

# Recent porpoise research at Fjord&Bælt

Magnus Wahlberg  
Marine Biological Research Center,  
University of Southern Denmark



# Trained animals for research

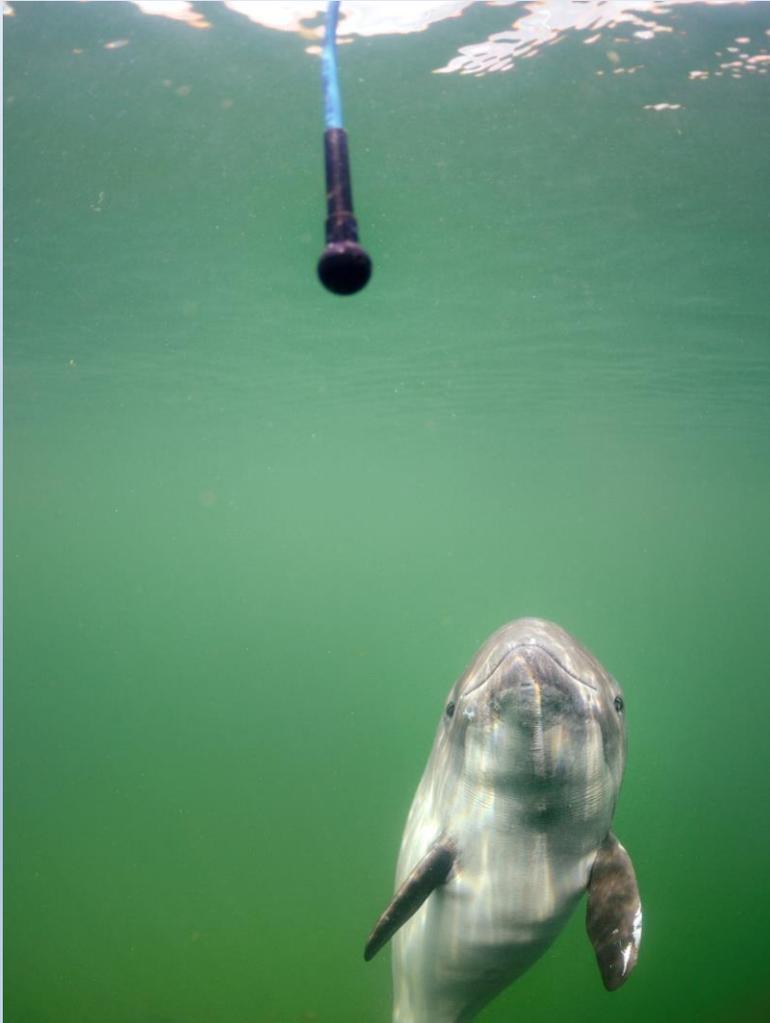


Started with 2 animals in 1997

4 animals in 2007

1 animal in 2020

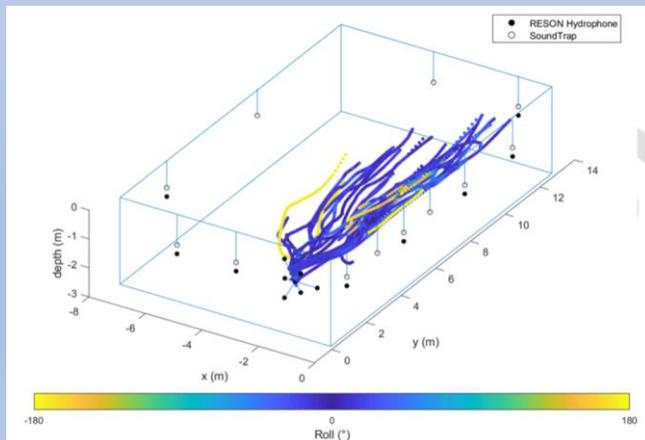
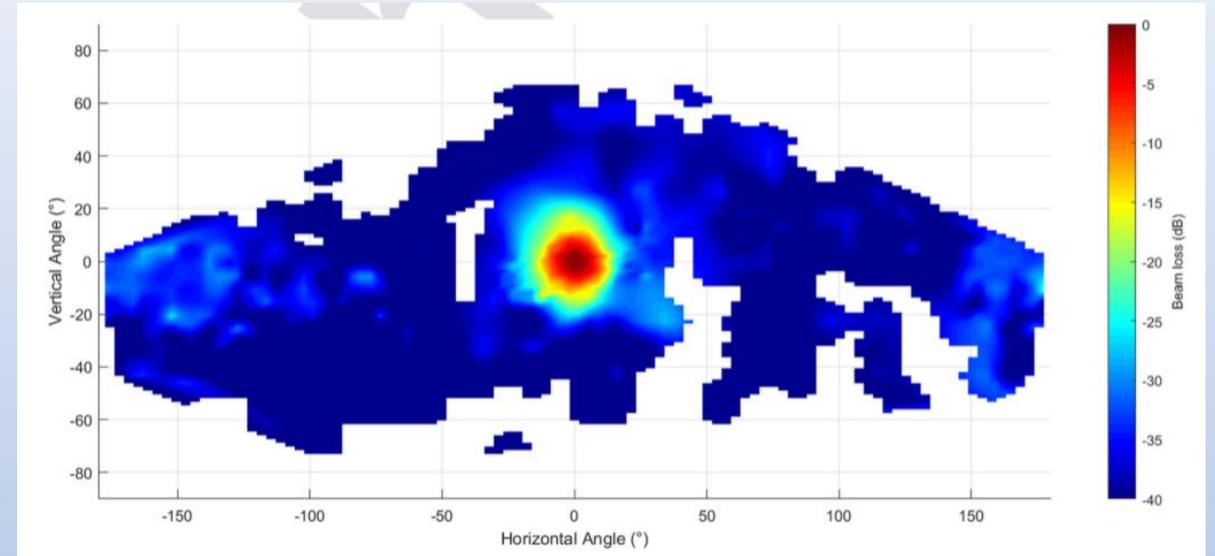
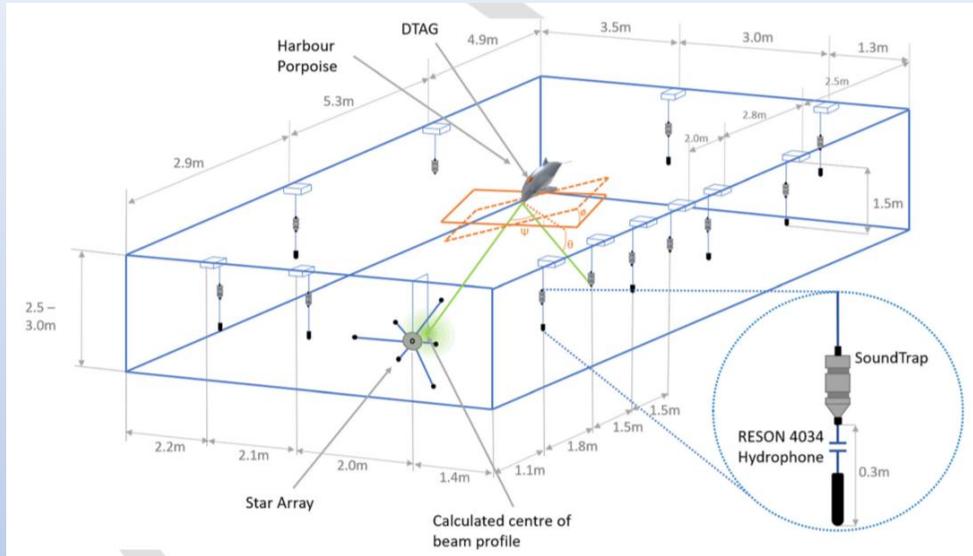
# Earlier work on echolocation, sound production and hearing



Solvin Zankl, Fjord&Bælt

Koblitz et al. 2008 JASA  
Verfuss et al. 2005 and 2010, JEB  
Teilmann et al. 2006 Mar. Mamm. Sci.  
Deruiter et al. 2010 JEB  
Wisniewska et al. 2012 JEB  
Linnenschmidt et al. 2012 Proc. R. Soc. B  
Linnenschmidt et al. 2013 Naturwissenschaften  
Wisniewska et al. 2015 E-life  
Dyndo et al. 2015 Sci. Rep.  
Wahlberg et al. 2017 J Comp. Physiol.

