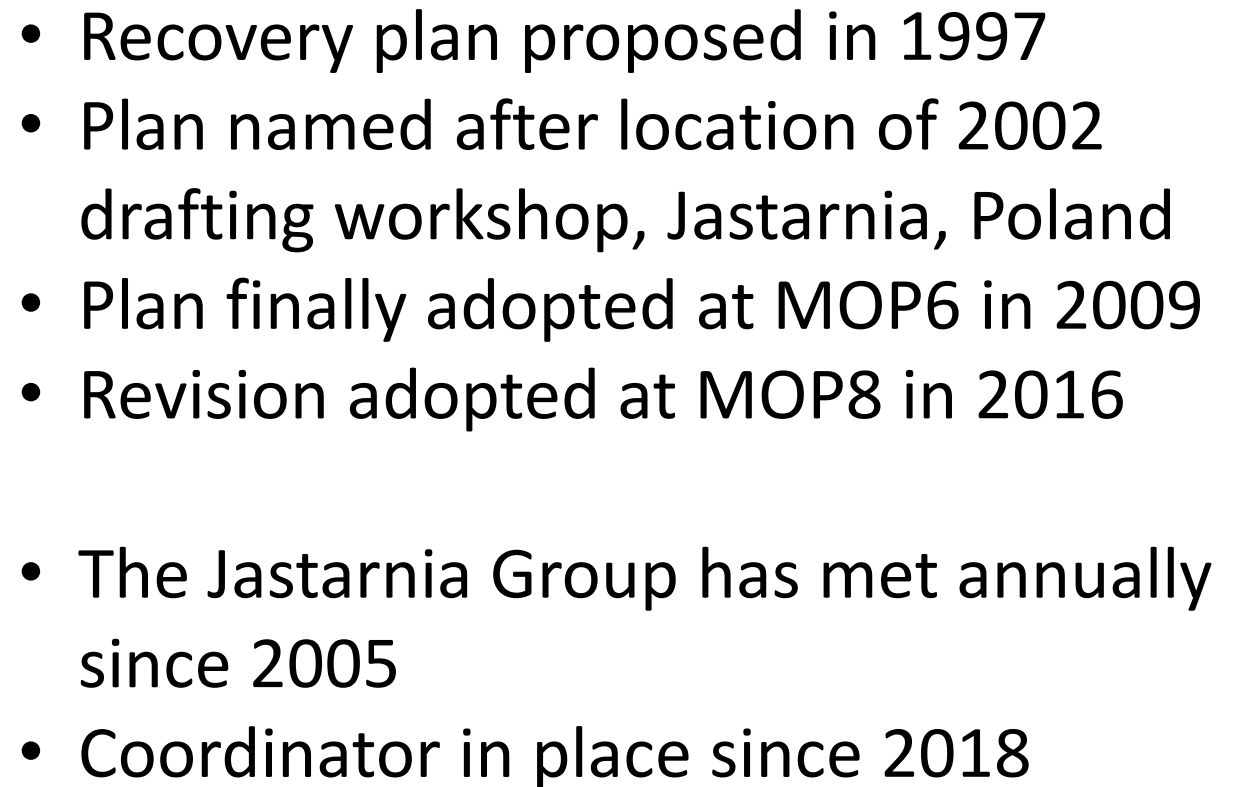
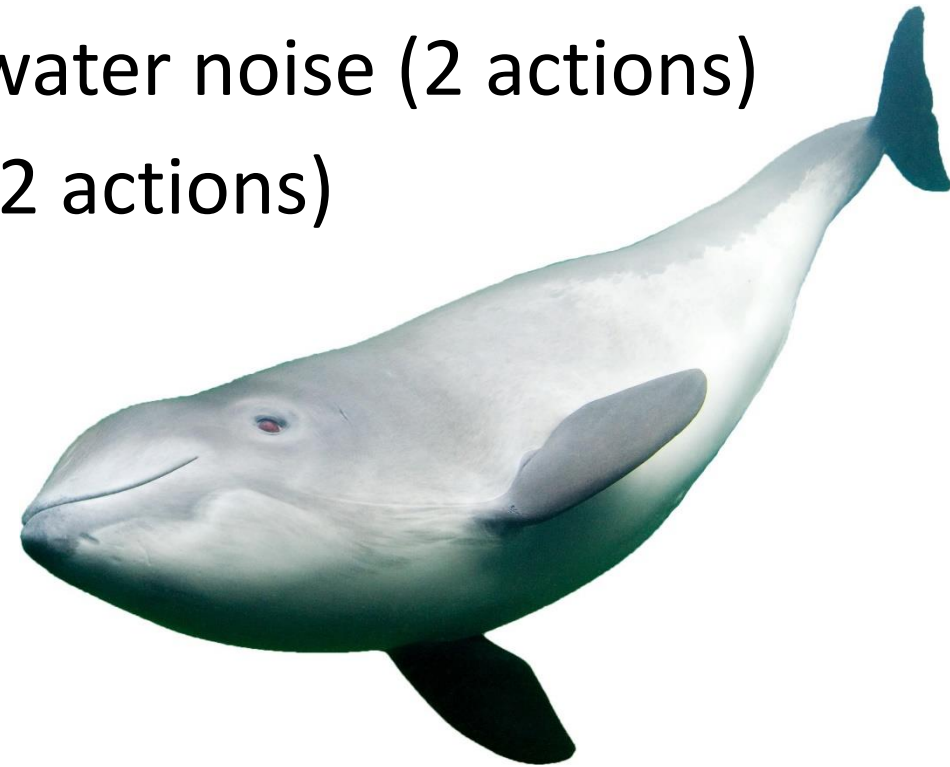


Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises

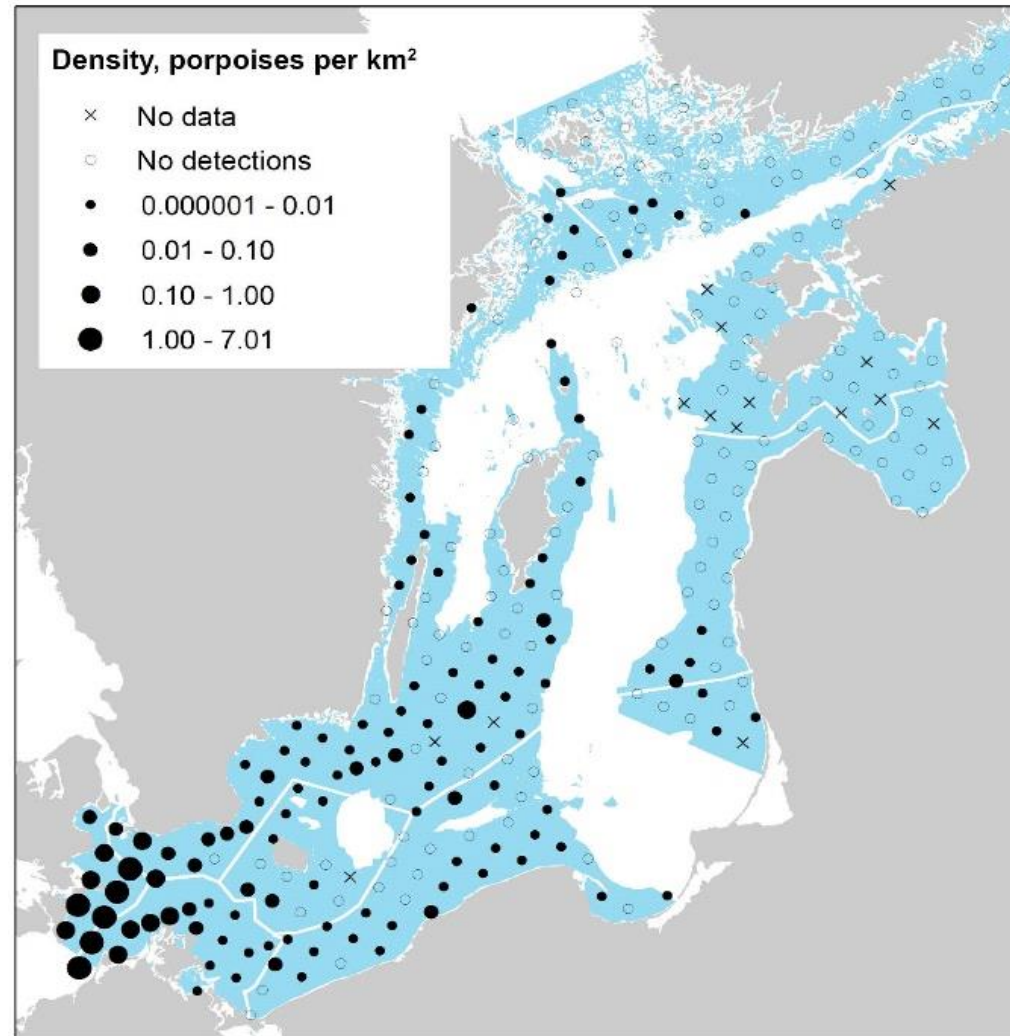
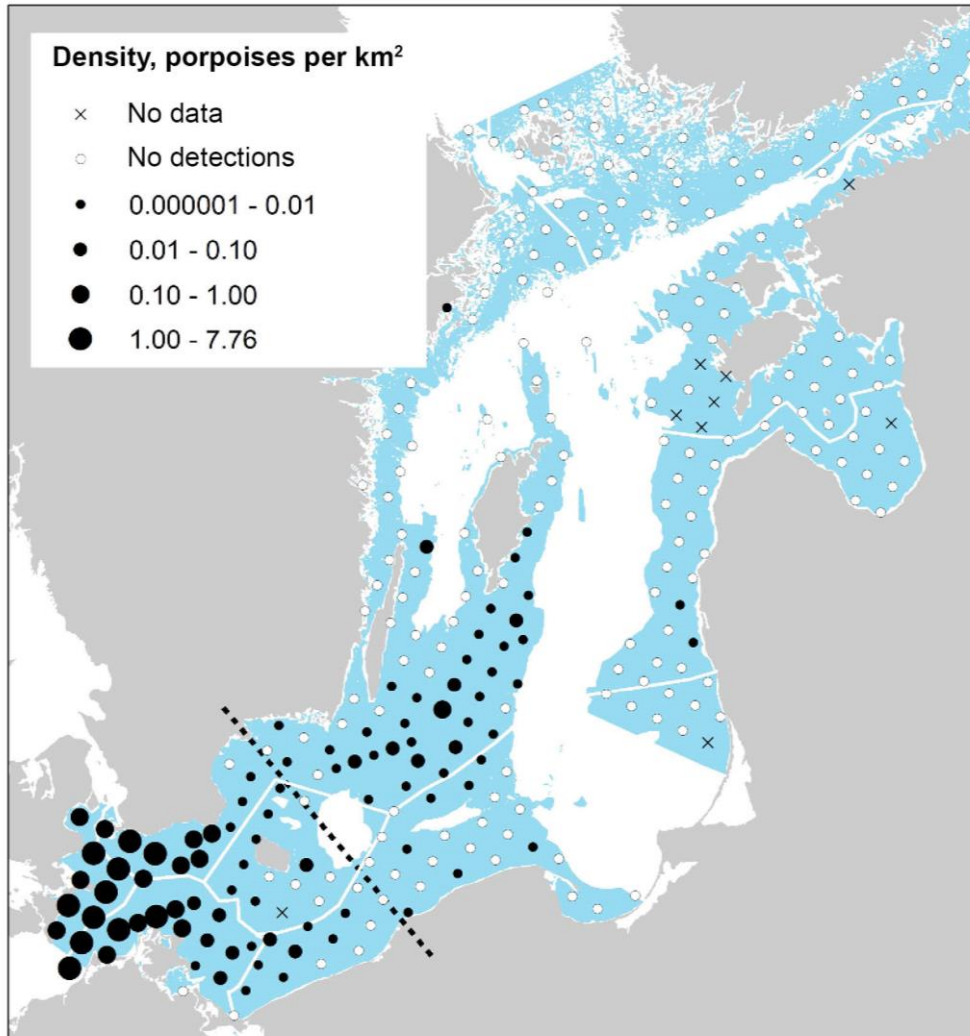


