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## National Strandings Data Bank and Monitoring Network on Cetacean Strandings in Italy



<http://mammiferimarini.unipv.it>  
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Since 2006 the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, initiated a project with CIBRA (University of Pavia) and the Museum of Natural History of Milan (MSNM) to collect, verify and make available the information on cetacean strandings and to create and maintain a National Database of Strandings (BDS) within the frame of the activities recommended by ACCOBAMS.

The BDS includes strandings data published by CSC and MSNM in years 1986-2005; published data have been georeferenced and verified, whenever possible, with original recording forms; historical data collected before 1986 is being validated and incorporated into the BDS.

Since 2006 the BDS receives stranding records directly from the different organizations now operating in Italy and, in cooperation with the Mediterranean Marine Mammal Tissue Bank created at the University of Padova, manages the reorganization of the network.

The BDS, available online, is entirely based on open source software. Each record in the database provides information about: date of the event, its location, data on the specimen etc. Records also hold information about toxicological and parasitological investigations, description of samples collected and the Institute where the samples are stored, as well as the ID number referred to the Tissue Bank and bibliographic references to support the tracking of each sample and the related results. Summary reports and maps of the strandings distribution can be easily obtained by performing specific search at different levels. Two types of access are allowed: public access to provide general data and controlled access to provide all the details. The BDS is available both in English and in Italian. Forms to be compiled for sending data can be downloaded. Compiled forms can be sent to the BDS by email or by fax; then they are evaluated and validated by BDS personnel.

At present the BDS contains 3797 records concerning 3907 stranded specimens, belonging to 14 species.

In 2008, the Italian Ministry for the Environment funded a specific project for the re-organization of the Italian Stranding Network. National Responsible of the project is Gianni Pavan of the University of Pavia, co-Responsibles are Michela Podestà of the Museum of Natural History of Milan and Bruno Cozzi of the University of Padova.

The project is based on the coordinated scientific and technical efforts of a Board of National experts on cetacean research to establish a common protocol, to coordinate actions with the Ministry of Health, to foster the role of the Coast Guard, and to set up a task force for unusual events.

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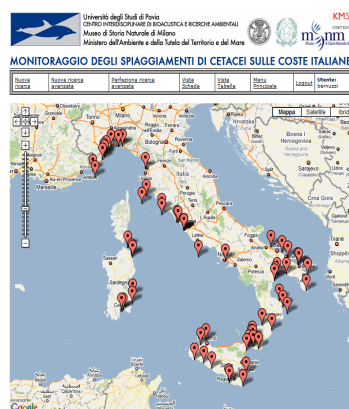
2 - Museum of Natural History of Milan, corso Venezia 55, 20121 Milan, Italy

3 - Dipartimento di Scienze Sperimentali Veterinarie, Università di Padova, 35020 Legnaro (PD), Italy

YEAR	N. STRANDINGS	N. ANIMALS
Older data	20	26
1986	48	51
1987	191	209
1988	210	220
1989	228	236
1990	189	193
1991	537	548
1992	160	164
1993	137	140
1994	117	123
1995	102	105
1996	117	122
1997	148	148
1998	146	146
1999	142	144
2000	151	151
2001	193	196
2002	152	160
2003	134	134
2004	163	168
2005	115	116
2006	74	78
2007	110	110
2008	91	91
2009	70	76
2010	52	52
TOTALS	3797	3907

SPECIES	N. ANIMALS
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	76
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	6
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	1
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	155
<i>Kogia sima</i>	2
<i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i>	1
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	71
<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	4
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	51
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	141
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	864
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	1657
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	36
<i>Steno bredanensis</i>	7
Undetermined	835
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3907</b>

The BDS is online at <http://mammiferimarini.unipv.it>  
Information can be requested by writing to: [spiaggiamenti@unipv.it](mailto:spiaggiamenti@unipv.it)



Map of *Z. cavirostris* strandings.

The screenshot shows the BDS web application interface. At the top, there is a search bar with fields for ID (11195), Date (14-02-2010), and other details. Below the search bar is a map of Italy with a red pin indicating the location of the stranding. The main part of the form contains various fields for recording the stranding, including Species (Ziphius cavirostris), Sex (M), Age (Adult), and Length (105 cm). There are also checkboxes for various characteristics like 'Collare con natante', 'Cultura isocostale', and 'Segno di attriti da preda'. At the bottom, there is a table with columns for ID, Date, Species, and Status, showing a list of records.

Screenshot of a complete record for registered users.