



# COMMON DOLPHIN GROUP

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Sinéad Murphy (Co-Chair)

2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

# Agenda

- **Overview of progress in SAP implementation**
  - Tour-de-table reports: Countries (France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, the UK) were requested to address each SAP Action, where applicable, in their summaries.
  - Activities contributing to implementation of the Common Dolphin SAP
- **Reports from relevant meetings and groups**
- **ICES Special Request Advice regarding the emergency measures to prevent bycatch of common dolphin in the Bay of Biscay**
  - Presentations provided summaries on the ICES Special Request Advice.
  - Relevant countries reported on what measures they are planning on taking, and update on NGO activities was provided.
- **Overview on 2019 conservation status reports for the Common Dolphin**
  - Short summaries / presentations on the Member States' conservation status reports submitted under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive were given.

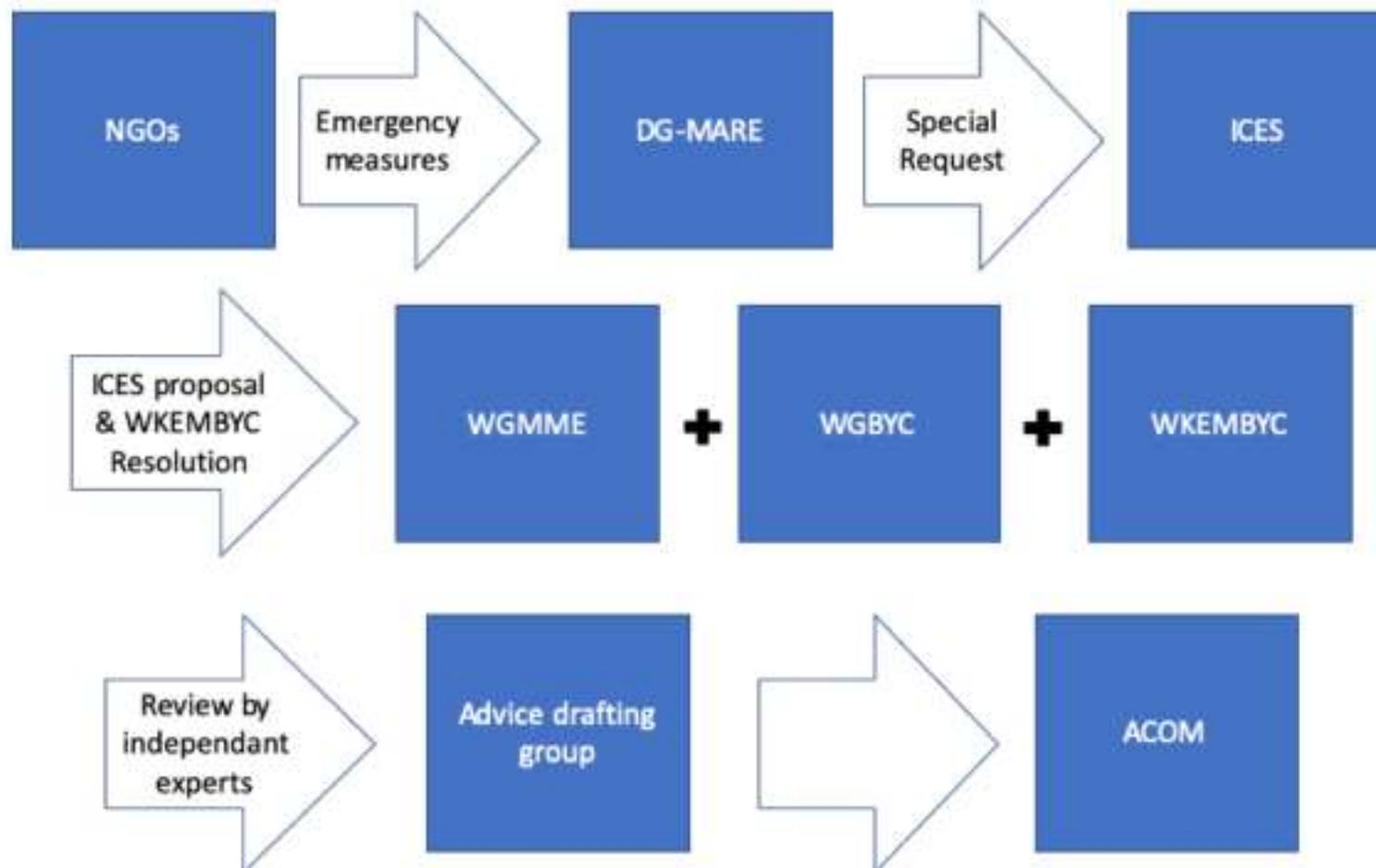


# ICES SPECIAL REQUEST ADVICE

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# WKEMBYC

## From Emergency Measure Request To ICES Advice



# ICES Advice (2020)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
Scenario	NGO proposed 4 month closure (Dec-Mar) all métiers	Annual effort reduction of 40% all métiers	2 month closure (mid Jan - mid Mar) all métiers	6 week closure (mid Jan - end Feb) all métiers	4 week closure (mid Jan - mid Feb) all métiers	2 week closure (mid Jan - end Jan) all métiers	Pinger PTM / PTB all year & same 6 week closure all other métiers	6 week closure (mid Jan - end Feb) all métiers and pinger PTM / PTB rest of year	Pinger PTM / PTB all year and same 4 week closure all other métiers	Pinger PTM / PTB all year and same 2 week closure all other métiers	Pinger PTM / PTB all year	2 month closure all métiers + pinger PTB / PTM rest of year	4 month closure all métiers + pinger PTM / PTB rest of year	3 month (Jan-Mar) + 1 month (mid-Jul-mid-Aug) closure all métiers + pinger PTB / PTM rest of year	3 month (Jan-Mar) + 1 month (mid-Jul-mid-Aug) closure all métiers
total resulting bycatch - monitoring mortality	441	1919	833	1357	1928	2488	1268	1026	1624	1972	2412	630	334	299	397
