

Agenda Item 2

Annual National Reports 2009

Document 2-04

Annual National Report France

Action Requested

- Briefly present highlights from reports (max. 5 minutes)
- Take note of the information submitted
- Comment

Submitted by

France



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

Revised Format for the
ASCOBANS Annual National Reports

General Information

Name of Party: FRANCE	Period covered: 2009
	Date of report: April 2010

Report submitted by:	
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Any changes in coordinating authority or appointed member of advisory committee	

Include only organizations on agreement area

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Groupe d'Etude de la Faune Marine Atlantique, Cap-Breton GEFMA
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Groupe Mammalogique Normand, Caen GMN groupe mammalogique normand@orange.fr

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oceamm@orange.fr

Parc naturel marin d'Iroise, Agence des Aires Marines Protégées PNMI philippe.le-niliot@aires-marines.fr

List of national authorities, organizations, research centres and rescue centres active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans, including contact details

NEW Measures / Action Towards Meeting the Objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan and the Resolutions of the Meeting of Parties

Please feel free to add more rows to tables if the space provided is not sufficient.

A. HABITAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

1 Direct Interaction with Fisheries

Investigations of methods to reduce bycatch

Pilot study in Iroise sea (EC 812/2004): species and level of by-catch + implementation of 3 acoustic deterrents (Aquamark, VO2, DDD) ; Iroise Marine Protected Area/Ifremer/Ocenopolis/Local fisherman representative are the participants involved in this study. The final report is available through internet; the biological results are poorly significant due to the low bycatch in that part of area VII. The real costs of equipments have been evaluated after one year of experiments.

The fishing Industry worked to prepare an observer programs (Filmancet) dedicated to set nets in the Channel, the aim is to determine the level of by-catch in this area and to test acoustic deterrents (decision of the National Committee of the Fisheries (CNPMEM: French industry) and the National Head of the Fisheries (French administration)). The Ministry of fisheries will also dedicate some additional observations on vessels in 2009 included in the project Obsmer. All those observation programs planned by the Fishing Industry, the ministry of Fisheries and Ifremer have started in 2009 in the area VII in order to determine seasons, fishing grounds and fisheries having the highest bycatch rate. A standardization of a protocol for all the observation programs has been done by the IFREMER and the CRMM/ULR in 2009 the tasks will be similar in all the observations at sea (whatever is the regulation asking for observers). This means that cetacean bycatch is now recorded now for all gears and fisheries when observers are on board. An intermediate report is available, it shows a low bycatch rate at least in the western channel.

Following the EU NECESSITY project to reduce cetacean by-catch in pelagic trawl fisheries, experiments of the acoustic deterrent CETASAVER on commercial vessels were carried on in 2007, 2008 and 2009 by Ifremer and the fishing industry. The methodology consists in having combined tows to compare control tows and test tows in several trips in the sea bass fisheries. A report has been published on internet by Morizur et al. (2008) (<http://www.ifremer.fr/docelec/notice/2008/notice4506.htm>)

Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

Modification of practices in pelagic trawling (headline at 5 m depth)

Please provide any other relevant information, including bycatch information from opportunistic sources.

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

Observers for the EC regulation (n° 812/2004) are deployed for vessels greater than 15 meters and through pilot studies for vessels less than 15 m. As it is not possible to put observers on boats less than 8m for security reason, a correction has been used by using a relationship between vessel size and length of nets.

The table below brings the 2008 bycatch estimates available for pelagic trawl fisheries and set nets observed under the Reg 812/2004 (national report delivered in 2008;

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Phocoena phocoena	350	VIIIa,b	Set net (all size vessels) (all the year)
Stenella coeruleolba	50	VIIIa,b	Set net (all size vessels) (all the year)
Stenella coeruleoalba	0	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (summer)
Delphinus delphis	100	VIIIa,b	Set net (all size vessels) (all the year)
Delphinus delphis	300	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (winter mainly)
Tursiops truncatus	0	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (summer)
Globicephala melas	(90)	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (summer)

() indicates an estimate raised from only one incident with a high extrapolation factor.

An increase of common dolphin bycatch has been observed in august 2009 in some sampled trips of the tuna pelagic trawling. Difficulties to find tuna may have increase some risk of bycatch.

In addition, please attach or provide link to your country's Report under EC Regulation 812/2004.

2 Reduction of Disturbance

2.1 Anthropogenic Noise

Please reference and briefly summarise any studies undertaken

A study (bibliography, part of a post-doc work) is currently under way for refining the (sonar/seismics) risk threshold definition, in terms of parameters (species, frequencies, signals). Models for predicting the radiated level of sonar and seismic systems are being improved.

