



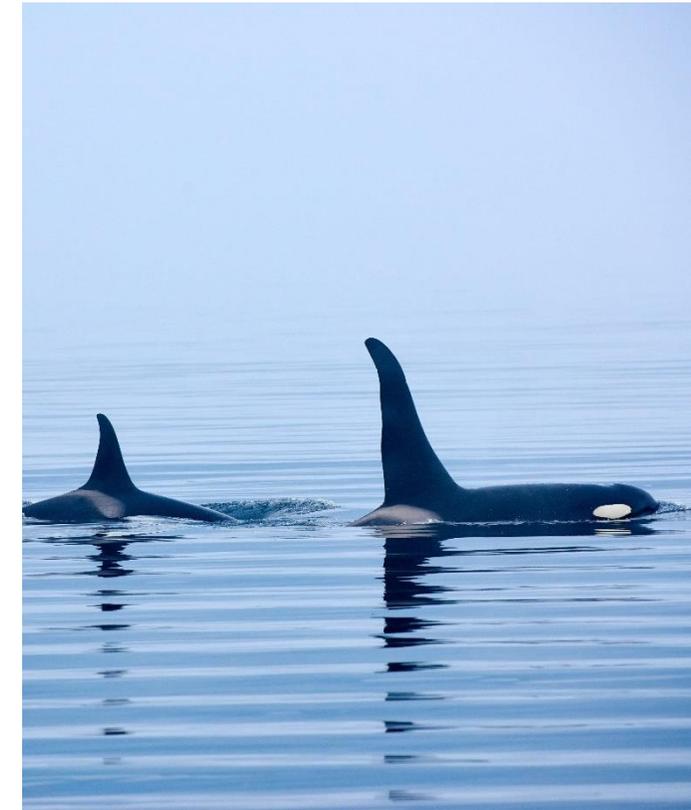
Section II. Habitat Conservation and  
Management  
B. Disturbance

# 5. Cetacean Watching Industry

## National Reports 2022

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28th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee  
26-28 September 2023, Bonn, Germany



