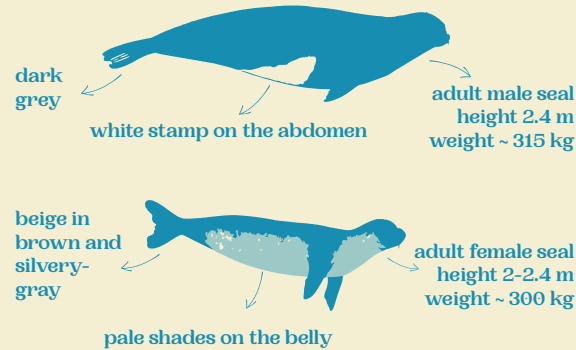


Mediterranean Monk Seal

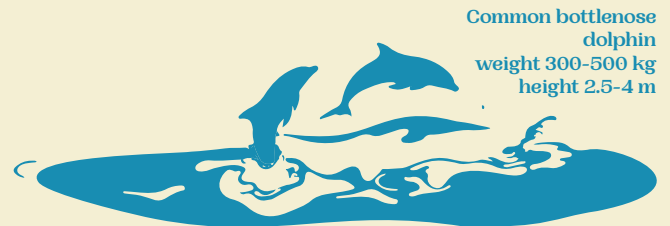
The **Mediterranean monk seal** (*Monachus monachus*) is one of the rarest seal species in the world, as well as the most endangered aquatic mammal on the European continent. The global population of the Mediterranean monk seal does not exceed 700 individuals. Threats facing the Mediterranean monk seal include habitat degradation, disturbances during the reproduction period, deliberate killing, and entangling in fishing nets.



The **Common bottlenose dolphin** (*Tursiops truncatus*) has a flat body shape, with a raised back and short thick snout. Their skin is gray on the top and white on the lower part of the body. It is known for being friendly with people, following the ships, and its impressive intelligence.

The **Loggerhead sea turtle** (*Caretta caretta*) is characterized by red-brown carapace and a very large head. It reaches a length of about 75 to 110 cm and weighs between 90 to 160 kg. It lives up to 90 years.

Did you know that the loggerhead sea turtle is one of the oldest species on our planet, which has survived the dinosaurs' period?



Common bottlenose dolphin
weight 300-500 kg
height 2.5-4 m

The loggerhead sea turtle traverses thousands of miles between the breeding and feeding sites. In the breeding season, females go ashore to lay their eggs on sandy beaches. The young, after they hatch, orient themselves by moonlight towards the sea.

The **Mediterranean tapeweed** (*Posidonia oceanica*) is an endemic species of Mediterranean that plays an important role in the ecosystem, as it forms underwater meadows that serve as shelter and food for many species. The length of this plant is between 30 cm and 1 m.



Status of the Seal Monk in Albania



Status of the Monk seal globally



Mediterranean monk seal © PPNEA



Status of Posidonia in Albania

Meet the inhabitants of the sea

Albania and its two seas, the Adriatic and Ionian, are very important for the species that live in the Mediterranean Sea. They shelter a large variety of marine species ranging from rare ones, such as the Mediterranean monk Seal, sea turtles, the endemic *Posidonia*, etc., which are essential for the ecosystem, as well as for the food chain.

All these species are at risk of various factors such as sea pollution, accidental catching in fishing nets, climate change, human interference in coastal ecosystems, etc.



BIOM in Croatia, CZIP in Montenegro, PPNEA in Albania, as well as MoM in Greece have joined forces to identify the potential habitats used by the Mediterranean monk seal for shelter and reproduction. These organizations have implemented many direct conservation measures, including awareness raising work with tourists and local communities.

The conservation of the Mediterranean monk seal population is a priority for many civil society organizations, which have created an international network for this purpose.

If you come across a Mediterranean monk seal, dolphin, or a sea turtle, please contact us at +35545628954, or write an email at contact@ppnea.org

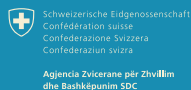
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MARINE LIFE
Mediterranean Monk Seal, Sea Turtle
and Common bottlenose dolphin



Albania is Biodiversity