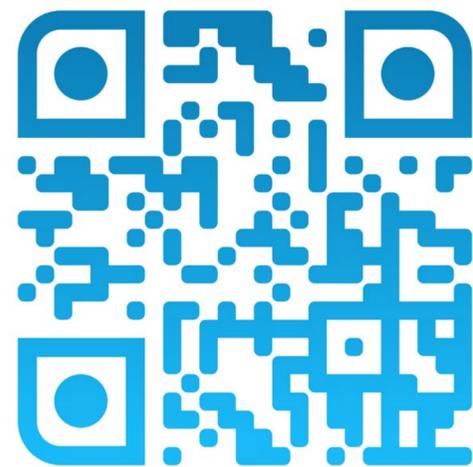


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**SUSTAINABLE
CRUISE
CHARTER**
FRENCH MEDITERRANEAN

EXHIBITION «FOR A PRESERVED MEDITERRANEAN AND A SUSTAINABLE CRUISE»

Produced by the CPIE Bassin de Thau - Littoral d'Occitanie

Photographs by P. Girard - *Underwater photography* &
T. Roger - *Regards du Vivant (view of the living)*

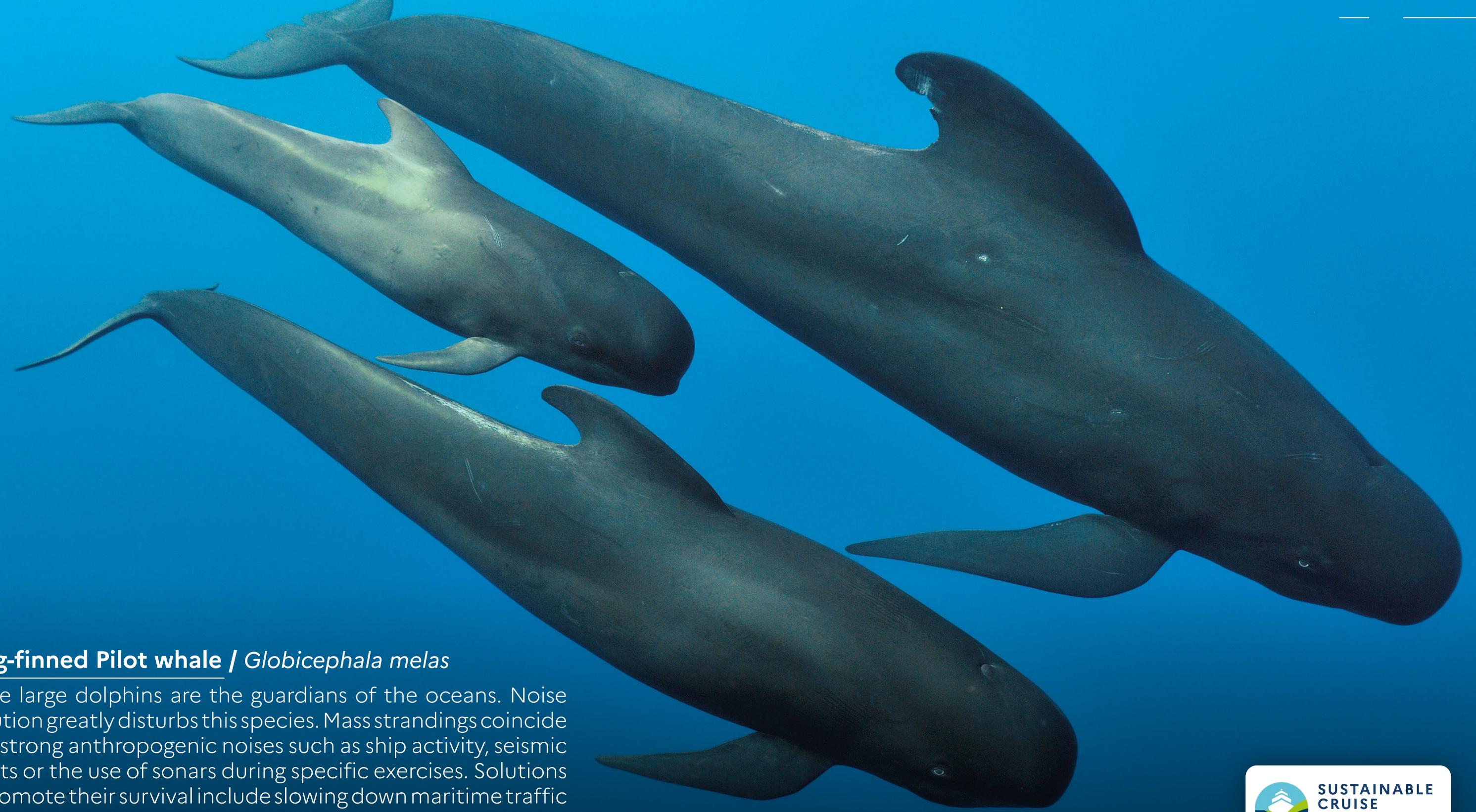
Funded by the Direction Inter-Régionale de la Mer - Façade
Méditerranée

