

2007: Dendrinos, P., A.A. Karamanlidis, E. Androukaki & B.J. McConnell. Diving development and behavior of a rehabilitated Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*). *Marine Mammal Science*. **23** (2): 387-397.

ABSTRACT

Among the priority actions identified for saving the critically endangered Mediterranean monk seal are gaining basic biological information on movements and behavior, and rescuing and rehabilitating wounded, stranded, and orphaned pups. On the 22nd of May 2004 a rehabilitated monk seal juvenile was fitted with a satellite tag, released in the National Marine Park of Alonnisos, Northern Sporades in Greece and monitored for 167 days. Post-release, the seal remained close to the islands of the Park and within the 200 m isobath. Throughout the monitoring period the seal reduced time hauled out, while 95 percentile dive duration and depth gradually increased. The overall maximum depth of 123 m recorded in this study is the largest depth ever recorded for the species. These results confirm the effectiveness of the rehabilitation program carried out on the particular animal and provide additional support for the continuation of the rehabilitation program as a conservation measure for the species. We demonstrate that satellite tracking of rehabilitated seals is a valuable research and conservation tool, even for a species that commonly uses shoreline caves for resting, molting, and parturition.