

Agenda Item 2

Review of New Information on Threats to  
Small Cetaceans (reporting cycle 2017 only)

Document Inf.2.f

**2017 Annual National Report:  
United Kingdom**

Action Requested

- Take note

Submitted by

United Kingdom



**NOTE:  
DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED  
TO BRING THEIR OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

## **Secretariat's Note**

The Rules of Procedure adopted at the ASCOBANS 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties remain in force until and unless an amendment is called for and adopted.

## **NATIONAL REPORTING FORMAT FOR ASCOBANS**

1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY – 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2017

As outlined in ASCOBANS [RESOLUTION 8.1](#) on National Reporting, the national reports covering the year 2017 will cover the following sections of the Annex to the Resolution, in addition to the standard sections I and VII:

- bycatch (section II A1)
- resource depletion (section II A2)
- marine debris (section II C9)
- surveys and research (section III)
- use of bycatches and strandings (section IV).

The reports submitted will inform discussions at the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee, which will be held in September 2018 and will tailor its agenda to focus on the topics selected for this national report.

Date: 4-Jun-18

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Party Information

<b>A. Name of Party</b>	United Kingdom
<b>B. Details of National Coordinator (Focal Point) for ASCOBANS</b>	Catherine Bell
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<b>C. Details of Delegates (contributors to the report)</b> <i>(For each, mention Name, Function, Organization, Postal Address, Telephone, Email)</i>	Sarah Dolman Whale and Dolphin Conservation 38 St Paul Street Chippenham Wiltshire SN15 1LJ
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	Suzanne Beck, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Newforge Lane, BT9 5PX, Belfast, 02890255157, <a href="mailto:suzanne.beck@afbni.gov.uk">suzanne.beck@afbni.gov.uk</a>
	Rob Deaville, Project Manager, UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme, The Wellcome Building, Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RY. tel: +44 (0)20 7449 6672 Email: <a href="mailto:rob.deaville@ioz.ac.uk">rob.deaville@ioz.ac.uk</a>
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<p><b>D. List of relevant national institutions</b>  <i>(List of national authorities, organizations, research centres and rescue centres active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans. For each one mention the name, postal address, contact person, telephone and email address)</i></p>	<p>Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Inverdee House, Baxter Street, Aberdeen  Dr Kelly Macleod  <a href="mailto:Kelly.Macleod@jncc.gov.uk">Kelly.Macleod@jncc.gov.uk</a>  Direct Dial: 01224 266 584</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales, Maes y Fynnon, Penrhos Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, Wales, UK  Tom Stringell  <a href="mailto:Tom.Stringell@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk">Tom.Stringell@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk</a>  +44 (0)300 654 912</p> <p>Natural England, Dragonfly House, 2 Gliders Way, Norwich, NR33EH  Rebecca Walker  <a href="mailto:Rebecca.Walker3@naturalengland.org.uk">Rebecca.Walker3@naturalengland.org.uk</a>  +44 (0)208 026 4926</p> <p>Scottish National Heritage, Steward Building, Alexandra Wharf, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LL  Karen Hall  <a href="mailto:Karen.Hall@snh.gov.uk">Karen.Hall@snh.gov.uk</a>  +44 (0)1594 693 345</p> <p>Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems Branch), Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX, Northern Ireland Suzanne Beck  <a href="mailto:suzanne.beck@afbini.gov.uk">suzanne.beck@afbini.gov.uk</a>  +44 (0)28 9025 5157</p> <p>Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, Merchants Quay, Kilrush  Cathy Hinds  <a href="mailto:catherine.hinds@iwdg.ie">catherine.hinds@iwdg.ie</a></p> <p>Sea Mammal Research Unit – <a href="mailto:spn1@st-andrews.ac.uk">spn1@st-andrews.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Marine Management Organisation, Bowers, Claire (MMO)  <a href="mailto:claire.bowers@marinemanagement.gsi.gov.uk">claire.bowers@marinemanagement.gsi.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>E. List of relevant fisheries stakeholders in your country</b>  <i>(List of fisheries associations and cooperatives, research centres, relevant private sector entities and other organizations involved in fisheries in waters frequented by cetaceans. For each one mention the name, postal address, contact person, telephone and email address)</i></p>	<p>Permission obtained to include details 25/05/2018:</p> <p>Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation Ltd, I Coastguard Cottages, Portavogie, Co. Down, BT22 1EA, Northern Ireland.  +44 (0)28 4277 1946/1954  <a href="mailto:nifpo@btconnect.com">nifpo@btconnect.com</a></p> <p>Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation Ltd, The Harbour, Kilkeel, Co.Down, BT34 4AX Northern Ireland. +44 (0)28 4176 2855  <a href="mailto:info@anifpo.com">info@anifpo.com</a></p> <p>Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems Branch), Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX Suzanne Beck +44 (0)28 9025 5472 <a href="mailto:suzanne.beck@afbini.gov.uk">suzanne.beck@afbini.gov.uk</a></p>

