



International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise (IDBHP)

Handbook for Participants



20 May 2012

**International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise
Handbook for Participants
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List of Abbreviations

AMMPA	Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums
ASCOBANS	Agreement of the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas
BfN	Bundesamt für Naturschutz (German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation)
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
EAAM	European Association of Aquatic Mammals
GRD	Gesellschaft zur Rettung der Delphine (Society for Dolphin Conservation)
GSM	Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Meeressäugetiere (Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals)
IDBHP	International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise
NABU	Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union
SAM	Static Acoustic Monitoring
SAMBAH	Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

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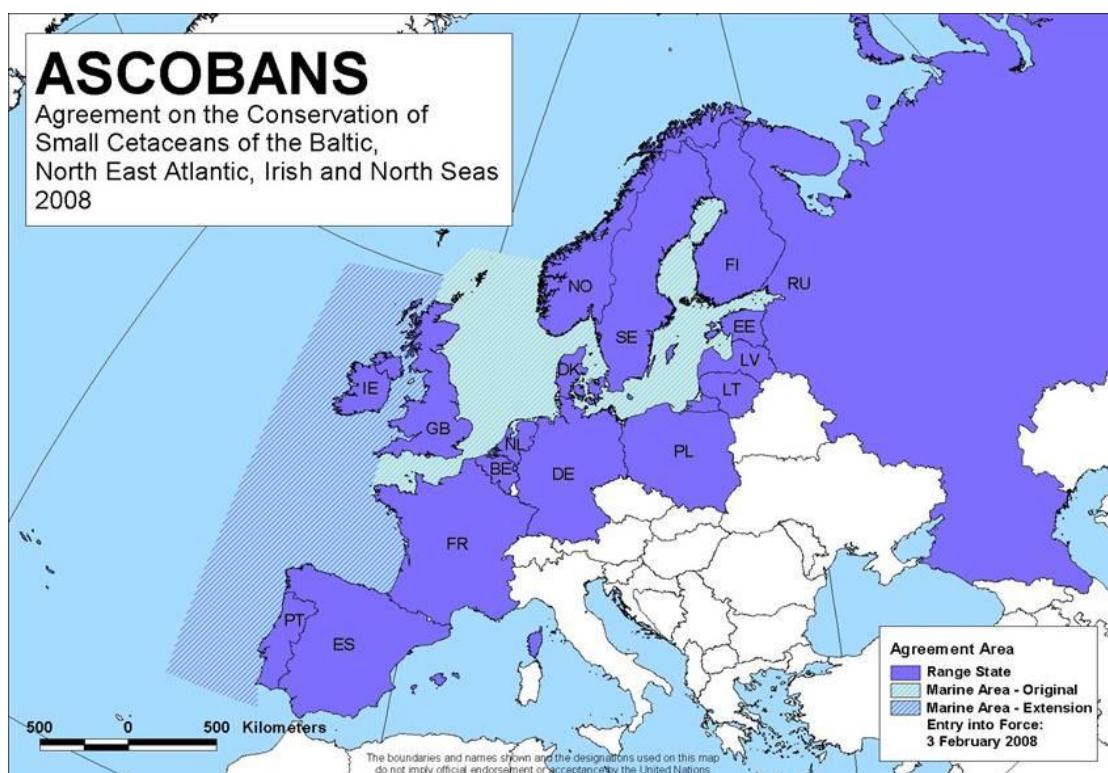
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1. Background Information

1.1 The ASCOBANS Agreement

The Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) was concluded in 1991 under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS or Bonn Convention) and entered into force in 1994. The Agreement was extended westwards by an Amendment in February 2008 to also include the North East Atlantic and the Irish Sea. Consequently, the new title reads Agreement of the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas. ASCOBANS is open for accession by all Range States and by regional economic integration organisations, such as the European Union.

The aim of the Agreement is to promote close cooperation amongst Parties with a view to achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans in the entire Agreement Area.



A Conservation and Management Plan forming part of the Agreement obliges parties to engage in habitat conservation and management, surveys and research, pollution mitigation and public information. To achieve its aim, ASCOBANS cooperates with range states that have not (yet) acceded to the Agreement, relevant intergovernmental organisations as well as non-governmental organisations for the implementation of conservation activities.

1.2 The International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise (IDBHP)

In 2002, the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (UNEP/ASCOBANS) declared the third Sunday in May of each year as the “International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise” (IDBHP) in order to raise awareness of the critical situation of the populations of Harbour Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*), the only species of cetacean native to the Baltic Sea.

Several studies have confirmed recently that only a very low number of these animals can still be found in the Baltic Proper. The significant decline of the population of Harbour Porpoises is largely due to human activities.

