



**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION
OF SMALL CETACEANS OF THE
BALTIC, NORTH EAST ATLANTIC,
IRISH AND NORTH SEAS**

ASCOBANS/AC30/NR.1
02 June 2026

30th MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Bonn, Germany, 1-3 September 2026
Agenda Item 2

2025 NATIONAL REPORT: POLAND

2025 ASCOBANS National Report

1 January – 31 December 2025

As outlined in ASCOBANS [Resolution 10.1 National Reporting 2025-2028](#), this form will cover the year 2025 (Year 2), and the following topics included in the Annex to the Resolution:

- High-level Summary of Key Messages
- General Information (Section I)
- Bycatch (Section II A1)
- Resource Depletion (Section II A2)
- Marine Debris (Section II C9)
- Surveys and Research (Section III A: Biological Information, B: Monitoring Programmes, C: Other Research)
- Use of Strandings Records (Section IV)]
- Other matters (e.g. burning issues) (Section VII)

The National Reports submitted will inform discussions at the 30th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (1–3 September 2026, tbc).

- All questions apply to the **reporting period from 1 January to 31 December 2025**.
- Region in the tables refers to the sub-regions as defined by the HELCOM and OSPAR, and Areas refers to the sub-areas as defined by ICES. An overview and maps of these can be found in Annex A. Species can be chosen from the drop-down list provided, based on ASCOBANS species list, see Annex B.
- Throughout the form, please include relevant web links and add rows where applicable.
- The deadline for the submission of National Reports is **31 May 2026**.

Where possible, National Coordinators should consult with, or delegate to, experts for particular topics so as to ease the reporting burden. The Secretariat has provided a list of potential country contacts as a starting point. Once the baseline information is in place, it should become easier to update in the future.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the [Secretariat](#).

High-level Summary of Key Messages

In your country, for 2025 (Year 2), what does this report reveal about:

1. **The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement?** (List up to five items related to the topics of Year 2: bycatch, resource depletion, marine debris, surveys and research, use of stranding records)

Finalisation and adoption of the HELCOM Toolbox for bycatch mitigation (including information on bycatch mitigation measures for harbour porpoise).

Presentation of the bycatch mitigation measures for harbour porpoise, during the Baltfish Technical Working Group on harbour porpoise (19.11.2025).

Finalisation of successful data collection within SAMBAH II project (Acoustic Monitoring of Harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea) by National Marine Fisheries Research Institute.

Marine debris - Threshold value for the amount of waste per 100 m of the coast, at the European Union level is 20 pieces of waste. Based on all 57 studies conducted in 2024, a good environmental status was found in terms of waste collected on the Polish coast. Source: Assessment of the environmental condition of the Polish maritime areas of the Baltic Sea based on monitoring data from 2024 against the background of the decade 2014-2023.

2. **The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement?** (List up to five items related to the topics of Year 2: bycatch, resource depletion, marine debris, surveys and research, use of stranding records – kindly note that challenges with regards to other topics can be reported on under Section VII.B *Difficulties in implementing the Agreement*)

The latest method of distributing EU funds raises our concerns about whether there will be enough funds to implement the agreement's objectives.

3. **The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement?** (List up to five items related to the topics of Year 2: bycatch, resource depletion, marine debris, surveys and research, use of stranding records)

Continuation of activities carried out so far, together with promotion of pro-ecological practices throughout the country, which affects the quality of the waters feeding the Baltic Sea.

