

Agenda Item 2

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

Document Inf.2.a

**2017 Annual National Report:  
Finland**

Action Requested

- Take note

Submitted by

Finland



**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: Click or tap to enter a date.		
<b>SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION</b>		
Party Information		
<b>A. Name of Party</b>	Finland	
<b>B. Details of National Coordinator (Focal Point) for ASCOBANS</b>	Penina Blankett	
	Ministerial Adviser	
	Ministry of the Environment	
	P.O.Box 35, 00023 FINNISH GOVERNMENT	
	+358 295 250 058	
	Penina.blankett@ym.fi	
<b>C. Details of Delegates (contributors to the report)</b> <i>(For each, mention Name, Function, Organization, Postal Address, Telephone, Email)</i>	Olli Loisa Project Manager Turku University of Applied Sciences Lemminkäisenkatu 30, 20520 TURKU +358 50 598 5743 <a href="mailto:olli.loisa@turkuamk.fi">olli.loisa@turkuamk.fi</a>	
	(Marine Debris) Outi Setälä, Senior Researcher, Finnish Environment Institute, Mechelininkatu 34a, FI-00260 Helsinki, P.O.Box 140 Helsinki +358 295 251 635 <a href="mailto:outi.setala@ymparisto.fi">outi.setala@ymparisto.fi</a>	
<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>	Same as B & C above	
<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>	Heikki Lehtinen; Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Hallituskatu 3 A , Helsinki +358 295 162 433 <a href="mailto:Heikki.lehtinen@mmm.fi">Heikki.lehtinen@mmm.fi</a>	
<b>SECTION II: HABITAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (THREATS AND PRESSURES ON CETACEANS)</b>		
<b>A. Fisheries-related Threats</b>		
<b>1. Bycatch</b>		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated observer schemes	%

<b>a)</b> How is the magnitude of the threat assessed/monitored? <i>(Include percentage where applicable in the adjoining column)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries observers	%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Electronic Monitoring	%
	<input type="checkbox"/> Strandings	%
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	%
<b>b)</b> In the last year, which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch? <i>(Include numbers) Please provide the following information where available:</i> i. <i>Species</i> ii. <i>Number of bycaught animals</i> iii. <i>Gear type</i> iv. <i>ICES area</i> v. <i>Overall sampling effort</i>	<b>None</b>	
<b>c)</b> In the last year, were there any notable incidents? <i>E.g. mass bycatch incidents, unusual species bycatch etc.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<b>If you answer is yes, please provide details.</b>  Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>d)</b> Are there any mitigation measures in place?	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<b>If you answer is yes, please provide details.</b>  Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>e)</b> If yes, what mitigation measures are being used and where? <i>E.g. Acoustic deterrent devices, seasonal closures, gear modifications etc.</i>	<b>None</b>	
<b>f)</b> 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>	<b>None</b>	
<b>g)</b> Relevant new research/work/collaboration on bycatch within the Agreement Area.	<b>None</b>	
<b>2. Resource Depletion</b>		

<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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details:</p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p><b>b)</b> In Parties' national waters, where are these depletions occurring? <i>By ICES Area</i></p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</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>Click or tap here to enter text.</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>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details:</p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p><b>e)</b> Are there any national surveys which evaluate cetacean body condition?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details:</p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p><b>f)</b> Relevant new research/work/collaboration</p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p><b>B. <u>Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)</u></b>  1. Marine Debris</p>		
<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><b>1) Beach litter monitoring (macrolitter). Number and material of litter items will be assessed, and if possible also the actual items identified (bottles, cups, etc.). Monitoring covers roughly the Finnish coast from the Gulf of Finland to Bothnian Sea (13 beaches). Numbers given per 100m beach.</b></p> <p><b>2) Microlitter monitoring (sea surface and sediment). Water surface microlitter is collected with a manta trawl (&gt;330µm). Sampling technique for sediment samples is still under testing, but as a result particles &gt;100µm will be assessed. Litter will be categorized at least to fragments and fibres, and to synthetic and non-synthetic litter.</b></p>	

