

Conservation / Marine megafauna / Public policies  
Strandings / At sea observations

## Observatoire PELAGIS

PELAGIS is a joint service unit (UMS 3462 La Rochelle Université - CNRS). It conducts observation and expertise programs on marine mammals and seabirds for their conservation

In addition, it manages the databases associated with these various research programs.

The link of the Observatory with the Centre de Biologie de Chizé (CEBC) facilitates research studies and development based on these monitoring data.



Director — **Florence Caurant**

Permanent research staff — **3**

Permanent technical assistant staff — **4**

Staff on research project — **13**

Discipline — **Ecology**



### — **Societal challenges**

#### **Preservation**

Pelagis conducts dedicated aerial surveys for the identification of marine areas with a high megafauna biodiversity. Participation in ecosystemic surveys for studying temporal trends in species distribution. Use of strandings to study the health status of populations. Contribution to the implementation of the French obligations for the conservation

of mammals and seabirds within the framework of the European network «Natura 2000 at sea» and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

#### **Protection**

Expertise and scientific support to public policies for the protection of marine mammals and seabirds as well as to managers of marine protected areas of importance for these species.

#### **Human activities**

Study of human activities and their impacts (in particular fisheries and environmental contamination) on marine mammal and seabird populations.



## – Research Network

The Observatory is supported by the Ministry for the environment, the french Agency for biodiversity and local authorities (including the Urban Community of La Rochelle).

The work of the Observatory is conducted in partnership with French public institutions (including the CNRS, Ifremer, the French Agency for Biodiversity). The Observatory participates in numerous working groups of international agreements (including ICES, OSPAR, IWC ...).

As part of its marine mammal conservation missions, PELAGIS also coordinates the National Stranding Network.



## – Expertise Achievements

The Observatory regularly conducts dedicated aerial surveys in mainland France and overseas territories in order to assess the biodiversity of the marine megafauna and to determine the distribution and preferential habitats of the species. Survey reports are produced and Pelagis participates in the valorization of these data through its participation in data analysis and scientific publications. As part of the animation of the National Strandings Network (RNE), regular trainings of correspondents are provided and a guide to conduct during strandings and external examination toolkits were made. Every year, the RNE meets at a seminar that reports on annual data acquisition.



## Training

### MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

- ▶ course Geosciences and coastal geophysics
- ▶ course Environmental management and coastal ecology
- ▶ course Geography applied to coastal management
- ▶ course Environmental Management

## – Partnerships Collaborations



PELAGIS provides support and skills to the managers of marine protected areas such as the Marine Nature Park of Mayotte and Iroise and the Marine Nature Park of the Gironde Estuary and the Pertuis Sea.

PELAGIS participates in a national working group bringing together representatives of the Ministry of the environment, the french Agency for Biodiversity, fishermen, NGOs ... working group that aims to reduce by-catch of common dolphins in the Bay of Biscay.



**CONTACT**  
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