

Agenda Item 13

Annual National Reports 2007

Document 15

**Annual National Reports
b) Sweden**

Action Requested

- briefly present highlights from report (max. 5 minutes)
- take note of the information submitted
- comment

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 Annual National Reports for 2007, as submitted by the ASCOBANS Parties.

A. General information

Sweden Name of party	070101- 071231 Period covered
Christina Rappe Name of report compiler	Date of report 25.2. 2008
Any changes in co-ordinating authority, appointed member of advisory committee	

B. NEW measures/action towards meeting the resolutions of the 2nd Meeting of Parties**1. Direct interaction of small cetaceans with fisheries**

Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch

Research for alternative fishing gear is carried out in Sweden. Norwegian cod traps have been tried in the Baltic Sea. Results have been promising and shown that the traps do catch cod and that they, in certain areas, can be an alternative to gill nets. However further trials are needed and the project is continuing in 2008.

The pike perch fisheries in the Baltic sea has suffered from seal damages for a long time. In 2008 pike perch/white fish traps are being introduced as an alternative to gill nets in the purpose of reducing seal damage. However these traps are not a by-catch threat to Harbour Porpoise. A certain percent of the cost of the trap will be funded by the government when fishermen are investing in the fishing gear. The traps used are so called push-up traps. They have been a success in Sweden in the salmon and white fish fisheries. In the salmon fisheries the traps mostly replace older traps but in the white fish and pike perch fisheries the traps replace nets and therefore reduce net effort.

Implementation of pingers: Currently at least 9 fishermen have purchased pingers and are using them in the waters concerned by the regulation 812.

Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries

During 2007 there has been an ongoing observer program in the pelagic trawl and set net fisheries as asked for in the 812 regulation. Three observers have worked full time as observers. Starting September 2006, the observers have boarded pelagic trawlers above 15 meters in length in order to monitor bycatches of harbour porpoises. Sea areas that have been covered are North Sea, Skagerrak/Kattegatt, Southern, Eastern and Northern Baltic Sea. A total of 1342 trawl hours have been observed until end of December 2007 which corresponds to 4,61% of the fishing effort, needed to be observed, of the Swedish pelagic trawlers. No bycatch of harbour porpoise has been observed in any of the sea areas during the programme. In 2007, 3 219 227 net meter hours were observed and this corresponds to 9,2 % of the fishing effort concerned in the 812 regulation. No by-catch of harbour porpoises was observed.

No further estimate of by-catch was made 2007. An interview survey was conducted in 2001. Swedish fishermen were interviewed regarding by catches of seals, harbour porpoises and birds gave the following estimates:

Estimations from the survey conducted in 2001.

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Phocena phocena	About 25 per year	III a, in the Swedish part of Skagerrak.	Bottom trawls
Phocena phocena	About 89 per year	IIIa, Swedish Kattegat Sea	Gillnets and trammel nets and pelagic trawls

2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

Name/type of craft	Route (return)	No. of round trips per day	Speed (kph/knots)	Capacity (passengers/cars)	Size/tonnage	Engine power
HSC Stena Carisma	Gothenburg-Fredrikshavn	2-3 roundtrips/day pending	40.0 knots	900 / 210	GT/ NT 8631/2589	36000 kW
HSC Gotlandia	Nynäshamn-Visby-Oskarshamn	2-4 roundtrips/day pending	32.0 knots	700 / -	GT/ NT 5632/1689	28300 kW
HSC Gotlandia 2	Nynäshamn-Visby-Oskarshamn	2-4 roundtrips/day pending	32.0 knots	780 / 155	GT/ NT 6554 / 1996	36000 kW
M/S Gotland	Nynäshamn-Visby-Oskarshamn	2-3 roundtrips/day pending	28.5 knots	1500 / -	GT/ NT 15302/ -	50400 kW
M/S Visby	Nynäshamn-Visby-Oskarshamn	2-3 roundtrips/day pending	28.5 knots	1500 / -	GT/ NT 15302/ -	50400 kW

* All types of vessels (including hovercraft) capable of travelling at speeds in excess of 30 knots (cf. AC7 Report, item 5.3, page 8)

Report submitted by: Sjöfartsverket

Information on levels of disturbance (e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans, etc.)

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

No area has been identified as a protective area for harbour porpoise in the Baltic. In the Skagerrak two Natura 2000 sites has been identified to harbour porpoises.

The sites are:

Vrångöskärgården and Koster-Väderöfjorden

Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

4. Further research on small cetaceans

Post mortem investigations are carried out on all small cetaceans by-caught or found stranded in the Baltic. The animals should be brought fresh to the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm where the investigations are conducted. From harbour porpoises by-caught or stranded on the Swedish west coast, in most cases only a piece of tissues from the dorsal fin is sampled. In some cases whole specimen from the Swedish west coast is sampled. For further detail se prior information sent to ASCOBANS.

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

The Swedish Fishermens organisation, The Swedish Board of Fisheries and Kolmården have studied the presence of harbour porpoises in the south Baltic sea, the areas covered by the 812 regulation. 50 Porpoise click detectors (PCL:s) have been placed on or close by fishing gear on a total of 185 positions from July 2006 until September 2007. 2492 days were registered on the PCL:s and on 20 of these days (0,8 %) Harbour Porpoises were detected on 13 different positions. All detections were made during July to November.

Research on abundance, population structure etc.

See above

Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

5. Public awareness and education

The International Day of the Porpoises was celebrated at "Havets Hus" (an aquarium in Lysekil, on the Swedish West Coast).

The Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm has a web site where sightings of live porpoises are collected. The web page has been active since 2003 and an increasing number of sightings has been noted.

A poster and an information brochure, produced by the SEPA and the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, are continually being distributed to the general public, shipping and boating associations, fishermen, the coastguard etc. One objective with these information efforts is to achieve more reports on porpoise observations, particularly in the Baltic sea.

Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement

