

## **2.4 Survey and research**

### **2.4.1 Mapping distribution and abundance of small cetaceans in the agreement area**

*Peter Evans (Sea Watch Foundation) will present new distribution maps of small cetaceans to introduce the subject.*

### **2.4.2 Analysis of national reporting data**

*The session chair will summarize the status quo in the agreement area, taking into account the information submitted in national reports. Parties will be invited to present related points from their national reports.*

*Participants will be given the opportunity to present new information on the subject.*

### **2.4.3 Discussion and recommendations**

*Taking into account the related Work Plan activities, the session chair will facilitate the discussion...*

*....to make recommendations.*



**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS**  
Helsinki, Finland, 30 August - 1 September 2016

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ASCOBANS Resolution 8.1

**Resolution No. 1:**  
**National Reporting**

## Resolution No. 1: National Reporting

....an assessment of the progress in implementing the Agreement is possible only through **meaningful national reporting**...

...the **right balance** needs to be struck with respect to **the information desired and the use to which the data will be put**, so as not to burden the Parties unnecessarily...

....in developing the detail of each section, to **consult experts** on the subjects in order to ensure that essential information is gathered in a form that **standardizes responses and lends itself to statistical analysis** ....

....to make full use of the information submitted in order to **assess progress in the implementation of the Agreement and make recommendations to Parties**...

...the Secretariat requires the **submission** of all national reports sufficiently **in advance of this date**....

## 2.4.2 Analysis of national reporting data

### SECTION III: SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

#### A. Biological Information (per species)

##### 1. Dedicated Surveys (abundance and distribution)

*If additional space is required, please submit the information in a table in excel. Attach maps separately, clearly marking which survey they apply to.*

Region (map of survey area)	Project	Time Period	Method (e.g. line transect, Photo ID etc.)	Species	Abundance of animals (including confidence limits) if applicable	Link to project/ report/ publication
<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>



# A. Biological information – 1. Dedicated Surveys

		BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	NO	PL	SE	UK
Region	North Sea	Yes	-	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
	Baltic Sea	No	-	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Method	Line transect	Yes	-	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
	PAM	Yes	-	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
	Opportunistic	No	-	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Photo-ID	No	-	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Species/Abundance	Harbour porpoise	Yes	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
	Sub areas	Yes	-	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
	International waters	No	-	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
	Detection rates	Yes	-	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Common dolphin	No	-	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Other cetaceans		No	-	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

PAM is not a dedicated "survey" (?)

What is the definition of this. [abundance and distribution]

No photo-id work on Tursiops listed here. No reference to any regional surveys, e.g. for EIAs.

No survey work listed here. France is conducting boat and aerial surveys in some regions of the French waters (producing no abundance estimates).

Opportunistic sightings are not dedicated surveys. What about dedicated surveys not following line-transect (e.g. ferry monitoring, ESAS, Sea Watch)?

Sometimes listed for PAM work, sometimes not.

No information on any species other than harbour porpoise.

**B. Other relevant monitoring/survey activities**

1. Is there a national monitoring programme that enables Conservation Status of cetaceans in your waters to be assessed?  
*(provides abundance estimates and/or life history parameters and information on pressures)*

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:  
Click or tap here to enter text.

## B. Other relevant monitoring / survey activities

		BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PO	SE	UK
Other relevant monitoring / survey activities	Is there a national monitoring programme that enables Conservation Status of cetaceans in your waters to be assessed?	Yes	-	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Aerial surveys	Yes	-					Yes			
	Strandings	Yes	-								
	PAM									Yes	
	MSFD monitoring		-								
	Diet		-					Yes			
	Contaminant load		-					Yes			
	Necropsies		-					Yes			

## B. Other relevant monitoring / survey activities

What type of programmes are considered to contribute to the assessment of Conservation Status?

		BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PO	SE	UK
Other relevant monitoring / survey activities	Is there a national monitoring programme that enables Conservation Status of cetaceans in your waters to be assessed?	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Aerial surveys	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Strandings	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	PAM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-
	MSFD monitoring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Diet	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-
	Contaminant load	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-
	Necropsies	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-

Strandings data is also covered in another section of the report. Some information is provided double.

In the following section a number of programmes are listed that could inform on conservation status. None are listed here.

Some list detailed method, others don't. Listing not consistent

These different types of monitoring programmes are not pre-defined, so answers differ between Parties.

