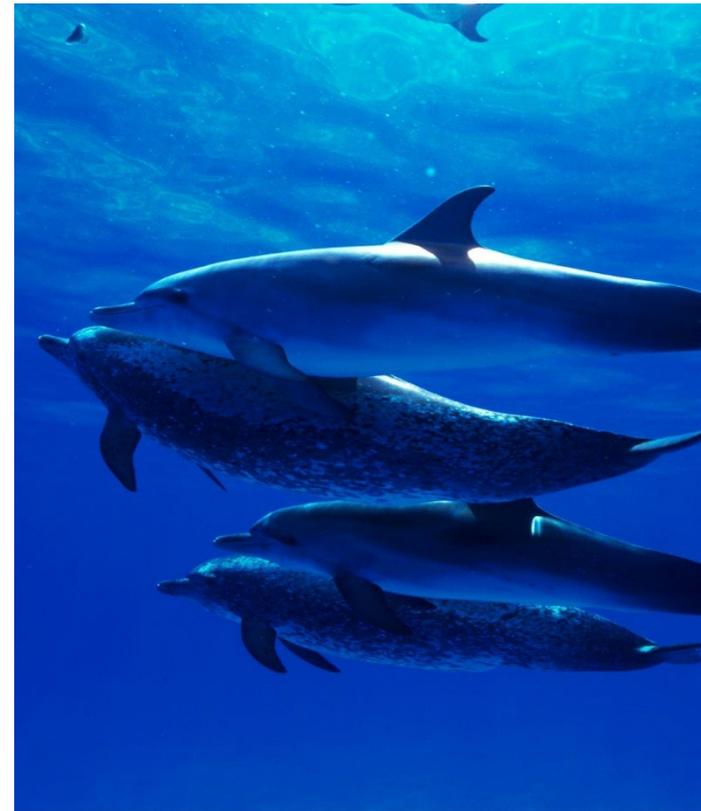




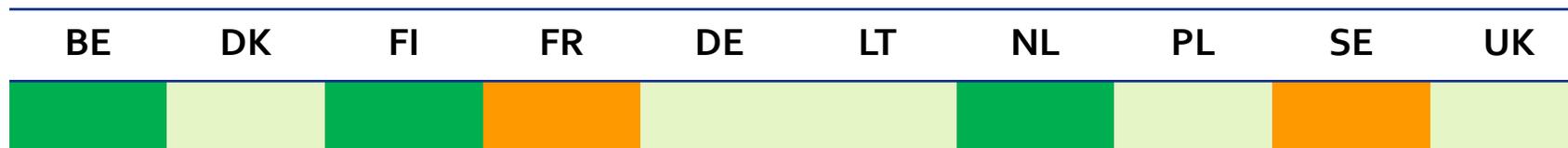
2. Review of New Information on Threats and Other Issues to Small Cetaceans

Jenny Renell, ASCOBANS Secretariat



WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING	Status (where applicable)	Related AC28 docs
72. Make full use of the information submitted in order to assess progress in the implementation of the Agreement and make recommendations to Parties.		AC	Annually		NR.1-10
73. Tailor the agenda for each of the meetings of the Advisory Committee to reflect the topics selected for the previous year's national reports.		AC	Annually	Done for AC28, AC27, AC26.	Doc.1.2a Doc.1.2b
78. Present to Parties, each year no later than 30 June, provided all reports have been received sufficiently in advance of that date, a compilation of Annual National Reports.		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	The Secretariat did not meet the deadline, but compilation posted for AC27.	Inf.2

- Overview of the National Reports submitted this year:



The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement? (1)

- Cooperation with neighboring countries and with the NGOs involved in ASCOBANS (BE)
- Feeding the regulatory framework, including MSFD (BE)
- Code of conduct produced for whale watching operators – the industry seems to be sustainable (DK)
- Very few ship strikes (DK)
- Designated 35 Natura 2000 sites where HP forms part of the selection criteria (DK)
- UN agreement to avoid marine plastics - important step to reduce risk also to cetaceans (DE)
- Negotiations of management plans for German MPAs (DE)
- Increased public awareness and interest in cetaceans, esp. harbour porpoise (LT)
- Some data obtained & analyzed from EIA programme in the planned wind farm area (LT)
- Opened the Baltic Sea Animal Rehabilitation Centre (LT)

