

**Status of the Mediterranean Monk Seal,
Monachus monachus, in the Foça Pilot Monk Seal
Conservation Area, Turkey**

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Abstract. The status of the Mediterranean Monk Seal, *Monachus monachus* has been studied during a five-year period in the Foça Pilot Monk Seal Conservation Area between 1994 and 1998. The identification of individual seals occurring in the area, their spatial distribution and biology were studied using the results of direct cave surveys, land based seal observations and interviews. The population of Monk Seals was estimated to consist of 9 individuals, 6 of which were adult females and 3 were juveniles, one female, one male and one of unknown sex.. Islands off the Foça town provide suitable habitats and enables the survival of the species. A total of 11 caves were discovered, 2 of which were found to be used for reproduction.

Reference: Güçlüsoy, H & Savas, Y. 2003. Status of the Mediterranean Monk Seal *Monachus monachus*, in the Foça Pilot Monk Seal Conservation Area, Turkey. *Zoology in the Middle East* 28:5-16.