

ASCOBANS

Jastarnia Group 19

IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW

- GERMANY -



1. Increase involvement, awareness and cooperation

- Project Stella 2
 - Cooperation with fishermen
 - Implementation of a dialogue forum
- Project PAL Monitoring
 - Cooperation with fishermen
 - stakeholder meetings
- “voluntary agreement“ for the conservation of harbour porpoises and sea ducks in the Baltic Sea by fishermen (extended in Oct. 2022 till Dez. 2026)
- Baltic Harbour Day
 - Public Event at the German Oceanographic Museum
- Incidental Sightings Program
 - App
 - Map

Cetacean Sightings Programm

App: **OstSeeTiere**

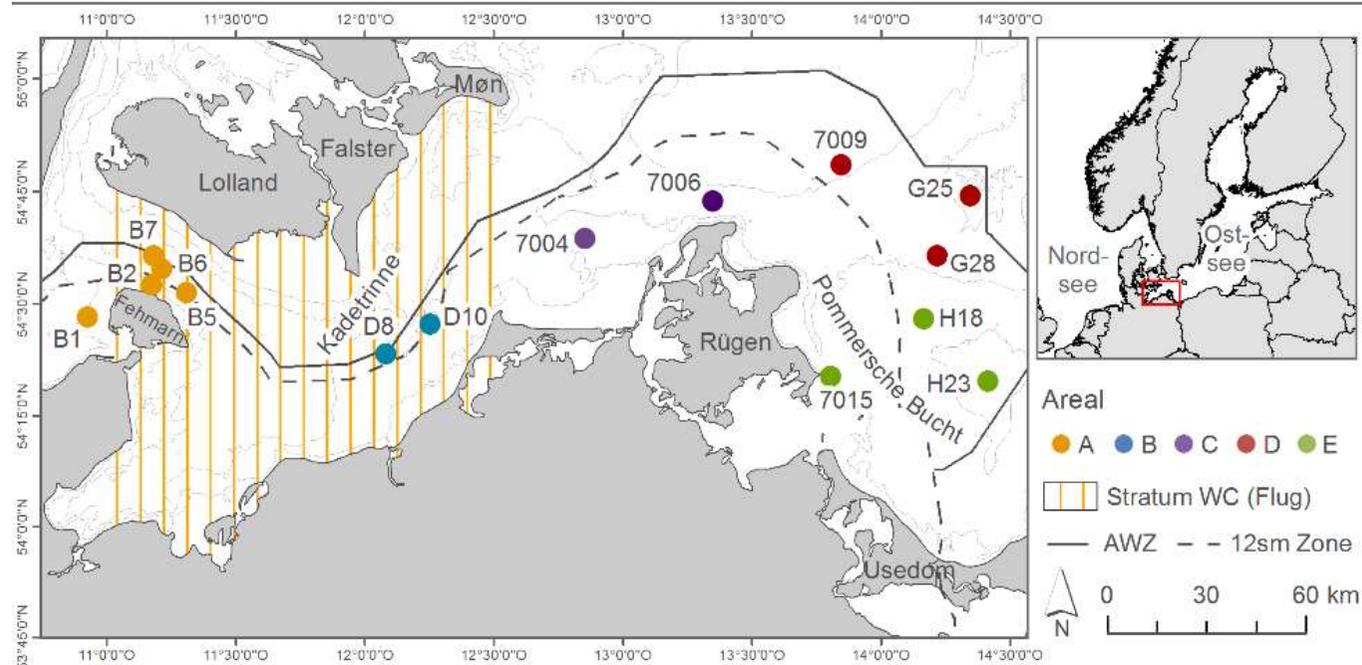


HP: 874
D: 21

2. Monitor and estimate abundance and distribution

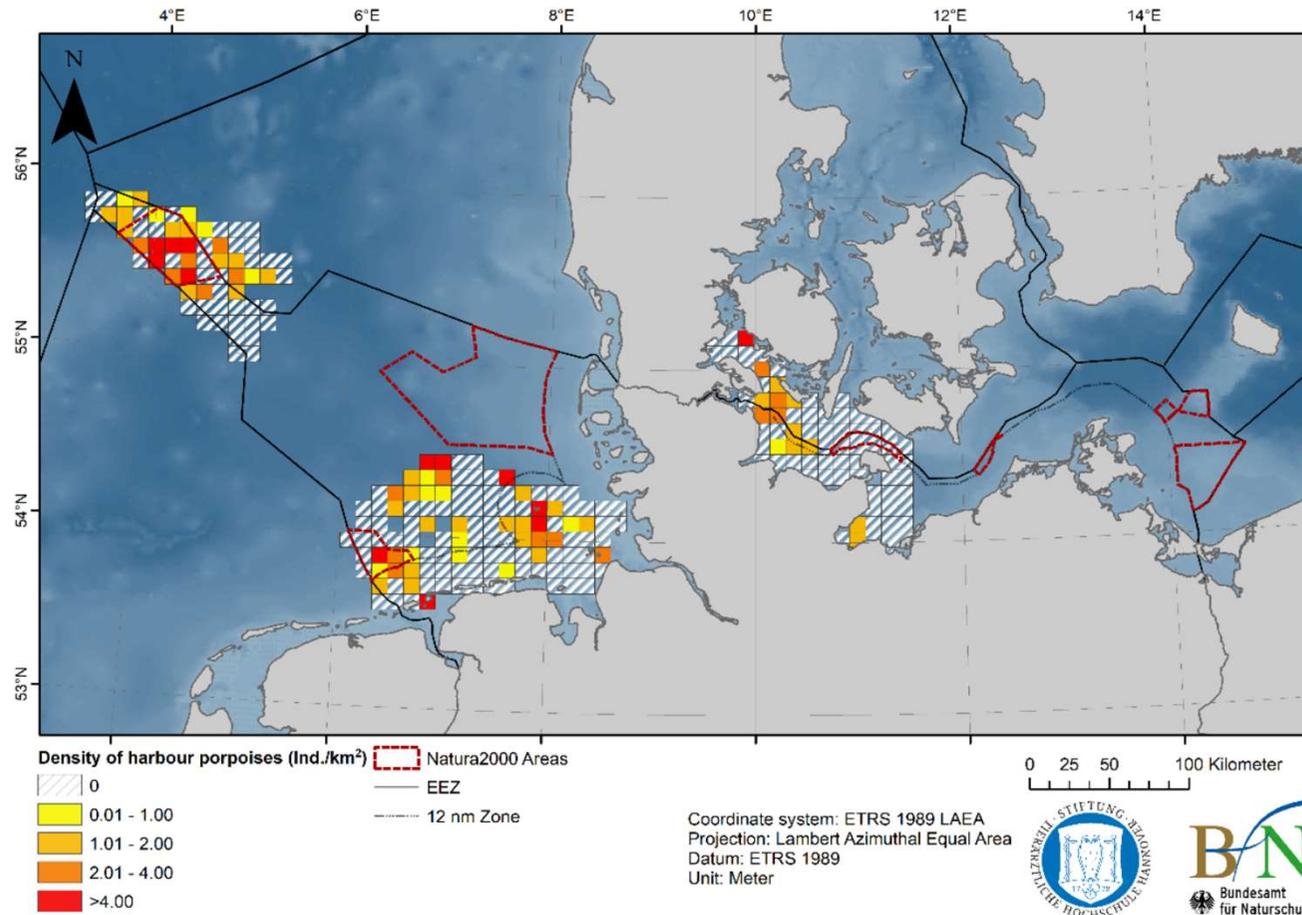
➤ Ongoing national monitoring program

- Aerial Surveys: Summer 2021
- 2022: SCANS IV
- Acoustic Monitoring: all year



Area	Area size (km ²)	Abundance (95% CI)	Density (95% CI)
I	3.116	2.063 (645 - 3.458)	0,66 (0,21 - 1,11)
J	3.575	145 (0 - 496)	0,44 (0,21 - 0,14)
Σ Surveyed Baltic Areas	6.691	2.209 (773 - 3.653)	0,33 (0,12 - 0,55)

