

Agenda Item: -

**Annual National Reports submitted to the Secretariat
as of 27 April 2004 (Belgium, Germany, Sweden, UK)**

Submitted by: Secretariat



NOTE:
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING
THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

ASCOBANS Annual National Report 2003

A. General information

BELGIUM	1 JANUARY 2003 – 31 DECEMBER 2003
Name of party	Period covered
Jan HAELTERS	31 MARCH 2004
Name of report compiler	Date of report
None	
Any changes in co-ordinating authority, appointed member of advisory committee	

B. NEW measures/action towards meeting the resolutions of the 2nd Meeting of Parties

1. Direct interaction of small cetaceans with fisheries

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Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch			
<p>Controls of recreational beach fisheries by the relevant authorities were kept at a high level. The use of illegal gill nets seems to diminish, thanks to these controls. Some illegal bottom set gill nets were confiscated at sea (illegal recreational fishery), some on the beach (gill nets set too far offshore, below the low water mark, or nets with an incorrect mesh size). By the Marine Fisheries Services (Dienst Zeevisserij - Ministry of the Flemish Community), the Belgian Navy and the Federal Police (SPN), 20 illegal gillnets, with a total length of 3900m were confiscated in 2003. The individual length of the nets ranged from 50m up to 400m (data Dienst Zeevisserij).</p>			
Implementation of methods to reduce by-catch			
Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	3 ⁺	IVc	Recreational beach fisheries, probably bottom set gill nets

2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

<p>No more high speed ferry routes between Belgium and the United Kingdom are in operation.</p>
<p>Information on levels of disturbance (e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans, etc.)</p>
<p>In 2003, an offshore wind farm, totalling 50 turbines of each 2MW, was licensed an environmental permit. However, after a court case, the permit was suspended, and a final decision has not been taken yet. A request for a permit (accompanied by an environmental impact assessment report) for the construction and exploitation of another offshore windfarm (60 turbines of 3.6 up to 5MW each) was submitted to the authorities in 2003. The environmental impacts of this project are being assessed, and a decision will be expected by April 2004.</p> <p>In the assessment of the environmental impacts of the construction and exploitation of offshore wind farms, due consideration is given to possible effects on marine mammals.</p>
<p>Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance</p>

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

No protected areas for cetaceans are identified in Belgium.

Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

4. Further research on small cetaceans

All stranded cetaceans were autopsied at the University of Liège. A report on the strandings between 1995 and 2003 is in preparation (MUMM – University of Liège). The co-operation with the Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins (C.R.M.M., *National Stranding Network*, Institut de la Mer et du Littoral, Port des Minimes, F-17000, La Rochelle, France) for the research of stranded marine mammals is continued.

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

In 2003, 35 harbour porpoises stranded, the largest part during late winter, spring and summer. This is the highest number ever recorded (see figure 1). Strandings were reported during every month, except in February. In figure 2, the monthly distribution of strandings between 1990 and 2003 is given. A lot of the stranded animals of 2003 were in an advanced state of decomposition, which did not allow for a firm conclusion on the cause of death. In March 2003, 3 porpoises were accidentally drowned in recreational beach fisheries.

Figure 1: Number of stranded porpoises stranded at the Belgian coast between 1990 and 2003 (including a small number of animals found dead at sea).

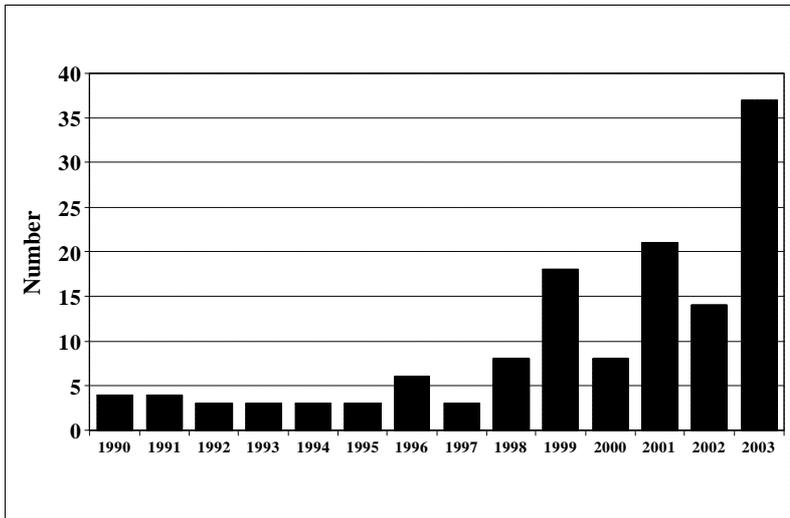
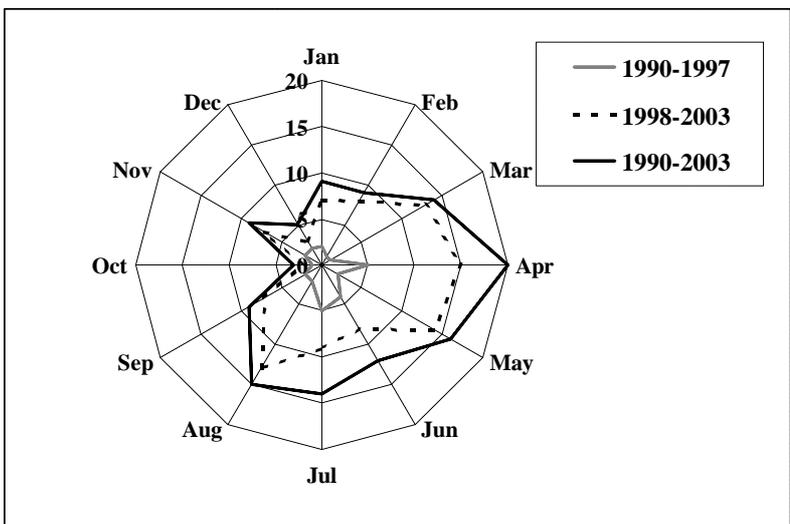


Figure 2: Monthly distribution of the strandings of harbour porpoises at the Belgian coast between 1990 and 2003.



The stranded animals in late winter and spring were predominantly young animals, of around 1.1 m long. In summer and autumn (August until November), a larger number of newborn animals (0.7 up to 1m long) washed ashore than the years before.

Of the stranded animals, five stranded alive. Two of these were refloated, and swam away, two died on the beach, and the last one was transported by MUMM/RBINS to the rehabilitation Centre at the Marine Mammal Park Harderwijk, The Netherlands, where it died.

