

海洋保护地研究团队

Research Team on Marine Protected Area

National Policies and Legal Frameworks for Marine Mammal Conservation

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OUTLINES

- 1. Marine Mammals in China**
- 2. Laws & Regulations**
- 3. Priority Actions**
- 4. Suggestion**



中国海洋哺乳动物保护图鉴
Identification Guide for China's Protected Marine Mammals

- ❑ 43 marine mammals in China Seas;
 - ❑ 25 species shown in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion;
- ❑ Finless porpoise, 1st biggest population, 36.8% ;
 - ❑ Spotted Seal, 2nd biggest population, 22.4%;
 - ❑ Other Dolphins, *Stenella attenuate*, *Tursiops truncates*, *Sousa chinensis*, 25.4%;
 - ❑ Whales Minke whale, Gray whale, Humpback whale, et al.
- ❑ 3 MPAs for spotted seals;
 - ❑ 8 MPAs for Chinese white dolphins;
 - ❑ 2 MPAs for dugong;
- ❑ Fisheries - bycatching
 - ❑ Transportation -living space, noise, propeller
 - ❑ Pollution –heavy metal, oil, and other chemicals



2. Laws & Regulations

□ Law on the Protection of Wildlife

Effective from Nov. 1988, latest revised in Dec. 2022.

Article 7: fisheries department take charge of the aquatic wild animals' conservation;

Article 10: the conservation of wild animals by classification and grading. STATE PRIORITY CONSERVATION LIST (13 in Grade-I list and 30 in Grade-II list) based on priority assessment,

Article 11: The survey, monitoring, and assessment of wild animals and their habitats, such as distribution areas and population sizes, ecological status of habitats, major factor threatening animals and habitats et al.

Article 12: Provincial and above governments shall, in accordance with the law, designate important habitats of wild animals as national parks, and nature reserves to protect, restore, and improve the living environment of wild animals.

Article 20: prohibited to hunt or catch wild animals in natural protected areas;

Article 21: hunting, catching, or killing wild animals under STATE PRIORITY CONSERVATION LIST shall be prohibited;

Article 28: prohibited to sell, purchase, or utilize wild animals and their products under STATE PRIORITY CONSERVATION LIST

Article 49: Criminal punishment, hunting or catching, trading or transporting, eating or other consuming et al.

2. Laws & Regulations

❑ ***Wetland Protection Law***, effective from June 1st, 2022.

Article 24: Provincial and above governments and their relevant departments shall, in accordance with wetland protection plans and wetland protection needs, protect [the important wetlands as national parks, nature reserves, or natural parks by law](#).

❑ ***Marine Environmental Protection Law***, effective from January 1st, 2024.

Article 34: The State Council and the people's governments of coastal provinces, and relevant departments shall, in accordance with the needs of protecting the ocean, protect the [important marine ecosystems, natural concentrated distribution areas of rare and endangered marine organisms, marine natural relics and natural seascapes, and other areas as the national parks, nature reserves, or natural parks by law](#).

❑ ***Fisheries Law***, effective from July 1st, 1986.

Article 30: [Fishing is prohibited in no-fishing zones and during no-fishing periods](#).

❑ ***Act on Nature Reserves***, effective from 1994, latest revised in 2017

❑ ***Law on National Park (Draft)***, in review stage of the National People's Congress in 2024.

3. Priority Actions

2021 ,Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs “Notice on Strengthening the Protection and Management of Marine Mammals”

- I. Strengthen the Protection and Scientific Research of Marine Mammals to Understand Their Status and Habitats
 - ▣ *Chinese White Dolphin Conservation Action Plan and the Spotted Seal Conservation Action Plan*
- II. Enhance Supervision of Fishing Vessels and Ports to Reduce Harm to Marine Mammals from Coastal Fishing
- III. Implement Conservation Measures of Regional Fisheries Organizations to Strengthen the Protection of Marine Mammals on the High Seas
- IV. Strengthen Supervision and Guidance of Aquaculture Production to Reduce Impacts on Marine Mammals
- V. Implement Tiered Fisheries Management and Develop Targeted Regulatory Plans and Measures
- VI. Expand International Exchanges and Cooperation and Strengthen Supervision of Imported and Exported Aquatic Products