The pinger (CETASAVER) directional pinger is experimented on trawls iis now commercialized.

A new acoustic deterrent device prototype using wideband signals at moderate levels with random frequency content and devoted to seismic surveys has been developed by Ifremer and installed for tests on an oceanographic vessel. Limited trials have been conducted, with significant results on common dolphins.

IFREMER now applies on his seismic surveys mitigation measures, based on the classical international recommendations (preliminary studies for risk evaluation, MMOs onboard, amplitude ramp-up for airgun arrays); the modelling for risk evaluation has been improved. The development and installation of an experimental PAM system on oceanographic vessels has been achieved (based on a three-hydrophone array, a dedicated receiving chain, and post-processing by freeware *PamGuard*), and put to use on two cruises; the practical applicability of PAM in complement of the current mitigation measures is being studied.

2.2 Ship Strike Incidents

Please list all known incidents and for each, provide the following information:

Date	Species	Type of injury	Fatal injury (Yes / No)	Type of vessel (length, tonnage and speed)	Location (coordinates)	More information: (Name / Email)

2.3 Major Incidents Affecting Significant Numbers* of Cetaceans

Date	Location	Type of incident	Further Information

*Two or more animals

2.4 Pollution and Hazardous Substances

Please report on main types of pollution and hazardous substances (including source, location and observed effects on cetaceans). Please provide information on any new measures taken to reduce pollution likely to have an impact.

Transfer and bioaccumulation of heavy metals (mainly mercury and cadmium) in cetaceans (LIENs/ULR)

Work in partnership with the Marine Protected Area of the Iroise Sea, the University of Brest and Océanopolis and pollutants (TBT, lindane, fluorenten, indenopyren and BCB 153 has started)

2.5 Other Forms of Disturbance

Please provide any other relevant information, e.g. relating to recreational activities affecting cetaceans.

3 Marine Protected Areas for Small Cetaceans

Please provide any relevant information on measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas for cetaceans, including MPAs designated under the Habitats Directive and MPAs planned or established within the framework of OSPAR or HELCOM.

Between October 2008 and February 2010, 95 marine Natura 2000 sites have been designated by France.

Among all existing Natura 2000 sites in the ASCOBANS area, Bottlenose dolphin is present in 39 and Harbour porpoise in 37, both on the Channel and Atlantic coast. Council Management Plan of the Marine Protected Area in Iroise Sea (West Brittany) in progress.

National Agency for the Marine Protected Areas (Brest): work has been started for the creation of others MPA, through a national strategy

Please indicate where GIS data of the boundaries (and zoning, if applicable) can be obtained (contact email / website).

Agence des aires marines protégées
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Directeur : Olivier LAROUSSINIE
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B. SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

4.1 Overview of Research on Abundance, Distribution and Population Structure

Please provide an brief summary of (and reference to) any national work.

Monitoring of the coastal group of bottlenose dolphins (Oceanopolis Brest in Iroise Sea), photo-identification, home range, population structure...

Photo identification of bottlenose dolphins of the Bay of Mont Saint Michel and Cotentin (GECC, GMN, AL Lark)

Boat surveys on cetaceans in the southern Bay of Biscay (GEFMA); relationship between cetacean populations and climate change (MNH in the framework of a regional programme on the marine environment).

Data collection of opportunistic sightings (CRMM/ULR, GECC, GEFMA, Oceanopolis Brest).

Systematic boat survey of cetaceans in relation to oceanographic, planktonic and pelagic fish patterns in the Bay of Biscay (
PELGAS Program, Ifremer, CRMM/ULR : PELGAS spring survey carried out yearly on the continental shelf of the bay of Biscay: Pelagic fish, plankton, physical parameters and top predators are recorded simultaneously IBTS Program, Ifremer, CRMM/ULR: IBTS winter survey carried out yearly on the english channel area: Pelagic fish, plankton, physical parameters and top predators are recorded simultaneously
EVOHE:Program Ifremer, CRMM/ULR: EVOHE fall scientific fishing sampling carried out yearly on the bay of Biscay with top predators recorded on line transect.

Ferry observer surveys between Roscoff and Cork, Portsmouth and Santander (Oceanopolis Brest/Orca), using a standardized protocole.

Genetic study on harbour porpoise (collaboration between the university of Brest and Oceanopolis Brest).

