

HELCOM activities on harbour porpoise

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Main HELCOM agreements on harbour porpoise

Further development of a coordinated reporting system and database on harbour porpoise sightings, by-catches and strandings (2010) *Accomplished 2013*

Evaluation of the effectiveness of existing technical measures to minimize by-catch of harbour porpoises *Not accomplished*

Take decisive action to work towards a favourable conservation status of the harbor porpoise based on implementation of the CMS, ASCOBANS, Jastarnia Plan, in particular by addressing the pressing problem of by-catch *Not accomplished*



BRUSSELS

MINISTERIAL
MEETING 2018

HELCOM

DECLARATION
ADOPTED

- The implementation of the **Baltic Sea Action Plan** will be strengthened by 2021
- Taking new action to meet the **Sustainable Development Goals** in the Baltic Sea
- The Ministerial **Declaration** 2018 was adopted

Ministerial Declaration 2018

WE AGREE to improve the status of species at risk of extinction, by establishing conservation plans or other relevant programmes or environmental measures

WE AGREE to strive for full achievement of Aichi Target 11 regarding the management, ecological representativeness and connectivity of the HELCOM MPAs network;

WE AGREE to develop an action plan, preferably by 2021, and regionally coordinated actions on underwater noise, aiming at addressing adverse effects of underwater noise on marine species identified as sensitive to noise.



MAIN HELCOM CONTRIBUTION TO:

SDG 14.2 *By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans*



MEASURING PROGRESS FOR THE SAME TARGETS IN
THE BALTIC SEA



SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Phocoena phocoena



**FIRST VERSION OF THE
'STATE OF THE BALTIC SEA' REPORT
– JUNE 2017** TO BE UPDATED IN 2018



STATE OF THE BALTIC SEA

– HOLISTIC ASSESSMENT –
First version 2017



STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY CORE INDICATORS IN THE SUB-BASINS OF THE BALTIC SEA



Kattegat Great Belt The Sound Kiel Bay Bay of Mecklenburg Arkona Basin Bornholm Basin Gdansk Basin Eastern Gotland Basin Western Gotland Basin Gulf of Riga Northern Baltic Proper Gulf of Finland Åland Sea Bothnian Sea The Quark Bothnian Bay



* Core indicator agreed to be tested in this assessment
 ** Pre-core indicator agreed to be tested in this assessment

Harbour porpoise?

Harbour porpoise distribution and abundance

(candidate indicator)

- Lead Country: DE; Co-leads: DK, FI, PL, SE
- What is still needed:
 - GES definitions,
 - abundance estimates per population,
 - information on distribution and seasonal changes between sub-basins and populations.

Number of drowned mammals and waterbirds

(pre-core indicator)

- Co-lead countries: DE, PL and SE
- What is needed:
 - Data collection to fill identified gaps (by-catch numbers per fishing effort and total effort)
 - Further development of threshold values
- Agreement on data needs and how to fill data gaps is a first step in creating a functional indicator
- A correspondence group (CG FISDATA) will produce a roadmap on how this can be achieved
- Further discussion at STATE & CONSERVATION 8 and FISH 8 in May

HELCOM Recommendation 17/2

- Protection of harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea
 - ✓ *Avoid bycatches of harbour porpoises*
 - ✓ *Data collection and analysis*
 - ✓ *Establish MPAs*
 - ✓ *Co-operation and recommendations by ASCOBANS & Jastarnia Plan*
- Lead Country Poland
- A proposal for a revision of the Rec
 - ✓ *The Rec to distinguish between the Baltic Proper and gulf area populations*

