

Agenda Item 13

National Reporting

Document 13.i

**2012 Annual National Report  
Sweden**

**Action Requested**

- Take note
- Comment

Submitted by

Sweden



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



# 2012 ASCOBANS Annual National Reports

This format for the ASCOBANS Annual National Reports was endorsed by the 6th Meeting of the Parties in 2009. Reports are due to be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 March of each year.

Parties are requested to use this report to provide NEW information on measures taken or actions towards meeting the objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan and the Resolutions of the Meeting of the Parties.

The 7th Meeting of the Parties in 2012 agreed to move to online reporting with immediate effect. In order to benefit fully from the opportunities for synergies among CMS Family treaties afforded by this tool, Parties decided that a revised national report format be developed by a small working group assisted by the Secretariat for consideration by the Advisory Committee in preparation for the 8th Meeting of the Parties. While retaining the questions related only to ASCOBANS, it should align more closely to the format used in CMS, AEWA and EUROBATS.

## General Information

Name of Party

> Sweden

Report submitted by

Name	Erland Lettevall and Susanne Viker
Function	National delegates
Organization	The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water and Management (SwAM)
Address	Box 11 930, SE-404 39 Göteborg
Telephone/Fax	+46 31 698 60 00
Email	erland.lettevall@havochvatten.se; susanne.viker@havochvatten.se

## Changes

Changes in Coordinating Authority or appointed Member of the Advisory Committee

> Sofia Brockmark at SwAM has replaced Susanne Viker

## List of National Institutions

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

> AquaBiota Water Research, Ida Carlén, ida.carlen@aquabiota.se

> Göteborg Natural History Museum (GNM), Anders Nilsson, anders.nilsson@gnm.se

> Kolmårdens Wildlife Park, Mats Amundin, mats.amundin@kolmarden.com

> Swedish Museum of Natural History (SMNH), Anna Roos, anna.roos@nrm.se

> Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sara Königson, sara.konigson@slu.se

> Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), Peter Sigray, peter.sigray@foi.se

# Habitat Conservation and Management

## Fisheries Interactions

### Direct Interaction with Fisheries

#### 1.1 Investigations of methods to reduce bycatch

> Studies investigating alternative fishing gear such as cod pots and traps for species like pike-perch and herring have been carried out by the Swedish Board of Fisheries (SBF). Since July 2011 this research is conducted by the Department of Aquatic Resources of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). In 2011 new designs of pots has been developed by several fishing gear manufacturers in collaboration with SLU. These pots were in 2012 tested in an implementation project involving several fishermen as well as in a project conducted by the SLU.

> A Swedish fishing gear company Carapax has planned a project with funding for the next year to develop a full-scale cod pot fishing method. The project mainly focuses on how to improve the construction of the pot as well solutions for better handling of the pots on board. The outcome of this project may be of interest to evaluate in terms of bycatch reduction as well as consequences for the fisheries.

#### 1.2 Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

> At the Swedish south coast development and testing of new gear has been conducted. The South Coast Fishing Area (Sydkustens fiskeområde) operates experimental fishing project with seal-proof cod cages in collaboration with local fishermen and scientists at SLU. The goal of the South Coast Fishing Area is to develop future coastal fishing industries by initiating and supporting projects and greater integration between fish nutrition and other nutrition in the region. The business is collaboration between the municipalities of Sölvesborg, Kristianstad, Simrishamn and Ystad.

> Fishermen in the south of the Kattegat have been offered pingers for free and been successfully using them in the gillnet fisheries for flatfish. Six fishers have been using pingers since March 2011.

> During 2012, only one fisher, Kattegat, was required to use pinger according to EC Regulation 812/2004.

#### 1.3 Other relevant information

Other relevant information, including bycatch information from opportunistic sources

> In 2010 the SBF bought altogether nine camera systems to place on board fishing boats, to investigate discard as well as marine mammal and bird bycatch. Four of them were placed on trawlers and five on smaller fishing boats fishing with gillnets. 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. These systems were later taken over by the SwAM whom is responsible for the task since July 2011.

#### 1.4 Report under EC Regulation 812/2004

Please provide the link to your country's report under EC Regulation 812/2004.

> See Appendix 1.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[App1\\_Fisheries statistics ASCOBANS 2012\\_Sweden.docx](#) - Fisheries statistics on bycatch 2012

## Reduction of Disturbance

### 2.1 Anthropogenic Noise

Please reference and briefly summarise any studies undertaken

> TIn the field of the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive, SwAM has participated in the EU Working for Good Environmental Status (GES WG), to develop the indicators for descriptor 11 (energy and noise).

> FOI has published the report "Ambient Underwater Noise Levels at Norra Midsjöbanken during Construction of the Nord Stream Pipeline" which was funded by the Swedish Environment Protection Agency, SEPA, together with Nord Stream AG. It presents results from measurements of noise during the construction of the

North Stream pipeline, which passes about 4 km off Norra Midsjöbanken which is a Nature 2000 area. Measures included trenching activities as well as the ambient noise including shipping noise.