Cetacean distributions and relative abundances were surveyed over the shelf of the Bay of Biscay (May) and English Channel (January) by CRMM/ULR in order to determine relative abundances, preferential habitats and relationships with distribution of small pelagic fish as determined by simultaneous acoustic survey carried out by Ifremer/ Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) research vessel Thalassa. This survey followed a standardized protocol in use since 2003 in Bay of Biscay area (PELGAS survey) and since 2007 in the English Channel (IBTS survey) and since 2009 in the bay of Biscay in fall. In 2007 and 2008,

collaboration between CRMM/ULR and the Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo (IEO) allowed data on cetacean distribution to be collected by using standardized protocol and same research vessel during April and September pelagic fish survey in the south of the Bay of Biscay (PELACUS survey).

Aerial surveys carried out by Oceanopolis Brest using line transect protocol to estimate the abundance and the seasonality of small cetaceans in Iroise sea (west Brittany)

4.2 New Technological Developments

Please provide a brief summary of any relevant information

4.3 Other Relevant Research

Please provide a brief summary of any relevant information

The French stranding network is nationally coordinated by CRMM/ULR (Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins, Université de La Rochelle) under an agreement with the Ministry in charge of the Environment. Local voluntary observers, generally under local supervision by various institutions or NGOs (Oceanopolis, GEFMA, GECC, GMN, OCEAM, CMNS, Picardie Nature, ONCFS...), have been trained to process stranded cetaceans under a common standardized protocol. An annual synthesis of all strandings reported in France is produced by CRMM/ULR. Statistics of stranding for the coast of France in 2008 indicate more than 800 cetaceans reported (2009 compilation not yet ready), data input in progress (CRMM/ULR and all National Stranding Scheme field correspondents). Stranding data provides information on mortality causes, demographic structure (age and reproductive status), diet (stomach content), trophic levels (stable isotopes) and subpopulation structure or movement pattern (stable isotopes, heavy metals and contaminants).

C. USE OF BY-CATCHES AND STRANDINGS

5 Post-Mortem Research Schemes

Contact details of research institutions / focal point	Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins, Université de La Rochelle, La Rochelle CRMM/ULR willy.dabin@univ-lr.fr
Methodology used (reference, e.g. publication, protocol)	Standardized protocol derived from ECS necropsy workshop 2005 (Jauniaux, T. Beans, C; and Dabin W. 2005. Stranding, Necropsy and sampling: Collection data, sampling level and techniques)
Collection of samples (type, preservation method)	Biodemographics samples : gonads (formalin) and teeth (frozen) Diet and feeding ecology: stomach contents (frozen) and blubber fatty acids and stable isotope (frozen) Genetics : skin and kidney (frozen and alcohol) Toxicologic : heavy metal and POP's analysis on muscle, liver and kidney (frozen with specific packaging) Parasitology (alcohol) Histopathology (formalin) Bacteriology and virology (frozen)

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Database (Number of data sets by species, years covered, software used, online access)	Access 2000 data base since 1972 with 15517 stranding recorded with 2689 individuals sampled
Additional Information (e.g. website addresses, intellectual property rights, possibility of a central database)	http://crrm.univ-lr.fr/ with interactive stranding maps

5.1 Number of Necropsies Carried out in Reporting Period:

Species	Recorded cause of death
Delphinus delphis	79 necropsies
Phocoena phocoena	13
Stenella coeruleoalba	5
Tursiops truncatus	5
Grampus griseus	2
Globicephala mela	6
Halichoerus grypus	2
Ziphius cavirostris	1
Hyperoodon ampulatus	1
Orcinus orca	1
Balaenoptera physalus	1
Megaptera noveanglia	1
Please provide any other relevant information on post-mortem / stranding schemes.	

D. LEGISLATION

6.1 Relevant New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

Please provide any relevant information.
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E. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

7.1 Public Awareness and Education

Please report on any public awareness and education activities to implement or promote the Agreement to the general public and to fishermen.

Public conferences (Oceanopolis-Brest and CRMM/ULR)

National stranding network: training for volunteers and national meeting (CRMM/ULR)
Observer training in the frame of fishing observation scheme, council regulation 812/04 (CRMM/ULR)

Annual Symposium of French stranding network, annual stranding report, research with biological samples from stranding, network scheme animation.

Regional stranding network: training for volunteers and annual meeting (LEMM/Océanopolis)

Movie on cetaceans and ferries survey produced by Brittany Ferries and Oceanopolis broadcasted onboard the ferries+ conference on board

Information concerning the "Year of the Dolphin" on the Oceanopolis website.

New exhibition on cetaceans: National Museum Paris, partnership Oceanopolis. An itinerant version circulate in Europe.

POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT

Please provide any relevant information.

Please return this form, preferably by e-mail, to:

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