The greatest threat is posed by by-catch, the accidental entanglement of animals in fishing nets. Other threats include underwater noise, over-fishing and habitat degradation due to, for example, extraction of natural resources. Urgent action is needed to save the Baltic Harbour Porpoise from extinction.



Raising public awareness plays an important role in supporting effective conservation action. The IDBHP aims to promote public support through various events and exhibitions at museums and scientific institutions around the Baltic Sea riparian states. Harbour Porpoise Day was observed for the first time in 2003 and has been celebrated every year since. The number of institutions staging events to mark the IDBHP has grown significantly. It is our hope that, ultimately, IDBHP will be observed by at least one notable institution in every country around the Baltic Sea.

The IDBHP offers a good occasion to highlight the critical status of the Baltic population of the harbour porpoise and the threats to its survival. Effective conservation measures can benefit the harbour porpoise population, other species sharing its habitat and the ecosystem of the Baltic Sea as a whole.

In addition, the IDBHP is an excellent opportunity to spread the word about a new research project of the EU countries of the Baltic region, the Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise (SAMBAH) project (www.sambah.org). New distribution and abundance data will be collected through this large-scale project and the information will be communicated to management authorities with the ultimate goal to secure harbour porpoise conservation.

The UNEP/ASCOBANS Secretariat greatly appreciates your participation in this event. This handbook is intended to show you which events took place on the IDBHP in previous years and to inspire you to organise activities of your own.

**We will be very pleased to support your activities and collaborate
in order to highlight the IDBHP in 2012!**

1.3 Times and locations of IDBHP Celebrations

Denmark

- ❖ Fjord&Bælt, Kerteminde (2011)

Finland

- ❖ Särkänniemi Dolphinarium, Tampere (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011)

Germany

- ❖ Zoological Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn (2004, 2005, 2006)
- ❖ Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (GSM), Quickborn (2006, 2007)
- ❖ Aquarium of Cologne Zoo, Cologne (2007)
- ❖ Aquazoo/Löbbecke Museum, Düsseldorf (2011)
- ❖ Duisburg Zoo, Duisburg (2011)
- ❖ Zoological Museum of Hamburg University, Hamburg – organized by GSM (2008)
- ❖ German Oceanographic Museum, Stralsund (2007, 2008, 2009, 2011)
- ❖ Plaza of Diversity, Bonn (2008)
- ❖ Sea Life Center, Königswinter (2010)

Latvia

- ❖ Museum of Natural History, Riga (2004, 2005, 2006, 2008)

Lithuania

- ❖ Lithuanian Sea Museum, Klaipėda (2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)

Poland

- ❖ Hel Marine Station, Gdańsk (2003, 2004, 2006, 2011)
- ❖ Marine Aquarium, Gdynia – organized by Hel Marine Station (2005, 2010)

Sweden

- ❖ Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm (2004, 2005)
- ❖ Havets Hus, Lysekil (2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010)
- ❖ Göteborg Natural History Museum, Göteborg (2008)
- ❖ Natures Center Kullaberg (2010)

**We would be very happy to add your region
and your institution to this list!**

1.4 The SAMBAH Project

SAMBAH – Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise

– is an international LIFE+ funded project involving all EU countries around the Baltic Sea, with the ultimate goal to secure the conservation of the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise.

The objectives of SAMBAH are to estimate densities, total abundance and to produce distribution maps of harbour porpoises in the study area; to identify possible hotspots, habitat preferences and areas of higher risk of conflict with anthropogenic activities; to increase the knowledge about the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise among policymakers, managers, stakeholders and the public; as well as to implement best practice methods for cost efficient, large-scale surveillance of harbour porpoises in a low density area.

The study area stretches from the Darss- and Limhamn ridges in the southwest to the northern border of the Åland archipelago in the north.



Time plan

Approximately 300 static acoustic monitoring (SAM) units throughout the study area have been in spring 2011. They will remain in operation for about two years. The project will end in December 2014.

Project partners

- **Sweden:** Kolmårdens Djurpark (Coordinator), Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- **Finland:** Turku University, Ministry of Environment, Särkänniemi Adventure Park (Tampere dolphinarium)
- **Poland:** University of Gdańsk, Inst. of Meteorology and Water Management, Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
- **Denmark:** National Environment Research Institute, Danish Forest and Nature Agency
- **The Baltic States** will be included in the project through subcontractors to Kolmårdens. They will deploy and service click detectors in Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian waters.
- **Germany** will join forces with SAMBAH, provided that the funding requirements will be met. To date (March 2010) pledges have been made by the German Federal Ministry of Environment and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria. The German Oceanographic Museum in Stralsund will host the project.

