

## 2021 National Reports: Other Matters (Section VII)

- Other information or comments important for the Agreement
  - The new Ministry of Environment is under the lead of Minister Steffi Lemke, who has shown a special interest in marine conservation issues including harbour porpoises. (DE)
- Difficulties in implementing the Agreement
  - Slow process to develop and implement indicators of the EU MSFD. Once implemented, these will hopefully provide a framework, that will ensure progress in protecting the harbour porpoise. (DK)
  - The lack of sufficient information on bycatch covering both the Baltic and the Belt Sea population makes it impossible to assess the threat level and decide on mitigations. (DK)
  - Covid has posed significant issues with implementation (carrying out planned) and funding new projects. (UK)
- Burning issues
  - Negotiations ongoing within BE and with the NL to find a suitable solution for the interventions in case of live stranded HP and other small cetaceans. (BE)
  - Ensure funding for SAMBAH-II. It is essential that we gain more information on this critically endangered population of harbour porpoises, so that management can be implemented to protect the population. (DK)