



**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION
OF SMALL CETACEANS OF THE
BALTIC, NORTH EAST ATLANTIC,
IRISH AND NORTH SEAS**

ASCOBANS/AC29/NR.4/Rev.1
16 September 2025

29th MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Online, 16-18 September 2025
Agenda Item 2

2024 NATIONAL REPORT: DENMARK

2024 ASCOBANS National Report

1 January – 31 December 2024

As outlined in ASCOBANS Resolution 10.1 *National Reporting 2025-2028*, this form will cover the year 2024 (Year 1), and the following topics included in the Annex to the Resolution:

- High-level Summary of Key Messages
- General Information (Section I)
- Noise (impulsive i.e. piling and continuous/ambient i.e. shipping) (Section II B3)
- Ocean Energy (Section II B4)
- Unexploded Ordnance (Section II C8)
- Marine Spatial Planning (Section II D15)
- Other matters (Section VII)

The National Reports submitted will inform discussions at the [name of the meeting ([dates])].

- All questions apply to the **reporting period from 1 January to 31 December 2024**.
- Region in the tables refers to the sub-regions as defined by the HELCOM and OSPAR, and Areas refers to the sub-areas as defined by ICES. An overview and maps of these can be found in Annex A. Species can be chosen from the drop-down list provided, based on ASCOBANS species list, see Annex B.
- Throughout the form, please include relevant web links and add rows where applicable.
- The deadline for the submission of National Reports is **31 May 2025**.

Where possible, National Coordinators should consult with, or delegate to, experts for particular topics so as to ease the reporting burden. The Secretariat has provided a list of potential country contacts as a starting point. Once the baseline information is in place, it should become easier to update in the future.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the [Secretariat](#).

High-level Summary of Key Messages

In your country, for 2024 (Year 1), what does this report reveal about:

- 1. The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement?** (list up to five items)
 - A significant amount of both national and international research, collaboration and debate on underwater noise is ongoing. This includes both noise impact on harbour porpoises and general noise management and mitigation.
 - The first Danish Marine Spatial Plan has been implemented in 2023. So far it does not include any specific provisions such as reservation or priority layers for the management of one or more ASCOBANS listed species.

- 2. The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement?** (list up to five items)
 - The rate of construction of offshore wind farms has been relatively constant, but the individual projects and turbine foundations are increasing. As such ensuring space and high-quality habitat may be a challenge. Furthermore, the long-term impact on harbour porpoises off Offshore wind farms have only been studied on very few occasions and long-term monitoring BACI design (Before, during, after) programs should be initiated.
 - For the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise: Lack of knowledge on current abundance and distribution. This will hopefully change in a few years when SAMBAH-II and CUMBIAH progresses.
 - For the Belt Sea harbour porpoise: The population has severely declined since 2005 (2.7% per year, Owen et al. 2024) and several studies point to negative impacts on this population especially lack of food and too high bycatch levels. The low food availability is difficult to “fix” and it is a slow process. It is positive in this regard that the herring and cod fishery have been closed. Bycatch numbers are also declining because of the decrease in gillnet fishery, but so far, there are no other protection against bycatch for porpoises in Danish waters for the Belt Sea population.

- 3. The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement?** (list up to five items)
 - Support for the SAMBAH-II and CUMBIAH projects.
 - Find a permanent solution for future funding (i.e, SAMBAH-III). It is not sustainable that scientist from all around the Baltic should spend so much time trying to get funding from EU or other sources. For the SCANS surveys covering the neighbouring populations, the funding is now covered by national funding.
 - A new project in the Danish North Sea has shown that USBL systems implemented on geophysical survey ships and large trawlers, can deter and exclude porpoises at up to 5.5 km distance. The extend and impact of this previously unknown threat is unknown and may have a large impact on harbour porpoises. This should be examined.

Section I: General Information

A. Country Information

- 1. Name of Party / Non-Party Range State: Denmark**
- 2. Details of the Report Compiler**

Name: Signe Sveegaard
Function: Senior advisor, PhD
Organization: Department of Ecoscience, Aarhus University
Postal Address: Frederiksborgvej 399, 4000 Roskilde
Telephone: +45 28951664
Email: ssv@ecos.au.dk
 Does the Report Compiler act as ASCOBANS National Coordinator (i.e. focal point)?
 No Yes

3. Details of contributor(s)

Topic(s) contributed to: Section II, B & C
Name: Siri L. Elmegaard
Function: Researcher, PhD
Organization: Department of Ecoscience, Aarhus University
Postal Address: Frederiksborgvej 399, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark
Telephone: +45 20608021
Email: siri@ecos.au.dk

Copy box if needed.

Topic(s) contributed to: Section II, B & C
Name: Jakob Tougaard
Function: Professor
Organization: Department of Ecoscience, Aarhus University
Postal Address: Frederiksborgvej 399, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark
Telephone: +45 40984585
Email: jat@ecos.au.dk

Topic(s) contributed to: Section II, D
Name: Kristina Bjerre
Function: Special Consultant
Organization: Danish Maritime Authority
Postal Address: Caspar Brands Plads 9, 4220 Korsør, Denmark
Telephone: +45
Email: kbj@dma.dk

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

3. Noise (impulsive i.e. piling and continuous/ambient i.e. shipping)

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating negative effects on small cetaceans from underwater noise during the reporting period.

Relevant Resolutions: 10.3, 9.2 (Rev.MOP10), 8.11 (Rev.MOP9), 8.9, 8.6 (Rev.MOP10), 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.1, 6.2 (Rev.MOP10), 6.1

Small cetaceans are especially susceptible to underwater noise due to their high responsiveness to sound and wide hearing range. Good environmental status, as defined by the European Union, suggests that the introduction of energy, including underwater noise, is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment. Anthropogenic noise pollution has generally increased in recent times and generates a broad range of frequencies due to a wide variety of human activities. Impulsive and continuous noise present different impacts on small cetaceans, which include communicative masking, behavioural response and physiological injury. Noise in marine environments potentially impedes communication, affects distribution and hence feeding and reproduction of small cetaceans. Studies show that not only cetaceans but also fish and other marine life may be negatively impacted by anthropogenic noise.

Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed on implementation of measures through a number of resolutions that (1) highlight the potential impact that noise pollution may have on small cetaceans in the Agreement Area and (2) commit to reduce the pressure presented by underwater noise. The Agreement Area requires improved monitoring, collation of data, and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures.