Information on SAMBAH is available at the project website, www.sambah.org, including downloads of a power point presentation and information material that you can print and use in your IDBHP celebration. If you have further questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact the project at info@aquabiota.se.

2. Impressions of the IDBHP Celebrations 2011

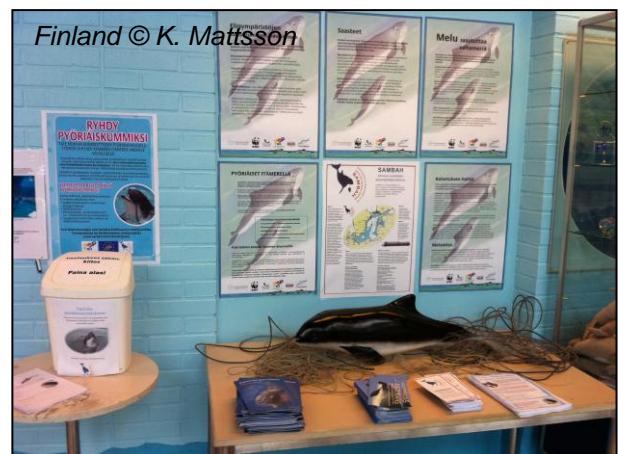
May 15, 2011

2.1 Fjord&Bælt, Kerteminde, Denmark

On this special day the Fjord&Bælt, a combined research and experience centre for marine mammals in Kerteminde, Denmark, opened up for free to locals on the occasion of the celebration of the IDBHP. Over 400 visitors joined in the celebration. About 20 people each attended the two lectures given by chief scientist, Magnus Wahlberg who, in special, focused on the biology of porpoises as well as the research conducted on the harbour porpoises in captivity at the centre and on what is being done to help them e.g with projects as SAMBAH. Also for free were the sample porpoise-shaped cookies made by a local bakery just for that occasion.

2.2 Särkänniemi Dolphinarium, Tampere, Finland

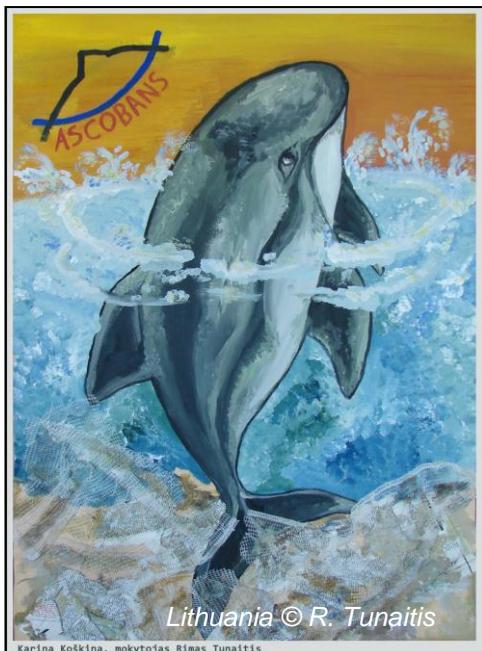
The aquarium in Tampere prepared their festivities especially for children. The young participants went searching for clues in the Särkänniemi park to get the final result. But also older ones benefited, namely from the presented information on the harbour porpoise, the SAMBAH project and the sighting project in which Särkänniemi is closely involved, directed by the Finnish Ministry of Environment.



2.3 The Lithuanian Sea Museum, Klaipėda

The Lithuanian Sea Museum is a regular participant in the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise, educating visitors about these animals in an attractive way. This year, art and science were combined and children of the Adomas Brakas School of Art in Klaipėda attended educational programmes on the ecology of the Baltic Sea and harbour porpoises. After that they had two weeks to paint something on that subject.

Some of the beautiful pieces of art:



The paintings were displayed in an exhibition at the Lithuanian Sea Museum which opened on 13 May and attracted many visitors. The pictures were displayed for two weeks and information material was also provided. The opening of the exhibition was accompanied by the string band of the Klaipėda music school of Jeronimas Kačinskis, thus adding another type of art to the event.

2.4 Hel Marine Station of the Institute of Oceanography, Gdansk University, Poland

Employees of the Hel Marine Station in Gdynia celebrated the day on Kosciuszko Square, informing both residents and visitors about the Baltic harbour porpoise. They presented education and information material, together with a whole range of interesting exhibits, such as a cod pod. This alternative type of fishing gear allows the cod to be caught without threatening marine mammals, so the problem of by-catch is eliminated.



Children were also involved in learning about these mammals through booklets, postcards, stickers and balloons. These were distributed in hundreds, advertising with a porpoise logo and the slogan "Save the Baltic Harbour Porpoise". Additionally, these young fans participated in some fun games as learning to make a sailor's knot, catching fish and receiving facial paintings of porpoises.