## 5.1. Do you have any commercial small cetacean watching industry operation in your country?

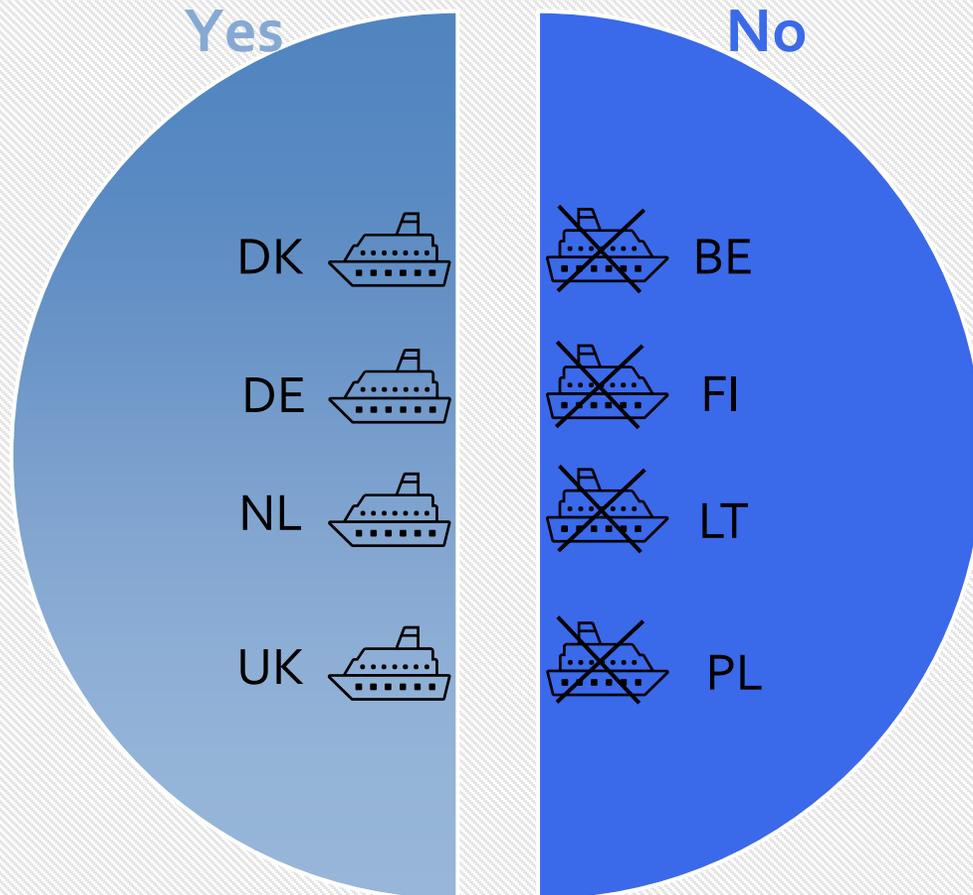


Figure 1 : Pie chart of the countries which have commercial small cetacean watching industry operations



5.2. Please identify the total number of operators conducting commercial cetacean watching in your country and provide details in the table.

