

## PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND SCHEDULE

Day 1 – Monday, 13 April 2026

10:00-18:00 CEST

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter / Lead	Docs / Comments
09:45	<i>MS Teams session will be opened. Participants can log in to test video and audio connections.</i>		<i>The meeting link will be sent to registered participants only.</i>
<b>10:00</b>	<b>1. Opening of the Meeting</b>		
	<b>1.1. Welcome and announcements</b> Short welcoming remarks and housekeeping information.	Secretariat	
	<b>1.2. Adoption of the Agenda</b> Members will be requested to review and adopt the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule. Late items and topics to be discussed under item 8 (Any other business) may be suggested. <a href="#">Rules of Procedure</a> for the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee apply to the North Sea Group.	Chair	<a href="#">Doc.1.2a</a> Provisional Agenda <b>Doc.1.2b</b> Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter / Lead	Docs / Comments
10:15	<p><b>2. Implementation review: Bycatch</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Identify the priority bycatch issues and relevant stakeholders (RES-01)</b> The target of this Action is to identify which gear types and areas pose greatest risk to porpoises in the region, and the best routes to stakeholder engagement. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p> <p><b>2.2 Improve estimates of bycatch rates to support development of conservation strategy (RES-02)</b> The target of this Action is to obtain robust and comprehensive estimates of porpoise bycatch for the region (incorporating all fleets and gear types). Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up-to-date overview and ongoing developments with ICES bycatch advice</li> </ul> <p><b>2.3 Implement and assess pinger and other mitigation measures to reduce bycatch (MIT-01)</b> The target of this Action is to develop, test and implement mitigation measures that effectively reduce bycatch and are acceptable to the fishing industry. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges and successes in attempts to reduce cetacean bycatch in UK waters</li> </ul>	<p><b>Members</b> Sweden Denmark Germany The Netherlands UK Belgium</p> <p>Marie-Julie Roux</p> <p>Sarah Dolman</p>	
12:00	<p><b>3. Implementation review: Distribution and abundance</b></p> <p><b>3.1. Implement a wide-scale surveillance programme to monitor trends in distribution and abundance in the Greater North Sea (MON-01)</b> The target of this Action is to determine in a statistically robust way temporal trends in porpoise distribution and abundance in the region. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p> <p><b>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)</b> The target of this Action is to better understand environmental and anthropogenic causes of both seasonal and annual changes in porpoise abundance and distribution in the region. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p>	Members	

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter / Lead	Docs / Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poseidon Project</li> </ul>	Peter Evans	
13:00	<b>Lunch break 1h</b>		
14:00	<p><b>3. Implementation review: Distribution and abundance (<i>continued</i>)</b></p> <p><b>3.3 Further our understanding of population structure (RES-04)</b> The target of this Action is to establish whether porpoises in the Greater North Sea form a single demographically distinct management unit or more than one. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NL Porpoise tagging project</li> </ul>	Jip Vrooman	
14:30	<b>4. Implementation review: Health and causes of mortality, Diet and nutritional status, Life history parameters</b>		
	<p><b>4.1. Monitoring of health and nutritional status, diet, life history parameters, and causes of mortality (MON-02)</b> The target of this Action is to establish porpoise health and life history trends from strandings. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DK drone study with photogrammetry to determine body mass, pregnancy etc in wild harbour porpoise</li> </ul>	Members  Fredrik Christiansen	
	<p><b>4.2. Improve understanding of and develop mitigation for the risks of anthropogenic sound (MIT-02)</b> The target of this Action is to obtain a better understanding of the impacts on porpoises of anthropogenic sound in the region and how best to mitigate these. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advances in the inner ear analysis of cetaceans</li> </ul>	Members  Maria Morell	
15:30	<p><b>4.3. Ensure screening and assessment of the occurrence and effects of hazardous substances (MON-03)</b> The target of this Action is to establish trends in levels of hazardous substances in porpoises in the region and assess physiological impacts. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p>	Members	



**Day 2 - Tuesday, 14 April 2026**

10:00-13:00 CEST

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter / Lead	Docs / Comments
10:00	<p><b>6. Overall progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan</b></p> <p>The Coordinator of the North Sea Plan will give a presentation reflecting the progress under the North Sea Plan. Members will be invited to comment and fill any gaps in the relevant parts of the Progress Report.</p> <p>Members will be invited to review the draft Progress Report on the Implementation of the North Sea Plan, and to provide updates. Specific comments on the draft Progress Report should be sent to the Coordinator of the North Sea Plan in writing, by <b>4 May 2026</b>.</p>	Peter Evans	<a href="#">Doc.6</a> Draft Progress Report
11:00	<b>Break 30min</b>		
11:30	<p><b>7. Review of Recommendations from the North Sea Group</b></p> <p>Participants will be invited to review Recommendations from NSG13 and develop new ones from the current meeting, as needed.</p>	Chair	<a href="#">Recommendations from NSG13</a>
12:30	<b>8. Any other business</b>		
12:45	<p><b>9. Dates and venue for the 15th Meeting of the North Sea Group</b></p> <p>The Secretariat welcomes offers to host the next meeting of the North Sea Group. Members will also be invited to discuss the timing of the next meeting.</p>	Secretariat	
13:00	<b>10. Close of the Meeting</b>		

**Day 2 - Tuesday, 14 April 2026**

14:00 – 18:00 CEST

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter / Lead	Docs / Comments
<b>Joint session with the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group</b>			
13:45	<i>MS Teams session will be opened. Participants can log in to check video and audio connections.</i>		<i>The meeting link will be sent only to registered participants.</i>
14:00	<b>1. Opening of the Joint Session</b>		
14:05	<b>2. CMS COP15 &amp; ASCOBANS AC30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of relevant outcomes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to CMS</li> <li>• Planning for the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC30)</li> </ul>	Jenny Renell	
14:20	<b>3. Updates and research across the North and Baltic Seas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on CIBBRINA LIFE project</li> <li>• Bycatch estimations from the Swedish monitoring program</li> <li>• Pinger functionality with data from bycatch monitoring program</li> <li>• Update on species distribution modelling for harbour porpoises in the North Sea and Belt Seas</li> </ul>	A.-M. Svoboda Torbjörn Säterberg Kristin Öhman Anita Gilles	
15:00	<b>Break 15 min</b>		
15:15	<b>Updates and research across the North and Baltic Seas (<i>continued</i>)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passive acoustic monitoring – optimising the power to detect temporal changes in relative density of a cetacean population under pressure</li> <li>• Guidelines for monitoring of offshore wind</li> <li>• Vessel noise and energy budgets</li> <li>• Three decades of anisakid nematode infections in harbour porpoises of the North- and Baltic Sea: trends and health effects</li> </ul>	Signe Sveegaard  Line Kyhn Laia Rojano Doñate Kristina Lehnert	

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16:15	<b>Break 15 min</b>			
16:30	4.	<b>Discussion about National Reporting overlaps</b> The participants are requested to review the document produced by the ASCOBANS Intersessional Working Group on National Reporting Overlaps, and are invited to provide feedback.	Siri Elmegaard	<a href="#">NSG-JG-2026/Doc.4</a>
18:00	5.	<b>Closing of the joint session</b>		