

**Fourth Meeting of the 'Steering Group for the Conservation Plan  
for the Harbour Porpoise in the North Sea' (HP NSSG) - ASCOBANS**

Date: Sunday, 28 September 2014, 9:00 AM – (max) 6:30 PM  
Place: Hotel Riverton, Stora Badhusgatan 26, Gothenburg, Sweden

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**DRAFT AGENDA**

- 1 Welcome and announcements
  - 1.1 Adoption of agenda
  - 1.2 Appointment of rapporteur(s)
- 2 Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> NSSG meeting, 26 August 2013, Warsaw
- 3 Implementation Review: Bycatch estimation (Actions 3 and 4)
  - 3.1 New information on bycatch estimates
    - 3.1.1 UK 2013
    - 3.1.2 France: Synthesis of bycatch information from French set nets between 2008-2013, with focus upon the North Sea
    - 3.1.3 The Dutch impact assessment of the effects of set net fisheries on harbour porpoises
    - 3.1.4 Others
    - 3.1.5 ICES WGBYC 2014
    - 3.1.6 Bycatch risk assessment for harbour porpoise in the North Sea: update from ICES WGBYC 2014
  - 3.2 Monitoring projects
    - 3.2.1 Update on Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) projects
      - 3.2.1.1 Danish REM projects
      - 3.2.1.2 Dutch REM project
      - 3.2.1.3 German REM project (WWF/FAF/TI-OF)
      - 3.2.1.4 Other REM projects
      - 3.2.1.5 What did we learn
      - 3.2.1.6 Recommendation for further developments
      - 3.2.1.7 Recommendation for implementation
    - 3.2.2 Other monitoring projects
      - 3.2.2.1 Danish monitoring project in recreational fisheries
      - 3.2.2.2 Dutch project in Noordzeekustzone
      - 3.2.2.3 Voluntary reporting – of any use?
      - 3.2.2.4 Others
  - 3.3 Assessment of bycatch in the North Sea – the missing bits
    - 3.3.1 Missing fisheries
      - 3.3.1.1 Where do the porpoises stranded in the Netherlands and Belgium come from?
      - 3.3.1.2 UK driftnet fisheries in the North Sea
      - 3.3.1.3 The lesser fleet (vessels below 10m)
    - 3.3.2 Adequacy of the reporting to the EU
    - 3.3.3 Other matters
  - 3.4 Recommendations that could also be delivered to the EC
- 4 Implementation review: Development of alternative mitigation methods (Action 5)
  - 4.1 Update on the German projects (PAL and the alternative and ecosystem-friendly fishing gear project)
  - 4.2 Update on the Dutch project (Banana pinger and )
  - 4.3 Update on the UK projects (Banana pinger, ADDs)
  - 4.4 Update on changes in fishing procedures (France, Germany, the Netherlands)
  - 4.5 Others
  - 4.6 Update on long-term effect of pingers

- 5 Implementation Review: Monitoring trends in distribution and abundance (Action 7)
  - 5.1 Dogger Bank survey 2013 (NL)
  - 5.2 Others
  
- 6 Other activities contributing to the conservation of the harbour porpoise in the North Sea:
  - 6.1 EU Habitats Directive:
    - 6.1.1 Review of North Sea SCIs/SACs concerning harbour porpoises
    - 6.1.2 Progress in designing conservation objectives, management plans and conservation measures for harbour porpoises in *Natura 2000* areas
      - 6.1.2.1 "National" SACs
      - 6.1.2.2 Joint SACs
        - 6.1.2.2.1 Dogger Bank
        - 6.1.2.2.2 Others
    - 6.1.3 Perspective for harbour porpoise conservation in the North Sea
  - 6.2 Update on MSFD and marine mammal indicators
  - 6.3 Determination of safe bycatch limits for harbour porpoises
  - 6.4 Certification schemes
    - 6.4.1 Update on the Danish Project
    - 6.4.2 Update by France
    - 6.4.3 MSC requirements in term of marine mammal and PET bycatch
    - 6.4.4 What can ASCOBANS do, so bycatch are taken into account?
  - 6.5 Others
  
