

**CETACEAN MORTALITY IN CROATIAN PART
OF THE ADRIATIC SEA IN PERIOD FROM 1990 TILL FEBRUARY 2002**

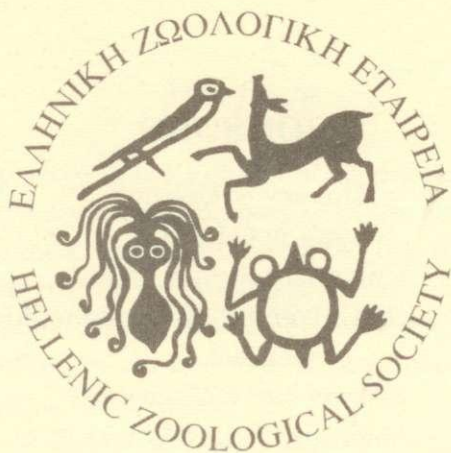
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The aim of this work was to investigate causes of deaths of cetaceans that died in waters of Croatian part of the Adriatic Sea. From October 1990 to February 2002 we collected 66 cetacean carcasses along the Croatian coast and islands (26 females, 27 males and 13 of unknown sex) and performed pathoanatomical, pathohistological, parasitological, toxicological and electronmicroscopical examinations, depending on carcass decomposition. The examined cetacean carcasses included following species: 52 (78.8%) bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*), 6 (9.1%) Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*), 4 (6.1%) striped dolphins (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), 1 (1.5%) fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), 1 beaked whale (*Ziphiidae*, northern bottlenose whale, *Hyperoodon ampullatus*?) and 2 (3.0%) undetermined cetaceans (common dolphin, *Delphinus delphis* or striped dolphin, *Stenella coeruleoalba*). In 19 (28.8%) cetaceans the cause of death could not be determined due to heavy carcass decomposition. Death of the remaining 33 cetaceans was caused either by health disorders (in 16 animals, 48.5%) or it was induced by man activity (in 17 animals, 51.5%). None of bottlenose dolphins in Croatian part of Adriatic sea died because of morbilliviral infection during dolphin morbilliviral episode in Mediterranean Sea in 1990s.

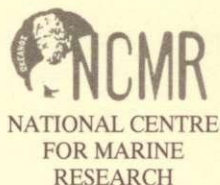


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