

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND SCHEDULE

Day 1 – Tuesday, 14 February 2023

10:00-17:00 CET

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter / Lead	Docs / Comments
09:45	<i>MS Teams session will be opened. Participants can log in anytime between 09:45 and 10:00 CET, allowing for checking of video and audio connections.</i>		<i>MS Teams link will be sent to registered participants only.</i>
10:00	1. Opening of the Meeting		
	1.1. Welcome and announcements Short welcoming remarks and housekeeping information.	Secretariat	Online Meeting Protocol for NSG11
	1.2. Adoption of the Agenda Members will be requested to review and adopt the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule. Late items and topics to be discussed under item 9 (Any other business) may be suggested. Rules of Procedure for the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee apply to the North Sea Group.	Peter Evans	Doc.1.2a Provisional Agenda Doc.1.2b Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule
10:10	2. Implementation review: Bycatch		
	2.4. Review of current pingers, development of alternative pingers and gear modifications (Action 5) The target of this Action is more universal acceptance by all stakeholders (and hence better implementation) of mitigation measures to reduce harbour porpoise bycatch. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate. Presentation on emergent interactions in the management of multiple threats to the conservation of harbour porpoises	Members David Lusseau	
	2.1. Implementation of existing regulations on bycatch of cetaceans (Action 2)	Members	

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	The target of this Action is to ensure that existing regulations with respect to bycatch reduction measures are being effectively implemented and to collect data on their efficacy in reducing bycatch. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.		
	Break 10-15 min		
11:45	<p>2.2. Establishment of bycatch observation programmes (Action 3)</p> <p>The target of this Action is to further develop methods to observe and mitigate bycatch (including implementation monitoring) in small vessel fisheries. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p>	Members	
	<p>2.3. Regular evaluation of all fisheries with respect to extent of harbour porpoise bycatch (Action 4)</p> <p>The target of this Action is to estimate levels of bycatch of harbour porpoises in the North Sea at regular intervals to enable mitigation measures to be reviewed and if necessary modified. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p> <p>Porpoise bycatch assessment and porpoise mortality estimates in Danish and Swedish gillnets</p>	<p>Members</p> <p>Lotte Kindt-Larsen</p>	
	<p>2.5. Finalize a management procedure approach for determining maximum allowable bycatch limits in the region (Action 6)</p> <p>The target of this Action is to progress towards finalising a population dynamics modelling framework for evaluating the effect of bycatches (and other anthropogenic activities) on harbour porpoises in the North Sea that anthropogenic activities do not prevent agreed conservation goals being met. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p>	Members	
	Break 60 min.		
14:00	3. Implementation Review: Research		
	<p>3.1. Monitoring trends in distribution and abundance of harbour porpoises in the region (Action 7)</p> <p>The target of this Action is to provide regular information on the abundance and distribution of harbour porpoises in the region as input into the management procedure approach</p>	Members	

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	discussed under Action 6, to provide information relevant to evaluating mitigation measures including a comparison of the relative distribution of animals with anthropogenic activity. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate. Presentation on SCANS-IV results.	Anita Gilles	
	3.2. Review of the stock structure of harbour porpoises in the region (Action 8) The target of this Action is to provide information on the stock structure and movements of harbour porpoises in the region that can be used in the management procedure. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	
	3.3. Collection of incidental porpoise catch data through stranding networks (Action 9) The target of this Action is to provide qualitative information on bycatch occurrence and an assessment of minimum number of annually bycaught porpoises. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	
	3.4. Investigation of the health, nutritional status and diet of harbour porpoises (Action 10) The target of this Action is to obtain good quality data on health parameters and the diet of porpoise populations in the area of application of the Conservation Plan. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	Best Practice on Cetacean Post-mortem Investigation and Tissue Sampling
	Break 10-15 min.		
15:45	3.5. Investigation of the effects of anthropogenic sounds on harbour porpoises (Action 11) The target of this Action is to obtain good quality data on the acoustic capabilities of harbour porpoises and relate this to a) the acoustic properties of anthropogenic sounds (also see Action 12), and b) the most relevant information on the effects of noise on porpoises. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	
	3.6. Collection and archiving of data on anthropogenic activities and development of a GIS (Action 12)	Members	

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	The target of this Action is to obtain data on relevant anthropogenic activities in the North Sea over time in a format suitable for incorporating into a GIS (along with data from Action 7). Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.		
	4. Other activities contributing to the conservation of the harbour porpoise in the North Sea Presentation on exploration regarding the potential tagging of harbour porpoises in the Dutch North Sea	Jip Vrooman	Inf.4a Tagging harbour porpoises
17:00	Close of Day 1		

Day 2 - Wednesday, 15 February 2023

10:00-17:00 CET

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter / Lead	Docs / Comments
10:00	5. Overall progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan (Action 1) In the Conservation Plan, Action 1 refers to appointment of a Coordinator and a Steering Group. Since those are completed, the Meeting is invited to discuss the overall progress. The Coordinator of the North Sea Plan will give a presentation reflecting the progress under the North Sea Plan. Members will be invited to comment and fill any gaps in the relevant parts of the Progress Report. Specific comments should be sent directly to the Coordinator in writing within two weeks after the meeting.	Peter Evans	Progress Report 2021 Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea
	6. Liaison with other organisations The Coordinator of the North Sea Plan will give an update on the liaison with other relevant Working Groups and organisations.	Peter Evans	
	7. Review of the Conservation Plan The Conservation Plan calls for periodic reviews (Annex 2 of ASCOBANS Res.6.1). This is also reiterated in the ASCOBANS Work Plan 2021-2024 (Annex of ASCOBANS Res.9.1).		Doc.7 Reviewed North Sea Plan – Draft

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	<p>Review and update is to adjust any Actions to cater for the diverse changes that can occur, either in response to the results of the monitoring of the conservation plan actions themselves or to changing external factors. The meeting will therefore be invited to provide feedback on the first draft, circulated on 2 February 2023 by email.</p> <p>The review and proposed update of the Conservation Plan will be presented.</p>	<p>Sinéad Murphy Eunice Pinn Members</p>	
	Break 10-15 min.		
11:45	7. Review of the Conservation Plan (continued)		
	Break 60 min.		
14:00	<p>8. Review of Recommendations from the North Sea Group</p> <p>Participants will be invited to review Recommendations from NSG10 and develop new ones from the current meeting, as needed.</p> <p>It should be noted that ASCOBANS AC27 gave guidance regarding Recommendations from Working Groups (see AC27 Recommendation 21).</p> <p>Since the next ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC) meeting will not take place until September 2023, the Recommendations will be shared with the AC immediately for intersessional endorsement.</p>	<p>Peter Evans</p>	<p>Recommendations from NSG10</p> <p>AC27 Action Points & Recommendations</p>
	Break 10-15 min.		
15:45	8. Review of Recommendations from the North Sea Group (continued)	Peter Evans	
	9. Any other business		
	<p>10. Next Meeting of the North Sea Group</p> <p>Members will be invited to discuss the timing of the next North Sea Group meeting. The Secretariat welcomes offers to host the next meeting of the North Sea Group.</p>	Jenny Renell	
17:00	11. Close of the Meeting		