

Progress report since June 2017, Finland

Jastarnia Group, March 12th-14th 2018, Copenhagen

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Bycatch & strandings

- No reported bycaught harbour porpoises since 1999
- Reporting of marine mammal bycatch is mandatory for all fisheries (since 2016)
- No reported strandings

Acoustic monitoring

- Monitoring ongoing in Northern Baltic Proper, offshore area south from Åland and Archipelago Sea
- SAMBAH methodology applied
- Started in October 2016, funding currently secured to spring 2019
- 17 positions (11 SAMBAH positions and 6 between those)
- Service interval 4-6 months, next May 2018
- Preliminary results show similar seasonal pattern and similar detection rates that in SAMBAH
- Funded by Ministry of the Environment and Åland Government

Opportunistic sightings

- Annual announcements for the public in media
- 3 accepted sightings (5 individuals) in 2016
- Reported sightings from period 2000-2016 checked and updated to governmental Hertta-database
- 65 sightings of 115 animals, average group size ~1.8 (1-6) animals
- Updated sightings also delivered for the ASCOBANS/HELCOM database

Other activities

- Participation in HELCOM abundance and distribution indicator work
- Red list evaluation ongoing (2015 classified as RE)
- Underwater noise monitoring ongoing in 2 BIAS-stations