SECTION II: HABITAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (THREATS AND PRESSURES ON CETACEANS)		
<b>A. Fisheries-related Threats</b>		
<b>1. Bycatch</b>		
<b>a)</b> How is the magnitude of the threat assessed/monitored? (Include percentage where applicable in the adjoining column)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dedicated observer schemes	%
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fisheries observers	100%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Electronic Monitoring	%
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strandings	%
	<input type="checkbox"/> None	%
<b>b)</b> In the last year, which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch? (Include numbers) Please provide the following information where available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Species</li> <li>ii. Number of bycaught animals</li> <li>iii. Gear type</li> <li>iv. ICES area</li> <li>v. Overall sampling effort</li> </ul>	<p><b>England: Harbour porpoise – 5 individuals reported.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Common dolphins – 3 individuals reported.</b></p> <p><b>All from demersal gillnets, all from ICES 7efh. 402 days at sea sampled.</b></p> <p><b>Northern Ireland: None. With regard to post mortem on 5 harbour porpoise and 1 short-beaked common dolphin in NI, there were none noted as cause of death due to bycatch.</b></p>	
<b>c)</b> In the last year, were there any notable incidents? E.g. mass bycatch incidents, unusual species bycatch etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<p><b>If you answer is yes, please provide details.</b></p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<b>d)</b> Are there any mitigation measures in place?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p><b>If you answer is yes, please provide details.</b></p> <p><b>Implementation of EU regulation 812/2004 requiring the use of acoustic deterrent devices in certain sectors of the fishing industry to reduce bycatch of small cetaceans.</b></p>

<p>e) If yes, what mitigation measures are being used and where? <i>E.g. Acoustic deterrent devices, seasonal closures, gear modifications etc.</i></p>	<p>All over 12m vessels have acoustic deterrent devices in accordance with regulation 812/2004. Compliance is checked by relevant fishing inspectorates.</p>
<p>f) Other relevant information. <i>E.g. provide links to OSPAR reports (FCS and GES being covered already so no need to duplicate), annual bycatch reports (for more detailed information) etc.</i></p>	<p><b>OSPAR Intermediate Assessment on Bycatch 2017:</b></p> <p><a href="https://oap-cloudfront.ospar.org/media/filer_public/f3/43/f343edf0-55e0-4ec0-bc92-428f9d9b1745/harbour_porpoise_bycatch_m6.pdf">https://oap-cloudfront.ospar.org/media/filer_public/f3/43/f343edf0-55e0-4ec0-bc92-428f9d9b1745/harbour_porpoise_bycatch_m6.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Cetacean Bycatch Observer Monitoring Scheme: Annual Reports on implementation of (EC) Regulation 821/2004 (2012-2016):</b></p> <p><a href="http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&amp;Module=More&amp;Location=None&amp;ProjectID=18535">http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&amp;Module=More&amp;Location=None&amp;ProjectID=18535</a></p> <p><b>WDC produced a number of report on bycatch:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementation of EU Regulation 812 on cetacean bycatch</li> <li>2. Briefing on EU Technical Conservation Measures</li> </ol> <p><b>UK cross-taxa briefing</b></p>
<p>g) Relevant new research/work/collaboration on bycatch within the Agreement Area.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing projects are using passive acoustic devices to monitor the frequency of occurrence of propoises and dolphins around actively fishing nets, and a three-dimensional tracking tool is under development to enable more detailed stufy of animal behaviour around nets.</b></p> <p><b>European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) project on Scottish marine animals entanglements</b></p> <p><b>Analysis and report on marine mammal bycatch and fishing effort in Welsh waters (NRW &amp; Northridge et al., in prep)</b></p> <p><b>Are pingers and closed areas useful tools to mitigate bycatch of harbour porpoise in Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)? (JNCC, DEFRA &amp; SMRU). This project will deliver evidence to better understand the impacts of pinger deployment within the SACs and explore the value of closed areas as a measure to reduce harbour porpoise bycatch. Rather than adovacting the widespread use of pingers across the SACs, which could result</b></p>

