

Information from Belgium (2025)

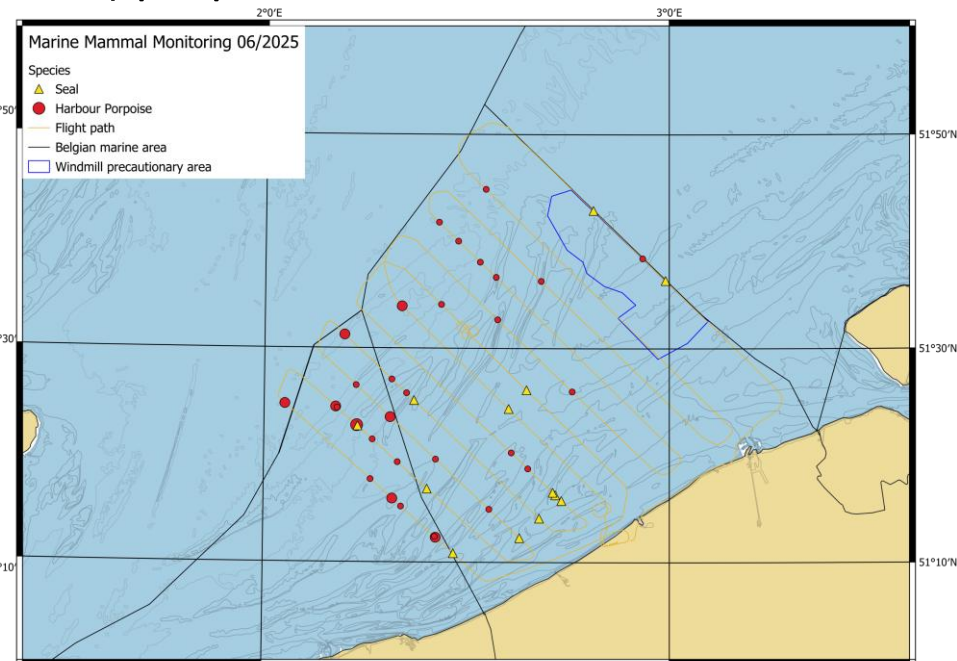
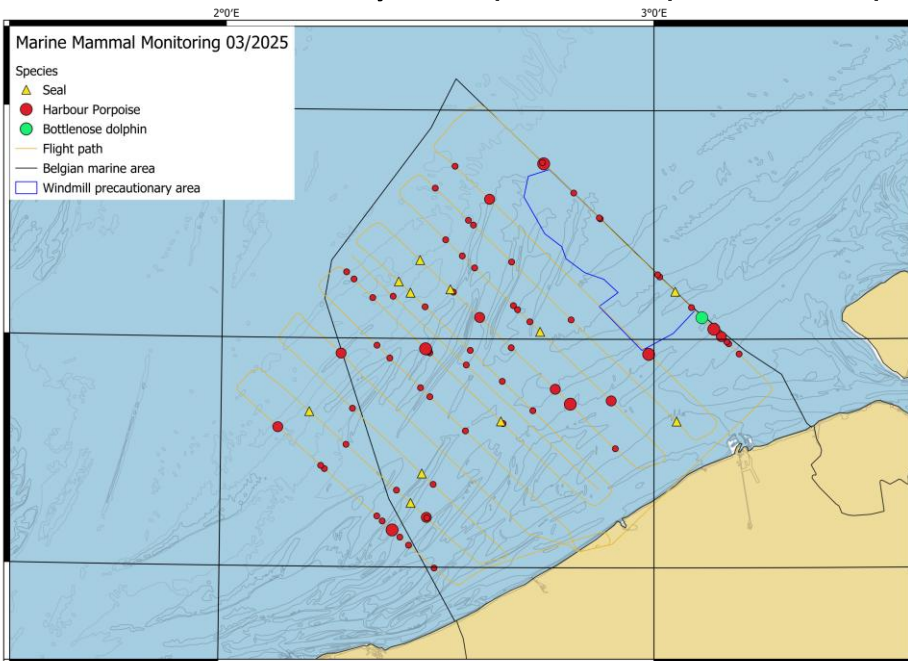
- Aerial surveys
- Strandings
- Causes of death
- Thesis on stomach content

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



2 aerial surveys: March and June

- Porpoises, and 1 bottlenose dolphin
- Av. density in line with previous years, but lower than period around 2018
- Av. Density 1.2 (0.8–1.8) and 0.6 (0.3–0.9) porpoises/km².