22 actions under 6 main themes

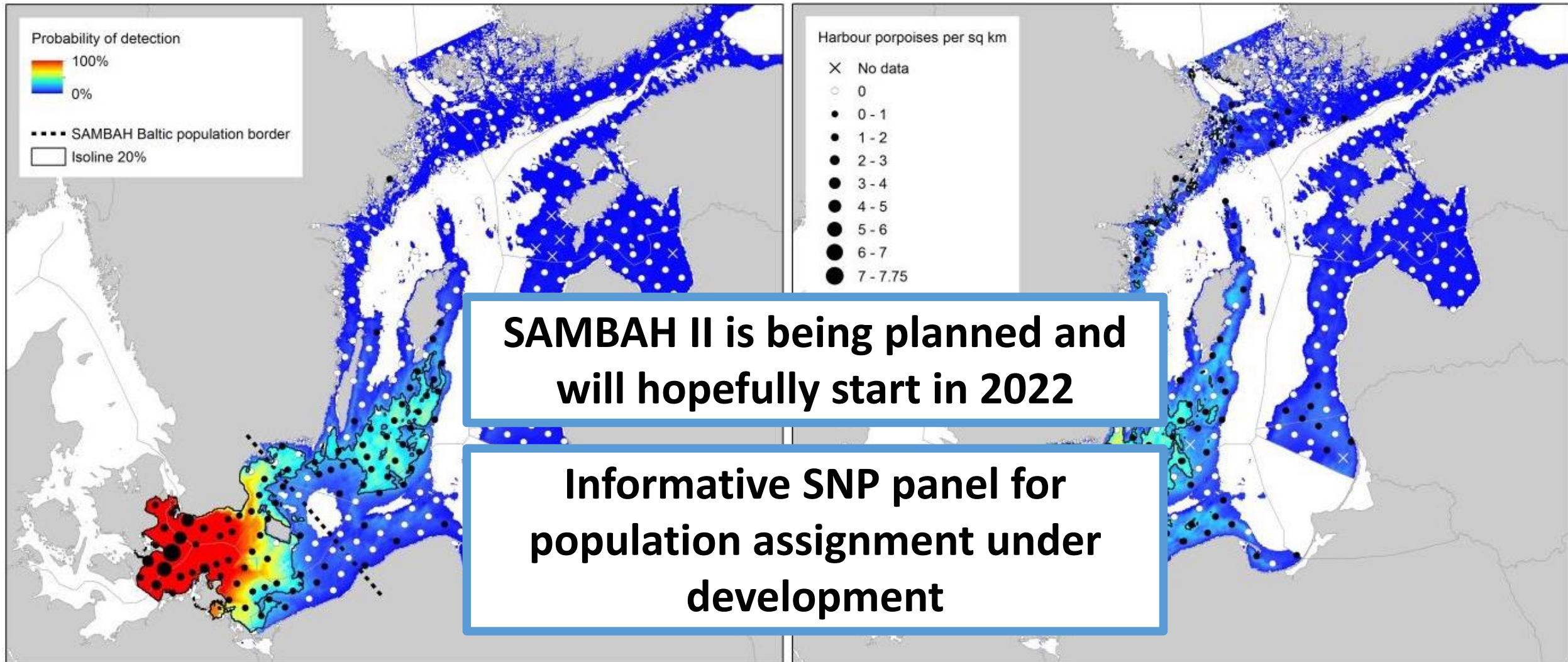
- Increase involvement, awareness and cooperation (3 actions)
- Monitoring and estimate abundance and distribution (4 actions)
- Monitor, estimate and reduce bycatch (9 actions)
- Monitor and mitigate impact of underwater noise (2 actions)
- Monitor and assess population status (2 actions)
- Protected areas (2 actions)



Abundance and distribution - population-wide surveys

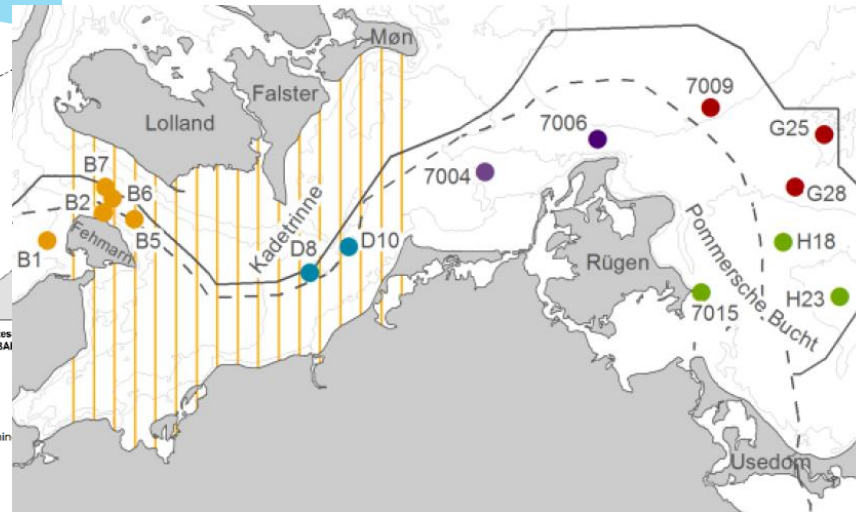
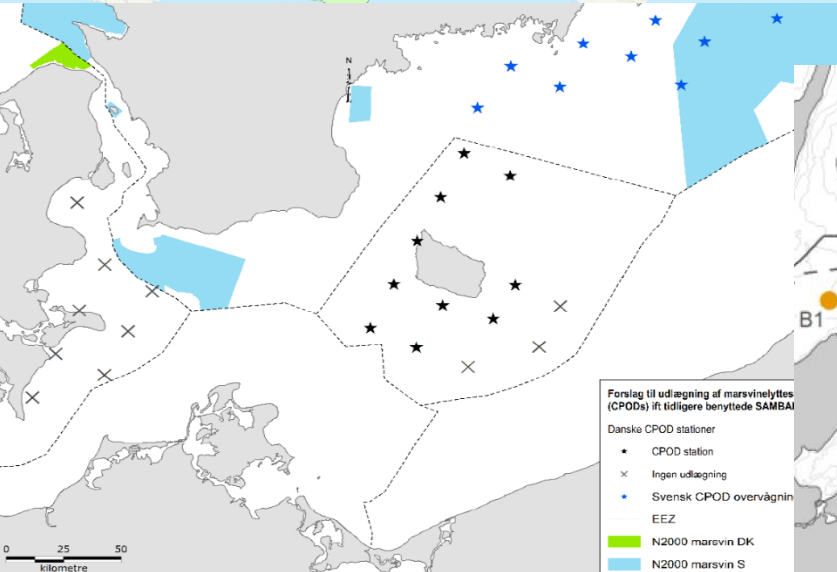
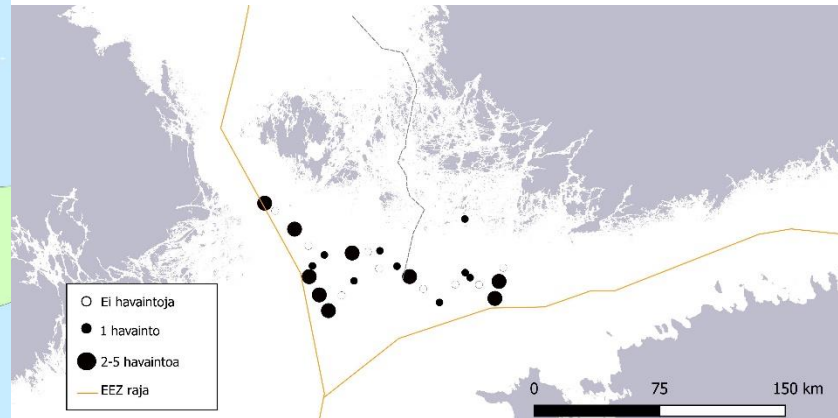