To better understand the extent to which noise negatively impacts the health of small cetaceans, and to learn about new work relevant to the topic, countries are requested to provide related information.

Questions:

3.1. To which noise registers/databases has your country contributed to date?

DK comment: 2023 data reporting to ICES is in process

ICES Impulsive Noise Register (for HELCOM and OSPAR Parties)	National registry	Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable Specify (e.g. JNCC noise registry):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Specify:

3.2. Any instances/issues in the reporting period including information on planned or completed significant developments/activities, including the details of monitoring in place before, during and after the project:

DK Comment: All Danish information is or will soon be available in the ICES impulsive noise register; <https://www.ices.dk/data/data-portals/Pages/impulsive-noise.aspx>. The largest activity in 2024 listed below:

Development/ Individual Activity of impulsive noise (e.g. construction , seismic, sonar)	Status	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Strategic Environmen- tal Assessment (SEA)	Information on noise management and monitoring			Region
				Regulatio- ns/ guidelines exist	Monitori- ng conduct- ed	Mitigati- on in place	
Vesterhav Nord OWF	Comple- te	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: https://ens.dk/ansvarsomraader/vindmoeller-paa-hav/udbud-af-havvindmoelleparker/om-udbud-af-de-kystnaere#accordion1-option1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Oil North- ern North Sea

Development/ Individual Activity of impulsive noise (e.g. construction, seismic, sonar)	Status	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Information on noise management and monitoring			Region
				Regulations/ guidelines exist	Monitoring conducted	Mitigation in place	
	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

3.3. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on underwater noise in your country.

DK Comment: Publications, reports and projects with Danish authors since 2020 (previous reporting) are included below:

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)
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Behavioral reactions of harbor porpoises to impact pile driving noise are predicted by the auditory frequency weighted sound pressure level. Tougaard, J., 1 feb. 2025, I: The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. 157, 2, s. 1368-1377 10 s.

High-frequency vessel noise can mask porpoise echolocation. Hermannsen, L., Ladegaard, M., Tønnesen, P., Malinka, C., Beedholm, K., Tougaard, J., Rojano-Doñate, L., Tyack, P. L. & Madsen, P. T., 15 mar. 2025, I: The Journal of experimental biology. 228, 6, jeb249963.

Sensitivity mapping of harbour seals, grey seals and harbour porpoises to the construction and operation of offshore windfarms in Danish waters. Stokholm, I., van Beest, F., Teilmann, J., Sveegaard, S., Galatius, A., Dietz, R., Tougaard, J. & Nabe-Nielsen, J., jan. 2025, Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 63 s. (Scientific report from DCE - Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi; Nr. 644, Bind 2025).

Harbour porpoises respond to chronic acoustic deterrent device noise from aquaculture. Findlay, C. R., Coomber, F. G., Dudley, R., Bland, L., Calderan, S. V., Hartny-Mills, L., Leaper, R., Tougaard, J., Merchant, N. D., Risch, D. & Wilson, B., maj 2024, I: Biological Conservation. 293, 9 s., 110569.

Overvågning af lavfrekvent undervandsstøj i danske farvande: Statusrapport til Miljøstyrelsen 2023. Tougaard, J., Ladegaard, M. & Griffiths, E. T., 17 jun. 2024, 31 s. (Fagligt notat fra DCE – Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi ; Nr. 36, Bind 2024).

Rerouting of a major shipping lane through important harbour porpoise habitat caused no detectable change in annual occurrence or foraging patterns. Owen, K., Carlström, J., Eriksson, P., Andersson, M., Nordström, R., Lalander, E., Sveegaard, S., Kyhn, L. A., Griffiths, E. T., Cosentino, M. & Tougaard, J., maj 2024, I: Marine Pollution Bulletin. 202, 116294.

Setting EU Threshold Values for continuous underwater sound. Borsani, J. F., Andersson, M., Andre, M., Azzellino, A., Bou, M., Castellote, M., Ceyrac, L., Dellong, D., Folegot, T., Hedgeland, D., Juretzek, C., Klauson, A., Leaper, R., Le Courtois, F., Liebschner, A., Maglio, A., Mueller, A., Norro, A. M. J., Novellino, A. & Outinen, O. & 7 flere, , 2024, Luxembourg: Publications office of the European Union. 62 s.

The underwater soundscape of the North Sea. Basan, F., Fischer, J.-G., Putland, R., Brinkkemper, J., de Jong, C. A. F., Binnerts, B., Norro, A., Kühnel, D., Ødegaard, L.-A., Andersson, M., Lalander, E., Tougaard, J., Griffiths, E. T., Kosecka, M., Edwards, E., Merchant, N. D., de Jong, K., Robinson, S., Wang, L. & Kinneging, N., jan. 2024, I: Marine Pollution Bulletin. 198, 18 s., 115891.

Assessment of environmental pressures and state in relation to three Danish offshore wind farms. Dahl, K., Stæhr, P. A., Therkildsen, O. R., Petersen, I. K., Elmeros, M., Galatius, A., Tougaard, J. & Göke, C., dec. 2023, Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 45 s. (Scientific Report from DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy; Nr. 576).

Background Noise Impacts Harbor Porpoise Detections in Passive Acoustic Monitoring. Cosentino, M., Tougaard, J. & Wahlberg, M., 2023, The Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life: Principles and Practical Considerations. N. Popper, A., A. Sisneros, J., Hawkins, A. & Thomsen, F. (red.). Cham: Springer, 9 s.

Baltic Offshore Beta Windfarm: Baseline and assessment of harbour porpoises. Sveegaard, S. & Tougaard, J., jun. 2023, Roskilde: Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 53 s. (Scientific Report from DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy; Nr. 543).

Effect of Vessel Noise on Marine Mammals and Measures to Reduce Impact. Rojano Doñate, L., Lamoni, L., Tougaard, J. & Findlay, C. R., 2023, The Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life: Principles and Practical Considerations. N. Popper, A., A. Sisneros, J., Hawkins, A. & Thomsen, F. (red.). Cham: Springer, 17 s.

