

# NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT (SWEDEN)

Kylie Owen  
ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group meeting  
8-9 June 2020



Naturhistoriska  
riksmuseet



LUND  
UNIVERSITY



UPPSALA  
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Swedish University of  
Agricultural Sciences



NATIONAL  
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UNIVERSITY OF  
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Swedish Agency  
for Marine and  
Water Management

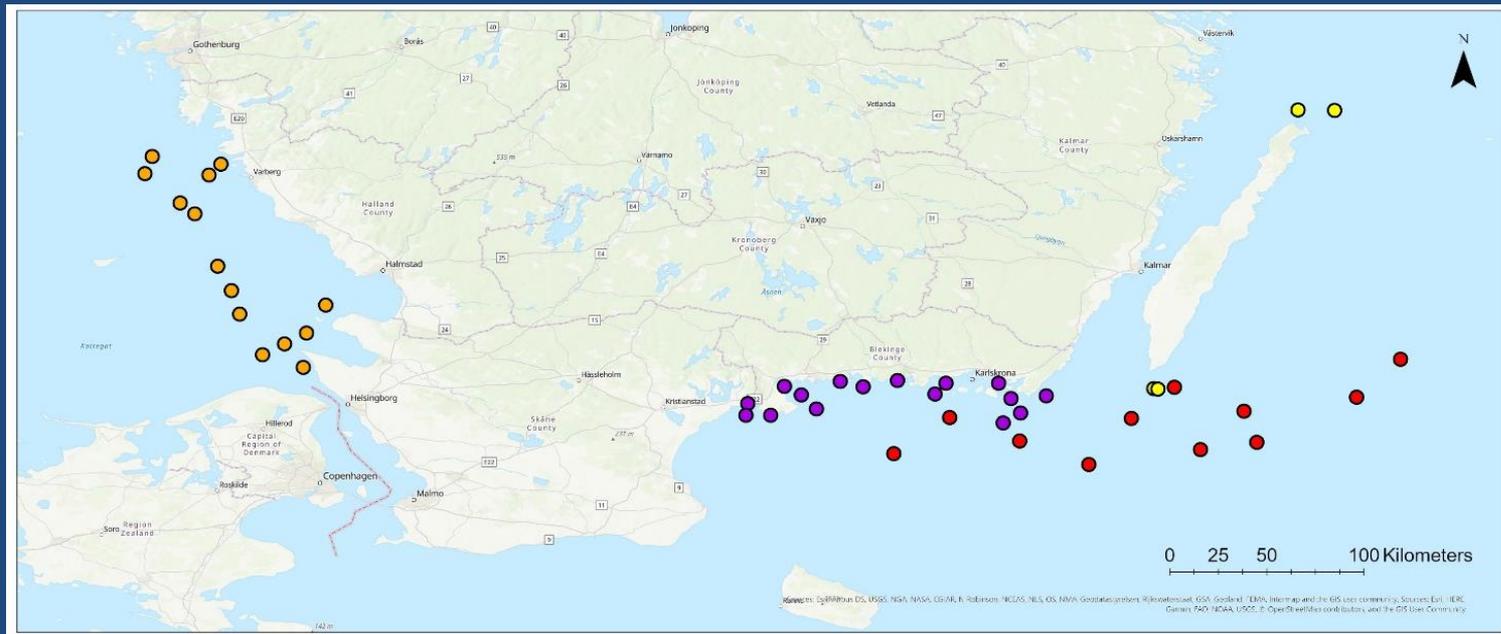
# NATIONAL AND REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMS

## National (SMNH)

- **Baltic Sea** since 2017
- **Kattegat Sea** May 2019

## Regional (SMNH/counties):

- **Blekinge** since 2016
- **Öland** since April 2020



(Funded by SwAM)

# CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROJECTS

## Temporal trends analysis

- Comparison of 11 stations
  - SAMBAH (2011-2013)
  - National monitoring (2017-2020) (SMNH)
- Preliminary results: DPD in the Baltic may be increasing over time?

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## SAMBAH II

- Planning is ongoing (SwAM, SMNH, CCB, SLU Aqua, SLU Landscape)
- Michael Dähne presentation tomorrow



# CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Population dynamics paper: Cervin et al. (in Review) (UGOT)**

## **Methods:**

- Somatic and demographic vital rates from 7 NS populations.
- Stochastic, individual-based population model, and performed a population viability analysis.

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Population dynamics paper: Cervin et al. (in Review) (UGOT)

## Methods:

- Somatic and demographic vital rates from 7 NS populations.
- Stochastic, individual-based population model, and performed a population viability analysis.

## Results:

- The Baltic Proper harbour porpoise is viable without anthropogenic stressors.
- Even the lowest estimated bycatch leads to a population collapse to  $\leq 50$  animals over the next 100 years.
- Adult survival is of critical importance.

# CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROJECTS

**WWF funded project on the Baltic Natura 2000 site (CCB, SMNH, FOI):**

The effect of seal safe pingers on seal depredation:

- Data collection is due to be finished this summer
- Analyses should be finished at the end of 2020.

