

Agenda Item 2

Annual National Reports 2010

Document 2-09 rev.1

Annual National Report Sweden

Action Requested

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

Submitted by

Sweden



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: Sweden	Period covered: 2010-01-01—2010-12-31
	Date of report: 2010-04-19

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

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

Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Anna Roos, anna.roos@nrm.se

Naturhistoriska museet, Anders Nilsson, anders.nilsson@gnm.se

Kolmårdens djurpark , Mats Amundin; mats.amundin@kolmarden.com

Fiskeriverket, Sara Königsson; sara.konigsson@fiskeriverket.se

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

Studies investigating alternative fishing gear such as cod pots and traps for species like pike-perch and herring are being carried out by the Swedish Board of Fisheries. During the recent three years the Swedish Board of Fisheries has been studying cod pots as an alternative to the gillnet fisheries for cod in central Baltic and the results are promising. Pots are used in a variety of different fisheries and are known to use less energy in operation than active gears. They are less destructive to the benthic habitat compared with gear and they can be left in the water for long time periods. They also deliver the catch alive, increasing its commercial value. Pots are selective and with a certain mesh size only catch fish in a certain size as well as has no bycatch of marine mammals (when seal grids are used) and birds. But equally importantly, the catch is gathered in a closed department which makes it possible to develop a seal-safe fishing gear. The Swedish Board of Fisheries has studied the fishing efficiency of the “two-chamber” pots in a commercial fishery for a few years. The results show that the pots can potentially be used in a commercial fishery (Ljungberg 2007; Ovegård, 2009) and that the catch in pots are comparable to the catch in gillnet fisheries (Königson et al., 2010.).

Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

Fishermen in the south of Kattegat have been offered pingers for free, successfully using them in the gillnet fisheries for flatfish. 6 fishermen are use pingers since March 2011.

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

In 2010 the Swedish Board of Fisheries bought altogether 9 camera systems to place on fishing boats. Four of them were to be placed on trawlers and five on smaller fishing boats fishing with gillnets. The purpose of this was to investigate discard as well as marine mammal and bird bycatch. A large effort was put into this project but only one fisherman was willing to participate in the project even if they were offered incentives for participating.

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

Nothing to report

2.2 Ship Strike Incidents: No known incidents in Swedish waters during 2010

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

No major incidents to report in Swedish waters

Date	Location	Type of incident	Further Information

**Two or more animals*

2.4 Pollution and Hazardous Substances

The Museum of Natural History in Stockholm (SMNH) is carrying out a 3-year study on several contaminants in harbour porpoises from Swedish waters. The study is funded by the SEPA. Samples from 20 harbour porpoises from the Skagerrak, Öresund and the Baltic have been sent for contaminant analyses for TBTs, PFCs and heavy metals in liver and PCB, DDT, PBDE in blubber. Results will be presented in 2011 Annual report.

2.5 Other Forms of Disturbance

Nothing to report

3 Marine Protected Areas for Small Cetaceans

After the assessment by the EU Commission of the Natura 2000 network in the Baltic and Atlantic regions, SEPA has been commissioned to report to the government of possibilities to add harbour porpoise to the species list in some existing sites as well as considering

designating new ones on the west coast of Sweden, pending the results of the survey in Skälderviken. At the moment there are three Natura 2000 sites with harbour porpoise. During 2010 SEPA suggested addition of harbour porpoise in 2 existing sites. The results from the survey in Skälderviken confirm the presence of harbour porpoise there and a new Natura 2000 site, particularly designated to protect the species, was proposed to the Swedish government during 2010. Up to date no final decision has been taken by the government.

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.

A study of population structure of harbour porpoise in the Baltic is carried out by Per Palsböll, Stockholm University. The general aim of the study is to determine if the harbour porpoises in the Baltic constitute a demographically isolated population.

The specific aims and methods of the study are:

1. To isolate and characterize 350 SNPs in Baltic harbour porpoise.
2. To identify pairs of 1st and 2nd order relatives among harbour porpoise samples from the Baltic and Swedish west coast.
3. To estimate the abundance from the number of observed pairs of 1st and 2nd order relatives using demographic simulations.