Reducing underwater noise (impulse and continuous), particularly in Natura 2000 sites where marine mammals are subject of conservation measures and support in the preparation of seasonal noise maps (based on continuous noise monitoring by the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection)//Update of Program of measures (aPOWM), Second update of environmental targets set for Polish marine waters (IIaZCŚWM)

Based on data from 2011-2020 period, the quantity of lost fishing gear recovered from the sea and disposed of, in tonnes per year, shall be no less than 30 (baseline: 44 tonnes/year calculated as a decade average - the measure defines the minimum level of removal of fishing nets from the sea).//Second update of environmental targets set for Polish marine waters (IIaZCŚWM)

Improving the status of fish populations in transitional marine waters through restocking, the reorientation of fishing activities, the restoration of underwater meadows of eelgrass, brown algae, red algae and charophyte algae, and the restriction of trawling in shallow-water Natura 2000 sites: Ławica Słupska and Ostoja na Zatoce Pomorskiej//Update of Program of measures (aPOWM), Second update of environmental targets set for Polish marine waters (IIaZCŚWM)

Reducing the amount of waste entering the sea via rivers and from WWTPs, improving waste management plans and equipping coastal municipalities with modern equipment for clearing waste from beaches.//Update of Program of measures (aPOWM)

Section I: General Information

A. Country Information

1. Name of Party Poland
2. Details of the Report Compiler

Name: LESZ Monika
Function: Councillor
Organization: Ministry of Climate and Environment
Postal Address: 00-922 Warsaw, 52/54 Wawelska Str.
Telephone: + 22 3692667
Email: monika.lesz@klimat.gov.pl
 Does the Report Compiler act as ASCOBANS National Coordinator (i.e. focal point)?
 No Yes

3. Details of contributor(s)

Topic(s) contributed to:
Name: Katarzyna Kamińska
Function: Chief Specialist
Organization: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Postal Address: 00-930 Warsaw, Wspólna 30 Str.
Telephone: + 48 22 623 29 61
Email: katarzyna.kaminska@minrol.gov.pl

Topic(s) contributed to:
Name: Edyta Jurkiewicz-Gruszecka
Function: Chief Specialist
Organization: Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection
Postal Address: 00-805 Warsaw, Chmielna 132/134 Str.
Email: e.gruszecka@gios.gov.pl

Topic(s) contributed to:
Name: dr Iwona Pawliczka vel Pawlik
Function: Head of Prof. Krzysztof Skóra Hel Marine Station University of Gdańsk,
Organization: Prof. Krzysztof Skóra Hel Marine Station University of Gdańsk,
Postal Address: 84- 150 Hel, Morska 2 Str.
Telephone: + 58 675 08 36
Email: iwona.pvp@ug.edu.pl

Topic(s) contributed to:
Name: Aleksandra Botur
Function: Senior Marine Conservation Specialist,
Organization: WWF Poland
Postal Address: Usypiskowa 11, 02-386 Warszawa
Telephone: + 48 609 507 482885
Email: abotur@wwf.pl

Copy box if needed.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

A. Fisheries-related Threats

1. Bycatch

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating bycatch of small cetaceans.
 Relevant Resolutions: 10.4, 9.2 (Rev.MOP10), **8.5 (Rev.MOP9)**, 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.8, 5.7, **5.5, 3.3**

Bycatch, the entanglement of an animal in fishing gear, is identified as a major cause of mortality in small cetaceans. Every effort should be made to reduce bycatch towards zero as quickly as possible. Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed on a number of resolutions that highlight the importance of mitigating bycatch of small cetaceans in the Agreement Area, as available data indicates that levels of bycatch pose a considerable threat to their conservation status. Parties have agreed that modifications of fishing gear and relevant practices shall be applied in order to reduce negative impacts where data indicates unacceptable interaction. The Agreement Area requires improved monitoring, collation of data, and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures, while also taking into account similar work in other areas.

To better understand the extent of the impact of bycatch on small cetaceans, monitoring and mitigation measures in place, and ongoing work in the Agreement Area, countries are requested to provide relevant information.

Note: This section includes bycatch in recreational fisheries.