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Ekkolod og sonar som presfaktor: Foreløbige resultater af et pilotprojekt. Tougaard, J., Griffiths, E. T., Ladegaard, M., Marcolin, C., Kyhn, L. A. & Sveegaard, S., 24 jan. 2023, 12 s.. (Fagligt notat fra DCE – Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi ; Nr. 2, Bind 2023).

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Joint Monitoring Program for Ambient Noise in the North Sea. Kinneging, N., Andersson, M. H., de Jong, C. A. F., de Jong, K., Fisher, J., Kosecka, M., Kvasdheim, P. H., Merchant, N. D., Norro, A. M. J., Robinson, S. R. & Tougaard, J., 2023, The Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life: Principles and Practical Considerations. N. Popper, A., A. Sisneros, J., Hawkins, A. & Thomsen, F. (red.). Cham: Springer, s. 1-11

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Marine områder 2020: NOVANA. Hansen, J. W., Høgslund, S., Bruhn, A., Carstensen, J., Dahl, K., Galatius, A., Göke, C., Hansen, J. L. S., Krause-Jensen, D., Kyhn, L. A., Larsen, M. M., Markager, S., Mohn, C., Petersen, I. K., Strand, J., Stæhr, P. A., Sveegaard, S., Tairova, Z., Teilmann, J. & Tougaard, J., dec. 2021, Aarhus: Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 192 s.(Videnskabelig rapport fra DCE - Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi; Nr. 475, Bind 2021).

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Ship noise causes tagged harbour porpoises to change direction or dive deeper. Frankish, C. K., von Benda-Beckmann, A. M., Teilmann, J., Tougaard, J., Dietz, R., Sveegaard, S., Binnerts, B., de Jong, C. A. F. & Nabe-Nielsen, J., dec. 2023, I: Marine Pollution Bulletin. 197, 10 s., 115755.

Small reductions in cargo vessel speed substantially reduce noise impacts to marine mammals. Findlay, C. R., Rojano-Doñate, L., Tougaard, J., Johnson, M. P. & Madsen, P. T., jun. 2023, I: Science Advances. 9, 25, eadf2987.

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Arkona Offshore Wind Farm: Ambient Noise Monitoring - Field work report. Griffiths, E. T., 20 Sept 2023, Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 11 p. (Fagligt notat fra DCE – Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi ; No. 53, Vol. 2023).

Wild harbour porpoises startle and flee at low received levels from acoustic harassment device. Elmegaard, S. L., Teilmann, J., Rojano-Doñate, L., Brennecke, D., Mikkelsen, L., Balle, J. D., Gosewinkel, U., Kyhn, L. A., Tønnesen, P., Wahlberg, M., Ruser, A., Siebert, U. & Madsen, P. T., dec. 2023, *I: Scientific Reports.* 13, 1, 15 s., 16691.

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Thresholds for noise induced hearing loss in harbor porpoises and phocid seals. Tougaard, J., Beedholm, K. & Madsen, P. T., jun. 2022, *I: Journal of the Acoustical Society of America.* 151, 6, s. 4252-426312 s.

GAP-analyse: Fremskrivning af menneskelige aktiviteter og presfaktorer. Jakobsen, H., Riemann, B., Blicher-Mathiesen, G., Carstensen, J., Dahl, K., Eigaard, O. R., Feld, L., Frederiksen, M., Galatius, A., Glemarec, G., Larsen, M. M., Markager, S., Petersen, I. K., Petersen, J. K., Rindorf, A., Stæhr, P. A., Strand, J., Tairova, Z., Tougaard, J. & Vinther, M., apr. 2021, Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. (Teknisk rapport fra DCE - Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi; Nr. 201).

Geofysiske og geotekniske forundersøgelser til energiø Nordsø: vurdering af påvirkning på havpattedyr. Kyhn, L. A., Sveegaard, S., Galatius, A., Teilmann, J., Tougaard, J. & Mikaelson, M. A., mar. 2021, Aarhus: Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 44 s. (Videnskabelig rapport fra DCE - Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi; Nr. 433).

Geotekniske og geofysiske forundersøgelser til energiø Østersø: vurdering af påvirkning på havpattedyr. Kyhn, L. A., Sveegaard, S., Galatius, A., Teilmann, J., Tougaard, J. & Mikaelson, M. A., feb. 2021, Aarhus: Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 44 s. (Videnskabelig rapport fra DCE - Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi; Nr. 432).

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Kattegat south: Assessment of impact from pre-project surveys. Kyhn, L. A. & Tougaard, J., jan. 2021, Aarhus: Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 42 s. (Scientific Report from DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy; Nr. 423).

Marine mammal species of relevance for assessment of impulsive noise sources in Danish waters: Background note to revision of guidelines from the Danish Energy Agency. Tougaard, J., Sveegaard, S. & Galatius, A., 26 feb. 2021, 13 s.. (Scientific note from DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy; Nr. 19).

Soundscape and ambient noise levels of the Arctic waters around Greenland. Ladegaard, M., Macaulay, J. D. J., Simon, M., Laidre, K. L., Mitseva, A. L., Videsen, S. K. A., Pedersen, M. B., Tougaard, J. & Madsen, P. P. T., dec. 2021, *I: Scientific Reports.* 11, 15 s., 23360.

Stora middelgrund offshore wind farm: effects of underwater noise on marine mammals during the installation phase. Tougaard, J., Mikaelson, M. A., van Beest, F. & Kyhn, L. A., mar. 2021, Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 142 s. (Scientific Report from DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy; Nr. 409).

Thresholds for behavioural responses to noise in marine mammals: Background note to revision of guidelines from the Danish Energy Agency . Tougaard, J., dec. 2021, Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 32 s. (Teknisk rapport fra DCE - Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi; Nr. 225, Bind 2021).

Undervandsstøj. Tougaard, J., 2021, Marine områder 2019: NOVANA. Aarhus: Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, s. 116 (Videnskabelig rapport fra DCE - Nationalt Center for Miljø og Energi; Nr. 418).

Heart rate and startle responses in diving, captive harbour porpoises (Phocoena phocoena) exposed to transient noise and sonar. Elmegaard, S. L., McDonald, B. I., Teilmann, J. & Madsen, P. T., jun. 2021, I: Biology Open. 10, 6, bio058679.

Vessel noise exposures of harbour seals from the Wadden Sea. Nachtsheim, D. A., Johnson, M., Schaffeld, T., van Neer, A., Madsen, P. T., Findlay, C. R., Rojano-Doñate, L., Teilmann, J., Mikkelsen, L., Baltzer, J., Ruser, A., Siebert, U. & Schnitzler, J. G., apr. 2023, I: Scientific Reports. 13, 6187.

