

Agenda Item 2

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

Document Inf.2.c

**2017 Annual National Report:  
Poland**

Action Requested

- Take note

Submitted by

Poland



**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: 5-Aug-18

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Party Information**

<b>A. Name of Party</b>	Poland
<b>B. Details of National Coordinator (Focal Point) for ASCOBANS</b>	Monika Lesz
	Minister's Counsellor
	Ministry of the Environment
	00-922 Warsaw, Wawelska 52/54, Poland
	phone: +48 22 3692667
e-mail: monika.lesz@mos.gov.pl	
<b>C. Details of Delegates (contributors to the report)</b> <i>(For each, mention Name, Function, Organization, Postal Address, Telephone, Email)</i>	1) Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation, Fisheries Department 00-400 Warsaw, Nowy Świat 6/12, Poland phone: (48 22) 583 85 70, fax: (48 22) 583 85 71 e-mail: SekretariatDR@mgm.gov.pl
	2) Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, Department of Monitoring, Assessments and Forecasts of the State of the Environment 00-922 Warsaw, Wawelska 52/54, Poland phone: (48 22) 36 92 281; fax: (48 22) 825 41 29 e-mail <a href="mailto:sekretariatdm@gios.gov.pl">sekretariatdm@gios.gov.pl</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>	1) The Hel Marine Station named Professor Krzysztof Skóra of the UG Institute of Oceanography 84-150 Hel, Morska 2, Poland phone: (48 58) 6750 836, fax: (48 58) 6750 420, e-mail: hel@ug.edu.pl Iwona Pawliczka vel Pawlik e-mail: iwona.pvp@ug.edu.pl
	2) Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) Poland 02-645 Warsaw, Mahatma Gandhi 3, Poland phone: (48 22) 849 84 69 / 848 73 64 fax (48 22) 646 36 72 e-mail: kontakt@wwf.pl, Maria Jujka-Radziejewicz e-mail: mradziejewicz@wwf.pl;
	3) General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Department of Natural Resources Management 00-922 Warsaw, Wawelska 52/54, Poland phone: (+48 22) 3692199 e-mail: kancelaria@gdos.gov.pl
<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</i>	Sea Fisheries Institute-PIB, 81-332 Gdynia, Kołłątaja 1, Poland phone: (48 58)7356-232, fax: (48 58)7356-110 e-mail: sekretariat@mir.gdynia.pl Iwona Psuty

<p><i>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>e-mal: ipsuty@mir.gdynia.pl</p>	
<p><b>SECTION II: HABITAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (THREATS AND PRESSURES ON CETACEANS)</b></p>		
<p><b>A. Fisheries-related Threats</b> <b>1. Bycatch</b></p>		
<p><b>a)</b> How is the magnitude of the threat assessed/monitored? <i>(Include percentage where applicable in the adjoining column)</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dedicated observer schemes</p>	<p>0 %</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries observers</p>	<p>0 %</p>
	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote Electronic Monitoring</p>	<p>0%</p>
	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strandings</p>	<p>0 %</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p>	<p>%</p>
<p><b>b)</b> In the last year, which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch? (Include numbers) <i>Please provide the following information where available:</i></p> <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>On April 26, 2018, a fisherman from Rowy (Poland) reported porpoise bycatch. This voluntary report was recorded outside and independently of the monitoring of bycatch of cetaceans carried out according to the EU Council Regulation number 812/2004.</b></p> <p><b>In 2017, as a result of monitoring of bycatch of cetaceans, according to the EU Council Regulation number 812/2004, no bycatch of cetaceans was recorded.</b></p>	
<p><b>c)</b> In the last year, were there any notable incidents? <i>E.g. mass bycatch incidents, unusual species bycatch etc.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><b>If you answer is yes, please provide details.</b></p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p><b>d)</b> Are there any mitigation measures in place?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><b>If you answer is yes, please provide details.</b></p> <p><b>Details below</b></p>
<p><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></p>	<p><b>Since 2008, 500 marine mammal deterrent (AQUATEC AQUAMARKS 100) have been used by Polish fishermen in ICES 24 subdivision. Currently, due to their wear, new equipment should be provided. Based on art. 40 of the EU Council Regulation No. 508/2014, the purchase of these devices can be financed from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.</b></p>	

