



14th MEETING OF THE NORTH SEA GROUP
Online, 13-14 April 2026
Agenda Item 1.2

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
 - 1.1. Welcome and announcements
 - 1.2. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Implementation review: Bycatch
 - 2.1. Identify the priority bycatch issues and relevant stakeholders (RES-01)
 - 2.2. Improve estimates of bycatch rates to support development of conservation strategy (RES-02)
 - 2.3. Implement and assess pinger and other mitigation measures to reduce bycatch (MIT-01)
3. Implementation review: Distribution and abundance
 - 3.1. Implement a wide-scale surveillance programme to monitor trends in distribution and abundance in the Greater North Sea (MON-01)
 - 3.2. Improve understanding of causes of seasonal and annual variation in abundance and distribution, particularly in relation to human activities and environmental change, to facilitate consideration of the species within marine spatial plans (RES-03)
 - 3.3. Further our understanding of population structure (RES-04)
4. Implementation review: Health and causes of mortality, Diet and nutritional status, Life history parameters
 - 4.1. Monitoring of health and nutritional status, diet, life history parameters, and causes of mortality (MON-02)
 - 4.2. Improve understanding of and develop mitigation for the risks of anthropogenic sound (MIT-02)
 - 4.3. Ensure screening and assessment of the occurrence and effects of hazardous substances (MON-03)
 - 4.4. Monitor for potential increases in anthropogenic activities that lead to incidences of death, injury or adverse health effects (MON-04)
5. Implementation review: Other activities
 - 5.1. Monitor habitat quality, including protected sites, to ensure management is effective and that the ecological functions are maintained (MON-05)
6. Overall progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan
7. Review of Recommendations from the North Sea Group
8. Any other business
9. Dates and venue of the 15th Meeting of the North Sea Group
10. Closing of the Meeting

14 April 2026, joint session with the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group in the afternoon:

1. Opening of the joint session
2. CMS COP15 & ASCOBANS AC30
3. Updates and research across the North and Baltic Seas
4. Discussion about national reporting overlaps
5. Close of the joint session