# Harbour porpoise 3-D beam pattern

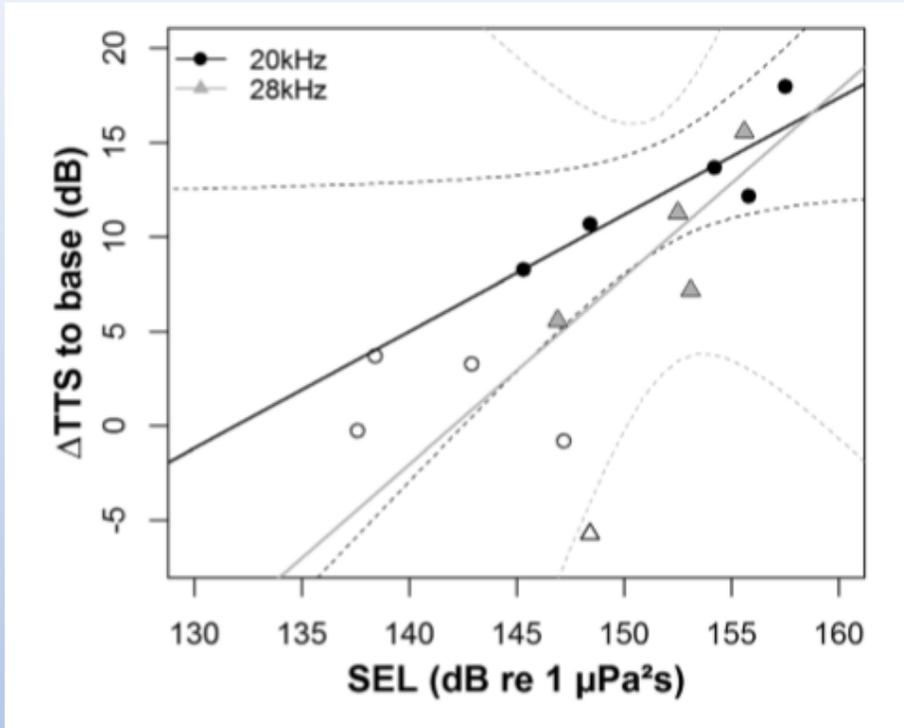


JASA ARTICLE

**High resolution three-dimensional beam radiation pattern of harbour porpoise clicks with implications for passive acoustic monitoring**

Jamie D. J. Macaulay,<sup>1,a)</sup> Chloe E. Malinka,<sup>2,b)</sup> Douglas Gillespie,<sup>1,c)</sup> and Peter T. Madsen<sup>2,d)</sup>

# Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS) due to seal scarers



**The use of seal scarers as a protective mitigation measure can induce hearing impairment in harbour porpoises<sup>a)</sup>**

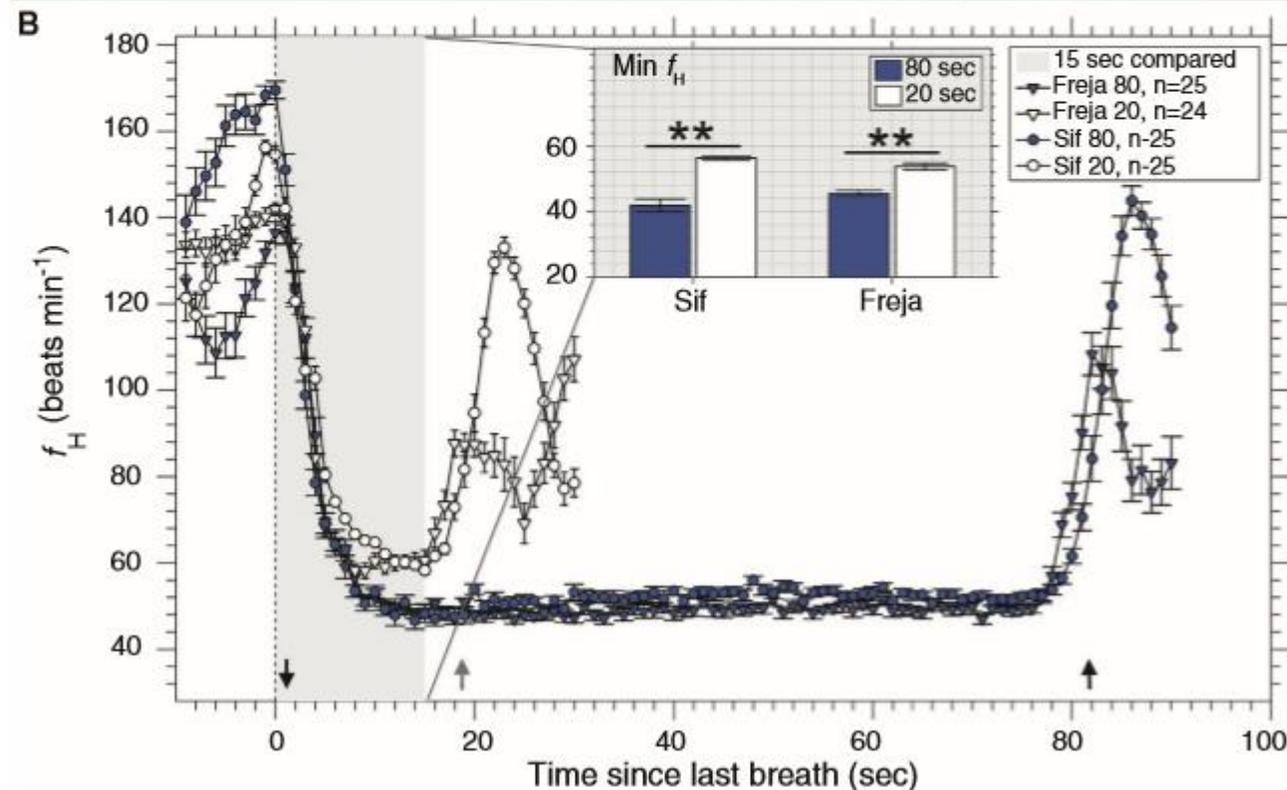
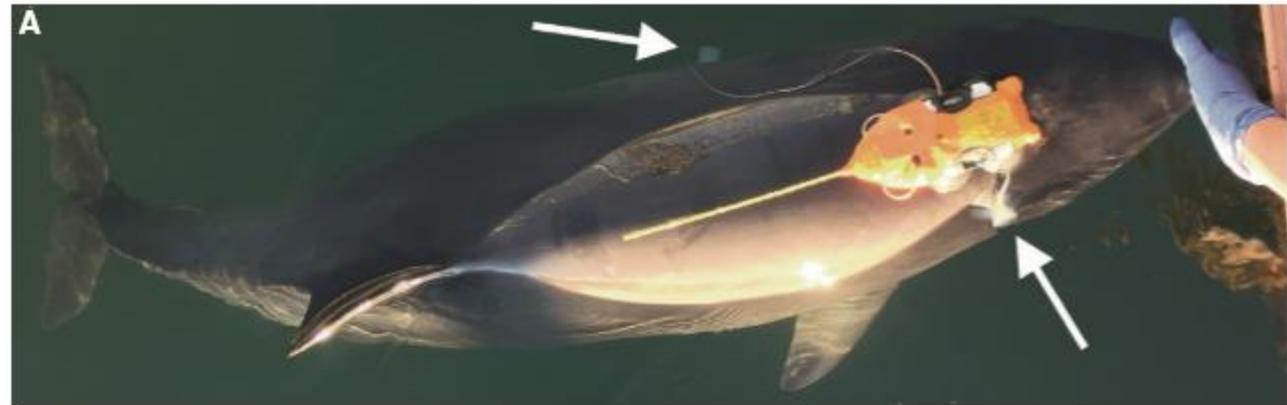
Tobias Schaffeld,<sup>1</sup> Andreas Ruser,<sup>1,b)</sup> Benno Woelfing,<sup>1</sup> Johannes Baltzer,<sup>1</sup> Jakob H. Kristensen,<sup>2</sup> Josefin Larsson,<sup>2</sup> Joseph G. Schnitzler,<sup>1</sup> and Ursula Siebert<sup>1</sup>

