



Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans  
of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas



# NSG14 Denmark

Signe Sveegaard, Aarhus University

**Identify the priority bycatch issues and relevant stakeholders (RES-01)**



**Improve estimates of bycatch rates to support development of conservation strategy (RES-02)**



**Implement and assess pinger and other mitigation measures to reduce bycatch (MIT-01)**



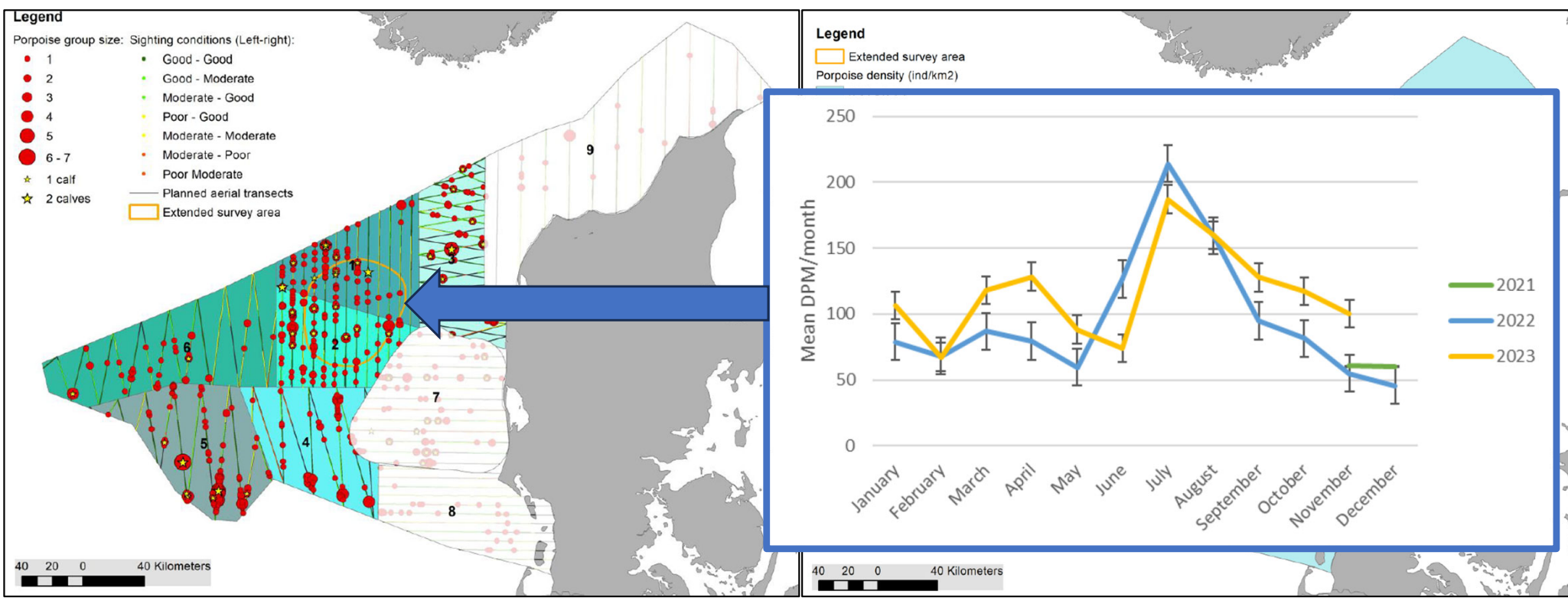
DTU Aqua is responsible for the bycatch monitoring in Denmark. As they are not participating all available results from Denmark are include in the presentation by Marie-Julie Roux

# Implement a wide-scale surveillance programme to monitor trends in distribution and abundance in the Greater North Sea (MON-01 , RES-03)