Next to the stranded animals, two dead porpoises (found dead at sea), were provided to the authorities by (professional) fishermen, according to the legislation which is in force since 14 February 2002.

From January until April, relatively large numbers of porpoises were observed in Belgian waters, as was the case during the years before.

Next to observations of porpoises, also small groups of white-beaked dolphins were observed in Belgian waters (at least in January, February, March, April and November).

Some publications:

Das, K., Lepoint, G., Leroy Y & Bouquegneau, J.M., 2003. Marine mammals from the southern North Sea: feeding ecology data from delta 13C and delta 15N measurements. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 263: 287-298.

Communications:

Brenez, C., Jauniaux T., Siska, J., Spitz, J. & Coignoul, F., 2003. Parasitic infestations in newborns pilot whales, *Globicephala melas*, stranded on the French Atlantic coast. 17th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas, Spain, March 2003.

El Mijyad, N. Jauniaux, T., Baise, E. & Coignoul, F., 2003. Cases of morbillivirus infections among seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) stranded on the Belgian and northern French coast from 1997 until 2002. 17th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas, Spain, March 2003.

Haelters, J., Kiszka, J., Tavernier, J. & Jauniaux, T., 2003. The harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the southern North Sea: a comeback in northern French and Belgian waters? 15th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA, 15-19 December 2003.

Jauniaux, T. & Coignoul, F., 2003. Causes of death of small cetaceans and pinnipeds on continental coastlines of the southern North Sea. 17th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas, Spain, March 2003.

Research on abundance, population structure etc.

Some publications:

Van de Vijver, K.I., Hof, P.T., Das, K., Van Dongen, W., Esmans, E.L., Jauniaux, T., Bouquegneau, J-M., Blust, R. & De Coen, W., 2003. Perfluorinated chemicals infiltrate ocean waters: links between exposure levels and stable isotope ratios in marine mammals. *Environmental Science and Technology* 37: 5545-5550.

Communications:

Das, K., Siebert, U., Fontaine, M., Jauniaux, T., Holsbeek, L., Tolley, K., & Bouquegneau, J.M., 2003. Trace metals in the harbour porpoise from the North Sea and adjacent areas: relationship with stable isotopes measurements, the nutritional status, lesions of the respiratory system and parasitism. 17th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas, Spain, March 2003.

Beans, C., Das, K., Jauniaux, T., Massart, A. C., De Pauw, E. & Bouquegneau, J.-M., 2003. Dioxins, furans and coplanar PCBs in juvenile harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) from the Belgian coast. 17th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas, Spain, March 2003.

Beans, C., Debacker, V., Jauniaux, T., Massart, A.-C., Eppe, G., Bouquegneau, J.-M. & De Pauw, E., 2003. Dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs in juvenile harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) from the North Sea, DIOXIN 2003, 23rd International Symposium on Halogenated Organic Pollutants and Persistent Organic Pollutants. Boston, Massachusetts, USA, 24-29 August 2003.

Brenez, C., Gerkens, P., Jauniaux, T., De Pauw-Gillet, M.-C. & De Pauw, E., 2003. Identification of specific biomarkers related to the effects of pollutants on the immune system of marine mammals. 15th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals. Greensboro, North Carolina, USA, 15-19 December 2003.

Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

5. Public awareness and education

Information on stranded animals and on sightings, is given on the website of MUMM (in Dutch, English and French):

http://www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Management/Nature/search_strandings.php

From 17 June to 2 November 2003, a temporary exhibit on the North Sea environment was organised at the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS), Brussels. The exhibit was organised in an interactive way, and paid attention to human threats to the environment, amongst others to threats to small cetaceans.

In the Nature and Environmental Council of the Flemish Community (MiNa Raad), an information session was organised concerning the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (27 January 2003). MUMM made a presentation on the obligations in nature conservation Conventions and Agreements (a.o. ASCOBANS) and on the current impact of different kinds of fishery on the ecosystem.

(Reference: Haelters, J., 2003. De invloed van visserij op het ecosysteem., In: MiNa-Raad, 2003. Advies op hoofdlijnen van 3 juni 2003 over de regionale adviesraden in het kader van het gemeenschappelijk visserijbeleid: verslag hoorzitting van 9 juli 2002 omtrent de Belgische zeevisserij en de hervorming van het gemeenschappelijk visserijbeleid: verslag hoorzitting van 27 januari 2003 omtrent de Belgische zeevisserij en de hervorming van het gemeenschappelijk visserijbeleid. Milieu- en Natuurraad van Vlaanderen, Advies en verslagen, 2003/31: 19-23.)

On 6 September 2003 MUMM/RBINS participated in the fishery festival at Ostend, and presented information concerning the marine environment, especially concerning protected species.

After the delivery of two harbour porpoises, found dead at sea by fishermen, information was provided on harbour porpoises, and the relevant measures, in a magazine popular with fishermen.

(Reference: Haelters, J., 2003. Twee bruinvissen opgevist in april 2003. Vriendenkring Noordzee-aquarium Oostende (VNAO) 53: 38-41.)

Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement

ASCOBANS Annual National Report

A. General information

Name of party Germany	Period covered 1 st January – 31 st December 2003
Name of report compiler The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Date of report 30 th March 2004
Any changes in co-ordinating authority, appointed member of advisory committee None.	

B. New measures/action towards meeting the resolutions of the 2nd Meeting of Parties

1. Direct interaction of small cetaceans with fisheries

Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch			
Pingers used as acoustic alarms or deterrents e.g. in gill net fisheries are suspected to be deleterious to cetaceans because their signals are transmitted with high intensity. Therefore the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum) of the University of Kiel examines ears of harbour porpoises from the North and Baltic Seas found freshly dead for potential impacts of sound. Special histo-pathological methods for cetacean inner ears (Ketten 1992) and computerized tomography (CT) were applied for the first time on animals from German waters.			
Implementation of methods to reduce by-catch			
Fishery with bottom set gill nets for cod and turbot or other demersal fish, i.e. fishery potentially harmful to small cetaceans is conducted by only one vessel of 17 m length. The by-catch is monitored.			
Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries			
Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	1	IVb	
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Few	(Stranded in) 37F8 and 38F8	

2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

<p>Information on levels of disturbance (e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans, etc.)</p> <p><u>Offshore windmills</u></p> <p>In 2002 and 2003 the research project MINOS (Marine Warm-blooded Animals in the North and Baltic Seas: Foundations for Assessment of Offshore Wind Farms) was carried out. The German Oceanographic Museum (Stralsund), the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum), the Federal Research Centre for Fisheries (Hamburg), the Institute for Marine Research at the University of Kiel and the the Ruhr University (Bochum) were involved.</p>
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The project had focus sed on two items:

- Spatial and temporal variation in distribution and abundance of marine mammals in the German Bight and in the German waters of the Baltic.
- Effects of sound emissions on marine mammals.

