ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group 14

National Progress Report
– Germany –

Involvement of Stakeholders

Fishermen:

1. **„voluntary agreement“** for the conservation of harbour porpoises and sea ducks in the Baltic Sea (since 2013): **ongoing**
   - Fishery Association of Schleswig-Holstein
   - Fishery Protection Union of Schleswig-Holstein
   - the Baltic Sea Info-Center Eckernförde (OIC)
   - Ministry of Energy transition, Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas Schleswig-Holstein (MELUR)

   ➢ reduction of the total length of gillnets from July to August:
   - ➢ to 4km for boats >8m,
   - ➢ to 3km for boats between 6 und 8m
   - ➢ To 1,5km for boats < 6m

   ◦ **Upcoming: Broad scale usage of PALs** (PorpoiseALert) (1.700)

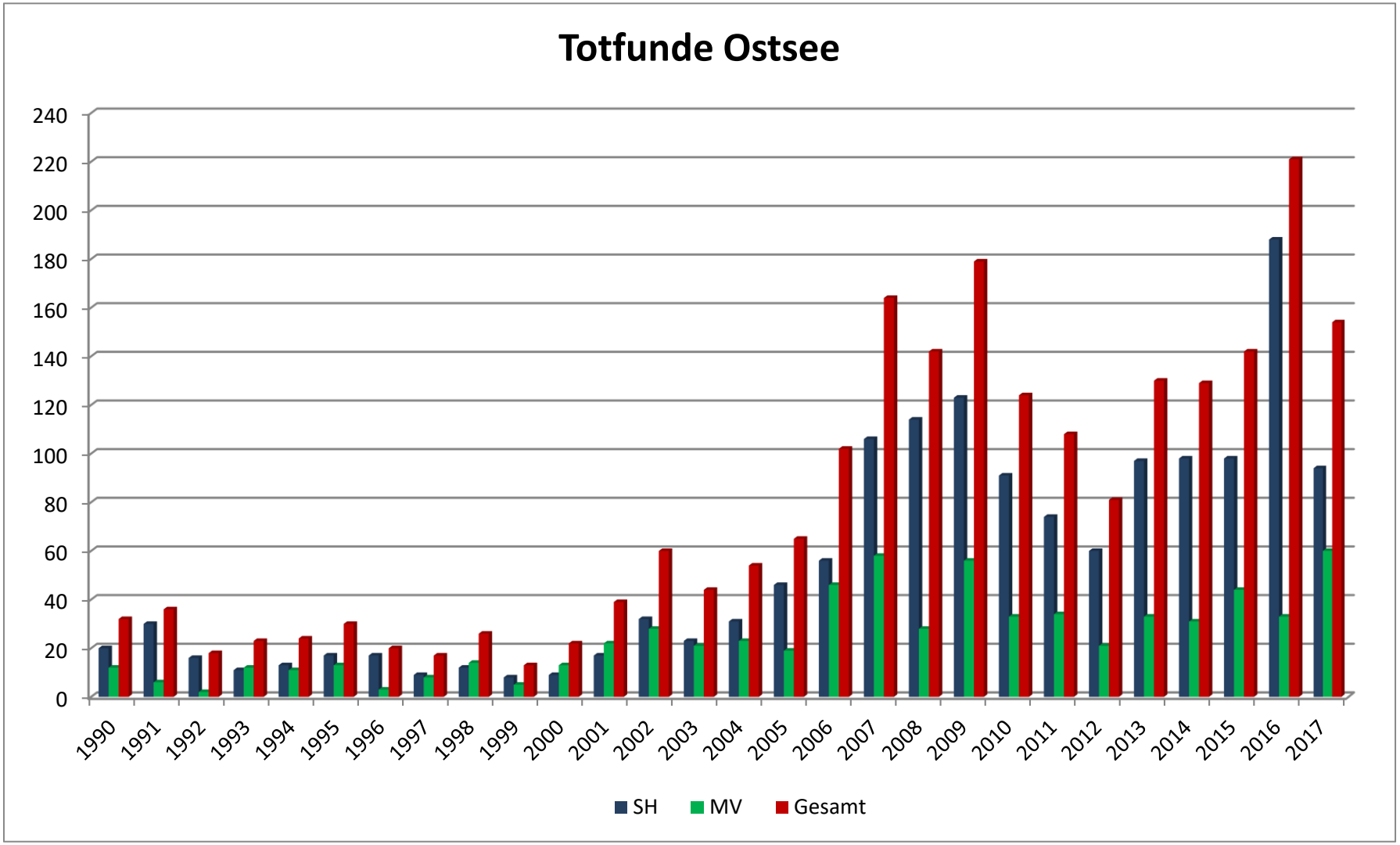
2. Project „**Stella**“: Gill net fisheries: Development of alternative management approaches

