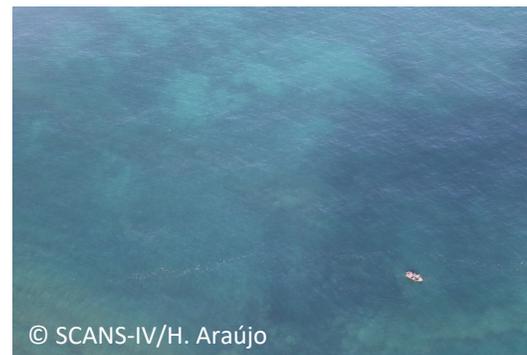


# SCANS-IV

Small Cetaceans in European Atlantic waters and the North Sea 2022



**ASCOBANS AC 27**  
**Presentation by Anita Gilles<sup>1</sup>**  
**Coordinator SCANS-IV**  
**29 Sep 2022**



<sup>1</sup>University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (TiHo), Germany

# Context

**SCANS-IV** is the fourth SCANS survey (1994, 2005/2007, 2016). It is covering shelf and offshore waters of the European Atlantic.

The main objectives are:

**Abundance estimates and trend assessment** of the regularly occurring cetacean species by population-wide surveys

Provide outputs for Member States to report under the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive** (Article 8: due 2024), the **Habitats Directive** (Article 17: 2019 - 2024) and for **OSPAR/HELCOM** assessments.

Provide outputs for **impact assessments** of offshore industries and fisheries.

Development of a **governance framework** for future SCANS surveys conducted in 6-year cycles to ensure long-term implementation.

# Project structure



| Funding bodies* | Scientific project partners  |
|-----------------|--|
| Denmark         | Aarhus University  |
| France          | La Rochelle University   |
| Germany         | University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover                             |
| Netherlands     | Wageningen Marine Research   |
| Portugal        | Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas/University Aveiro |
| Spain           | Instituto Español de Oceanografía                                      |
| Sweden          | Swedish Museum of Natural History                                      |
| United Kingdom  | University of St. Andrews<br>Joint Nature Conservation Committee       |