National aerial surveys – four areas

2022-2025: several large windfarm area assessments in Danish North Sea

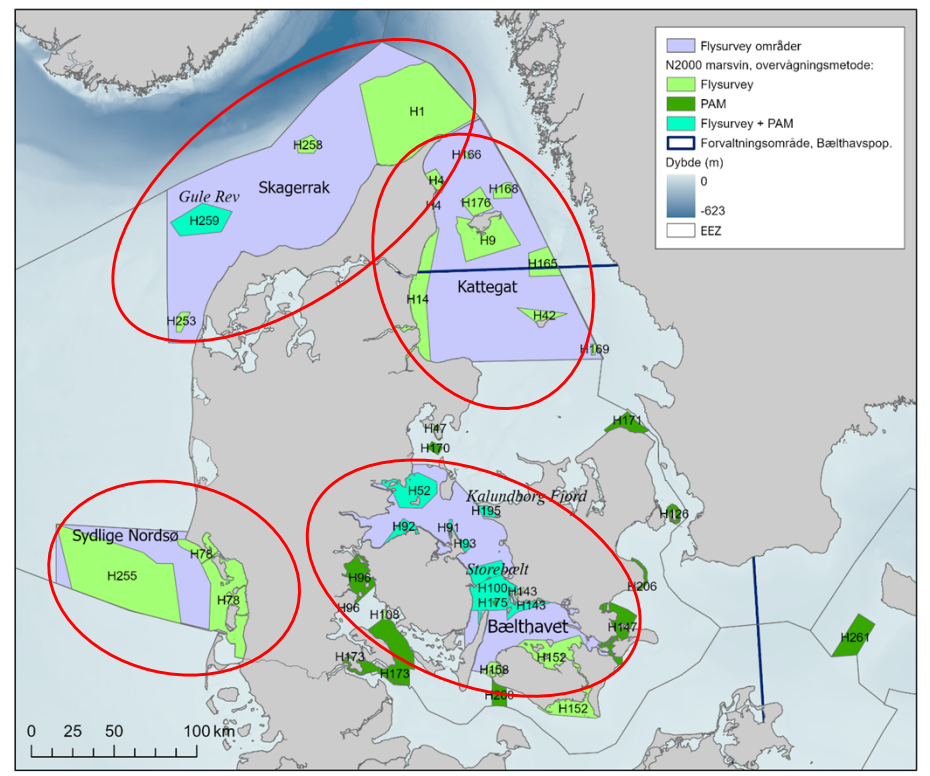
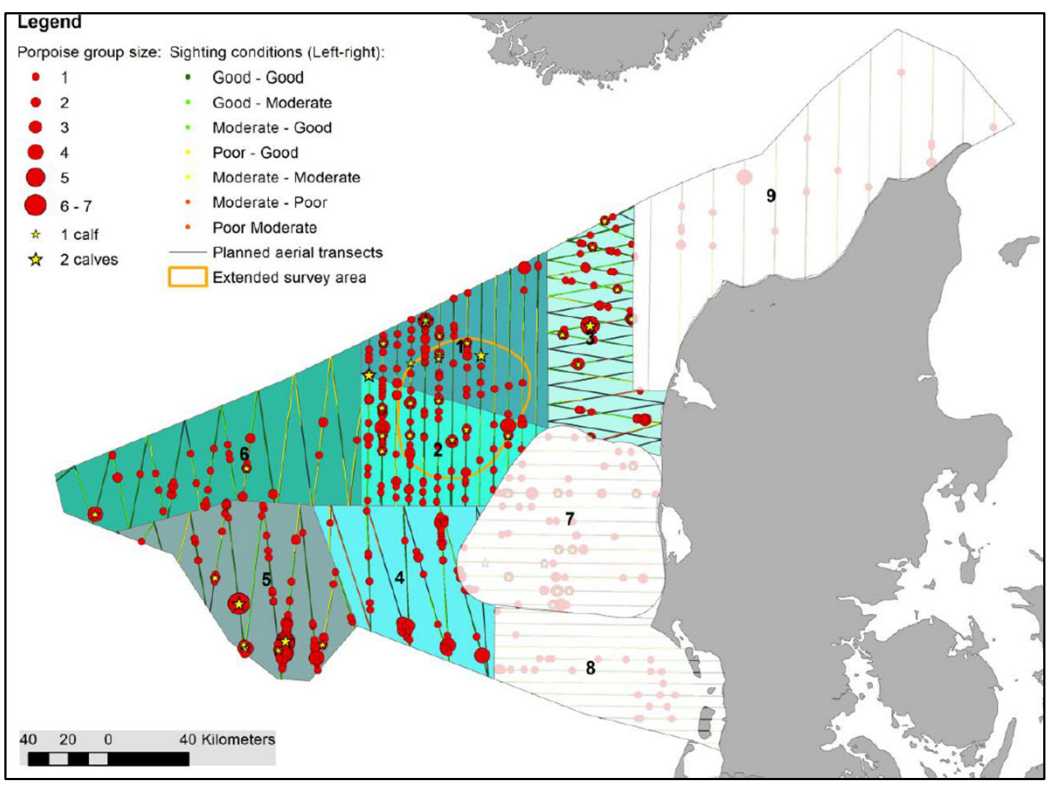