total resulting bycatch - strandings mortality	914	3975	1726	2811	3992	5152	2627	2125	3363	4085	4996	1306	693	619	822
Bycatch reduction obtained	0.86	0.40	0.74	0.58	0.40	0.22	0.60	0.68	0.49	0.38	0.25	0.80	0.90	0.91	0.88
Effort reduction needed	0.3	0.40	0.17	0.12	0.08	0.04	0.11	0.12	0.07	0.04	0.00	0.17	0.3	0.3	0.3
Efficiency Score	2.6	1.0	4.4	5.0	5.2	5.8	5.5	5.7	6.7	10.4	N/A	4.8	2.7	2.7	2.6

% of PBR	<10%	<50%	≥50% and ≤PBR	>PBR
Number bycaught	<493	<2464	2464 - 4927	>4927

To reduce mortality below the PBR

1. (E) 4-week closure for all métiers (mid-Jan.–mid-Feb.)
2. (B) Annual fishing effort reduction of 40% in métiers of concern
3. (J) Pinger PTM/PTB year-round + 2-week closure (mid-Jan.–end of Jan.) all other fisheries

# Actions by relevant Member States

## as of Dec 2020

- Spain - a Ministerial Order concerning pingers for bottom trawl fleets, dedicated observers on board, trials of on-board cameras, rules on landing cetaceans and 'move-on rules
- The project CetAMBCion was awarded funding at the end of 2020. Coordinated by Spain and involves 15 partners, including from France and Portugal.
  - Aims to assess cetacean populations in the Bay of Biscay and along the Iberian Coast over a 2-year period.
  - Aims to co-ordinate sub-regional cetacean bycatch assessment
  - Aims to co-ordinate measures to reduce cetacean bycatch

# Actions by relevant Member States

## as of Dec 2020

- France – Good Environmental Status, when bycatch has fallen below 1% of best abundance
  - Creation of a WG on bycatch
  - Aims to make reporting of bycatch incidences mandatory
  - Aims to implement pingers to reduce bycatch
  - OBSMER programme bycatch monitoring programme
  - Aims to fit camera's to vessels
  - Population level data would be updated, including undertaking aerial surveys to map dolphin distribution
- In October 2020, the Member States of the South Western Waters (SWW) Regional Group submitted a Joint Recommendation (JR) to the EC with the aim of reducing accidental catches of small cetaceans in the Bay of Biscay. The JR were not reviewed by the EC at the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Common Dolphin Group meeting.



# ARTICLE 17 SPECIES ASSESSMENT

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Common dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

