

Overview of HELCOM matters related to harbour porpoise

22nd Meeting of the Jastarnia Group
15-16 April 2026

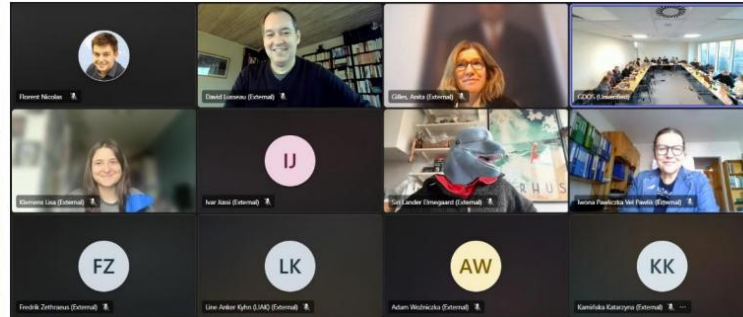


HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals (EG MaMa) (1/2)

Informal Consultation Session (IC EG MAMA 4-2025) held on 25-27 November 2025 in Warsaw, Poland

! Among many other topics:

- Overview of data reporting: more clarities for the Contracting Parties to report relevant data, for example:
 - Registered mortality of harbour porpoise and sightings (HELCOM/ASCOBANS harbour porpoise database hosted under the HELCOM Biodiversity database)
 - Sightings of uncommon marine mammals species in the HELCOM Area
 - PAM of harbour porpoise (under the HELCOM Biodiversity database)
- Planning the 4th HELCOM Holistic Assessment (HOLAS 4): data reporting, contribution of relevant projects (i.e. SAMBAH 2, CUMBIAH), contribution to cumulative impact assessment / HELCOM SPIA tool (Spatial Pressure and Impact Assessment), etc.)
- Further discussion on developing practical / concrete suggestions to tackle issues related to HD and MSFD assessments results
- Review to update relevant HELCOM monitoring programmes, update of monitoring guideline and discussion on new potential monitoring guidelines



HELCOM Expert Group on Marine Mammals (EG MaMa) (2/2)

- Status of the work on knowledge gaps on all threats for the western Baltic harbour porpoise (Action B8 of the Baltic Sea Action Plan)
 - Latest information on ongoing research and relevant initiatives
 - Update of activities from ASCOBANS
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- Next dedicated session to finalize all HOLAS 4 aspects : **8 September 2026** (online)
 - Next informal consultation session: **24-26 November 2026** (Gothenburg, Sweden)



HELCOM Working Group on Biodiversity, Protection and Restoration (WG BioDiv)

Dedicated session on threats posed to harbour porpoise (part of IC WG BIODIV 5-2025, May 2025, Tallinn, Estonia)

- Progress in implementing the BSAP action B8
- Interaction between ASCOBANS and the HELCOM Network for Marine Protected Area Management (MPA MaNet) concerning MPA management of small cetaceans / webinar held on 4 December 2025 and co-organized by ASCOBANS, HELCOM and PROTECT BALTIC project

Recorded and available [here!](#)



Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG)

- Updated Guideline for the implementation of **ecosystem-based approach** in **Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)** in the Baltic Sea area
- Prior version from 2016!
 - The updated Guideline was approved by HELCOM Heads of Delegation on 16 January 2026 and by VASAB CSPD/BSR on 2 March 2026
 - To be published soon!



Thank you!

For additional information: florent.nicolas@helcom.fi
Sorry for not being able to attend!

