

Agenda Item 2

Annual National Reports 2010

Document 2-08

**Annual National Report
Poland**

Action Requested

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

Submitted by

Poland



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:	Period covered:2010
Republic of Poland	Date of report:13 04. 2011

Report submitted by:	
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Any changes in coordinating authority or appointed member of advisory committee NO	

<p>List of national authorities, organizations, research centres and rescue centres active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans, including contact details</p> <p>1) Ministry of Environment, Department of Nature Conservation , 00-922 Warszawa, Wawelska 52/54 Phone : (48 22) 57 92 366, Fax: (48 22) 57 92 730 e-mail: departament.ochrony.przyrody@mos.gov.pl</p>

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

In 2010, in the Puck Bay, the project on “Active Protection of Harbour Porpoises against Bycatch” was continued. In July at the entrance to the Puck Bay at the line connecting Gdynia and Hel harbours, a linear barrier was constructed equipped with 84 acoustic scares to stop the porpoises from entering the area. The acoustic scares were placed at the height of 1,5 m above the sea bottom. The purpose was to stop the porpoises from entering an area where there is a high density of bottom gillnets and an anchored surface gillnet (GNS)

The project is carried out by the Hel Marine Station of the IOUG, financed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and the University of Gdańsk.

Before launching the project the area has been monitored for 2 years for the distribution of fishermen gear and for the harbour porpoise presence.

Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

The Regulation 812/2004 obliges Poland to use acoustic deterrent devices (pingers) on fishing vessels of the length 12 m or more operating in the ICES 24 area. In order to fulfill Poland’s commitments concerning the above Regulation 500 pingers were purchased in 2009 by the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and distributed among fishermen. Over half of the pingers are in the possession of the owners of ships in the region where the use of deterrent devices is obligatory (the Pomeranian Bay), other were distributed among fishermen from central and eastern part of the Polish seacoast. The use of pingers in the Pomeranian Bay is controlled by the Marine Fisheries Inspectorates in Szczecin.

By the end of 2009 r. from among 13 fishing vessels of the length 12 m or more harbouring in the Pomeranian Bay, only three had anchored surface gillnets (GNS) and were obliged to use pingers. Over the all the Polish sea harbours in 2010 there were only 9 such vessels. Thus, the Regulation mentioned above can only slightly reduce the porpoise bycatch because only a few percent of fishing vessels is obliged to use pingers. Moreover, it is very hard to assess the effectiveness of pingers due to lack of data on the distribution and migration routes of harbour porpoise.

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

In 2010 in the framework of the “Long-term Programme for Collecting Fisheries Data” conducted by the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia, neither incidental bycatch was recorded nor harbour porpoises were observed (similarly as in the previous years). Neither such cases were reported also by the Polish fishermen. Only the stranding dead individuals were recorded.

The source of information on bycatch and individuals of harbour porpoise found dead is the website of Hel Marine Station, University of Gdansk: www.morswin.pl.

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

Due to the lack of possibilities to obtain financial support for carrying on the Project on "Monitoring Incidental Catch of Cetaceans Scheme" in 2010, the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia conducted the recordings under the "Long-term Programme for Collecting Fisheries Data". The observations were conducted on Polish vessels of the length of 15 m or more, fishing in the areas ICES: III a, b c i III d and using the OTM or GNS nets operating east of 24 subarea ICES. Observations were conducted by the trained Sea Fisheries Institute employees.

Altogether, according to the Regulation 812/2004 criteria, observations were conducted during 73 days, including 57 days when OTM nets were used and 16 days when GNS net were used.

On no one out of the 73 monitored fishing days neither porpoise nor any other marine mammal was recorded in the nets.

Moreover, within the framework of the research Project ZOSTERA co financed by the funds of the Priority Axis V Infrastructure and Environment as well as by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, the Sea Fisheries Institute employees conducted observations from fishermen vessels cruising in the Puck Bay on additional 20 days of fishing. The above vessels operated anchored gillnets (GNS) of various mesh sizes.

On no occasion the presence of marine mammal has been recorded.

The Polish reports covering the implementation of the "Monitoring Incidental Catch of Cetaceans Scheme" are published at the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development at the folder:

[BIP/informacjebranzowe/rybolowstwo/rybolowstwomorskie\(http://www.bip.minrol.gov.pl/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabOrgId=1703&LangId=0\)](http://www.bip.minrol.gov.pl/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabOrgId=1703&LangId=0).

