

Draft definitions of progress levels for the WBBK Plan area

1. Implementation of the CP: co-ordinator and Steering Committee

Yes/No

2. Actively seek to involve fishermen in the implementation of the plan and in mitigation measures to ensure a reduction in bycatch

0 – no activity

1 – dialogue meetings with stakeholders on bycatch mitigation carried out

2 – working group including stakeholders established

3 – working group including stakeholders established and guidelines and mitigation and monitoring methods developed and implemented

3. Cooperate and inform other relevant bodies about the conservation plan

0 – no activity

1 –

2 – occasional contacts with national governments and relevant national bodies

3 – continuous dissemination of the WBBK plan to national governments and relevant international bodies

4. Protect harbour porpoises in their key habitats by minimizing bycatch

0 – no activity

1 – pilot projects ongoing on bycatch mitigation and/or ghostnet removal in key habitats

2 – bycatch mitigation and delegated acts in place for some key habitats

3 – clear guidelines and measures on bycatch mitigation, delegated acts in place and ghostnet removal carried out in all key habitats

5. Implementing pinger use in fisheries causing bycatch

0 – no activity

1 – pilot projects using pingers carried out

2 – pinger use mandatory in high-risk fisheries in some relevant areas

3 – pinger use mandatory in high-risk fisheries in all relevant areas

6. Replacement of high risk gillnets with alternative gear

0 – no activity

1 – projects on development of alternative gear

2 – Alternative gear available but not implemented in active fisheries, or being implemented

3 – Alternative gear implemented large-scale in active fisheries

7. Estimate total annual bycatch

0 – no estimates available

1 – pilot project providing estimate of bycatch in part of the fisheries

2 – providing a robust estimate of bycatch for most problematic part of the fisheries

3 – providing a robust estimate of bycatch

8. Estimate trends in abundance in the western Baltic, the Belt Sea and Kattegat

Large scale (including modelling)

- 0 – no activity
- 1 – current every decade with current quality
- 2 – every 10/12 years, better estimates, density maps etc
- 3 – every 6 years, reasonable confident intervals, density maps etc

Regional/national survey

- 0 – no activity
- 1 – some monitoring going on, at regional/national scale, partial coverage of key sites, and/or less regularly
- 2 – regular monitoring of key sites (not continuous and not just once) at least two years every six years
- 3 – surveys allowing detection of changes in local density, in entire key sites (see HELCOM indicator work), continuous monitoring all year round

9. Monitoring population health status, contaminant load and causes of mortality

- 0 – no activity
- 1 – animals from strandings and bycatch sporadically collected, some samples taken, no coordinated effort, no government funding available
- 2 – Carcasses collected and autopsies carried out in smaller scale, samples taken, no regular assessments
- 3 – Coordinated program to collect carcasses, conduct autopsies and take samples, and regularly assess and summarize results

10. Ensure non-detrimental use of pingers by examining habitat exclusion and long-term effects of pingers

- 0 – no activity
- 1 – pilot studies on effects of pingers
- 2 – Regular monitoring of on effects of pingers
- 3 – Results from monitoring evaluated and if needed resulting in changes in how pingers are deployed or replaced with other types of gear

11. Include monitoring & management of important prey species in national HP management plans

- 0 – no activity
- 1 – knowledge on most important hp prey species, also non-commercial, and the biology and distribution of those species
- 2 –
- 3 – Dialogue between hp research and fish stock assessment, regional co-management of relevant stocks, also non-commercial

12. Restore or maintain habitat quality

- 0 – no activity
- 1 – studies on effects on hp of marine constructions, shipping, seismic testing etc
- 2 – hp habitat taken into consideration in decisions on maritime activities, ongoing activities adapted to important hp habitat
- 3 – Full implementation of the MSFD and HD