A Life Nature application for the SAMBAH project was approved and the Grant Agreement was signed in November 2009 by Kolmårdens Djurpark as the Coordinating Beneficiary. This project is running over 5 years (2010-2014), and aims at producing an estimate of the total abundance and distribution of harbour porpoises in the Baltic. Three of the countries around the Baltic (Finland, Poland and Denmark) are associated Beneficiaries, whereas the Baltic States will be subcontractors to Sweden. The project is based upon data from passive acoustic porpoise echolocation loggers, which will be kept in operation during 2011 and 2012. This data will be used as input to state of the art population density statistics, and subsequently allow for habitat modelling.

The abundance of harbour porpoise has been investigated in “Skälderviken”, a bay on the south western coast of Sweden. PCL:s Porpoise click loggers were being used. The fishing effort of gillnets in the same areas was surveyed and compared to the porpoise abundance. The results show a high abundance of harbour porpoise, particularly in one part of the bay and SEPA has now proposed to the Swedish government for that part to become a Natura 2000 site.

4.2 New Technological Developments

Nothing to report

4.3 Other Relevant Research

A study on environmental contaminants in harbour porpoises from Swedish waters is carried out by Stockholm Museum of Natural History, SMNH. In addition, cooperation has started between SMNH and the Veterinary Institute in Uppsala. This study focuses on health status of harbour porpoises, cause of death, occurrence of parasites etc. Usually some 10 to 15 porpoises per year are necropsied.

C. USE OF BY-CATCHES AND STRANDINGS

5 Post-Mortem Research Schemes

Contact details of research institutions / focal point	Anna Roos, Dep of Contaminant research, Swedish Museum of Natural History, PO Box 50007, SE 104 05 Stockholm. Anna.roos@nrm.se
Methodology used (reference, e.g. publication, protocol)	Using a common protocol made for cetaceans
Collection of samples (type, preservation method)	Skin, blubber, muscular tissue, kidney, liver, brain, lung, spleen, stomach, intestines teeth etc are taken and stored deep frozen in the SMNH Environmental Specimen Bank.
Database (Number of data sets by species, years covered, software used, online access)	SMNH has a database of porpoise samples from 1972 till today, including more than 700 porpoises. Software: MySQL. No online access yet. Data include: species, location, cause of death, blubber thickness (several places), length, weight, weight of several organs etc. SMNH also has a database on reported live animals, all published on line at www.nrm.se/tumlare
Additional Information (e.g. website addresses, intellectual property rights, possibility of a central database)	SMNH also host a web page where the public can report sightings of live porpoises. http://www.nrm.se/tumlare

5.1 Number of Necropsies Carried out in Reporting Period:

Species	Recorded cause of death
Harbour porpoise	Six probably by caught, and one starved

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

D. LEGISLATION

6.1 Relevant New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

During 2010 SEPA started developing national guidelines for underwater noise and marine mammals. The guidelines do not cover noise from vessels, but will be useful during constructions of windparks, pipelines, blastings etc.

In 2009, 3 MPA :s were established along the west coast of Sweden applying restrictions regarding fisheries. One of these, in the south of Kattegat, is a large area where there are varying fisheries regulations in different zones. In certain zones there is total closure of all fisheries all year round. In this area, harbour porpoises are common. Other areas with restrictions of the fisheries are also established further north. In 2010 another 3 MPA:s with fishery restrictions will be established in the Baltic Sea.

In 2009 Sweden's first marine national park was established in the Koster Archipelago in Skagerakk. Certain regulations will apply in the use of leisure boats as well as fisheries.

E. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

7.1 Public Awareness and Education

The day of the harbour porpoise is celebrated every year through exhibitions and presentations at Havets Hus in Lysekil.

Stockholm Museum of Natural History (SMNH) has a web site for reporting live animals. During 2010 at least 112 reports were submitted including at least 246 individuals. Most of the reports come from the Swedish west coast. The web page also includes photos, and a couple of very interesting films of porpoises playing around a small boat.

POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT

Please provide any relevant information.