- 7 Overall progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan (implementation table)
  
- 8 Calendar of Actions 2014-2015
  - 8.1 Priorities of action points of the North Sea Plan
  - 8.2 Priorities of the Work Plan for the NSSG
  - 8.3 Priorities of the Work Plan for the Coordinator
  
- 9 Communication
  - 9.1 Flow of information between coordinator and delegates/NS MS
  - 9.2 Strategy for informing stakeholders
  - 9.3 Relationship with the ICES WGs
  - 9.4 Workspace: update from Heidi
  
- 10 Miscellaneous
  
- 11 Next SG meeting (at a location facilitating fisheries involvement)
  
- 12 Close

## **Documents relating to the meeting**

### 2013 ASCOBANS Annual National Reports

- Denmark: AC21/Inf.12.1.b [http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_12.1.b\\_National\\_Reports\\_Denmark\\_0.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_12.1.b_National_Reports_Denmark_0.pdf)  
Netherlands: AC21/Inf.12.1.g  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_12.1.g\\_National\\_Reports\\_Netherlands\\_0.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_12.1.g_National_Reports_Netherlands_0.pdf)  
Germany: AC21/Inf.12.1.e [http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_12.1.e\\_National\\_Reports\\_Germany\\_0.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_12.1.e_National_Reports_Germany_0.pdf)  
Belgium: AC21/Inf.12.1.a [http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_12.1.a\\_National\\_Reports\\_Belgium\\_0.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_12.1.a_National_Reports_Belgium_0.pdf)  
France: AC21/Inf.12.1.d [http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_12.1.d\\_National\\_Reports\\_France\\_0.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_12.1.d_National_Reports_France_0.pdf)  
United Kingdom: AC21/Inf.12.1.j  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_12.1.j\\_National\\_Reports\\_UnitedKingdom.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_12.1.j_National_Reports_UnitedKingdom.pdf)  
Sweden: AC21/Inf.12.1.i [http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_12.1.i\\_National\\_Reports\\_Sweden.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_12.1.i_National_Reports_Sweden.pdf)