## B. Other relevant monitoring / survey activities

<b>2. Please provide an overview of current national monitoring programmes:</b>		
• Within MPAs	<b>Approach:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Strandings	
	<b>Target Species:</b> <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	
• Wider Seas	<b>Approach:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Strandings	
	<b>Target Species:</b> <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	
<b>3. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other Parties?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
<b>4. Links to Relevant Outputs</b>	<a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>	

## B. Other relevant monitoring / survey activities

		BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PO	SE	UK	
Other relevant monitoring / survey activities	current national monitoring programs											
	Within MPAs	Line transect	Yes				Yes		Yes	Yes		
		PAM	Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes
		Photo-id				Yes						Yes
		Strandings	Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes		Yes
	Wider area	Line transect	Yes			Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		
		PAM	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes
		Photo-id										Yes
		Strandings	Yes				Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes
	Target species	Harbour porpoise	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
		Bottlenose dolphin				Yes						Yes
		Common dolphin				Yes						
		All cetaceans				Yes						
	Collaboration with other Parties		Yes		No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

## B. Other relevant monitoring / survey activities

		BE	DK	FR	DE	LT	NL	PO	SE	UK	
Other relevant monitoring / survey activities	current national monitoring programs										
	Within MPAs	Line transect	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes		
		PAM	Yes			Yes				Yes	Yes
		Photo-id				Yes					Yes
		Strandings				Yes	Yes				Yes
	Wider area	Line transect	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes			
		PAM	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
		Photo-id									Yes
	Target species	Strandings				Yes		Yes			Yes
		Herring	Yes			Yes		Yes			Yes
Bottlenose within										Yes	
Common dolphin					Yes					Yes	
	All cetaceans				Yes					Yes	
Collaboration with other Parties		Yes		No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	

Strandings data is also covered in another section of the report. Some information is provided double.

No distinction between MPAs and Wider area.

Interpreted to include national stakeholders. No listing of SCANSIII.

Listing SCANSIII as example of collaboration with Parties.

Listing project name with no information or link.

Are NOT listing SCANSIII as example of collaboration with Parties.

**C. Life history parameters by ASCOBANS species – if easier please submit information in a table in Excel format.**

1. Age at sexual and physical maturity	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
2. Inter-birth intervals	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
3. Calf and adult mortality rates	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
4. Potential reproductive span/capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
5. Longevity	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
6. Diet	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
7. Age and sex structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>
8. Other relevant factors	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>

***If you are entering information for more than one species, please enter the data in the above-mentioned categories here:***

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

## C. Life history parameters

	BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PO	SE	UK
Inter-births interval	No	-	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mortality rates	No	-	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Reproductive span	No	-	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Longevity	No	-	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Diet	Yes	-	No	Yes	Yes/No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Age & sex structure	No	-	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Other factors	Yes*	-	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes**

\*disease agents, pollutant load

\*\*temporal distribution

# C. Life history parameters

	BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NI	PL	SE	UK
Inter-births interval	No	-	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Mortality rates	No	-	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Reproductive span	No	-	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Longevity	No	-	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Diet	Yes	-	No	Yes	Yes/No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Age & sex structure	No	-	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Other factors	Yes*	-	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes**

Should these parameters be put in, even if they have been determined some time ago? They are probably not updated on an annual basis.

Citing three papers with information, none from 2017

Information available, including new publications from 2017. Presented by Graham Pierce at North Sea group.

Entry error?

\*disease agents, pollutant load

\*\*temporal distribution

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# National reporting for the year 2017 - surveys and research

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**The three C's.**

**C**ompliance

**C**onsistency

**C**ompleteness

# Compliance

[how many Parties submitted the report]

## PARTIES

- ✓ Belgium
- 🗨️ Denmark
- ✓ Finland
- ✓ France
- ✓ Germany
- ✓ Netherlands
- ✓ Lithuania
- ✓ Poland
- ✓ Sweden
- ✓ United Kingdom

## NON-PARTY RANGE STATES

- 🗨️ Estonia
- 🗨️ Ireland
- 🗨️ Latvia
- 🗨️ Norway
- 🗨️ Portugal
- 🗨️ Russia
- 🗨️ Spain

# Consistency

[using the same definitions and terms]

Definitions are needed for:

- The reporting period covered
- What is a dedicated survey
- What is a "Party"
- .....

