

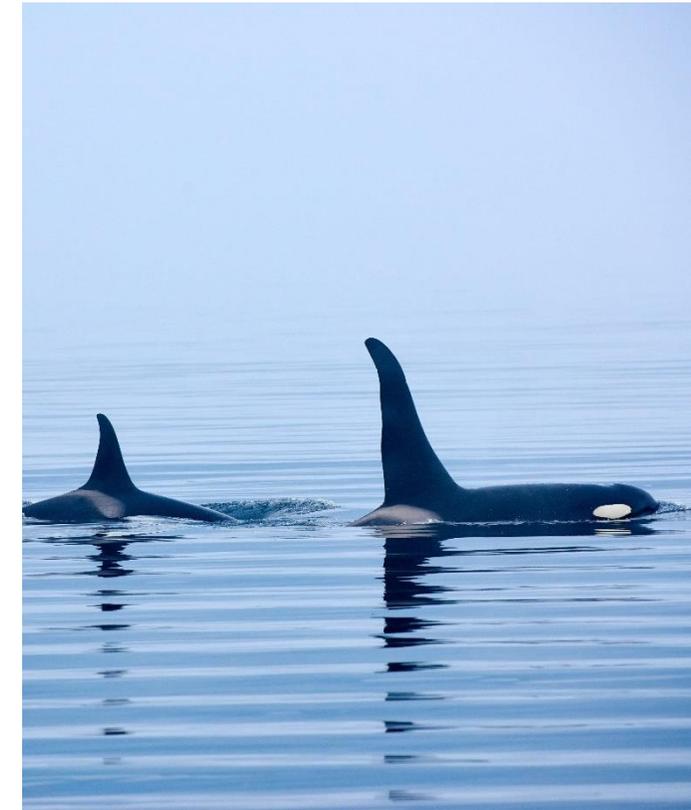


Section II:
Habitat Conservation and Management
C. Habitat Change and Degradation

10. Pollution and Hazardous Substances (incl. microplastics) National Reports 2022

Xin Kin LIM, ASCOBANS Secretariat

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



10.1. Does your country conduct monitoring of pollutants in small cetaceans?

Monitoring of pollutants in small cetaceans?

No

Denmark

Finland

Lithuania

Poland

Yes

Belgium

OSPAR
(indicator on
persistent chemicals
in marine mammals)