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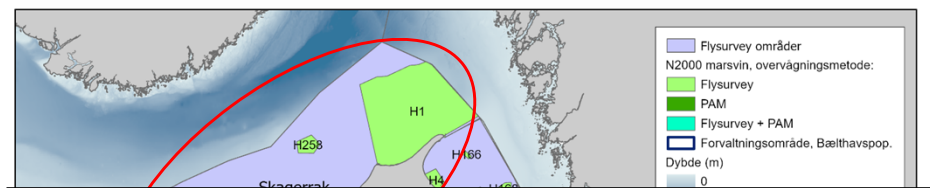
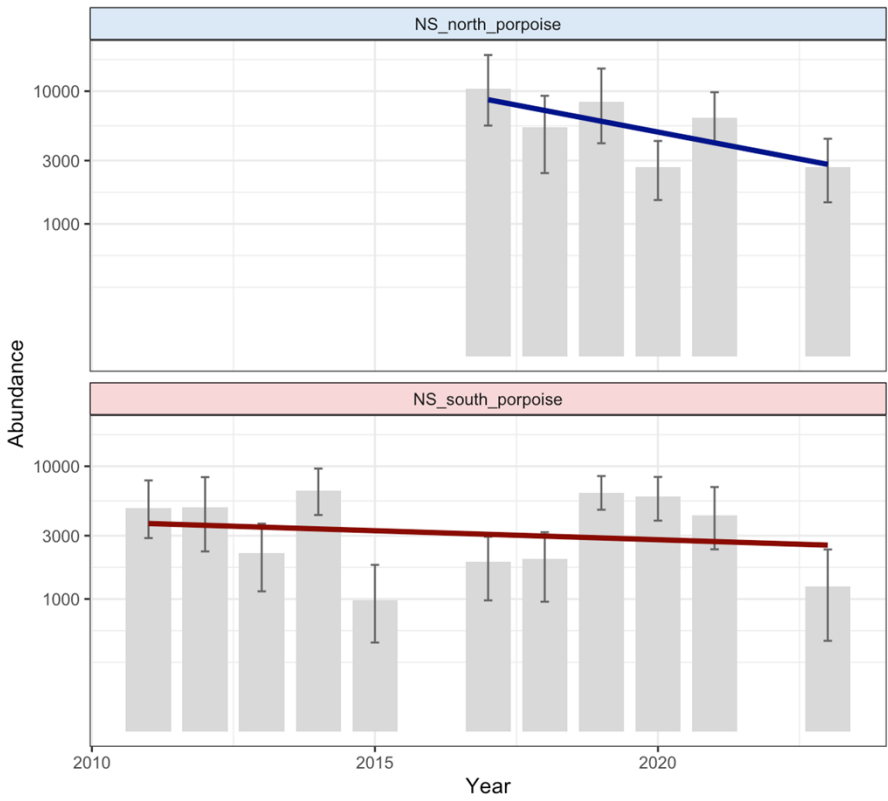


# Implement a wide-scale surveillance programme to monitor trends in distribution and abundance in the Greater North Sea (MON-01 , RES-03)