ITAW, 2022



NEW PROJECT:

HABITATWAL – Habitat choice and population dynamics of harbour porpoises in the ecosystem in the German North and Baltic Sea

Mai 2022-Sep 2026; TiHo-ITAW, funding BfN

- **WP 1 - Habitat selection of harbour porpoises in the North Sea and Baltic Sea, with focus on possible causes of decline**
 - I. Large-scale analysis of habitat selection
 - II. Small-scale, fine-scale analysis of habitat selection
 - III. Habitat selection and trends of mother-calf pairs
- **WP2 - Influence of anthropogenic disturbance factors on the population dynamics of harbour porpoises**
Implementation of a population dynamics model to investigate the effect of various anthropogenic disturbance factors on population development
- **WP3 - Visual surveys of marine mammals in the German North Sea and Baltic Sea**
 - I. Quality assurance and evaluation of digital flights of the BfN vertebrate monitoring
 - II. Observer-based survey flights in sub-areas of the North Sea and Baltic Sea and comparative studies between observer-based and digital surveys
 - III. Updating the trend analysis of harbour porpoise abundance
 - IV. Annual shipboard survey for visual and acoustic recording of minke whales and other cetacean species on the Dogger Bank
- **WP 4 - Contribution to the national report (2019 - 2024) according to Art. 17 Habitats Directive in 2024**
- **WP 5 - SCANS-IV Survey 2022**
- **WP 6 - Concept for further development of marine mammal monitoring**
 - I. Simulation and power analysis for spatio-temporal coverage of marine vertebrate monitoring.
 - II. Feasibility analysis for the establishment of PAM in the German North Sea with international review process

3. Monitor, estimate and reduce bycatch

1. Project “STELLA 2”:

Development and testing of alternative fishing gears (Nov. 2021 – Oct. 2024)

2. Project “PAL-CE”:

PAL use in German waters - Current efficiency and mode of operation
(Dec. 2021 – Nov. 2024)

- „**voluntary agreement**“ for the conservation of harbour porpoises and sea ducks in the Baltic Sea (since 2013): was extended in Oct. 2022 till Dez. **2026**
 - Reduction of gillnet length in summer (July to Aug.)
 - Use of PALs

Publications

Publications Stella I:

Final Report:

Krumme U, Meyer S, Kratzer I, Chladek J-C, Barz F, Stepputtis D, Strehlow HV, Kraak SBM, Zimmermann C (2022) STELLA - Stellnetzfisherei-Lösungsansätze : Projekt-Abschlussbericht. Braunschweig: Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, 220 p, Thünen Rep 97, DOI:10.3220/REP1662104969000

https://literatur.thuenen.de/digbib_extern/dn065274.pdf

Further publications out of Stella I project:

<https://www.thuenen.de/en/institutes/baltic-sea-fisheries/projects/fisheries-environment-baltic-sea/gill-net-fisheries-development-of-alternative-management-approaches-stella>

4. Monitor and mitigate impact of underwater noise

Project: Underwater noise effects-2 (UWE-2) (Sept. 2021 – Aug. 2024)

ITAW / Aarhus University funded by BfN

- Investigations of thresholds of individual behavioural reactions of harbour porpoises to vessel noise and other significant noise events
 - Investigation of additional energetic demands in porpoises due to vessel noise
 - Recommendations for noise mitigation measures for harbour porpoises for the North- and the Baltic Sea.
 - Evaluation of noise mitigation measures for anthropogenic noise sources based on current knowledge
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5. Monitor and assess population health status

