

# Conservation of Harbour Porpoises in the Wadden Sea World Heritage

ASCOBANS -  
10th Meeting of the North Sea Group,  
18-19/01/2022  
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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



The Wadden Sea  
World Heritage Site  
since 2009



WADDEN SEA  
WORLD HERITAGE



Common  
Wadden Sea  
Secretariat

# Developments in the Wadden Sea

**2017** ASCOBANS letter to the TWSC

**2018** Leeuwarden Declaration – Paragraph 16

**2019** Bright Future? Harbour Porpoises in the Wadden Sea

**2020** Integration of Harbour Porpoises into the ToRs of the trilateral Expert Group Seals

→ Expert Group Marine Mammals

# What has happened since then?

## Bi-annual meetings of the EG Marine Mammals

→ How to trilaterally proceed with harbour porpoises?

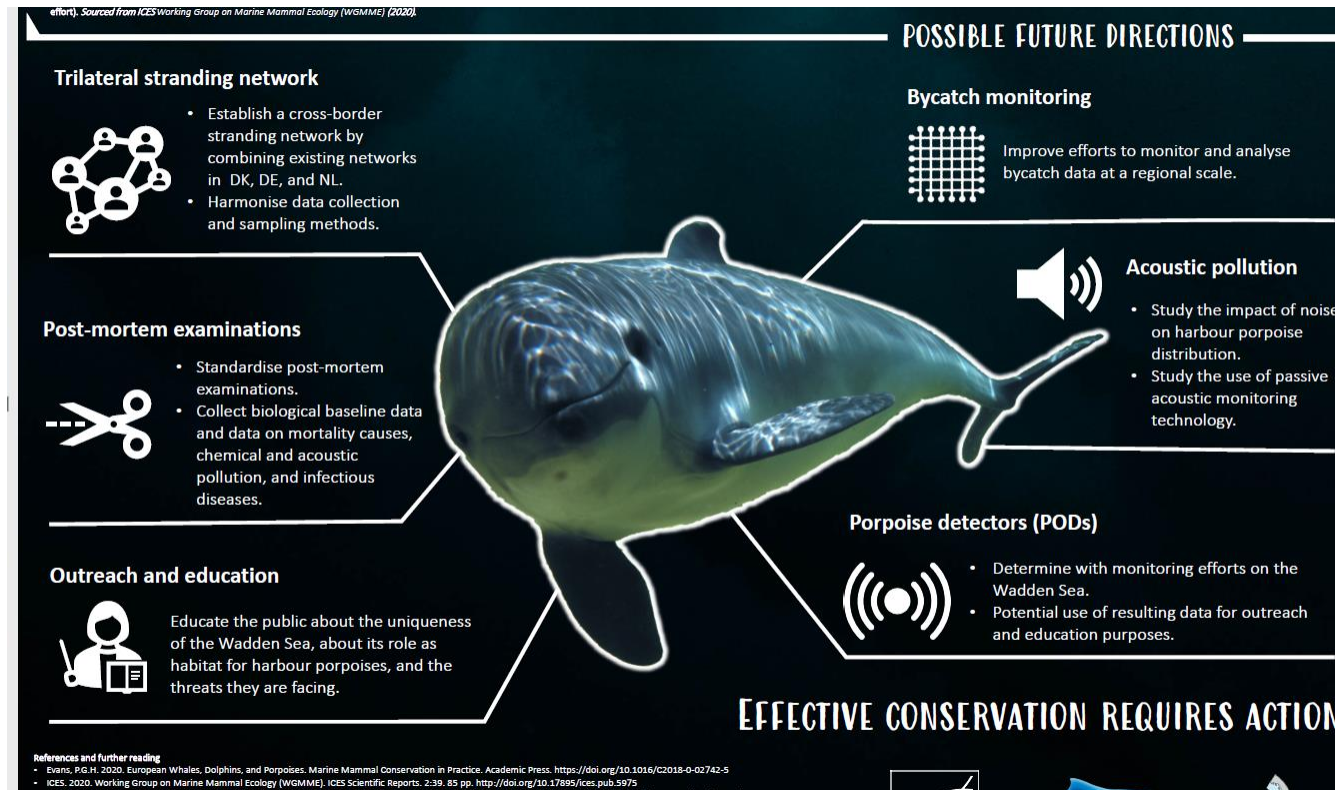
**Existing monitoring programmes in the Wadden Sea:** telemetry, aerial survey, stranding networks, passive acoustic monitoring and ad libitum observations (also through Apps: Beach Explorer, observation.org).

QSR Marine Mammals, 2022

Scheidat et al. in preparation

# What has happened since then?

## 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium



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# What has happened since then?

## 15th ISWSS - Recommendations

### For research:

Evidence from telemetry data suggests that individual harbour porpoises are resident in the Wadden Sea. Further information on the genetic structure, distribution and habitat use is needed to understand the connectivity between the Wadden Sea and the North Sea as well as their specific resource needs and the role as top predator in the Wadden Sea ecosystem.

### For management:

Create and enforce protected areas for marine mammals, free of any anthropogenic disturbance, based on the scientific evidence for the location of key habitats.



# The way forward

Define which parameters need to be monitored to assess changes in the status of the harbour porpoise population in the Wadden Sea (e.g. population structure, abundance, distribution, health).

Discuss which monitoring methods are most suited to measure these parameters and how the monitoring in the different regions needs to be adjusted.

# The way forward

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Telemetry	DK	0	0	0	0	0	X/0	0	X/0	X/0	0	0
	SH	0	0	0	0	0	X/0	0	X/0	X/0	0	0
	HH/LS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
aerial survey	DK	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	SH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	HH/LS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	NL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
stranding	DK	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	SH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	HH/LS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
PAM	DK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SH	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0
	HH/LS	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0	X/0
	NL	X/0	X/0	X/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



THERE IS A PLACE – WHERE HEAVEN  
AND EARTH SHARE THE SAME STAGE

Photo: Jeff Veenendaal



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