

List of Priority Actions

1. Implementation of the Conservation Plan: Co-ordinator and Steering Committee – HIGH (ongoing)
2. Implementation of existing regulations on bycatch of cetaceans – HIGH (undertaken through EU Technical Regulations but compliance varies)
3. Establishment of Bycatch Observation Programmes on small vessel (<12m) and recreational fisheries – HIGH (I-VMS trialled in England & Wales; due to be fully deployed in late 2023)
4. Regular evaluation of all relevant fisheries with respect to extent of porpoise bycatch – HIGH (ICES WGBYC)
5. Review of current pingers, development of alternative pingers and pinger modifications – HIGH (NO, SE, DK, DE, FR, UK)
6. Finalise a management procedure approach for determining maximum allowable anthropogenic removals in the region – HIGH (OSPAR)

List of Priority Actions (cont.)

7. Monitoring trends in distribution and abundance of harbour porpoises in the region – HIGH (SCANS-IV in 2022; FR, BE, NL*, DE, DK) - *every 3 years)
8. Review of the stock structure of harbour porpoises in the region – HIGH (no new information since Fontaine et al., 2017; Ben Chehida et al., 2021)
9. Collection of incidental catch data through stranding networks in the region – MEDIUM (SE, DK, DE, NL, BE, FR, UK)
10. Investigation of the health, nutritional status and diet of harbour porpoises in the region – MEDIUM (see IJsseldyk, 2021; Lambert 2021; Ramsijn et al. 2021)
11. Investigation of the effects of anthropogenic sounds on harbour porpoises – MEDIUM (ICES, DK, DE, NL, UK)
12. Collection and archiving of data on anthropogenic activities & development of a North Sea-wide GIS based database – MEDIUM (ongoing)