J. Acoust. Soc. Am. **146** (6), December 2019

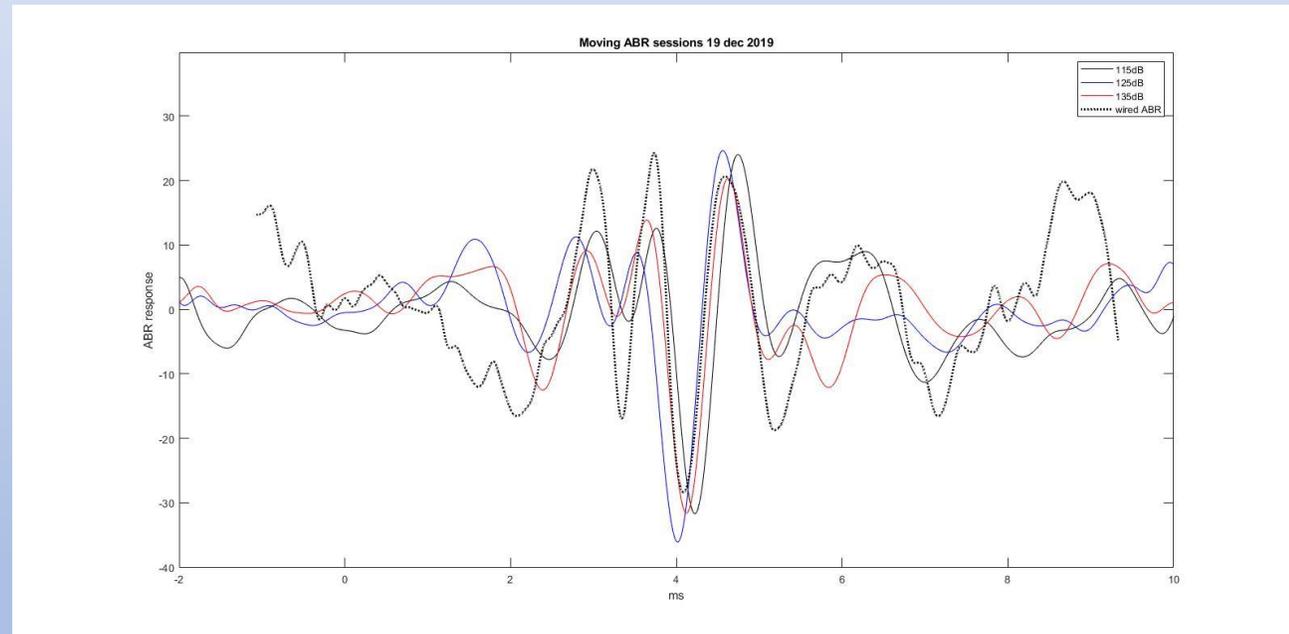
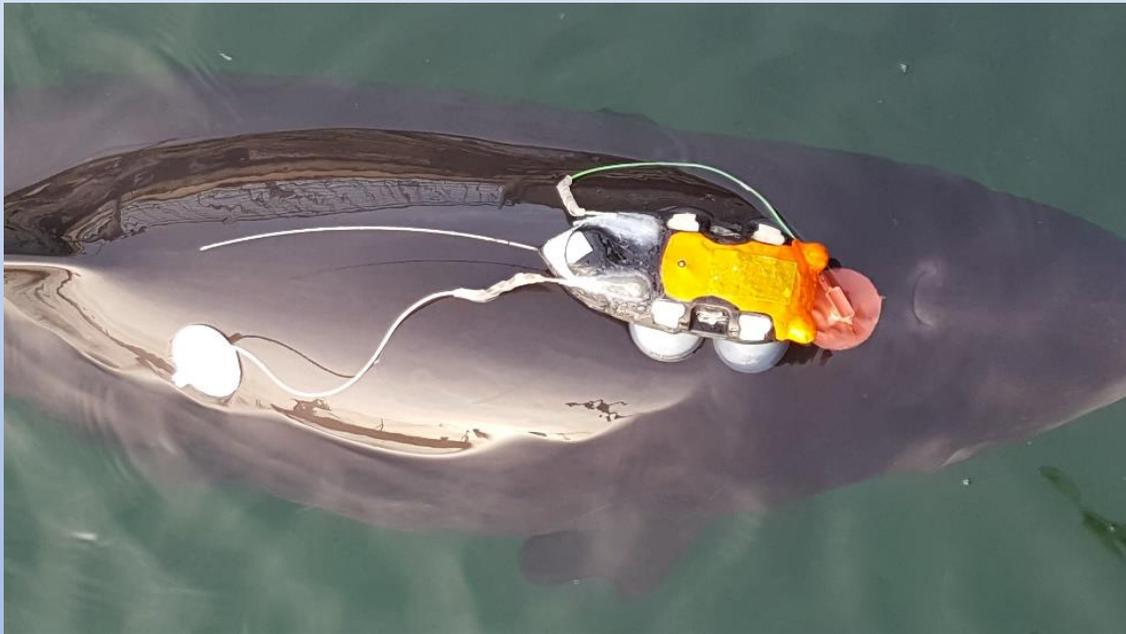
# Cognitive control of heart rate in diving harbor porpoises

Siri L. Elmegaard<sup>1,\*</sup>, Mark Johnson<sup>2</sup>,  
Peter T. Madsen<sup>1,3</sup>,  
and Birgitte I. McDonald<sup>1,4</sup>