## 2.2 Ship Strike Incidents

Please list all known incidents and provide information separately for each

	Incident 1	Incident 2	Incident 3	Incident 4	Incident 5
Date	None				
Species					
Type of Injury					
Fatal Injury (Yes/No)					
Type of Vessel (length, tonnage, speed)					
Location (coordinates)					
More Information (name, email)					

## 2.3 Major Incidents

Major Incidents Affecting Significant Numbers of Cetaceans (two or more animals)

	Incident 1	Incident 2	Incident 3	Incident 4	Incident 5
Date	None				
Location					
Type of Incident					
Further Information					

## 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 Swedish Museum of Natural History (SMNH) is carrying out a 3-year study on several contaminants in harbour porpoises from Swedish waters. The study was finished in 2012 and a report of the results should have been delivered to SwAM, but the report has been delayed.

## 2.5 Other Forms of Disturbance

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

> None

## **Marine Protected Areas**

### Marine Protected Areas for Small Cetaceans

#### 3.2 GIS Data

Please indicate where GIS data of the boundaries (and zoning, if applicable) can be obtained (contact email / website).  
> None

# Surveys and Research

## 4.1 Abundance, Distribution, Population Structure

### Overview of Research on Abundance, Distribution and Population Structure

> A Life Nature application for the SAMBAH project was approved and the Grant Agreement was signed in November 2009 by the Kolmården Wildlife Park as the Coordinating Beneficiary. This project is running over five years (2010-2014), and aims at producing an estimate of the total abundance and distribution of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea. The project is based upon data from passive acoustic porpoise echolocation loggers (CPODs), which will be kept in operation from May 2011 to May 2012. This data will be used as input to state of the art population density statistics, and subsequently allow for habitat modelling carried out by AquaBiota Water Research, Stockholm.

During 2012 all participating teams have kept the CPODs in operation, by servicing the 300 positions every 3-5 months. There have been losses of CPODs due to trawling, battery exhaustion in acoustic releases, and severe storms, but in total these losses have been within acceptable limits. Some of the losses have subsequently been retrieved, either after being found on the beach or by active grappling. Auxiliary data on the acoustic characteristics at each position due to oceanographic factors have been obtained by performing playback trials with artificial porpoise clicks, transmitted from 0-300m distance from the CPODs. Acquisition of further auxiliary data has been done by the Danish team using acoustic tags, recording the click rate of wild dolphins. All these data are necessary input for the statistical data processing. The end report will be finalized by the end of 2014.

## 4.2 Technological Developments

### New Technological Developments

> SLU have conducted behavioural studies on cods at the entrance of cod pots. The goal is to produce useful results to develop more catch efficient cod pots.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Verksamhetsberättelse Sälar och Fiske SLU 2012.doc](#) - Annual report 2012 Project Seals and Fisheries at SLU

# Use of Bycatches and Strandings

## Post-Mortem Research Schemes

### 5.1 Contact Details

Contact details of research institutions and focal point

> Anna Roos, Department of Contaminant research, Swedish Museum of Natural History, PO Box 50007, SE-104 05 Stockholm. [anna.roos@nrm.se](mailto:anna.roos@nrm.se)

### 5.2 Methodology

Methodology used (reference, e.g. publication, protocol)

> Using a common protocol made for cetaceans.

### 5.3 Samples

Collection of samples (type, preservation method)

> The Baltic Sea, up to Skanör/Måkläppen: Basically samples from all carcasses were collected, and if the carcass was not too rotten SMNH made a full autopsy. Skin, blubber, muscular tissue, kidney, liver, brain, lung, spleen, stomach, intestines teeth etc. are taken and stored deep frozen in SMNH's Environmental Specimen Bank (ESB).

Porpoises found in 2011 have autopsied by pathologists at The National Veterinary Institute (SVA) together with personnel from SMNH. All of the carcasses were from the Baltic Sea (including the Kattegat). In addition, eleven stranded porpoises were sampled by GNM. Samples (dorsal fin, blubber, lower jaw) were sent to ESB. Seven of the specimen originated from the Baltic Sea.

No report have been delivered by SMNH in 2012.

### 5.4 Database

Database (number of data sets by species, years covered, software used, online access)

> The SMNH has a database of porpoise samples from 1972 until today, and consist of more than 700 specimens.

Software: MySQL. No online access yet.

Data include: species, location, cause of death, blubber thickness (several places), length, weight, weight of several organs etc.

The SMNH also has a database on reported live (and dead) animals, all published on line at [www.nrm.se/tumlare](http://www.nrm.se/tumlare).