HELCOM Seal Expert Group & harbour porpoise

Updates data on
HELCOM/ASCOBANS
database

Contributes to
revision and
reporting of
Rec 17/2

Shares information
on national
activities and
management plans

Supports HELCOM
Red List
assessments

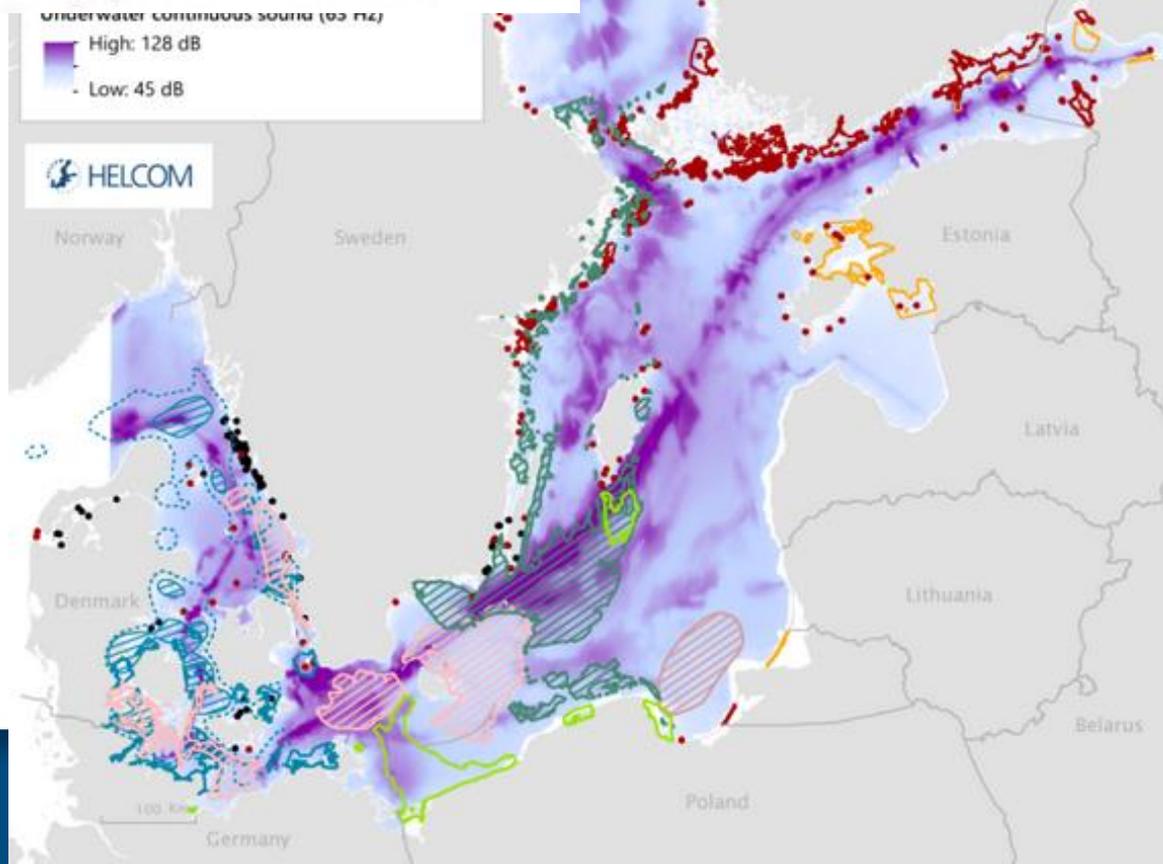


Underwater noise

- HELCOM [Roadmap on Underwater Noise 2015-2017](#).
- Action plan on underwater noise agreed by the MM 2018 (possibly by 2021)