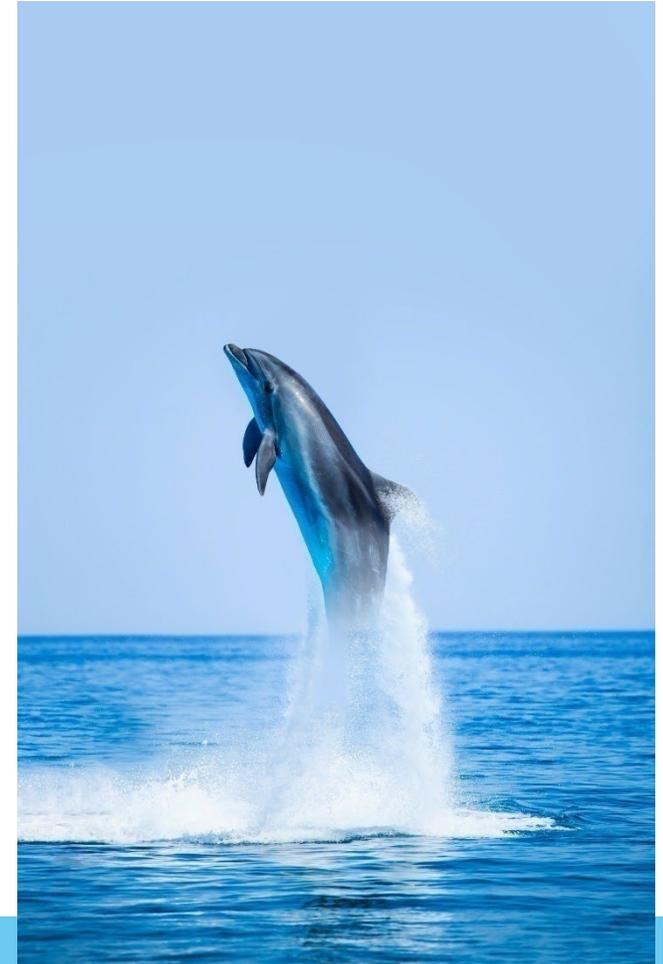
The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement? (2)

- Successful SCANS-IV; continuation of monitoring tasks on abundance, post-mortem examinations, contaminants (NL)
- Development of EU LIFE proposal CIBBRiNA (NL)
- Pilot project to investigate the potential to tag HP for determining habitat use; Evaluation of the Dutch HP Conservation Plan (NL)
- Promise of financing the project 'Development and use of trap fishing gear adapted to the conditions prevailing in the Polish coastal zone of the Baltic Sea'; and conditional financing from CIBBRiNA (PL)
- Conducting HP monitoring programme and several long-term educational campaigns (PL)
- Ongoing dialogue with the fishing community (PL)
- Long-term monitoring & management of fisheries being developed and implemented; continuation of several long-term monitoring schemes (UK)
- Publication of the review of the impacts of climate change on marine mammals; Publication of the Marine Wildlife Bycatch Mitigation Initiative; Launch of the JCDP (UK)

The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement?

(1)

- Keeping strandings network up and running (BE)
- High reporting obligations for civil servants, with high risk of losing momentum and efficiency (BE)
- Not much known about the impact of recreational sea use on cetaceans; future impact of climate change unknown (DK)
- No continuous monitoring of pollutants in small cetaceans in DK
- Multiple major wind farms planned – will be difficult to assess cumulative impact on cetaceans (DK)
- General lack of awareness of the Baltic HP in Denmark
- Reducing bycatch; Sufficient noise mitigation (DE)
- Lack of human resources, esp. researchers; Lack of financial resources; Lack of infrastructure (LT)



The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement?