The image shows a collage of overlapping survey questionnaires. The questions and options are as follows:

- Question 1: "3. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other Parties?"  
Options:  Yes,  No  
Follow-up: "If yes, please provide details: SCANS surveys"
- Question 2: "3. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other Parties?"  
Options:  Yes,  No  
Follow-up: "If yes, please provide details: Stranding network relying on numerous volunteers, other institutions, coastguard partners, local authorities..."
- Question 3: "3. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other Parties?"  
Options:  Yes,  No  
Follow-up: "If yes, please provide details: MPA surveys are done by DPM consultancy as part of bird monitoring"
- Question 4: "3. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other Parties?"  
Options:  Yes,  No  
Follow-up: "If yes, please provide details: 'Mini SCANS'"

# Completeness

[how completely are the national reports filled out]

Data not provided in the reporting form.

Information not included.

Human error in data entry.

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No

**Marine Mammal Science** 

Article  
Life history of harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocaena*) in the  
(UK) waters

Jennifer A. Learmonth, Sinead Murphy, Patricia L. Luque, P.  
Andrew Brownlow, Harry M. Ross, Jason P. Barley, M. B.

First published: 24 April 2014 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/mms.12111>

6. Diet	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
7. Age and sex structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
8. Other relevant factors	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.

# How to address national report quality....

## ...to be discussed at:

Thursday, 27 September

<p><b>17. Development of the National Reporting Format covering 2018</b>  <i>The Secretariat will outline the 2017 national reporting process and highlight progress as well as difficulties encountered.</i>  <i>Parties will be requested to provide comments on the 2017 reporting form, which is due to be used again in 2020.</i>  <i>The meeting is invited to improve the current format and agree on the process for developing the 2018 reporting format, which Parties will be requested to fill in early 2019. In 2019 national reporting and AC25 will focus on the following subjects: whale watching, recreational sea use, pollution, ship strikes, climate</i></p>	<p><b>(WPA 67)</b> Develop the sections of the reporting format one by one, starting with those to be considered in each report and at the first Advisory Committee Meeting after MOP8.  <b>(WPA 68)</b> In developing the detail of each section, consult experts on the subjects in order to ensure that essential information is gathered in a form that standardizes responses and lends itself to statistical analysis as far as possible, and decide which topics should be reported on by region.  <b>(WPA 70)</b> Tailor the agenda for each of the meetings of the Advisory Committee to reflect the topics selected for the previous year's national reports.</p>	<p><a href="#">Inf.2.0</a> (National reporting template)  <a href="#">Inf.2.a-j</a> (National Reports)  <a href="#">Resolution 8.1</a></p>	<p>Note taken          Process for developing the 2018 reporting form and refining the complete questionnaire for national reporting in 2020 agreed          Comments made</p>
<p><i>change, physical habitat change, MPAs and education (see Resolution 8.1).</i></p>			

Providing a summary of issues or guidelines on going forward for the 27<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers?

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Now some results:

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# Abundance [absolute abundance]

- Most survey efforts are either limited to national waters or in smaller sub-areas (e.g. MPAs, EIAs). Small-scale surveys only cover a portion of a population. Any distribution change will impact small-scale abundance estimates.
- Most common methods for abundance estimation are line-transect distance sampling (boat or aerial – visual or high def). For bottlenose dolphins in coastal areas, photo-id is applied.
- Passive acoustic data can provide data on abundance if the placement is done appropriately.
- Policy reporting cycles for the MSFD and the HD require at least six-yearly monitoring data on cetaceans. Monitoring efforts should follow the same frequency.
- Effective monitoring of impact(s) on a population level needs surveys covering the range of the population.

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# Distribution

- Passive acoustic data can provide data on distribution and occurrence if the placement is done appropriately.
- Distribution data from large-scale international surveys such as SCANS are limited to the summer.
- The collation of existing databases (including non-designed surveys) from different areas and sources might provide new information, e.g. on seasonal changes in distribution.
- New approaches of individual-based models provide predictions on distribution and impacts of human activities.

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Annex to the Agreement (adapted):  
**Conservation and management plan**

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**2. Surveys and research**

Investigations, to be coordinated and shared in an efficient manner between the Parties and competent international organizations, shall be conducted in order to:

(a) assess the status and seasonal movements of the populations and stocks concerned

.....