3. Priority Actions

2024, China Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030)

- 27 priorities actions and 39 programs were arranged;
- Biodiversity conservation, marine mammals are an important content, many priority actions involved;
- **Project 17: Demonstration Project for the Construction and Management of Cross-Border Wildlife Nature Reserves**
- Content: Conduct scientific investigations on cross-border wildlife resources and their habitats, research and propose methods for the establishment and management of cross-border nature reserves, explore the creation of cross-border protection management and monitoring systems, and carry out pilot demonstrations. *The project duration is 8 years.*
- **Project 27: Rare and Endangered Wildlife Species Rescue Project**
- Content: Select rare and endangered wildlife species listed in the "National List of Key Protected Wild Animals" and their habitats as protection targets. Implement in-situ conservation and artificial breeding measures to carry out the rescue project for rare and endangered wildlife species, expand their habitats, and ensure their survival and reproduction. *The project duration is 10 years.*

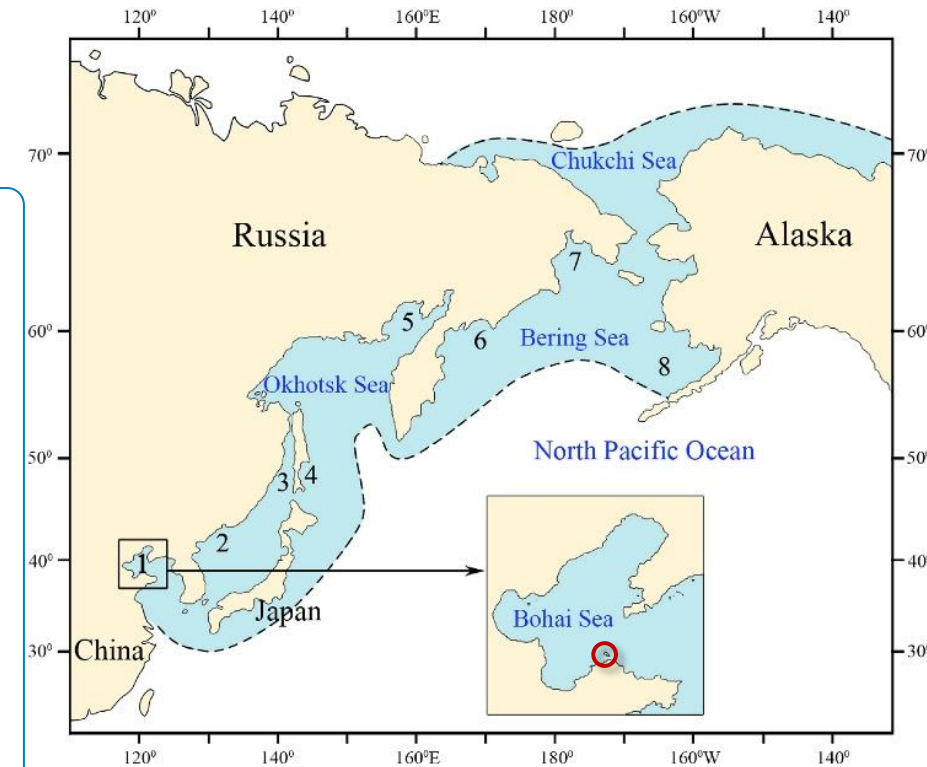
4. Suggestion

STATUS

- ❑ MPA authority is very limited capacity on marine mammal conservation;
- ❑ Ecological connectivity/migration corridor is not considered in marine mammal MPA designation.
- ❑ Insufficient scientific supporting for marine mammal MPA conservation;

SUGGESTION

- ❑ Enhance the MPA's capabilities and comprehensive law enforcement on marine mammal conservation;
- ❑ Strengthen the ecological connectivity and migration corridor protection;
- ❑ Transboundary cooperation and networking on the marine mammal conservation is very important, to strengthen the cross-border joint protection mechanism;



Thanks!

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MPA *Is the last shelter for all marine organisms;
Is the last backyard for all humanity;*