Tag development  
Attachement methods



# DTAG ABR (Adam Smith, in prep.)



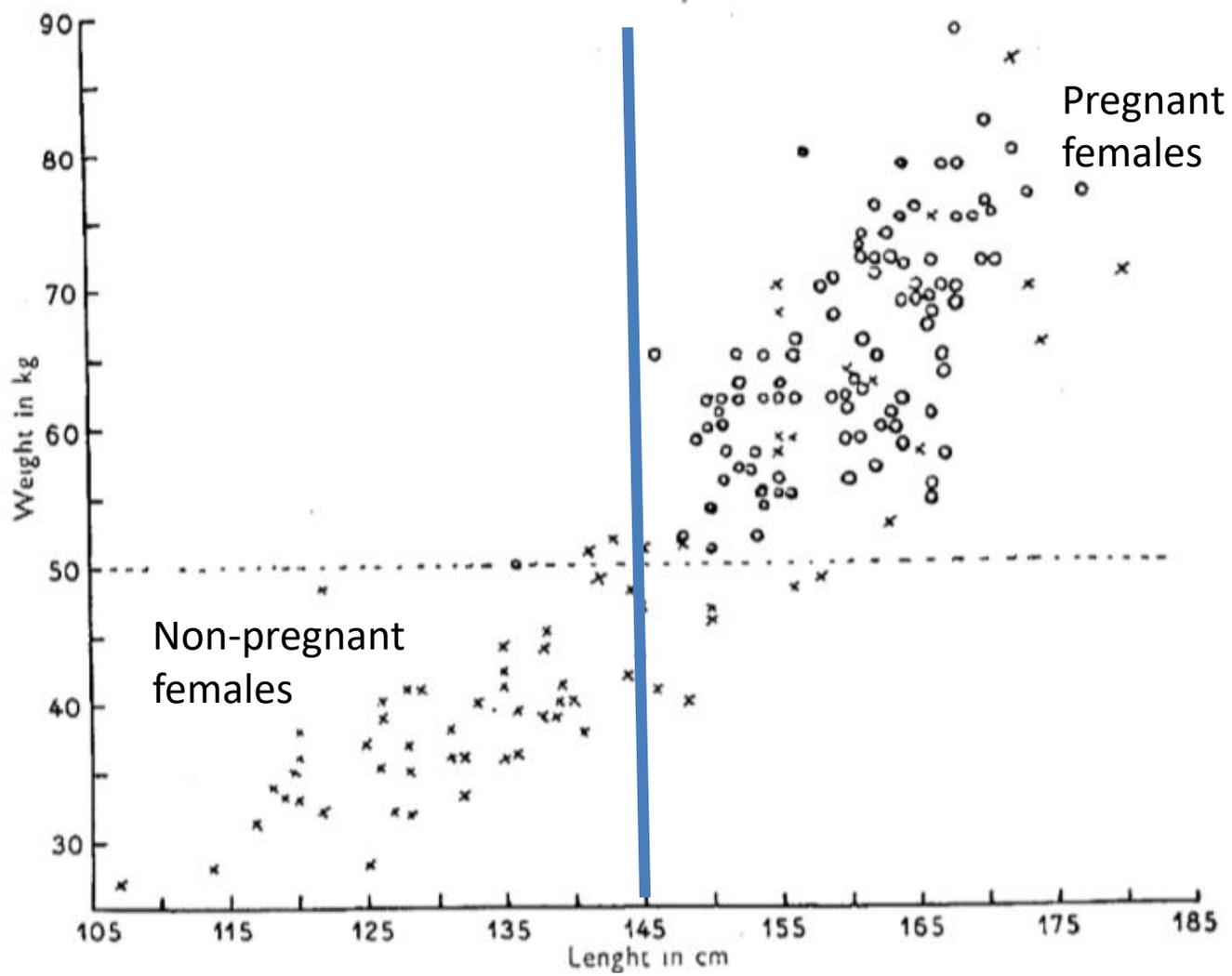
# Investigating the Potential Use of Environmental DNA (eDNA) for Genetic Monitoring of Marine Mammals

Andrew D. Foote<sup>1\*</sup>, Philip Francis Thomsen<sup>1</sup>, Signe Sveegaard<sup>2</sup>, Magnus Wahlberg<sup>3,4</sup>, Jos Kielgast<sup>1</sup>, Line A. Kyhn<sup>2</sup>, Andreas B. Salling<sup>1</sup>, Anders Galatius<sup>2</sup>, Ludovic Orlando<sup>1</sup>, M. Thomas P. Gilbert<sup>1</sup>

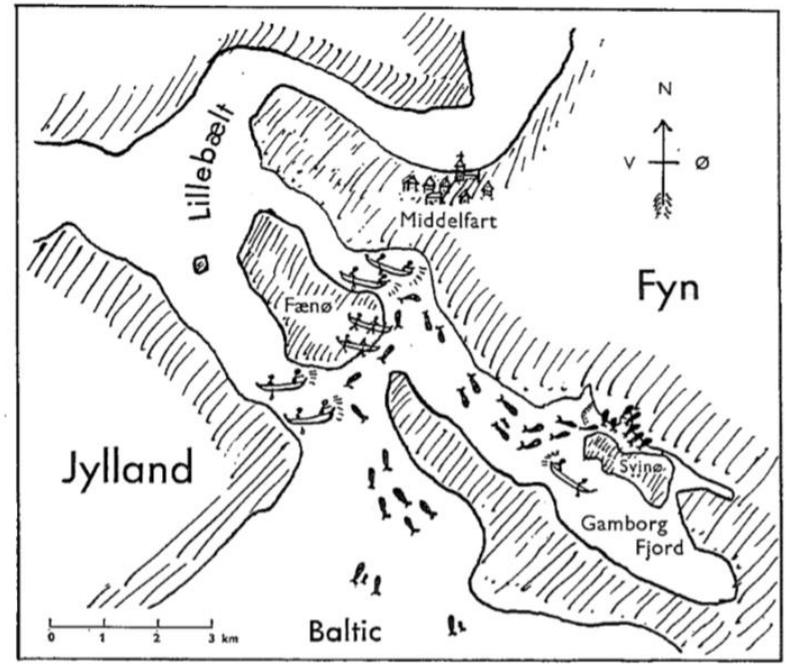


Location	<u>Genetic detection</u>
	Positive PCRs
Positive control (DNA extracted from skin)	3/3
Fjord&Bælt pen	3/3
<10 m from F&B pen	1/3
>10 m from F&B pen	0/3