(a) locate areas of special importance to their survival

.....

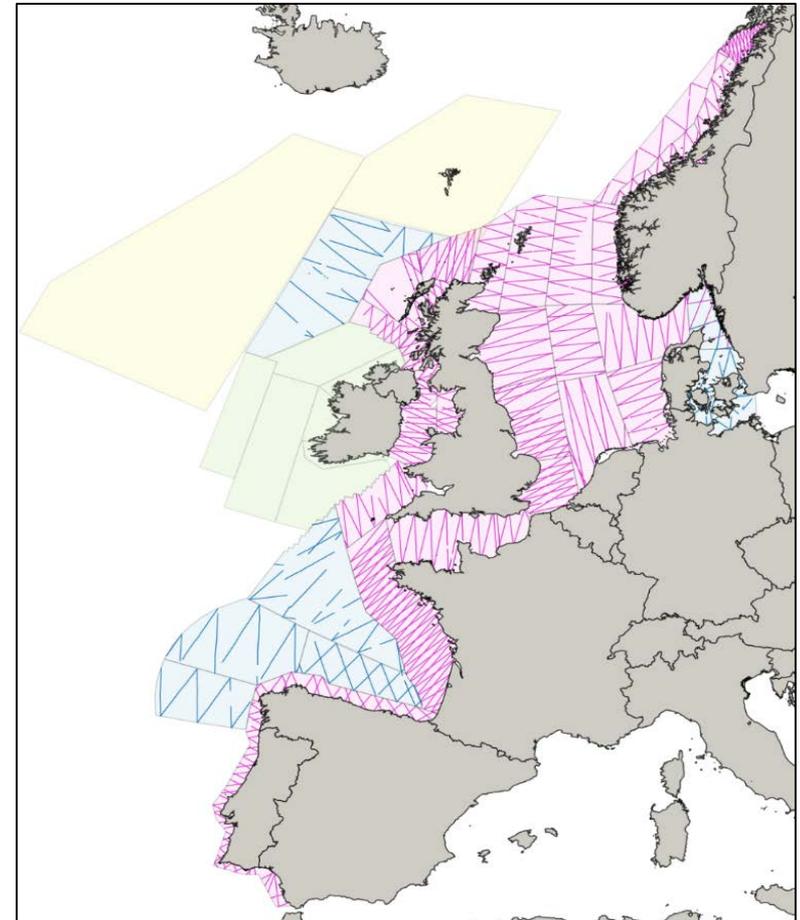
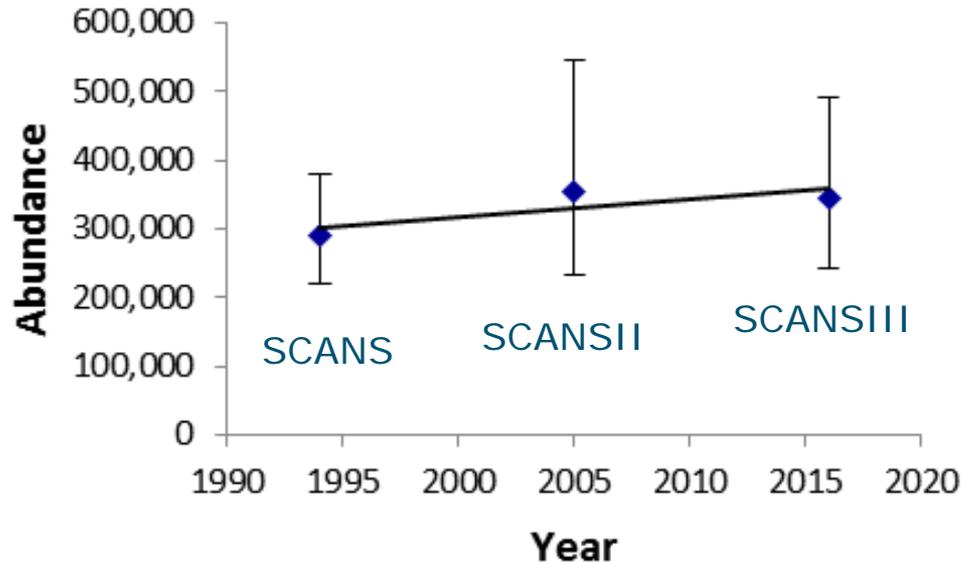
(a) identify present and potential threats to the different species

.....