Ocellate torpedo / *Torpedo torpedo*

Able to defend itself naturally thanks to its electric discharges of up to 2000 volts, this coastal Mediterranean ray challenges us on the issue of our overconsumption of electricity. Let's reduce our consumption to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



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Long-finned Pilot whale / *Globicephala melas*

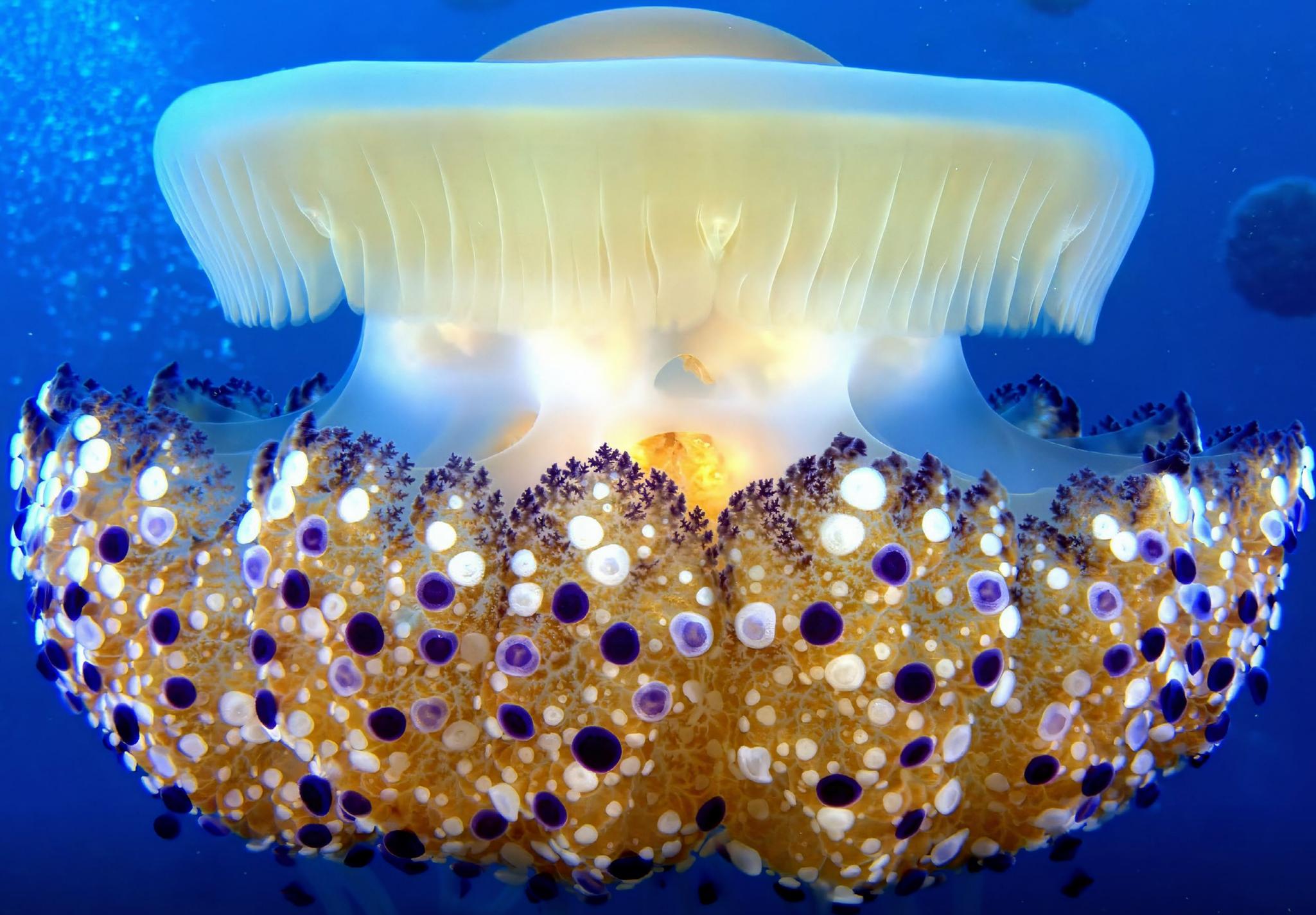
These large dolphins are the guardians of the oceans. Noise pollution greatly disturbs this species. Mass strandings coincide with strong anthropogenic noises such as ship activity, seismic events or the use of sonars during specific exercises. Solutions to promote their survival include slowing down maritime traffic and innovating to reduce noise in the water.