STEERING COMMITTEE

Advisory Board



\*can be several agencies per country

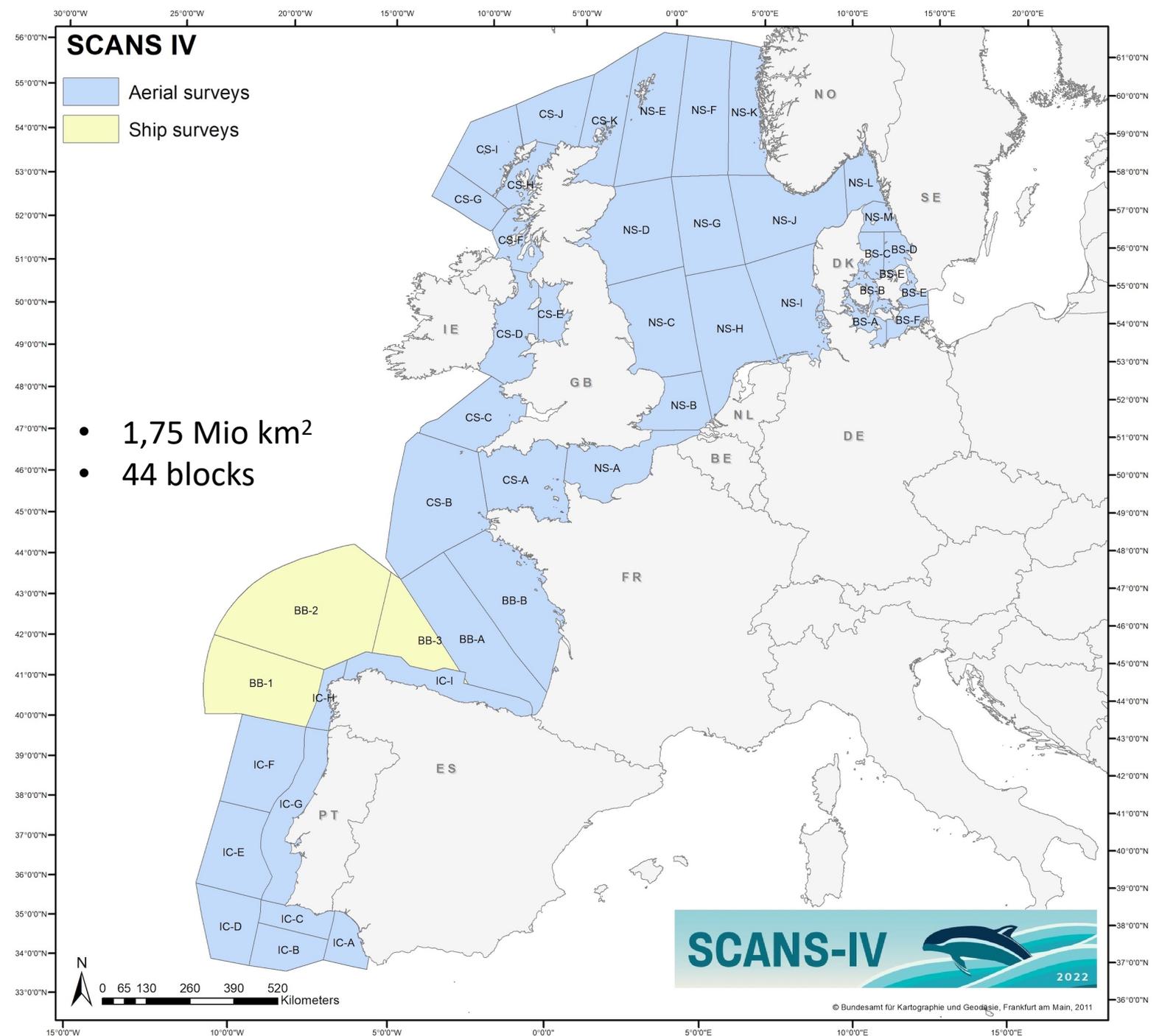
# Survey area

## Aerial surveys

- 8 planes (all P68s and 1 BN)
- Using regional (existing) survey teams where available