Germany

Sample collection
during necropsies

Organ samples:
→ Tissue banks &
toxicological analyses

Pilot monitoring in
Lower Saxony: 10 HPs

The Netherlands

Tissue samples of
50 annually
necropsied HP
→ PCB's & PFAS

In 2022, fish species
(known prey of HP)
→ PFAS, PCB, PBDE & HCB

United Kingdom

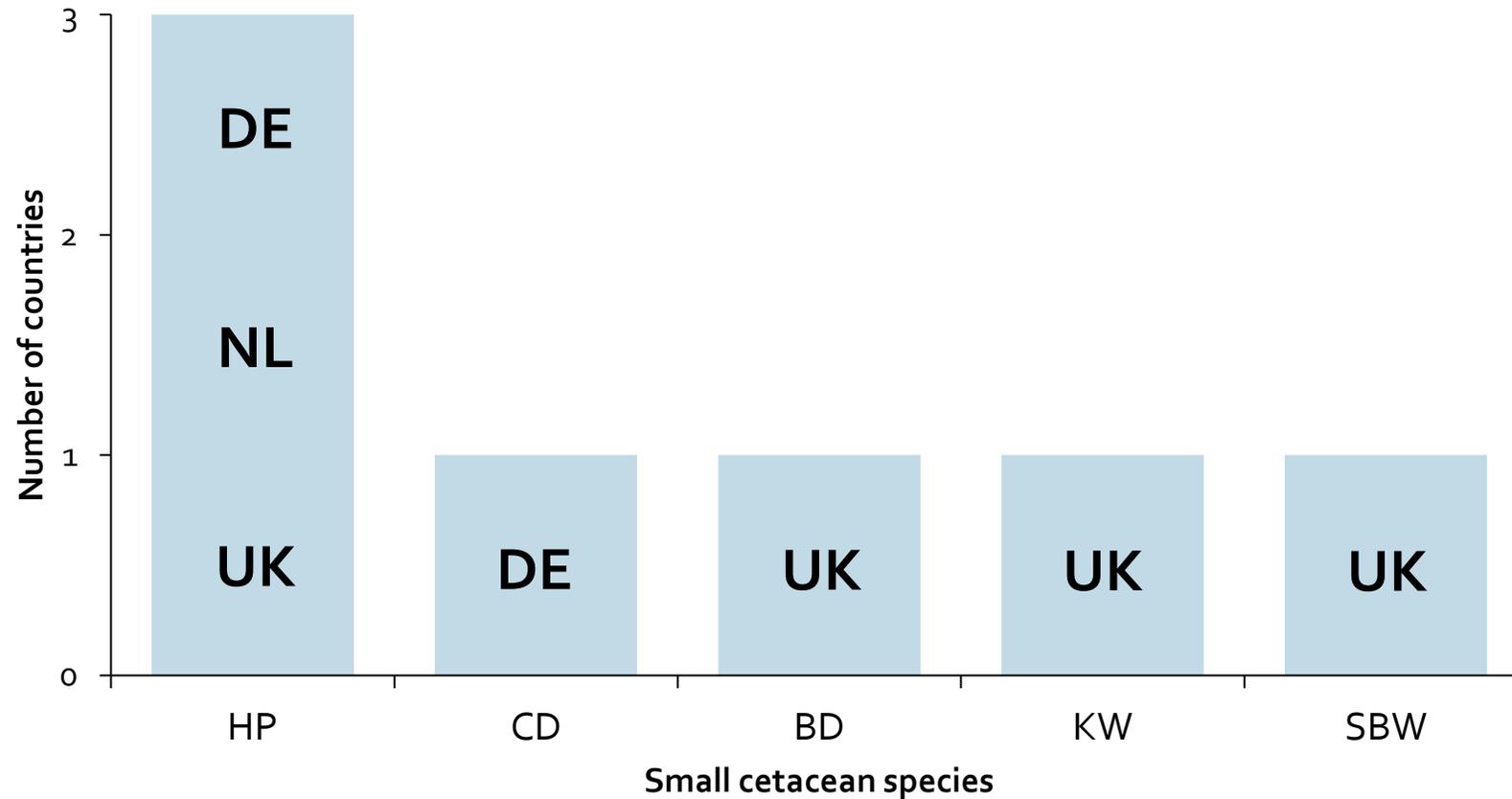
Collaboration
between CSIP,
SMASS & CEFAS

'ChemPop':
Additional funding for
small cetacean
contaminant analyses

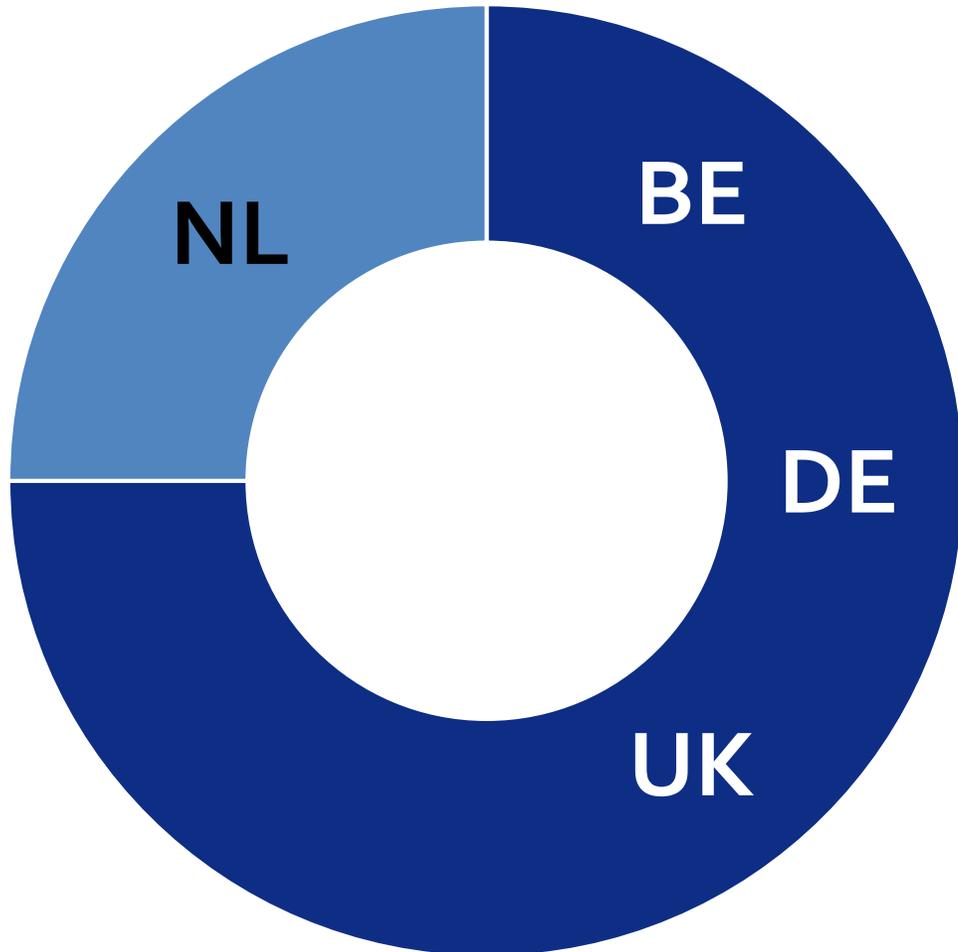
10.2. Who is carrying out the pollutant monitoring program? Please provide information on institution(s)/agencies that collect the samples and carry out analyses.