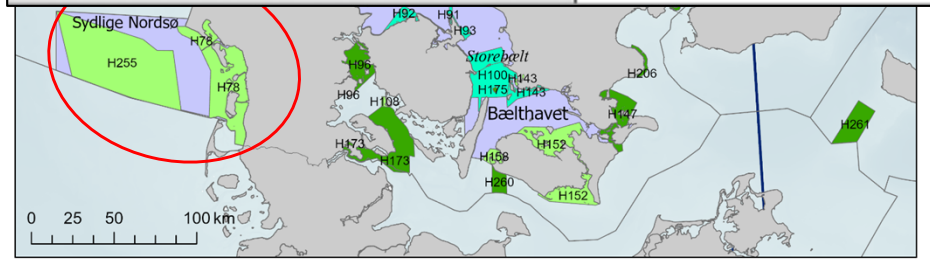


National aerial surveys – four areas

2022-2025: several large windfarm area assessments in Danish North Sea



Species_stock	growth_rate
NS_north_porpoise	0.813
NS_south_porpoise	0.9979



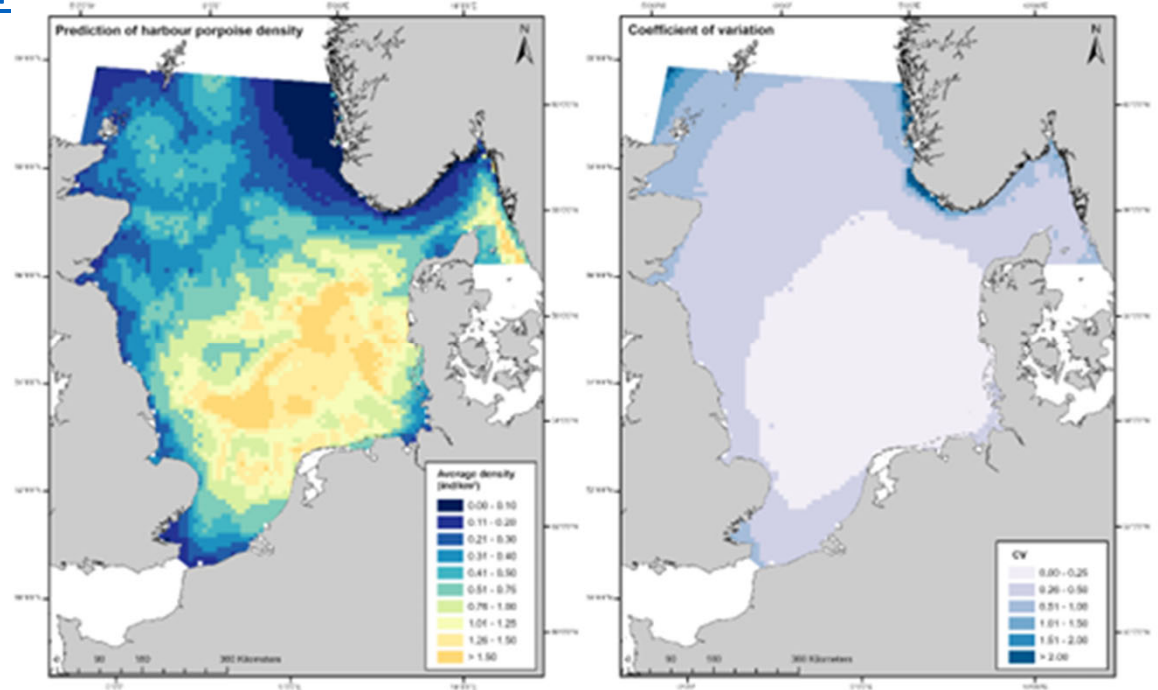
# Implement a wide-scale surveillance programme to monitor trends in distribution and abundance in the Greater North Sea (MON-01 , RES-03)



National aerial surveys – four areas

2022-2025: several large windfarm area assessments in Danish North Sea => New distribution models (Gilles et al 2025)

[https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Eksterne\\_udgivelser/2025/DK\\_North\\_Sea\\_Modelling\\_report\\_TiHo\\_20251002.pdf](https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Eksterne_udgivelser/2025/DK_North_Sea_Modelling_report_TiHo_20251002.pdf)



# Further our understanding of population structure (RES-04)



No new information

# Monitoring of health and nutritional status, diet, life history parameters, and causes of mortality (MON-02)



All strandings reported in annual report: <https://fimus.dk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Beredskabsrapport-2024-final.pdf>