Whale-watch vessel noise levels with applications to whale-watching guidelines and conservation. Arranz, P., de Soto, N. A., Madsen, P. T. & Sprogis, K. R., dec. 2021, I: Marine Policy. 134, 104776.

3.4. Report on noise management for cumulative impacts, including relevant regulations and guidelines, seismic shot point densities and level of impact deemed acceptable.

Not applicable

3.5. Is the perceived level of pressure from underwater noise in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. To be done per species basis where applicable.

Species	Increasing	Decreasing	Staying the same	Unknown	Nature of the evidence
HP Harbour porpoise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HELCOM HOLAS III, OSPAR QSR 2023
Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Not applicable. Comments:

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

4. Ocean Energy

AIM: to understand the extent and development of current and planned ocean energy projects, and progress in monitoring and mitigation of their negative effects on small cetaceans during the reporting period.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.11 (Rev.MOP9), 8.9, **8.6 (Rev.MOP10)**, 8.3, 6.2 (Rev.MOP10)

Renewable energy is a necessary component of the efforts to supply the energy needs of human populations while combatting climate change. Efforts to harness renewable energy sources, however, should be conducted in a way that does not have a harmful impact on biological diversity and the marine environment. There are potential adverse effects of ocean energy on small cetaceans from such energy projects. In regard to small cetaceans, this can include potential lethal interactions or injury, negative behavioural impacts from displacement and changes in fecundity, calf survival and juvenile and adult mortality. There remains uncertainty regarding quantifying the (magnitude of the) pressure from ocean energy production on small cetaceans.

Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed to introduce precautionary measures and procedures for activities surrounding the development of renewable energy in marine environments in order to minimise and mitigate possible effects on small cetaceans, by following best practices. Parties have committed to investigating such pressures and robustly monitoring and mitigating them through environmental impact assessments. Addressing all aspects relevant to the conservation of protected species in regard to ocean energy and collaboration with other organizations working on or potentially interested in the issue is to the benefit of small cetaceans in the Agreement Area.

It is of particular interest to ASCOBANS to understand current and ongoing renewable energy projects in the Agreement Area, mitigation measures and procedures in use and other work relevant to the topic. Countries are requested to provide information relevant to their activities.

Questions:**4.1. Please enter wind energy farm data into the table below.**

Name of wind farm	Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date)	Area	Output (megawatts per turbine)	Number of turbines	How were the individual wind turbines installed in the seabed?	Was scour protection used?	Noise mitigation during construction used? (multiple ticks possible)	If the wind farm is floating, how was it anchored?	Other mitigation used in pre-/post-construction	Additional information
Vesterhav Syd	Feb 2023	27.4.b	8.5 MW	20	Pile-driving	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:	no		
Vesterhav Nord	March 2024	27.4.b	9 MW	20	Pile-driving	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:	no		

4.2. Please enter wave power installation data into the table below.

Name of installation	Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date)	Area	Output (megawatts per turbine)	Number of turbines	How is the installation anchored?	Was scour protection used?	Mitigation used in pre-/during/post-construction	Additional information
	dd/mm/yy	Choose an item.				Choose an item.		
	Dd/mm/yy	Choose an item.				Choose an item.		

4.3. Please enter tidal energy installation data into the table below.

Name of installation	Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date)	Area	Output (megawatts per turbine)	Number of turbines	Type	Collision mitigation	Other mitigation used in pre-/during/post-construction	Additional information
	dd/mm/yy	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
	Dd/mm/yy	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.		

4.4. Please enter tidal lagoon/barrage installation data into the table below.

Name of installation	Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date)	Area	Output (megawatts per turbine)	Number of turbines	Type	Collision mitigation	Other mitigation used in pre-/during/post-construction	Additional information
	dd/mm/yy	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.		
	dd/mm/yy	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.		

4.5. Has there been any other instances/issues related to ocean energy during the reporting period in your country?

No.

Yes.

Please provide details:

4.6. How is the pressure managed, incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)?

Tougaard, J., 2025. Behavioral reactions of harbor porpoises to impact pile driving noise are predicted by the auditory frequency weighted sound pressure level, *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*. 157, 2, s. 1368-1377.

Tougaard, J., 2021. "Thresholds for behavioural responses to noise in marine mammals: Background note to revision of guidelines from the Danish Energy Agency", Aarhus University, DCE - Danish Centre for Environment and Energy. 32 p.

Furthermore guidelines for geophysical surveys are being developed.

4.7. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ocean energy in your country.

Energy Islands SIAs (<https://ens.dk/en/energy-sources/offshore-wind-power/denmarks-energy-islands>)
 North Sea 1 SIA (<https://ens.dk/energikilder/nordsoeen-i-a1-a2-a3-havvindmoelleparker>)
 ENS screening project

4.8. Mark the perceived level of pressure from ocean energy in your country to the table below.

For example, active construction of new developments could increase the pressure, while decommissioning or addition of mitigation measures to pre-existing projects could decrease the pressure.

Energy type	Status in [year] relative to previous years	Nature of the evidence
Wind energy	Choose an item.	Large year-to year variation. Overall increasing trend.
Wave power	Choose an item.	n/a
Tidal energy	Choose an item.	n/a
Tidal lagoon/barrage	Choose an item.	n/a

Comments:

4.9. Has there been any other instances/issues related to ocean energy during the reporting period in your country?

No.

Yes.

Please provide details:

4.10. How is the pressure managed, incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)?

4.11. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ocean energy in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

4.12. Mark the perceived level of pressure from ocean energy in your country to the table below.

Status relative to previous years. For example, active construction of new developments could increase the pressure, while decommissioning or addition of mitigation measures to pre-existing projects could decrease the pressure.