Belgium	Germany	The Netherlands	United Kingdom
1. University of Liège 2. RBINS	1. Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW); University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation 2. Deutsches Meeresmuseum	1. University Utrecht 2. Wageningen Marine Research	1. Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) 2. Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme (SMASS) 3. Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture Science (CEFAS)

10.3. Identify the small cetacean species that were covered by your monitoring program during the reporting period.



10.4. Select the source of your samples.

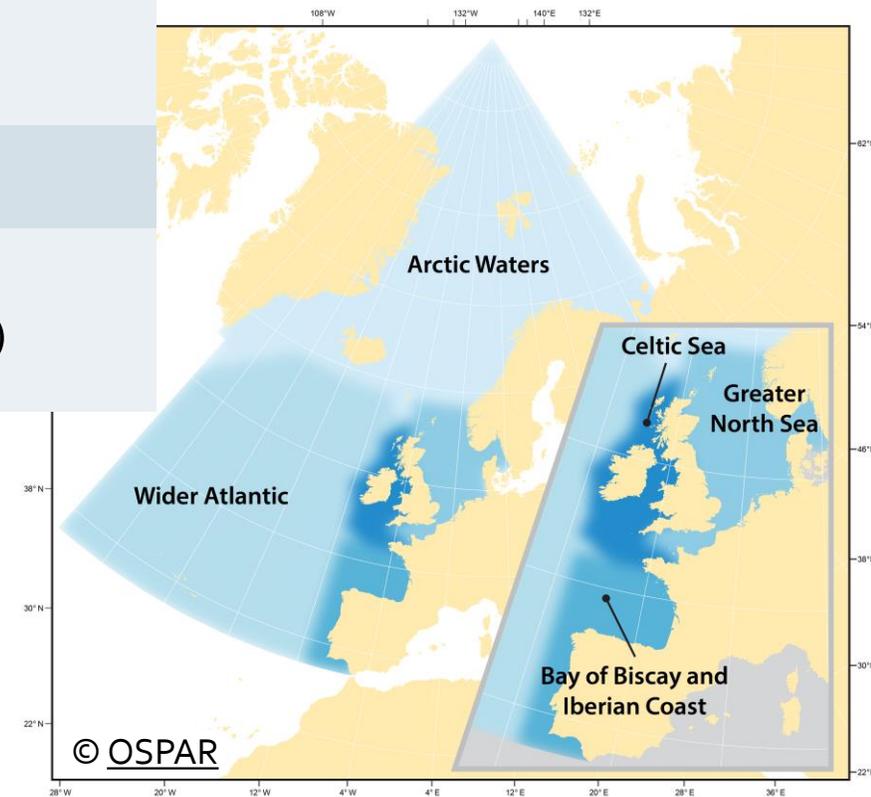


- Necropsy from stranding & from bycatch
- Necropsy from stranding



10.5. Select the geographical coverage of your monitoring program

- BE** OSPAR Region II (Southern North Sea)
- DE** OSPAR Region II (Dogger Bank & Southern North Sea), HELCOM (Arkona Basin, Kattegat, Belt Sea, The Sound)
- NL** OSPAR Region II (Southern North Sea)
- UK** OSPAR Region II (Southern & Northern North Sea, Channel), OSPAR Region III (Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, Irish & Scottish W. Coast)