Fin whale / *Balaenoptera physalus*

Observing our marine mammals is a privilege, meeting them in the wild an emotional experience. Let's be careful not to disturb them. Ships should respect a safe distance of 300 m, limit speed and maintain an oblique angle for observation, to avoid changes in whale behaviors such as repeated dives, changes in direction and modification of natural behaviors of feeding, reproduction or rest.





Fried egg jellyfish (Mediterranean jellyfish) / *Cotylorhiza tuberculata*

As an indicator of the state of marine biomass, scientists are concerned about the impact of jellyfish on ecosystems. Their proliferation is linked to human activity, which leads to excess nitrates and warming of currents, thus threatening species crucial for cleaning the sea.

Photography by © P. Girard - Underwater photography



Squid / *Loligo vulgaris*

Majestic and mysterious, squid are sentinels of the health of the oceans. Greatly threatened by an acidification of oceans due to the increase in our CO2 emissions. Their preservation is essential to maintain the marine balance and the availability of this fishery resource.





Atlantic puffin / *Fratercula arctica*

These birds are rare in the Mediterranean, observed very occasionally offshore in winter, resting on the surface of the water. From the Alcidae (like penguins) family, Atlantic puffins have seen their population fall due to the winter warming of surface waters, which reduces their food resources. Scientists today question about Atlantic puffin observation in the Mediterranean. Is it due to the improvement of our observation capacities, the birds' search for resources, changes in marine currents, or even anthropogenic disturbances of their inner biological compass? There are so many questions for which observation and research are necessary.

Photographie de © T. Roger - *Regards du Vivant*



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Tail of fin whale / *Balaenoptera physalus*

The oceans today are constantly crossed by nearly 100,000 merchant ships, which increases the risk of interaction with the so-called "giants of the seas." To maintain marine mammal populations in a favorable state of conservation, Italy, Monaco, and France and Spain contributed to the creation of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in the northwestern Mediterranean covering 280 000 km². This PSSA, enters into force in July 2023. To protect biodiversity, specific and harmonized rules and recommendations need to be defined.



Long-snouted seahorse / *Hippocampus guttulatus*

An emblematic animal of the marine environment, this little seahorse is well known in France, particularly in the Thau lagoon. Its cousin, the short-snouted seahorse, is found near-coastal areas such as seagrass beds and in sandy areas and spits.



The long-snouted seahorse is not immune to threats such as ocean pollution, global warming, and poaching. Let's avoid souvenir purchases that threaten biodiversity.

Striped dolphin / *Stenella coeruleoalba*

Three billion people find their main source of dietary protein in fish products. This quest for food is leading to an ever-growing co-predation between man and marine species. For example, dolphins, while hunting for schools of sardines alongside tuna, sometimes find themselves trapped in fishing nets.





Common dolphin / *Delphinus delphis*

Rising temperatures disrupt the reproduction of marine mammals by changing their habitats and reducing living conditions. Some species that migrate between feeding and breeding zones could be forced to disperse to new sites. Reducing CO2 emissions limits effects on natural areas.

