

### **Marine Mammal Protection - Direct take (fisheries) of marine mammals**

The objective with this map was to represent the status of both legislation with respect to take of marine mammals in the Caribbean countries and territories, and of observed – or not – take (thus legal or illegal depending on the given legislation of the country).

The direct take of marine mammals means that the animal is deliberately fished (legally or illegally) in opposition to the by-catch where the animal is captured while it wasn't originally the intended prey.

In order to produce the map, a review of existing literature on marine mammal take was undertaken compiled by the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP CEP) Regional Activity Center for the SPAW Protocol (SPAW- RAC) during the period September 2011 – March 2012. It was complemented primarily by web research on the existing legislation in each country and, when no precise indication could be found, by individual contacts, through direct communication with key stakeholders in the various countries (regional contacts and focal points). It must however be noticed that all research failed in some cases to provide definite answers on the existence, or not, of a specific legislation with regard to marine mammal takes.

This is why the map displays a series of categories of situations, including cases where takes are observed or not observed, but where no final answer on legislation could be obtained ; it was therefore no possible to determiner in these cases whether the takes when observed where legal or illegal. Hopefully as more information is gathered the map will be progressively updated and improved.

Cases classified as “unknown” are those when no distinct national legislation was found, in addition to no reliable sources to confirm observed legal and/or illegal direct take.

The other categories represented on the map are:

- Observed direct take (legal and/or illegal), but where no legislation was found;
- Direct take noted as not observed, but where no legislation was found;
- Direct takes strictly forbidden through national legislation.