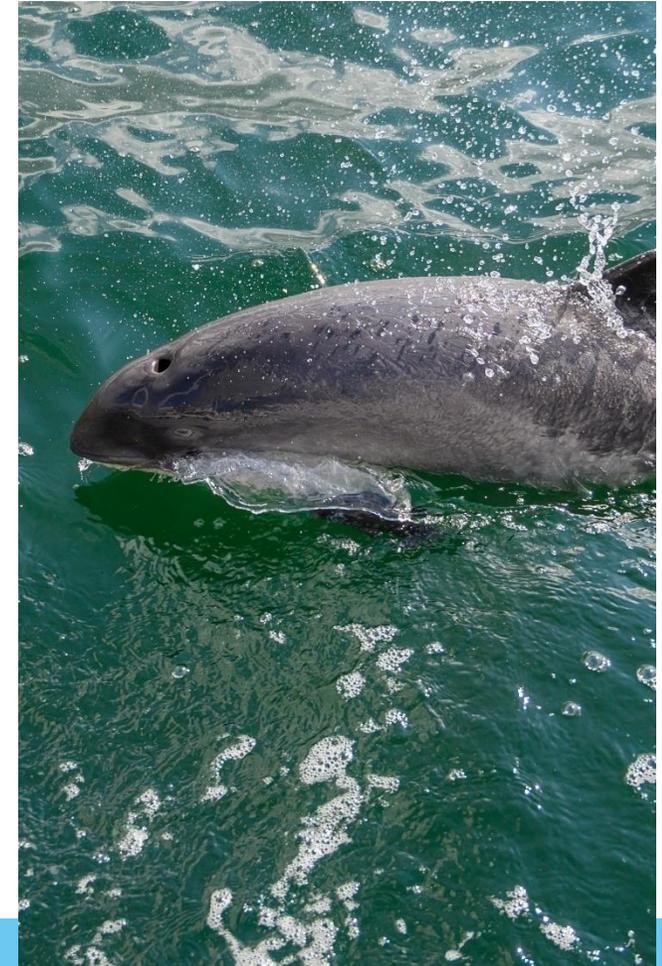
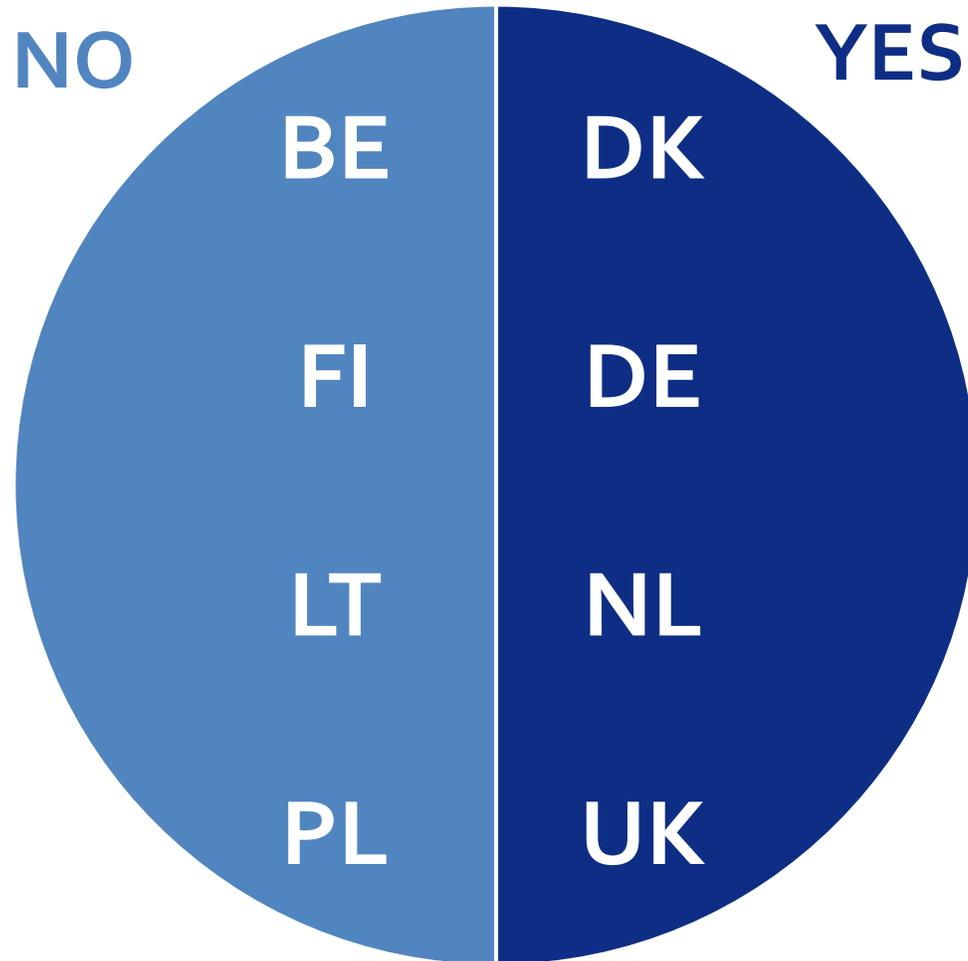
10.6. Select the contaminant / pathogen analyses you have conducted for small cetaceans.