Photography by © T. Roger - *Regards du Vivant*



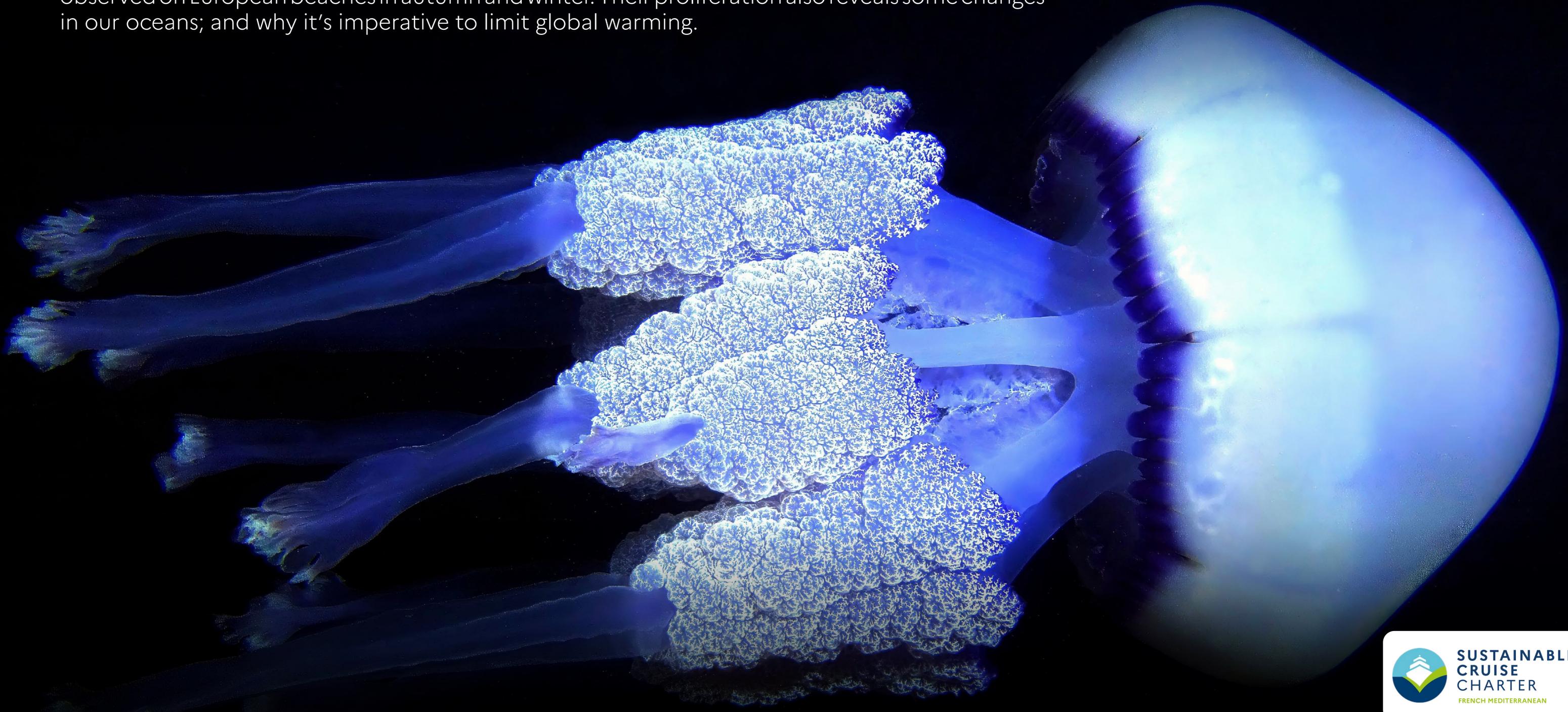
Northern gannet / *Morus bassanus*

A type of seabirds, the Northern Gannet suffers from ocean pollution and overfishing. It is among the main victims of the 200,000 seabirds unintentionally trapped in EU waters every year. Reducing anthropogenic pollution and defining solutions to avoid these accidental catches will ensure a long life for these species.



Barrel jellyfish / *Rhizostoma pulmo*

This jellyfish is another bioindicator of biomass. Mass strandings of these jellyfish are frequently observed on European beaches in autumn and winter. Their proliferation also reveals some changes in our oceans; and why it's imperative to limit global warming.





Cory's (or Scopoli's) shearwater / *Calonectris diomedea*

Mediterranean waters are home to such iconic offshore seabirds as the Cory's shearwater, Balearic shearwater, and Yelkouan shearwater. Adapted to marine life, they have a unique metabolism that allows them to transform seawater into fresh water. These birds are tireless travelers, returning to land only to breed each year on the same islands and rocky overhangs.

