



SAMBAAH II LIFE

Spatio-temporal Monitoring of the Baltic Proper Harbour Porpoise and its Habitat Quality



Outline of the project

- Evaluation of the Conservation Status of the critically endangered Baltic Proper harbour porpoise population under known threats
 - Bycatch
 - Underwater noise
 - Reduced prey quality/availability
- Collection of a second set of acoustic monitoring data throughout project area
- Life Nature and Biodiversity (Traditional Project)
- ...
- Builds on the results of SAMBAH (LIFE08 NAT/S/000261)
- All information is still tentative to change







Objectives (1)

- Provide a **holistic assessment** of the status of the Baltic Proper population, listing the key conservation actions to secure its survival.
- Provide estimates of population-specific and **national GES** (Good Environmental Status) **thresholds and FRVs** (Favourable Reference Values)
- Test and evaluate four different approaches to estimate fishing intensity, to **produce indicative seasonal bycatch risk maps** across the project area





Objectives (2)

- Provide an initial assessment of the **impact of vessel and seismic survey noise on porpoises in the Baltic Sea**, together with noise impact maps.
- Investigate whether the detection rate of the Baltic Proper population has changed during the last decade, indicating a **change in abundance**.
- Provide **updated and more precise abundance estimates of porpoises**, by country and population, and by season, including waters >80 m



Objectives (3)



- Test a **novel method for acoustic identification of calves**, and if successful, identify when calving takes place in the Baltic Proper population.
- Provide a **harmonised acoustic monitoring standard and scheme for porpoises in the Baltic marine region.**
- **Increase the awareness of porpoises in the Baltic Sea among authorities, the general public and other stakeholders.** Create awareness of the species' existence. Regional extinction is imminent affecting daily life decisions of





Current Status

- Concept Note was submitted 2019 under lead of HELCOM and the Museum for Natural History Stockholm
- The project was evaluated very good
- Therefore applicants were asked to provide a full proposal
- Work on the full proposal had to be stopped in January due to uncertain project basic parameters
 - Project coordination had to be transferred
 - Some project partners were not able to raise the necessary co-funding in their respective country





Changes in project consortium

- Project coordination was transferred from HELCOM to the Federal Ministry for Nature Conservation Germany
- Project application is coordinated by all partners under lead of the German Oceanographic Museum and the Museum of Natural History Stockholm
- The Baltic States were asked for cooperation in the project and were very interested in covering their national waters. However none of the Baltic States were able to acquire the necessary national co-funding so far





Time Line

2020/07/16 Submission of concept note

2020/10 Notification of applicants if their concept note has been pre-selected: shortlisted applicants are invited to submit full proposals

2021/02 Deadline for applicants to submit full project proposals

...later Notification of applicants if their proposal has been selected

2021/07 Signature of individual grant agreements



Project Actions



Preparatory Actions (A)

- Detection Function
- Cue Rate
- Database and data standards



Conservation Actions (C)

- Acoustic Monitoring
- Density and Abundance estimation
- Calf detection
- GES and FRV
- Fisheries monitoring
- Prey monitoring
- Noise measurements and modelling
- HOLAS



Monitoring of the Impact of Project

- Project level indicators monitoring
- Socio-economic study for the whole Baltic Sea
- Method success and recommendations



Communication and Replication Actions (E)

- Notice Boards, Website, Laymens report
- Networking, Workshops
- Dissemination
- Update of national conservation / management plans



Project Management (F)

- Project management by partners including audit
- After-Life plan





Take Home Message

- Concept Note will be ready for submission on July 16th
- Coordinative work is ongoing with strong support and efforts from all partners
- Support is needed to involve all partners throughout the Baltic Sea

Thank you for your support and attention!