2.4 Duisburg Zoo, Duisburg, Germany

For the first time, Duisburg Zoo participated in the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise. Few people know about this endangered species and some don't even know about cetaceans in Germany at all. Duisburg Zoo wanted to make people aware of these precious animals and let artist Jörg Mazur draw a porpoise in front of the zoo's dolphinarium. With the help of a raster, it was then expanded to blue whale size, which is 33.6 metres. After that, about 100 5th graders of the Erich-Kästner-Gesamtschule in Duisburg painted the porpoise for four days with paint donated by the manufacturer.



*In order to get a good picture of the entire painting,
the Duisburg fire brigade had to come with a huge ladder.*

The painting was presented to the public on Saturday, May 28. Every child that had participated in the painting, that had made his or her own drawing of a porpoise or that had coloured a drawing by the zoo, was granted free admittance to the zoo, along with the parents. In addition, many were invited to celebrate the IDBHP with the zoo.

SOS Dolfijn from Dolfinarium Harderwijk, Netherlands informed visitors about their harbour porpoise rehabilitation project and brought a model porpoise, a stretcher and a lot of informative material. The German Society for Dolphin Conservation informed about their porpoise sightings in the river Weser, and Greenpeace supported the day by highlighting many examples of active conservation in our oceans.

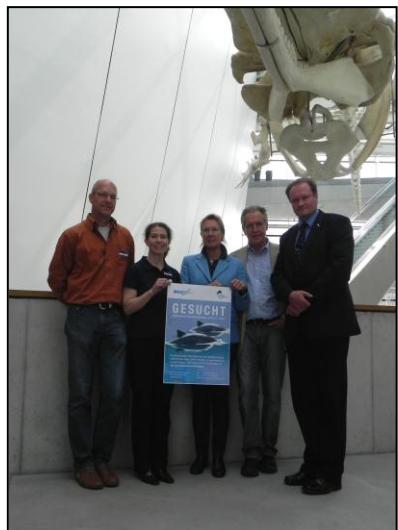


2.6 German Oceanographic Museum, Stralsund, Germany

Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (GSM - Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Meeressäugetiere), Hamburg, Germany

The NGO “Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Meeressäugetiere” (GSM - Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals) issued a press release which highlighting the current situation of the Baltic harbour porpoise, which since 2008 has been classified as “critically endangered” on the IUCN Red List, and the need to protect this species. A potentially dramatic decline is also being observed in the western Baltic and Danish Belt Sea area, the main cause of mortality being bycatch – unwanted catch in fishing gear.

One prerequisite for effective conservation measures is knowledge of the preferred habitats of the species. A sightings programme, coordinated since 2002 by GSM, was handed over to the German Oceanographic Museum on the occasion of the IDBHP. Everyone, locals and visitors to the Baltic Sea alike, can report online, by telephone or post sightings of live porpoises at sea and of stranded specimens. This data is then compiled and displayed on a map to allow a better understanding of the distribution and density of porpoise populations in different parts of the Baltic Sea.



2.7 Aquazoo/Löbbecke Museum, Düsseldorf, Germany



The Aquazoo/Löbbecke Museum in Düsseldorf honored that special day on May 15 with an exhibition, information stands on the Baltic harbour porpoise and games for children. Making it especially interesting for young ones, a magnet game showed them, as well as adults, different species of the harbour porpoise and its distribution. Also offered was a crossword puzzle, covering such topics as the anatomy and taxonomy of porpoises and the threats they face. Children completing either of these games would win a copy of the ASCOBANS poster “Is something missing here?” or

a porpoise badge produced by IFAW. In addition, brochures about the harbour porpoise and other Baltic marine life were being distributed to all.

Adults were particularly interested in the agreement of ASCOBANS which was explained on different information boards, along with explanations on how to help protect this species.

Very “touching” was an information stand illustrating the difference between toothed and baleen whales by giving visitors the opportunity to touch a dolphin skull, a sperm whale tooth and a piece of baleen.



2.8 Baltic Tour

Greifswald, Kiel and Rostock, Germany

The ASCOBANS Secretariat celebrated the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise with a trip to Baltic Sea to give lectures at three different universities in Germany, in Greifswald, Kiel and Rostock.

The series started with a lecture at the Institute for Applied Zoology and Nature Conservation of the University of Greifswald on 11 May. After setting up the ASCOBANS exhibition with the team, consisting of the Coordinator Heidrun Frisch, the Assistant Bettina Reinartz and a former intern, Carola Kaltofen, who had prepared and organized this lecture series, Heidrun gave the first lecture in the beautiful old auditorium of the institute. The lecture covered background information on the biology of harbour porpoises, the distinctive Baltic population, conservation threats such as bycatch and underwater noise and how they are addressed, as well as an overview of the work of ASCOBANS.



