

2015 ASCOBANS Annual National Reports

This questionnaire has been pre-filled with answers given in 2014 National Report - **please update!**

This format for the ASCOBANS Annual National Reports was endorsed by the 6th Meeting of the Parties in 2009. Reports are due to be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 March of each year.

Parties are requested to use this report to provide **new** information on measures taken or actions towards meeting the objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan and the Resolutions of the Meeting of the Parties.

General Information

Name of Party

> Finland

Report prepared by

This should indicate the name and affiliation of the lead person for filling in the report.

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Function	Blankett
Organization	Ministry of the Environment
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Coordinating Authority and National Coordinator

Please confirm the Coordinating Authority responsible for the national implementation of the Agreement, and give the name and contact details of the officially appointed National Coordinator (Focal Point).

> Ministry of the Environment

Penina Blankett

List of National Institutions

List of national authorities, organizations, research centres and rescue centres active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans, including contact details

> Ministry of the Environment

Department of the Natural Environment

Ministerial Adviser Penina Blankett

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FI-00023 GOVERNMENT, Finland

> Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Senior Officer Heikki Lehtinen

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> Tampereen Särkänniemi Ltd.

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FINLAND

> SAMBAH partners:

Turku University of Applied Sciences

Project Manager Olli Loisa

Sepänkatu 1

20700 Turku

FINLAND

Habitat Conservation and Management

Fisheries Interactions

Direct Interaction with Fisheries

1.1 Investigations of methods to reduce bycatch

> During the observation scheme 2006-2007 no bycatches were detected or porpoises sighted by the observers.

> After the scheme 2006-2007 porpoise bycatches have not been reported/detected or sightings of porpoises reported by the fisherman or by the fisheries authorities.

1.2 Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

> None

1.4 Report under EC Regulation 812/2004

Please provide the link to your country's report under EC Regulation 812/2004.

> None

Reduction of Disturbance

2.1 Anthropogenic Noise

Please reference and briefly summarise any studies undertaken

> Finland has taken part in BIAS Life+ projekt. The aim for project is to support a regional assessment of the underwater sound in the Baltic Sea

2.4 Pollution and Hazardous Substances

Please report on main types of pollution and hazardous substances (including source, location and observed effects on cetaceans). Please provide information on any new measures taken to reduce pollution likely to have an impact.

> None

2.5 Other Forms of Disturbance

Please provide any other relevant information, e.g. relating to recreational activities affecting cetaceans.

> None

Marine Protected Areas

Marine Protected Areas for Small Cetaceans

3.1 Relevant Information

Please provide any relevant information on measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas for cetaceans, including MPAs designated under the Habitats Directive and MPAs planned or established within the framework of OSPAR or HELCOM.

> None

3.2 GIS Data

Please indicate where GIS data of the boundaries (and zoning, if applicable) can be obtained (contact email / website).

> None

Surveys and Research

4.1 Abundance, Distribution, Population Structure

Overview of Research on Abundance, Distribution and Population Structure

> Finland has taken part in SAMBAH (Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour porpoise) project (<http://www.sambah.org>). The project ended in September 2015.

Dissemination activities have been done widely within the project, e.g. targeted meetings, press releases and media events, magazine articles, poster exhibitions in Särkänniemi Dolphinarium and Kotka Maretarium and a 20-minutes documentary movie about the project. The project and additional info on harbour porpoise have got good media coverage in national and local newspapers and on TV and radio channels.

The acoustic monitoring using C-POD click detectors conducted within the projects SAMBAH and LAMBADAH in 2011-2015 also indicated, that the harbour porpoise is more regular in some parts of the Northern Baltic Sea than was previously thought, however still very low in numbers. The major part of the visually validated acoustic encounters were recorded from the offshore areas between southwest Finland and central Sweden during the cold water seasons from October to April.

4.2 Technological Developments

New Technological Developments

> None

4.3 Other Relevant Research

> None

Use of Bycatches and Strandings

Post-Mortem Research Schemes

5.1 Contact Details

Contact details of research institutions and focal point

> None

5.2 Methodology

Methodology used (reference, e.g. publication, protocol)

> None

5.3 Samples

Collection of samples (type, preservation method)

> None

5.4 Database

Database (number of data sets by species, years covered, software used, online access)

> None

5.5 Additional Information

Additional information (e.g. website addresses, intellectual property rights, possibility of a central database)

> None

Activities and Results

5.7 Other Relevant Information

Please provide any other relevant information on post-mortem / stranding schemes

> None

Relevant New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

6.1 New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

Please provide any relevant information

> The new fisheries legislation (379/2015, in force 1.1.2016) stipulates in article 62 that fishermen are obliged to immediately inform Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) of by-caught seals and harbor porpoises.

Public Awareness and Education

7.1 Public Awareness and Education

Please report on any public awareness and education activities to implement or promote the Agreement to the general public and to fishermen.

> Finland has continued the harbour porpoise sighting campaign in 2014 and 2015. In 2014 there was verified six sightings of 12 animals and in 2015 two verified sightings of 5 animals.

> The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have established a common practice of recommending fishermen to avoid fishing with nets in coastal areas where harbour porpoises have been sighted.

> Tampereen Särkänniemi did continue to keep information about porpoises available for it's visitors during the year. International Baltic Harbor Porpoise Day was also celebrated with some activities and an exhibition of Baltic harbor porpoise and SAMBAH-research preliminary results, this was also insome degree shared for the media. Another new activity has been school visits by Kai Mattsson (Meritime Consulting) with lessons of marine life and porpoises in the Baltic and other seas (within ASCOBANS area).

Possible difficulties encountered in implementing the Agreement

Difficulties in Implementing the Agreement

Please provide any relevant information

> None