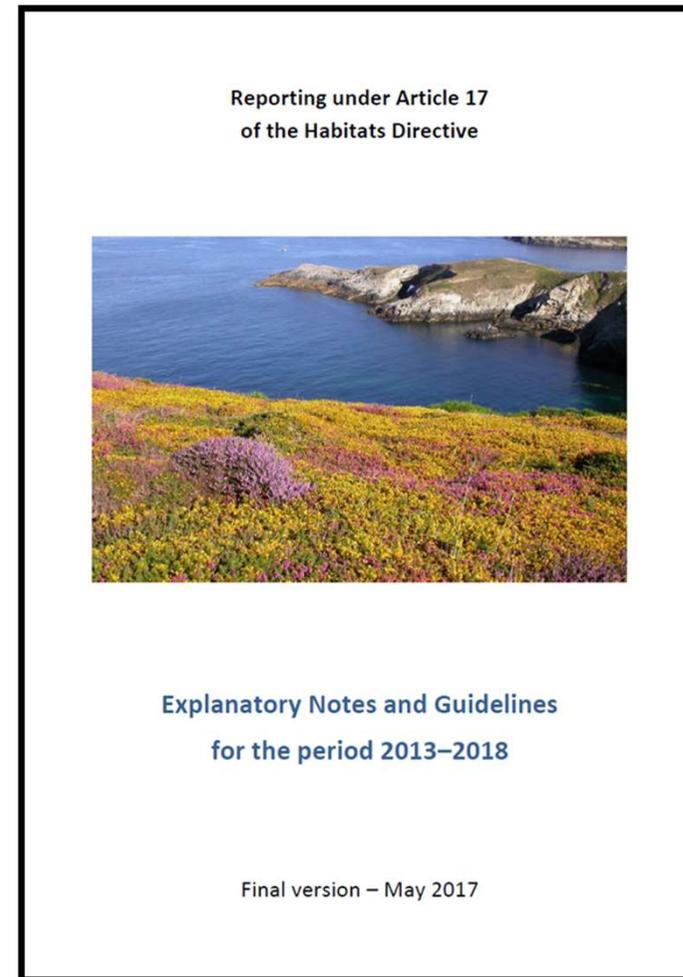
Marine Atlantic

**Table 1.** EU Member States Conservation Status Assessments for common dolphin, undertaken for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.

Country	2007	2013	2019
UK	Unknown	Favourable	Unknown
Ireland	Favourable	Favourable	Favourable
France	Unknown	Unfavourable-Bad	Unfavourable-Inadequate
Spain	Unknown	Unfavourable-Bad	Unknown
Portugal	Favourable	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Unfavourable-Inadequate
<b>Marine Atlantic</b>	<b>“Unknown”</b>	<b>“Unfavourable-Inadequate”</b>	<b>“Unknown”</b>

# Transboundary Species

*“If joint regional assessment of the conservation status was made the results of this assessment can be provided instead of the Member State level assessment. This should be noted under field 13.2 ‘Transboundary assessment’. Joint assessments between two or more Member States should be done primarily in cases where there is a certain level of cooperation and common understanding of the management needs and approaches for that species (e.g. large carnivore populations). **There may also be cases where it is biologically relevant to consider populations in other neighbouring non-EU countries.** This should be clearly described under field 13.2 ‘Transboundary assessment.’”*





# RECOMMENDATIONS

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Common Dolphin Group – 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

# Recommendations

- 1) For reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, it is recommended that a transboundary assessment should be undertaken by Member States in conjunction with third countries; an assessment that could be undertaken by the ASCOBANS CDG and consider marine mammal common indicators developed by OSPAR.
- 2) The CDG endorses ICES advice on Emergency Measures for the Common Dolphin in the North-east Atlantic, subject to minor amendments to reflect ASCOBANS conservation objective *'to allow populations to recover to and/or maintain 80% of carrying capacity in the long term'*.
- 3) While emergency short-term measures are imperative to reduce bycatch of Common Dolphins in the North-east Atlantic, a strategic long-term population level plan is recommended to ensure the favourable conservation status of this European protected species in the long term. The strategic bycatch reduction plan, detailing monitoring and mitigation requirements, could be co-developed by the ASCOBANS CDG in association with other stakeholders, including Advisory Councils and the fishing industry.

# Recommendations

- 4) Encourage Parties to continue to review and test a range of mitigation options to reduce bycatch of Common Dolphins, including acoustic deterrents, gear modifications, fishing practices, time-area closures, move-on procedure etc., mitigation measures that could be implemented at the fleet level.
- 5) Parties are encouraged to conduct further analysis towards fine-scale risk-mapping to better understand factors determining high bycatch and to direct resources to high-risk areas and times.
- 6) Parties are encouraged to consider the geographic coverage of largescale transboundary surveys, such as SCANS, as it is crucial to cover as much range of the North-east Atlantic population as possible, to assess population shifts resulting from environmental change.
- 7) Recommend that North-east Atlantic-wide information on life history parameters be collected and analysed from strandings and bycaught animals to assess for evidence of temporal changes in those parameters that may have resulted from anthropogenic activities.

# Recommendations

- 8) The Steering Group should identify the added value of its scientific advice compared to the other scientific fora, in order to avoid duplication of effort.
- 9) SAP Range States to complete the 'Achievements Table' by end of 2021 to identify data gaps, as well as actions and funding that are required going forward. The Steering Group should then set priorities for each country. Gaps to be potentially addressed by the CetAMBICion EMFF project led by Spain and any relevant national projects.
- 10) Letters of invitation to be sent from the Secretariat to request Non-Party Range States' participation in implementation of the SAP on Common Dolphins.
- 11) A review should be undertaken of aerial survey monitoring techniques to better discriminate small delphinid species to ensure explicit estimates of population size and uncertainty.