Abundance and distribution - population-wide surveys

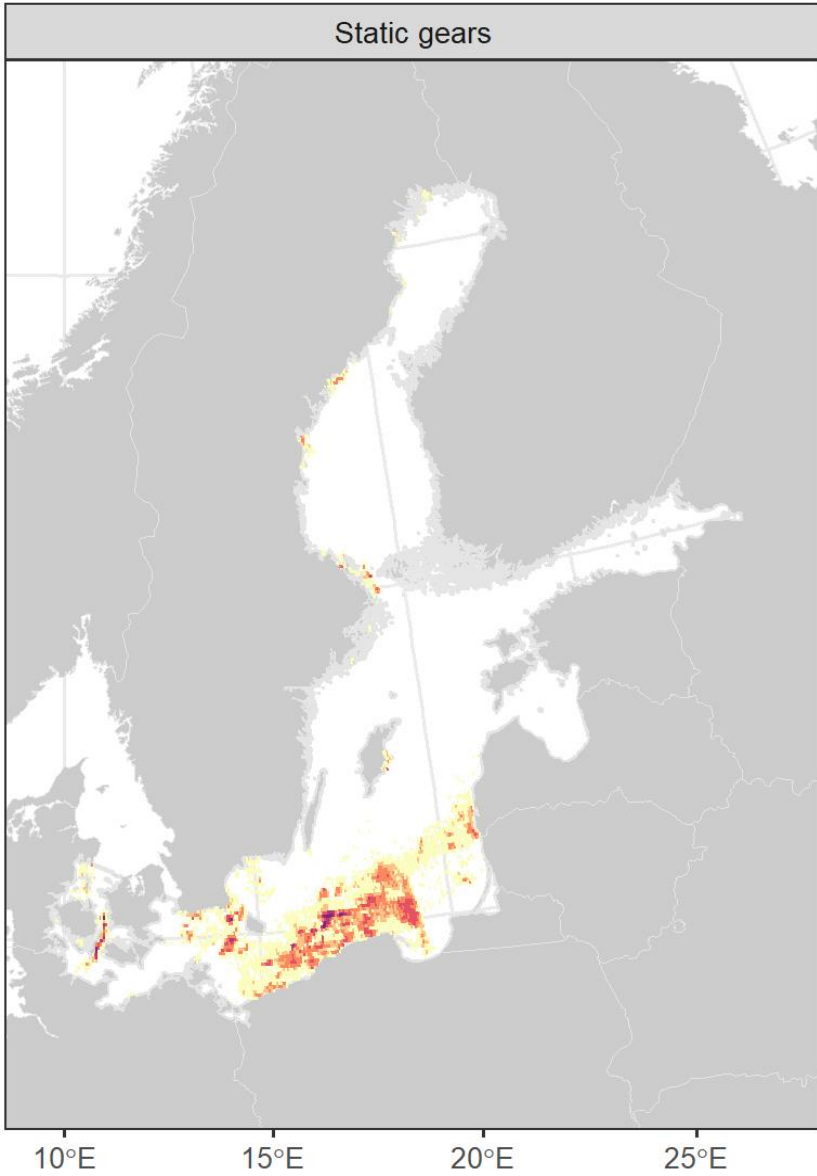


Abundance and distribution – national monitoring

Countries are increasingly introducing national monitoring using PAM, based on SAMBAH methodology



Bycatch monitoring and estimation



PBR calculated based on SAMBAH results and bycatch estimates from the Belt Sea

→ **Mortality limit 0.7 animals/year**
All bycatch estimates exceeds this number

Source: NAMMCO & IMR 2019

Spatial distribution of average fishing effort (mW fishing hours) in the Baltic Sea during 2015-2018 for static gear. Fishing effort data are only shown for vessels >12 m carrying VMS. Russian data are absent as they were not received. (Source: ICES, 2019).

Bycatch monitoring and estimation

Country	Legal obligation for fishermen to report bycatch	Legislation
European Union	No (EU legislation directed at Member States, not at individual fishermen)	
Denmark	No	
Estonia	Yes	Fishing act § 61
Finland	Yes	Fisheries legislation § 62
Germany Schleswig-Holstein	Yes, within <12 nm	KüFischV §9(3)
Germany Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	No	
Poland	Yes	Ministry of Marine Fisheries and Economic Zone Waters §8.10
Latvia	Yes	
Lithuania	Yes	
Russia	No	
Sweden	No, only landed catch should be reported. Bycatch over 50 kg should be reported. However, the harbour porpoise is the property of the state, and should therefore be reported, but this is not mentioned in fisheries legislation.	§ 33 Jaktförordningen (hunting regulation)

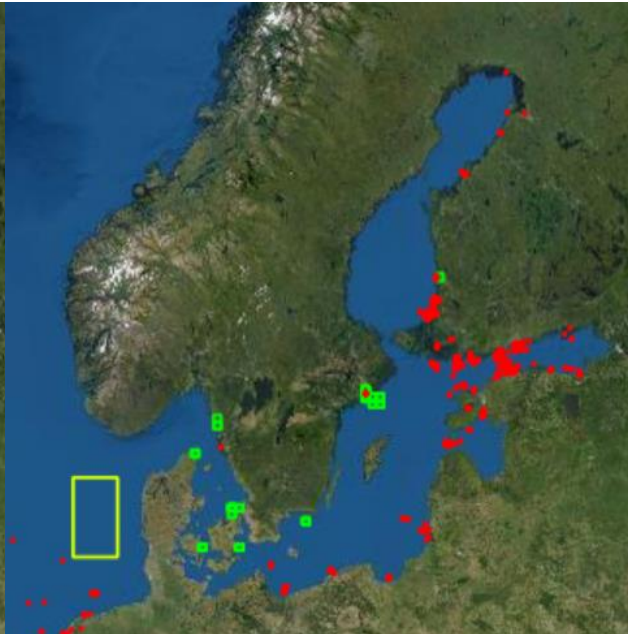
Waiting to hear about the
ICES advice? I'll get there 😊