Within the scope of the project distributions and migrations of harbour porpoises and seals were determined. Moreover measurements of the acoustic sensitivity of an unsexed harbour porpoise and of harbour seals have been conducted by means of an electrophysiological methodology. This methodology (acquisition of auditory evoked potentials, AEPs) has successfully been established on a porpoise and on seals in captivity as well as on free-ranging seals.

The project on the whole is supposed to contribute to fundamental knowledge needed in order to avoid as far as possible the installation of offshore windmills in the main habitats of marine mammals. Another aim is to minimize sound emissions in acoustic ranges relevant to harbour porpoise. The project is assumed to contribute to reduction of acoustic disturbance. The final report of MINOS is available from April 2004 on.

Seismic investigations

In 2003 no seismic investigations were carried out in the Wadden Sea or adjacent areas of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein.

Information on German seismic investigations during 1997 - 2003 will be given to ASCOBANS by a separate report.

High speed ferries

On the North Sea coast of Schleswig-Holstein there is only one high speed ferry in the offshore area. It has a maximum speed of 44 nm/h and connects Helgoland with Amrum, Sylt and Büsum. Within the area subject to the Traffic Order (i.e. the area initially delimited for the National Park) the speed is, however, restricted to 16 nm/h.

There is another high speed ferry in the inshore area. In this case certain exemptions are granted from the speed restrictions. In the navigable waters a maximum of 24 nm/h is permitted, in the protection zones 12 nm/h.

Negotiations with the shipping companies, yacht clubs and others have resulted in agreements on a future maximum speed of 16 nm/h in the offshore area too and 24 nm/h in certain corridors.

Further information on German high speed ferries is annually given to ASCOBANS by means of the Secretariat's questionnaire.

Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance

For North Sea coastal waters the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein seeks to introduce a speed reduction for vessels within three nautical miles seawards off the region of Dithmarschen and twelve nautical miles off the region of Nordfriesland (outer border of the National Park including the Whale Protection Area; see below). This requires alteration of the Traffic Order for North Sea National Parks. A working group of all stakeholders achieved the following result: In the inner Wadden Sea the maximum speed should be 12 nm/h (in the navigable waters 16 nm/h, in protection zones apart from the protection period 8 nm/h.), in the outer Wadden Sea 16 nm/h (in certain corridors 24 nm/h). After further fine-tuning it is intended to present this proposal to the responsible Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing.

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

The Whale Protection Area off the islands of Sylt and Amrum in force since 1999 is a habitat preferred by harbour porpoises and an important nursery ground. In the Whale Protection Area any type of fishery is prohibited that is potentially resulting in by-catches. Presently this includes

- fishery with bottom set gill nets with more than 2.00 m stretched net height,

- industrial fishery and
- drift net fishery.

The implementation of the national provisions into European regulations is still pending. In 2003 it was decided to modify the provisions for the Whale Protection Area of the Coastal Fisheries Order of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein. The amendment is expected for early 2004. It incorporates a decrease of the maximum height of bottom set gill nets to 1.30 m. Furthermore the definition of the Whale Protection Area in the Coastal Fisheries Order is adapted to the National Park Act, i.e. the definition is extended southwards in the Coastal Fisheries Order.

The new provisions of the Coastal Fisheries Order are intended to serve as a basis for a later proposal to the EU.

It is planned to introduce speed limits for vessels in the Whale Protection Area (see above), i.e. generally a maximum of 16 nm/h and two relatively short corridors tolerating 24 nm/h.

4. Further research on small cetaceans

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

A stranding network for cetaceans is in force since the 1950's for the coast of the federal state of Mecklenburg - Vorpommern in the Baltic Sea and since 1990 for the coast of Schleswig-Holstein in the Baltic Sea and North Sea. The coast of Niedersachsen in the North Sea is covered too.

Necropsies of all stranded and by-caught cetaceans were carried out by the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum), the Veterinary Institute for Fish and Fishery Products (Cuxhaven) and the German Oceanographic Museum (Stralsund).

In 2003 70 stranded and 1 by-caught harbour porpoises were studied in Schleswig -Holstein (46 from the North Sea, 21 from the Baltic, 4 of unknown origin). Examinations of stranded harbour porpoises took place in Niedersachsen (North Sea) and in Mecklenburg -Vorpommern (Baltic) too (numbers not yet available). No unusual illnesses or particular epidemics were found.

Projects of the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum) and the GKSS Research Centre (Geesthacht) investigate the genetic structure of parasites from the respiratory tract of harbour porpoises. Cytokine expression is measured in full blood using Reverse Transcriptase -Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT -PCR) in order to evaluate the immune system of harbour porpoises.

Research on abundance, population structure etc.

The study on the recent situation of *Phocoena phocoena* along the coast of the federal state of Niedersachsen is finalized. As a result it seems, that the geographical occurrence of harbour porpoise differs throughout the year, but the reason for this is uncertain. A report was compiled and will be the basis for further investigations.

Steps were taken to improve the system of occasional sightings of small cetaceans off Niedersachsen.

Aerial surveys were conducted by the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum) in 2003 in order to estimate density of harbour porpoises in German waters as well as to study distribution patterns. Using the circle -back method by Hiby the strip width as well as $g(0)$ (probability of detection on the transect line) for different environmental conditions were calculated for the survey team and applied to the tracks flown. The resulting maps showed a non - even distribution of porpoises in the summer months (May to August) in the German North Sea. In the Baltic study area all sightings in 2003 were limited to the area west of the island of Rügen.

In 2003 the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum) continued research in the Whale Protection Area off the islands of Sylt and Amrum. One aim of that study, starting in 2002, was to conduct visual surveys from boats in this area to determine the distribution and density of harbour porpoises. Additionally porpoise detectors (PODs) were deployed in the North Sea and also towed during the visual surveys in order to decide whether these devices can be used to monitor habitat use. The results of aerial and ship -based surveys showed a tendency towards higher numbers of sightings per kilometer and higher numbers of porpoises per kilometer in aerial surveys. The POD data underlined the importance of the area as a whale protection area. Porpoises occurred continuously in the area throughout the

year.

Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

A study on the impact of contaminants on the thyroid and immune system of harbour porpoise from the Northeast Atlantic is conducted within the scope of the Marie Curie Scholarship (EU). Pollutants and stable isotopes are determined, the thyroid gland and cytokines are examined on animals from different regions including Belgium, UK, Germany, Denmark, Iceland, and Norway.

5. Public awareness and education

Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement

In Schleswig-Holstein the National Park Service continued to distribute three available brochures, i.e. on harbour porpoise, on whales and seals in general and also on seals and whales especially in the Wadden Sea.

A new wing for exhibitions on whales (inaugurated in January 2003) of the „Multimar-Wattforum-Tönning“ on the North Sea Coast of Schleswig-Holstein was frequented strongly. It accommodates a sperm whale skeleton and information on harbour porpoise.

A. General information

Sweden Name of party	030101- 031231 Period covered
Christina Rappe Name of report compiler	2003-04-19 Date of report
Any changes in co-ordinating authority, appointed member of advisory committee	

B. NEW measures/action towards meeting the resolutions of the 2nd Meeting of Parties

1. Direct interaction of small cetaceans with fisheries

<p>Investigations of methods to reduce by -catch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A continuation of research on interactive pingers, NIPPER (Nordic Interactive Pinger for Porpoise Entanglement Reduction), has been funded by the Nordic Council and will be carried out as a cooperation between Fjord&Baelt, Kjerteminde, DK, Dr Geneviève Desportes, Kolmården Djurpark/Linköping University (SE):Dr.Mats Amundin, Danmarks Fiskeriundersøgelser, Charlottenlund, (DK):Finn Larsen, and Havforskningsinstituttet, Oslo, (N): Dr Arne Bjørge. <p>A study is ongoing of using a Norwegian fish pot as alternative fishing gear in the gillnet fishery for cod.</p>			
<p>Implementation of methods to reduce by -catch</p> <p>Voluntary use of pingers in mackerel driftnet fishery in the Skagerrak and turbot fishery in the Kattegatt.</p>			
<p>Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries</p> <p>An interview study of by-catches, sampling 10 % of the Swedish fishing effort, was made for the year 2001. From this study the by-catches in the Skagerrak and Kattegatt were approximately 20 and 80 respectively. The decrease compared to earlier estimates is due to a large reduction of the cod gillnet fishery.</p> <p>In the Kattegatt most of the by-catches are made in gillnets and trammel nets and a few in pelagic trawls. In the Skagerrak bottom trawls is the major gear causing by-catch.</p>			
Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)

Phocena phocena	About 20 per year	III a, in the Swedish part of Skagerrak.	Bottom trawls
Phocena phocena	About 80 per year	IIIa, Swedish Kattegat Sea	Gillnets and trammel nets and pelagic trawls

2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

Fast Ferries

Name/type of craft	Route (return)
HSS Stena Carisma	Gothenburg-Fredrikshavn
HSC Gotland	Nynäshamn-Visby
HSC Delphin	Trelleborg-Rostock
HSC Villum Clausen	Ystad-Rønne

Information on levels of disturbance
(e.g. seismic surveys, new high -speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans, et c.)

Nothing to report

Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

No area has been identified as a protective area for harbour porpoise in the Baltic. In the Skagerrak three Natura 2000 sites has been identified to harbour porpoises. Management plans have not yet been produced.

The sites are:

Vrångöskärgården (SE0520001)

Koster(SE0520133)

Väderöarna (SE0520143)

Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protect ed areas

4. Further research on small cetaceans

Post mortem investigations are carried out on all small cetaceans by-caught or found stranded in the Baltic. The animals have to be brought fresh to the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm where the investigations are conducted. From harbour porpoises by-caught or stranded on the Swedish west coast, a piece of tissues from the dorsal fin is sampled. For further detail see prior information sent to ASCOBANS.

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

An examination of other scientists works concerning population structure of harbour porpoises in Swedish and adjacent waters was initiated during 2002. The study was carried out by the Institution of population genetics at the University of Stockholm and completed in 2003.

Research on abundance, population structure etc.

Nothing to report

Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

5. Public awareness and education

A brochure to inform fishermen, the coast guard, municipalities and people living off and by the sea, what to do if they find a stranded or by-caught small cetacean is available at present. In 2003 SEPA also produced another brochure for the general public with the objective of rising public awareness and receiving reports on sighted harbour porpoises. This information will also be available at the SEPA website. A reporting system of porpoise sightings was produced by the Swedish Museum of Natural History in cooperation with SEPA in 2003.

Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement

ASCOBANS Annual National Report

A. General information

Name of party	Period covered
United Kingdom	1 January 2003 - 31 December 2003
Name of report compiler	Date of report
Rachel Harris, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	
Any changes in co-coordinating authority, appointed member of advisory committee	

B. NEW measures/action towards meeting the resolutions of the 4th Meetings of Parties

1. Direct interaction of small cetaceans with fisheries

Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch

The UK Small Cetacean Bycatch Response Strategy set out the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs thinking on what measures should be taken to reduce bycatch to a level where it does not threaten cetaceans' conservation status. The Strategy begins with a review of existing information concerning the population and abundance of small cetaceans occurring in UK waters. Existing information (including long-standing research on stranded cetacean) enables an assessment to be made of the current level of small cetacean bycatch in UK fishing sectors, including set net fisheries, pelagic and demersal trawls, and dredging. This information is important in assessing where effort to reduce mortality is best directed. But it is not simply the UK fleet that is entitled to fish in UK waters, and information is also available on the effects of activities of fishing fleets of other nations.

Potential bycatch mitigation techniques identified to possibly reduce bycatch can usefully be grouped into three main areas: acoustic deterrents: gear modifications: and fisheries management.

Acoustic deterrents comprise the use of 'pingers' on nets, using sound to deter cetaceans. These are known to be effective in set net fisheries but there are nevertheless concerns about use; the cetaceans may become too used to them, or may become frightened to use traditional gathering grounds. And pingers may cause operational difficulties for fishermen using 'pingered' nets. These issues need to be fully considered to ensure optimum application.

The effect of reflective nets in reducing bycatch has been trailed, and there is ongoing work into possible use of selector grids in trawl fisheries.