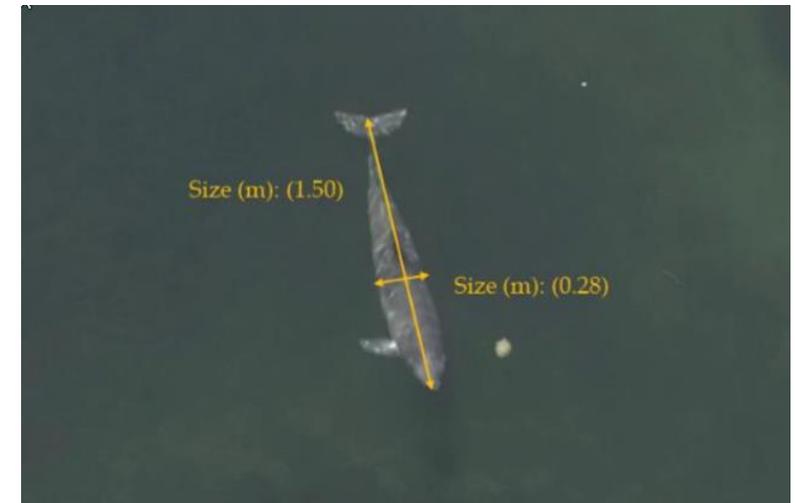
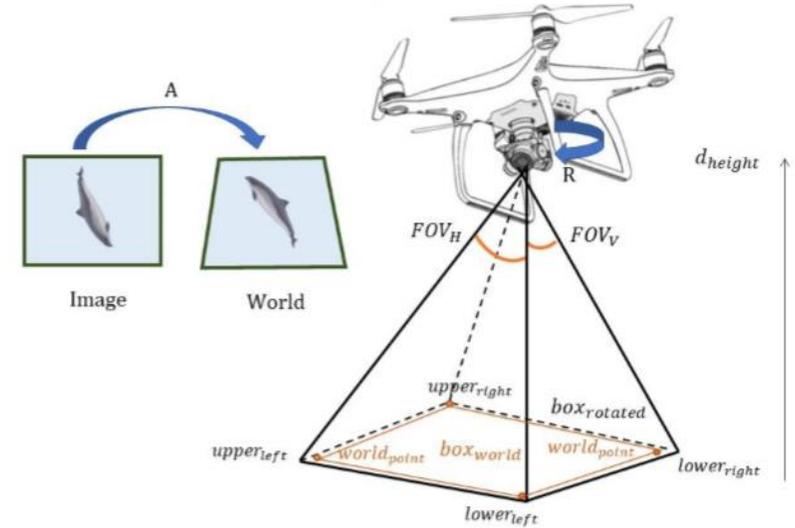
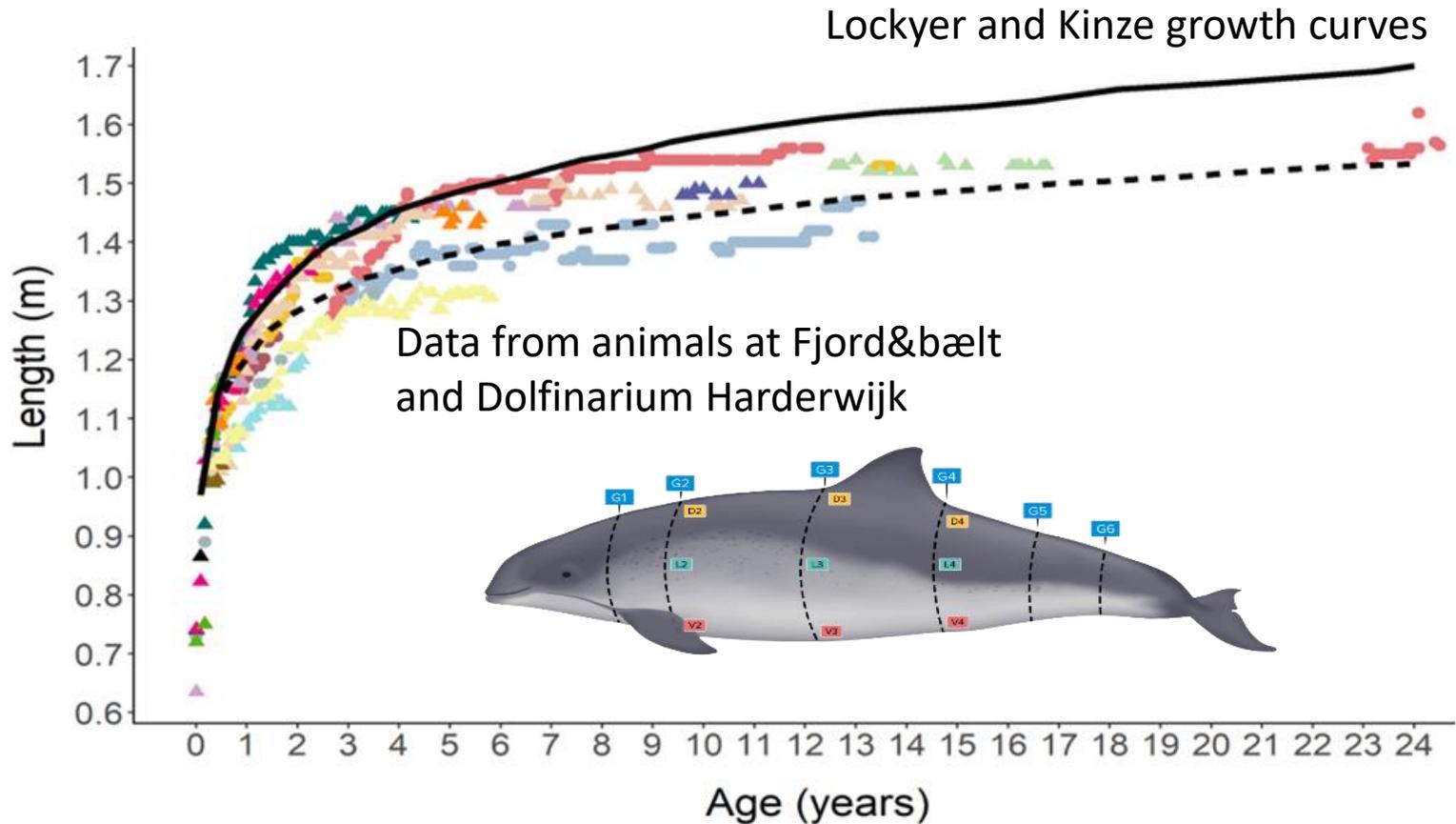
# Body size tells us about porpoises' lives



Ulrik Møhl 1955



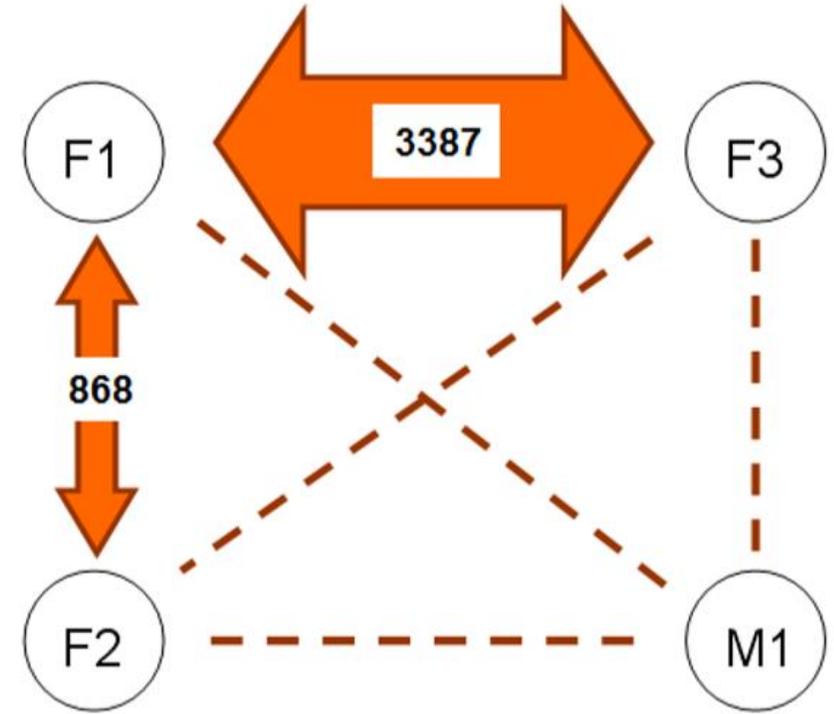
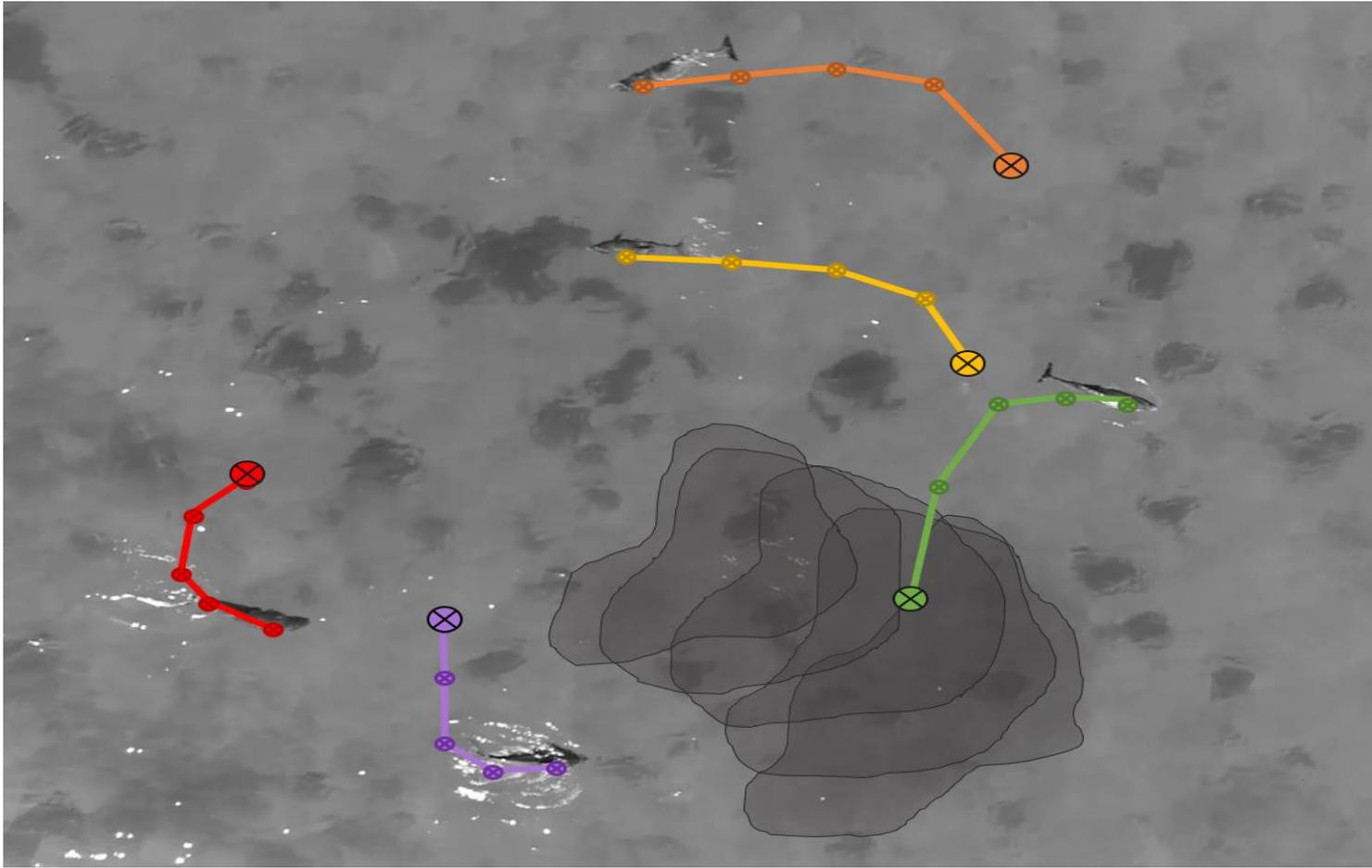
# Growth, age and size