The report for 2010 will be submitted to EC and, subsequently, it will be published at the website of the Sea Fisheries Institute, in compliance with the term determined by the Regulation.

2 Reduction of Disturbance

2.1 Anthropogenic Noise

Please reference and briefly summarise any studies undertaken

The impact of acoustic disturbances on cetaceans has not been a subject of any research Project within the Polish zone of the Baltic Sea.

In 2010, within the Polish territorial waters, seismic studies were conducted with the use of medium and high frequency seismo-acoustic devices (boomer and pinger) in addition to the use of the side-scan-sonar and the multibeam probe. All the measurements were conducted by the State Geological Institute – Division of Sea Geology in consortium with the Marine Institute in Gdańsk (shipowner of the study vessel) within the framework of projects ordered by the

Minister of the Environment, the Marine Office in Szczecin and the Marine Office in Gdynia.

Ranges and timelines of the studies performed as well as characteristics of the devices used are given in the Table below.

Study Area	Time lines of studies	Measurement devices applied
Pomerania Bay along with Odra Sandbank The area is limited to the North by WNW–ESE line connecting points of the following coordinates: 54°22'N, 14°35'E and 54°14'N, 15°20'E; to the East by the 15°20'E parallel; and to the West by the Polish-German border of the territorial seas and economic zones.	29.04–09.05.2010	SSS, SBP
	22.05–09.06.2010	SSS, SBP, Boomer
Range of Rewal The area of ca. 113 square km situated at the distance of about 2,5 km (southern border) and about 12 km (northern border) from the intercept of the sea coast between Pobierowo–Niechorze.	August 2010	SSS, MBES, SBP
Region of Kuźnica (Hel Peninsula) The area of 33 square km is located at a distance of ca 3 km to ca 8 km from the intercept of the sea coast between Chałupy–Jastarnia on the Hel Peninsula.	December 2010	SSS, MBES, SBP

In the area subject to the jurisdiction of the Marine Office in Gdynia and the Marine Office in Słupsk there were made a series of works to modernize water fronts and to provide anti-flooding security. These investments have been preceded by the relevant EIA the results whereof did not show any significant negative impact.

The Marine Office in Szczecin has been implementing a project on the „Construction of protective pier for external harbour at Świnoujście”. The scope of activities involves rammer, filling and scooping works.

Another investment which was reported to the Marine Office in Szczecin includes the „Construction of a ship station in the external harbour at Świnoujście”, implemented by the Management of Marine Ports in Szczecin and Świnoujście. This construction also involves works which may cause noise pollution in the environment, including rammer work and scooping.

The Contractor to these works acts in agreement with the environmental decisions issued by the local authorities (Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection, the President of the Municipality and the Director of the Marine Office). The above decisions impose an obligation on the Contractor to conduct work so as to observe the provisions thereof whose aim is to enforce environmental protection. In order to protect ecosystems of the Baltic Sea a ban was imposed on scooping works during the herring spawning season, i.e. in April and May. Recently, the course of work has been subject to environmental monitoring and surveillance by the two independent entities. The monitoring of nature involves studies and measurements, while the Surveillance of Nature is in charge of analyzing, verification and controlling the compliance of works with the provisions of environmental decisions and adherence to the binding environmental standards.

2.2 Ship Strike Incidents

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No collision was registered in the Polish EEZ of cetaceans with the water craft.

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.

The tasks undertaken in order to limit water pollution result from the EU legislation and from Helsinki Convention signed by Poland; they are reported to the European Commission and to the relevant HELCOM bodies on a regular basis.

2.5 Other Forms of Disturbance

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

The increased use has been observed of speedboats and water scooters in the Polish coastal zone.

Violations have been continuously observed of the legal regulations (Decree No 55/06 of the Voievode of Pomerania as of May 15 2006) on the Nadmorski (Coastal) Landscape Park concerning the limitation of speedboat use outside the marked routes.

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.

In line with the guidelines set up at the Biogeographic Seminar on November 23-25 2009, actions are underway to extend the area of PLH220032 site.