Greifswald © C. Kaltofen

In preparation of the lecture, the institute had placed a preserved specimen of a harbour porpoise on the table. Around 45 students listened to the English-language presentation about the threats to the small whale and many asked questions and joined in the discussion after the talk.



On 12 May the team went on to Rostock, again showing the exhibition and this time giving the lecture in German at the Institute for Biological Sciences of the University of Rostock. It was again well attended by 45 students who joined in a lively discussion afterwards.



The last destination of the journey was the IFM-Geomar of the University of Kiel, where on 13 May around 35 students attended the lecture and again many used the opportunity to ask questions.

All in all it was a very successful trip, during which more than 120 people listened to the information presented in these three days. The high level of interest in the harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea and the problems it faces was reflected by the lively discussions following the lectures and the high volumes of information material distributed.

3. IDBHP Suggested Activities and Events

This chapter contains some useful approaches on how to raise public awareness, which have been used in the celebration of the IDBHP.

3.1 Lectures and Exhibitions



Talks, such as given at Havets Hus in Lysekil, Sweden in 2008 represent a good way to introduce the general public to issues of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise.

Considerations should be taken to include both, the scientific and non-scientific public.

Visual media, such as pictures and videos are a useful tool to support the points raised in a talk. An open discussion or a question-answer session is usually a good round-up of the event as the audience is encouraged to participate actively and learn more about the conservation of the Harbour Porpoise.

Poster exhibitions offer another great option to raise public awareness. Relatively straightforward to organise, they can even reach a greater number of people than talks, provided they are exhibited in an appropriate location. Simple creative amendments can even increase the general attention. One example comes from the Lithuanian Sea Museum, where people at the information booth were invited to draw comparisons between harbour porpoises and guinea pigs. The idea originated from the similar sound of the common name for these two species in some languages, such as Lithuanian and Russian.

Talks and lectures by scientists or conservation authorities always attract interested listeners. Marine biologists have been invited to give lectures on the Baltic harbour porpoise and the threats to its survival for example at the University of Hamburg and at Havets Hus in Sweden on the IDBHP. In addition, open seminars involving students and/or experienced researchers can be organised.



This banner provided by the ASCOBANS Secretariat caught the attention in Stralsund, Germany, 2009



Exhibition on the harbour porpoise at Hel Marine Station, Poland 2008



Håvets Hus, Lysekil, Sweden 2008

A successful concept is also to combine different types of media to reach the visitor's different senses and thus attention. The German Oceanographic Museum in Stralsund, for example, did not only display material and poster provided by the ASCOBANS secretariat, but also showed devices for acoustic detection of cetaceans called T-

POD, an authentic skull of a harbour porpoise and slides with reports and pictures from personal encounters with the harbour porpoises on a computer. A quiz prepared for children and adorned with small prizes motivated the little ones among visitors to learn more about their marine "neighbours". Poland 2010.



German Oceanographic Museum, Stralsund, Germany 2009



Passing visitors usually stop to take a look at the material prepared by the Hel Marine Station. Poland 2010



Comparing harbour porpoises with guinea pigs at the Lithuanian Sea Museum, Lithuania 2008

3.2 Sculptures and Models

Models and sculptures are a great way to spark curiosity of the public.

The majority of people have never seen a harbour porpoise in real life and for many this

small whale may be rather abstract. Life-size sculptures and models offer a possibility to visualize a harbour porpoise, experience its proportions and colours.



*Models of marine mammals at Duisburg Zoo,
Duisburg, Germany 2011*

For this purpose models from museums, research institutes and even art exhibitions have been used by organisers of the IDBHP.

Visitors of the Museum Alexander Koenig in Bonn enjoyed the opportunity to view the artwork of Jörg Mazur and at the same time to learn about the harbour porpoise by reading the ASCOBANS exhibition displayed in the same room.



*Models of marine mammals by Hel
Marine Station, Poland 2008*

Setting up exhibitions and information stands near existing sculptures creates a good linkage between the two. The IDBHP informational stand, repeatedly organised near the harbour porpoise statue on Kościuszki Square in Poland, has attracted many locals and visitors of all ages.



*A composition of 45 cetaceans by Jörg Mazur
at the Zoological Museum Koenig in Bonn,
Germany 2004*



Statue of a Harbour Porpoise, Poland

3.3 Activities for Children

Children and teachers are a very important group for outreach activities related to the IDBHP. Children are not only curious about nature and eager to learn, but they will also shape the future. The IDBHP celebration is an opportunity to make them aware of the significance of nature conservation, so that they can pass the message on to their classmates, friends and relatives.