Accuracy within 10%

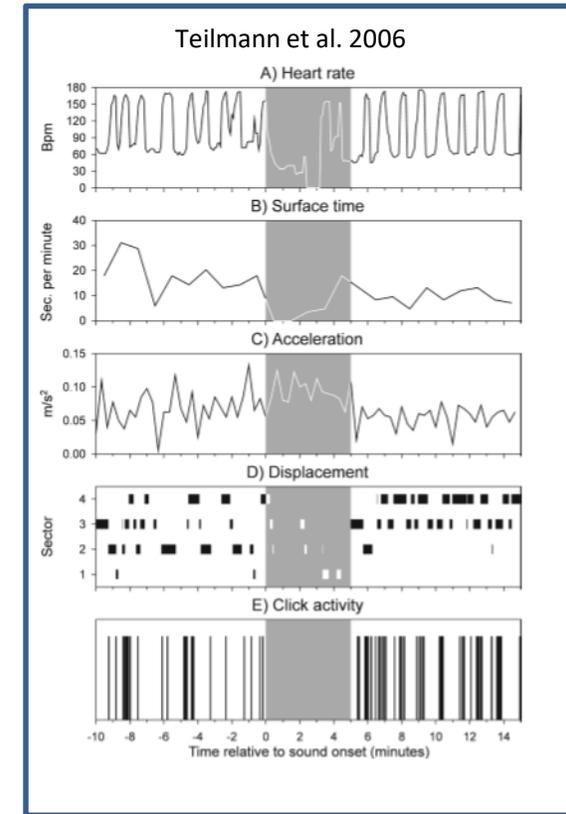
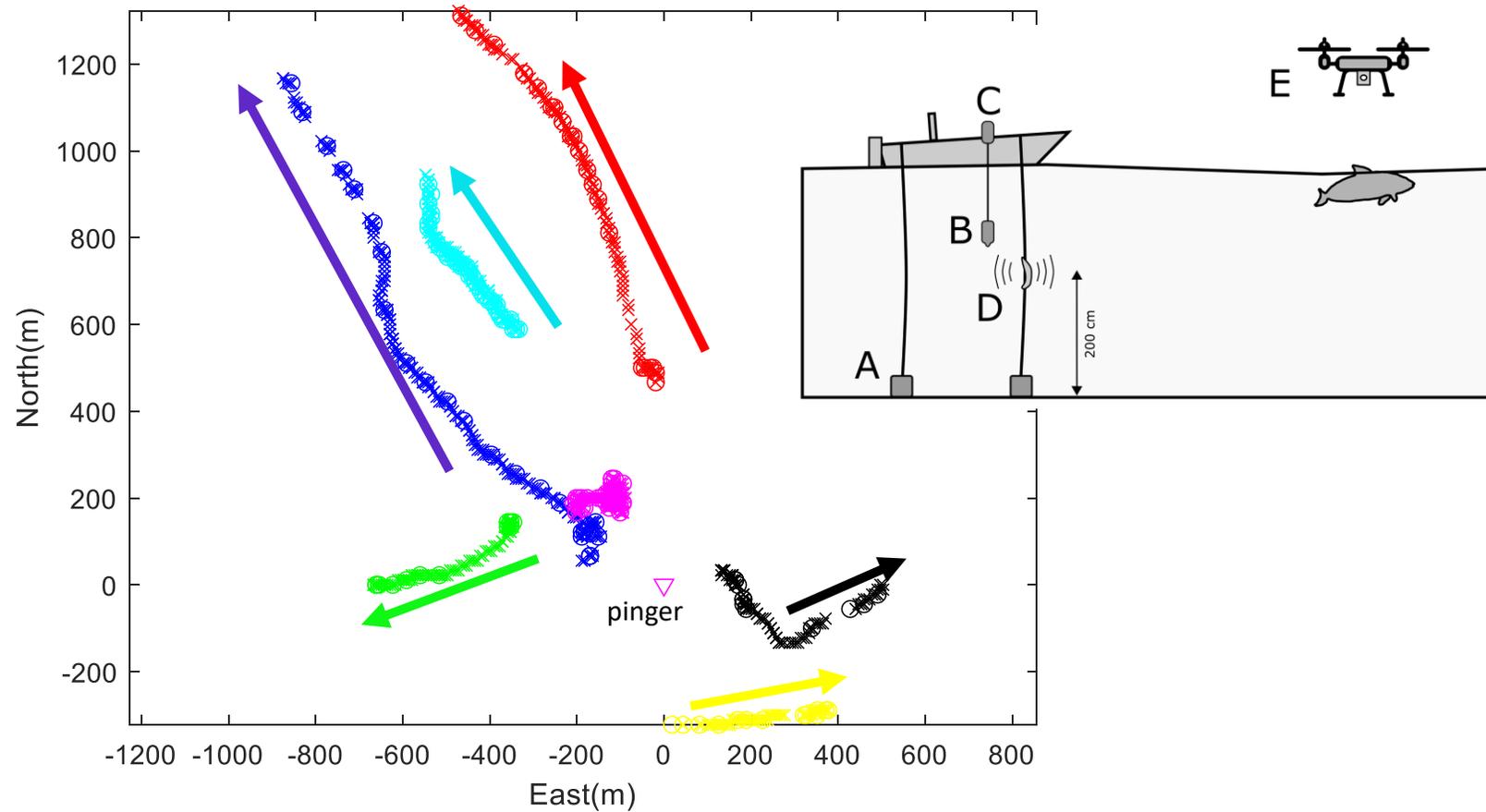
Stepien 2018 MSc thesis  
Stepien et al., RSOS in rev.

