Maria Cristina Fossi CV

Maria Cristina Fossi is Associate Professor of ecology and ecotoxicology (PhD-1986) in Siena University (Italy) is since 2000 is Scientific Director of the Biomarker Laboratory (CIBM). She gave a key contribution to the development of the biomarker approach in terrestrial and marine ecotoxicology. Thanks to her work on non-destructive biomarker on skin biopsies, since 1991 she is a world reference for the assessment of ecotoxicological risk in cetaceans. Since 1994 she developed innovative diagnostic tools for ecotoxicological assessment of threatened species (marine mammals, birds, reptiles) bringing to the establishment of methods (non-destructive biomarker approach) currently acknowledged as golden standard at the international level. Her research group supports the anti-whaling activity within the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Since 2001 she published the first papers on effects of on Endocrine Disruptors (EDs) in Mediterranean marine top predators (pelagic fish - swordfish- and cetaceans) and long-living organisms (sea turtles). In 2012 she provided the first evidence worldwide on the effects of microplastics on Mediterranean cetaceans. She is author or co-author of over **550** original papers (articles, review articles, chapters and books). She is/has been coordinator of more than **25** national and International research projects. She is involved in several international scientific organization (e.g. Past-president of SETAC Italian Branch). She has a remarkable ability to involve young people in research and conservation activities, her research group is composed by 2 senior researchers, 2 post-Docs and 4 PhD students. Her lab has a central position for research on marine litter on Mediterranean Sea and a key role in the implementation of the EU MSFD at national level (D8-D10). She is involved in intense scientific communication and dissemination activity (media, magazines, web, film) about the ecotoxicological effects of contaminants in the Mediterranean fauna and in particular on the effects of plastic and microplastics and in cetaceans and sea turtles.

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