



2. Review of New Information on Threats and Other Issues to Small Cetaceans

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WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC27 docs
National Reports					
72. Make full use of the information submitted in order to assess progress in the implementation of the Agreement and make recommendations to Parties.		AC	Annually	Requires action by AC27.	NR.1-10
73. Tailor the agenda for each of the meetings of the Advisory Committee to reflect the topics selected for the previous year's national reports.		AC	Annually	Done for AC27, AC26.	
78. Present to Parties, each year no later than 30 June, provided all reports have been received sufficiently in advance of that date, a compilation of Annual National Reports.		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	The Secretariat did not meet the deadline, but compilation posted for AC27.	Inf.2

- Overview of the reports submitted this year:



The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement? (1)

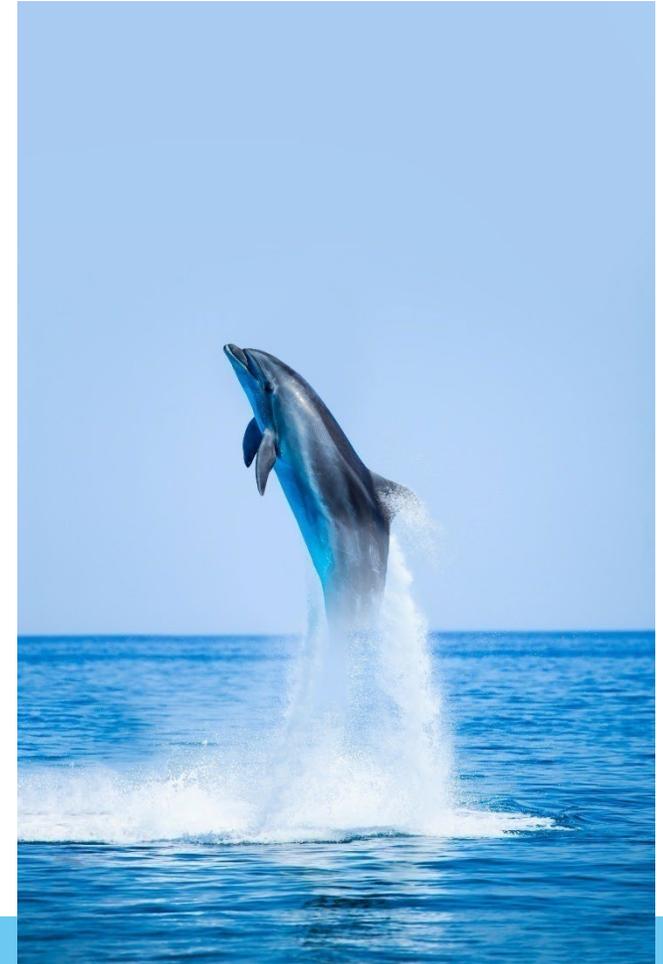
- A well-established strandings network (BE)
- Ongoing consultations with the military about mitigating UXO destruction (BE)
- Published: Fishery bycatch estimate based on camera monitoring (DK)
- A pilot study examining HP stomach content did not indicate plastic to be a problem (DK)
- Increase in harbour porpoise PAM detections in 6 MPAs since 2012 (DK)
- Ongoing: acoustic monitoring; participation in the SAMBAH II process (FI)
- HP included in the Finnish Marine Strategy in the Programme of Measures and in the monitoring plan, and in the Prioritized Action Framework (FI)
- Proof of a joint protection spirit: support against the mass killing of 1400+ WSD at the Faroe Islands (DE)
- The preparation of UN convention to avoid & reduce plastic litter, adopted by UNEA 2022 (DE)
- Negotiation of management plans for the German MPAs (DE)

The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement? (2)

- Increased public awareness and interest to small cetaceans (LT)
- Use of the updated national HP Conservation Plan to guide policy and research (NL)
- Continuation & formalisation of monitoring tasks; more holistic analyses of data sets (NL)
- Development of an EU proposal to assess bycatch of cetaceans in the North Sea (NL)
- Establishing a stranding respond scheme (PL)
- Establishment of porpoise monitoring programme & harmonisation at the Baltic Sea Region level with the HELCOM Parties (PL)
- Ongoing: preparation of conservation plans for marine N2K sites; dialogue with the fishing community on protection of the Baltic Sea ecosystem; project to remove lost fishing nets (PL)
- Updated HP Action Plan; MPAs with HP include management plans; further development of health & disease monitoring programme (SE)
- Ongoing: implementing several dedicated bycatch monitoring schemes and mitigation methods; cetacean stranding monitoring programmes (UK)
- Several marine debris monitoring programmes (UK)