# SCANS (1994) SCANSII (2005) SCANSIII (2016)

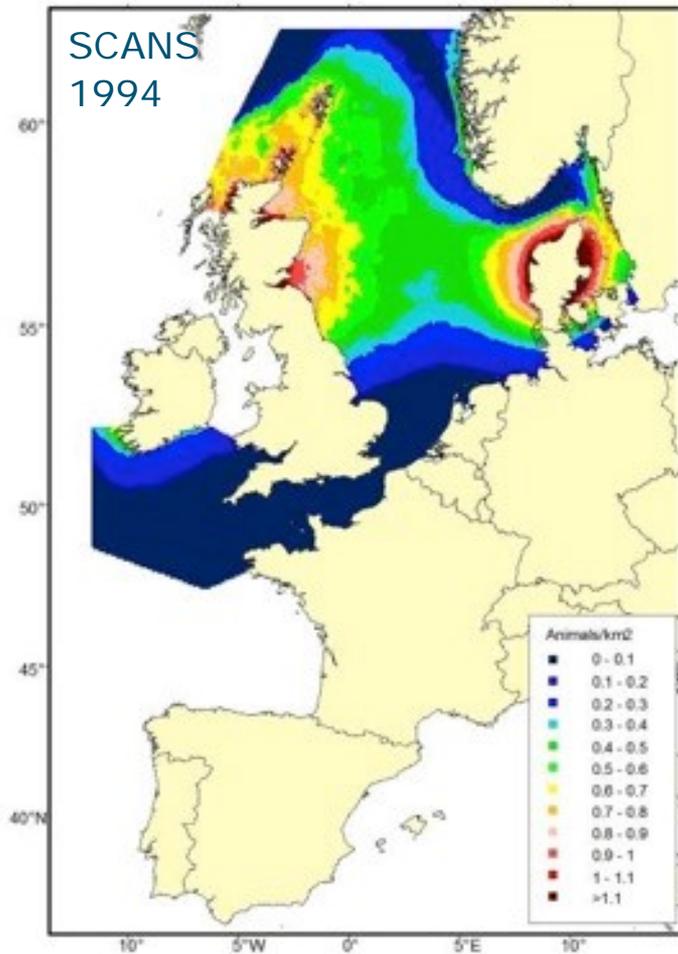


Harbour porpoise - North Sea

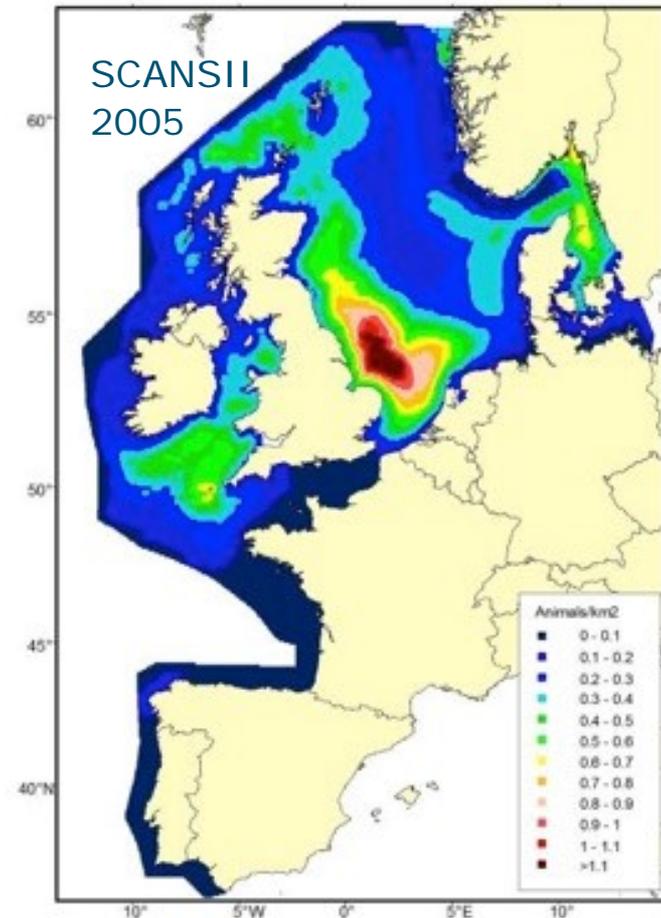


SCANSIII effort: Aerial (pink) and ship (blue). ObSERVE (green). Faroes NASS (yellow) blocks.