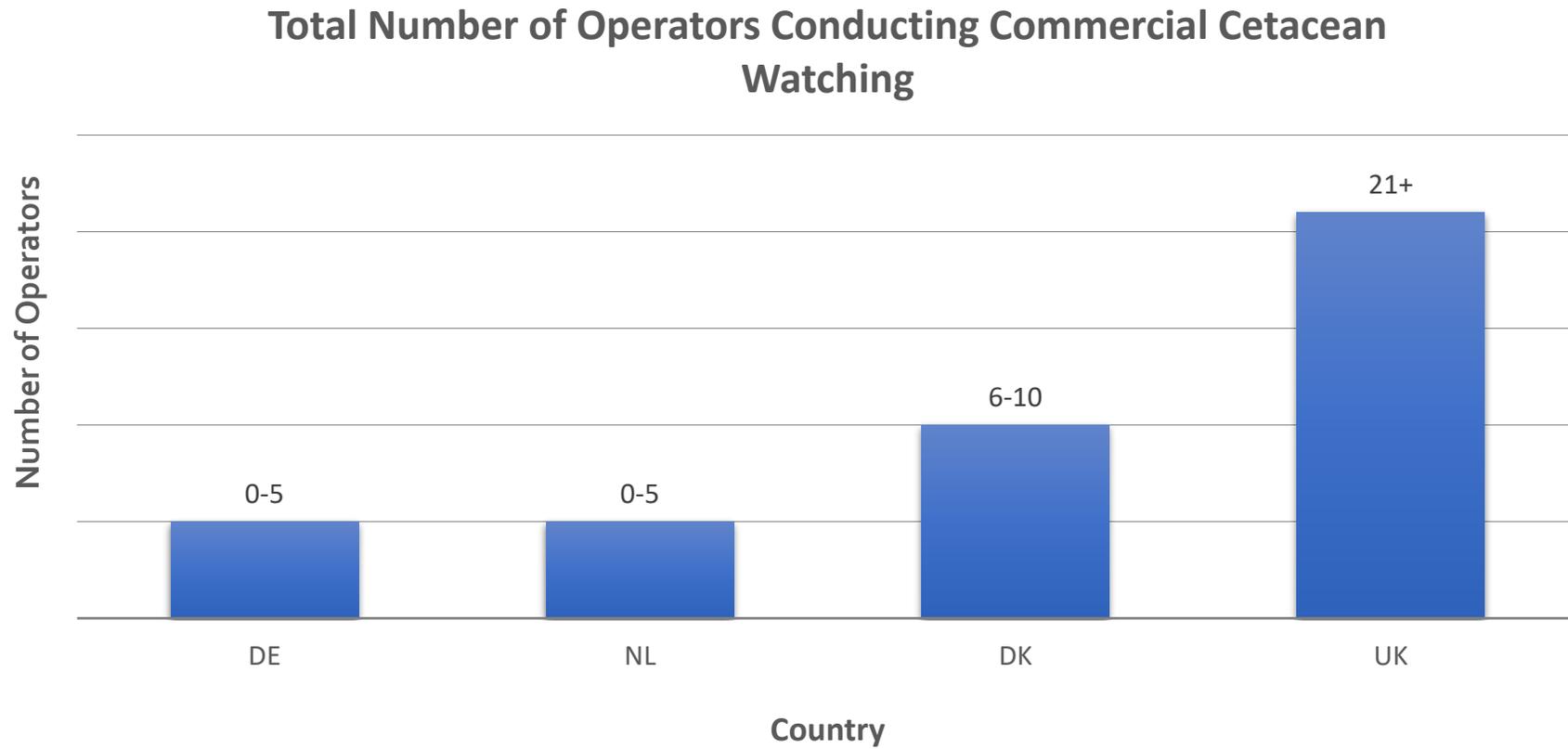


Figure 2 : Total Number of Operators Conducting Commercial Cetacean Watching per country.

### 5.3. Does your country have a definition of the term 'harassment' in general and/or as it relates to the Cetacean Watching Industry?