Fisheries management measures can include closures by time or by area, which might be triggered by a particular level of bycatch: but closures may simply move the problem into other areas, if not planned effectively

A full analysis of these issues allows the strategy to propose targets for specific fisheries in specific areas: and recommendations for action (with indicative costings, and with careful consideration of the practicability and proportionality of proposed measures.)

The Sea Mammal Research Unit has continued work on exclusion devices in the bass pair trawl fishery. A 12 day trial in which a camera was mounted in front of the exclusion device, during March, the period where highest bycatch and greatest fishing effort have been observed in 2000 -2002, showed no dolphins approaching the grid during 31 tows. Dolphin bycatch rates were relatively high in 2003, and adjacent boats had several dolphin bycatch tows during this period. After the trial the grid and camera were left on board and monitored by the skipper and an observer for a further 51 tows. Two animals were recorded as having drowned while apparently trying to negotiate

the escape panel during these tows. The overall bycatch rate for the vessel using the exclusion device was an order of magnitude lower than expected and it was concluded that the device had had some effect, though the mechanism for this effect is unclear. Further work in 2003 -2004 should help develop these initial findings.

Work on porpoises and gill nets have also been continued by the Sea Mammal Research Unit. In paired trials using thin twined (0.4mm monofilament) 90mm mesh nets and thicker twined (0.6mm) 267mm mesh nets, significantly more seals and porpoises were caught in the thicker twined nets. This experiment proved for the first time that there are indeed different catch rates in different net types, and assertion previously based on uncontrolled observed correlations. There were also significantly more large holes in the net panels, and we speculate that the animals such as seals and porpoises may be able to break free from thinner twined nets. Trials using barium sulphate filled monofilament nets were also conducted, in which BaSo4 filled nets with a twine diameter of 0.67mm and a mesh size of 241mm were compared in a paired trial with regular monofilament nets of 0.6mm twine and 267mm mesh size. There was a higher bycatch of both porpoises and seals in the BaSo4 nets, and we speculate that this may be due to the thicker twine used in this type of netting.

Experimental work has also been carried out, and is currently being analysed, by the University of Dundee in collaboration with the Sea Mammal Research Unit, on the mechanics of net breakage under a range of laboratory conditions.

Implementation of methods to reduce by-catch

In February 2003 UK Fisheries Minister Elliott Morley wrote to EU Commissioner Franz Fischler, urging consideration of urgent measures to widen observer coverage on pelagic trawlers in ICES Area VII in the light of UK observations of significant bycatch in the offshore bass fishery. Elliott Morley also urged the Commission to consider contributing to the SCANS (Small Cetacean Abundance Survey in the North Sea) II project.

Publication of the Bycatch strategy

Turtle and Cetacean Biodiversity Action Plan Group – initiated trials into pinger handling.

Pinger trials led by SEAFISH involving the Cornish Fish Producers Organisation.

Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries

Jersey
None see 2002 report.

United Kingdom
Estimates of bycatch for gill net fisheries have been updated based on changes in fishing effort. These estimates assume that there is a more or less constant underlying bycatch rate throughout the measurement (1996 -2000) and extrapolation (1995 -2002) period. While this is probably a reasonable assumption over a few years, the longer the time period concerned the more likely it is that population level changes, changes in fishing practices, changes in porpoise distribution or foraging behavior may violate this assumption. The declines in estimates of total catch shown below are driven entirely by decline in fishing effort. The estimate of common dolphins bycatch in the offshore pelagic trawl fishery for bass is derived from mean bycatch rates and fishing effort for the years 2000 -2003, and is therefore an estimate of average annual bycatch over this period.

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Harbour Porpoise	439 (95% CL 371 -640)	IV	UK set nets 2002
Harbour Porpoise	48 (96% CL 25-68)	VIa	UK set nets 2002
Common Dolphin	91 (95% CL 53-147)	VIIed	UK bass pair trawl 2001 -2003

2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

Information on levels of disturbance**(e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans, etc.)****Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance**JNCC

Studies on the noise caused by the installation and operation of windfarms were initiated. Early results indicate relatively high sound levels are generated during the piling phase of installation. Such information will be used to inform both Strategic Environmental Assessments and the Environmental Impact Assessment processes.

A review of the JNCC guidelines to reduce disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys was undertaken throughout the year. Revised guidelines will be in use during the 2004 seismic survey season. Guidelines for explosive use during decommissioning of marine industrial locations have been drafted. Funding has been secured to review and publish a final version of the explosive guidelines during 2004

DTI

The DTI with the JNCC has continued to develop mechanisms to collate data to map the pattern of seismic activity through the UKDEAL database. This will be a useful tool to aid in the management of seismic surveys in an effort to reduce disturbance. Efforts in 2003 concentrated on obtaining historical data from companies to more fully populate the database, with results expected in early 2004. For the first time in 2003 DTI has made the reporting of seismic survey data a legally binding condition of consent. This data will help with the ongoing population of UKDEAL.

In September 2003 the DTI published its position paper on the mitigation and management of seismic surveys. The paper outlined the Department's current position and forward plan and requests comments from all interested parties. A full public consultation is underway with a deadline of January 2004 (<http://www.org.dti.gov.uk/>).

The DTI with MOD and some oil companies are funding a major research program to characterize noise sources from oil and gas activities. The first stage draft report is due in early 2004 and when finalized this will be made public. In a separate initiative the DTI has commissioned a desk study to assess active acoustic monitoring as a means of mitigation during seismic surveys. The report is currently in draft and when finalized will be made public.

Wales

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) has in draft, a detailed boat-users Code of Conduct for minimising disturbance to Cetaceans. This bilingual (Welsh and English) booklet explains the new laws under the CroW Act and is being produced in consultation with Police Wildlife Crime officers. In addition, the North Wales police are producing a poster about the new penalties for disturbing marine wildlife.

Scottish Executive

The Scottish Executive's Nature Conservation (Scotland) Bill is currently undergoing Stage 2 scrutiny in the Scottish Parliament. This contains measures to improve the existing species protection offered by the Wildlife and Countryside Act, including the extension of existing protections for cetaceans from intentional disturbance to encompass protection from "reckless" disturbance in line with that offered by the CROW Act 2000 in England and Wales.

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans**Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas**

The CCW commissioned the Sea Watch Foundation in collaboration with Dr Graham Pierce, University of Aberdeen to analyse harbour porpoise sightings from the Joint Cetacean Database. A number of areas were highlighted as having greater than average numbers of porpoises regularly present during an important period (April -September) in the annual cycle of the species.