# Distribution data

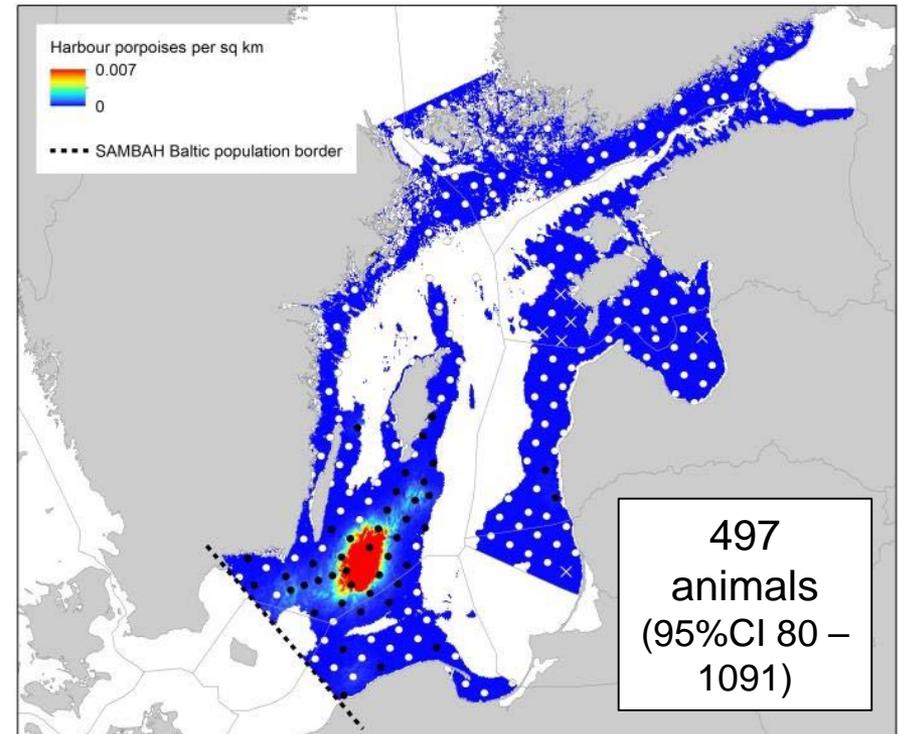
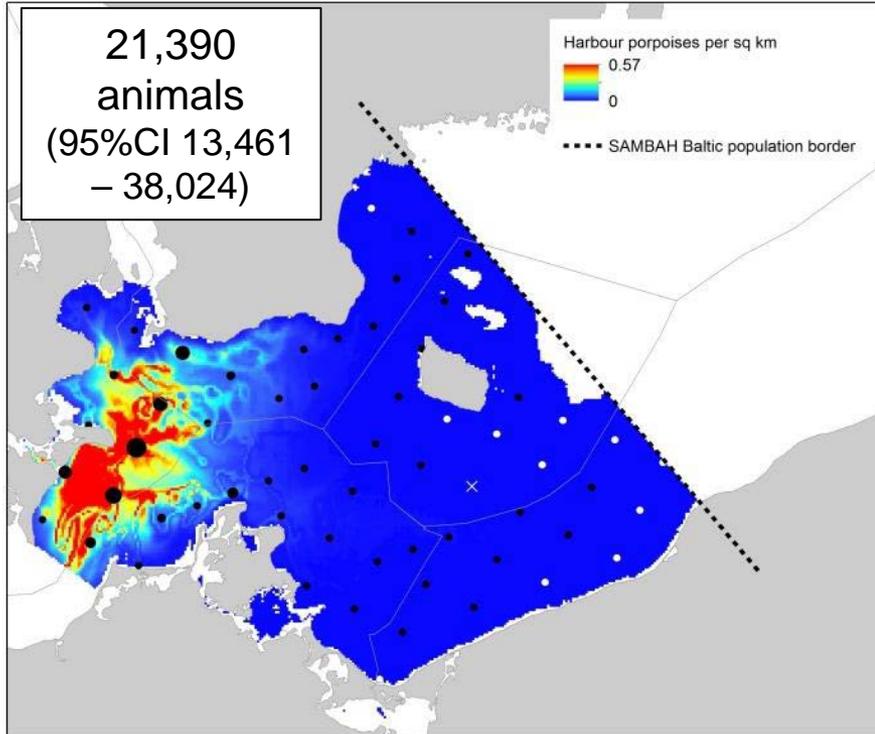


