

Agenda Item 4

Annual National Reports

Document 52

Reports received from Lithuania
a) Annual National Report

Action Requested

- Briefly present highlights from reports (max. 5 minutes)
- Take note of the information submitted
- Comment

Submitted by

Lithuania



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

ASCOBANS Annual National Report

A. General information

Name of party LITHUANIA	Period covered 2008
Name of report compiler Laura Janulaitienė	Date of report 27 March 2009
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

Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch			
No investigations on methods to reduce by-catches of harbor porpoises have been conducted so far.			
Implementation of methods to reduce by-catch			
Yes, on the basis of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 812/2004.			
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.)
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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.)
No measures on disturbance reduction have been implemented.
Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance
No new guidelines or legislation implemented.

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas
No protected areas for cetaceans are identified in Lithuania.

4. Further research on small cetaceans

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans
There are no such scheme implemented.
Research on abundance, population structure etc.
The LIFE project “Marine Protected Areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea” (LIFE05 NAT/LV/000100) is implemented in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 2005-2009 (www.balticseaportal.net). One of the goal of this project – to inventory the marine mammals.
For detecting Harbour porpoise and measuring its activity passive submerged porpoise detectors (T-PODs) was used. The project inventory covered the whole length of the Eastern Baltic Sea coast from

Lithuania to the Gulf of Finland. Arrays of T-PODs was deployed in pre-selected places (6 T-PODs in each Baltic country). In 2007 and 2008 different pre-selected areas was used, so different project areas was covered. These detectors were physically placed in the sea and every three months the data from T-PODs were downloaded and batteries exchanged.

The T-PODs for harbour porpoise detection have been purchased and programmed, later on deployed to first survey site for survey. So far, within the year 2007/2008, no harbour porpoises were detected near deployment locations.

Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

None.

5. Public awareness and education

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

The lectures for schoolchildren and students on protection of marine ecosystems including small cetaceans as well as local harbor porpoises are permanently organized in the Lithuanian Sea Museum display.

Lithuanian Sea Museum for the 6th time celebrated International Harbor Porpoise Day in 2008. This year was the first one when Lithuanian Sea Museum specialists thought of broader perspective: they decided to knit some ecological factors with Harbor Porpoise problems, and call this view as eco-perspective towards whole environment of Harbor Porpoise. The event was split into 2 parts: scientific and relaxation. Scientific part was dedicated to students and lectures of universities, colleges, schools or just “ordinary” people who are not indifferent in Harbor Porpoise problems. Relaxation part was organized as a night event for visitors’ attraction. Also for the popularizing both events, this year Lithuanian Sea Museum decided to appeal to society’s emotions using didactic learning method of parallel: they created relation of the meanings for 2 animals (Harbor Porpoise, *Phocena Phocena*, and Guinea Pig, *Cavia porcellus*). Both animals in the Lithuanian language have almost the same meaning: Harbor Porpoise as “Jūros kiaulė”, and Guinea Pig as “Jūros kiaulytė”. Therefore each visitor holding a picture of Guinea Pig on the Day of International Harbor Porpoise day was allowed to visit sea museum for free. Such idea was amusingly accepted and was widely spread by the means of media. In the press releases Lithuanian Sea Museum specialists explained how sounding the same; animals might differ in reality. Not only emotional contact for people having such Guinea Pigs at home worked, but also like “hidden idea”, and they were interested to get to know something about another animal, sounding the same. The themes about International Harbor Porpoise day were widely discusses and commented in the biggest informational web sites and newspapers.

Events:

1. Open seminar-discussion dedicated to International Harbor Porpoise day in the Lithuanian Sea Museum. At early morning a very special exhibition was opened “Birds of Kopgalis”. This exhibition is very particular for Kopgalis region, where the Baltic Sea and Curonian Lagoon meets. In the seminar Dr. Nerijus Blažauskas (Coastal Research and Planning Institute) presented his paper on the problems of Lithuanian Coast: past, present situation and perspectives. He paid a lot of attention towards harbor expanding and industrial region in the coast; Doc. dr. Darius Daunys (Coastal Research and Planning Institute) presented collaborative work made with Prof.hab.dr. Sergej Olenin (Coastal Research and Planning Institute) on the condition and values that have to be saved of the underwater world of the Baltic Sea; Egidijus Bacevičius (Lithuanian State Centre for Pisciculture and Fishery research) presented historical background and nowadays situation on registered facts of toothed and barbate whales that have been observed in the Baltic Sea; Arūnas Grušas (Lithuanian Sea Museum) presented a report on the occurring problems of the biggest sea mammals in the Baltic Sea. The greatest attention was drawn towards the possibilities of seeking

collaboration with Ministry of Environment and local fisherman; Laura Janulaitienė (Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania) presented an issue on the theme Harbor Porpoise conservation in the ecology perspective; Saulius Karalius (Lithuanian Sea Museum) draw his comments on the filmed material from Fjord&Baelte center (Denmark) about birth of a calf of Harbor Porpoise and training; Monika Konkel (Hel Marine Station, University of Gdansk, Poland) presented work in this center and the special programs they create for conservations of Harbor Porpoises and Jurgita Eglinskienė (Lithuanian Sea Museum) presented ecological AquaRing project that has been proceeding in the Lithuanian Sea Museum.

2. Night with Harbor Porpoise in the Dolphinarium. Night with Porpoises started at late night in the Dolphinarium with underwater dolphin show (educational program under the water). Visitors may question the trainers and get the answers or ask to show anything of the dolphins. After such marvelous experiences, visitors may join further program in the Hall. Visitors may ask questions of trainers, see films and pictures of Harbor Porpoise, listened to attractive educational program on the difference between Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphins and Harbor Porpoise. Also visitors may relax listening to splendid concert that was prepared by children collection "Clean Seashore".

A life-size model of harbour porpoise have been exhibited at the aquarium hall of the Lithuanian Sea Museum.