Work continued on the development of agreed protocols for the monitoring of cetaceans (bottlenose and common dolphins/harbour porpoise) in Wales by CCW. This included the formation of the Wales Cetacean Group. The group (formerly the Cardigan Bay Dolphin Workshop) was set up in November 2003 to bring together those studying cetaceans in Welsh waters. Its function was to exchange information, share resources, develop methods and coordinate surveys. Within the WCG, Welsh waters are interpreted fairly widely to include areas contiguous with Wales and UK Territorial Seas.

JNCC

Two analyses have been undertaken of data on harbour porpoise distribution in order to determine if it is possible to identify hotspots in distribution that might be suitable for designation as protected sites. The results of these analyses are still being considered.

Scottish Executive

The Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative, which was launched in October 2002 to look at the special value of Scotland's marine environment and to examine how it can be managed more sustainably, has now entered its second phase. Phase I of the initiative, which comprised of the conceptualisation of this work together with the scoping of a separate Phase II study was concluded in November 2003, and the final report will be published shortly.

Phase II of the project is designed to explore the benefits of a sustainable management and ecosystem based approach to Scotland's marine environment. This phase will lay all the necessary foundations for the third phase of the initiative, which aims to launch and run pilot management schemes.

England

Under the Habitats Directive Annex II aquatic species, which range over wide areas, such sites [SACs] will be proposed only where there is a "clearly identifiable area representing the physical and biological factors essential to their life and reproduction. The difficulties in selecting sites for wide ranging species like cetaceans is one of the issues being considered by the EU Marine Expert group. This was set up in late 2002 to consider aspects of implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives in the marine environment.

The first meeting of the EC Marine Working Group was held on 5th March 2003, and is co-chaired by a Defra official.

The group will focus on the following key tasks and submit proposals for consideration of the Habitats Committee:

1. Propose habitats and species of Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive and Annex I and migratory bird species of the Birds Directive for which marine NATURA 2000 sites should be considered.
2. Propose the best means of locating and assessing these habitat types and species.
3. Propose definitions of marine habitats, and propose amendment to the Interpretation manual as necessary.
4. Propose site selection rationale(s).
5. Consider management measures necessary for adequate site protection.
6. Consider alternative/complementary conservation measures for 'wide ranging' species (for which sites cannot be meaningfully identified or for which sites might only represent a minor contribution to their overall protection). Cetacean will fall into this category
7. Based on the above to draw together some initial impressions on adaptation of the Annexes for marine habitat types and species.

The UK is the coordinator for a sub group of the Expert group charged with developing guidance on locating, assessing and selecting marine sites in offshore waters, including those for harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin.

A draft paper is currently before the Expert Group for discussion. With regard to cetaceans there are a number of the scientific difficulties are encountered when attempting to identify sites for wide ranging marine mammals, which are very similar to those, encountered when attempting to identify sites for wide ranging birds. The draft paper stated that, "In practice, areas identified for both groups are likely to overlap as they often feed on common food sources (i.e. shoals of small fish). The main difficulty in identifying potentially important areas for both groups is in applying existing site selection criteria in an environment with no or few obvious natural boundaries, and to species which are widely dispersed, highly mobile and may be difficult to observe." Final guidance is expected to be published at the end of 2004.

Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &C.) Regulations

As a result of a UK court judgment in 1999, the UK Government is currently taking steps to implement both the Wild Birds and the Habitats Directives beyond its territorial waters where it exercises sovereign rights. The Regulations to extend the Directives' application were consulted upon on 6 August 2003. It is expected the legislation will be laid Summer/Autumn 2004. This will provide additional protection in the UK offshore marine area for cetaceans listed under the Habitats Directive.

Review of Marine Nature Conservation (RMNC)

The RMNC was established in 1999 in recognition of the fact that more needs to be done to protect UK's marine environment. Led by Defra and supported by a Working Group drawing on a broad range of stakeholder interests, the Working Group considered various options for how the protection available to marine habitats and species (including cetaceans) might be improved. The Interim Report, produced in March 2002, made a number of recommendations, including the commencement of a pilot scheme at regional sea scale to test some of the ideas developed during the course of the Review. The Pilot ran from May 2003 and will complete its work in March 2004. The Irish Sea was chosen as the location for this Pilot. The primary purpose of the pilot was demonstrate the application of new concepts and to examine how far the conservation management needed within the pilot area could be delivered through existing systems. The Pilot tested the application of a new framework for marine nature conservation which included as an integral component the identification of those parts of the regional seas ecosystem that are of nature conservation value or importance. Examining how to integrate nature conservation into key sectors to make an effective contribution to sustainable development on a regional basis.

The Irish Sea Pilot considered what species and habitats could be considered nationally important to the UK. Criteria were designed to test proportional importance, rarity, decline and threat of significant decline of species and habitats. The criteria, was tested using data from the Irish Sea. A comprehensive list of features thought likely to meet the criteria, was compiled to create a "provisional" list. On the list of species which may be of national importance were a number of cetaceans, including: Blue Whale, Sei whale, Mink whale, Fin whale, Pilot whale, Killer whale, Common dolphin, Risso dolphin, Atlantic white-sided dolphin, White-beaked dolphin, Harbour porpoise and Bottle-nosed dolphin.

The Irish Sea Pilot has reported its findings of the Pilot study to the Working Group. They are now considering how to best take this work forward and the other recommendations from the Pilot.

OSPAR Convention – The Conservation for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Northeast Atlantic.

OSPAR is concerned with human impacts on the North East Atlantic. At the Biodiversity Committee meeting in February 2004, they will be discussing the development of Ecological Quality Objectives.

The Fifth North Sea Conference and OSPAR in 2002 agreed to an Ecological quality objective relating to the Bycatch of harbour porpoises in the North Sea would be given and objective "Annual bycatch levels should be reduced to levels below 1.7% of the best population estimate". At the Biodiversity Committee meeting in 2003 the UK agreed to be the lead country for this. The UK requested Contracting Parties establish and maintain monitoring schemes for harbour porpoises bycatch in order to fully implement the EcoQO

Initial OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats.

The OSPAR Commission meeting in June 2003 agreed on an initial OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats and set out the next steps for its future work programme on biodiversity and ecosystems, including actions relating to this list. The Harbour porpoise is listed as threatened, also included on the list are the Bowhead whale, Blue whale and Northern right whale.

