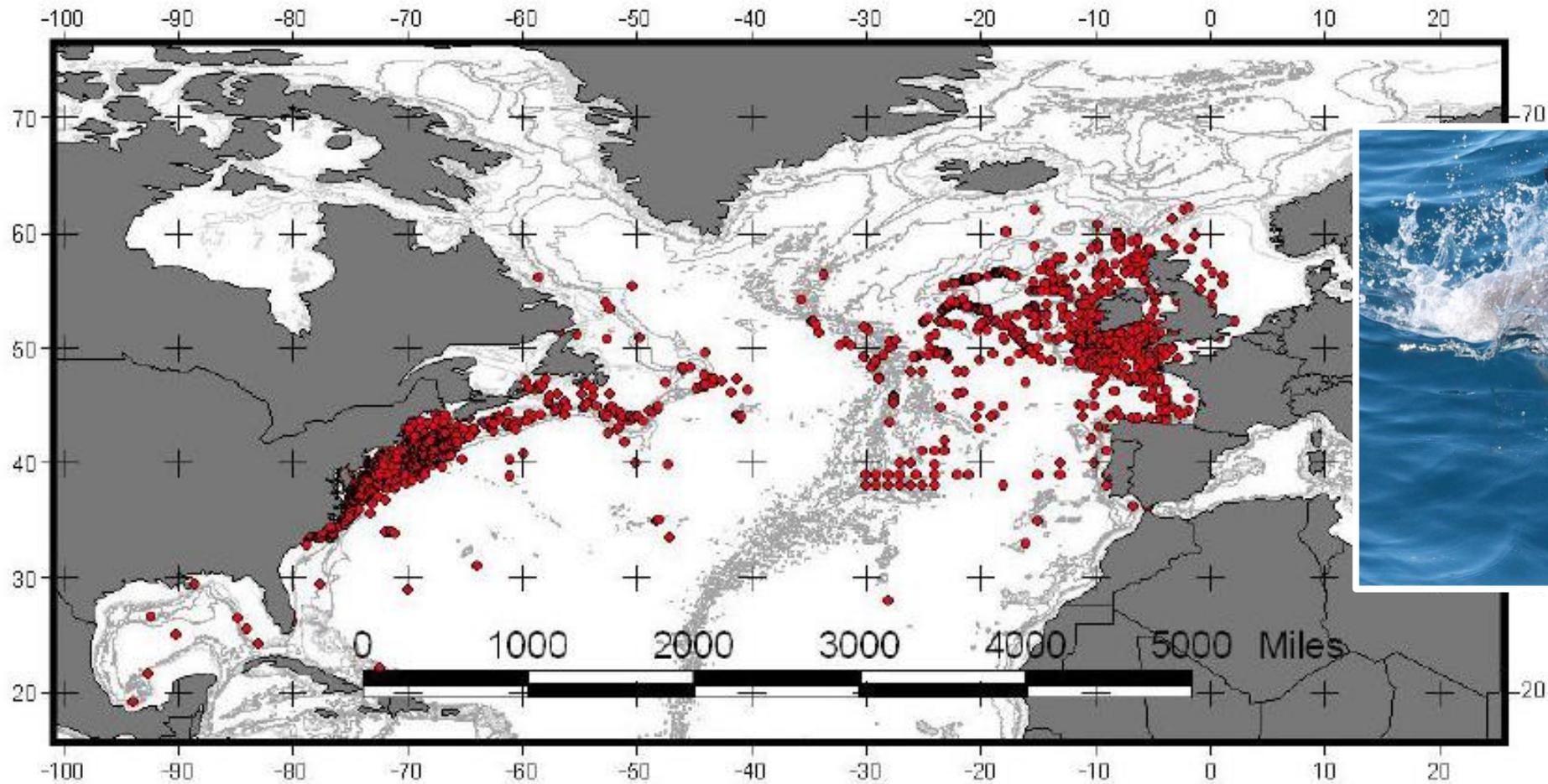


# Species Action Plan: Short-beaked Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*)

Presented by Dr Kelly Macleod, Senior Marine Species Advisor  
Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UK

*On behalf of the Common Dolphin SAP Steering Group: Eunice Pinn, Sinead Murphy, Peter Evans, Nikki Taylor, Fiona Read, Greg Donovan, Mark Simmonds, Vincent Ridoux, Graham Pierce, Simon Berrow, Sami Hassani, Marine Sequeira, Begoña Santos*