# Cooperating porpoises (Ortiz et al. in prep)



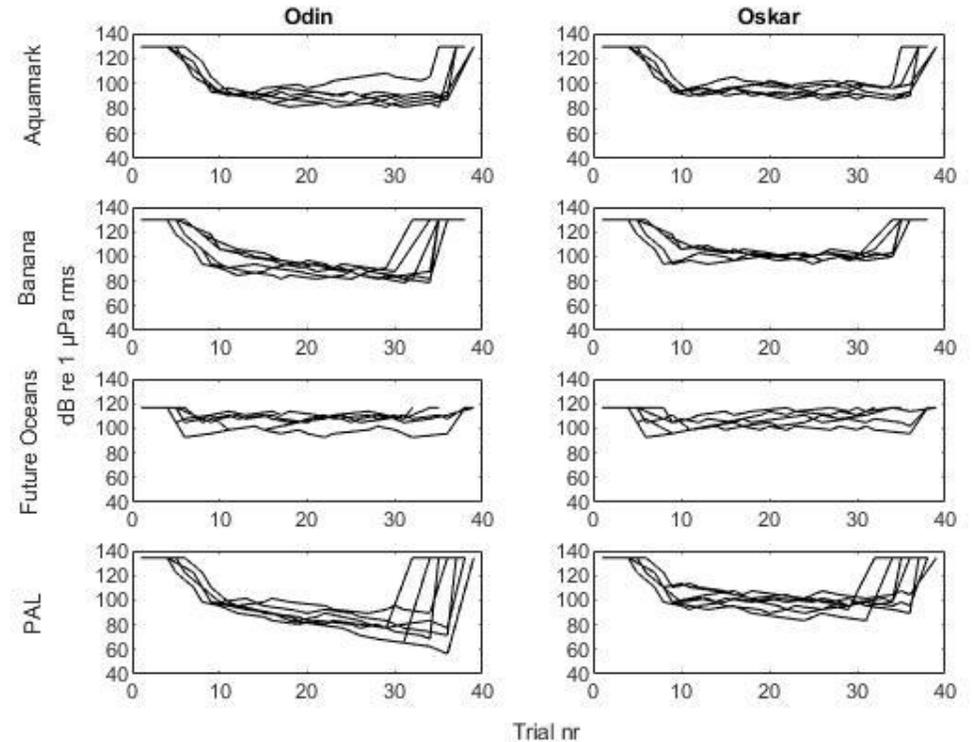
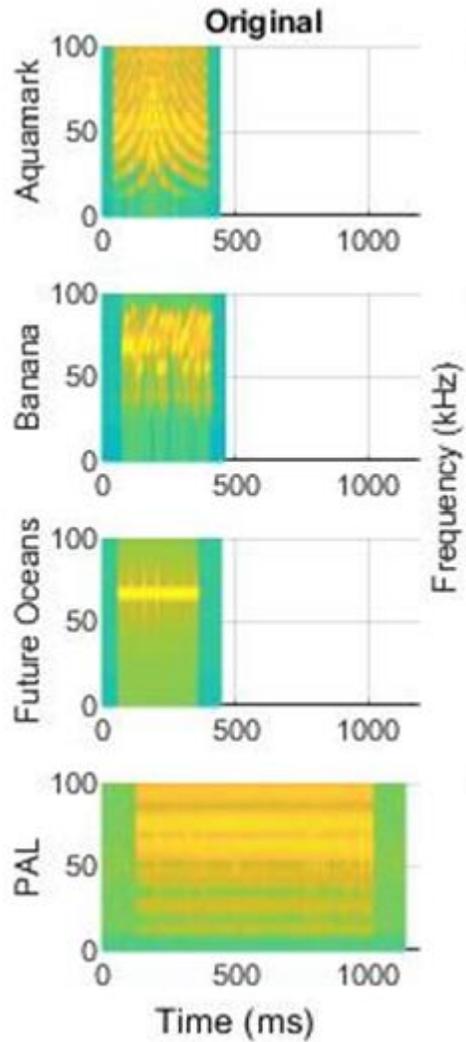
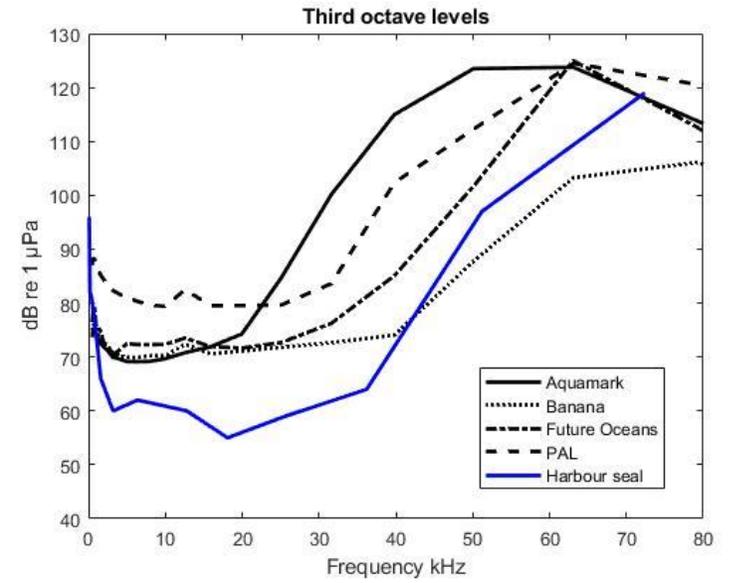
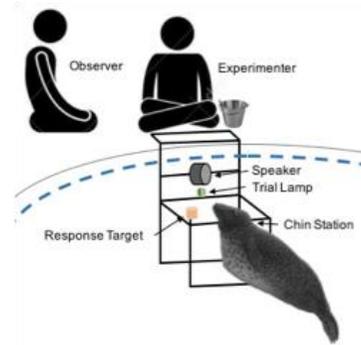
Porpoise association patterns at F&B  
(Lara Delgado 2010, MSc thesis)

# Pinger playback (Brennecke et al., *in prep.*)



# Are seal-safe pingers seal-safe?

(Amundin / Königsson et al. in prep.)