2024: 282 stranded porpoises

**13 Dissections (4 NS/9 BS):**

6 bycaught

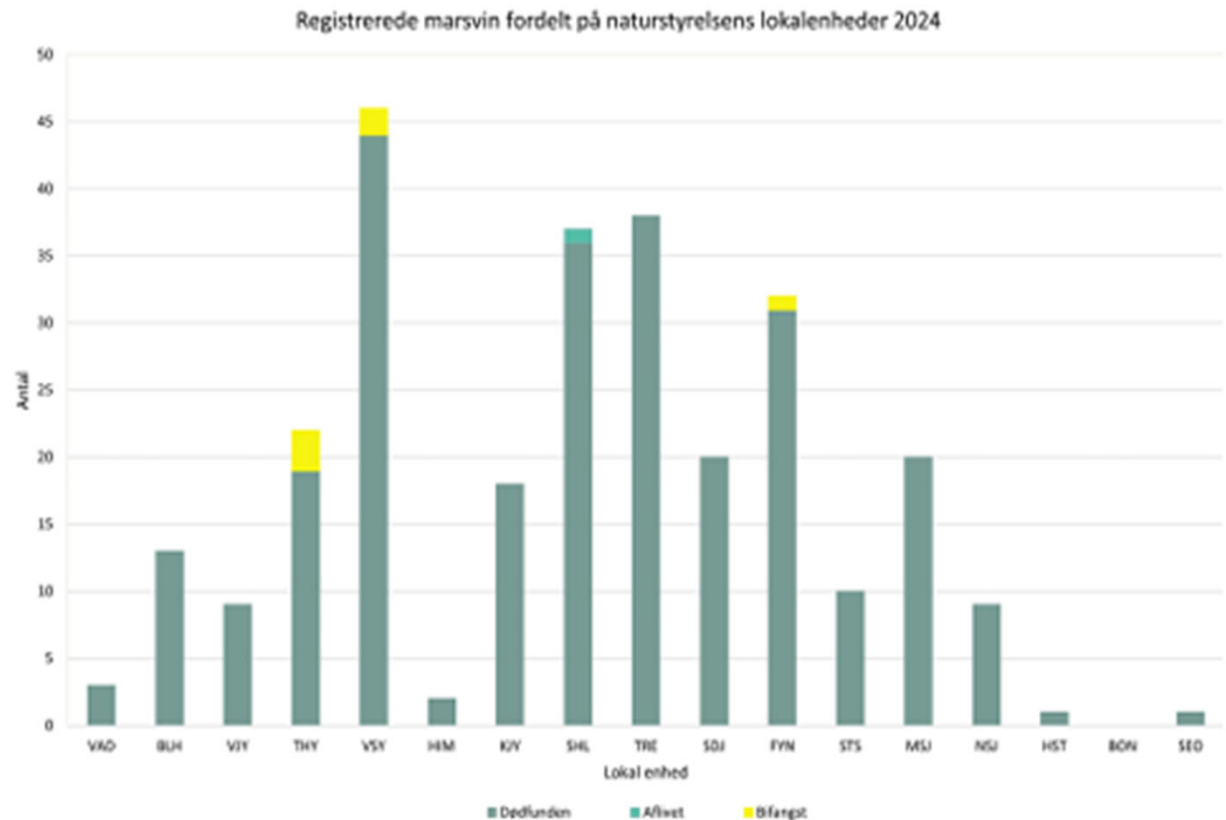
3 grey seal attack

3 dolphin attack

7/13 under nourished

SATURN project: cost of boat disturbances – Laila's talk

Fredrik Christensen - AU Project on estimation of porpoise fitness using drones



# Improve understanding of and develop mitigation for the risks of anthropogenic sound (MIT-02)



Projects in Denmark or with Danish participation (finished in 2025):

- **SATURN** (finished in 2025): Effects of ship noise on seals and porpoises studied by on-animal tags (D-tags). Laia presentation.
- **Energy Island North Sea/North Sea lot1** (finished in 2025): Baseline monitoring of underwater noise in relation to offshore wind farm projects. – Including estimation of effect of geophysical surveys on baseline data + study on turbine “reef effect”  
[https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Eksterne\\_udgivelser/2025/NSI\\_WPD\\_MARINEMAMMALS\\_TR\\_Y2\\_2025\\_102225-4.pdf](https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Eksterne_udgivelser/2025/NSI_WPD_MARINEMAMMALS_TR_Y2_2025_102225-4.pdf)  
[https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Eksterne\\_udgivelser/2025/NS1\\_USBL\\_detection\\_study.pdf](https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Eksterne_udgivelser/2025/NS1_USBL_detection_study.pdf)
- **ENS screening project**: Soundscape mapping of Danish waters, with focus on contribution from wind farms incl. sensitivity maps of marine mammals.  
[https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Videnskabelige\\_rapporter\\_600-699/SR667.pdf](https://dce.au.dk/fileadmin/dce.au.dk/Udgivelser/Videnskabelige_rapporter_600-699/SR667.pdf)
- Comparison of noise effect on detections on CPOD, FPOD and soundtraps (AU project) ongoing
- **A sound marine environment**: Monitoring of noise from ships and recreational vessels in Aarhus Bay, including effects on porpoises. Ongoing.