## Shipboard survey(s)

- 1 vessel in 2022 (Ramón Margalef)
- Covering primarily offshore waters



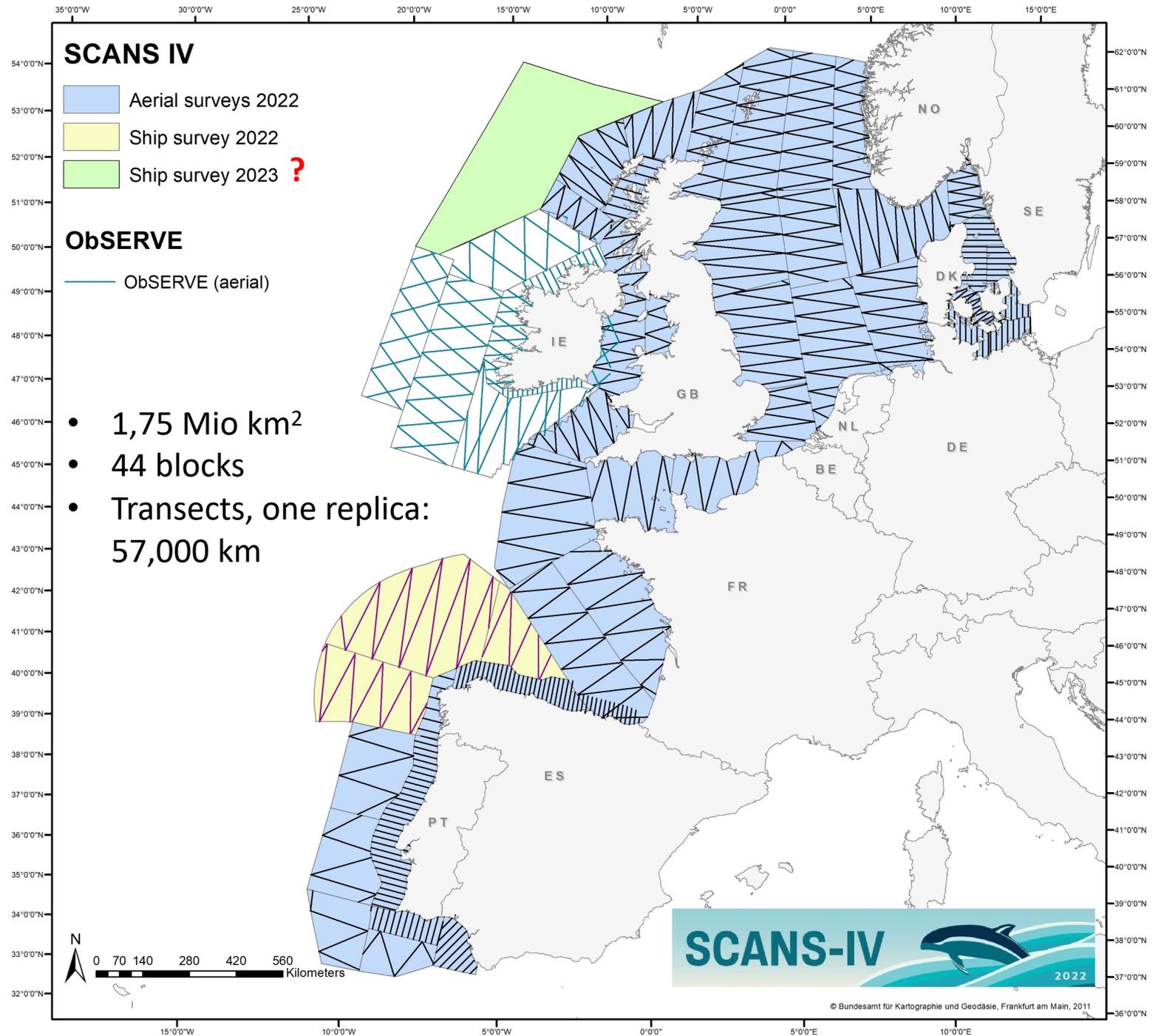
# Survey area

## Aerial surveys

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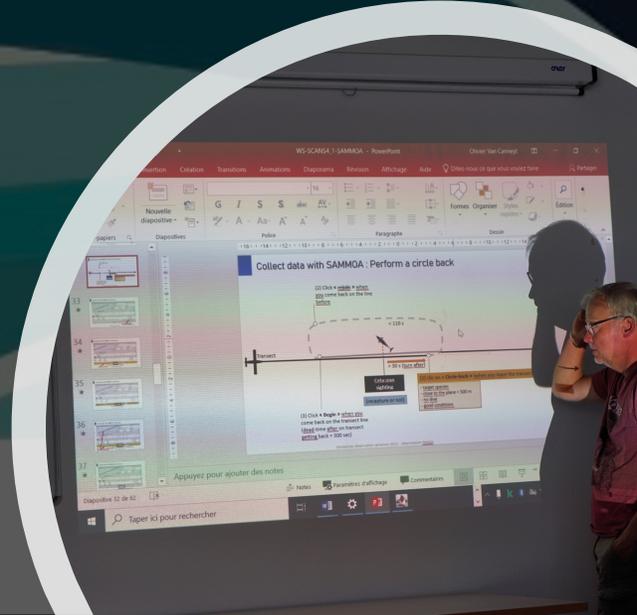
## Shipboard survey(s)