Underwater noise – impulsive noise

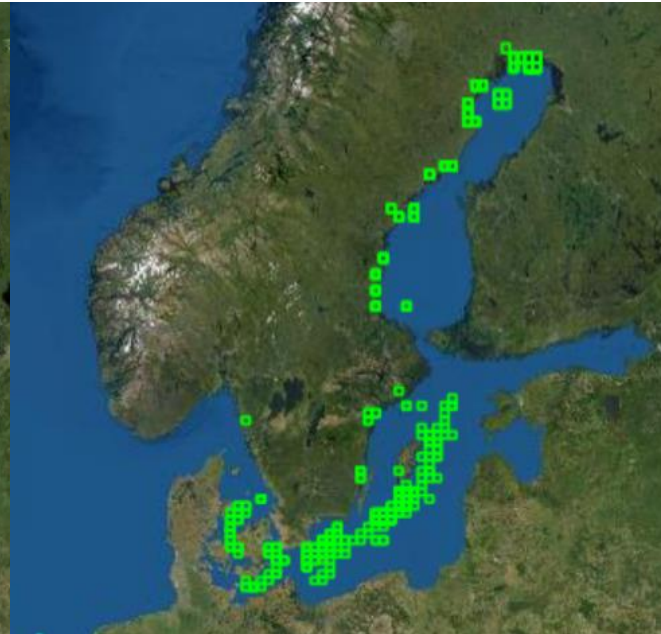
Pile driving



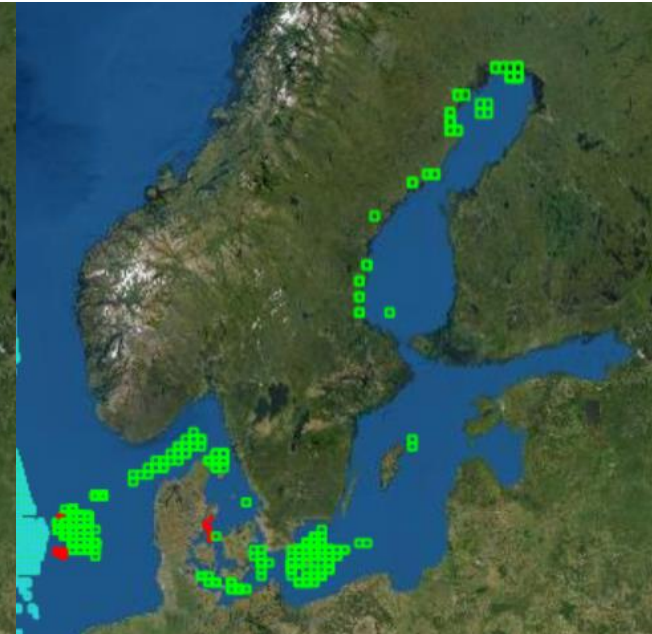
Explosions



Sonar + ADDs

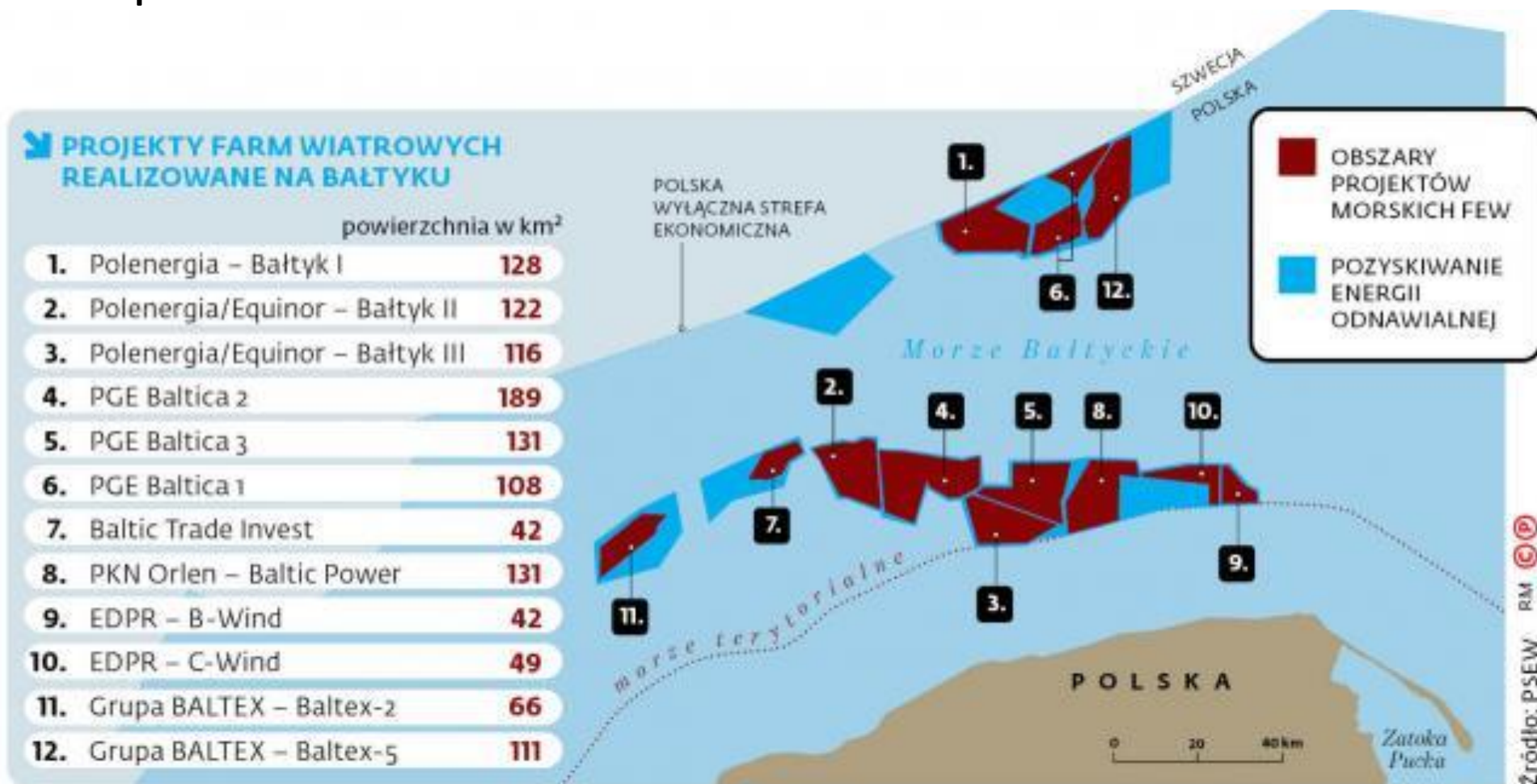


Airgun arrays



Underwater noise – impulsive noise

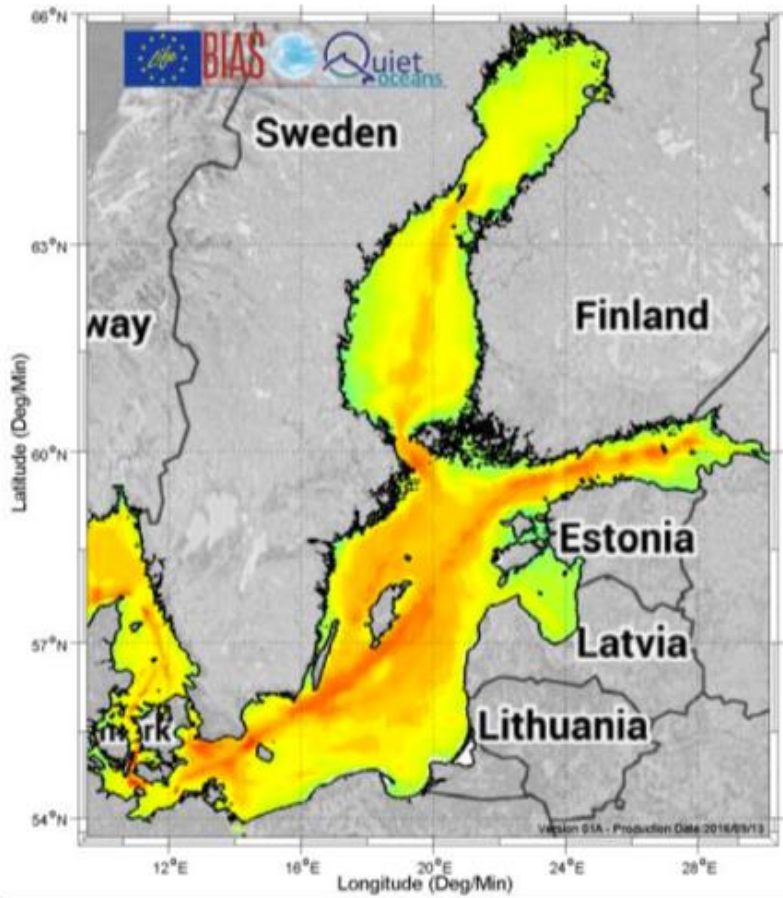
Proposed locations of offshore windfarms in Polish waters