- Investigation of the health, nutritional status and diet of harbour porpoises in the framework of the stranding network
 - Development of a monitoring and assessment concept for the pollution load of marine mammals of the North Sea and Baltic Sea for the implementation of the MSFD (01.10.2021 - 31.03.2024) (ITAW, UFZ)
 - CREATE: Development of indicator pathogens in marine mammals to advance assessment of anthropogenic impacts (Dez. 2021 – Nov. 2024) (ITAW + Consortium)
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Stranding Networks established

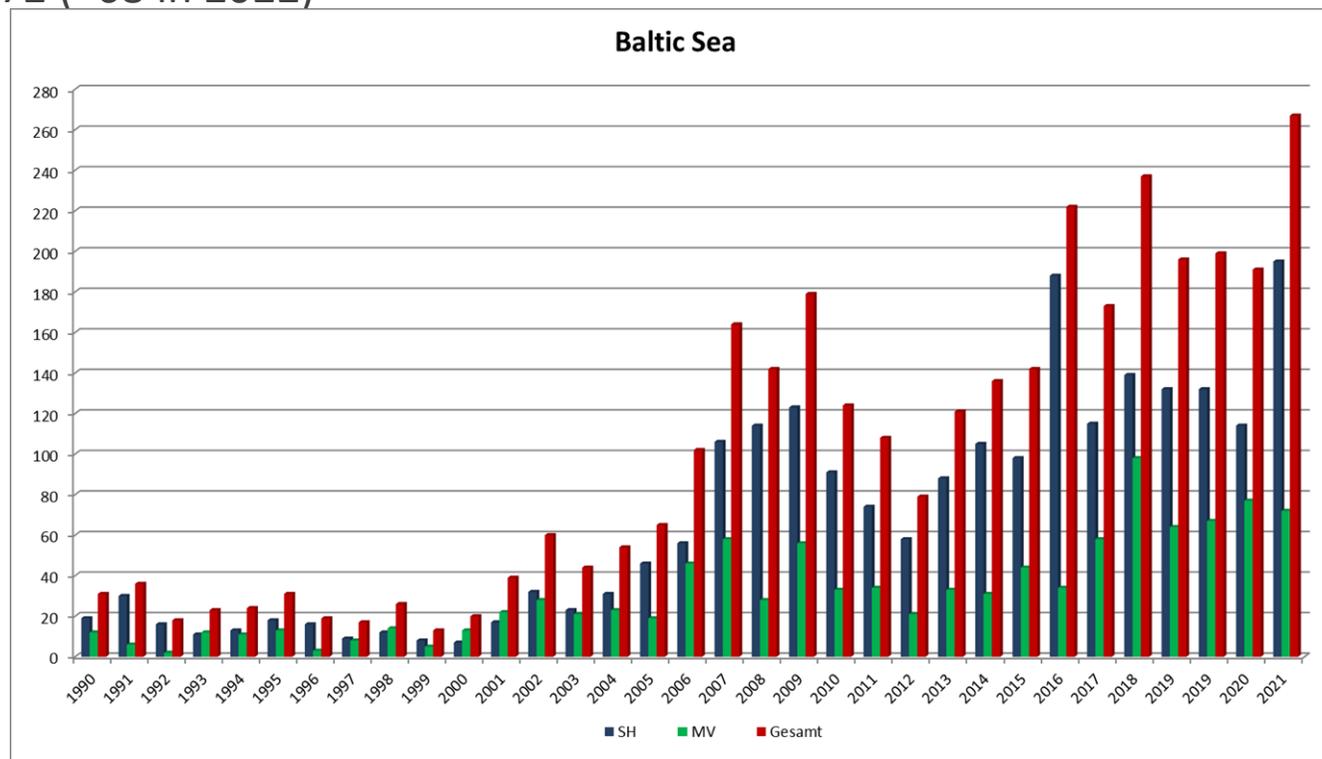
Schleswig-Holstein: ITAW

Mecklenburg Vorpommern: DMM

2021

SH: 195

MV: 72 (≈68 in 2022)



After ITAW/DMM

Publications



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Environment International

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/envint

Blast injury on harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) from the Baltic Sea after explosions of deposits of World War II ammunition

