



JOINT SESSION OF THE NORTH SEA AND JASTARNIA GROUPS  
Online, 14 April 2026  
Agenda Item 4

## **REVIEW OF OVERLAPS BETWEEN THE ASCOBANS NATIONAL REPORTING AND OTHER REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

*(Prepared by the Intersessional Working Group on National Reporting Overlaps)*

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MOP10) to ASCOBANS decided to establish an Intersessional Working Group (WG) to implement Work Plan Activity 68:  
  
“Review overlaps in national reporting with other reporting obligations (e.g. MPAs to EMODNet, noise and bycatch to ICES) and identify if any topics in ASCOBANS National Reports can instead be accessed in such databases to avoid duplication of efforts.” ([ASCOBANS Resolution 10.2/Rev.1](#))
2. The Secretariat called for volunteers for the Working Group in May and June 2025. As a result, the WG consist of representatives from Denmark (Chair), the Netherlands, the International Whaling Commission, and the Jastarnia Group, and has started its work.
3. The WG asked ASCOBANS AC29 to provide input, using a spreadsheet questionnaire. Responses were provided by Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the United Kingdom.
4. The WG and ASCOBANS Secretariat have prepared a summary of the responses to identify overlaps and streamlining opportunities of the National Reporting. This summary is presented in Annex 1 to this document (separate file linked [here](#) on the NSG14 website and [here](#) on the JG22 website).
5. The WG will present the final results and corresponding recommendations in a report to AC30. The final report and recommendations regarding the National Reporting form is to be presented for consideration of AC31 and then for MOP11.

### **Action requested:**

6. The Jastarnia and North Sea Groups are requested to provide feedback on:
  - a) Which reporting topics, if any, most urgently need streamlining or reforming;
  - b) Whether it would be beneficial to generally make more use of “living documents” or document to be updated only if new information is available; and
  - c) Whether it would be beneficial to report on each topic if it has been reported to other organizations, and if so, whether further reporting is needed.