Contaminant / pathogen analyses	Belgium	Germany	The Netherlands	United Kingdom
POP (e.g. PCBs)		✓	✓	✓
Toxic elements		✓		✓
Morbillivirus	✓		✓	
Brucella	✓	✓	✓	✓
Microplastics		✓		
Others	✓	✓	✓	✓

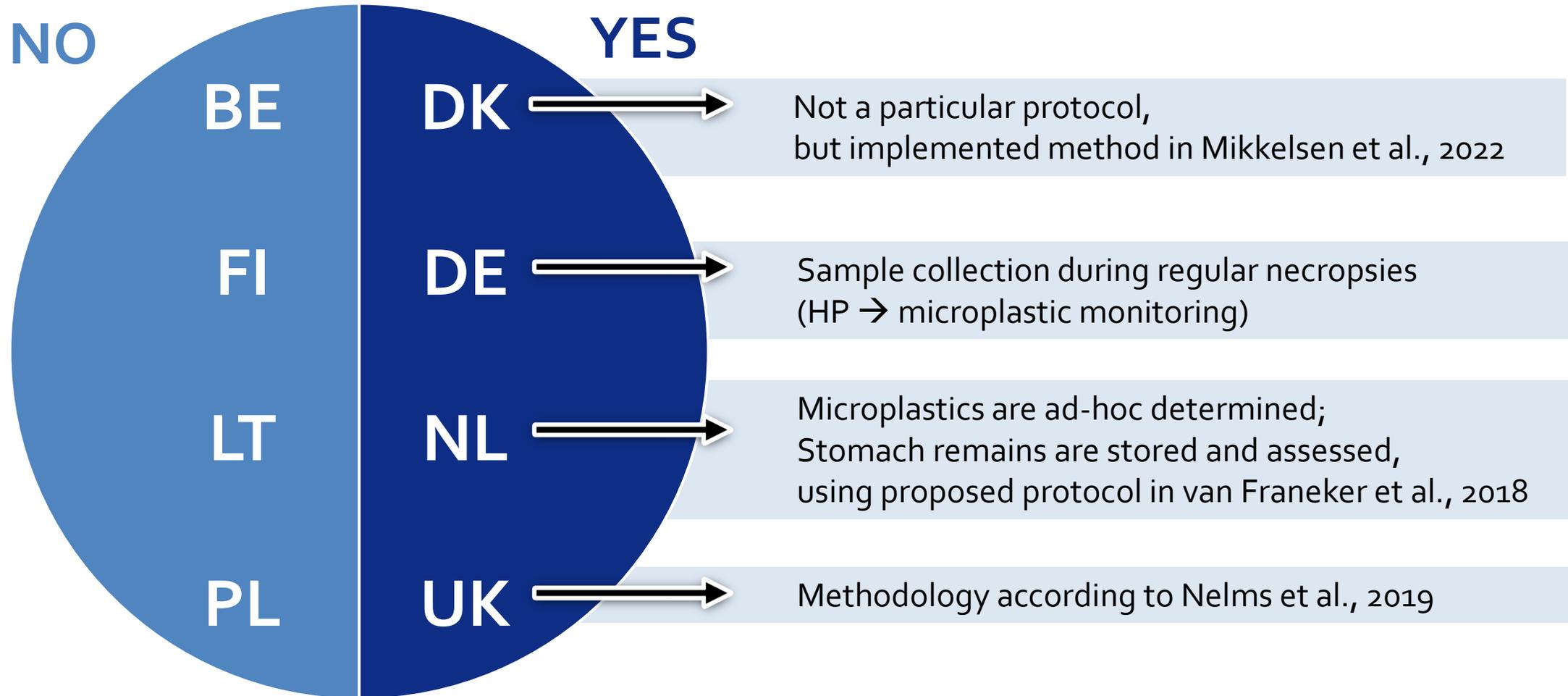
10.6. Select the contaminant / pathogen analyses you have conducted for small cetaceans.