*If provided with material to be creative or active children can become very enthusiastic to learn.
Hel Marine Station, 2008*

Information about harbour porpoises can be presented in a short talk, a poster or a PowerPoint presentation. Alternatively, a documentary can be shown. It is important to make learning interesting, for example, by including games and competitions. Quizzes, crossword puzzles and drawing contests are popular and relatively simple to organize.

Besides treats, prizes may include harbour porpoise postcards, stickers and other informational material, depending on the age group. A great reward is also a certificate, containing information about the harbour porpoise and stating that its recipient is a true friend of the harbour porpoise. Sculpting classes and face paintings have also been proved successful.

Children can be encouraged to create their own posters, presentations or plays on the harbour porpoise and even to present it to other classes or communities. Information on the harbour porpoises' needs, current threats as well as ways how to help and protect them should be included.



*Crosswords, quizzes and puzzles transfer knowledge in a playful way.
Museum of Natural History Latvia, 2008*

Seeing live animals can be a truly unforgettable experience. If well-run facilities exist in your region, trips to aquaria and dolphinaria can be included in the program of the IDBHP.

The Lithuanian Sea Museum in Klaipéda, Lithuania, for example organized a seminar for children in 2009, which took place in its dolphinarium. The theoretical part was thus complemented by a practical part in which children could draw comparisons between the Baltic harbour porpoise and the Bottlenose dolphin being kept in the dolphinarium.

Care should, however, be taken not to support facilities that receive dolphins captured in the wild or that do not conform to international standards, such as those set by the European Association of Aquatic Mammals (EAAM) or the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).



Children experienced a special day celebrating the IDBHP at the dolphinarium of Lithuanian Sea Museum with practical and theoretical insights into the life of cetaceans. Lithuania 2009.



An adult in a dolphin dress is almost as good as a real cetacean and can usually more easily connect to the kids as at the Särkänniemi Dolphinarium in Tampere, Finland 2007

Music and dance performances by children and professionals can contribute to making the celebration a memorable experience. At the end of the day a get-together of the parents and/or children represents a good way to reflect on the activities of the day in an informal atmosphere.



Kids having fun with costumed animals at the Lithuanian Sea Museum, Klaipéda on 20 May 2007

3.4. Media

Various communication media can contribute to even increase public awareness and encourage a broader section of people to become involved in activities that help conserve the Baltic population of the harbour porpoise. For many people it may be the first time to hear that the Baltic Sea is indeed a habitat for a whale species. Accordingly, information campaigns have a great potential to raise interest in and support for the harbour porpoise population.

TV broadcastings, newspaper or internet articles or even publishing on account of the celebration on your institution's webpage could make your IDBHP more successful.

IBDHP was frequently featured in various Media, e.g.

...in German...

[Environment/Whales/Fisheries: S.O.S. from Conservationists:](#)

[Save the Baltic Harbour Porpoise](#)

Quickborn, Neumünster, Munich, 29 April 2008 –The harbour porpoise in the Baltic is not doing well. This is the conclusion reached by three German NGOs, namely The Society for

the Conservation of Marine Mammals (Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Meeressäugetiere, GSM), The Society for Dolphin Conservation (Gesellschaft zur Rettung der Delphine, GRD) and The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (Naturschutzbund, NABU), after a profound analysis of the sightings data collected by GSM. In 2007, more than 1,100 sightings of live harbour porpoises were reported, but 173 porpoises were found dead on the German Baltic Sea coast.

"This year we found more than twice as many carcasses on the western Baltic coast in Schleswig-Holstein than in 2006," noticed Hans-Jürgen Schütte, coordinator of the GSM's project "Sailors on the Look-Out for Harbour Porpoises" ("Wassersportler sichten Schweinswale"), with concern.

The causes of death are almost always anthropogenic, which means that the animals' deaths are human-induced. The sensitive habitat of the Baltic Sea has been degraded and turned into a busy shipping lane. Its waters are polluted by industry and agriculture and over-fertilized. Underwater ordnance, military exercises and the exploitation of natural resources such as gravel, sand, oil and natural gas have turned this unique ecosystem into a hostile environment. The Recovery Plan for the Baltic Harbour Porpoise ("Jastarnia Plan") developed by ASCOBANS (the international agreement dedicated to the conservation of small cetaceans) in 2002, however, identified fisheries as the number-one cause of porpoises' deaths. Fishermen do not deliberately catch porpoises, but many of these animals die in nets deployed for other species. They are "by-caught". Whales primarily use echolocation for orientation and to locate prey.