- 1 vessel in 2022 (Ramón Margalef)
- Covering primarily offshore waters





# Training & equipment setup in La Rochelle



# Survey action & some “issues”



Broken planes



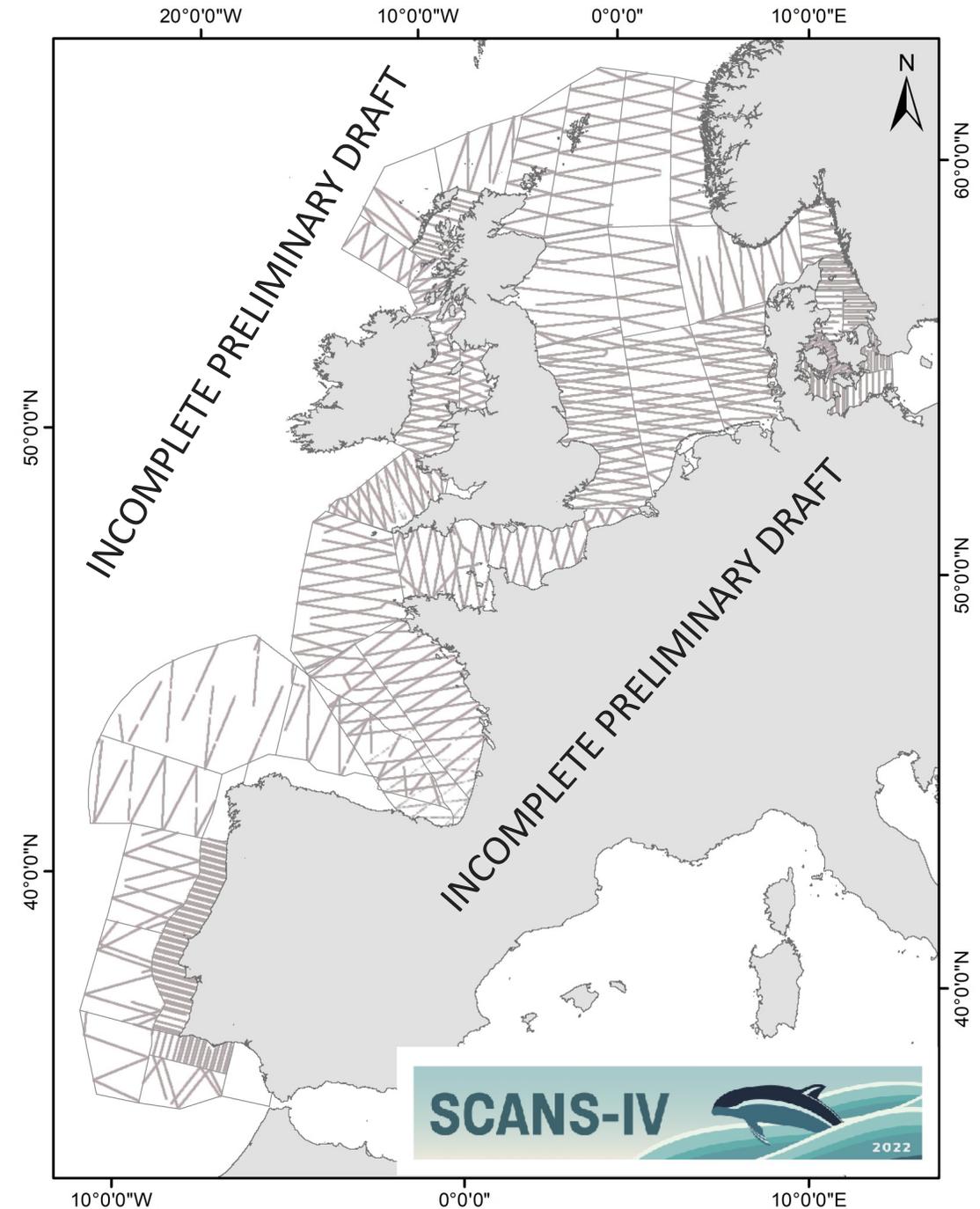
Fog in Scotland

Extreme heat in PT



# Realised effort

- 28.06. - 15.08.2022
- 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt NW Scotland: 07.-12.09.2022
- Spanish aerial survey ongoing (Sep 2022)