Energy type	Status in [year] relative to previous years	Nature of the evidence
Wind energy	Increasing	More offshore wind farm are planned. However, the impact on porpoises in the long run are unknown.
Wave power	Not Applicable	
Tidal energy	Not Applicable	
Tidal lagoon/barrage	Not Applicable	

Comments:

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

8. Unexploded Ordnance

AIM: to provide information on the mitigation, management and potential negative impacts of unexploded ordnance on small cetaceans during the reporting period.
Relevant Resolutions: 8.11 (Rev.MOP9), 8.9, 8.8, 8.3

Unexploded chemical and conventional munitions present a threat to small cetaceans. Hazards exist from unexploded munitions, which release chronic contaminants, and upon detonation, which is physically hazardous from extreme underwater noise and a sudden release of toxic substances. Unexploded ordnance is a notable threat in many areas, such as the Baltic Sea, where the quantity is unknown, though estimates are high. Information on disposal, state of corrosion and quantities of dumped munition is limited, as are meaningful data on the measured environmental impacts. The significance of this pressure's impact on small cetaceans requires further quantification. However, it is clear that mitigation measures are necessary to support alternatives to detonations, and when no alternative is feasible, to reduce negative impacts on small cetaceans.

In the ASCOBANS Area, millions of tons of unexploded ordnance are present in the marine environment and thousands of sea users, such as fishermen, encounter such munitions every year. Parties have agreed on resolutions to support (1) research investigating the pressure on marine animals and habitat and (2) mitigation measures regarding effects of disintegrating submerged munitions on the marine environment. Parties are to strive towards providing relevant information to required bodies and supporting efforts to address the negative implications from this pressure in other regional and international organizations and waters.

Questions:

8.1. To which registers/databases covering conventional and chemical munitions has your country contributed to date?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OSPAR	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HELCOM	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please state:	

8.2. How many UXOs were detonated / released at sea? (2023)

- 1-9
- 10-49
- 50-99
- 100+

Provide link to database if available: <https://www.ices.dk/data/data-portals/Pages/impulsive-noise.aspx>

8.3. Have there been any other instances/issues related to the issue of unexploded ordnance during the reporting period in your country?

- No.**
- Yes.**

Please provide details:

unknown

8.4. How is the issue of unexploded ordnances being managed?

(incl. mitigation measures, relevant regulations/guidelines, year of implementation; may include planned management – please distinguish between a) management of single UXOs and b) management of big amounts of ammunitions in one place e.g. munition dumpsites)

Regulated by the Environmental Department of the Danish Ministry of Defence estate agency. Clearing of UXO follows NURC (2009) NATO Undersea Research Centre Marine Mammal Risk Mitigation Rules and Procedures.

8.5. Is your country monitoring the chemical contaminants released from discarded munition material and unexploded ordnance? (including at munition dumpsites, war wrecks carrying ammunition, UXO detonation zones) **No.** **Yes.**

Please provide details:

Not monitored systematically, but has been done in connection with research projects. See Maser et al (2023) below.

8.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on the issue of unexploded ordnance in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

Lepper, P. A., Cheong, S. H., Robinson, S. P., Wang, L., Tougaard, J., Griffiths, E. T. & Hartley, J. P., feb. 2024, In-situ comparison of high-order detonations and low-order deflagration methodologies for underwater unexploded ordnance (UXO) disposal. I: Marine Pollution Bulletin. 199, 115965.

E. Maser, K. J. Andresen, T. H. Bunning, O. R. Clausen, U. Wichert and J. S. Strehse (2023) Ecotoxicological Risk of World War Relic Munitions in the Sea after Low- and High-Order Blast-in-Place Operations. Environ Sci Technol 2023 Accession Number: 37933956 DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.3c04873

8.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from unexploded ordnance in your country: **Increasing** **Decreasing** **Staying the same** **Unknown****Please provide the nature of the evidence where applicable:**

There has been what is perceived as a steady level of activity over the last decade, limited by the capacity of the Navy for clearing UXOs. No actual numbers are available prior to 2019.

 Not applicable. Comments:**D. Management of Cumulative Impacts****15. Marine Spatial Planning**

AIM: to provide information on existing and proposed marine spatial plans and processes during the reporting period that may impact small cetaceans.

Relevant Resolutions **10.5**, **10.3**, **8.9**, **8.6** (Rev.MOP10), **8.4** (Rev.MOP9), **8.3**

A growing demand for use of maritime space increases pressure on ecosystems and marine resources. Marine ecosystems with good environmental status provide notable benefits to a number of economic outputs. Implementation of an integrated spatial planning and management approach can better mitigate negative impacts from maritime activities on marine environments. Spatial planning can support sustainable marine development through coordinated, coherent and transparent decision-making and the encouragement and

identification of multi-purpose uses in relevant projects. Marine spatial planning is essential when selecting the most appropriate siting for marine-based projects. Particular attention should be given to critical habitat and relevant species, such as small cetaceans, in order to achieve good environmental status.

ASCOBANS Parties have agreed on a number of resolutions that support the integration of marine spatial planning into development processes. Small cetaceans benefit from good marine spatial planning, and this is highlighted in the resolutions. Countries are requested to provide information relevant to their country in this regard.

Questions:

15.1. Please provide information in regard to current and foreseen marine spatial planning.

<p>National plans(s) and processes in force:</p>	<p>The Danish Parliament has adopted the "Act on Maritime Spatial Planning", which establishes the framework for spatial planning in the Danish marine areas. On March 31st, 2021 the Act was implemented through Denmark's first maritime spatial plan, which was published as an executive order. The maritime spatial plan can be seen here: https://havplan.dk/en/page/info</p> <p>The legal basis for the Danish maritime spatial plan is the Danish Act on Maritime Spatial Planning (LBK nr 400 af 06/04/2020). The Act is an implementation of the Directive 2014/89/EU and was adopted by the Danish Parliament in 2016 and later updated in 2020.</p> <p>See also: https://www.dma.dk/growth-and-framework-conditions/maritime-spatial-plan</p>
<p>National plan(s) and processes in preparation:</p>	
<p>Further information, including links to online resources and maps where available:</p>	<p>https://havplan.dk/en/page/info</p>

15.2. Does your national MSP include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

No.

Yes. → In the box below, list the species covered by ASCOBANS which are explicitly assessed. If those species present in your national waters are not explicitly assessed in your SEA, explain why.

A strategic environmental assessment was developed alongside the planning process to ensure an iterative process between the drafting of the plan and the environmental assessment. In addition, an SEA was conducted for the proposed amendments in 2023. The environmental reports can be found in Danish <https://havplan.dk/da/om-havplanen/miljoevurdering>

15.3. Does your MSP include specific provisions such as reservation or priority layers for the management of one or more ASCOBANS listed species (e.g. such as the reservation areas for harbour porpoises in the German MSP)?

