

Agenda Item 14.3.2

Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial
Work Plan (2007-2009)

Review of New Information on Bycatch and
Other Causes of Mortality

Information Originating from the Reporting of EU
Member States under Regulation 812/2004

Document 19

**Information Submitted by Parties on
Reporting under EC Reg. 812/2004
a) Denmark**

Action Requested

- take note of the information submitted
- comment
- decide on the reporting format and frequency
for future meetings

Submitted by

Parties



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

Secretariat's Note

Attached are, as separate documents in order to minimise the need for revisions, the responses received on Information Originating from the Reporting of EU Member States under Regulation 812/2004, as submitted by the ASCOBANS Parties.

Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri

Fiskeridirektoratet

Den 3. august 2007

J.nr.: 2005-00193

Danish report 2006 according to Council Regulation 812/2004, art. 6

National inspection

Since the beginning of 2006 the Danish patrol vessel "Havørnen", which primarily operates in the Baltic Sea and the Belts has been equipped with detection devices targeting acoustic alarms used in gill net fisheries. Furthermore, in 2006 and 2007 Danish inspectors have assisted German colleagues in the use of detection devices.

Monitoring scheme (observers-at-sea)

As stated in the Danish report concerning the period 2004-2005, a comprehensive observer-at-sea scheme was due to start in July 2006. Unfortunately and due to disagreements with the Danish Fishermen's Organisation concerning the role of the at-sea observers, this time schedule could not be met. No monitoring of incidental catches of cetaceans was therefore conducted in 2006. Consequently, and based upon a request from the Danish Institute of Fisheries Research (DIFRES) The Danish Directorate for Fisheries contacted 125 owners of relevant fishing vessels in order to secure the necessary collaboration with the observers. Thus, vessel owners were informed that intentional obstruction to the observers' assignments could have repercussions on the vessel's fishing permit. The necessary number of vessels has now been obtained and the monitoring scheme for 2007-2008 has been initiated in 2007 – see Annex I.

Research activities

A substantial scientific research on the reduction of the incidental capture of cetaceans in fisheries has been carried out in 2006. This research includes:

- Trials of acoustic deterrents to reduce incidental catch of dolphins in pelagic trawls (EU funded project NECESSITY).
- Experiments with increased spacing of acoustic alarms (pingers) used in reducing incidental catch of harbour porpoises in bottom set gill nets. The results of this study have been reported to DG FISH earlier this year. A summary of the results are enclosed. On the basis of the results, an increase of the distance between acoustic alarms stipulated in Annex III of the Council Regulation has been implemented in national administrative law (455 metres in stead of 200 metres).
- Experiment with using alerting devices to reduce incidental catch of harbour porpoises. The results were not encouraging.

- Large-scale handling and endurance trials in the fishery with 3 brands of commercially available harbour porpoise pingers. Preliminary results suggest that all 3 brands have problems enduring the conditions in the commercial fishery.
- Research on the abilities of harbour porpoises to detect different types of gill nets. Results are not available until September 2007.

Annex I. Danish revised observer programme for the period 2007-2008 (sampling level based on fishing activities in 2006)

AREA	GEAR	START DATE	FLEET SEGMENT	FISHING EFFORT (days at sea)	OBSERVER COVERAGE*	OBSERVER EFFORT (days at sea)
A1. ICES sub areas VI, VII and VIII ¹	Pelagic trawls (single and pair), 1 December to 31 March	1 January 2007	≥ 15m	640	10 %	64
			< 15m	0	10 %	0
A2. ICES sub areas VI, VII and VIII ¹	Pelagic trawls (single and pair) 1 April to 30 November	1 January 2007	≥ 15m	35	5 %	20
			< 15m	0	5 %	0
B. Mediterranean Sea (east of the line 5°36'W)	Pelagic trawls (single and pair)	1 January 2007	≥ 15m	0	5 %	0
			< 15m	0	5 %	0
C. ICES div. VIa, VIIa,b, VIIIa, b, c, IXa	Bottom-set gillnet or entangling nets using mesh sizes ≥ 80 mm	1 January 2007	≥ 15m	0	5 %	0
			< 15m	0	5 %	0
D. ICES sub areas IV, div. VIa, and sub area VII except div. VIc and VIIk	Driftnets	1 January 2007	≥ 15m	0	5 %	0
			< 15m	0	5 %	0
E. ICES sub areas IIIa, b, c, III d south of 59°N, III d north of 59°N (1 June-30 Sept.), IV and IX	Pelagic trawls (single and pair)	1 January 2007	≥ 15m	9,600	5 %	480
			< 15m	1,600	Note 2	50
F. ICES sub areas VI, VII, VIII and IX	High-opening trawls	1 January 2007	≥ 15m	0	5 %	0
			< 15m	0	5 %	0
G. ICES sub areas IIIb, c, d	Bottom-set gillnet or entangling nets using mesh sizes ≥ 80 mm	1 January 2007	≥ 15m	200	5 %	20
			< 15m	15,000	Note 2	50
TOTAL				27,075		684

Note 1: Minimum 3 vessels, maximum 20 vessels.

Note 2: Set sampling level according to Council Regulation 812/2004 annex III.