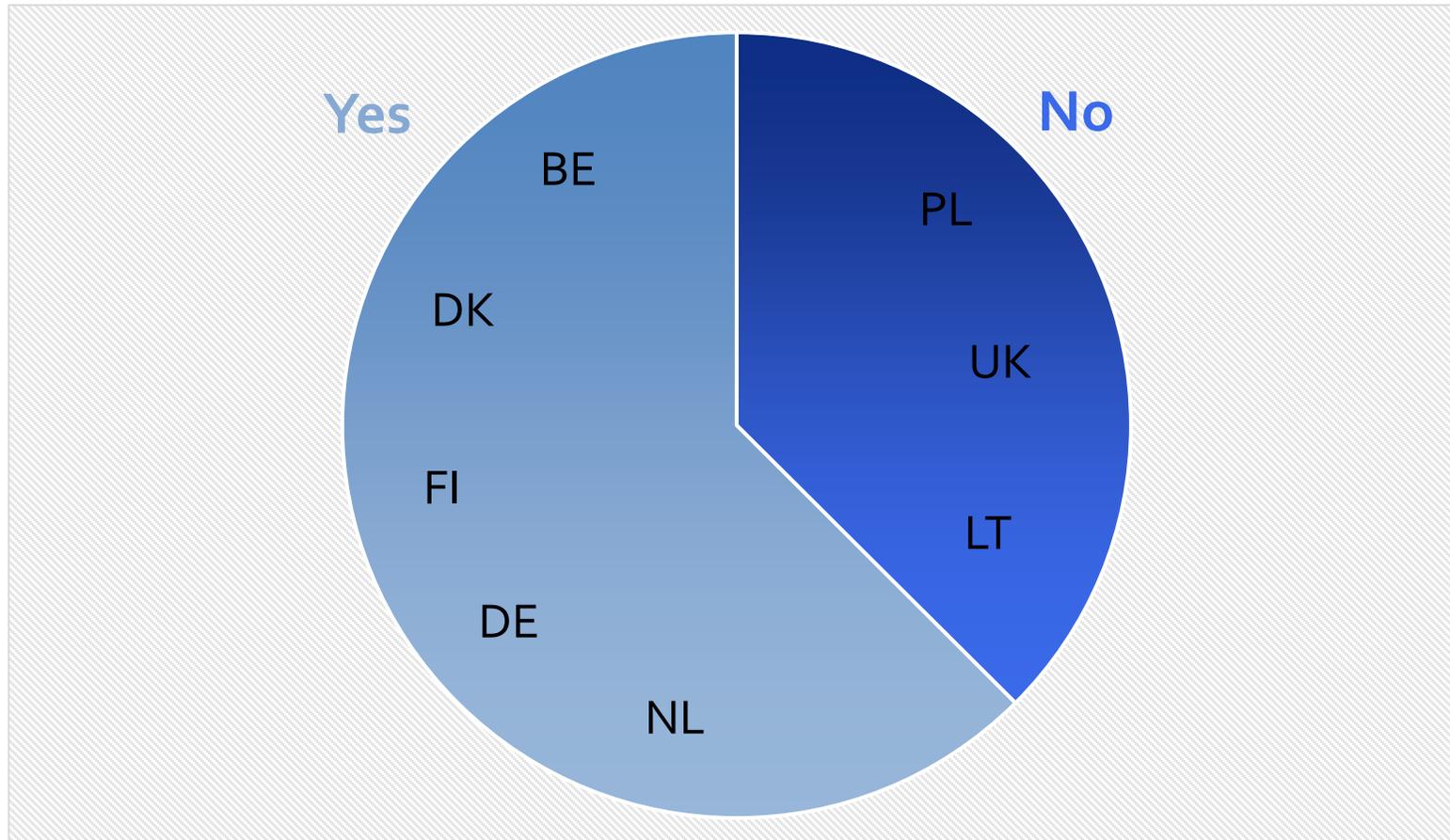


Figure 3 : Pie chart of whether countries have a definition for "harassment" within the cetacean watching industries.



# 5.3. Does your country have a definition of the term 'harassment' in general and/or as it relates to the Cetacean Watching Industry?

Country	Definition
BE	“intentional disturbance of marine mammals”.
DK	Intentional disturbance to any life stage with a harmful effect on the species or population ( Hunting and Game Management Act).
FI	Intentional harassment of protected animal species.
DE	“to chase, catch, disturb, injure or kill wild protected species or to remove them from nature, damage or destroy breeding or resting places” (Federal Nature Conservation Act).
NL	deliberate disturbance.



Table 1: definitions used for the term 'harassment' per country.

\*Note: The UK doesn't have a UK-wide definition. However, two regulations defines harassment as a disturbance likely to impair the animal's ability to survive, reproduce or rear/nurture young, or effect migration, or significantly affect local distribution or abundance

5.4. Have there been any incidents of harassment towards small cetaceans in the context of commercial cetacean watching reported to authorities during the reporting period?

- Only in the **UK**- In 2021, there were 254 incidences around Cornwall. 2 reported cases were referred to wildlife crime officers (outcome is unknown).

5.5. Does your country have any operators that offer swimming with dolphins (or other small cetaceans)?

- **No countries** offer swimming with cetaceans.

5.6. List any incidents of harassment to small cetaceans during the reporting period in your country in the context of swimming with small cetaceans reported to authorities - and the outcome if known (behavioural response, injury, death, any court proceedings).

- **No** incidences of harassment reported.

## 5.7. Are there any solitary sociable dolphin interactions in your country?

- **BE:** BD in Southern North Sea interacts with divers of its own initiative (2022).
- **DK:** BD "Delle" near Svendborg → (Belt Sea) from Oct. 2019-Apr. 2023.
- **NL:** BD in Southern North Sea on the 12/05/2020.



Screenshot from the video:

<https://www.tv2fyn.dk/svendborg/se-videoen-her-genforenes-superfan-med-delle>

## 5.8. Does your country have any mitigation measures (codes of conduct / guidelines) in place in the event of disturbance or harassment in the context of commercial cetacean watching, swimming with cetaceans, and interactions with solitary sociable dolphins?

Are there disturbance/harassment mitigation measures in place?