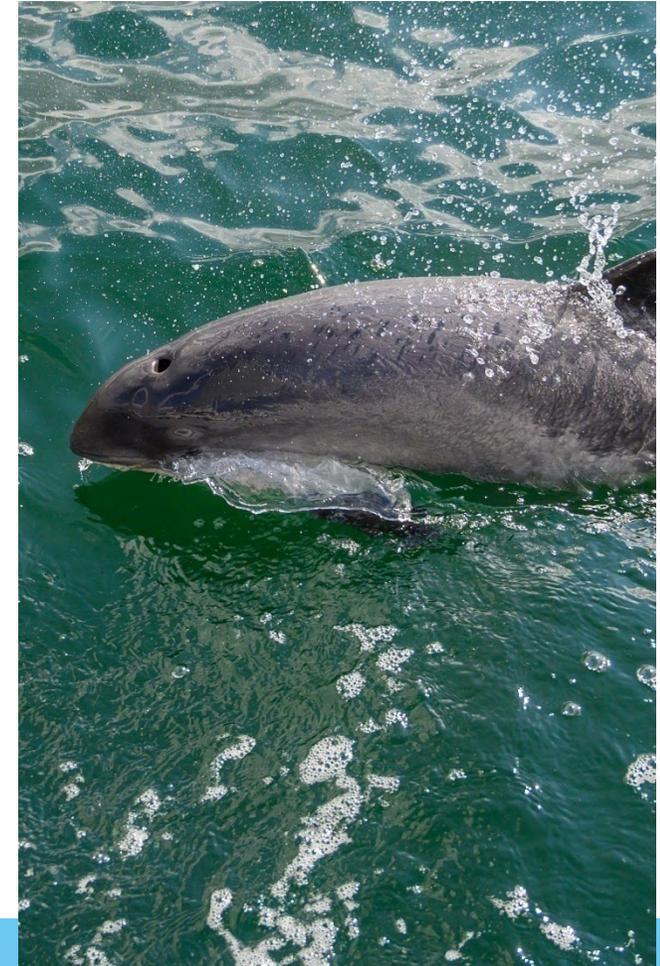
(2)

- Data sharing barriers; Long-term funding for e.g. SCANS (NL)
- Not having the right orgs at the table, e.g. navies, fishers (NL)
- Too many technical outputs and too few communicable key messages for policy makers (NL)
- Degradation of the Baltic Sea; Depletion of fish resources (PL)
- Cumulative effects of human pressures with increasing number of new investments and ventures in the Baltic Sea (PL)
- Increasing human presence in & influence on marine environments (energy, shipping, leisure industry) (UK)
- Understanding and management of pressures faced by cetaceans against a backdrop of uncertainties around impacts of climate change (UK)



The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement? (1)

- To deal with overlap with other work and/or obligations in international fora, e.g. in OSPAR, IWC, ICES, MSFD (BE)
- Baltic Proper HP: lack of knowledge on current abundance & distribution; SE military refusing permits for deploying passive acoustic equipment in the SE part of the Baltic Proper (DK)
- Get SAMBAH-II funded and begun asap - and find permanent solution for future funding (DK)
- Implement SAMBAH-II and continue finding effective conservation measures for Baltic Proper HP (FI)
- List the Baltic Proper population of the HP in CMS Appendix I (DE)
- Involve the Lithuanian Sea Museum in activities (collection of information, necessary research) (LT)



The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement? (2)

- Obtain and analyze data by conducting EIA in the planned wind farm territory, and data on underwater noise in Lithuanian Baltic Sea (LT)
- Collaboration between navies on underwater noise from explosions & pinger use in Baltic; Collaborating on bycatch work (NL)
- Harmonizing strandings databases – or at least determining the potential & appetite for this (NL)
- Save Baltic porpoise populations; Continuation of activities together with promotion of pro-ecological practices (PL)
- Further development of MPA management & monitoring plans (UK)
- Improving understanding of the impacts of climate change (incl. env. variables, cumulative impacts, bottom-up changes) (UK)
- Continued focus on improving the existing bycatch monitoring & mitigation (UK)

