

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

> Lithuania

Report prepared by

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

Name	Miglė Rimkevičiūtė
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Organization	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
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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).

> National Coordinator:

Miglė Rimkevičiūtė
Chief Desk Officer of Nature Protection Division
Phone number: +370 7066 3493
E-mail: migle.rimkeviciute@am.lt

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

> Lithuanian Sea Museum
Address: Smiltynės g. 3, LT- 9310 Klaipėda, Lithuania
Tel.: + 370 46 492250, +370 46 490751
Fax.: +370 46 490750
Email: ljm@muziejus.lt
www.muziejus.lt

> Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
Address: A. Jakšto g. 4/9, LT-01105 Vilnius, Lithuania
Telephone: +370 5 2663661
Fax.: +370 5 2663663
Email: info@am.lt
www.am.lt

> Marine Research Department of Environmental Protection Agency
Address: Taikos pr. 26, LT-91149 Klaipėda, Lithuania
Telephone: +370 46 410450
Fax.: +370 46 410460
Email: jtd@aaa.am.lt
www.gamta.lt

> Coastal Research and Planning Institute of Klaipeda University
Address: H. Manto g. 84, LT-92294 Klaipėda, Lithuania
Telephone: +370 46 398846
Fax.: +370 46 398845
www.corpi.ku.lt

Habitat Conservation and Management

Fisheries Interactions

Direct Interaction with Fisheries

1.1 Investigations of methods to reduce bycatch

> There was no investigation of methods to reduce bycatch.

1.2 Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

> There was no implementation of methods to reduce bycatch.

1.3 Other relevant information

Other relevant information, including bycatch information from opportunistic sources

> None

1.4 Report under EC Regulation 812/2004

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

> Attached

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[2015_LTreport.doc](#)

Reduction of Disturbance

2.1 Anthropogenic Noise

Please reference and briefly summarise any studies undertaken

> There are no studies of anthropogenic noise done.

2.2 Ship Strike Incidents

Please list all known incidents and provide information separately for each

	Date	Species	Type of Injury	Fatal Injury (Yes/No)	Type of Vessel (length, tonnage, speed)	Location (coordinates)	More Information (name, email)
Incident	None						
Incident							
Incident							
Incident							
Incident							

Incident							
Incident							
Incident							
Incident							
Incident							

2.3 Major Incidents

Major Incidents Affecting Significant Numbers of Cetaceans (two or more animals)

	Date	Location	Type of Incident	Further Information
Incident	None			
Incident				
Incident				
Incident				
Incident				

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.

> No new measurements were taken.

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.

> There are no protected areas for cetaceans established in Lithuania. There are no possibilities to identify such areas because of lack of data on cetaceans in Lithuanian sea zone.

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

> No data of harbour porpoise presence in Lithuanian Baltic Sea coastal waters were collect since 2015.

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
> No post-mortem researches were performed.

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

> None

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.

> Some information about the Baltic Harbour porpoise were published in "The book of Baltic sea", which was released during implementation of DENOFLIT (Inventory of marine species and habitats for development of Natura 2000 network in the offshore waters of Lithuania) project, in 2015. On a website of Lithuanian Ministry of Environment everyone can find active hyperlink to watch the film about the Baltic Harbour porpoise (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQYP5T0SCbs>). At the same website it is possible to find information about harbour porpoise biology, ecology, history of observations in Lithuania, international status of protection and threats (in Lithuanian language: <http://www.am.lt/VI/index.php#a/12443>). In order to inform wider public, have been prepared and published information about the Baltic Harbour porpoise in popular public information web pages.

> The International Harbour Porpoise Day was celebrated on 18th May 2015 at the Lithuanian Sea Museum. The event was intended for school children. The first task for children was to learn how to sort waste correctly, after that they learned about Baltic sea biodiversity and had educative lecture about the Baltic Harbour porpoise. Also, the movie about the Baltic Harbour porpoise was shown. Using their gain knowledge children was asked to draw posters, colour the pictures and answering questions. Teachers also were involved, they were creating stories about the Baltic Harbour porpoise. After all day participants were able to see interesting live dolphins performance.

Possible difficulties encountered in implementing the Agreement

Difficulties in Implementing the Agreement

Please provide any relevant information

> The main difficulties originate that there is no data on presence of cetaceans in the marine waters of Lithuania.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) was recorded two times - one dead individual was found in 1998 and two animals were observed in 2007. According to the information of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species it may be the best way to consider the Common Bottlenose Dolphin as extralimital in all Baltic Sea.

The last records of two harbour porpoise findings (as bycatch) were in 2001 and 2003. No harbour porpoises were detected during the marine mammals inventory in 2007-2009, which was a part of the LIFE project "Marine Protected Areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea".

The survey of fisherman which was carried out in 2014 showed that they have never seen harbour porpoises in the waters of the Republic of Lithuania during 2012-2014 years period.

