



THERE IS ANOTHER ISTANBUL STRAIT!

THE ISTANBUL STRAIT IS NOT ONLY A PLACE FOR SEA TRANSPORT AND TRADE.

The Istanbul Strait is not only a passage for ships and tankers. It also serves as a place for other human activities, such as tourism and fishing, as well as for anchoring of all kinds of vessels (yachts and cruisers).



Especially in summer, these boats anchor in seagrass meadows and destroy the habitats of many creatures living on the seabed. There are seagrass meadows in the Istanbul Strait, known as *Zostera marina*. This sea grass is also under protection. It is also known that the sea grass produce oxygen and protect us against climate change by reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



An anchor damaging the seagrass bed



Filamentous algal growth indicating pollution

We propose that a special mooring and buoy system be introduced in the Istanbul Strait to ensure the survival of seagrass meadows.

Besides, untreated waste water discharged into the Strait causes pollution and negatively affect marine life as well as us, humans. Other types of pollution, such as noise, are also threats to marine life in the Strait.





DOLPHINS OF THE STRAIT

There are three species of cetaceans found in the Istanbul Strait: common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, and harbour porpoise. They are however, under various threats such as bycatch, pollution and noise. To protect these animals, it is important to understand their occurrence and habitat use. TUDAV carries out regular surveys in the Istanbul Strait to monitor the dolphin populations in the Istanbul Strait. In particular, to identify individuals of bottlenose dolphins, photographs of their dorsal fins are taken and catalogued.



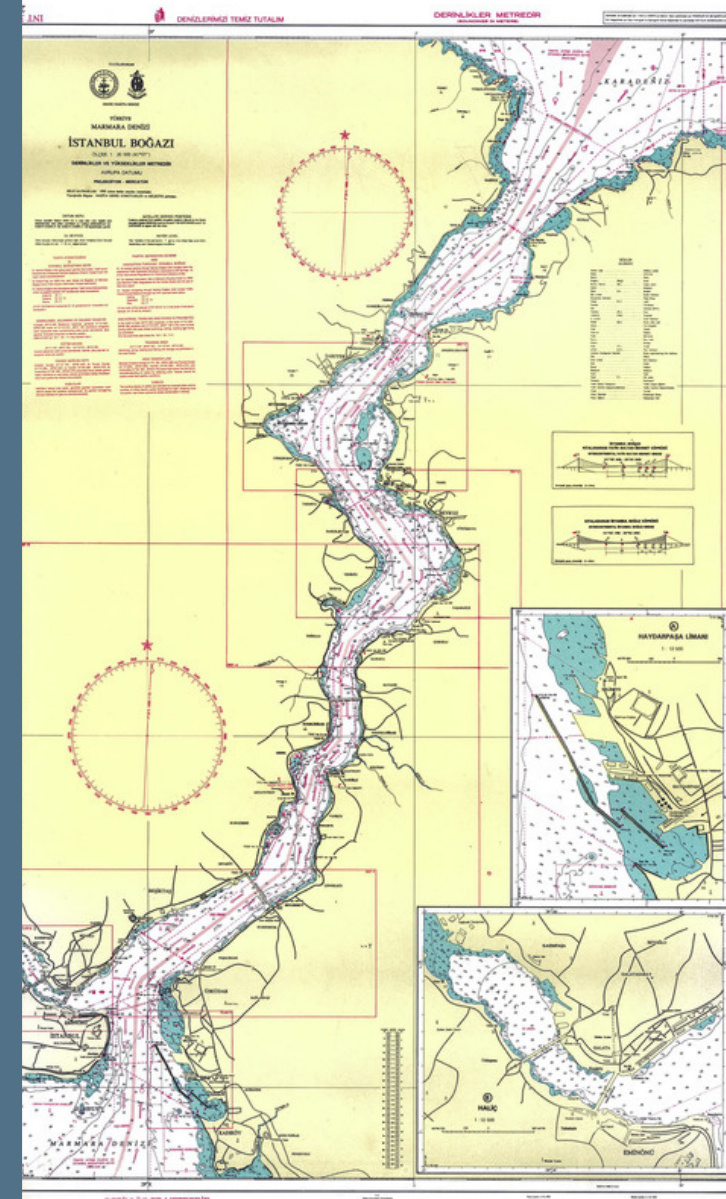
European shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)



Yelkouan shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*)

BIRDS OF THE STRAIT

The Istanbul Strait is an important biological corridor for many marine species including migratory birds which pass through Istanbul to complete their routes in spring and fall. We are also observing yelkouan shearwaters, which fly in tens and hundreds constantly over the Strait between the Marmara Sea and Black Sea.



Thank you
for your support and assistance.

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