Involvement of Stakeholders

Public

1. **Strandings /Sighting Programmes: Established**

- Schleswig-Holstein (**SH**): Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW) Büsum
- Mecklenburg – West Pomerania (**MV**): German Oceanographic Museum, Stralsund:
  - App: **OstSeeTiere**
  - https://www.deutsches-meeresmuseum.de/wissenschaft/infothek/sichtungskarte/


Totfunde Ostsee
240
220
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
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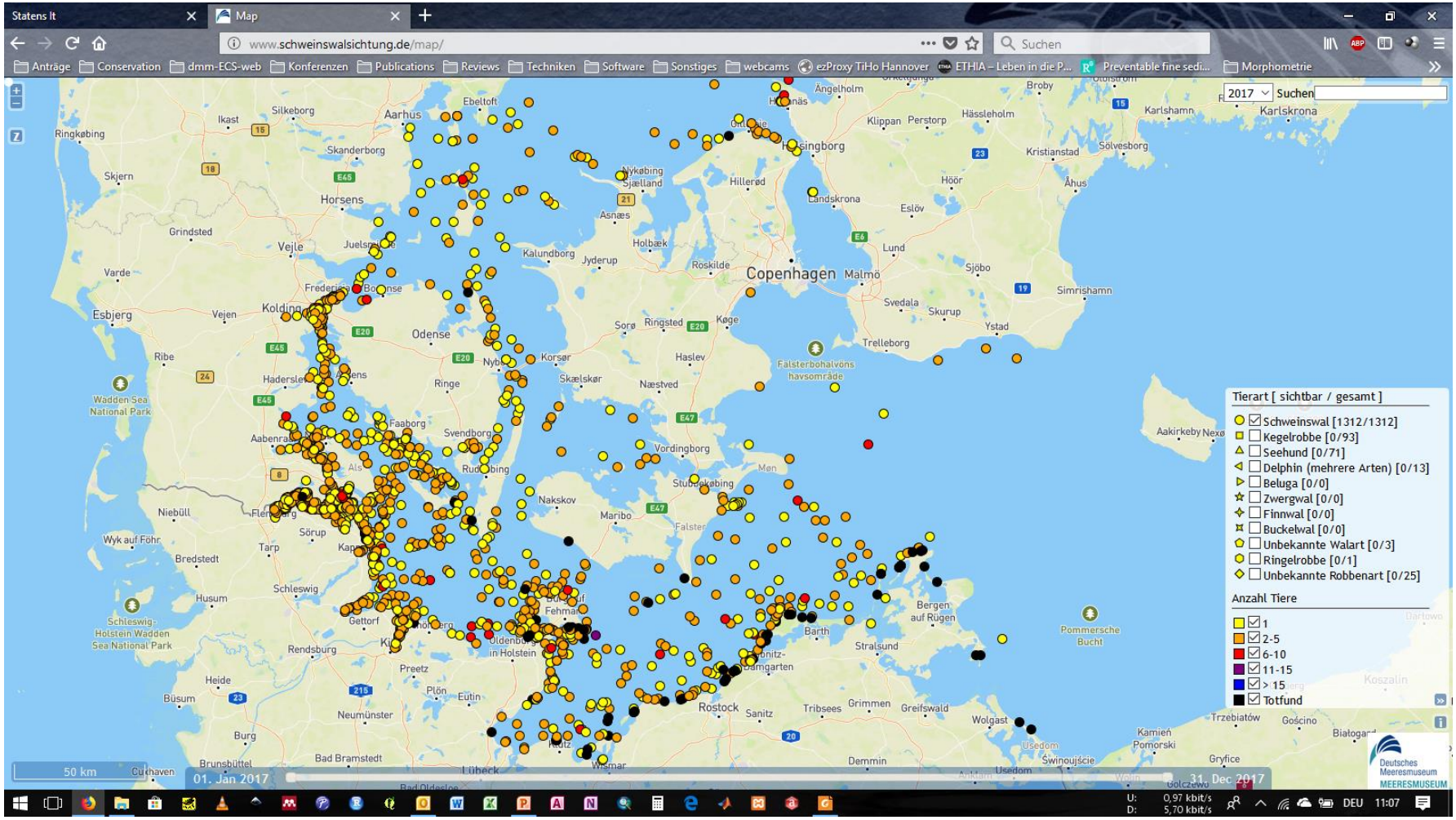
2016
2017
SH
MV
Gesamt

