

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara (born in Venice, Italy, on 27 Nov. 1948) started off his career as a species-oriented marine ecologist, progressively moving towards space-based marine conservation science. His specific interests concern large marine vertebrates, such as marine mammals (cetaceans and monk seals), sharks and manta rays.

After earning degrees in biological sciences (1975) and in natural sciences (1977, *cum laude*) at the University of Parma, Italy, in 1985 Giuseppe obtained a Ph.D. in marine biology at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (University of California, San Diego), with a thesis on the systematics and ecology of manta rays in the Gulf of California, where he discovered and described a new species (Munk's devil ray, *Mobula munkiana*).

In 1986 he spearheaded the creation of the Italian national cetacean stranding network (Centro Studi Cetacei), which he coordinated until 1990.

In 1986 he funded the Tethys Research Institute (www.tethys.org) in Milano, Italy, which he directed for 10 years. He is now honorary president of Tethys.

In 1991 he proposed the creation of the Pelagos Sanctuary for Mediterranean Marine Mammals, which was established in 1999 by Italy, France and Monaco.

In 1996 Giuseppe was nominated president of the ICRAM, the Central Institute for Applied Marine Research, the governmental research body responsible for providing scientific and technical support to national marine conservation and management policy, where he served for seven years. In such capacity, he devised project "Afrodite", for the simultaneous biodiversity inventorying and monitoring of 15 no-take reserves throughout the Italian seas.

From 1999 to 2003 he served as Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner for Italy at the International Whaling Commission.

He was the Chair of the European Cetacean Society from 1993 to 1997.

His current activities include:

- Chair, Scientific Committee of the CMS Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic (ACCOBAMS; since 2002);
- Regional Coordinator for the Mediterranean and Black Seas, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas - Marine (since 2000).
- Deputy Chair, IUCN Species Survival Commission - Cetacean Specialist Group (since 1991);
- Member, IUCN Species Survival Commission - Shark Specialist Group (since 1993);
- Member of the Advisory Committee, Pew Fellows in Marine Conservation (since 2003);
- Consultant to the Hellenic Society for the study and protection of the Mediterranean monk seal (MOM), for the drafting of the national monk seal conservation strategy in Greece;
- Coordinator, CIESM Task Force on marine mammals (1992-94 and 2001-present);

Giuseppe currently teaches a course on the science and policy of the conservation of marine biodiversity at the University of Milan.

Giuseppe has published 130 scientific papers, a large number of reports, guidelines, technical papers and conference abstracts, several books, and few hundred popular articles on marine science and conservation subjects. He is the editor of FINS, the newsletter of ACCOBAMS.

Giuseppe is fluent in English, French, and Spanish. His mother tongue is Italian.