# Common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*



Source: Murphy *et al*, 2009

# Need for an ASCOBANS conservation plan?

- ▶ Transboundary species; Party and non-Party Range States
- ▶ 2013 Article 17 Habitats Directive Conservation Status Assessment concluded:
  - ▶ MATL: Unfavourable-Inadequate
- ▶ IUCN Red List of Threatened Species - Data Deficient (Europe)
- ▶ Pressures - bycatch; chemical pollution; disturbance; prey depletion; vessel collisions; and climate change

Country	2007	2013	2019
UK	Unknown	Favourable	Pending assessment
Ireland	Favourable	Favourable	Pending assessment
France	Unknown	Unfavourable-Bad	Pending assessment
Spain	Unknown	Unfavourable-Bad	Pending assessment
Portugal	Favourable	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Pending assessment
<b>Marine Atlantic</b>	<b>“Unknown”</b>	<b>“Unfavourable-Inadequate”</b>	<b>Pending assessment</b>

# ASCOBANS Resolution

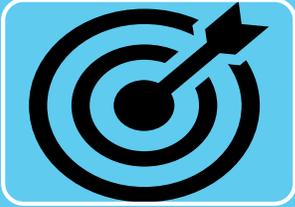
- ▶ Advisory Committee at its 22nd Meeting (2015) established a steering group to develop a Conservation Plan for the Common Dolphin
- ▶ MOP8 September 2016 - UNEP/ASCOBANS/Resolution 8.4: Conservation of Common Dolphins
  - ▶ Requests the steering group.....to continue its work to develop a comprehensive conservation plan for the common dolphin in the eastern North Atlantic



# Overview of the plan

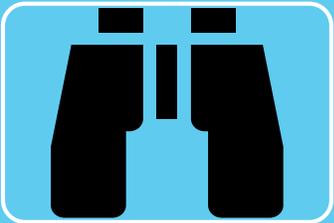
- ▶ Objective: restore the population to a favourable conservation status
  - ▶ Noting the very high abundance estimates of SCANS-III abundance
    - ▶ ~170,000 in 2005/2007 to 470,000 in 2016
  - ▶ Pressures, particularly from bycatch remain and regionally significant
- ▶ Actions identified: Monitoring, Research and Mitigation
- ▶ Public awareness and capacity building

# Bycatch Actions



## RES-01: Identify the priority bycatch issues

- Monitor
- Understand drivers
- Support decision making



## RES-02: Improve estimates of bycatch rates

- Drive coordinated monitoring
- Support innovation
- Support OSPARs need for bycatch indicator
- Strive for better fishing effort data
- Assess & report effectiveness of regulations



## MIT-01: Implement and assess mitigation measures

- Evaluate current gear modification & mitigation measures
- Implement proven mitigation method
- Monitor effectiveness
- Support research

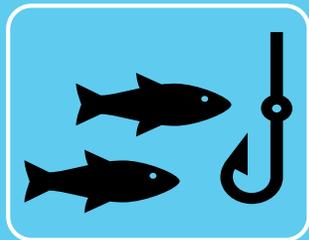
# Supporting Actions

HIGH



MON-01: Implement a wide-scale surveillance programme to monitor trends in distribution and abundance in the NE Atlantic

- Support coordinated surveys
- Mechanism for collation of standardised data
- Enhance transboundary reporting



RES-03: Improve understanding of causes of seasonal and annual variation in abundance and distribution, particularly in relation to human activities

- Human impacts
- Identify measures

# Wider actions

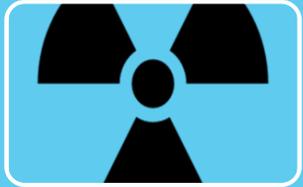
HIGH



MON-02: Monitoring health, nutritional status, diet, life history parameters, causes of mortality

- Maximizing use of existing datasets - e.g look at stock structure; developing approaches
- Ensuring quality through standardization

MEDIUM



MON-03: Ensure screening and assessment of occurrence and effects of hazardous substances

- Legacy & emerging

MEDIUM



MIT-02: Improve understanding of and develop mitigation for the risks of anthropogenic sound

- Coordinate & support research in impacts
- Develop guidance on measures & mitigation

LOW



MON-04: Monitor for potential increases in anthropogenic activities that lead to incidence of death, injury, adverse health effects, including cumulative effects

- Focus on cumulative & ecosystem approaches for management

# Public awareness & capacity building



# Next steps

- ▶ *MOP8 Res 8.4: Mandates the Advisory Committee, following appropriate time for national consultations on the draft conservation plan, to finalize the conservation plan and circulate it to the Parties for adoption*
- ▶ *Implementation: Coordinator/Chair (Governance tasks 1.5)*
- ▶ *Range States will report annually on implementation of the SAP.*
- ▶ *Re-evaluate the SAP every six years and amend the document where required as agreed by the Advisory Committee*

