBICA s.r.l. Acoustic Monitoring and Underwater Noise evaluation in Cervia waters.
- 2020-2019 University of Genoa. Study on the distribution of marine mammals relating to the physicochemical characteristics of the water masses and currents in the Ligurian Sea, through habitat mapping.
- 2019- CESRAM - marine environment research and study center. Consultant on bottlenose dolphins monitoring and population study.
- 2017-National Inter-university Consortium for Sea Sciences (CONISMA). Assessment of marine mammal populations in Italian waters, for the Marine Strategy Directive 2008/56/CE

RESEARCH FELLOW - 03/2010 to 02/2019

UNIVERSITY OF GENOA

- 2015-2019 - Life+13/NAT/IT/001061 WHALES SAFE. Aim: Protection of Sperm Whale in the *Pelagos* Sanctuary
- 2011- 2015 - Life + 09 / NAT / IT / 00190 ARION project: System for coastal dolphin conservation in the Ligurian Sea.
- 2010- Research on the distribution and abundance of sperm whales in the *Pelagos* International Marine Mammal Sanctuary

PRESIDENT - 01/2012 to Present

Me.Ri.S. Association www.merisresearch.com

President and Scientific Director of Me.Ri.S. no profit organization for the protection of marine mammals and their environment in Sicily (ITALY).

Selected Scientific production

21 Peer-review Journal; 48 Conference Proceeding, 3 Chapters in Books; 6 Technical Reports.

- Sanguineti, M., Alessi, J., ... & Grosso, D. (2020). An automated passive acoustic monitoring system for real time sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) threat prevention in the Mediterranean Sea. *Appl. Acou.*, 172, 107650.
- Alessi J, *et al.* (2019) Eavesdropping on dolphins: Investigating the habits of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) through fixed acoustic stations. *PLoS ONE* 14(12): e0226023.
- Alessi, J., *et al.* (2019). How citizens can encourage scientific research: the case study of bottlenose dolphins monitoring. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 167 (1): 9-19.
- Pace DS, ... J. Alessi, ... & A. Arcangeli. (2019) An integrated approach for cetacean knowledge and conservation in the central Mediterranean Sea using research and social media data sources. *Aquat. Conserv.*, 29(8): 1302-1323.
- Vassallo, ..., Alessi, J.,... & Fiori, C. (2018). Seamounts as hot-spots of large pelagic aggregations. *Med.Mar. Sci.*, 0.
- Brunoldi M, ... Alessi J, ... & Taiuti MG (2016). A Permanent Automated Real-Time Passive Acoustic Monitoring System for Bottlenose Dolphin Conservation in the Mediterranean Sea. *PLoS ONE*, 11(1):e0145362.
- Fiori C, ... Alessi J, ... & Vassallo P: Seamount attractiveness to top predators in the southern Tyrrhenian Sea (central Mediterranean). (2015) *JMBA*, 96(03): 769-775.
- Cafaro V, ..., Alessi J. (2015). Habitat overlap between bottlenose dolphins and seabirds: a pilot study to identify high-presence coastal areas in the Tyrrhenian Sea. *JMBA*, 96(04): 891-901;
- Fiori C, ... Alessi J & Vassallo P. (2014). Geostatistical modelling of spatial distribution of sperm whales in the Pelagos Sanctuary based on sparse count data and heterogeneous observations. *Aquat. Conserv.* 24(S1): 41-49.
- Alessi J *et al.*, (2014). Photo-identification of sperm whales in the north-western Mediterranean Sea: An assessment of natural markings. *Aquat. Conserv.* 24(S1): 11-22;
- Aissi M, ..., Alessi J. (2014). Modelling predicted sperm whale habitat in the central Mediterranean Sea: Requirement for protection beyond the Pelagos Sanctuary boundaries. *Aquat. Conserv.*, 24(S1): 50-58;
- Alessi J, Fiori C. (2014). 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*, 18(4):449-458;
- G. Gnone, ... Alessi J., ... & Wurtz M. (2011). Distribution, abundance, and movements of the bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the Pelagos Sanctuary MPA (northwest Mediterranean Sea). *Aquat. Conserv.*, 21(4):372 - 388.

Education

- PhD in Environmental Sciences: Sea Science - 2013 University of Genoa.
- Master of Science: Natural Systems Sciences - 2009 University of Genoa.
- Bachelor of Science: Natural Sciences - 2006 University of Milan.