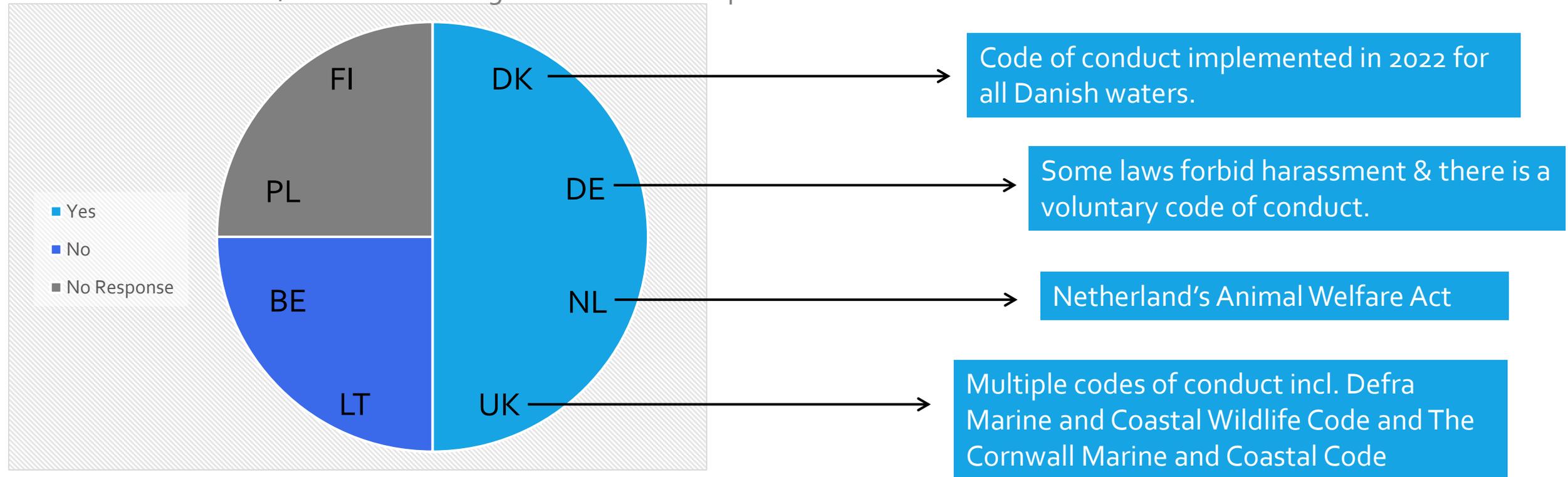


Figure 4 : Pie chart of whether countries have a disturbance/harassment mitigation measures in place.

5.9. List any incidents of harassment to small cetaceans during the reporting period in the context of interactions with solitary sociable dolphins reported to authorities - and the outcome if known (behavioural response, injury, death, any court proceedings).

Only country with an incidence was **the Netherlands**.

- Solitary social bottlenose dolphin known by the name of “Zafar” was first observed in NL on 2 May 2020 following a boat.
- Last observed on 5 May following a fishing vessel near Callantsoog.
- 7 days later, washed up dead at Wijk aan Zee (confirmed through **photo-ID**)
- Postmortem revealed **vessel collision**.

## 5.10. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on the cetacean watching industry, "swim with small cetacean" operations, solitary sociable dolphin interactions and their possible effects on small cetaceans in your country.



### Summary

This report presents the **results of a mapping of marine mammal focused tourism activities** to provide a "Status of marine mammal tourism in Denmark" commissioned by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, to provide updated status of the present level and character of marine mammal tourism and public attention to marine mammals in general, covering both cetaceans and pinnipeds to support the agency's work including the group tasked to **draft code of conducts for commercial marine mammal tourism operators**, and **general advice for the public**. Compared to the mapping of commercial marine mammal tourism activities in 2015, it appears that the sector over the past six years has grown in terms of number of operators, geographical distribution, diversity of focal species, number of sold tickets and revenue generated. Using data

### Fatal attraction: The death of a solitary-sociable bottlenose dolphin due to anthropogenic trauma in the Netherlands

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## 5.11. Have there been any other instances/issues related to the cetacean watching industry during the reporting period in your country?

**UK:** *Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code 2021 report*

- **Commercial wildlife boat trips** accounted for  $\frac{1}{4}$  of marine wildlife disturbance events & was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest cause of disturbance reporting in Cornwall.
- **Leisure craft** accounted for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the 2014-2020 reports.

### Marine and Coastal Wildlife Disturbance in Cornwall

Summary report compiled by Cornwall Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Group (CMCCG).

Funded by Natural England Seedcorn Fund.

