HARBOUR PORPOISE IN LITHUANIA WATERS

Ignas Kazlauskas
CURRENT STATUS: LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- Protected by:
  - ASCOBANS and HELCOM commitments
  - Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) protection plan
  - Other relevant international agreements (if any)

- Fishery’s regulation:
  - All boats fishing commercially is obliged to use log-books and inform local office EPA about every by-catch case of mammal or sea bird
13 official cases of stranding or by-catch from data of 1903 – 2017
3 cases of accidental sightings in sea
PROTECTION ACTIONS

- Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) protection plan:
  - Education:
    - Flyers, short documentary
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQYP5T0SCbs
  - Data collection
  - Annual
FUTURE PLANS

- Project by Lithuanian sea museum (LSM) and partners to build “Baltic sea animals research and therapy center “ (BARTC)
FISHERIES IN LITHUANIAN COASTAL WATERS

- 101 commercial fisherman and fishing companies (20 fisherman and 90 fishing companies)
- In 92.6% of fishing days gillnets were used
- Official bycatch of marine mammals is 0 (no reports)
- Bycatch of wintering birds up to 10%
- Undergoing research of modification of gillnets to reduce birds bycatch
- Undergoing researches on use of alternative and/or more safe fishing gear use
- By Fisheries development program 2014 – 2020 application is accepted for activities to reduce negative environmental impact of fisheries

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<th>Data source*</th>
<th>Fishing gear</th>
<th>days per year</th>
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USE OF FISHING GEAR IN 2008 - 2014

- Gillnets
- Traps
- Longlines
- Dragnets
AVERAGE LENGTH OF GILLNETS USED PER MONTH IN FISHING BARS
MAP OF FISHING BARS