2017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Map
www.schweinswalsichtung.de/map/
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Anträge
Conservation
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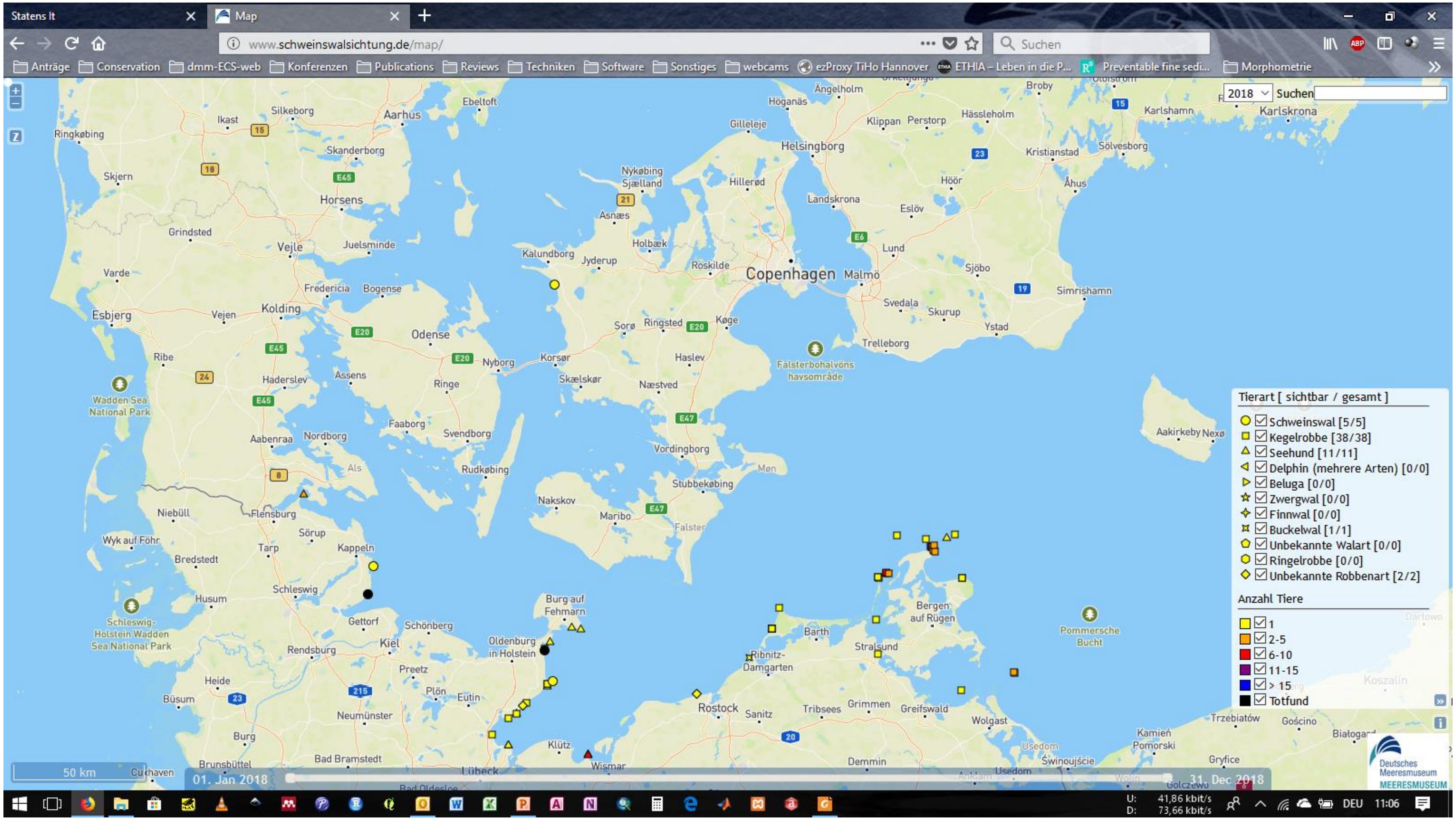
Konferenzen
Publications
Reviews
Techniken
Software
Sonstiges
webcams
ezProxy TiHo Hannover
ETHIA – Leben in die P...
Preventable fine sedi...
Morphometrie
2017
Suchen
Tierart [sichtbar / gesamt]
Schweinswal [1312/1312]
Kegelrobbe [0/93]
Seehund [0/71]
Delphin (mehrere Arten) [0/13]
Beluga [0/0]
Zwergwal [0/0]
Finnwal [0/0]
Buckelwal [0/0]
Unbekannte Walart [0/3]
Ringelrobbe [0/1]
Unbekannte Robbenart [0/25]
Anzahl Tiere
1
2-5
6-10
11-15
> 15
Totfund
Copenhagen
Malmö
Aarhus
Odense
Esbjerg
Kolding
Horsens
Skagerrak
Kattegat
Pommersche Bucht
Falsterbohalvöns havsområde
Wadden Sea National Park
Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park
50 km
01. Jan 2017
31. Dec 2017
Deutsches Meeresmuseum
MEERESMUSEUM
DEU
11:07