in acoustic disturbance, this work will inform where the deployment of pingers would likely be of most benefit by evaluating the area of disturbance from pingers deployed under various scenarios within the SACs. Additionally, given that rates of bycatch are thought to be greater outside the SACs, the value of closed areas within the SACs will be evaluated in order to consider the implications of displacing fishing effort to areas of potentially higher bycatch. The outputs will therefore be used by the SNCBs to inform fisheries management options for the SACs.

Development of a Removal Limit Algorithm (RLA) to set limits to anthropogenic mortality of small cetaceans to meet specific conservation objectives, with an example implementation for bycatch of harbour porpoise in the North Sea (Phil Hammond, SMRU). A Removals Limit Algorithm (RLA) has been developed to set limits to anthropogenic mortality of small cetaceans that allow specified conservation objectives to be met. This development picks up from previous work of a similar nature presented to the IWC in 2005-2009 that became stalled until recently. The RLA is very similar in concept to the Catch Limit Algorithm (CLA) of the IWC's Revised Management Procedure. The RLA comprises a simple one-line population model which is fitted to a time series of estimates of abundance to estimate population growth rate and depletion, which are then used in a removals calculation. The RLA is tuned through computer simulation of a more complex population model that is assumed to represent reality to set limits to anthropogenic mortality that allow the specified conservation objectives to be met. The robustness of the RLA is determined by assessing its performance in a range of computer simulation tests describing uncertainty in our knowledge of population dynamics, the data, and the wider environment. As an example, the RLA was applied to bycatch of harbour porpoise in the North Sea using estimates of abundance from SCANS surveys (1994, 2005, 2006) and a time series of bycatch estimates constructed by making a number of strong assumptions about effort for most fleets and appropriate bycatch rates. Using a particular tuning level that reflects a conservation approach and that is appropriate if maximum net productivity is 2%, the removal limit was 1,856 animals per year for a six year period until a new survey estimate is assumed to become available in 2012. The analysis indicated that there was little support for the population of harbour porpoises in the North Sea being heavily depleted or for the current carrying capacity to be less than 350,000 animals. Using a tuning level that led to slightly less robust results and that is appropriate if a maximum net productivity is 2%, the removal limit was 4,641. The RLA developed is entirely dependent on the conservation objectives assumed; further work would be needed if the conservation objectives were different from those assumed.