Ursula Siebert^{a,*}, Julian Stürznickel^{b,c,1}, Tobias Schaffeld^a, Ralf Oheim^b, Tim Rolvien^{b,c}, Ellen Prenger-Berninghoff^d, Peter Wohlsein^e, Jan Lakemeyer^a, Simon Rohner^a, Luca Aroha Schick^a, Stephanie Gross^a, Dominik Nachtsheim^a, Christa Ewers^d, Paul Becher^f, Michael Amling^b, Maria Morell^a

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Journal of Sea Research

Volume 192, April 2023, 102350

Journal of SEA RESEARCH

Short Communication

First evidence of grey seal predation on marine mammals in the German Baltic Sea

[Linda Westphal^a](#), [Lisa Klemens^a](#), [Farina Reif^a](#), [Abbo van Neer^b](#), [Michael Dähne^a](#)  

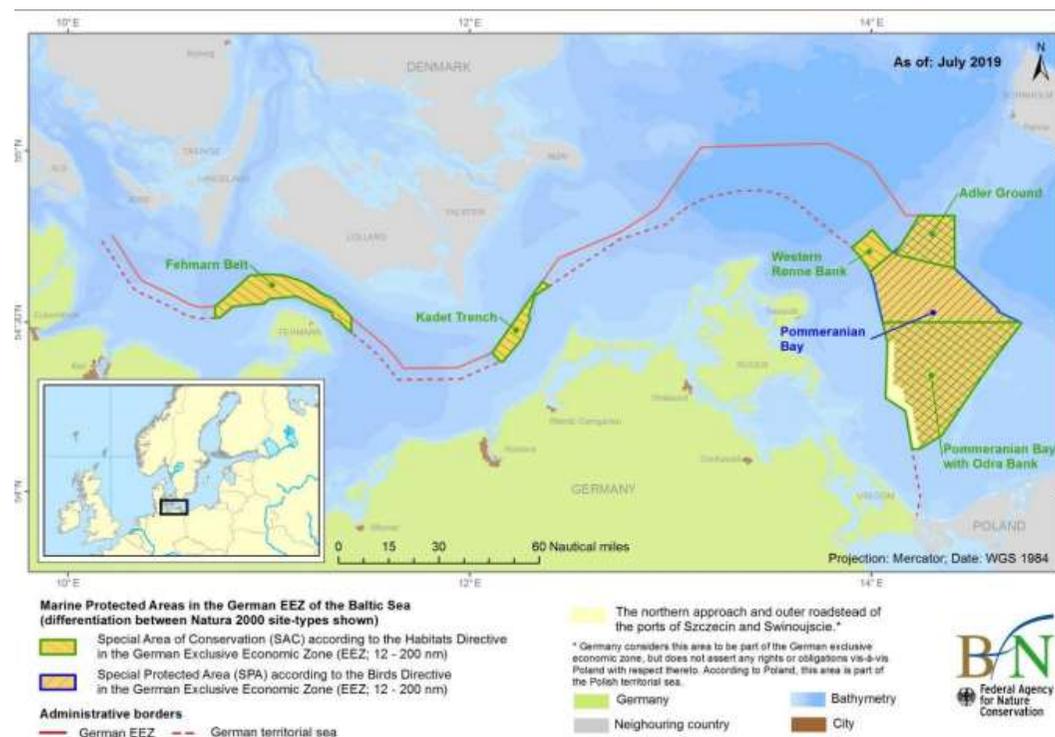
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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.seares.2023.102350>  [Get rights and content](#)

6. Investigate habitat use and protect important areas

- Management plans for Natura 2000 sites in the German EEZ entered into force February 2022
- Fishery regulations in process



New Project: HaMoNa

DMM funded by BfN 2022 - 2025

- Development of novel methods to acoustically determine the group size of harbour porpoises and the presence of calves
 - Complement long-term acoustic data series
 - Conduction of digestion experiments to analyze the role of harbour porpoises in the ecosystem and especially in food webs
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