2018


www.schweinswalsichtung.de/map/
2018
Suchen
Tierart [sichtbar / gesamt]
Schweinswal [5/5]
Kegelrobbe [38/38]
Seehund [11/11]
Delphin (mehrere Arten) [0/0]
Beluga [0/0]
Zwergwal [0/0]
Finnwal [0/0]
Buckelwal [1/1]
Unbekannte Walart [0/0]
Ringelrobbe [0/0]
Unbekannte Robbenart [2/2]
Anzahl Tiere
1
2-5
6-10
11-15
> 15
Totfund
01. Jan 2018
31. Dec 2018
50 km
Deutsches Meeresmuseum
MEERESMUSEUM

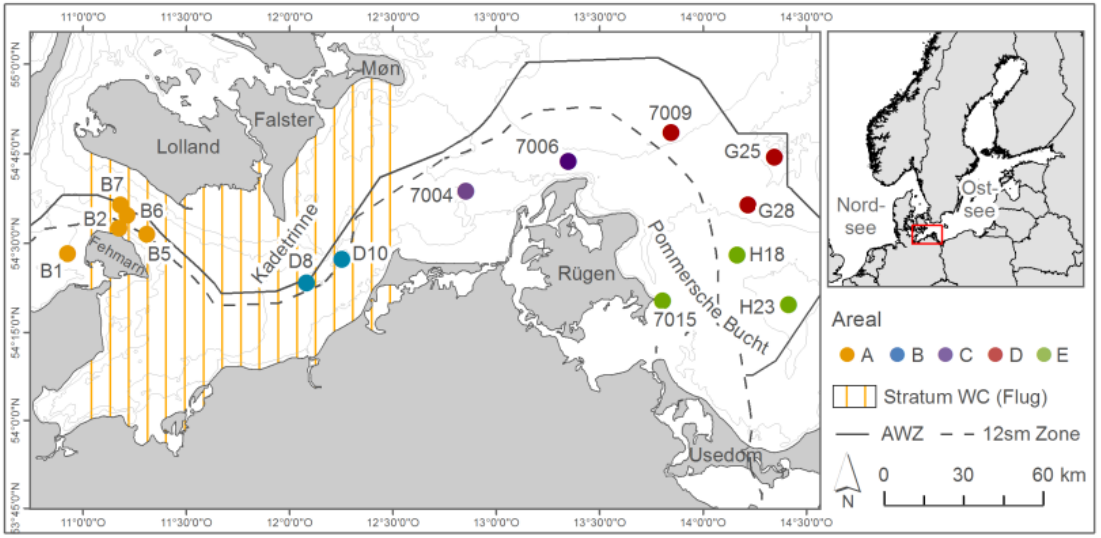
Abundance and Distribution

1. **population structure: Ralph Tiedemann**
2. **Monitoring of abundance and distribution:**