	<p>In addition, as part of the project "Conservation of marine mammals and birds and their habitats (POIŚ.02.04.00-00-0021/16)" implemented by WWF Poland, a purchase and distribution of 300 pcs of pingers among fishermen is planned. There are difficulties in encouraging fishermen to use pingers, because for units of LOA below 12 mtrs there are no obligation to use them.</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>Full report on the implementation of EU Council Regulation 812/2004 is available (in Polish version only) on:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.pl/gospodarkamorska/raporty-i-opracowania">https://www.gov.pl/gospodarkamorska/raporty-i-opracowania</a></p>	
<p>g) Relevant new research/work/collaboration on bycatch within the Agreement Area.</p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p><b>2. Resource Depletion</b></p>		
<p>a) 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"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details:</p> <p><b><i>For several years, Polish fishermen and scientific communities such as the Sea Fisheries Institute have reported the problem of codfish stock depletion (Western Herd, ICES 22-24 subdivisions) and also raised an issue that codfish inhabiting the Baltic Sea are becoming smaller and thinner (Eastern Herd, ICES 24-32 subdivisions). At the same time, sprat and herring stocks (basic porpoise food) in the Central Baltic are in good condition.</i></b></p>
<p>b) In Parties' national waters, where are these depletions occurring? <i>By ICES Area</i></p>	<p><b><i>ICES 24-32 subdivisions</i></b></p>	

<p>c) 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><i>In order to provide food resources for Baltic codfish (and thus indirectly also for porpoise), Poland requested the European Council to reduce industrial fishing of sprat and herring. Also, in addition, Poland introduced a ban on sprat fishing during codfish spawning.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Another activity dictated by concern for the Baltic Sea ecosystem is the ban on trawling (fishing using towed on the bottom of the sea gears, which destroys the bottom ecosystem) introduced in Polish territorial waters in the zone up to 6 nautical miles from the Polish coast.</i></b></p>	
<p>d) 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>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p>e) Are there any national surveys which evaluate cetacean body condition?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details:</p> <p>The porpoise bodies are examined for their nutritional status and health. The data are used to develop population status indicators for the HELCOM convention</p>
<p>f) Relevant new research/work/collaboration</p>		
<p><b>B. <u>Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)</u></b></p>		
<p>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>Monitoring of debris in the marine environment – marine debris in the water column including marine litter on the sea surface in 4-6 locations and in the estuary of the Vistula River (towards the open sea) and in the estuary of the Świna River (towards the open sea).</b></p>	
<p>b) What parameters are provided through this monitoring?</p>	<p><b>Number of marine debris, divided into categories such as: glass, plastic, textiles, paper. During the currently conducted monitoring, no marine litter was found on the sea surface.</b></p>	
<p>c) Are these data publicly available? Y/N If so, please provide a link.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><b>Link</b></p> <p><b>CIEP (Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection – providing</b></p>

		<i>data on demand). Contact e-mail: m.kaminska@gios.gov.pl;</i>
d) In the last year, what species of small cetaceans were found to have been impacted by marine debris?	Click or tap here to enter text.	
e) Are there any mitigation measures in place? Y/N	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<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>Since 2011, the project of removing lost nets, so called “ghost nets”, initiated by WWF Poland, is continuously under way.</b></p> <p><b>In 2016, WWF Poland joined the international project called MARELITT BALTIC. Its aim is to develop simple, cost-effective and environmentally safe methods of fishing “ghost nets” from the Baltic Sea floor and finding a system solution to the environmental problem associated with derelict fishing gear (DFG) - marking and identification of the nets.</b></p> <p><b>In addition, in 2017, Polish fishermen with the MARE Foundation actively joined an action of removing ghost nets from the Baltic Sea. In total, 147 tons of derelict fishing nets were removed.</b></p> <p><b>Estimates carried out on orders from WWF showed that up to 800 tons of ghost nets can be stored in Polish zone of the Baltic Sea. So far, in their activities, WWF and its partners have fished 300 tons of derelict fishing nets.</b></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><b>“State of the Baltic Sea – HELCOM” report</b></p> <p><b><a href="http://stateofthebalticsea.helcom.fi/">http://stateofthebalticsea.helcom.fi/</a></b></p>	

g) Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine debris.	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ascobans/videos/988883247928612/">https://www.facebook.com/ascobans/videos/988883247928612/</a>
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**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
Bay of Puck	Monitoring of the seasonal and spatial presence of porpoises	2017/2018	CPOD	porpoise	Data will be available after the end of the project	Marine Station
Polish zone of Baltic Sea	Pilot project of monitoring habitats and marine species	2017	CPOD/line transect	porpoise	Data during development	CIEP

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

<p><b>1.</b> 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></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<p>If yes, please provide details:  Pilot project of monitoring habitats and marine species (2015-2018)</p>
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**2.** Please provide an overview of current national monitoring programmes:

	<p><b>Approach:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within MPAs</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strandings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wider Seas</li> </ul>	<b>Approach:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strandings	
<b>3.</b> Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other Parties?	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide details: Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>4.</b> Links to Relevant Outputs	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"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Insufficient data to determine population parameters
2. Inter-birth intervals	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Insufficient data to determine population parameters
3. Calf and adult mortality rates	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <b>Not known</b>
4. Potential reproductive span/capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <b>No data available</b>
5. Longevity	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <b>No data available</b>
6. Diet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <b>Only fragmentary data, not at the population level.</b>
7. Age and sex structure	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: <b>No data available</b>
8. Other relevant factors	<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>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

<p>1. Is there a national stranding network in place?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<p>If yes, please provide details below:            Permanent, multiannual beach monitoring run by the Blue Patrol WWF. Dead bodies of porpoises are collected by the Marine Station and subjected to further research as part of the statutory activity of the facility.</p>
<p>2. Please add the names and URLs of all national stranding/necropsy networks</p>	<p><b>The bodies of dead porpoises and data about them are collected by the Marine Station since 1990. Since 2009, the WWF Poland database on the observation of marine mammals and seabirds has been operating. The database is a repository of reports on observations of live or dead marine mammals (seals and porpoises) and seabirds. Observations are made by WWF volunteers, employees of the Sea Station, ornithologists, fishermen, anglers, forest services, national park services, employees of maritime offices, tourists and strollers.</b></p> <p><a href="http://link.wwf.pl/baza_ssaki/public/">http://link.wwf.pl/baza_ssaki/public/</a></p>	
<p>3. Does this cover the whole or part of the reporting country's coastline?</p>	<p><b>Monitoring covers the entire coast. A group of 200 volunteers monitors the coast for the presence of marine mammals and seabirds minimum once a week. Volunteers, if necessary, guard the seals on the beach, until specialists from the Sea Station will arrive, or they are securing the bodies (seals and porpoises) for their testing or utilization.</b></p>	
<p>4. Are necropsies carried out to determine cause of death?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<p>If yes, please provide details below:  <b>A state of decomposition of dead animals' bodies found on the beach usually does not allow to determine the cause of their death.</b></p>
<p>5. Are any cases photographed, measured or sampled even if not collected for necropsy?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<p>If yes, please provide details below:            Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p>6. Is there a database of strandings?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<p>If yes, please provide link to and details of responsible institutions:            Details below</p>
<p>7. Is the data available online or downloadable on request?</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	<p>If yes, please provide details below:  <b>Since 2009, the WWF Poland database on the observation of marine mammals and seabirds has been operating. The database is the repository of reports on observations of live or dead marine mammals (seals and porpoises) and seabirds. Observations are made by WWF volunteers, employees of the Sea</b></p>

		<p>Station, ornithologists, fishermen, anglers, forest services, national park services, employees of maritime offices, tourists and strollers.  <a href="http://link.wwf.pl/baza_ssaki/public/">http://link.wwf.pl/baza_ssaki/public/</a>  Data on the results of the analysis of dead marine mammals' bodies found on the beach are property of the Hel Marine Station named Professor Krzysztof Skóra of the UG Institute of Oceanography, and are not widely available.</p>			
<p>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:</p>		<p><b>The Hel Marine Station named Professor Krzysztof Skóra of the UG Institute of Oceanography</b></p>			
<p>9. Please state whom to contact for integrating this stranding network into the ASCOBANS database (name, position, email, telephone)</p>		<p><b>Iwona Pawliczka vel Pawlik – Director of the Hel Marine Station named Professor Krzysztof Skóra of the UG Institute of Oceanography, <a href="mailto:Iwona.pvp@ug.edu.pl">Iwona.pvp@ug.edu.pl</a>.</b></p>			
<p><b>B. <u>Parties Involved</u></b></p>					
<p>1. Live-Stranding Responses Details (phone, email, website)</p>		<p><i>There are no such services. There are no cases of live cetaceans on the beach.</i></p>			
<p>2. Reporting of Carcasses Details (phone, email, website)</p>		<p><i>Iwona Pawliczka vel Pawlik, <a href="mailto:Iwona.pvp@ug.edu.pl">Iwona.pvp@ug.edu.pl</a></i></p>			
<p><b>C. <u>Stranding numbers from reporting year (2017)</u></b></p> <p><i>If additional space is required, please submit the following information in a table in excel, as an attachment with this form.</i></p>					
<b>Species</b>	<b>Total number of stranding events</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>

porpoise	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0 (samples were taken)</b>	<b>Not determined due to a large decomposition of bodies.</b>	<b>No data available</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.
<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	
<b>A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement</b>	Click or tap here to enter text.
<b>B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement</b>	Click or tap here to enter text.