Annual report on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 812/2004 – (2014)

Member State: Lithuania

Reference Period: 2014

Date: 19/03/2015

Author: Tomas Zolubas, e-mail: TomasZolubas@zuv.lt

Summary

By implementing Council Regulation of 26.4.2004 No 812/2004 laying down measures concerning incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries and amending Regulation (EC) No 88/98 Lithuania run in to difficulties due to two problems: Observer schemes can't be financed or co-financed under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1078/2008 of 3 November 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 as regards the expenditure incurred by Member States for the collection and management of the basic fisheries data (*OJ L 295, 4.11.2008, p. 24–33*) and by another EU financial programs. Part of Lithuanian fleet which operates with pelagic trawls and gillnets is relatively small. 1 gill-netter and 16 OTM trawlers are not suitable to take an observer on board on the basis of lack of space on the vessel and for safety reasons. Execution of the Lithuanian obligations on observer schemes fully depends on cooperation with one fishing company, which has 3 vessels that are operating with pelagic pair trawls (PTM). In 2015 this company was not able to take observer on board, therefore for evaluation we used interviews with fishermen.

No incidental catches of cetaceans were observed in the 2014.

ACOUSTIC DETERRENT DEVICES

1. General Information.

Regarding articles 2 and 3. **There were no fishing operations** by Lithuanian vessels in areas where the use of acoustic deterrent devices is mandatory as described in ANNEX 1 of Regulation 812/2004 in 2014.

2. Acoustic Deterrent Devices (Article 2 and 3).

2.1 Description of the fleet.

Metier	Fishing area	Total fishing effort						
		No. of vessels	% vessels using pingers	No. of trips	Days at sea	Months of operation	Total length of nets	Total soak time
GNS (demersal)	27.III d.26	1	0	34	124	January-June, September-December	51520	2762

2.2 Mitigation measures -

2.3 Additional information -

3. Monitoring and assessment. Not relevant (see General information).

OBSERVER SCHEMES

4. General information on implementation of Articles 4 and 5.

1 gill-netter and 16 OTM trawlers are not suitable to take an observer on board on the basis of lack of space on the vessel and for safety reasons. Execution of the Lithuanian obligations on observer schemes fully depends on cooperation with one fishing company, which has 3 vessels that are operating with pelagic pair trawls (PTM). In 2015 this company was not able to take observer on board, therefore for evaluation of bycatch we used interviews with fishermen.

4.1 Provide information on legislative or administrative measures following provisions of Art.4 or 5. (See chapter 4).

4.2 Provide information on difficulties implementing articles 4 and 5 of Council Regulation (EC) No 812/2004.

Observer schemes can't be financed or co-financed under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1078/2008 of 3 November 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 as regards the expenditure incurred by Member States for the collection and management of the basic fisheries data (*OJ L 295, 4.11.2008, p. 24-33*) and by another EU financial programs.

Part of Lithuanian fleet which operates with pelagic trawls and gillnets is relatively small. 1 gill-netter and 16 OTM trawlers are not suitable to take an observer on board on the basis of lack of space on the vessel and for safety reasons. Execution of the Lithuanian obligations on observer schemes fully depends on cooperation with one fishing company, which has 3 vessels that are operating with pelagic pair trawls (PTM). In 2015 this company was not able to take observer on board.

4.3 Indicate whether the observer programme is dedicated for the purpose of this Regulation only, or whether the on-board observers are used for other purposes also. (See chapter 4).

5. Monitoring

5.1 Description of fishing effort and observer effort in towed gear.

Metier	Fishing area	Total fishing effort						Total observer effort achieved*						Type of monitoring	Coverage
		No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	No. of hauls	Total towsing time	No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	No. of hauls	Total towsing time		
OTM (small pelagic fish)	27.III d.	16	253	706	January-December	409	2666	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PTM (small pelagic fish)	27.III d.	3	40	267	February-May, December	109	857	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*See chapter 4.

Additional information.

No fishing efforts with pelagic pair trawls (PTM) were made in 22-24 ICES Subdivisions. No fishing efforts with pelagic trawl (OTM) were made in 22-24 ICES Subdivision. All efforts took place in 25-29 ICES Subdivisions.

Fishing efforts made with 16 small fishing vessels (OTM fishing gear) = 88905 kw*fishing days.

Fishing efforts made with 3 big fishing vessels (PTM fishing gear) = 109200 kw*fishing days.

Fishing efforts at all: 198105 kw*fishing days.

5.2 Description of fishing effort and observer effort in static gear.

Metier	Fishing area	Total fishing effort						Total observer effort achieved*						Type of monitoring	Coverage
		No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	Total length of nets	Total soak time	No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	Total length of nets	Total soak time		
GNS (demersal fish)	27.III d.26	1	34	124	January-June, September-December	51520	2762	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*See chapter 4.

6. Estimation of incidental catches.

Fishing efforts made with 16 small fishing vessels (OTM fishing gear) = 88905 kw*fishing days.

Fishing efforts made with 3 big fishing vessels (PTM fishing gear) = 109200 kw*fishing days.

Fishing efforts at all: 198105 kw*fishing days.

Due to problems described in chapter 4, Lithuania was under the necessity to evaluate bycatch of cetacean family animal bycatch examining masters and other crew members during the vessels inspection in the port or at sea. More than 220 interviews were made in 2014. No incidental catches of cetaceans by Lithuanian Baltic Sea fishing vessels were observed in the 2014.

No incidental catches of cetaceans were observed in the 2014.

7. Discussion.

If one of the tasks of Regulation (EC) 812/2004 is to make evaluation of cetacean family animal bycatch, than the most important is to evaluate water volume filtered by trawls. Such water volume is not good reflected by number of trips and is not good reflected by number of fishing days. We propose to use characteristic - **kw*fishing days** for "Coverage" evaluation.

8. Conclusions.

No incidental catches of cetaceans were observed in the 2014.