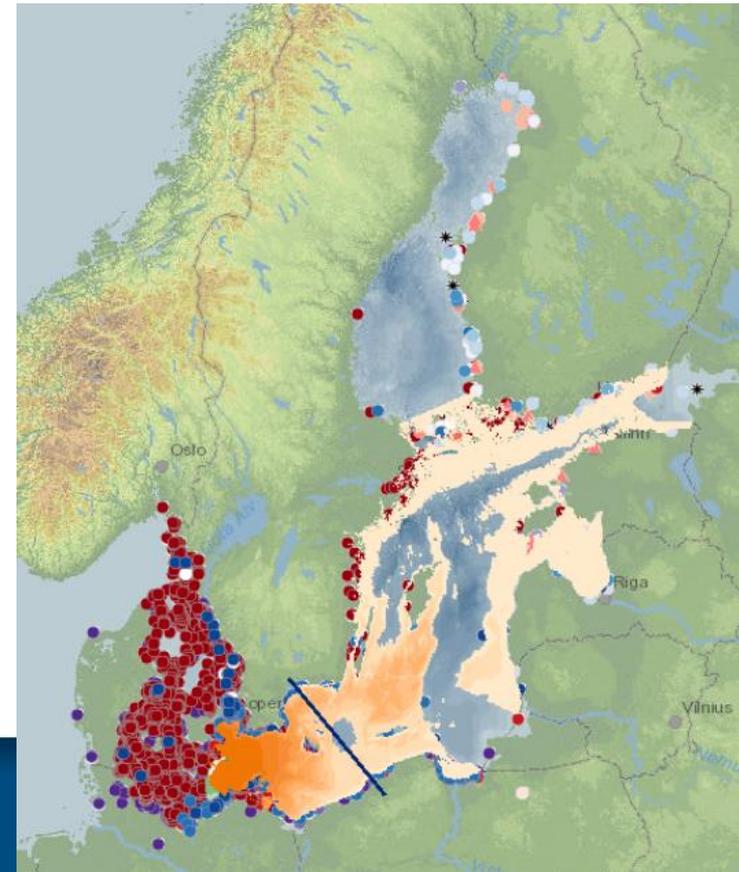


-  Core area for Western harbour porpoise subpopulation (30% Kernel)
-  Extended core area for Western harbour porpoise subpopulation (60% Kernel)
-  HELCOM MPAs with likely Baltic harbour porpoise subpopulation occurrence
-  Core area for the Baltic harbour porpoise subpopulation (20% probability of detection/km²*month)
-  HELCOM MPAs with likely Western harbour porpoise subpopulation occurrence



Data on HELCOM Map and data service

- Probability of detection of harbour porpoises (SAMBAH data)
- Summer management boarder
- Bycatch
- Effort sightings
- Incidental sightings
- Hunted or killed
- Strandings



HELCOM/ASCOBANS database on harbour porpoise ([link](#), [page](#))

Tables

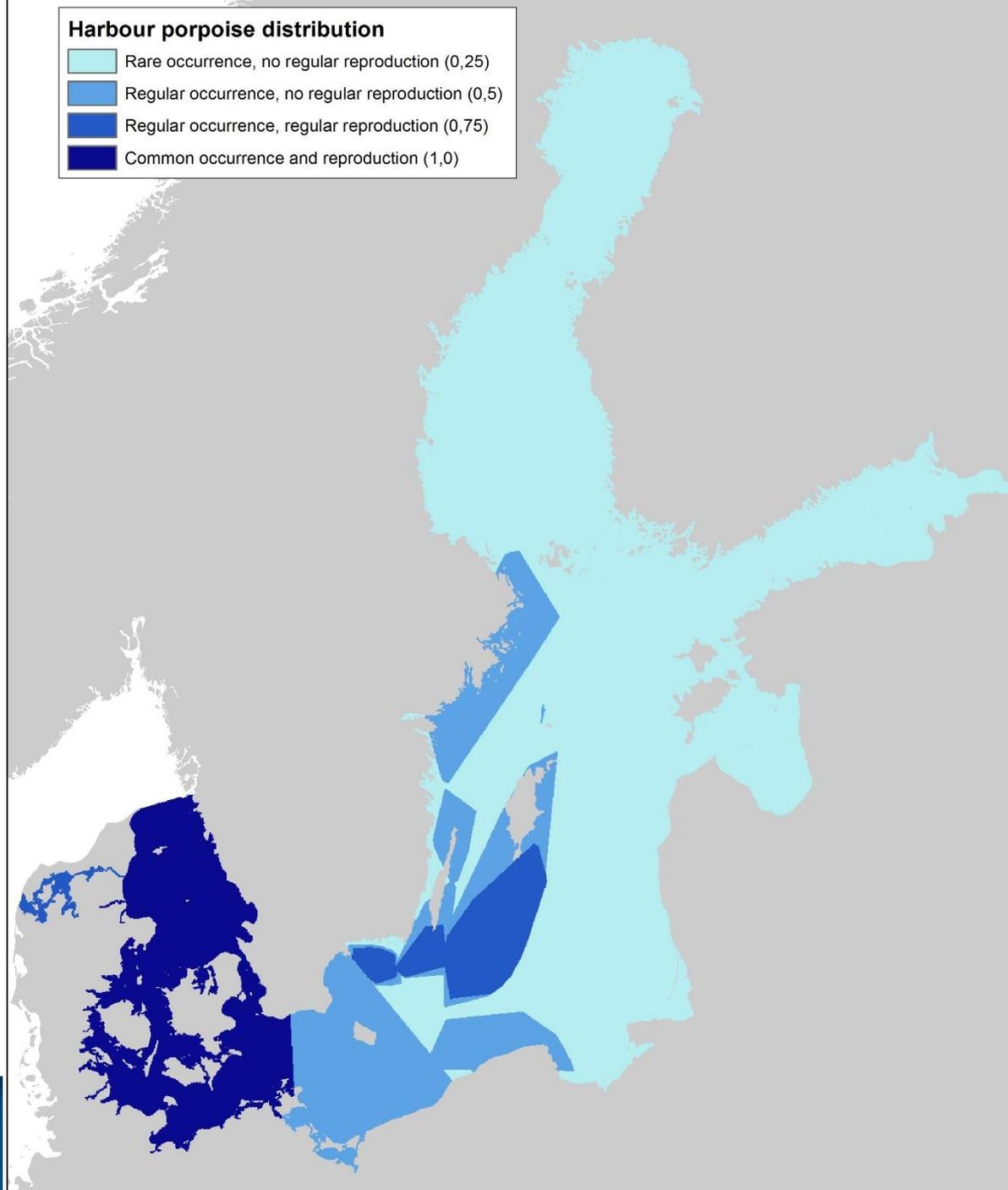
- Bycatch
- EffortSightings
- HuntedKilled
- IncidentalSightings
- MSysCompactError
- Strandings
- Unknown

