ASCOBANS region web accessed strandings database

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Image credit MEM/Rod Penrose
Background

- Multiple stranding networks across the ASCOBANS region
- Many operating since 1990 (post PDV epizootic, 1988)
- Necropsy protocols all derived from a common source
- Working independently, intermittent collaborations
- Therefore current position;
  - significant amount of stranding/necropsy data
  - large areas of commonality between various datasets
  - potential for integration/alignment - synergy

3. Use of by-catches and strandings

Each Party shall endeavour to establish an efficient system for reporting and retrieving by-catches and stranded specimens and to carry out, in the framework of the studies mentioned above, full autopsies in order to collect tissues for further studies and to reveal possible causes of death and to document food composition. The information collected shall be made available in an international database.

5. Information and education

Information shall be provided to the general public in order to ensure support for the aims of the agreement in general and to facilitate the reporting of sightings and strandings in particular; and to fishermen in order to facilitate and promote the reporting of by-catches and the delivery of dead specimens to the extent required for research under the agreement.
2011 - feasibility study

- "Feasibility study of creating a web accessed strandings database" - ECS Cadiz workshop, 2011
- Nine attending networks/presentations, data on >40000 strandings and associated necropsy data
- "There was near unanimous approval amongst attending networks for the concept of a centralised web-accessed database"
- Candidate data fields identified; periodic data update; IP retained by collaborating networks/funders; public display data/differing levels of access; GoogleMaps driven etc
- Simple (but not simplistic approach) to be adopted at least initially...

Deaville and Jepson (2012) ASCOBANS Project Report (SSFA2010-2) Interest and feasibility of a web accessed database for marine mammal strandings and necropsy data in the ASCOBANS region
2015- costed proposal

• Funding potentially from UK, Dutch and German governments via ASCOBANS small project (SSFA18-2)
• Potential stakeholders/end users;
  - Policy officials
  - Scientists
  - Public

Deaville et al.
Process outline

- Two year staged delivery (Sep 2018-Sep 2020)*
- ZSL lead (ZSL ICT hosted)
- Phased delivery;
  - **Phase 1** - discussion between partner networks/stakeholders Sep 18-Mar 19
  - **Phase 2** - database/front end build. Metadata and associated page build. Display of strandings data (what/where/when) Dec 18-Aug 19
  - **Phase 3** - discussion between partner networks/pathologists on causes of death (how/why). Output and display of CODs. By-catch... Jul 19-Feb 20
  - **Phase 4** - ongoing/troubleshooting Feb 20-Sep 20
- Additional support beyond two years being discussed
- Relatively low cost proposal- staff time from ZSL ICT and CSIP project management donated
- Simple; but not simplistic...
- Link into/with other strandings initiatives (e.g. IWC etc); mindful of existing initiatives elsewhere (e.g. MEDACES)

Contract signed September 2018, +8 months original proposal

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**ZSL Sustainable Palm Oil Transparency Toolkit**

https://www.spott.org/
Parallel work

- Büsum, Germany (ITAW) 24\textsuperscript{th} July (France, Germany, Netherlands, UK)- use of strandings data to inform policy
  - Analysis of combined dataset of HP and CDs across region; spatiotemporal variation in strandings, pathology and causes of death
  - Inclusion of pinnipeds and > detailed pathology data international database
  - modular inclusion?
- WoZEP (Wind at Sea Ecological Programme)
  - Analysis of HP stranding data around the North Sea region to better understand population structure
  - GAM analysis combined dataset (work 2018-2019)
  - Utrecht University/Rijkswaterstaat
Thank you

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Deaville et al. 2017