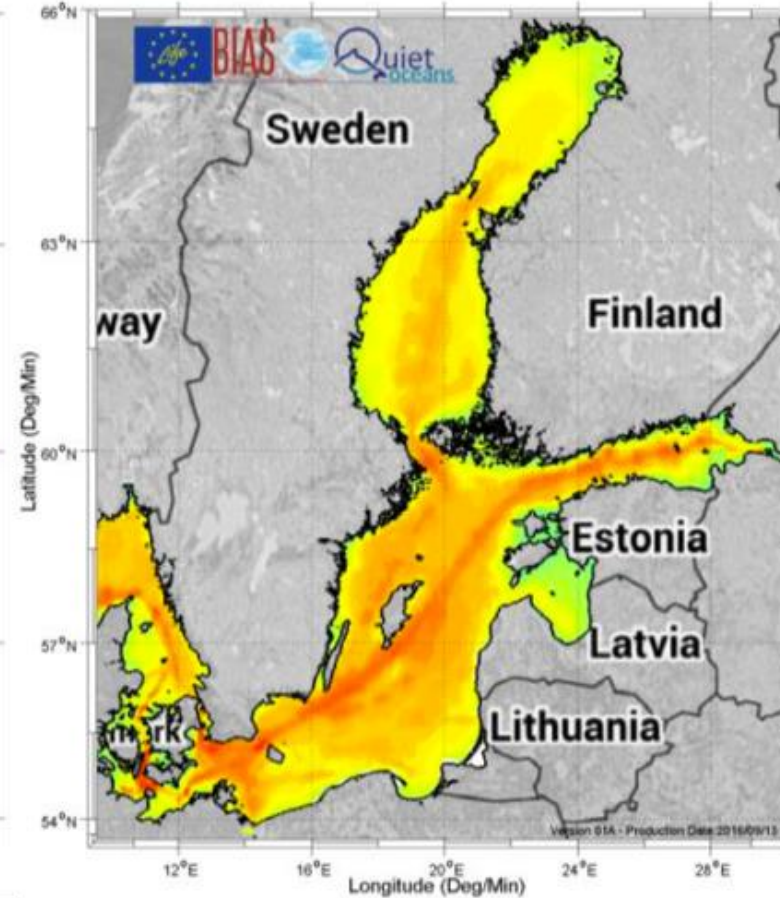
Source: Polish Wind Energy Association

Underwater noise – continuous noise

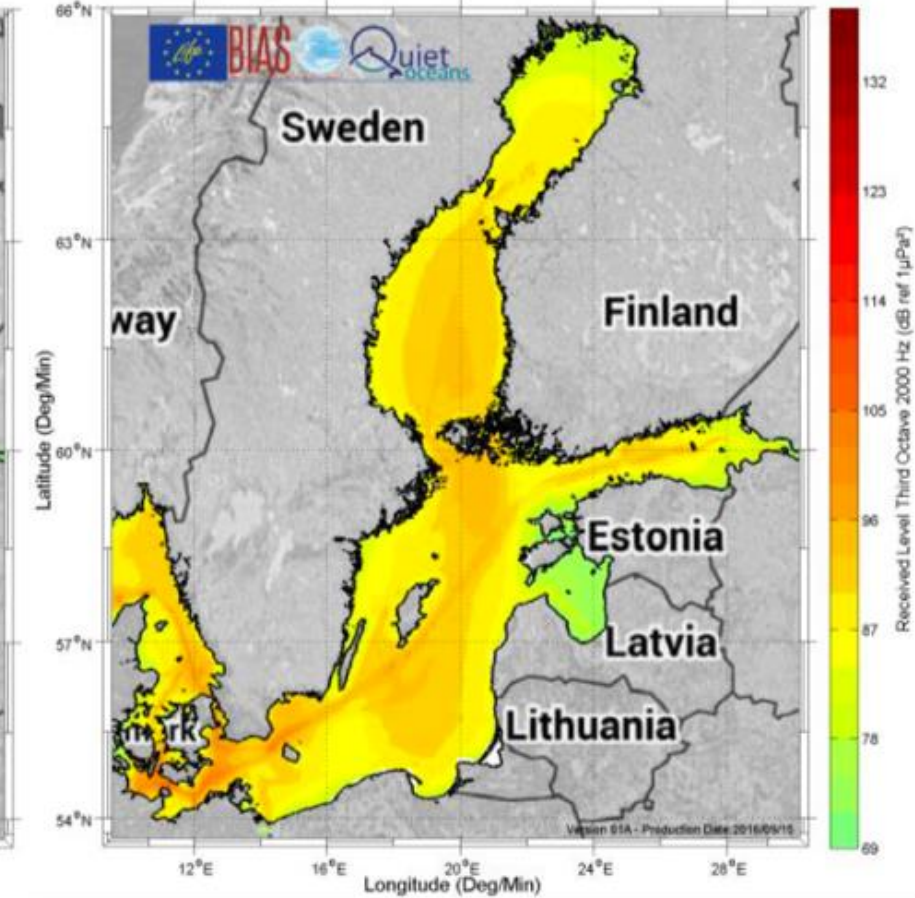
63 Hz



125 Hz



2 kHz



Annual median noise maps for the full water column for the 63 Hz third-octave (left), the 125 Hz third-octave (middle), and the 2kHz third-octave (right) (Source: Folegot *et al.*, 2016).

