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Anthropogenic noise pollution may mask natural sounds, which are fundamental to survival and reproduction of wildlife, especially for marine cetaceans as they are highly dependent on underwater sounds for basic life functions.

Noise in the ocean has been monitored as a byproduct at IMS monitoring stations of the CTBTO in the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic Ocean.

However, elsewhere, little is known about the soundscape – especially at sites of extreme ship’s traffic as in the vicinity of the Strait of Gibraltar or near major ports in the Mediterranean Sea.

I used IMS sites to benchmark noise and in “open” ocean against observations of opportunity from hydrophone data of ocean-bottom-seismometers to study man-made noise in the “busy” areas.

Noise in the Mediterranean Sea is increased by at least 20 dB at “high” frequencies with respect to the reference sites.