One of the next steps is the identification of the need for measures to protect the species and habitats on the OSPAR list, and of the authorities or international bodies competent for taking such measures, together with facilitating the development of programmes and measures. The Netherlands agreed at BDC 2003 to carry out supporting research to address this question by circulating a questionnaire to Contracting Parties and Observers and reporting the findings to the next meeting of the Marine Protected Areas and Species & Habitats Committee (MASH) and the Biodiversity Committee in 2004. The main objective of this study is to provide an overview of current and proposed management measures relating to the listed species and habitats. A secondary objective is to contribute to an analysis of what might be required in the future by giving a qualitative indication of the views of Contracting Parties and Observers on the effectiveness of current measures directed at the listed species and habitats.

Plans in place to designate Jersey's offshore reef as Ramsar sites. Process started at the end of 2003, with aim of designation during 2004.

4. Further research on small cetaceans

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

During 2003, under the Defra-funded UK Cetacean Strandings Programme, a total of 797 cetacean strandings comprising 14 species were reported to the Natural History Museum (NHM) from England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Bailiwick of Jersey (see Annex 1). All UK cetacean strandings (together with by-caught cetaceans and those seen floating dead at sea) continue to be recorded on the NHM's National Cetacean Strandings database.

As part of this research the Institute of Zoology (IOZ) and the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) are continuing to investigate diseases and causes of death in UK stranded cetaceans. Since 1990, over 2500 marine mammal carcasses have been examined in the UK. Pathological and other data and tissue samples from these investigations continue to be archived centrally in the Poseidon database and tissue archives held jointly at the IOZ, SAC and NHM.

In 2003 177 necropsies of stranded cetaceans (of 9 species) were conducted in the UK, and a further 5 necropsies of by-caught harbour porpoises retrieved from fishing vessels (mainly as part of observer-based research conducted by the Sea Mammal Research Unit). Harbour porpoises (n=114) and common dolphins (n=40) were the most common stranded species to be examined. By-catch was identified as the cause of death of 24/40 (60%) common dolphins, 11/114 (10%) harbour porpoises, 3/10 (30%) striped dolphins and 1/3 (33%) white beaked dolphins. The harbour porpoise by-catches continue to exhibit injuries consistent with entanglement in monofilament gillnet-type gear, whereas the common dolphin by-catches typically had different external lesions more consistent with smaller-mesh trawl-type gear. As in previous years, the harbour porpoise and common dolphins diagnosed as by-catches predominantly originated from the southwest of England (mainly Cornwall and Devon) during the winter (December-March). The annual number of all common dolphin and harbour porpoise strandings (including those examined and diagnosed as by-catch) in SW England during the winter (mainly December-April) has been consistently increasing between 1999 and 2003.

In addition, 23 harbour porpoises were diagnosed as fatally attacked by bottlenose dolphins in Scotland (mainly within the Moray Firth-Firth and Forth area) and in west Wales. The number of harbour porpoises killed by bottlenose dolphins in west Wales has increased annually since 1999. Another 22 harbour porpoises died due to heavy parasitic infections and/or pneumonias caused by combinations of parasitic, bacterial and mycotic infections and 5 porpoises had fatal generalized bacterial infections. Starvation caused the death of 17 harbour porpoises and 1 minke whale, and physical trauma (often of unidentified origin) caused the death of a further 8 harbour porpoises and 1 white beaked dolphin.

Finally, 8 common dolphins, 4 Atlantic white-sided dolphins, 4 harbour porpoises, 4 striped dolphins, 2 minke whales, 1 white beaked dolphin, 1 sperm whale and 1 Sowerby's beaked whale that were apparently healthy died after standing alive.

In addition to the strandings co-coordinators funded by Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government continues its funding of the Welsh strandings Co-coordinator in conjunction with CCW.

Jersey

Meeting conducted with Richard Sabin, coordinator of the National Strandings Programme at the Natural History Museum (NHM), in summer 2003 to improve stranding reporting. All historic records held by Societe Jersaise have been digitized and passed to NHM. Jersey now participated in the NHM's stranding programme, by reporting all stranded cetaceans to NHM and filing an NHM136 form for each stranding (Annex 2).

Wales

In addition to the strandings coordinators funded by Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government continues its funding

of the Welsh Strandings Coordinator in conjunction with CCW.

Ireland

Environment and Heritage Services are part of an all Ireland consortium along with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS – formally DUCHAS) and the Heritage Council, which is jointly funding the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group to run the Irish Scheme for Cetacean Observation and Public Education (ISCOPE) programme. ISCOPE is a new initiative, initially over three years 2003 -05, which aims to promote better awareness and knowledge of cetaceans in Irish waters, by encouraging public participation in cetacean recording. The scheme records efforts related to sighting and strandings around the Irish coast as well as recruiting and training observers. Part of the programme also includes on-board Ferry surveys on the Dublin -Holyhead and the Rosslare -Strasbourg routes.

Research on abundance, population structure etc.

England

In 2003, Defra funded, or contributed to, a number of projects examining population abundance

Wales

In 2003, CCW funded, or contributed to, a number of projects examining population abundance and structure.

1. A cetacean sightings database for Wales. Ongoing.
2. Extended survey of Risso's dolphins, harbour porpoises and other cetaceans in Cardigan Bay, 2002 -2005 (Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society). Both land-based and boat-based survey techniques were used including acoustic porpoise detectors (or PODs) and photographic identification. Four cetacean species were sighted and useful data was gathered on the distribution and abundance of porpoises in relation to different habitats around Bardsey Island.
3. Risso's dolphin and other cetacean boat-based surveys in west Wales, 2003 (Friends of Cardigan Bay). Boat-based surveys were undertaken off Bardsey Island, Cardigan Bay and Pembrokeshire. Four species of cetacean were sighted.
4. North Anglesey surveys of harbour porpoise, 2002 -2005 (Marine Awareness North Wales). Land and boat-based survey techniques were used and the first years data showed over 70% of all sightings were within 0 - 5m of the shore.
5. Harbour porpoise occurrence in Carmarthen Bay, 2002 -2004 (Gower Peninsula to Swansea Bay Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Partnership). This acoustic survey has enabled comparison between results gained from static TPODs and towed hydrophone arrays. Preliminary results show that there is a year-round porpoise presence on this stretch of the south coast.
6. Year-round surveys of bottlenose dolphin and harbour porpoise in Cardigan Bay, 2003-2005 (Sea Watch Foundation). Distance sampling and photo-identification surveys were undertaken. 133 dolphin groups were photographed and of the images analysed so far 61 dolphins that can be recognized from either side of the animal have been identified.