Assessing population status

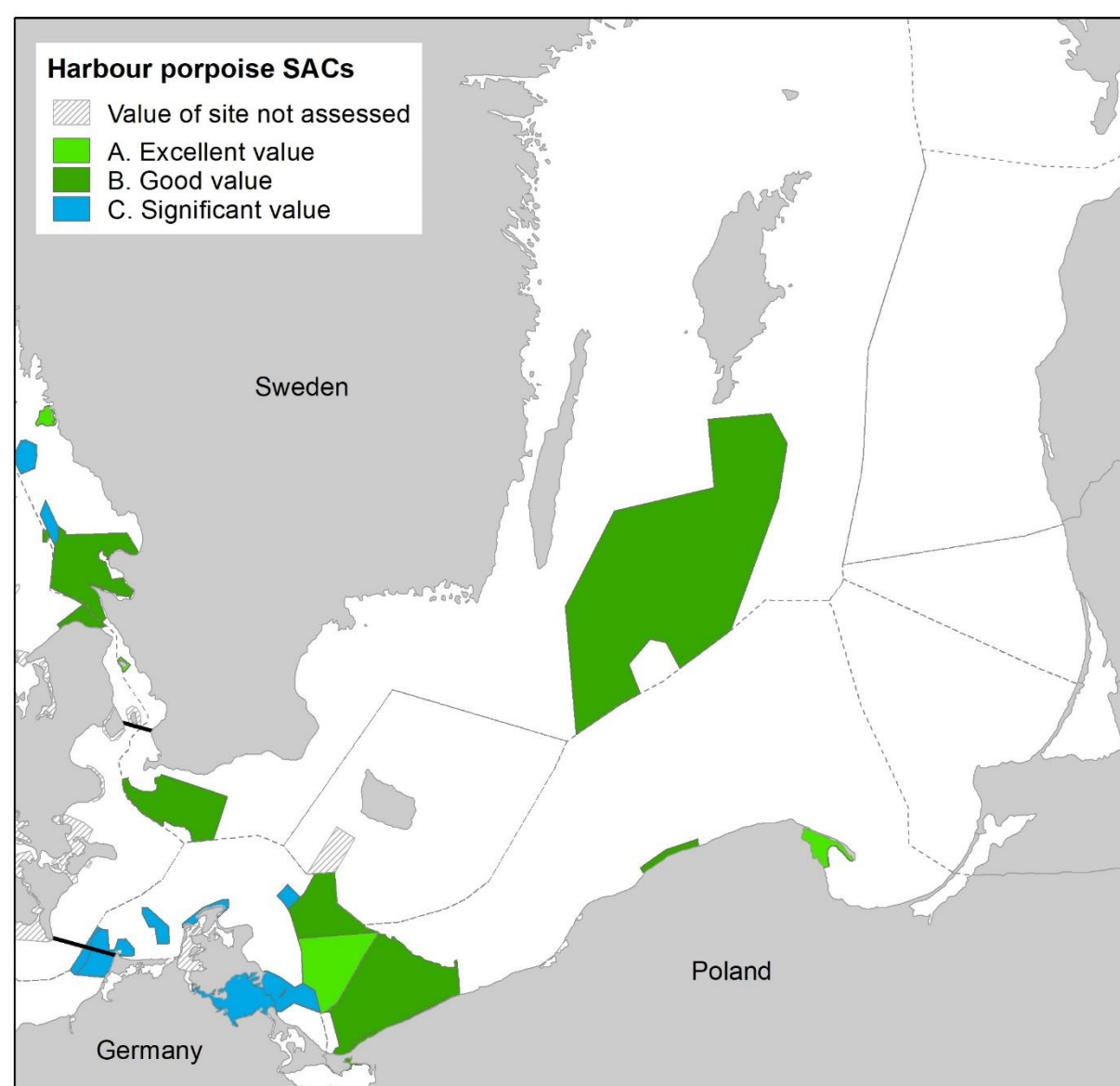
Country	Red list status	Reference
Denmark*	Least Concern (LC)*	Wind & Pihl (2004)
Estonia	Data Deficient (DD)	Anonymous (2008)
Finland	Not assessed	Liukko et al. (2019)
Germany*	Endangered (EN)	Haupt et al. (2009)
Latvia	Probably extinct (0)	Andrušaitis (2000)
Lithuania	Not listed	Rašomavičius (2007)
Poland	Least Concern (LC)	Głowacki et al. (2002)
Russian Federation	Uncertain Status (4)	Iliashenko & Iliashenko (2000)
Sweden	Critically Endangered (CR)	Artdatabanken (2020)

* No separate assessment has been made for the Baltic harbour porpoise population

Failure to list Baltic Proper harbour porpoise in CMS Appendix I at CMS COP13

Country	Strandings reporting	Necropsies
Denmark	Ad hoc	Ad hoc
Estonia	No	No
Finland	Conceptually yes	Conceptually yes
Germany	Yes	Yes
Latvia	No	No
Lithuania	No	No
Poland	Yes	Yes
Russia	No	No
Sweden	Ad hoc	Yes

Protected areas

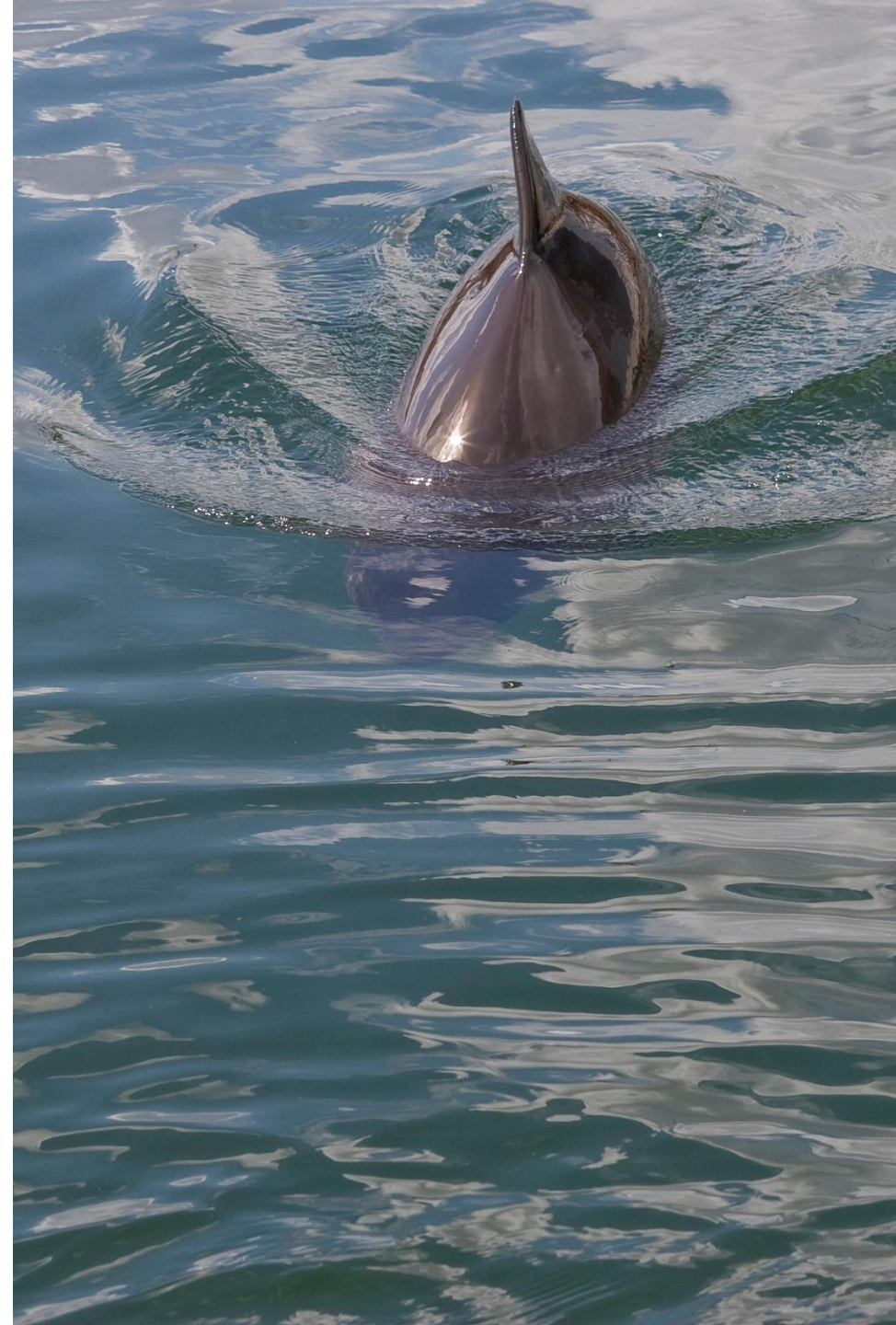


- German management plans were just out for consultation
- Swedish fisheries regulations expected for consultation this year
- Denmark has no measures in place
- Poland has no measures in place