# Improve understanding of and develop mitigation for the risks of anthropogenic sound (MIT-02)



## Guidelines:

- ENS **guidelines for seismic surveys** with air guns, including requirements for soft starts (in press 2025)
- Contributing to **guidelines for use of deterring sounds prior to underwater explosions** for ongoing HELCOM work. Draft available: [https://meetings.helcom.fi/\\_entity/annotation/335981c3-61e8-ef11-be21-000d3a698a8e](https://meetings.helcom.fi/_entity/annotation/335981c3-61e8-ef11-be21-000d3a698a8e)
- Regulation of monitoring harbour porpoises before, during and after windfarm construction. <https://ens.dk/media/7335/download> - Line Kyhn will present tomorrow

# Ensure screening and assessment of the occurrence and effects of hazardous substances (MON-03)



Chemosphere

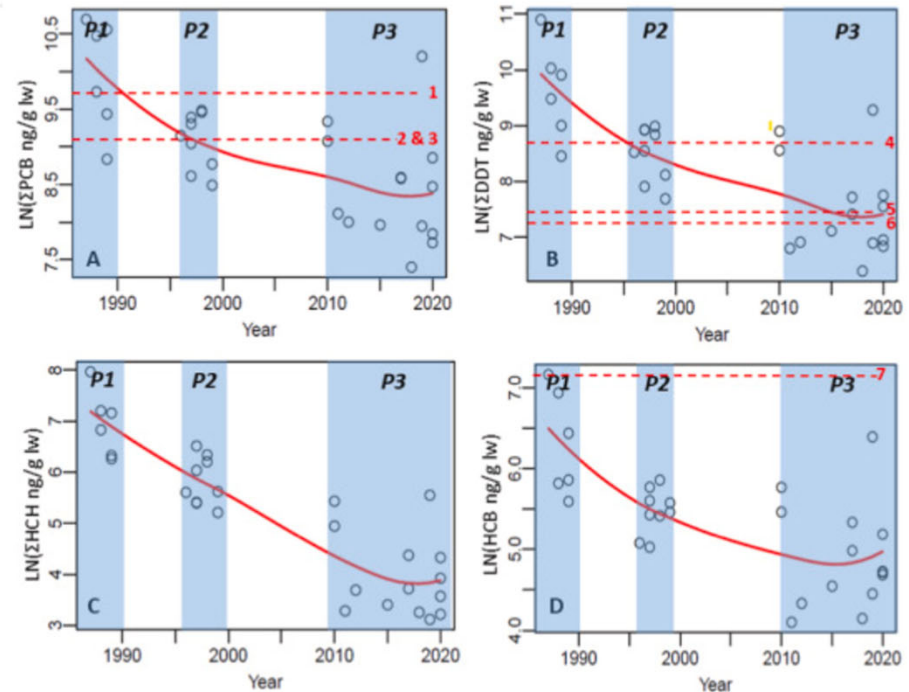
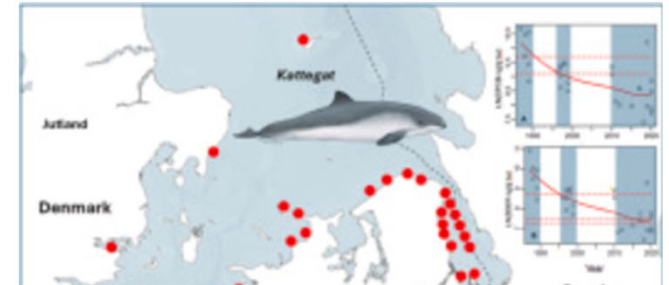
Volume 398, April 2026, 144850



## Decreases in contaminant loads and risk of adverse effects in harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) from Inner Danish waters over three decades

Rune Dietz <sup>a</sup>, Gabriel Berenguer López <sup>a,b,c</sup>, Rossana Bossi <sup>b</sup>, Igor Eulaers <sup>a,d</sup>, Anders Galatius <sup>a</sup>, Line Kyhn <sup>a</sup>, Martin Mørk Larsen <sup>a</sup>, Christina Lockyer <sup>e</sup>, Emma Martinez Lopez <sup>c,f</sup>, Frank Farsø Rigét <sup>a</sup>, Jakob Strand <sup>a</sup>, Signe Sveegaard <sup>a</sup>, Jens Søndergaard <sup>a</sup>, Jonas Teilmann <sup>a</sup>, Katrin Vorkamp <sup>b</sup>, Christian Sonne <sup>a</sup>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0045653526000275>



# Monitor for potential increases in anthropogenic activities that lead to incidences of death, injury or adverse health effects (MON-04)



No new information

**Monitor habitat quality, including protected sites, to ensure management is effective and that the ecological functions are maintained (MON-05)**



No new information