### 5.5 Additional Information

Additional information (e.g. website addresses, intellectual property rights, possibility of a central database)

> The SMNH host a web page where the public can report sightings of live porpoises: [www.nrm.se/tumlare](http://www.nrm.se/tumlare).

## Activities and Results

### 5.6 Necropsies

Number of necropsies carried out in the reporting period

	Number	Recorded cause of death
Phocoena phocoena	9	at least one of them bycaught

Tursiops truncatus		
Delphinus delphis		
Stenella coeruleoalba		
Grampus griseus		
Globicephala melas		
Globicephala macrorhynchus		
Lagenorhynchus albirostris		
Lagenorhynchus acutus		
Orcinus orca		
Hyperoodon ampullatus		
Mesoplodon bidens		
Kogia breviceps		
Other (please specify under number)		
Other (please specify under number)		
Other (please specify under number)		
Other (please specify under number)		
Other (please specify under number)		
Other (please specify under number)		

### 5.7 Other Relevant Information

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

> None

## **Relevant New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines**

### 6.1 New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

Please provide any relevant information

> During 2010 SEPA started developing national guidelines for underwater noise and marine mammals. This responsibility for the guidelines has now shifted to the SwAM. A background report that SEPA commissioned by AquaBiota Water Research which has been received by the SwAM. The guidelines do not cover noise from vessels, but will be useful during constructions of windparks, pipelines, blastings, etc. SwAM has not approved the report in 2012.

# Public Awareness 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.

> The International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise was celebrated 2012 through exhibitions and presentations at the Aquaria Museum in Stockholm and at GNM. The event at the Aquaria Museum attracted over 500 visitors and much interest from the media. The Swedish SAMBAH team was present on this occasion and was able to talk to the visitors as well as to the TV and newspaper journalists. There even was a live interview with the SAMBAH project coordinator Mats Amundin broadcasted on national TV and one clip in the regional news the day after. The Gothenburg event was collaboration between GNM and SwAM. A frozen harbour porpoise was demonstrated for the visitors. The animal had stranded on the west coast of Sweden and had been collected in order to determine the cause of death and test for environmental toxins. A harbour porpoise skull was also presented to the visitors, as well as a slide show of harbour porpoises with click sounds. Some short lectures about the species, its conservation status, the threats it faces, current research and conservation measures for harbour porpoises and their habitats were given during the five hour event.

> The Kolmården Wildlife Park, in the dolphinarium, has a one-day program "Närkontakt Delfin" (Dolphin Close Encounters), available on demand to the pre-booked groups. It offers an in-depth lecture on dolphin biology in general and also gives updated information on the dire situation of the Baltic harbour porpoise. Prior to the public shows at the dolphinarium an introductory movie about the Baltic harbour porpoise and the SAMBAH project has been shown on a big video screen, hence reaching more than 500 000 people. In addition the staff of Kolmården has given lectures on SAMBAH for special tour groups at the dolphinarium and during conferences.

> There are two different websites and database systems for reporting of harbour porpoises and cetacean in general: one is the web site of SMNH accessible for the public to report live harbour porpoises, the other is the Species Gateway (Artportalen).

The report form of SMNH's web site is relatively simple which make it relatively easy for almost anyone to complete a report ([www.nrm.se/tumlare](http://www.nrm.se/tumlare)). Statistics from 2012 have not been compiled but in 2011 at least 177 reports were submitted. Most of the reports came from the Swedish west coast. All reports are quality controlled before being published on the web. The web page also includes photos, and a couple of very interesting films of porpoises playing around a small boat. Data from the SMNH's database have not been submitted to the HELCOM/ASCOBANS Harbour porpoise database and map service. However, SwAM have asked SMNH to complete that.

Species Gateway (Artportalen) is an independent site by the Swedish Species Information Centre at the SLU for collecting sightings of species ([www.artportalen.se/default.asp](http://www.artportalen.se/default.asp)). The site is open to anyone who wishes to contribute their data and is more detailed in data, relative to that one of the SMNH. It also demands relatively more of the observer to be complete the report, than in the SMNH's database. Beside the option to report cetaceans in the reporting system for mammals, Amphibians and Reptiles, there are reporting systems for all organism groups. The data can be used by anyone - the general public, scientists, organisations and authorities. All observations are published first and are verified later by authorized persons within the organisations.

Data of the two databases are not directly exchangeable but information to some extent has been transferred to the SMNH. Both reporting databases has been developed by support from SEPA. However, the authorities should consider which of the organizations that will have national responsibility for receiving reports. Therefore SwAM initiated a meeting regarding this in 2012, which was held in 2013. Both parties agreed to make a joint interface and the data should be stored in a way to make it easier to execute statistical reports from.

> SAMBAH's web site ([www.sambah.org](http://www.sambah.org)) gives general information about the project's objectives, activities, methodologies etc.

## **Possible difficulties encountered in implementing the Agreement**

Difficulties in Implementing the Agreement

Please provide any relevant information

> None