Modern nylon nets cannot be detected by means of echolocation, and are invisible to the

animals. As a result, porpoises become entangled in the nets and suffocate. More animals are killed than born,” says Petra Deimer, marine biologist from GSM. “In the long run, this ratio is unsustainable for any population.”

Without strict measures, the small whale will soon become extinct in the Baltic Sea. Consequently, the Jastarnia Plan unequivocally requires a change of fishing methods from gear known to endanger porpoises to less dangerous gear. Drift nets should be replaced by longlines, set nets by fish traps and fish pots. “There is no lack of legislation and regulations, but, as in many other cases, implementation is insufficient,” says NABU’s Ingo Ludwichowski. “If the Baltic Sea states actually followed the regulations of the Jastarnia Plan, they could save the harbour porpoise.

Six years after the elaboration of the plan, nearly all fishery institutions remain in a state of stoic inactivity. Instead of implementing the recovery plan, attempts are made to hide the cause of porpoises’ deaths. The GSM possesses a photo of a stranded porpoise with a brick tied to its fluke. Along the coast of Schleswig-Holstein, GSM member Andreas Pfande found more dead animals than ever before. Many of them had their bellies slashed open in order to ensure that the carcasses would not surface or would only do so long after the animals had died. The intention behind this is obvious: the later a cadaver surfaces the more difficult it is to detect tell-tale net marks, which would give away the fact that the porpoise died in a net.

Only a few years ago, by-catches were reported and the carcasses made available to scientists, who examined them to determine their pre-mortar health status and the state of their habitat. “But nowadays,” says Ulrich Karlowski, biologist from GRD, “we are told, that things like by-catch are non-existent”

On the occasion of this year’s International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise on 18 May 2008, NABU, GRD and GSM will present the sightings map produced by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) on the basis of the GSM’s sightings data. The interactive map will then also be available on the websites of the BfN and GSM (www.habitatmarenatura2000.de and www.gsm-ev.de).

For further information please contact:

Petra Deimer, Hans-Jürgen Schütte GSM, Tel. 04106 4712 www.gsm-ev.de

Please also visit our websites: www.NABU-Meeresschutz.de, www.NABU-SH.de, www.delphinschutz.org, www.gsm-ev.de



4. Get Involved in the IDBHP Celebration!

Your participation in the IDBHP could significantly contribute to raise public awareness of the critical situation of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise population, and to increase public support to undertake measures that save this precious species from extinction, as well as to improve the ecological conditions in the Baltic Sea.

The ASCOBANS Secretariat can support your event by providing the informational material listed in the next section, free of charge. Your cooperation is very important and would be much appreciated. We look forward to your participation in the IDBHP!

Please contact us:

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4.1 The ASCOBANS Secretariat can assist you to organise an IDBHP Event

To help you organise your IDBHP event, the ASCOBANS Secretariat can supply the following information material free of charge (on a first come, first serve basis):

- ❖ ASCOBANS (2009 edition with 10 pull-up banners), available in English and German (production in other languages is dependent on funding) – exhibition will have to be returned to the Secretariat!

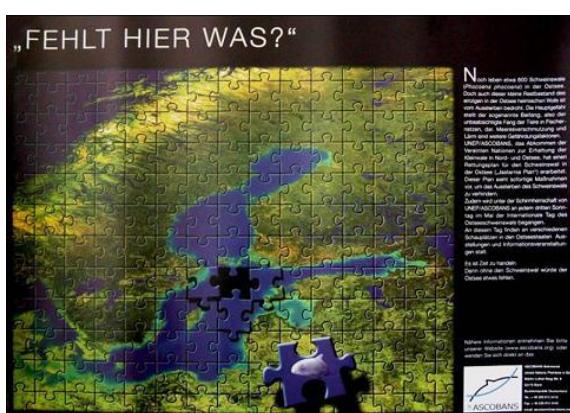


The banners cover the following topics: The ASCOBANS Agreement; Structure of ASCOBANS; Why and International Agreement?; Threats to Small Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises; Species Covered by ASCOBANS; The Harbour Porpoise; International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise; Help Us Protect Cetaceans; Small Whale Facts for Kids; Facts and Figures About Cetaceans

- ❖ PowerPoint presentations on ASCOBANS and the Jastarnia Plan (ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for the Baltic Harbour Porpoise)
- ❖ Music CD “Project C” by Anna Nacher & Marek Styczyński



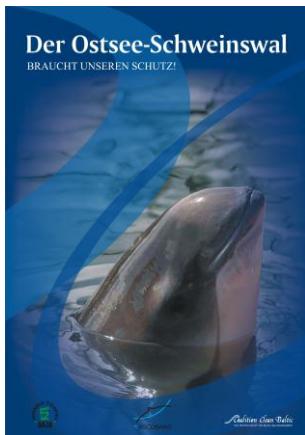
- ❖ Poster “Is something missing here?”, available in all languages of the Baltic Sea region (with the exception of Russian)