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Impact of noise on porpoise detection:

- Proxy for shipping noise influences porpoise detection rate
- Extent of the impact varies with season.

# CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROJECTS

Harbour porpoise hunting from a bird's eye view (Stedt et al. 2019) (LU):

- Method: Drones to assess foraging behaviour



Photo: Bill Keener / Golden Gate Cetacean Research

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  - Switch between foraging strategies, including cooperative foraging
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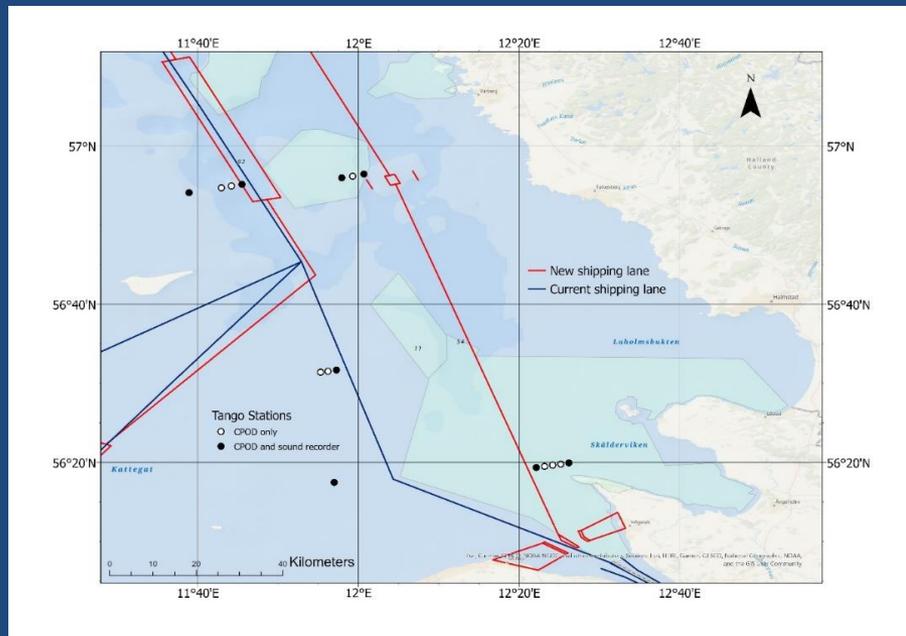
## Miniscans

- Sweden co-funding survey and assisting where needed with planning.

# CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROJECTS

## TANGO STUDY (AU, FOI, SMNH, SLU Aqua):

- Impact of re-routing a major shipping lane (2019-2020)
- “Pre” data collection ongoing (change 1 July 2020)



# BYCATCH PROJECTS

## Niu (2019) Master's thesis (UU, SMNH):

- Analysis of a historical (1995-1997) onboard observer programme of bottom gillnet fishery data:
  - Soak time, string length and water depth largest impact
  - Bycatch rate unsustainable for WBBK and NS populations



Photo: Sara Königson

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## Ghost net removal

- MARELITT project: Action plan "*The Baltic Sea Blueprint*".
  - Mapping, retrieval, recycling, and prevention of ghost nets.



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Sara Königson (SLU): more at the end.



Photo: Sara Königson

# REPORTING SCHEME & HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

- Updating a web-based reporting form for live and dead observations (SMNH, funded by SwAM)
- SMNH collects any information on all dead porpoises (some are collected for necropsy by SVA and SMNH (funded by SwAM))
- Health report by SVA and SMNH (Presentation by Aleksija Neimane tomorrow)



Photo: Solvin Zankl, [https://ccb.se/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Harbour\\_porpoise\\_15\\_webb-vers.pdf](https://ccb.se/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Harbour_porpoise_15_webb-vers.pdf)

# OTHER ACTIONS

- Baltic Proper population listed as Critically Endangered (CR) on the Swedish Red List
- Updating of the monitoring program for National implementation of the Marine Strategic Framework Directive (SwAM).
- Finalising National Action Plan for harbour porpoises (SwAM, SMNH, SLU Aqua)



Photo: <https://hakuresearch.wordpress.com/research/completed-projects/ongoing-project/>

# WORKING GROUPS

- ICES WGBYC (inc ADG) (SLU Aqua, SMNH)
- ICES special request (inc ADG) (SLU Aqua, SMNH) – Julia Carlström and Katarzyna Kamińska talk tomorrow
- ICES WGCATCH (SLU Aqua)
- ICES WGMME (SMNH)
- ASCOBANS JG, NSG (SLU Aqua, SMNH, SVA, SwAM)
- Development of HELCOM indicator on porpoise distribution and abundance (SMNH)
- HELCOM EGMAMA (SMNH)
- Joint OSPAR-HELCOM workshop developing indicators for incidental bycatch (Slu aqua)
- OSPAR MMEG (SMNH)
- FAO (SLU Aqua)
- STECF (SLU Aqua)



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Hand over to Sara Königson