

7th Meeting of the 'Steering Group for the Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise in the North Sea' (HP NSSG) - ASCOBANS

Date: Monday, 24 September 2018, 9:00 AM – 6:30 PM

Place: National Visitors Centre of the State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment, Antakalnio St. 25, Vilnius, Lithuania

DRAFT AGENDA

- 1 Welcome and announcements
 - 1.1 Adoption of Agenda
 - 1.2 Appointment of Rapporteur
- 2 Approval of the report of the 6th NSSG meeting, 19-20 June 2017, Wilhelmshaven, Germany
- 3 Review of North Sea Group membership
- 4 Implementation Review: Bycatch estimation (Actions 3 and 4)
 - 4.1 New information on bycatch estimates (as reported to ICES WGBYC)
 - 4.2 Monitoring projects
 - 4.2.1 Remote Electronic Monitoring projects
 - 4.2.1.1 Update on Danish REM projects
 - 4.2.1.2 Update on Dutch REM project
 - 4.2.1.3 Update on any other REM projects, e.g. Sweden
 - 4.3 Voluntary reporting (e.g. use of pingers on west coast of Sweden)
 - 4.4 Assessment of bycatch in the North Sea – knowledge gaps
 - 4.5 Common Fisheries Policy – current status in relation to cetacean bycatch
 - 4.6 Recommendations
- 5 Implementation review: Development of alternative mitigation methods (Action 5)
 - 4.1 Update on German projects (e.g. PAL project, STELLA project)
 - 4.2 Update on Dutch projects
 - 4.3 Update on Belgian projects
 - 4.4 Update on UK projects
 - 4.5 Update on changes in fishing procedures (France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden)
- 6 Presentation by Graham Pierce reviewing variation in harbour porpoise life history parameters and diet in NW Europe
- 7 Other activities contributing to the conservation of the harbour porpoise in the North Sea:
 - 7.1 EU Habitats Directive:
 - 7.1.1 Review of North Sea SCIs/SACs concerning harbour porpoise
 - 7.1.2 Progress in designing conservation objectives, management plans and conservation measures (e.g. noise disturbance, fisheries management) for harbour porpoises in Natura 2000 areas
 - 7.2 New Surveys – monitoring trends in distribution & abundance (Action 7)
 - 7.3 Update on MSFD and marine mammal indicators
 - 7.4 Certification schemes – Liaison with Marine Stewardship Council
- 8 Overall Progress in the Implementation of the Conservation Plan
- 9 Calendar of Actions 2018-2019
 - 9.1 Priorities of action points of the North Sea Plan
 - 9.2 Priorities of the Work Plan for the NSSG

9.3 Prospects for NSSG Co-ordinator

10 Communication

10.1

Relationship with the ICES WGs

11 Next SG meeting

12 Close