	<p>3) No monitoring on impacts yet (e.g. entanglement).</p>	
<p>b) What parameters are provided through this monitoring?</p>	<p>1) <b>Number of macrolitter /100m beach (size of litter until 2017 &gt;2.5cm, will be changed to &gt;5mm for from 2018 on, after discussions with other HELCOM countries). Categorization follows modified UNEP (MARLIN) method.</b></p> <p>2) <b>Microlitter /m3 (water) , microlitter/kgww (sediment)</b></p>	
<p>c) Are these data publicly available? Y/N If so, please provide a link.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><b>Link</b></p> <p><b>They will be in some point once there is an agreement where and how and by whom they will be stored. Beach litter data has been available through the Swedish NGO Håll Sverige Rent.</b></p>
<p>d) In the last year, what species of small cetaceans were found to have been impacted by marine debris?</p>	<p><b>None</b></p>	
<p>e) Are there any mitigation measures in place? Y/N</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</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>Balticwide mitigation measures have been listed in HELCOM Marine Litter action plan and include both national, and regional measures. besides that the national MSFD –related mitigation measures are presently being drafted.</b></p>
<p>f) Other relevant information. <i>E.g. link to OSPAR reports (FCS and</i></p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	

<i>GES being covered already so no need to duplicate)</i>	
g) Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine debris.	<b><i>Finland has a lot of research going on regarding marine litter. Especially research on microplastics is very active. Both on the distribution of MPs in the environment and biota, behaviour of MPs in sediment, removal of MPs in SWTTPs and relevant method development. More information is available by contacting outi.setala@ymparisto.fi</i></b>

### 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
Finnish EEZ of Northern Baltic Proper and Åland Sea	Monitoring of harbour porpoise in Finnish waters	November 2016 - ongoing	Static acoustic monitoring (C-POD), 17 positions)	Phocoena phocoena	No absolute numbers available, acoustic detection rates similar to SAMBAH results	In prep.
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? <i>(provides abundance estimates and/or life history parameters and information on pressures)</i>	<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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<b>2. Please provide an overview of current national monitoring programmes:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within MPAs</li> </ul>	<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> Click or tap here to enter text.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wider Seas</li> </ul>	<b>Approach:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Strandings	
	<b>Target Species:</b> <b>Phocoena phocoena</b>	
<b>3. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other Parties?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details: Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>4. Links to Relevant Outputs</b>	Click or tap here to enter text.	
<b>C. <u>Life history parameters by ASCOBANS species – if easier please submit information in a table in Excel format.</u></b>		
1. Age at sexual and physical maturity	<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.
2. Inter-birth intervals	<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.
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>If you are entering information for more than one species, please enter the data in the above-mentioned categories here:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.		

## SECTION IV: USE OF BYCATCHES AND STRANDINGS

### A. Stranding Network

1. Is there a national stranding network in place?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details below: Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Please add the names and URLs of all national stranding/necropsy networks	Click or tap here to enter text.	
3. Does this cover the whole or part of the reporting country's coastline?	Click or tap here to enter text.	
4. Are necropsies carried out to determine cause of death?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details below: Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Are any cases photographed, measured or sampled even if not collected for necropsy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details below: Click or tap here to enter text.
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:  Finnish historical data is included to HELCOM harbour porpoise database
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>See 6. above</b>
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 designate to become part of this international web-accessed database:	<b>Currently no networks in action in Finnish area due to almost zero number of strandings. All possible future data from Finland can be included to the planned database.</b>	
9. Please state whom to contact for integrating this stranding network into the ASCOBANS database (name, position, email, telephone)	<b>Olli Loisa, Turku University of Applied Sciences, contact details in section 1, C</b>	

### B. Parties Involved

1. Live-Stranding Responses Details (phone, email, website)	<i>See section 1, B and C</i>
2. Reporting of Carcasses Details (phone, email, website)	<i>See section 1, B and C</i>

### C. Stranding numbers from reporting year (2017)

***If additional space is required, please submit the following information in a table in excel, as an attachment with this form.***

<b><i>Species</i></b>	<b><i>Total number of stranding events</i></b>	<b><i>Total number of individuals (dead/alive)</i></b>	<b><i>Number necropsied</i></b>	<b><i>Most common cause of death</i></b>	<b><i>Other Causes of Death</i></b>
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.	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.

**D. New and Relevant Publications**  
**(Including new methods and any new projects using samples/outputs)**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**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.