No.

Yes. → In the box below, explain how these will be applied, including specific management actions, and whether or not these provisions are restricted in time (e.g. selected period of months).

15.4. Does your MSP include buffer zones between areas designated for particular economic use (e.g. offshore wind, shipping) and marine protected areas (including Natura 2000 sites) or areas of particular importance for ASCOBANS-listed species?

No.

Yes. → In the box below, explain how these will be applied, including specific management actions, and whether or not these buffer zones are intended to benefit ASCOBANS-listed species.

15.5. Does your MSP include provisions for the mitigation of underwater noise with regards to ASCOBANS species (e.g. for shipping, during offshore wind park construction)?

- No.**
- Yes.** → In the box below, explain how and where these are being applied, including specific management actions.

15.6. Please assess how your country’s MSP¹ implements key elements for applying the ecosystem-based approach² in MSP (from 1 where it is not applied to 5 where it is completely applied):

This questionnaire were filled out by the Danish Maritime Authorities.

Key element for applying the ecosystem-based approach in MSP		1 (not applied)	2 (partially applied)	3 (moderately applied)	4 (well applied)	5 (completely applied)
Best available knowledge & practice				X		
Precaution				X		
Alternative development				X		
Identification of ecosystem services				X		
Mitigation				X		
Relational understanding				X		
Participation and communication				X		
Subsidiarity and coherence				X		
Adaptation				X		

Section VII: Other Matters

A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement:³

A new project has shown that USBL systems implemented on geophysical survey ships and large trawlers, can deter and exclude porpoises at up to 5.5 km distance. See: <https://dce.au.dk/udgivelser/oevrige-dce-udgivelser/eksterne-udgivelser/2025>

The extend and impact of this previously unknown threat is unknown and may have a large impact on harbour porpoises. This should be examined.

B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement:

For the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise: Lack of knowledge on current abundance and distribution. This will hopefully change in a few years when SAMBAH-II and CUMBIAH progresses.

For the Belt Sea harbour porpoise: The population has severely declined since 2005 (2.7% per year, Owen et al. 2024) and several studies point to negative impacts on this population especially lack of food and too high bycatch levels. The low food availability is difficult to “fix” and it is a slow process. It is positive in this regard that the herring and cod fishery have been closed. Bycatch numbers are also declining because of the decrease in gillnet fishery, but so far, there

¹ If your country has several separate MSPs (e.g. for the coastal zone(s) and the EEZ), please enter one table per MSP.
² For further explanation of these key elements see e.g. HELCOM-VASAB [Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach to Maritime Spatial Planning \(MSP\) in the Baltic Sea area.](#)
³ Opportunity to include other information relevant to the topics covered in this form but which are missing.

are no other protection against bycatch for porpoises in Danish waters for the Belt Sea population.

C. Burning Issues:

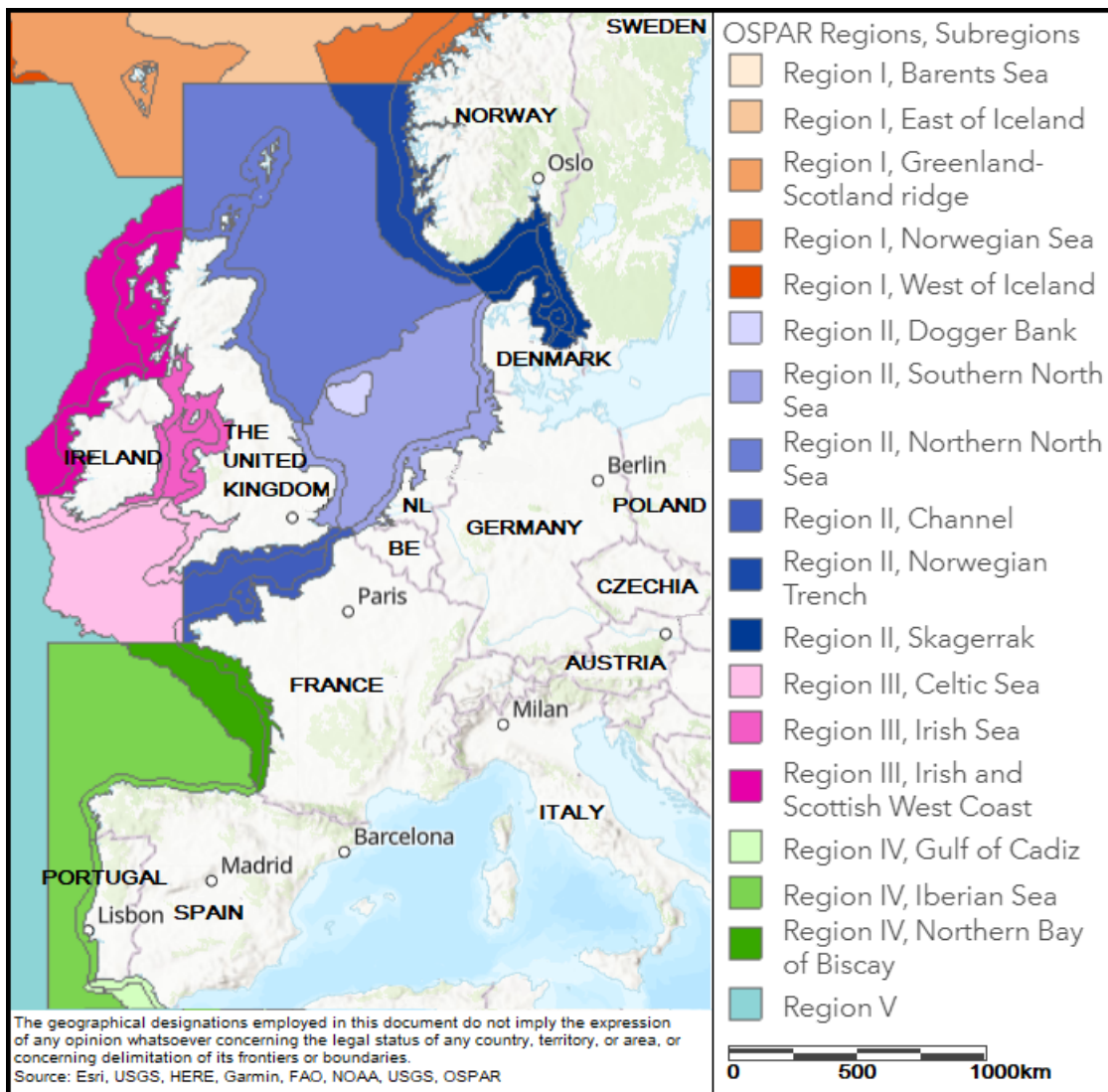
It is great that both SAMBAH-II and CUMBIAH are now funded. However, a more permanent solution for future funding of abundance estimates of the Baltic Prober population, should be examined. It is not sustainable that scientist from all around the Baltic should spend so much time trying to get funding from EU or other sources. For the SCANS surveys covering the neighbouring populations (Belt Sea and North Sea), the funding is now covered by national funding.