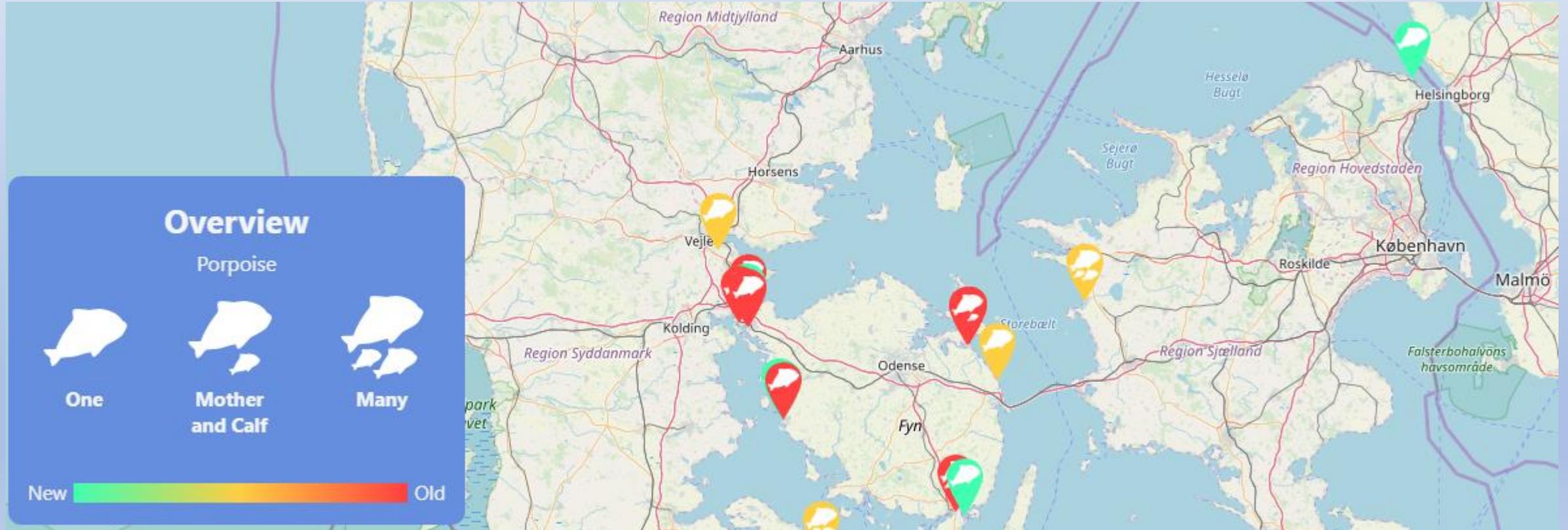


# The App 'Marine tracker': Citizen Science observations

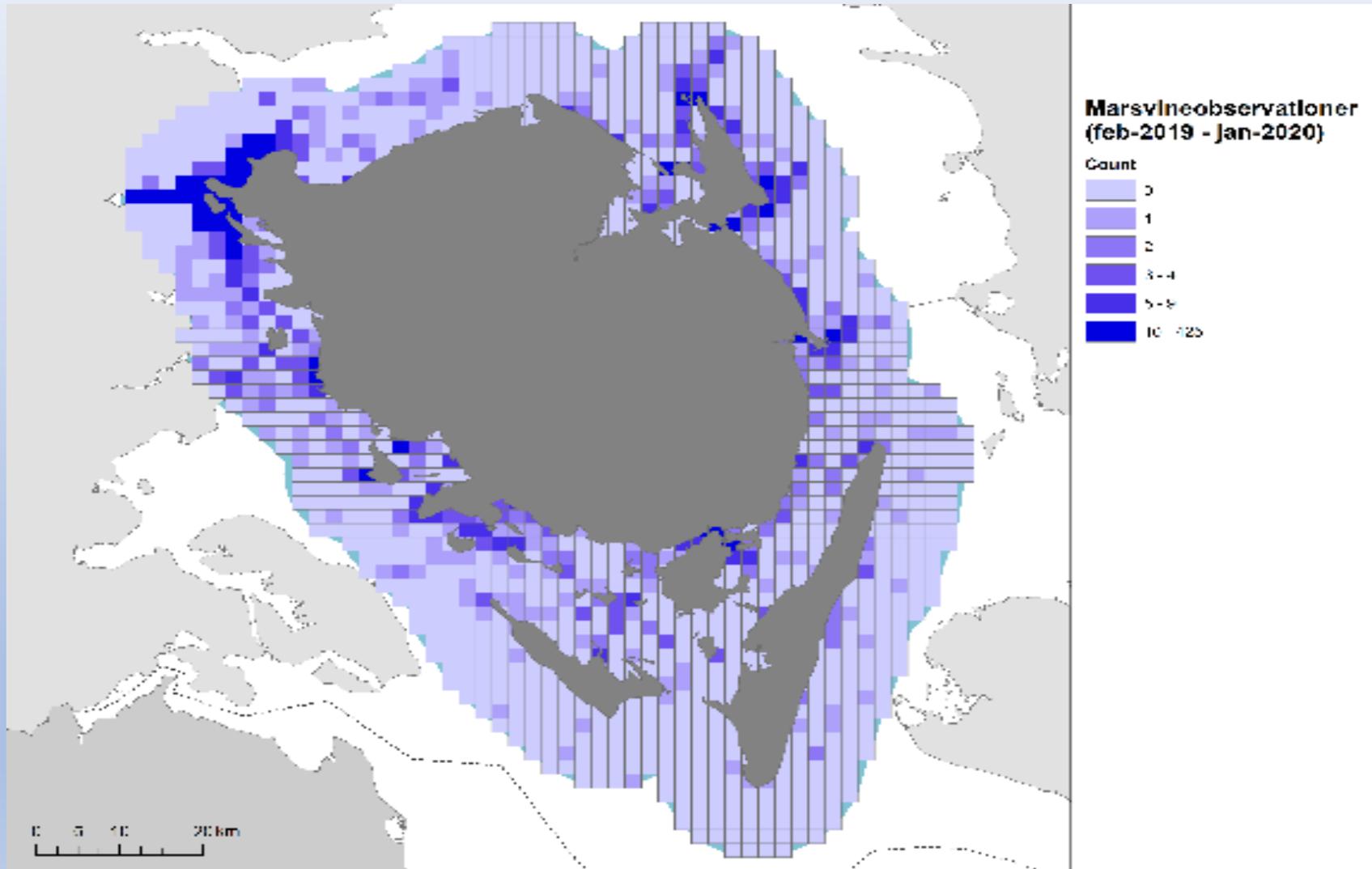
Number of app downloads in 2019: 2,150

Number of porpoise observations: 4,719

Single animals	2287 obs. (49%)
Mother+calf	815 obs. (17%)
Many animals	1617 obs. (34%)

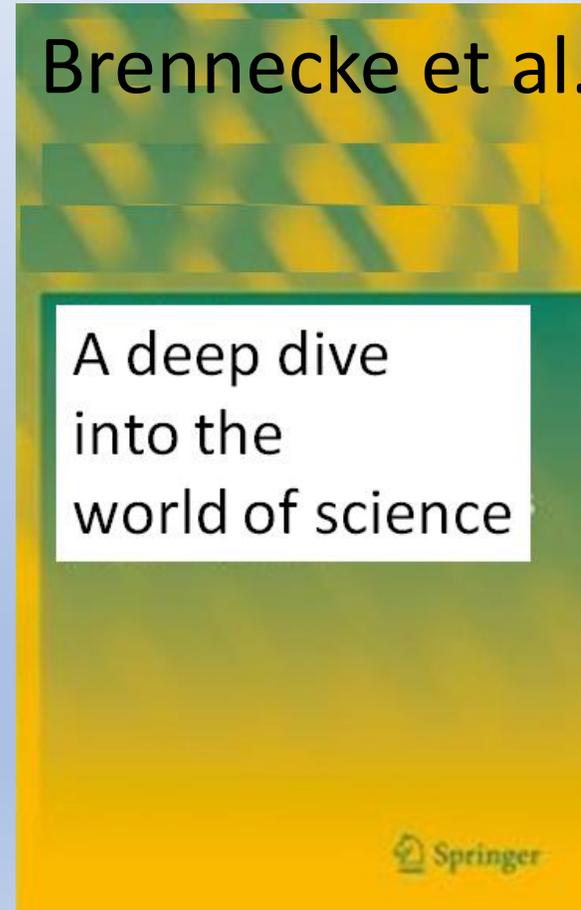
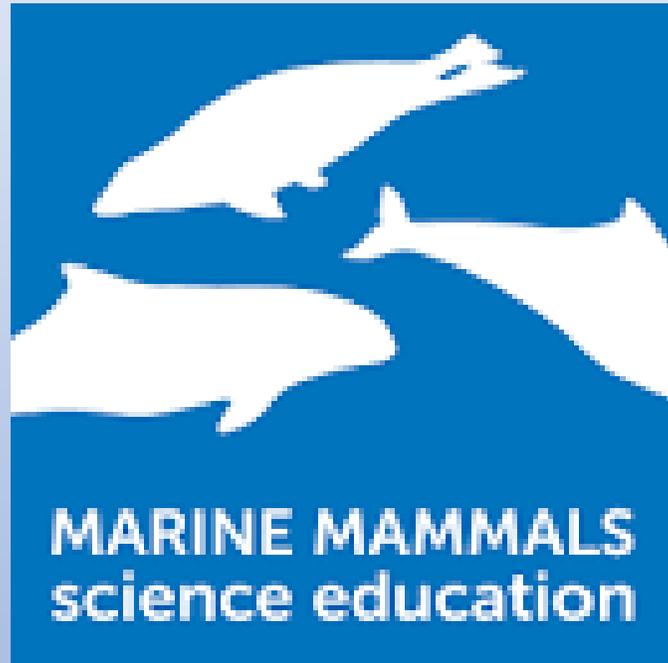


# Porpoise CS observations 2019 (courtesy S. Sveegaard, DCE-AU)



# Outreach

<https://marine-mammals.com/>



# Funding

Horizon 2020

Office of Naval Reserach

Bundesamt für Naturschutz

EU Strategic Fishery fund

Independent Research Fund Denmark

Danish Council of Independent Research

Carlsberg Foundation

**Questions?**

**Please contact me at  
[magnus@biology.sdu.dk](mailto:magnus@biology.sdu.dk)**