IDoriginal	NumbCat	CaughtBy	Additional	EEZ
FME0103	1	salmon net	Caught by a Salmon net. "laxnät". FME0103; Fis	Finland
FME0029	1	herring net	Porpoise caught by a Baltic herring net. Animal v	Finland
FME0194	1	bream net/drown	Caught by a bream net, drowned. Most likely br	Finland
FME0173	1	herring net	Diametre (cm): 115.Caught by a Baltic herring r	Finland
FME0157	2	whitefish trap	Weight of both individuals approx. 60 kg. Both c	Finland
FME0157	2	whitefish trap	Weight of both individuals approx. 60 kg. Both c	Finland
				Lithuania
FME0193	1	salmon net/drown	Weight (kg): 55. Length (cm): approx. 150. Ca	Finland
FME0187	1	bream net/drown	Weight (kg): approx. 50. Length (cm): 137. Cau	Finland
FME0164	1	whitefish trap	Caught by a whitefish trap (fyke"siikarysä"). FM	Finland
FME0163	1		Weight (kg): approx. 50 . Caught by a fisherman	Finland
FME0199	1		Cause of death examined in EELA & RKTL. Wei	Finland
FME0201	1	salmon net	Cause of death examined in EELA & RKTL. Wei	Finland
FME0158	1	herring net	Caught by a Baltic herring net. "strömmingssköta	Finland
FME0018	1	salmon net	Weight measured in old Swedish units "5-6 lispu	Finland
FME0033	1	herring net	Caught, sent to Zool. mus. in Helsinki, to J.A. Pa	Finland
FME0174	1	herring net	Caught by a Baltic herring net. "strömmingssköta	Finland
FME0166	1	flounder net	Weight (kg): approx. 40. Caught by a fisherman.	Finland
FME0148	1	net	Caught by a fisherman. "sköta, intrasslade sig i	Finland
FME0021	1	net/shot	Caught by a net and shot. Dahlström bought the	Finland
FME0012	1		Caught by a net FME0012: "Finlands Allmänna T	Finland



Harbour porpoise distribution

-  Rare occurrence, no regular reproduction (0,25)
-  Regular occurrence, no regular reproduction (0,5)
-  Regular occurrence, regular reproduction (0,75)
-  Common occurrence and reproduction (1,0)



HELCOM-ASCOBANS cooperation

- Indicator work on harbour porpoise
- Indicator work on bycatch and data collection
- Data reporting to the joint database
- Work on HELCOM MPAs
- Initial discussion on further collaboration between HELCOM and OSPAR on harbour porpoise as a species relevant in both areas, ASCOBANS input would be relevant

A photograph of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore. The water is a vibrant blue-green color, and the sand is a light tan. The words "THANK YOU" are written in the sand in a simple, hand-drawn style. The text is positioned in the lower half of the frame, below the water's edge.

THANK YOU

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