2021



# 5.12. Is the perceived level of pressure from commercial small cetacean watching in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

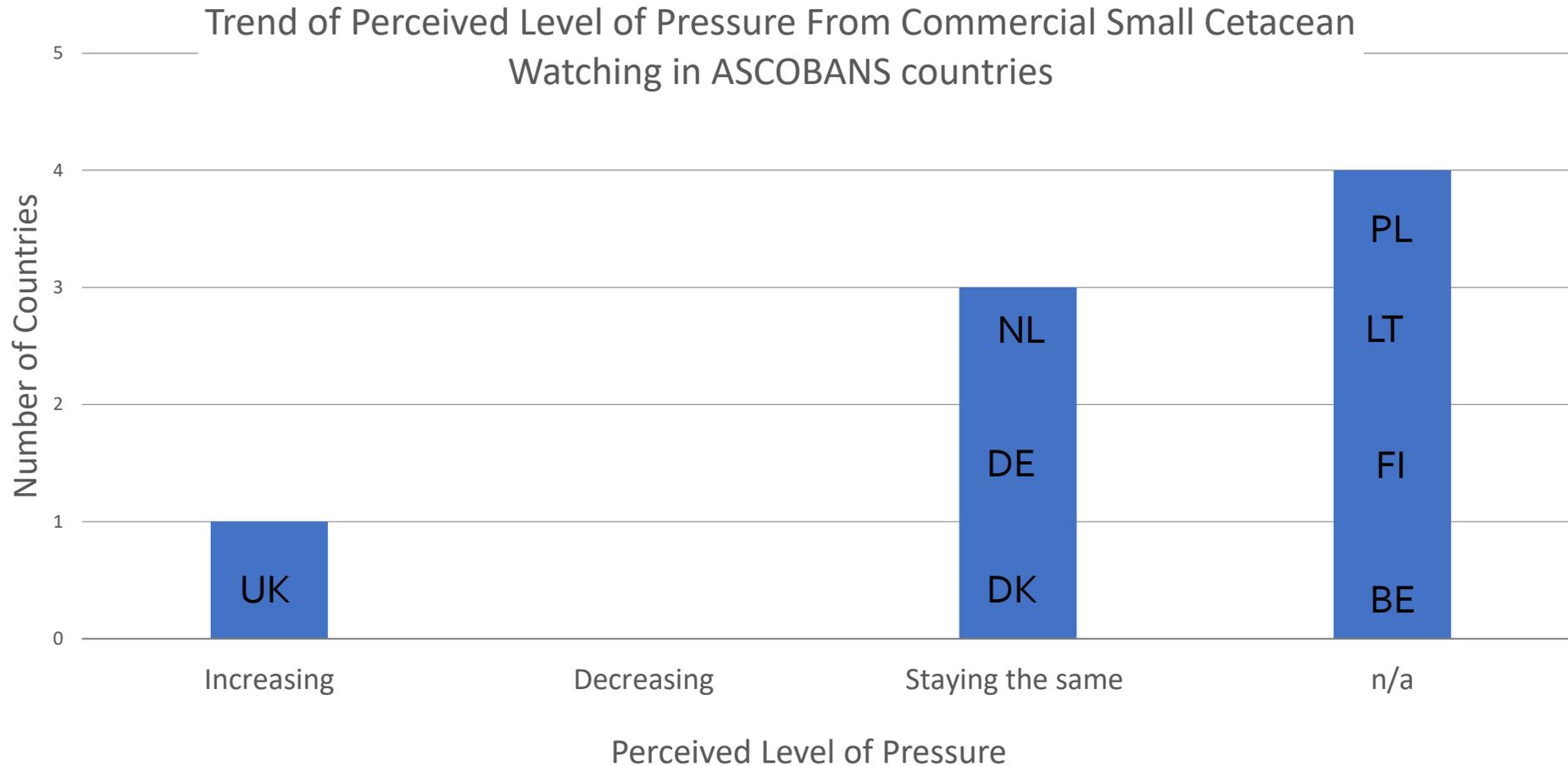


Figure 5 : Bar chart of Trend of Perceived Level of Pressure From Commercial Small Cetacean Watching in ASCOBANS countries