**2. Resource Depletion**

<p><b>a)</b> Based on the latest stock assessments (carried out in advance of the December Council negotiations), are there any notable depletions of fish species which would be a concern for cetaceans?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b></p>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details:</p> <p><b>Several North Sea stocks analytically assessed by ICES have current fishing mortality rates above FMSY, including cod, whiting, haddock, mackerel, and blue whiting. The over-exploitation of such stocks may therefore be of concern to cetaceans that predate on these species. However, it should be noted that 24 of 32 North Sea stocks assessed by ICES are exploited at rates at or below FMSY, therefore any reduction in prey as a result of over-exploitation is likely to be localised.</b></p> <p><b>(ICES. 2016. Greater North Sea Ecoregion – Ecosystem overview. ICES ADVICE 2016, (May), 1-22. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.3116">https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.3116</a>)</b></p> <p><b>However, there are limitations around how useful these stock assessments can be. Stock assessments relate to fish that have recruited to the fished population. Mostly, porpoises and common dolphins at least feed on pre-recruits, so on its own this would not be an appropriate way to determine food availability. Sandeels are an exception, as these are fished at small sizes. In the North Sea sandeel fishery catches have declined since 2002, and spawning stock biomass is stable or increasing</b></p> <p><b>(<a href="http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/san.sa.1r.pdf">http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/san.sa.1r.pdf</a>)</b></p> <p><b>Assessments are not available for Division 7 sandeels, nor for sprats. Non commercial fish are also consumed (eg gobies) for which n assessments are available.</b></p>
<p><b>b)</b> In Parties' national waters, where are these depletions</p>	<p><b>Stocks of concern identified by ICES (2017) in the Greater North Sea include: Seabass in divisions 4.b-c, 7.a, and 7.d-h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Seal, English Chanel, Bristol Chanel, and Celtic Sea); Cod in division 7.e-k (eastern English</b></p>	

<p>occurring? By ICES Area</p>	<p><b>Channel and southern Celtic Seas); herring in subareas 1,2,5, and divisions 4.a and 14.a (Norwegian spring-spawning herring, the Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean); horse mackerel in subarea 8 and divisions 2.a, 4.a, 5.b, 6.a, 7.a-c, e-k (Northeast Atlantic); sandeel in divisions 4.b and 4.c (North Sea), and subdivision 20, Sandeel area 2r (Skagerrak, central and southern North Sea); Sole in division 7.d (eastern English Chanel).</b></p> <p><b>(ICES. 2016. Greater North Sea Ecoregion – Ecosystem overview. ICES ADVICE 2016, (May),1-22. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.3116">https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.3116</a>)</b></p>	
<p><b>c)</b> What measures are being taken to manage pressures on depleted fish stocks, including relevant regulations/guidelines? <i>E.g. decrease in TAC, recovery plan etc.</i></p>	<p><b>Fish stocks are managed by the European Commission on advice provided by the ICES and STECF. The Common Fisheries Policy subscribes to ecosystem based approach to management.</b></p>	
<p><b>d)</b> Is there any evidence within your national waters that resource depletion may be impacting cetaceans (e.g. evidence of starvation)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details:</p> <p><b>The UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme record cases of starvation every year (see Section IV). There is some suggestion of an increasing rate of death by starvation among porpoises, however, there are multiple drivers of starvation as a cause of death (e.g. fluctuations in carrying capacity, behavioural/distributional shifts in populations, increase in animal density etc) and its impossible to associate this with any evidence of prey depletion.</b></p>
<p><b>e)</b> Are there any national surveys which evaluate cetacean body condition?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details:</p> <p>CSIP – however this is not done routinely and would unlikely detect interannual changes because of variability in body fat among individuals, among age sex classes and due to seasonal trends.</p>
<p><b>f)</b> Relevant new research/work/collaboration</p>	<p><b>Stomach contents are currently being analysed in relation to body condition and pregnancy rates by the CSIP and SMRU.</b></p>	
<p><b>B. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)</b></p>		