Photography by © T. Roger - *Regards du Vivant*



Risso's dolphin / *Grampus griseus*

More than 90% of fish stocks are fully exploited or overexploited, endangering the species that depend on them for food. The decline in these resources can push populations to migrate to other areas or even cause their disappearance locally. Consuming seafood products produced from sustainable practices is a commitment to sustaining biodiversity.



European storm petrel
(also known as sea swallow) /
Hydrobates pelagicus

It is estimated that around 200,000 of these seabirds die each year, both through accidents while fishing and ingestion and injuries caused by waste, including discarded plastics. Limiting the use of plastics reduces the probability of harming these birds.



Devil fish (also called Giant devil ray) / *Mobula mobular*

This ray plays a crucial role in regulating marine populations and in the health of marine ecosystems. Unfortunately, like all sharks, they face significant threats, particularly fishing for fins and gills. This led to an alarming decline in ray and shark worldwide. Identifying and refusing to use cosmetics or food products containing squalene (shark) is the way to fight against their extinction.

Dwarf bobtail / *Sepiola rondeletii*

With their extraordinary ability to blend into their environment to protect themselves, this member of the squid family symbolizes adaptation and resilience. Let us take inspiration from this creature to adopt sustainable lifestyles.



Common dolphinfish (also called Mahi-mahi) / *Coryphaena hippurus*

Mahi-mahi is increasingly present in the western Mediterranean, even in France. This iconic fish of warm and tropical climates, bears witness to the migration of species from warm and tropical climates to our regions. By warming up, the Mediterranean sea newly offers favorable living space. The increase in temperatures is a real danger for marine biodiversity and the cause of many current and future changes for species.





Razorbill (also called Auk) / *Alca torda*

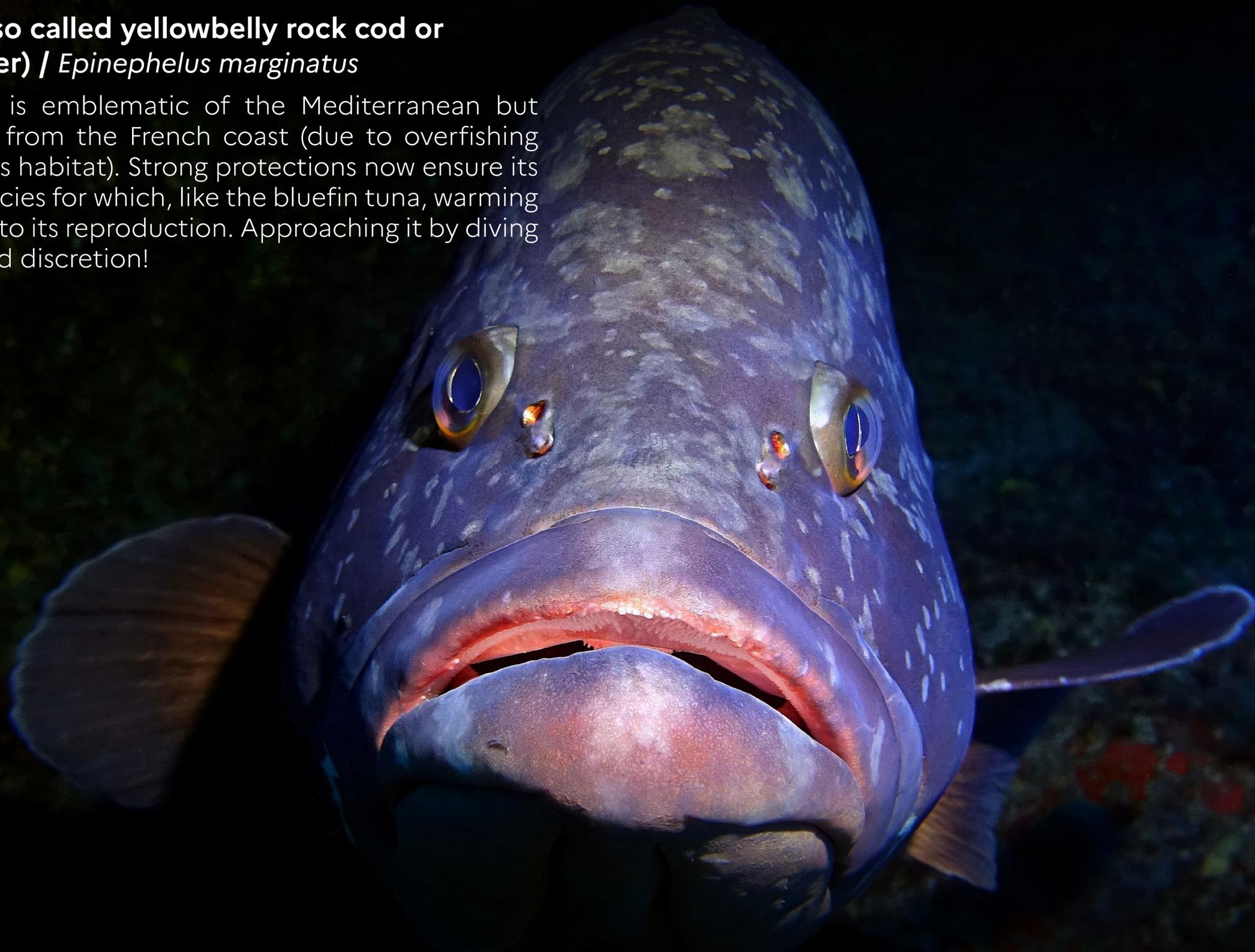
This is a bird that flies, and despite its looks has nothing to do with the penguin family; learn to differentiate them. Recognizable by its black and white plumage and its compressed beak, it is a great migratory bird that frequents the shores of the Mediterranean in winter. It comes there to rest and enjoy the fish that make up its diet. It is a good swimmer and diver.