*Harbour porpoise*



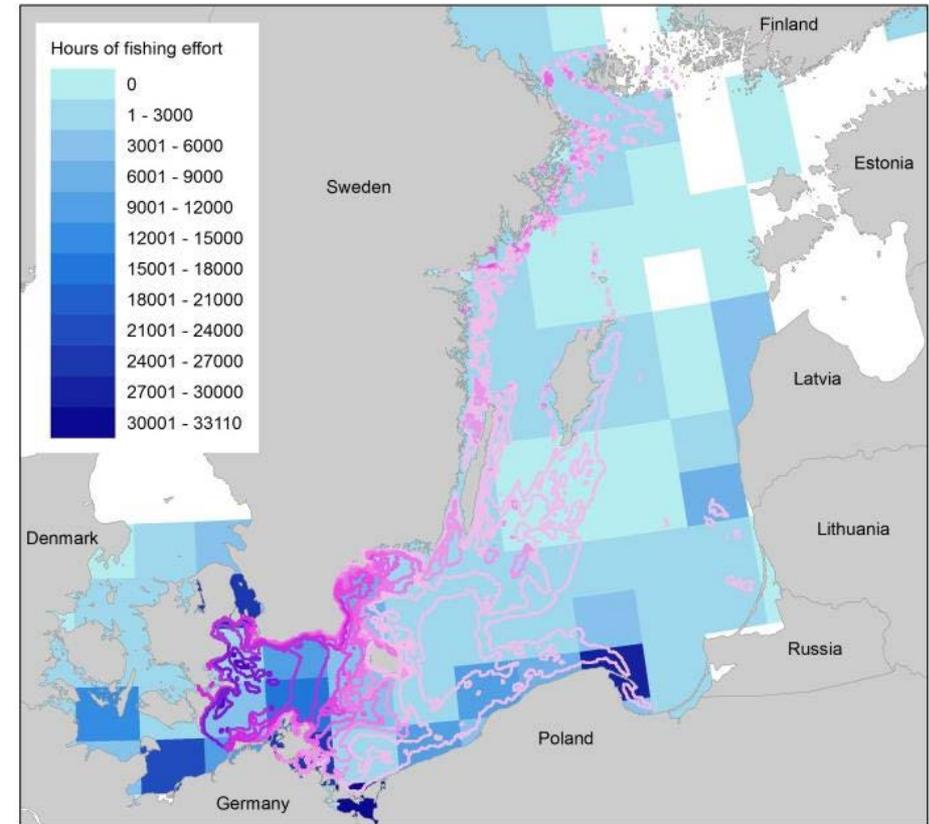
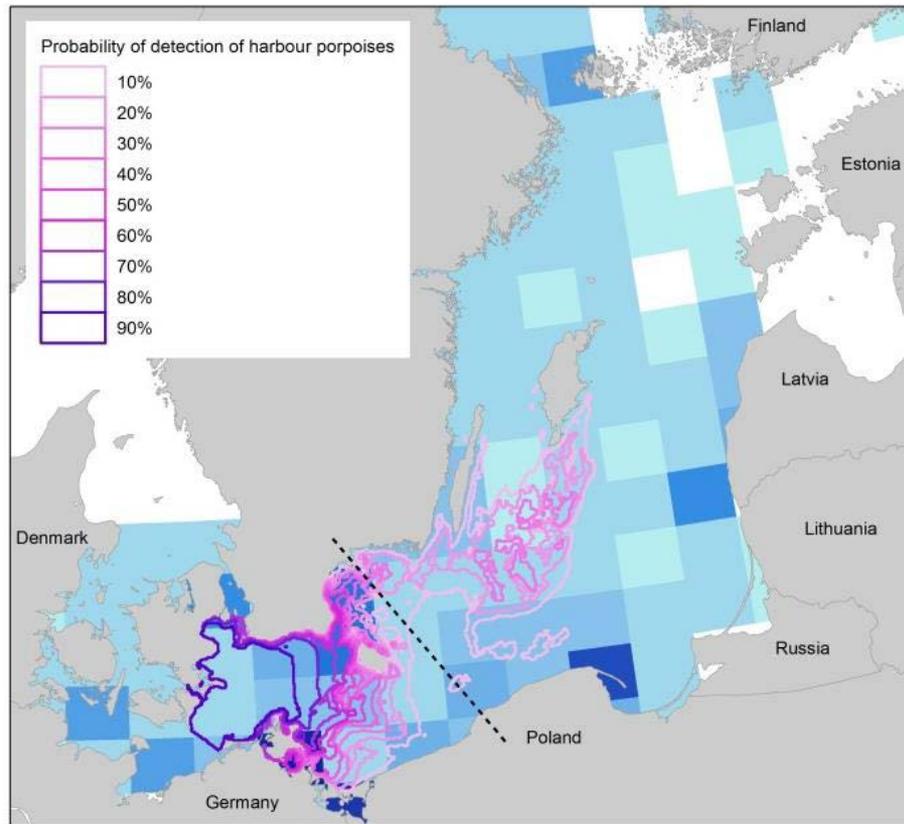
*Harbour porpoise*

