



**ZSL** | **INSTITUTE OF ZOOLOGY**

# Marine Research Group



# ASCOBANS region web accessed strandings database



**Rob Deaville**  
**Project Manager**  
**UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme**



# Background

- Multiple stranding networks across the ASCOBANS region
- Many operating since 1990 (post PDV epizootic, 1988)
- Necropsy protocols all derived from a common source
- Working independently, intermittent collaborations
- Therefore current position;
  - significant amount of stranding/necropsy data
  - large areas of commonality between various datasets
  - potential for integration/alignment- **↑synergy**



# ASCOBANS Conservation and Management Plan

## 3. Use of by-catches and strandings

*Each Party shall endeavour to establish an efficient system for reporting and retrieving by-catches and stranded specimens and to carry out, in the framework of the studies mentioned above, full autopsies in order to collect tissues for further studies and to reveal possible causes of death and to document food composition. **The information collected shall be made available in an international database.***

## 5. Information and education

***Information shall be provided to the general public in order to ensure support for the aims of the agreement in general and to facilitate the reporting of sightings and strandings in particular;** and to fishermen in order to facilitate and promote the reporting of by-catches and the delivery of dead specimens to the extent required for research under the agreement.*

# 2011- feasibility study

- *“Feasibility study of creating a web accessed strandings database”*- ECS Cadiz workshop, 2011
- Nine attending networks/presentations, data on >40000 strandings and associated necropsy data
- “There was near unanimous approval amongst attending networks for the concept of a centralised web-accessed database”
- Candidate data fields identified; periodic data update; IP retained by collaborating networks/funders; public display data/differing levels of access; GoogleMaps driven etc
- Simple (but not simplistic approach) to be adopted at least initially...



Table 1 Summary of selected information given in questionnaires circulated to stranding networks

Country	Network	Year started	Cetaceans	Other species	Stranding Numbers	Necropsies	Necropsy Numbers	Existing online database	Interest in contribution to database
Belgium	MARIN	1990	Yes	Yes	805+	Yes	805	Yes	Yes
Denmark	MN/FIMUS	1991	Yes	Yes	1429	Yes	105	No	Yes
France	CRMM	1970	Yes	Yes	11987	Yes	~3000 <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Yes
Gaicia	CEMMA	1990	Yes	Yes	4800	Yes	N/A	No	Yes
Germany	FTZ	1990	Yes	Yes	3332	Yes	224+	No	Yes
Ireland	iWDG	1753	Yes	Yes	2186	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes
Netherlands	Naturalis	1255	Yes	Yes	6070	Yes <sup>1</sup>	238+	Yes	Yes
Portugal	SPVS	2000	Yes	Yes	877	Yes	~600	Yes <sup>1</sup>	Possibly
UK	CSIP	1990	Yes	Yes	9894	Yes	2880	Yes	Yes

Deaville and Jepson (2012) ASCOBANS Project Report (SSFA2010-2) Interest and feasibility of a web accessed database for marine mammal strandings and necropsy data in the ASCOBANS region

<http://www.ascobans.org/en/document/project-reportinterest-and-feasibility-web-accessed-database-marine-mammal-strandings-and>

# 2015- costed proposal

- Web-Accessed Database for Marine Mammal Stranding and Necropsy Data (2015-2017)
- Funding potentially from UK, Dutch and German governments via ASCOBANS small project (SSFA18-2)
- Potential stakeholders/end users;
  - Policy officials
  - Scientists
  - Public

## Web-Accessed Database for Marine Mammal Stranding and Necropsy Data



ASCOBANS Small scale funding agreement  
Reference SSFA 2015-1 and SSFA 2017-02



# Process outline

- Two year staged delivery (Sep 2018-Sep 2020)\*
- ZSL lead (ZSL ICT hosted)
- Phased delivery;
- **Phase 1**- discussion between partner networks/stakeholders **Sep 18-Mar 19 W**
- **Phase 2**- database/front end build. Metadata and associated page build. Display of strandings data (*what/where/when*) **Dec 18-Aug 19**
- **Phase 3**- discussion between partner networks/pathologists on causes of death (*how/why*). Output and display of CODs. By-catch... **Jul 19-Feb 20 W**
- **Phase 4**- ongoing/troubleshooting **Feb 20-Sep 20**
- Additional support beyond two years being discussed
- Relatively low cost proposal- staff time from ZSL ICT and CSIP project management donated
- Simple; but not simplistic...
- Link into/with other strandings initiatives (e.g. IWC etc); mindful of existing initiatives elsewhere (e.g. MEDACES)