Jersey

A Number of meetings have been held with voluntary sectors to improve co-ordination of sighting data, as a result of which the Environment Department of the States of Jersey is developing a web based marine mammals sightings database in order to form a centralized database. It is planned to launch the site towards the end of April 2004 accompanied by publicity to promote use of the site to report sightings.

Porpoise Operating Device: it has been identified that more detailed cetacean monitoring is necessary. A POD is due to be purchased early in 2004. Deployment will be via the Fisheries Vessels and recording stations and monitoring protocols will be agreed with the necessary stakeholders.

Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

In 2003, potential relationships were investigated between PCB exposure and infectious disease mortality in UK - stranded harbour porpoises using a case-control approach (Institute Of Zoology/Scottish Agricultural College). Mean levels of the sum of 25CB congeners (Σ 25CBs) in healthy porpoises that died of physical trauma (control group) (n=175) were compared statistically to those that died of infectious disease (n=82). The analysis shows that Σ 25CBs were significantly elevated in the infectious disease group and were not confounded by the effects of age, loss of nutritional status, regional variations in PCB exposure or the effect of maternal PCB offloading.

Statistical analysis demonstrated that (Σ 25CBs) and mercury (Hg) exposure (but not butyltins) were correlated with a quantitative index of thymic involution (using histological techniques), consistent with their potential role as

thymotoxicants in experimental studies of terrestrial mammals. The association between Σ 25CBs and thymic involution is considerably stronger when tested above a proposed total PCB threshold level for adverse toxic effects in marine mammals based on experimental data in seals, otters and mink. Collectively, these findings are consistent with the hypothesis that a casual relationship exists between PCB -induced immunotoxicity and infectious diseases mortality in UK-stranded harbour porpoises.

5. Public awareness and education

Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement

In 2003, a meeting was held between the Natural History Museum (NHM), London, and the Environment Department, States of Jersey, to facilitate the transfer of stranding data. Under the new agreement, the Environment Department feeds strandings data directly from Jersey into the main UK dataset compiled annually by the NHM

CCW funded and contributed towards a number of projects in 2003 including:

Centre for Marine Awareness for North Wales, 2002 -2005 (Marine Awareness North Wales) - support for an information centre and education officer in Bangor, North Wales. This includes an education outreach scheme involving visits to schools, press releases and events implementing community involvement in marine biodiversity action plans.

Marine Environmental Education for Cardigan Bay and environs, 2002 -2005 (Sea Watch Foundation) - support for an information centre, and education officer for The West Wales Marine Wildlife Centre, New Quay. This involves running a visitor centre, managing volunteers and providing educative and interpretive material. The educational resource will be in line with the National Curriculum in Wales.

Cetacean surveys in Wales – training and use of volunteer observers, 2002 -2005 (Sea Watch Foundation). Work includes the promotion of a national sightings scheme, the training of volunteer participants in this network and the provision of sightings data on cetaceans encountered during training. In 2003, 60 people, including local volunteers, attended the courses.

Cetaceans in Welsh Waters booklet 2003. This booklet is being produced as part of CCW's species series and has an emphasis on Biodiversity Action Plans for harbour porpoise and small dolphins.

Guidance for the production of local Marine Habitats and Species Action Plans in Wales, 2004. The aim of this publication is to provide local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships in Wales with the information needed to prepare and implement local plans. The guidance consists of supporting information for local marine plans, including ecological information within a Welsh context and suggestions for local action, and a series of individual information documents for BAP habitats and species. The latter are being built up over time and the guidance for harbour porpoise has been completed.

Jersey

Sighting website (mentioned in 4 above) will include information on one a code of practice for boat owners encountering marine mammals and two links to information about ASCOBANS and its implementation.

Marine Mammal Media Course: BDMLR visited Jersey in December 2003 to conduct a training course. Arising from this is the formation of a local group who will be able to attend strandings and wishes to raise money (approx £1.6k) for the purchase of dolphin pontoons. The group also intends to carry out a mass stranding exercise in order that those attending the initial course could gain their advanced certificate if they wish. Protocols are now in place for a vet to be onsite to make the decision whether to euthanasia or attempt a refloat. All live strandings will be directed to the JSPCA who will coordinate the rescue effort.

ANNEX 1

Table 1: Cetacean strandings in United Kingdom & Bailiwick of Jersey during 2003

	ENGLAND, WALES, ISLE OF MAN & BAILIWICK OF JERSEY	SCOTLAND	NORTHERN IRELAND	TOTAL
FAMILY BALAENOPTERIDAE				
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	6	13	1	20
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	1	-	-	1
FAMILY DELPHINIDAE				
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	181	16	-	197
<i>D. delphis/ S. coeruleoalba</i>	1	2	-	3
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	2	3	-	5
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	-	7	-	7
<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	1	12	-	13
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	4	4	-	8
<i>Lagenorhynchus</i> sp.indet.	-	1	-	1
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	1	-	-	1
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	10	2	-	12
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	7	1	-	8
Unidentified dolphins	138	9	-	147
FAMILY PHOCOENIDAE				
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	223	81	6	310
FAMILY PHYSETERIDAE				
<i>Physeter catodon</i>	2	6	-	8
FAMILY ZIPHIIDAE				
<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	1	-	-	1
<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	1	1	-	2
Unidentified toothed whales	11	4	-	15
Unidentified cetaceans	27	11	-	38
TOTALS	617	173	7	797

ANNEX 2**Jersey Marine Mammal Strandings for 2003**

Ref	Species	Date	Location	Remarks
102	Common Dolphin (D.delphis)	03/02/200 3	St Quens Bay Near La Pulente	Badly decomposed – disposal by public services
103	Common Dolphin (D.delphis)	03/02/200 3	St Quens Bay Near Le Etacq	Badly decomposed – disposal by public services
104	Common Dolphin (D.delphis)	05/02/200 3	St Quens Bay Near Le Braye slipway	Badly decomposed – disposal by public services
105	Common Dolphin (D.delphis)	09/08/200 3	West of Green Island	Picked up by Ross Goodnicke. V young male – 100cm. Fairly fresh. All fins intact. Gouge under next. Photos taken, ref 105 std NHM form 136 filled in and forwarded to NHM
106	Common Dolphin (D.delphis)	26/12/200 3	Pomtac 3003 east of slip	Animals' Shelter received a call on Boxing day at 11:15am and contacted H Forshaw. A Male dolphin – 2m 30cm – in very good condition. HF suspects drowning (possibly nets) though no post mortem. Photo graphs taken