# SAMBAH – distribution



Predicted density of harbour porpoises in the SAMBAH project area during May – October (May 2011 to May 2013) for Belt Sea (left) and Baltic populations (right) and estimates of abundance.

# SAMBAH – distribution and human activities



Probability of detection of harbour porpoises 2011 – 2013 and total hours fished per ICES rectangle (with gillnets, April – September and October – May 2014).

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Recommendations?

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# Recommendations?

- Surveys aimed at population assessments
  - SAMBAH II (for 2020)
  - SCANS IV (for 2022)
- Compile existing data for new analyses
- Improve the national report data quality
- .....

# **4<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ASCOBANS**

**Esbjerg, Denmark, 19 - 22 August 2003**

## **Resolution No. 7**

### **Cetacean Populations in the ASCOBANS Area**

*Recalling* Resolution No. 5 adopted by the 3rd Meeting of the Parties, which called for the completion of planning for an abundance survey of the original Agreement area and for an abundance survey of waters to the west of the Agreement area to be carried out in time for the 4th Meeting of the Parties;

*Recalling* that the structure of small cetacean populations in the ASCOBANS area may be complex and is not well understood at present;

*Noting* that lack of information on abundance, spatial and seasonal distribution and population structure remain important limitations on determining the impact of by-catch, noise and other anthropogenic impacts on small cetaceans and in designing effective mitigation measures;

*Noting* that populations of small cetaceans that enter the ASCOBANS region occur over a wider area,

*Recalling* that, although some parts of the ASCOBANS area have been surveyed recently, the last comprehensive abundance estimates for small cetaceans in the majority of the original ASCOBANS area were made in 1994/1995 and that no complete estimate has been made in adjacent waters west of the original Agreement area that are likely to be used by small cetaceans from within that area;

*Recalling* that Council Directive 92/43 EEC requires Member States to establish a system of surveillance of cetaceans in the waters of Member States of the EU and that because small cetaceans move freely across national boundaries through the area, it is important to conduct wide area surveys;

*Commending* the efforts undertaken since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Parties to elucidate spatial aspects of the distribution of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea;

*Noting* that preparatory work for a comprehensive survey of the Agreement area and waters to the west of that area (SCANS-II), to be conducted in or beginning in 2005, is nearly complete (MoP4/Doc.32), and *commending* the Parties that have contributed funds towards the preparation and completion of this survey;

*Noting* the proposal under Resolution No. 4, regarding the extension of ASCOBANS to a broader area in the Atlantic.

## *The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS*

*Agrees* that survey activities be extended from the original ASCOBANS area to cover all the adjacent northwest European shelf and waters within European Atlantic fisheries limits, up to 64 degrees North latitude (see attached map), and *recommends* liaison with ACCOBAMS;

*Requests* that the Advisory Committee continue to contribute to the preparatory work for the projected new abundance survey of the Agreement area and waters to the west of the original Agreement area.

*Recommends* that Parties, Range States, international organisations and others, provide funds and other resources to support the proposed new abundance survey;

*Recommends* that Parties and Range States continue to support further work to elucidate temporal and spatial aspects of distribution of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS area.