Contaminant / pathogen analyses	Belgium	Germany	The Netherlands	United Kingdom
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herpesvirus • Influenzavirus • Fungus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmonella sp. • Virbrio sp. • Hafnia alvei • Hathewayia limosa • Nematods: Torynurus convolutes • Halocercus sp. • Pseudalius inflexus • Influenzavirus • Leptospiren 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCR- or IHC- test • Regularly screened for herpes, pox and influenza viruses. • Avian influenza has not been found. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POPs: HCB, HCHs, DDTs, PCBs, BDEs, HBCDs, and PFASs. • Additional analyses for metals concentrations in HP: Cr, Ni, Cu, Zn, As, Cd, Pb, Se, Mn, Fe, Hg, Ag

10.7. Does your country determine microplastics in small cetaceans?



10.7. (cont.) Do you have a specific protocol to monitor microplastics in small cetaceans?



10.8. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on impact of pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics) on small cetaceans in your country.

2

Publications
(Denmark)

6

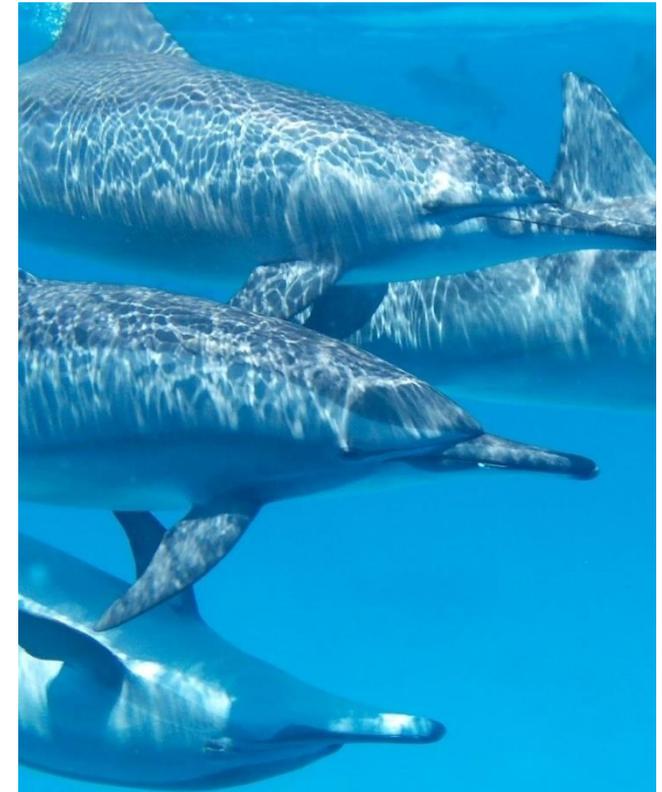
Publications
(Germany)