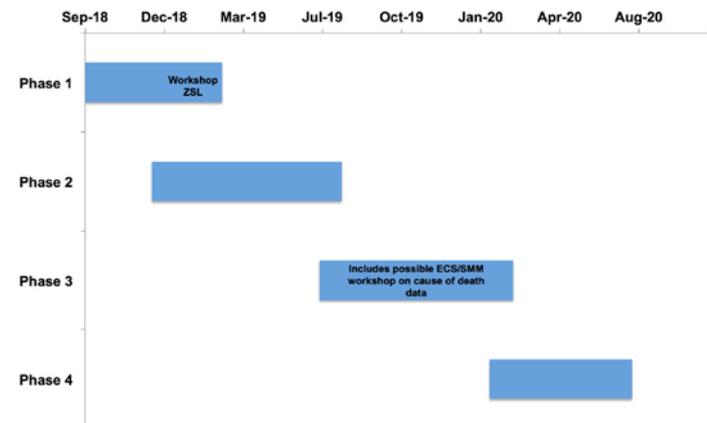
## About SPOTT



SPOTT – Sustainability Policy Transparency Toolkit – is an online platform supporting sustainable commodity production and trade. By tracking transparency, SPOTT incentivises the implementation of corporate best practice. SPOTT assesses commodity producers and traders on the public disclosure of their policies, operations and commitments related to environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. SPOTT scores companies annually against sector-specific indicators, allowing them to benchmark their progress over time. Investors, buyers and other key influencers can use SPOTT assessments to inform stakeholder engagement, manage risk, and increase industry transparency.

SPOTT is developed by the [Zoological Society of London \(ZSL\)](#).

- Palm oil producers and traders assessed and scored on SPOTT
- Timber and pulp producers assessed and scored on SPOTT



ZSL Sustainable Palm Oil Transparency Toolkit

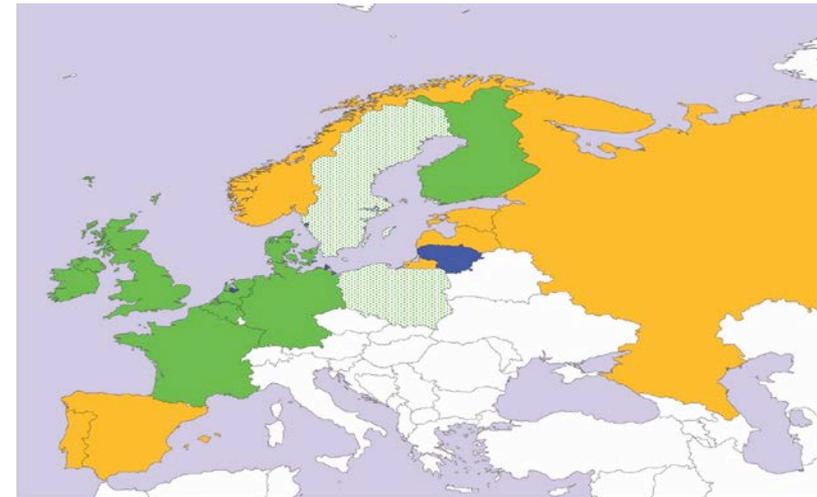
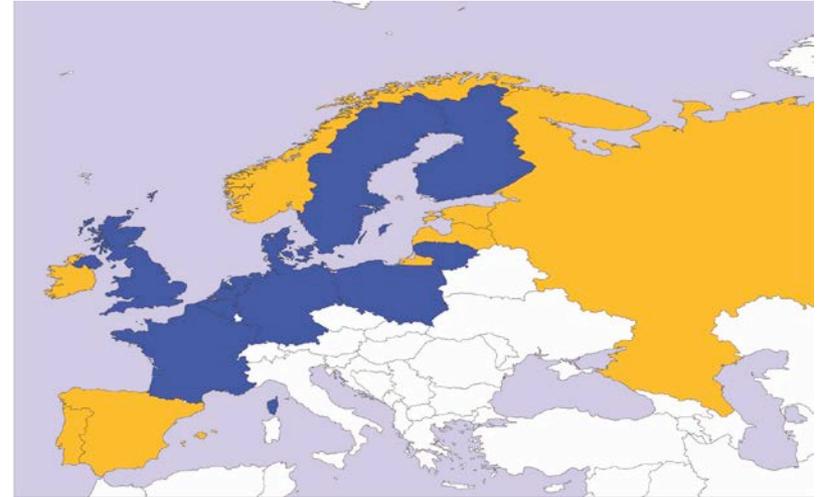
<https://www.spott.org/>

# Parallel work

- Büsum, Germany (ITAW) 24<sup>th</sup> July (France, Germany, Netherlands, UK)- use of strandings data to inform policy
  - Analysis of combined dataset of HP and CDs across region; spatiotemporal variation in strandings, pathology and causes of death
  - Inclusion of pinnipeds and > detailed pathology data international database
  - modular inclusion?
- WoZEP (Wind at Sea Ecological Programme)
  - Analysis of HP stranding data around the North Sea region to better understand population structure
  - GAM analysis combined dataset (work 2018-2019)
  - Utrecht University/Rijkswaterstaat



# Thank you



[Rob.deaville@ioz.ac.uk](mailto:Rob.deaville@ioz.ac.uk)  
[Aline.kuehl-stenzel@cms.int](mailto:Aline.kuehl-stenzel@cms.int)

Deaville et al. 2017

[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC23\\_Inf\\_9\\_1.a\\_Necropsy%20Protocol.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC23_Inf_9_1.a_Necropsy%20Protocol.pdf)