The year 2010 was the first year of the formal functioning in Poland of the new sites protected under the Baltic Sea Protected Areas – HELCOM BSPAs. Two of them embrace Natura 2000 sites in the Pomeranian- and Puck Bays, both are of significance for the protection of small cetaceans. Both sites do not have so far respective management plans which would take into account the protection of small cetaceans. The development of such plans is envisaged over the next 3-4 years.

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

Detailed borders of both areas are available at the General Directorate of Environmental Protection in Warsaw, Pl (www.gdos.gov.pl/en/kontakty). They are also displayed at the website: <http://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/natura2000/en/jednostki.php>.

B. SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

4.1 Overview of Research on Abundance, Distribution and Population Structure

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

The Project is under way concerning active protection of harbour porpoise against catch in the Puck Bay. Moreover, Poland participates in the SAMBAH Project which is implemented on the Polish side by the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, the Marine Division of the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management and the Hel Marine Station.

4.2 New Technological Developments

Please provide a brief summary of any relevant information

None introduced

4.3 Other Relevant Research

Please provide a brief summary of any relevant information

No other research

C. USE OF BY-CATCHES AND STRANDINGS

5 Post-Mortem Research Schemes

Contact details of research institutions / focal point	Hel Marine Station, Institute of Oceanography, University of Gdańsk Iwona Pawliczka, iwona.pvp@ug.edu.pl
Methodology used (reference, e.g. publication, protocol)	Post-mortem analyses are being conducted according to procedures described in: Kuiken, T. and Hartmann, M.G. (1993). Dissection techniques and tissue sampling. Proceedings of the ECS Workshop, Leiden.
Collection of samples (type, preservation method)	The Hel Marine Station, Institute of Oceanography, University of Gdańsk collects, as part of its statutory activity, data on dead porpoises and dolphins from either bycatch or stranded onshore. The dead specimens, upon their arrival at the Station, are being subject to analyses within the scope limited by the status of the remains. The standard scope of sampling covers: -Species determination; -Localization of deadly event; -Establishing factual and supposed cause of death; - Ascertaining of the body length and mass; -Sex ascertaining; -Fat tissue sampling for genetic examination; -Teeth sampling for age determination; -A full post-mortem analysis and storage of biological samples according to Kuiken & Hartmann, 1993.
Database (Number of data sets by species, years covered, software used, online access)	Data have been entered into the standard Access database since 1988. There is no on-line access to this base. The base contains 118 reports on porpoise bycatch or stranding onshore, and 16 reports on other species of small cetaceans including: <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> , <i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> , <i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i> and <i>Physeter catodon</i> .
Additional Information (e.g. website addresses, intellectual property rights, possibility of a central database)	

5.1 Number of Necropsies Carried out in Reporting Period:

Species	Recorded cause of death
None	

Please provide any other relevant information on post-mortem / stranding schemes.

In 2010, under the Project on “Support for Restoration and Protection of Baltic Mammals” the WWF Poland and the Marine Station IOUG have been patrolling the whole Polish Baltic coast on a temporary basis and gathering the reports. The information on five cases of

porpoises found onshore has been acquired so far.

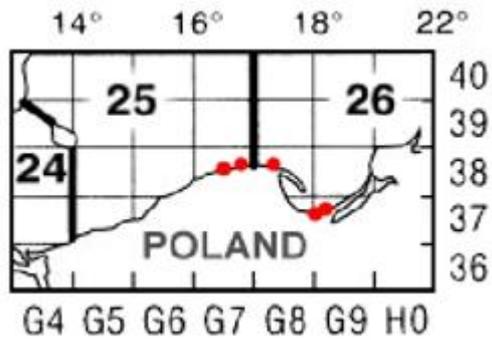


Table Data on time, location, length, sex and place of porpoise finding as well as the site of sample deposition.

Datum	Length	Sex	Place of finding	Sample depositing
2010-05-23	147 cm	male	Kąty Rybackie	SMIOUG – skull and genetic material sampled
2010-06-16	141 cm	male	Lubiatowo	SMIOUG – skull and genetic material sampled
2010-06-28	140 cm	male	Orzechowo	SMIOUG – skull and genetic material sampled
2010-07-06	169 cm	female	Stegna	SMIOUG – skull and genetic material sampled
2010-12-02	110 cm	female	Karwia	SMIOUG – a whole specimen deposited in the refrigerator

D. LEGISLATION

6.1 Relevant New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

Please provide any relevant information.

