## **IDENTIFICATION of MONK SEALS in TURKEY**

Turkish coasts are home to endangered Mediterranean monk seals that reproduce regularly along Aegean Sea and Levant Sea coasts of the country and also southwestern coasts of the Sea of Marmara. On the other hand, population estimation of monk seals is not an easy task in coastal areas where the populations show highly sporadic pattern such as Turkish coasts. In order to overcome this challenge, SAD-AFAG has been working in national scale since 1987 to identify monk seal individuals and breeding habitats in order to approach a good estimate for population and accurate distribution of the species.

## **Cataloging the Identified Monk Seals Along Turkish Coasts**



"Nilay" Cumhuriyet, İzmir 2013



"Deniz" & "x" Cumhuriyet, İzmir 2018



"Serpil" Aydıncık, Mersin 2010



"Ali Şen" Yalıkavak, Muğla 2013



"Gülgez" Mezitli, Mersin 2016



"Işın" Kuşadası, Aydın 2017



"Meral" Karaburun, İzmir 2014



"Gökhan" Kaş, Antalya 2013



"Koca Yusuf" Karaburun, İzmir 2010



"Hilda" Göcek, Muğla 2015



"Özgecan" & "Aslı" Karabiga, the Sea of Marmara 2018



"Özüm" Cumhuriyet, İzmir 2018



## **Identification Methodologies**

Monk seal identification is done through different methodologies; -photography from cliff tops by SAD-AFAG research team & volunteers, -images from IR camera traps deployed in certain coastal caves and -photo & video images captured by the AFBİKA representatives & members. Utmost care is provided not to disturb monk seals, especially inside their caves where the species is strictly dependent for resting, hiding or breeding and raising their youngs.



**Monk Seal Habitats in Turkish Coasts** 



## Monk Seal Information & Rescue Network AFBİKA in Turkey



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