

Agenda Item 14.3.3

Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial
Work Plan (2007-2009)

Review of New Information on Bycatch and
Other Causes of Mortality

Post-mortem and Stranding Schemes

Document 18

**Information Submitted by Parties in
Response to the Post-Mortem
Research Questionnaire
c) United Kingdom**

Action Requested

- take note of the information submitted
- comment
- decide on the reporting format and frequency
for future meetings

Submitted by

Parties



**NOTE:
IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR OWN
COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

Secretariat's Note

Attached are, as separate documents in order to minimise the need for revisions, the responses received on the Post-Mortem Research Questionnaire, as submitted by the ASCOBANS Parties.

Questionnaire
on post mortem research schemes
within the ASCOBANS Agreement area

Name and address of reporting institution	UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP), Institute of Zoology, Regents Park, London, NW1 4RY, ENGLAND
Name of respondent	Mr Rob Deaville, Project Manager UK CSIP (0207 449 6672, rob.deaville@ioz.ac.uk)
What data are recorded routinely?	Data routinely collected at post-mortem include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporal and spatial data • Biological parameter data (species, sex, sexual maturity, length, girth etc) • Post-mortem data (pathologist, carcass condition etc) • Cause of death data • Data on samples taken during post mortems and data on subsequent analyses
Description of methods and units of measurement used	Follow methods of Law <i>et al</i> (Law, R.J. (1994). (Compiler). Collaborative UK marine mammal project: summary of data produced 1988-1992. Fisheries Research Technical Report, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Directorate of Fisheries Research, Lowestoft, (97), 42 pp.). Appropriate units of measurement used for each parameter.
List of tissue samples usually taken	A range of samples are routinely collected according to the method of Law <i>et al</i> . A variety of tissues are routinely sampled for any bacteriological, virological and histopathological investigations when deemed appropriate. Any non-routine samples are also collected as necessary.
How are the samples preserved?	A number of preservation methods are employed; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stored frozen at -20°C or -80°C; • stored in 70% ethanol (parasites); • or in 10% buffered formalin (fixed samples)
How are carcasses disposed of?	Any animals investigated at post mortem are disposed of using appropriate methods, usually by incineration.
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	Data collected from strandings, post-mortem examinations and samples collected during post-mortem examinations conducted by the CSIP are routinely recorded onto a relational database.
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	The CSIP holds data on over 2500 UK stranded cetaceans investigated at post mortem between 1990 and 2007 comprising 18 species. A range of data is held for each stranding examined at post-mortem.
Which computer software is used?	Post mortem reports are stored in Microsoft Word format. The relational database at IoZ is currently run on a Microsoft FoxPro 6.0 platform. A proportion of data collected by the CSIP will prospectively be made publicly available via the NBN gateway (http://www.nbn.org.uk/).
Do you foresee any problems (e.g. regarding intellectual property rights etc.)	Intellectual property rights to the data directly generated as a result of CSIP work belong to UK government (Defra/Scottish Government/Welsh Assembly government).

related to a central database?	
What advantages would you expect from a central database?	A central database would facilitate closer integration and collaboration between European stranding networks
Additional Information (e.g. website addresses)	www.ukstrandings.org (currently under construction, estimated active mid-2008)