3

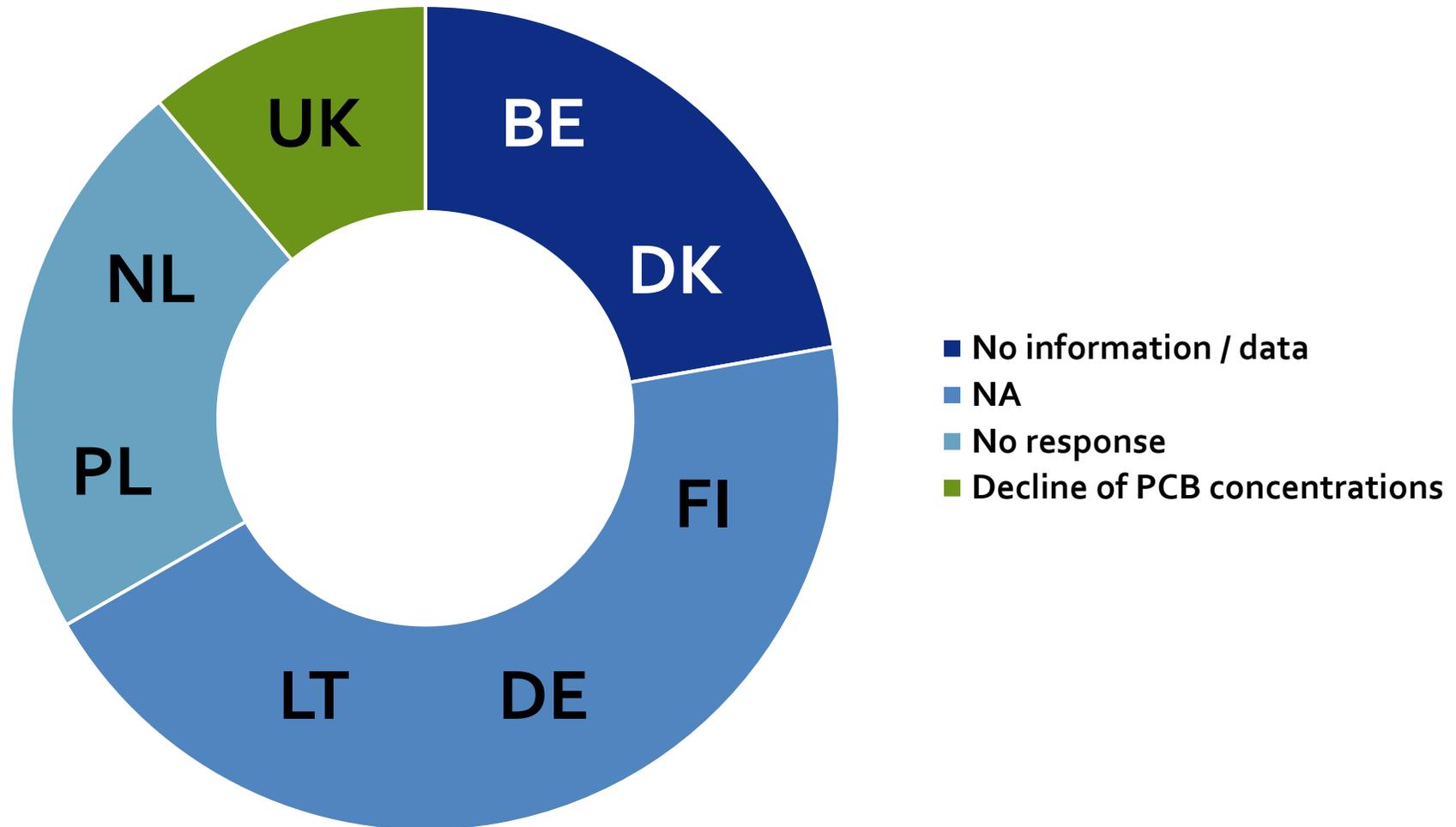
Publications
(United Kingdom)

No response:

Belgium, Finland, Lithuania, The Netherlands & Poland.

