

Agenda Item 13

Annual National Reports 2007

Document 15

**Annual National Reports
f) France**

Action Requested

- briefly present highlights from report (max. 5 minutes)
- take note of the information submitted
- comment

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 Annual National Reports for 2007, as submitted by the ASCOBANS Parties.

ASCOBANS Annual National Report

A. General information

Name of party : FRANCE	Period covered : year 2007
Name of report compiler/ Sami Hassani	Date of report: 19/ 03/08
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			
<p>EU NECESSITY project to reduce cetacean by-catch in pelagic trawl fisheries , mechanical and acoustic devices (end of project in May 2007)</p> <p>FR PROCET1 project to reduce cetacean bycatch in pelagic trawl with some commercial pingers (end of project in September 2006).</p> <p>FR PROCET2 project: news trials on mitigation in pelagic trawling by using mechanical and acoustic systems. (end of project in September 2007)</p> <p>Fishing industry is continuing some experiments with acoustic systems in pelagic trawling.</p> <p>Some experiments planned for set nets equipped with pingers</p>			
Implementation of methods to reduce by-catch			
Modification of practices in pelagic trawling (headline at 5 m depth)			
Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries			
<p>For pelagic trawl fisheries, estimates have been provided last year with the PETRACET project and NECESSITY project-(pelagic trawling in area VII and VIII).</p> <p>Observers for the EC regulation (n° 812/2004) are deployed. Updated estimates for pelagic trawling in area VII and VIII and first estimates for set netting in area VIII should be available in June 2008. Bycatch of porpoise are observed in set nets of area VIII.</p> <p>Investigations on the methodology problem to extrapolate bycatch to small size vessels when observers cannot be put on board..</p> <p>The table below brings the last bycatch estimates available for some FR and UE pelagic trawl fisheries (Petracet)</p>			
Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Common dolphin	- 10 < 11 < 33	VII	FR Bass pelagic trawling (year 2004-2005)
Common dolphin	24 < 575 < 1125	VIII	FR Bass pelagic trawling (year 2004-2005)
Common dolphin	72 < 674 < 2694 (Petracet results)	All areas	All EU pelagic trawling (year 2004-2005)
Common dolphin	0 < 57 < 134 (2006 national report)	VII-VIII	FR tuna pelagic trawling (year 2006)

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>Contacts are established between French marine biologists and the French Navy and are managed by the Ministry of the Ecology and Sustainable Development and the Admiralty. The aim of these contacts are to exchange knowledge on effects and mitigation measures. A report on the seismic and acoustic activities of the French oceanographic fleet made by IFREMER is available (mailto: Xavier.Lurton@ifremer.fr)</p> <p>Some experiments on the effect of some commercial pingers and prototypes was carried out on common dolphins by CRMM and IFREMER. These studies on acoustic impact were done through the EU NECESSITY project. A directional pinger is experimented on trawls in order to fit the exclusion area to the trawl and to avoid a too large exclusion area.</p>
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Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance

In 2006 Ifremer implemented its first seismic mitigation in the Mediterranean Sea. The protocol used was based on the NMFS recommendations. Ifremer and the French Navy are developing new programmes on this item

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

Natura 2000: Bottlenose dolphin is present in 13 **existing** sites, and Harbour porpoise in 5, both on the Channel and Atlantic coast.

Natura 2000 **marine site procedure** in progress.

Creation of a Marine Protected Area in Iroise Sea (West Brittany).

National Agency for the Marine Protected Areas (Brest): work has been started for the creation of others MPA, through the strategy for the creation of marine protected areas..

4. Further research on small cetaceans

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

National stranding network since 1970. National annual report, sample and tissue bank, data base, national coordination CRMM/University of La Rochelle.

Research on abundance, population structure etc.

Monitoring of the coastal group of bottlenose dolphins (Oceanopolis Brest in Iroise Sea), photo-identification, home range, population structure...

Photo identification of bottlenose dolphins of the Bay of Mont Saint Michel and Cotentin (GECC, GMN, Ocean-Ocean, AL Lark)

Boat surveys on cetaceans in the southern Bay of Biscay (GEFMA); relationship between cetacean populations and climate change (MNHN in the framework of a regional programme on the marine environment).

Data collection of opportunistic sightings (CRMM/ULR, GECC, GEFMA, Oceanopolis Brest).

Systematic boat survey of cetaceans in relation to oceanographic, planktonic and pelagic fish patterns in the Bay of Biscay (programme PELGAS, Ifremer, CRMM/ULR)

Ferry observer surveys between Roscoff and Cork, Portsmouth and Santander (Oceanopolis Brest/Orca).

Genetic study on harbour porpoise started within a collaboration between the university of Brest and Oceanopolis.

Participation to the synthesis on common dolphin made through the NECESSITY project.

Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

Transfer and bioaccumulation of heavy metals (mainly mercury, lead and cadmium) in cetaceans (CRELA/ULR)

5. Public awareness and education

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

Public conferences (Oceanopolis-Brest)

Movie on cetaceans and ferries survey produced by Brittany Ferries and Oceanopolis broadcasted onboard the ferries+ conference on board

Information on the "Year of the Dolphin" on Océanopolis website.