The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement? (1)

- Overlap between the many different fora (BE)
- Slow process to develop and implement indicators of the EU MSFD (DK)
- The lack of sufficient information on bycatch covering the Baltic population (DK)
- The ICES advice on emergency actions for harbour porpoise in the Baltic (FI)
- Bycatch: reducing it (FR, DE); mitigation & monitoring (SE)
- Sufficient noise protection (in particular during the construction of marine wind energy plants) (DE)
- Lack of resources: human, financial, infrastructure (LT)
- Acquiring offshore animals for post-mortem exams (NL)



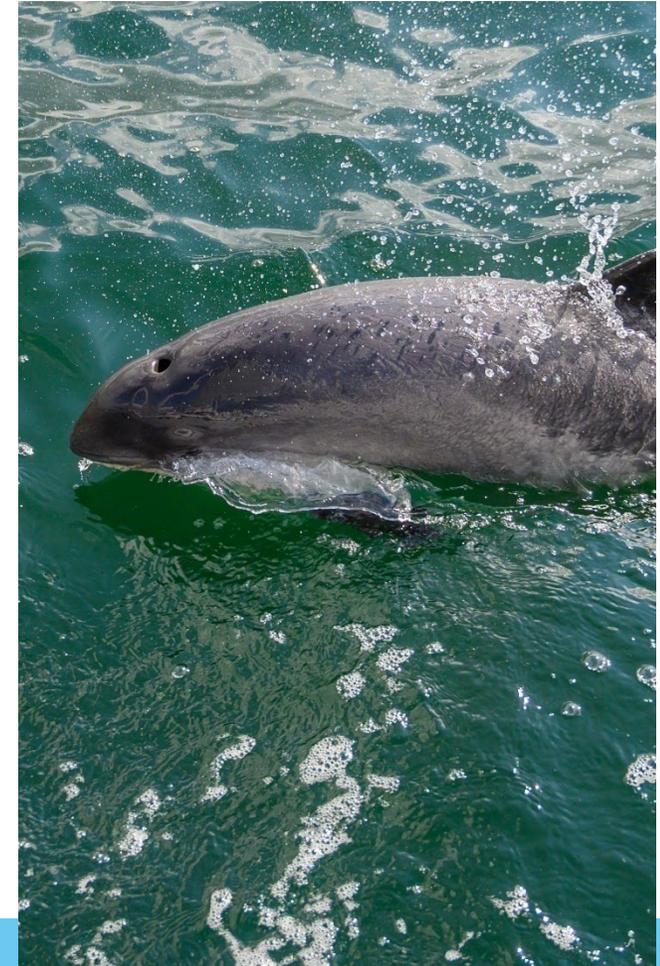
The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement? (2)

- Long-term funding of monitoring / new research projects; understanding the ecological role of the HP in Dutch waters - and beyond (NL)
- Cumulative impacts: methods for assessing (NL); effects in the Baltic Sea (PL)
- Deterioration of the Baltic Sea; increase of human pressure in marine areas; biodiversity loss and fishing resources depletion (PL)
- Indicator development and thresholds (MSFD); underwater noise, thresholds & mitigation measures; protection of threatened species outside protected areas; monitoring the effect of measures (SE)
- Covid19: significant impacts both in terms of carrying out planned and funding new projects (UK)



The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement? (1)

- Streamlining work in different international fora in order to avoid duplication; continuing the work on mitigation of underwater noise (BE)
- Funding for SAMBAH II (DK, FI)
- Same as the greatest challenge = bycatch in the Bay of Biscay (FR)
- Listing the Baltic proper population of the harbour porpoise in CMS Annex I in the close future and in the resulting nature protection necessities will be a challenge for the future (DE)
- Data collection (LT): information & research on the harbour porpoise; HP detection data via EIA Programme in the planned wind farm territory; data on underwater noise



The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement? (2)

- Bycatch:
 - International cooperation on assessing bycatch for the North Sea HP (NL);
 - Development of alternative methodologies to make monitoring cost-effective & multi-targeted (NL);
 - Monitoring bycatch in a more effective and covering way even if it is challenging (SE);
 - Improving the existing bycatch monitoring & mitigation (UK)
- Save Baltic HP populations; continue activities incl. promoting pro-ecological practices (PL)
- Resource depletion & its impact - further research needed; exploration of scale of impacts related to marine debris on cetacean species and options for mitigation measures (UK)