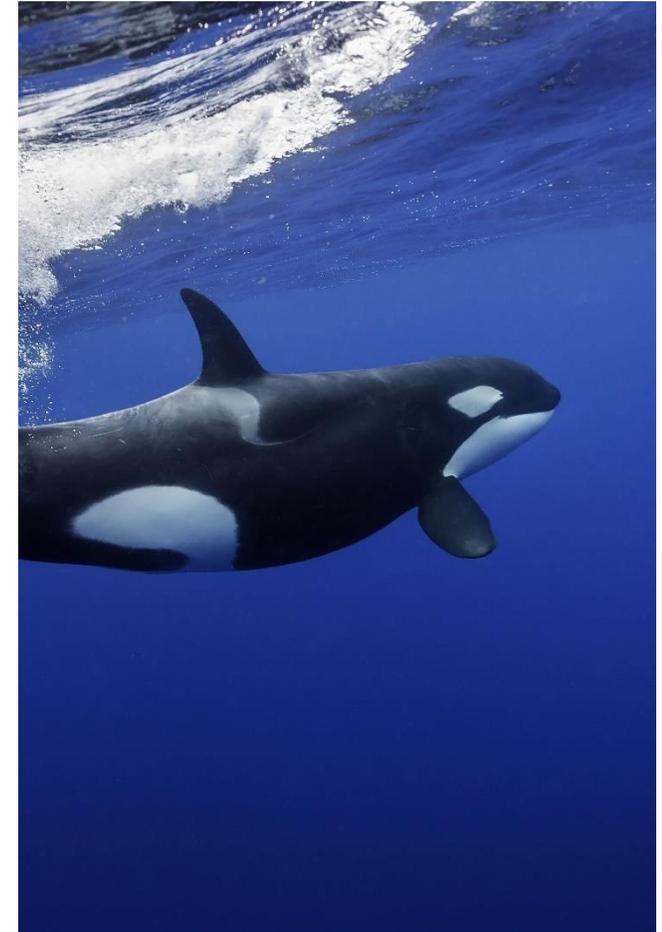


10.9. If applicable, list any additional evidence/data of reduced impacts of pollutants on small cetaceans following implementation of national mitigation measures (e.g. decline of contaminant levels in blubber over time)



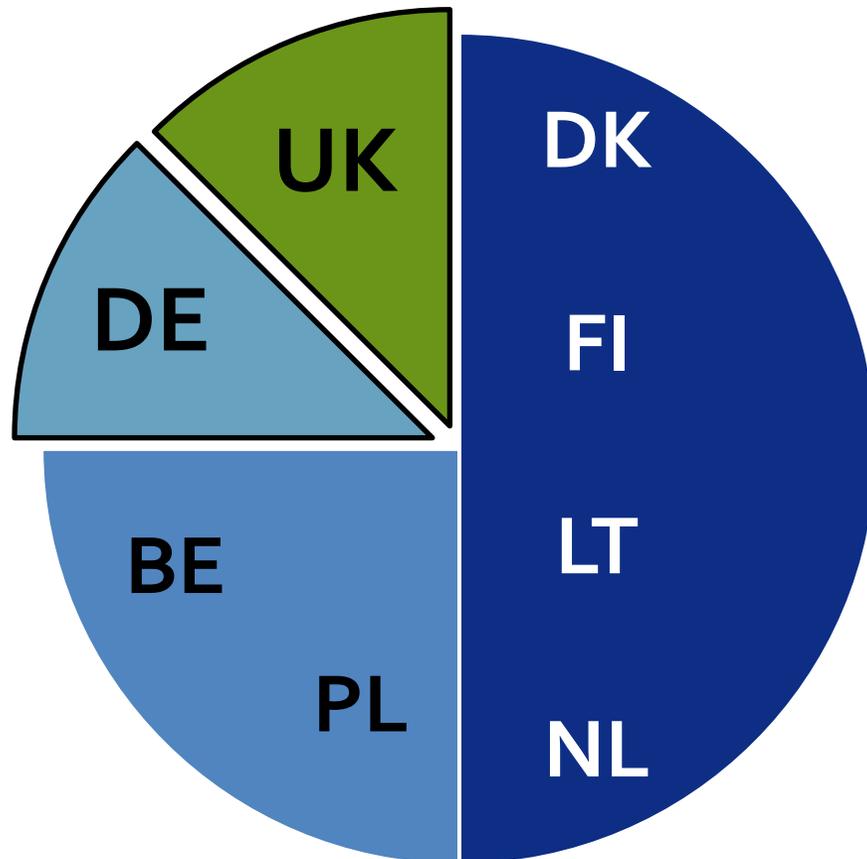
10.10. Have there been any instances/issues related to pollution and hazardous substances in your country during the reporting period?

- **No** issues related to pollution and hazardous substances during the reporting period



10.11. Is the perceived level of pressure from pollution and hazardous substances in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

- Unknown
- No response
- Increasing & Unknown
- Decreasing & Staying the same



DE: Increasing & Unknown.

- Regional variations;
- Increasing: building, ship traffic and coastal constructions (LNG terminals).

UK: Decreasing & Staying the same.

- Modelling of PCB blubber concentrations in:
 - HP → decreasing
 - CD → decreasing in females & juveniles; staying the same in males