1. Marine Debris					
<p>a) What monitoring is in place to assess the level of marine debris? <i>E.g. type of litter (size, shape, material) amount, impacts on species, geographical location etc.</i></p>	<p><a href="http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=50">http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=50</a></p> <p><b>Marine litter survey during Western Areas International Bottom Trawl Survey series. Dataset held by DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division, Marine Conservation and Reporting, Klondyke Building, 1 Cromac Avenue, Gasworks Business Park, Malone Lower, Belfast BT7 2JA Contact: Michael McAliskey +44 (0)28 9056 9225 <a href="mailto:Michael.McAliskey@daera-ni.gov.uk">Michael.McAliskey@daera-ni.gov.uk</a></b></p> <p><b>England, Wales and Scotland:</b></p> <p><b>The gastrointestinal tract of UK stranded cetaceans examined at necropsy (see Section IV) are routinely assessed for the presence of macroplastics. Relevant samples are also collected to enable collaborative analyses for the presence of microplastics to take place.</b></p>				
<p>b) What parameters are provided through this monitoring?</p>	<p><a href="http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=50">http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=50</a></p> <p><b>Size, number and type of litter in NI</b></p>				
<p>c) Are these data publicly available? Y/N If so, please provide a link.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b></td> <td><b>Link</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b></td> <td><b><a href="http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=50">http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=50</a> Data from strandings routinely collated and reported in annexes in annual strandings reports e.g. Deaville, R. (compiler) (2018) UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2017 (in press)</b></td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>	<b>Link</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<b><a href="http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=50">http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=50</a> Data from strandings routinely collated and reported in annexes in annual strandings reports e.g. Deaville, R. (compiler) (2018) UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2017 (in press)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>	<b>Link</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<b><a href="http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=50">http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=50</a> Data from strandings routinely collated and reported in annexes in annual strandings reports e.g. Deaville, R. (compiler) (2018) UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme annual report, 2017 (in press)</b>				
<p>d) In the last year, what species of small cetaceans were found to have been impacted by marine debris?</p>	<p><b>NI – None based on 6 necropsies (5 harbour porpoises, 1 common dolphin)</b></p> <p><b>CSIP: During 2017, 6/144 UK stranded cetaceans (3 harbour porpoises, one common dolphin, one striped dolphin and one bottlenose dolphin) examined at necropsy were found to have small amounts of marine debris in the gastrointestinal tract. None were considered to be significant factors in the animals deaths and were judged to be incidental findings.</b></p>				

<p>e) Are there any mitigation measures in place? Y/N</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b></p>	<p>If yes, what mitigation measures are being used? <i>E.g. changes in gear to prevent loss, entanglement response, adoption of measures to reduce land-based/boat-based source of marine debris.</i></p> <p><b>NI - Fishing for Litter</b>  <a href="http://www.fishingforlitter.org.uk/project-areas/affiliated-projects">http://www.fishingforlitter.org.uk/project-areas/affiliated-projects</a> includes Northern Ireland.</p> <p><a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-marine-litter-strategy">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-marine-litter-strategy</a></p> <p>Conditions placed on marine licensed development activities to ensure that there is no introduction to the marine environment of pollution or debris as a result of those works.</p>
<p>f) Other relevant information. <i>E.g. link to OSPAR reports (FCS and GES being covered already so no need to duplicate)</i></p>	<p><b>OSPAR Regional Action Plan for Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in the North-East Atlantic (2014-2021)</b>  <a href="https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/eiha/marine-litter/regional-action-plan">https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/eiha/marine-litter/regional-action-plan</a></p> <p><b>OSPAR Intermidate Assessment on Marine Litter (2017)</b></p> <p><b>1) Beach Litter – Abundance, Composition and Trends</b>  <a href="https://oap-cloudfront.ospar.org/media/filer_public/28/ec/28eceda5-27b9-40de-8195-27d757a076be/beach_litter.pdf">https://oap-cloudfront.ospar.org/media/filer_public/28/ec/28eceda5-27b9-40de-8195-27d757a076be/beach_litter.pdf</a></p> <p><b>2) Composition and Spatial Distriubtion of Litter on the Seafloor</b>  <a href="https://oap-cloudfront.ospar.org/media/filer_public/82/19/8219c6d3-7270-400a-9466-149903d7e2ba/seabed_litter.pdf">https://oap-cloudfront.ospar.org/media/filer_public/82/19/8219c6d3-7270-400a-9466-149903d7e2ba/seabed_litter.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Increasing movement to tackle plastic pollution:</b></p> <p><b>The Environmental Protection (Microbeads) (England) 2017: Cosmetics microbead ban came into effect January 2018</b>  <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2017/9780111162118">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2017/9780111162118</a>)</p> <p><b>EU-wide strategy on plastics adopted January 2018</b> (<a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1516265440535&amp;uri=COM:2018:28:FIN">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1516265440535&amp;uri=COM:2018:28:FIN</a>)</p> <p><b>UK ambition to elimatte all avoidable plastic waste by 2042.</b>  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf</a></p>	

g) Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine debris.	<a href="https://notwhalefood.com/">https://notwhalefood.com/</a>