ASCOBANS Workshop on Management of MPAs for Small Cetaceans – postponed

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Carry out SAMBAH II project for
 - A second abundance estimate
 - New data on distribution
 - Indicative bycatch risk map of entire area
- Collection of genetic samples from ***all*** animals stranded in the Jastarnia area
- Implement the ICES advice on bycatch mitigation and monitoring in full



Questions?

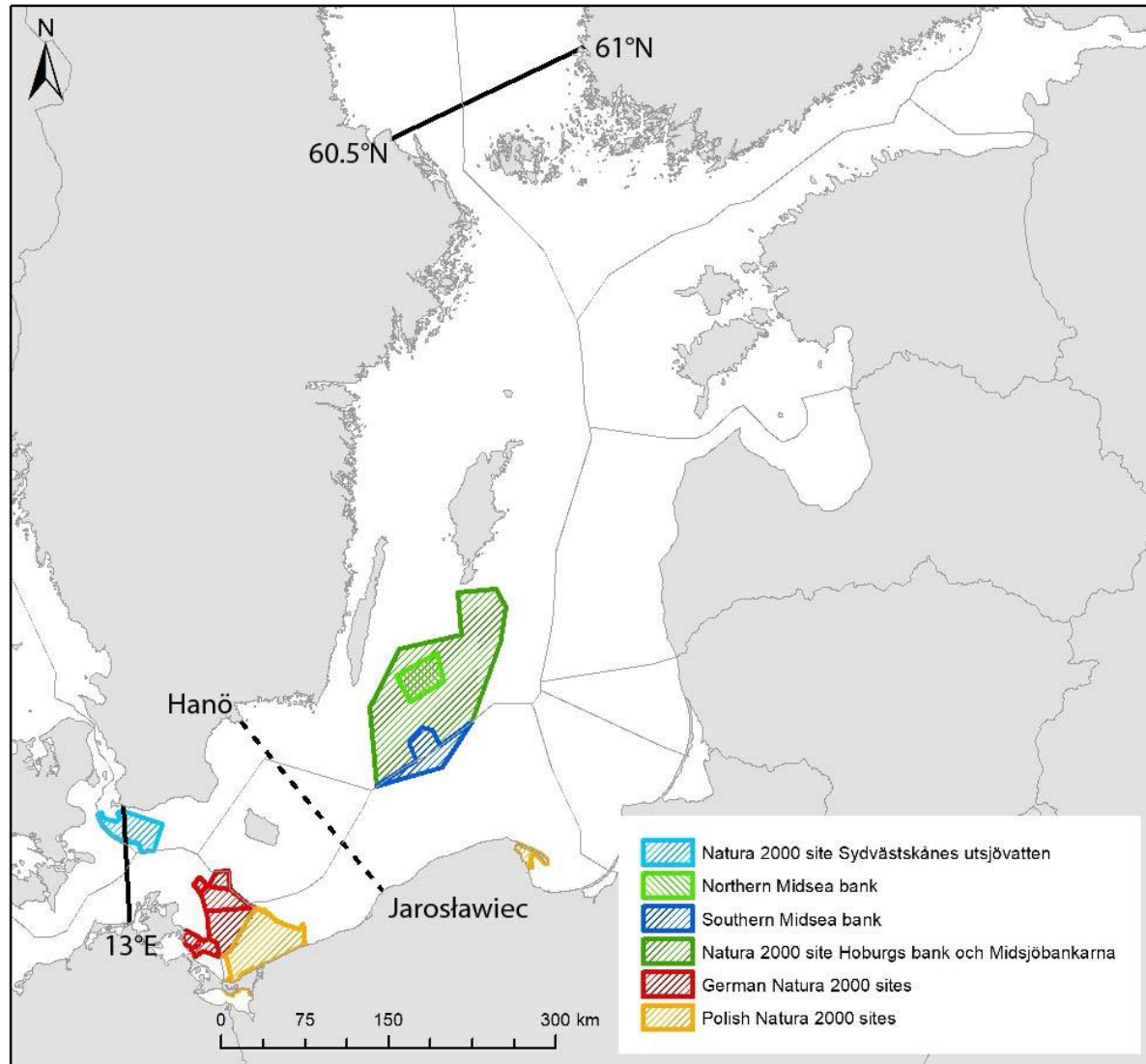


Bycatch – the ICES advice on Emergency Measures

- In July 2019 a group of NGOs submitted a proposal for emergency measures to the EC
 - For the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise and the common dolphin in the Bay of Biscay
- The EC then asked ICES for advice in relation to this proposal
- ICES process during spring, WGMME, WGBYC and WKEMBYC
- Advice published on 26 May 2020
 - Largely similar to the original NGO proposal
 - It is underlined that long-term measures are needed



Bycatch mitigation – the ICES advice



- Closure of Northern Midsea bank for all fisheries except pots, traps etc
- Closure of SAC Hoburgs bank och Midsjöbankarna and the Polish part of the Southern Midsea bank for all static net fisheries
- Closure of “German/Polish SAC cluster” during Nov-Jan (Jastarnia group comment to EC to extend time period to Nov-April)
- Within the SAC, obligatory use of pingers on static nets in the area west of the sandbank Ryf Mew and closure of static net fisheries in the area east of the sandbank

Bycatch monitoring – the ICES advice

- Accurate spatio-temporal recording of fishing effort (in appropriate metrics on métiers used by all vessels)
- Increased dedicated monitoring of bycatch of PETS
- Monitoring of harbour porpoise occurrence
- Compliance control of mitigation measures (pinger use)



Bycatch – the ICES advice

- EC now expecting Member States to propose Joint Recommendations
- In the Baltic this is done through Baltfish, which convened Monday and Tuesday of this week
- The Baltfish draft JR excludes key elements of the ICES advice
→ measures not sufficient
- EC ready to implement Emergency Measures under CFP Art 12
- This also relates to the infringement procedure recently initiated towards Sweden for non-compliance with Habitats directive Art 6.2 and 12.4



The end