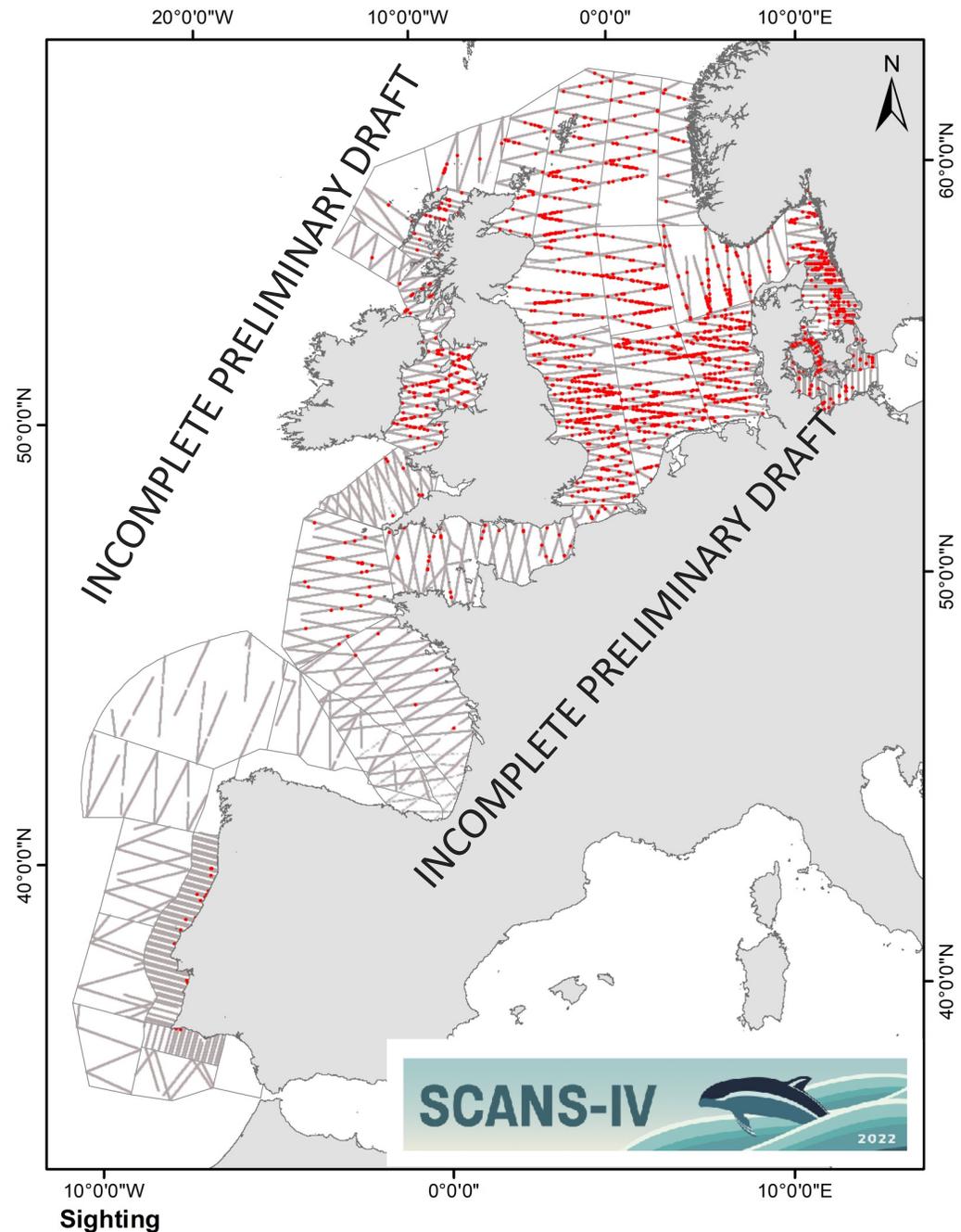


# DRAFT Map harbour porpoises

Note: this is a first incomplete preliminary overview.  
Data validation is ongoing.  
DO NOT use without consent of coordinator  
anita.gilles@tiho-hannover.de