**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
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			

**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	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details: Click or tap here to enter text.
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<i>life history parameters and information on pressures)</i>		
<b>2. Please provide an overview of current national monitoring programmes:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<b>Approach:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strandings	<b>Target Species:</b> <b>Moray Firth SAC bottlenose dolphin population (Photo-ID and line transects)</b> <b>Harbour porpoise is a designated feature of two SACs in NI (PAM and strandings)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<b>Approach:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strandings	<b>Target Species:</b> <b>All stranded cetaceans. Bottlenose dolphin photo_ID. Bottlenose dolphin and harbour porpoise acoustics</b>
<b>3. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other Parties?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide details: Strandings NI: Assistance from National Trust, Ulster Wildlife, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, local Councils, Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Photo-ID in collaboration with Irish Whale and Dolphin Group Photo ID/transect in Scotland: Assistance from WDC, HWDT, CRRU, and SMRU
<b>4. Links to Relevant Outputs</b>	<b>Data submitted to UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme</b>	
<b><u>C. Life history parameters by ASCOBANS species – if easier please submit information in a table in Excel format.</u></b>		
<b>1. Age at sexual and physical maturity</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>2. Inter-birth intervals</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Calf and adult mortality rates	<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.
4. Potential reproductive span/capacity	<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.
5. Longevity	<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.
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <b>Temporal distribution</b>
<b><i>If you are entering information for more than one species, please enter the data in the above-mentioned categories here:</i></b> Click or tap here to enter text.		
<b>SECTION IV: USE OF BYCATCHES AND STRANDINGS</b>		
<b>A. <u>Stranding Network</u></b>		
1. Is there a national stranding network in place?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details below: NI - Records collated for Northern Ireland by Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs.  UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme
2. Please add the names and URLs of all national stranding/necropsy networks	<b>Necropsies undertaken by Agri-Food Biosciences Institute Veterinary Sciences Division, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SD.</b>  <b>UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (<a href="http://www.ukstrandings.org">www.ukstrandings.org</a>).</b>  <b>Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme (SMASS, part of the CSIP network- <a href="http://www.strandings.org">http://www.strandings.org</a>)</b>  <b>Cornwall Wildlife Trust Marine Strandings Network (part of the CSIP network- <a href="http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/strandings">http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/strandings</a>)</b>	
3. Does this cover the whole or part of the reporting country's coastline?	<b>UK wide coordination and monitoring.</b>	
4. Are necropsies carried out to	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, please provide details below:

determine cause of death?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Systematic and forensic necropsies have been carried out in the UK since 1990. Currently ~100 necropsies/year conducted under contract to UK government.</b>
5. Are any cases photographed, measured or sampled even if not collected for necropsy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details below: <b>Nearly all strandings are photographed by public, local authorities, volunteers etc. Samples are also taken from selected non-necropsied animals in Scotland, Cornwall and more intermittently in other parts of the UK.</b> <b>NI - records kept for all strandings. Photographs submitted by members of the public etc. are kept too.</b>
6. Is there a database of strandings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide link to and details of responsible institutions: NI - Excel spreadsheet held by DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division. Yes. UK wide strandings database administered by the CSIP at the Zoological Society of London <a href="https://www.zsl.org/science/research/uk-cetacean-strandings-investigation-programme-csip">https://www.zsl.org/science/research/uk-cetacean-strandings-investigation-programme-csip</a> Database of Scottish marine animal strandings administered by SMASS at the Scottish Rural College of Inverness. <a href="https://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120150/scottish_marine_animal_stranding_scheme">https://www.sruc.ac.uk/info/120150/scottish_marine_animal_stranding_scheme</a>
7. Is the data available online or downloadable on request?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details below: <b>Results published in annual report. Example -</b> <a href="http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf">http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=14001_FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2015.pdf</a>  <a href="http://www.strandings.org/cgi-bin/map.pl">http://www.strandings.org/cgi-bin/map.pl</a>
8. ASCOBANS is currently developing a web-accessed database for marine mammals strandings and necropsy data (see <a href="#">AC23/Inf.9.1.a</a> ). Please indicate which national stranding network(s) you	<b>UK-wide data will be made available</b>	