- Anon. 2014. Report of the 3rd Meeting of the North Sea Group – incl. Interim report on the implementation of the ASCOBANS North Sea Conservation Plan for harbor porpoises – 5, with focus on progress in implementation of Actions 1,3,4,7,8 & 10 and attempt of characterizing recreational fisheries in CPHPNS area.  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_2.2.1.a\\_Report\\_NorthSeaGroup3.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_2.2.1.a_Report_NorthSeaGroup3.pdf)
- Anon. 2014. Small Cetaceans in European Atlantic waters and the North Sea (SCANS-III). Interim Project Report. AC21/Inf.6.1.c  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_6.1.c\\_InterimReport\\_SCANS-III\\_StAndrews.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_6.1.c_InterimReport_SCANS-III_StAndrews.pdf)
- ASCOBANS. 2010. ASCOBANS/ECS Cetacean By-catch Mitigation Workshop, 20 March 2010, Stralsund, Germany. ASCOBANS AC17/Doc.4-07. 6pp.  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC17\\_4-07\\_BycatchWorkshop\\_1.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC17_4-07_BycatchWorkshop_1.pdf)
- ASCOBANS BYCWG. 2014. Report to ASCOBANS from intersessional bycatch working group. AC21/Doc.3.1.1.a.  
ASCOBANS MPWG. 2014. Report to ASCOBANS AC21 from the Working Group for the Further Development of Management Procedures for Defining the Threshold of 'Unacceptable Interactions'. AC21/Doc.3.1.1.b.  
ASCOBANS MSFDWG. 2014. A preliminary report from the Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Working Group on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). AC21/Doc.13.3.
- Bjørge, A., Skern-Mauritzen, M., and Rossman, M.C. 2013. Estimated bycatch of harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in two coastal gillnet fisheries in Norway, 2006–2008. Mitigation and implications for conservation. *Biological Conservation* 161: 164–173.
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[http://www.elac-nautik.de/uploads/images/pdf/L3\\_ELAC\\_Nautik\\_Protection\\_of\\_Marine\\_Mammals.pdf](http://www.elac-nautik.de/uploads/images/pdf/L3_ELAC_Nautik_Protection_of_Marine_Mammals.pdf)
- Crosby, A., Tregenza, N., and Williams, R. 2013. The Banana Pinger Trial: Investigation into the Fishtek Banana Pinger to reduce cetacean bycatch in an inshore set net fishery.  
[http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/livingseas/dolphin\\_pinger\\_trial](http://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/livingseas/dolphin_pinger_trial)
- ICES. 2013. General advice. Request from EU concerning monitoring of bycatch of cetaceans and other protected species. Special Request, Advice April 2013, Version 2, 17-12-2013.  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC20\\_3.1.c\\_ICES2013\\_AdviceBycatch.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC20_3.1.c_ICES2013_AdviceBycatch.pdf)
- ICES. 2013b. Report of the Workshop on Bycatch of Cetaceans and other Protected Species (WKBYC). ICES CM 2013/ACOM:36. 53pp.  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC20\\_3.1.b\\_ICES2013\\_WKBYC.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC20_3.1.b_ICES2013_WKBYC.pdf)
- ICES. 2013c. General advice. Request from EU for scientific advice on data collection issues – part 2. Special request. Advice November 2013 EcoRegion.
- ICES WGBYC. 2014. Report of the Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species. AC21/Inf.3.1.a  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_3.1.a\\_ICES2014\\_WGBYC.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_3.1.a_ICES2014_WGBYC.pdf)
- ICES. 2014. Bycatch of small cetaceans and other marine animals – Review of national reports under Council Regulation (EC) No. 812/2004 and other published documents. Advice April 2014. AC21/Inf.3.1.b.  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_3.1.b\\_ICES\\_Advice2014.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_3.1.b_ICES_Advice2014.pdf)
- ICES WGMME.2014. Report of the Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology. AC21/Inf.4.1.a  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_4.1.a\\_ICES2014\\_WGMME.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_4.1.a_ICES2014_WGMME.pdf)
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### For information

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[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_6.1.a\\_ProjectReport\\_EnhancedDetection\\_F3.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_6.1.a_ProjectReport_EnhancedDetection_F3.pdf)
- Degraer, S., Brabant, R. and Rumes, B. (Eds.). 2013. Environmental impacts of the offshore windfarms in the Belgian part of the North Sea: learning from the past to optimize future monitoring programmes. Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels.  
[http://www.mumm.ac.be/Common/Windmills/WinMon/Winmon\\_be\\_report\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mumm.ac.be/Common/Windmills/WinMon/Winmon_be_report_2013.pdf)
- [Chapter 6] Norro, A., Botteldooren, D., Dekoninck, L., Haelters, J., Rumes, B., Van Renterghem, T & Degraer, S. - Qualifying and quantifying offshore wind farm-generated noise. 62-69.
  - [Chapter 7] Haelters, J., Debusschere, E., Botteldooren, D., Dulière, V., Hostens, K., Norro, A., Vandendriessche, S., Vigin, L., Vincx, M. and Degraer, S. - The effects of pile driving on marine mammals and fish in Belgian waters. 70-77.
  - [Chapter 16] Haelters, J., Vigin, L. and Degraer, S. - Attraction of harbour porpoises to offshore wind farms: what can be expected? 166-171.
- Teilmann *et al.* 2014. Status report – Porpoise monitoring in Pinger fishery. Interim Project Report: AC21/Inf.6.1.b  
[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21\\_Inf\\_6.1.b\\_InterimReport\\_HabitatExclusionPingers\\_Aarhus.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC21_Inf_6.1.b_InterimReport_HabitatExclusionPingers_Aarhus.pdf)