

Bycatch Working Group



National Reporting - Monitoring

Country	Dedicated Observers	Fisheries Observers	REM	Strandings	Bycatch
Belgium	No	No	No	Yes (100)	8 HP, 1 WBD
Denmark		No report submitted			
Finland	No	No	No	No	0
France	No	Yes (5%)	No	Yes (no data*)	No data
Germany	No	Yes (100%)	No	Yes (no data)	3 HP
Netherlands	Yes (10%)	Yes (1%)	Yes (1.5%)	Yes (<10%)	0 (but 20% necropsied)
Poland	No	No	No	No	0 (but 1 vol. report)
Sweden	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (no data)	2 HP (+ 9/20 necropsied)
UK	Yes	Yes (100%)	No	Yes (no data)	5 HP, 3 SBCD

* Two unusual stranding events in Feb + Mar 2017, totalling >793 indivs (84% SBCD – 95% of necropsies were bycaught)



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National Reporting - Mitigation

Country	Pingers	Other Mitigation Measures
Belgium	No	Ban on gill- and tangle nets in recreational fisheries
Denmark	No report	
Finland	No	None
France	No information	No information
Germany	Yes	PAL voluntary in part of Schleswig Holstein coastal gillnet fisheries Ban on all kinds of gillnets in Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park Alternative management approaches & fishing gear investigated
Netherlands	No	None
Sweden	Yes (voluntary*)	Use of pots and trap-nets as alternative to gillnets in areas 24 & 25
UK	Yes	ADDs on all vessels >12m with compliance checked; PAM studies around nets, 3-dimensional tracking tool under development; study of closed areas within SACs

* In ICES areas 21 & 23



National Reporting - Recommendations

- All countries to submit annual reports; ensure supplementary publications are included or with links to website versions
- Provide maps of national fishing effort for previous year by gear type
- Give no. of fishing vessels by size category, gear type & ICES area with standardised measure of effort
- Give no. (& %) of vessels by size category, gear type & ICES area having dedicated monitoring (visual or REM)
- Give no. of bycaught cetaceans by species, gear type and area
- Give no. of necropsied cetaceans by species and no. for each identified as bycatch





General Recommendations - 1

- Improve quality and availability of fishing effort data, by gear type, vessel size category, season, and country
- Ensure adequate bycatch monitoring (improved observer programmes, consideration of REM) and investigate options to make this more cost-effective, particularly to include vessels less than 15 metres length
- Investigate gear specific solutions to mitigate bycatch, including alternative fishing methods
- Ensure that minimising cetacean bycatch is an objective when deciding on fisheries management strategies (e.g. quota on limiting effort)



General Recommendations - 2

- Under Regulation 812/2004, Member States of the EU have provided information on bycatch in formats that were difficult to compare and to compile. Additionally, the information is mostly available only at a very coarse spatio-temporal scale. An international strandings database that includes causes of death could provide, at a more detailed spatio-temporal scale, where and when bycatch occurs (limited to areas relatively close to shore)
- Decide a management procedure approach for determining maximum allowable bycatch limits by species and assessment unit to ensure that ASCOBANS objectives are met