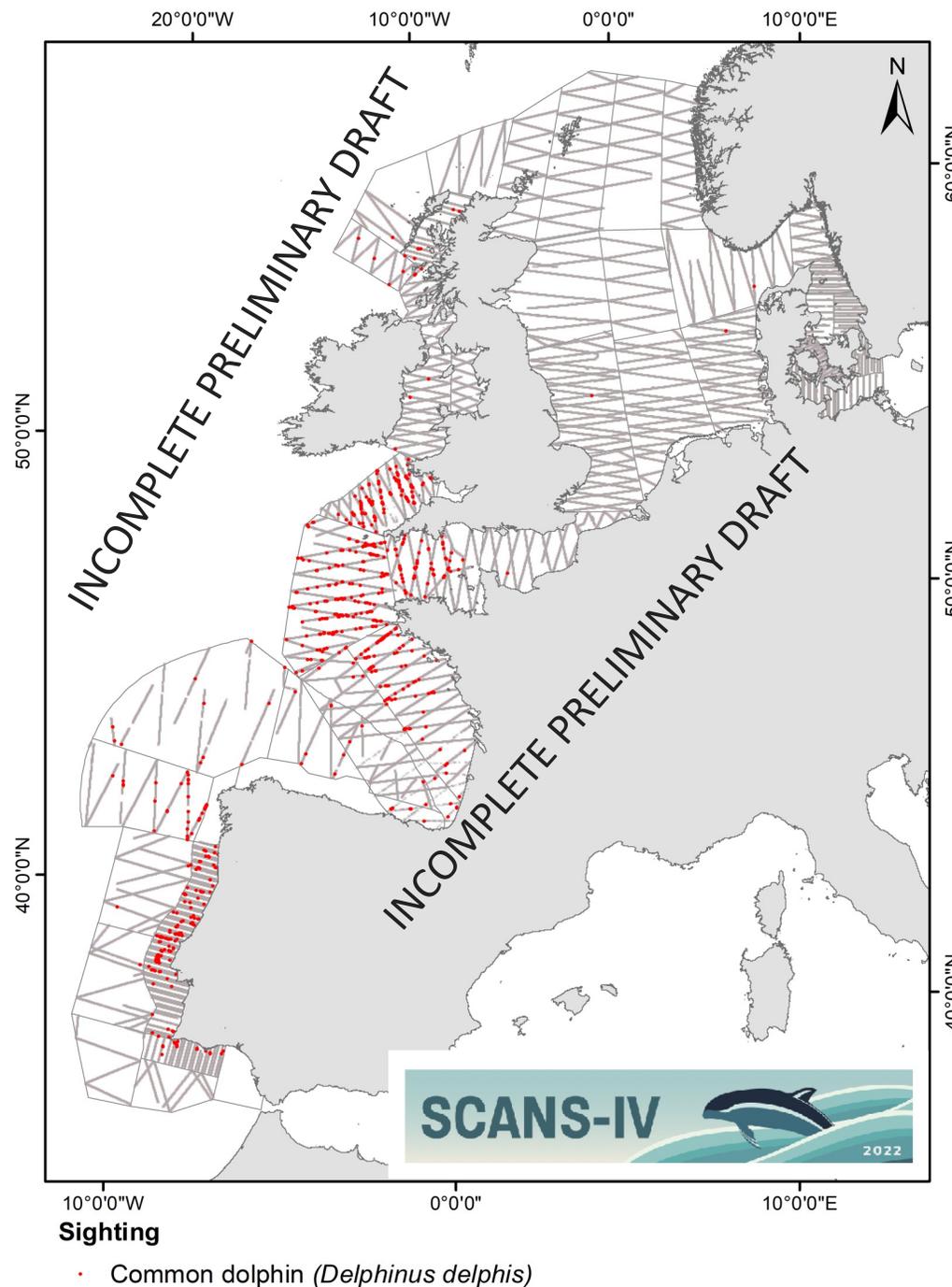


© M. Scheidat



# DRAFT Map common dolphin

Note: this is a first incomplete preliminary overview.  
Data validation is ongoing.  
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And much more to come ....



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~ 20 cetacean species

Pinnipeds

Turtles

Sharks

Sunfish

Tuna

Anthropo activities

... and, unfortunately, about 800 flocks of dead seabirds  
(bird flu summer 2022)

# Next steps



© SCANS-IV/H. Araújo



## Project coordination

## Time line

Survey preparation

Q1 2022

Survey area and transect design

Q2 2022

Aerial surveys

Ship surveys

Q3 2022

Data validation

Q4 2022

Abundance estimates and trend analyses for MSFD

Q1 2023

Q2 2023

Model-based estimates of abundance and drivers of distribution

Q3 2023

Q4 2023

Development future governance framework SCANS surveys

Q1 2024

Q2 2024

Final report

Q3 2024

Dissemination of progress and results in relevant fora



WAGENINGEN  
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



AARHUS  
UNIVERSITY

DCE - DANISH CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



CSIC

CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS



universidade  
de aveiro



Naturhistoriska  
riksmuseet



University of  
St Andrews

# Thank you dream teams!!



Follow the SCANS-IV ArcGIS story map

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6435641aed5745d1b2471e5e59e6af94>

In French waters

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/90250af8d1ff48be9a8a40ec63a8476c>

And follow us on twitter

**@scans\_4**

**More questions?** please contact Anita Gilles

[anita.gilles@tiho-hannover.de](mailto:anita.gilles@tiho-hannover.de)

<https://www.tiho-hannover.de/en/clinics-institutes/institutes/institute-for-terrestrial-and-aquatic-wildlife-research-itaw/scans-iv-survey>

# SCANS-IV

**Small Cetaceans in European Atlantic waters and the North Sea 2022**

SCANS is a large-scale ship-based and aerial survey designed to study the distribution and abundance of cetaceans in the northeast Atlantic. The survey is conducted during summer, surveying along predetermined transects for whales, dolphins and porpoises. SCANS-IV built on the previous surveys conducted in 1994, 2005/2007 and 2016.