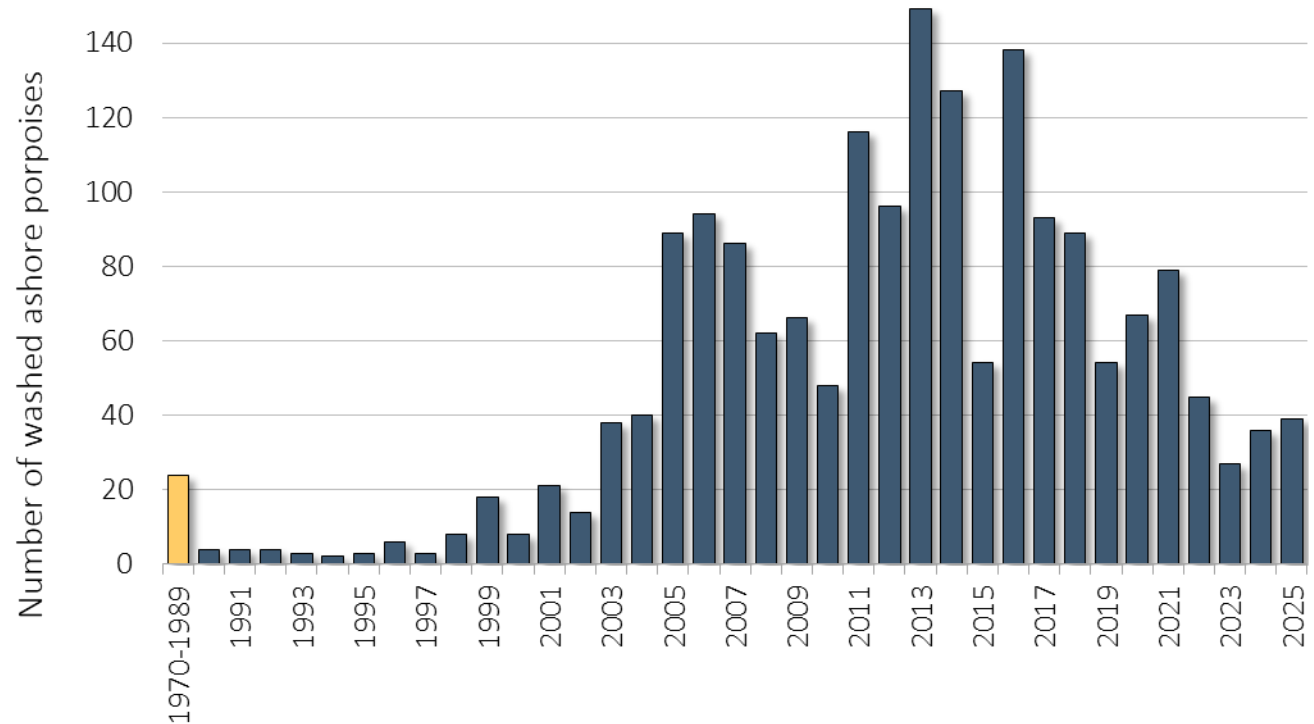


Implement a wide-scale surveillance programme to monitor trends in distribution and abundance in the Greater North Sea (MON-01)



Strandings:

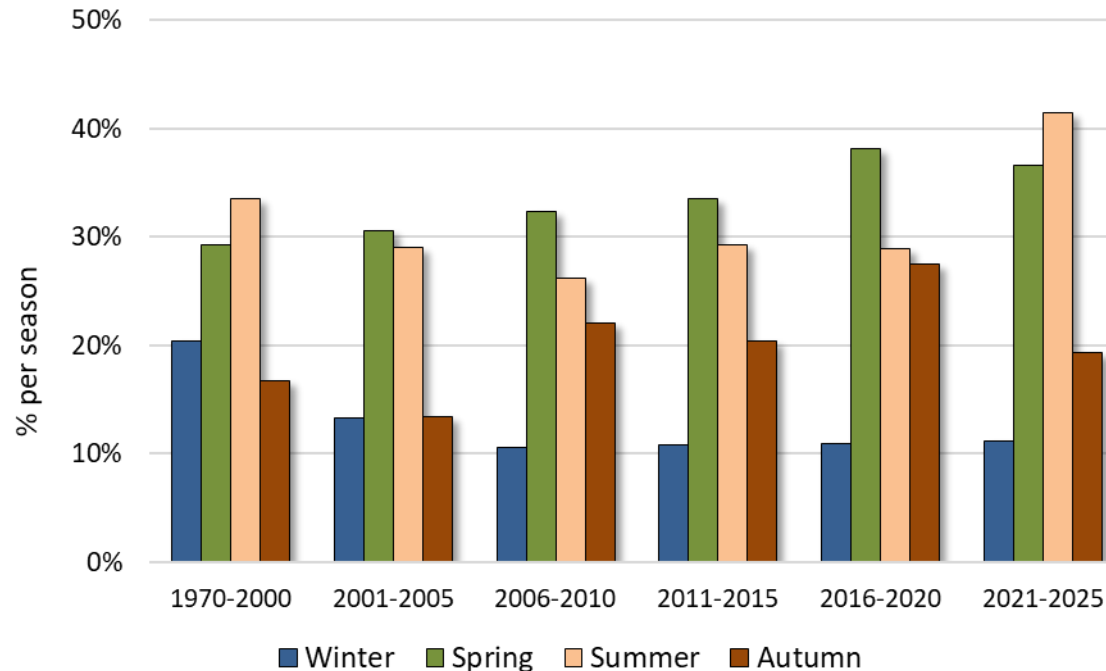
- 39 stranded harbour porpoises
- 1 common dolphin



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



2025: 56% of strandings in summer (Jun-Aug)!



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



Causes of death (harbour porpoises)

- natural (disease, starvation, calf mother separation, ...): 14
- natural (grey seal predation): 4 (?)
- bycatch: 2 (?)
- unknown: 19



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



2 theses (2025-2026)

- Stomach content of stranded harbour porpoises
- Stomach content of stranded seals

Results: 2027 meeting