Photography by © T. Roger - *Regards du Vivant*



Dusky grouper (also called yellowbelly rock cod or yellowbelly grouper) / *Epinephelus marginatus*

The Dusky grouper is emblematic of the Mediterranean but almost disappeared from the French coast (due to overfishing and destruction of its habitat). Strong protections now ensure its return. It is a rare species for which, like the bluefin tuna, warming waters are favorable to its reproduction. Approaching it by diving requires patience and discretion!



Blue shark / *Prionace glauca*

Blue shark is one of the most declining shark species in the Mediterranean. Sharks have been under pressure for decades due to fishing, urbanisation, tourism and pollution. The disturbance caused by our activities to their feeding areas and nurseries (reproduction and growth) threatens the abundance and distribution of marine species.



Basking shark / *Cetorhinus maximus*

Despite its vast global distribution, the basking shark population faces problems related to human impact and environmental changes. Ancestors of the oceans, these giants (measuring up to 12m) are harmless, feeding on plankton, and have long been threatened with extinction. The populations are very poorly known because they are rarely visible, but they can appear on our coasts. Share your reports if you come across them!





Precious coral / *Corallium rubrum*

A symbol of fragility, red corals suffer irreparable damage from poaching. Let's preserve these marine treasures by supporting only sustainable and controlled exploitation. Requesting certification of sustainable harvest before purchasing red coral jewelry guarantees respect and management of its ecosystem.

Photographie de © P. Girard - Underwater photography





Loggerhead sea turtle / *Caretta caretta*

A migratory species, the loggerhead turtle is the most common of the four species (out of eight) of sea turtles observed in the western Mediterranean. The turtles return to our beaches to lay their eggs. The destruction of their habitat causes total disruption and affects their survival. Let's help them by respecting their nesting areas on our beaches and limiting coastal pollution.