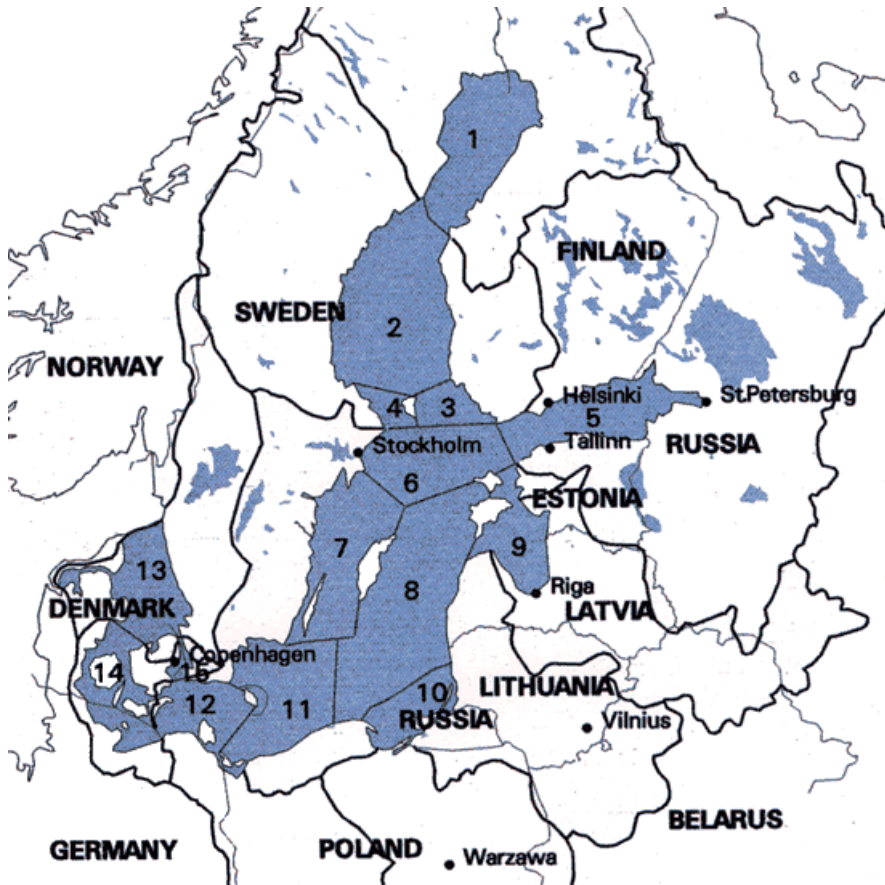
Annex A: Overview of the sub-regions as defined by OSPAR and HELCOM, and areas as defined by ICES.

Drop-down menu sub-regions OSPAR and HELCOM

Choose an item.

<p>OSPAR Region I Arctic Waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Sea <p>OSPAR Region II Greater North Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dogger Bank <input type="checkbox"/> Southern North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Northern North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Channel <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Trench <input type="checkbox"/> Skagerrak <p>OSPAR Region III Celtic Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Celtic Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Irish Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Irish & Scottish W. Coast 	<p>OSPAR Region IV Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> N. Bay of Biscay <input type="checkbox"/> Iberian Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Cadiz <p>OSPAR Region V Wider Atlantic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <p>HELCOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Bay <input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Archipelago Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Åland Sea 	<p>HELCOM cont.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Finland <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Baltic Proper <input type="checkbox"/> Western Gotland Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Gotland Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Riga <input type="checkbox"/> Gdansk Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Bornholm Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Arkona Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Kattegat <input type="checkbox"/> Belt Sea <input type="checkbox"/> The Sound
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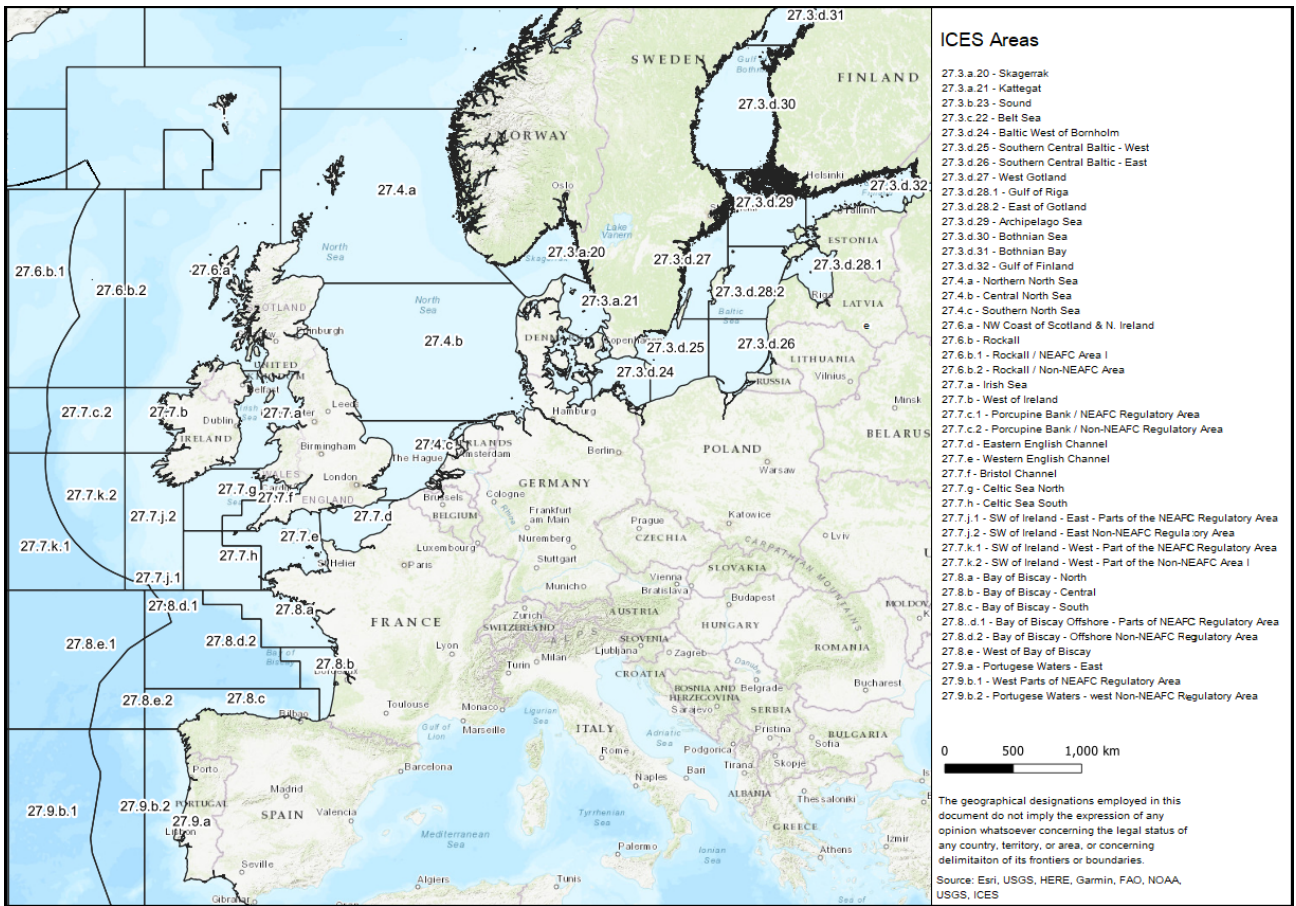
A map of the Baltic Sea drainage basins (catchment area), and marine subdivisions, including basins.