- ❖ ASCOBANS Brochure in English and all languages of the Baltic Sea region



- ❖ Brochure "The Baltic Harbour Porpoise Needs Protection" in German (other languages available from Coalition Clean Baltic)



- ❖ ASCOBANS Stickers (two sizes)

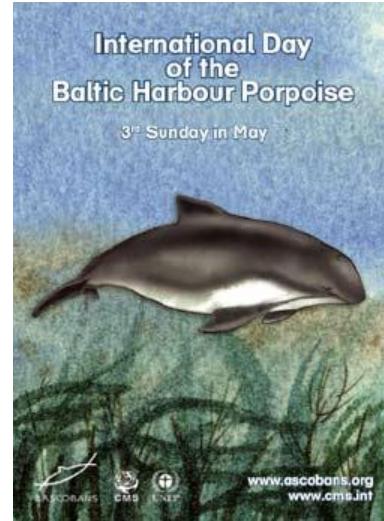
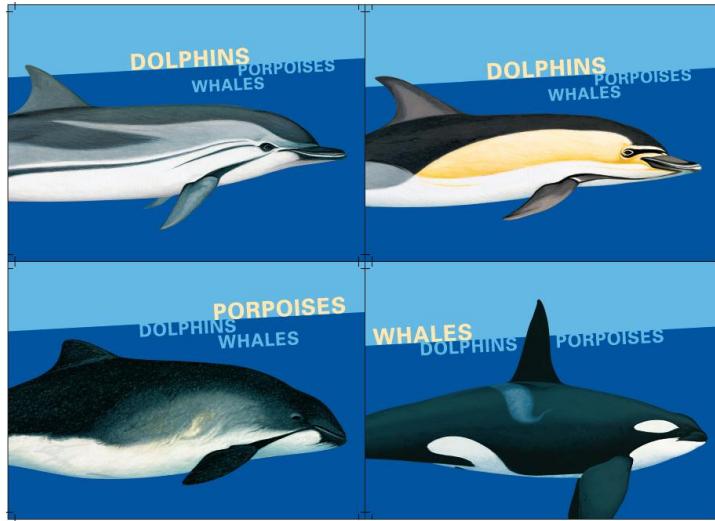


- ❖ DVD-Film "Fishing and pingers" (languages: English, German, Polish, Swedish) for distribution to fishermen



Handbook for the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise 2012

- ❖ Postcards (5 designs: harbour porpoise, common dolphin, striped dolphin, orca and “IDBHP”)



The IDBHP postcards are available only in the English language and can be shipped at request by the Secretariat.

For production in other languages; we offer to pass on the files needed for printing the postcard and an identical banner (2,16m x 1,45m) for the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise free of charge (for non-profit use only). We can also cooperate with the postcard designer Anja Addis to produce the material in your language, if translation is provided by you. Please contact us in order to get a quote.

- ❖ IDBHP Banner (for design and details see postcard above)

Please contact the ASCOBANS Secretariat for details on what can be made available for your IDBHP event in 2012.

You will be requested to pay for shipment of the material.

5. Contributions

The ASCOBANS Secretariat would like to thank the following organisations for their kind cooperation granting us the use of their pictures and providing us with texts, press releases, and other assistance in producing this handbook.

- ❖ Fjord&Bælt, Kerteminde, Denmark
- ❖ Särkänniemi Adventure Park, Tampere, Finland
- ❖ Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (GSM e.V. Hamburg, Germany)
- ❖ WDCS (Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society), Munich, Germany
- ❖ Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany
- ❖ Duisburg Zoo, Duisburg, Germany
- ❖ Aquazoo/Löbbecke Museum, Düsseldorf, Germany
- ❖ German Oceanographic Museum, Stralsund, Germany
- ❖ Institute for Applied Zoology and Nature Conservation of the University of Greifswald, Germany
- ❖ Institute for Biological Sciences of the University of Rostock, Germany
- ❖ IFM-Geomar of the University of Kiel, Germany
- ❖ Natural History Museum of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
- ❖ Lithuanian Sea Museum, Klaipėda, Lithuania
- ❖ Hel Marine Station, University of Gdańsk, Poland
- ❖ Göteborgs Naturhistoriska Museum, Sweden
- ❖ Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, Sweden
- ❖ Havets Hus, Lysekil, Sweden
- ❖ AquaBiota Water Research, Sweden
- ❖ Natures Center Kullaberg, Sweden
- ❖ Protect Whales & Dolphins, Norrtälje, Sweden