Long term monitoring established:

TopMarine:

- **Aerial surveys (Digital + traditional)**
  - 2018 / 2020
- **C-POD Surveys**
- **Intercalibration**
  - 2018 / 2020



Bycatch

1. **Project "STELLA"**

"Development of alternative management approaches and fishing gear and techniques towards minimizing conflicts in gill net fisheries and conservation objectives and subjects of protection in the EEZ of the Baltic Sea"

- inter-disciplinary project funded by Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) conducted by the Thünen Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries:
- Nov 2016 – Dez 2019

5 work packages (WPs):

1. **improving the data basis** from gill net fishing (effort, catch, bycatch): to identify homogeneous groups in the passive fishery and to derive spatio-temporal protective measures, which affect the fishery as little as possible.
2. **modify gillnets to minimize unwanted bycatch** but at the same time does not reduce the catchability for the target species unacceptably. species and take this into account.
3. **investigates the feasibility of using alternative gear** (potentially also traditional gear)
4. determines how to **incentivize an improved data collection or the use of modified or alternative gear**.
5. **synthesise the results** of the various disciplines fisheries biology, fishing technology and social sciences, and derives policy advice for decision makers (considering also the interests of nature conservation). Communication with the fishery and the funder

Bycatch – Mitigation

2. **PAL**

- Employment of 1.700 PALs (in the framework of the „voluntary agreement): upcoming months
- Monitoring program: upcoming months (planning phase)
  - Accompanying
  - Investigation of possible effects

Underwater Noise

Projects:

- Impacts of underwater noise induced by offshore windfarms on marine mammal underwater noise effects (UWE) (till August 2018)

Sound Protection Concept for the Baltic Sea: planning phase

Publications:

- **High rates of vessel noise disrupt foraging in wild harbour porpoises (Phocoena phocoena)**

  Wisniewska, D. M.; Johnson, M.; Teilmann, J.; Siebert, U.; Galatius, A.; Dietz, R.; Teglberg, Madsen, P.:
  In: Proceedings of the Royal Society B 285 (2018) .
  http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2017.2314

- **Bubble curtains attenuate noise from offshore wind farm construction and reduce temporary habitat loss for harbour porpoises,**

  Dähne, M., Tougaard, J., Carstensen, J., Rose, A., Nabe-Nielsen, J. (2017):
  Mar Ecol Prog Ser 580 221-237.

- **Why is auditory frequency weighting so important in regulation of underwater noise?**

  J. Tougaard, J., Dähne, M. (2017):
  Journal of the Acoustical Society of America 142 (4) EL415-EL420.

Population Status

Publications:

Marine debris in harbour porpoises and seals from German waters.

Unger B, Herr H, Benke H, Böhmert M, Burkhardt-Holm P, Dähne M, Hillmann M, Wolff-Schmidt K, Wohlsein P5, Siebert U.

Mar Environ Res. 2017 Sep;130:77-84. doi: 10.1016/j.marenvres.2017.07.009. Epub 2017 Jul 6.

Diet composition and food consumption rate of harbour porpoises (Phocoena phocoena) in the western Baltic Sea.

Andreasen, H.; Ross, S.D.; Siebert, U.; Andersen, N.G.; Ronnenberg, K.; Gilles, A.:
In: Marine Mammal Science (2017) - http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/mms.12421

Coming of age: - Do female harbour porpoises (Phocoena phocoena) from the North Sea and Baltic Sea have sufficient time to reproduce in a human influenced environment?

Kesselring, T.; Viquerat, S.; Brehm, R.; Siebert, U.:
In: PLoS ONE 12, 10 (2017) e0186951[14 S.]
ISSN 1932-6203
http://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0186951

Thank you