1. Bothnian Bay
2. Bothnian Sea
3. Archipelago Sea
4. Åland Sea
5. Gulf of Finland
6. Northern Baltic Proper
7. Western Gotland Basin
8. Eastern Gotland Basin
9. Gulf of Riga
10. Gdansk Basin
11. Bornholm Basin
12. Arkona Basin
13. Kattegat
14. Belt Sea
15. The Sound

Drop-down menu of ICES Areas

Choose an item.

Area	Area Description	Area	Area Description
27.3	Skagerrak, Kattegat, Sound, Belt and Baltic Seas	27.7.b	West of Ireland
27.3.a	Skagerrak and Kattegat	27.7.c	Porcupine Bank
27.3.a.20	Skagerrak	27.7.c.1	Porcupine Bank / NEAFC Reg. Area
27.3.a.21	Kattegat	27.7.c.2	Porcupine Bank / Non-NEAFC Reg. Area
27.3.b.c	Sound and Belt Sea	27.7.d	Eastern English Channel
27.3.b.23	Sound	27.7.e	Western English Channel
27.3.c.22	Belt Sea	27.7.f	Bristol Channel
27.3.d	Baltic Sea	27.7.g	Celtic North Sea
27.3.d.24	Baltic West of Bornholm	27.7.h	Celtic Sea South
27.3.d.25	Southern Central Baltic – West	27.7.j	SW of Ireland – East
27.3.d.26	Southern Central Baltic – East	27.7.j.1	SW of Ireland – East – Parts of the NEAFC Reg. Area
27.3.d.27	West of Gotland	27.7.j.2	SW of Ireland – East – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area
27.3.d.28.1	Gulf of Riga	27.7.k	SW of Ireland - West
27.3.d.28.2	East of Gotland	27.7.k.1	SW of Ireland – West – Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area
27.3.d.29	Archipelago Sea	27.7.k.2	SW of Ireland – West – Part of the Non-NEAFC Area I
27.3.d.30	Bothnian Sea	27.8	Bay of Biscay
27.3.d.31	Bothnian Bay	27.8.a	Bay of Biscay North
27.3.d.32	Bay of Finland	27.8.b	Bay of Biscay Central
27.4	North Sea	27.8.c	Bay of Biscay South
27.4.a	Northern North Sea	27.8.d	Bay of Biscay Offshore
27.4.b	Central North Sea	27.8.d.1	Bay of Biscay Offshore – Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area
27.4.c	Southern North Sea	27.8.d.2	Bay of Biscay Offshore – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area
27.6	Rockall, NW Coast of Scotland and N. Ireland	27.8.e	Wet of Bay of Biscay
27.6.a	NW Coast of Scotland and N. Ireland	27.9	Portuguese Waters
27.6.b	Rockall	27.9.a	Portuguese Waters – East
27.6.b.1	Rockall / NEAFC Reg. Area I	27.9.b	Portuguese Water - West
27.6.b.2	Rockall / Non-NEAFC Reg. Area	27.9.b.1	Portuguese waters – West Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area
27.7	Irish Sea, West of Ireland, Porcupine Bank, Eastern and Western English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North and South, and Southwest of Ireland – East and West	27.9.b.2	Portuguese waters – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area
27.7.a	Irish Sea		



Annex B: Species covered by ASCOBANS

Code	Common name	Scientific name
AWSD	Atlantic white-sided dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>
BBW	Blainville's beaked whale	<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i>
BD	Bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
CBW	Cuvier's beaked whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>
CD	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>
FKW	False killer whale	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>
GBW	Gervais' beaked whale	<i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i>
HP	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena</i>
KW	Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>
LFPW	Long-finned pilot whale	<i>Globicephala melas</i>
NBW	Northern bottlenose whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>
PKW	Pygmy killer whale	<i>Feresa attenuata</i>
PSW	Pygmy sperm whale	<i>Kogia breviceps</i>
RD	Risso's dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>
RTD	Rough-toothed dolphin	<i>Steno bredanensis</i>
SBW	Sowerby's beaked whale	<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>
SD	Striped dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>
SFPW	Short-finned pilot whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>
TBW	True's beaked whale	<i>Mesoplodon mirus</i>
WBD	White-beaked dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>

Drop down menu small cetacean species:

Choose an item.