Non new legal regulation on cetacean protection was introduced.

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.

Communication and delivery of message on harbour porpoise as a species in need for special protection in the Baltic Sea was continued in 2010. The awareness raising campaign was co-funded by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, the Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Gdańsk and the EU 5th Priority Axis of the „Infrastructure and Environment” Operational Programme and the LOTOS Group as well as from the budget of the Marine Station IOUG and the Gdańsk University Development Fund

On October 14 2010 a meeting was held at the Institute of Oceanography of the Gdańsk University within the framework of the SAMBAH Project. The meeting was organized by the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, the Department of Monitoring and Environmental Information to provide information on the Project „*Static acoustic monitoring of the Baltic harbour porpoises – SAMBAH*”. The meeting was open above all to the sea users and decisions makers as well as to the other institutions and organisations which may encounter monitoring devices in the sea in the framework of their activity; are in charge of or engaged in nature conservation as well as to the media, which have been invited to disseminate the information on the Project at the society level. Representatives of all levels amongst the above mentioned stakeholders were invited to participate and, what is more important, attended the abovementioned meeting. They have been given advice on the harbour porpoise protection status, its biology and threats, relevant monitoring commitments, on its past and contemporary situation, protective tasks undertaken up to now, and finally, on the SAMBAH Project, its implementation in Poland including communication and education. The question of porpoise protection against bycatch was also discussed; however, the discussion was dedicated above all to the means for communicating information on the Project to those who use the sea, including especially the information on the location of hydroacoustic devices. This fact provides a proof of the existing acceptance and willingness to assist in the implementation of the SAMBAH Project. The attendees of the meeting were given, among other things, the list of location of hydroacoustic devices, handouts of all presentations and a movie on harbour porpoise entitled: „Baltic Sea Porpoises” on HD STUDIO by „AGA”-G. Abramowicz SMIOUG.

In 2010 the awareness raising campaign was continued on the porpoise protection under the joint Project of the WWF-Poland and the Marine Station IOUG at Hel under the name: Support for Restoration and Protection of Baltic Mammals in Poland”. On July 8 2010 a happening was held at the courtyard of National Museum in Warsaw dedicated to informing the inhabitants of the capital that porpoises live in the Baltic. Actress Joanna Jabłczyński, popular among young people, was appointed to be the Polish ambassador of the Baltic porpoises. The event was organized by the WWF-Poland. In line with the Project programme its website www.ssakibaltyckie.wwf.pl was considerably extended. The dissemination of the pocket brochure entitled “A blue manual” was continued. The brochure provides information on how to save marine mammals. Its electronic version is disseminated via Internet at the following address: www.ssakibaltyckie.wwf.pl/poradnik.pdf.

In order to communicate knowledge on porpoise distribution and to improve the reporting system on observation of these animals along the whole Polish Baltic coast, 80 information boards were placed at the main entrances to the beaches.

Taking advantage of the funds provided by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and owing to a contract signed with the Institute of Environmental Protection with the support of the Ministry of Environment, 5 000 flyers were produced and disseminated concerning the ASCOBANS Agreement, according to guidelines provided by the Secretariat of the Agreement. Moreover, several hundreds of school notebooks bearing the porpoise Picture and the ASCOBANS logo were developed and printed.

POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT

Please provide any relevant information.

The Regulation WE 812/2004 introduced a ban on using drift nets (gillnets) which are the main tools for salmon fishing. From the conversations with fishermen it can be inferred that their negative approach to the above regulation is projected on the goals of the ASCOBANS Agreement and the Jastarnia Plan, due to fact that the EC has not submitted the actual results of study on deleterious effects of using drift nets upon the porpoise population. The fishermen understand the necessity for porpoise protection, but the technical means proposed in the abovementioned regulation 812/2004 do not favour effective protection of the Baltic porpoises due to faulty diagnosis of the bycatch causes and due to disregarding of the regional conditions (the question of drift nets) and a faulty choice of technical means. Eventual imposing further means for porpoise protection which would make commercial fishing difficult or impossible, should be introduced only after consideration of actual and reliable scientific data. The work to revise the regulation 812/2004 as well as further activities dedicated to porpoise protection shall be related to the results of the SAMBAH Project.

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

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