designate to become part of this international web-accessed database:					
9. Please state whom to contact for integrating this stranding network into the ASCOBANS database (name, position, email, telephone)		Rob Deaville. CSIP Project Manager. <a href="mailto:Rob.deaville@ioz.ac.uk">Rob.deaville@ioz.ac.uk</a> . +44 207449 6672			
<b>B. <u>Parties Involved</u></b>					
1. Live-Stranding Responses Details (phone, email, website)		<p>NI -</p> <p><i>Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Contact Belfast Coastguard operations centre 02891 463 933 - They will respond as 'receiver of the wreck' and also assess navigational issues.</i></p> <p><i>England, Wales and Scotland: Various organisations are involved in the UK (BDMLR, RSPCA, CSIP, SMASS, WDC etc). All coordinated under the aegis of the Marine Animal Rescue Coalition. <a href="https://marinearc.tumblr.com">https://marinearc.tumblr.com</a></i></p>			
2. Reporting of Carcasses Details (phone, email, website)		<p>NI -</p> <p><i>DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division (StephenFoster) +44 (0)28 9056 9223 <a href="mailto:Stephen.Foster@daera-ni.gov.uk">Stephen.Foster@daera-ni.gov.uk</a></i></p> <p><i>UK wide- 0800 6520333, <a href="http://www.ukstrandings.org">www.ukstrandings.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Various regional reporting processes are also in place and available on request.</i></p>			
<b>C. <u>Stranding numbers from reporting year (2017)</u></b>					
<b><i>If additional space is required, please submit the following information in a table in excel, as an attachment with this form.</i></b>					
<b>Species</b>	<b>Total number of strandings</b>	<b>Total number of individuals (dead/alive)</b>	<b>Number necropsied</b>	<b>Most common cause of death</b>	<b>Other Causes of Death</b>
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<p><b>D. <u>New and Relevant Publications</u></b>  <b>(Including new methods and any new projects using samples/outputs)</b></p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>					

**SECTION V: OTHER MATTERS**

**A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement**

Click or tap here to enter text.

Species	Strandings	Dead strandings	Live strandings	Entangled/at sea	Necropsies	Most common COD	Other CODs
Harbour porpoise	517	496	10	11	73	Infectious Disease (n=21)	Various
Short-beaked common dolphin	245	221	11	13	47	Infectious Disease (n=14)	Various
Minke whale	28	20	4	4	4	Infectious Disease (n=4)	N/A
Long finned pilot whale	19	15	4	0	4	Live Stranding (n=2)	Various
Bottlenose dolphin	16	14	0	2	4	Infectious Disease (n=2)	Various
White beaked dolphin	15	12	3	0	2	Infectious Disease (n=2)	N/A
Risso's dolphin	12	10	1	1	4	Infectious Disease (n=2)	Various
Striped dolphin	12	9	3	0	4	Infectious Disease (n=3)	Interspecific Aggression (n=1)
Sperm whale	5	4	0	1	0	N/A	N/A
Sowerby's beaked whale	5	4	1	0	1	Not Established (n=1)	N/A
Fin whale	4	2	0	2	0	N/A	N/A
Atlantic white-sided dolphin	4	4	0	0	1	Not Established (n=1)	N/A
Killer whale	4	4	0	0	2	Infectious Disease (n=1)	Live Stranding (n=1)
Cuvier's beaked whale	3	3	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
Northern bottlenose whale	1	1	0	0	1	Entanglement (n=1)	N/A
Indeterminate identity species	120	109	2	9	0		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>147</b>		

NB above also includes Isle of Man and Channel Islands data