Photography by © T. Roger - *Regards du Vivant*



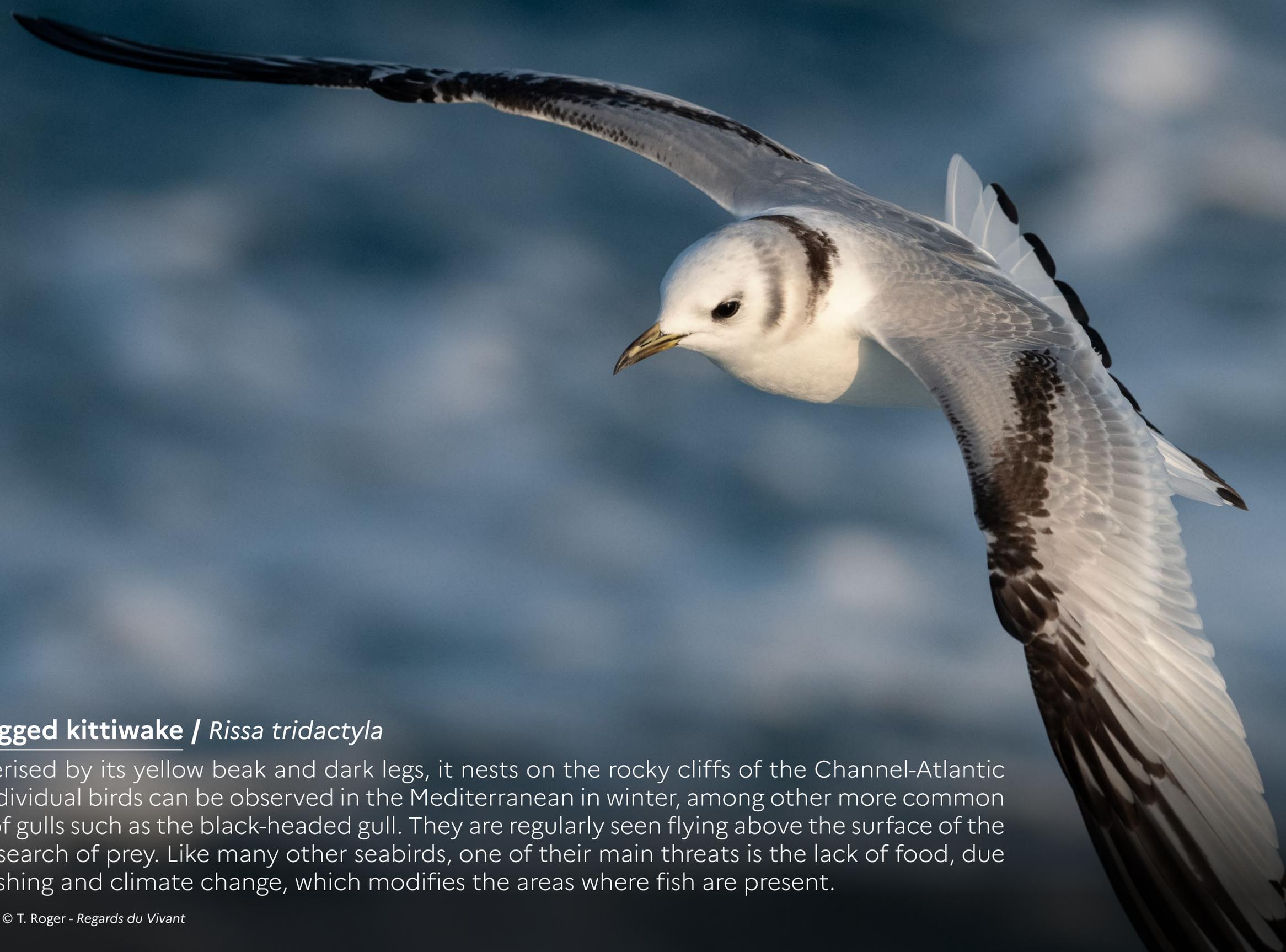


Atlantic wreckfish / *Polyprion americanus*

This species is facing one of the most significant scourges of our Mediterranean: floating waste, particularly waste linked to lost fishing gear. Ghost nets continue to trap fish for several years. And it's common for the fish to have microplastic fibres in their stomachs that can cause their death. This is also the case in cetaceans and sea turtles. Reducing anthropogenic pollution at source is the most effective way to fight against this impact.

Photography by © T. Roger - Regards du Vivant





Black-legged kittiwake / *Rissa tridactyla*

Characterised by its yellow beak and dark legs, it nests on the rocky cliffs of the Channel-Atlantic coast. Individual birds can be observed in the Mediterranean in winter, among other more common species of gulls such as the black-headed gull. They are regularly seen flying above the surface of the water in search of prey. Like many other seabirds, one of their main threats is the lack of food, due to overfishing and climate change, which modifies the areas where fish are present.

Photography by © T. Roger - *Regards du Vivant*



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Sources : reporterre.net, sanctuaire-agoa.fr, conservation-nature.fr, doris.ffessm.fr, wikipedia.org, naturefrance.fr, asso-ailerons.fr, greenpeace.fr, MEDPAN.org, Biotope, LPO.fr