Questions:

1.1. How is bycatch assessed/monitored in your country?

| Method | Used | Percentage (% by monitoring method, of total bycaught animals, by gear type if applicable) |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Dedicated observer schemes | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Fisheries observes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Less than 1% of fishing effort /or not calculated, no bycatch observed |
| Remote Electronic Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Self-reporting by fishermen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | It is obligatory to report bycatch of sea mammals in the logbooks, but in 2025 no report has been provided |
| Pathological investigation | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Assessment at stranding site | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Comments:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

1.2. Which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch by commercial fishing in the reporting period?

Overview of bycaught small cetaceans per region. Provide information where available.

| Species | Number of bycaught animals observed | Year (incl. season if available) | Gear type | Area | Overall sampling effort | Monitoring method used |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| HP Harbour porpoise | 0 | 2025 | GNS | 27.3.d.24 | Below 1% of the entire fishing effort | Observer onboard |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|------|---------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| HP Harbour porpoise | 0 | 2025 | GNS, OTM, LLD | 27.3.d.25 | Below 1% of the entire fishing effort | Observer onboard |
| HP Harbour porpoise | 0 | 2025 | GNS, OTM, LLD | 27.3.d.26 | Below 1% of the entire fishing effort | Observer onboard |

1.3. Which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch by recreational fishing in the reporting period? In Poland only angling is allowed in the marine areas, thus there is no risk of bycatch of small cetaceans in recreational fishing.

Overview of bycaught small cetaceans per region. Provide information where available.
No bycatch in recreational fisheries in Poland

| Species | Number of bycaught animals observed | Year (incl. season if available) | Gear type | Area | Overall sampling effort | Monitoring method used |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. | | |
| Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. | | |

1.4. Has there been any notable incidents/issues related to bycatch during the reporting period in your country?

No.

Yes. Please provide details:

In February 2025 alive entanglement of Humpback whale in GNS gears in the Pomeranian Bay (Arkona Basin) in the Baltic Sea (released alive). (Mass bycatch incidents, unusual species bycatch etc.)

1.5. Are there any mitigation measures in place?

No.

Yes. Please provide details: What mitigation measures (including alternative gear) are being used and where? (Acoustic deterrent devices, seasonal closures, gear modifications etc.)

| Mitigation approach | Region | Year implemented | Has the mitigation measure been effective? |
|--|------------------|------------------|--|
| Pingers on static nets | H Gdansk Basin | 2023 | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: Not confirmed yet |
| Temporal closures of static nets use (Nov-Jan) | H Bornholm Basin | 2023 | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: Not confirmed yet |
| Permanent closure of static nets use | H Bornholm Basin | 2023 | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: Not confirmed yet |

1.6. Have there been changes in fishing effort (for fisheries known to have an impact) in the reporting period?

No.

Unknown/not applicable. Comments:

Yes. Please provide details:

In Poland, a significant reduction in fishing effort has been observed, resulting from the decommissioning of part of the fishing fleet, with a number of vessels scrapped and not replaced, including vessels scrapped with financial support provided under the EMFAF 2021–2027.

The number of vessels scrapped under each segment (until 25.02.2026):

- fleet segment up to 8 m – 39 vessels;
- fleet segment between 8 m – 12 m - 84 vessels;
- fleet segment from 12 m – 18 m – 27 vessels;
- fleet segment 18 m – 2,15 m – 12 vessels

1.7. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on bycatch in your country.

List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information

MIR PIB is involved in CIBBRiNA project.

PL and DE were involved in preparation and finalisation of the HELCOM Toolbox for bycatch mitigation (including overview of different methods to mitigate bycatch of harbour porpoise (among others)).

1.8. Is the perceived level of pressure from bycatch in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. Please provide the nature of the evidence and describe per species (Annex B) where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence (e.g. strandings, observer schemes) |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| HP Harbour porpoise | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Decreasing of fishing effort on static nets as a result of fish stock depletion, leads to the decrease of bycatch risk |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Not applicable. Comments:

A. Fisheries-related Threats

2. Resource Depletion

AIM: to determine areas where, and to what extent, depletion of fish stocks have occurred during the reporting period. In addition, identify ongoing mitigation efforts regarding detrimental implications for small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 10.3, 9.4, 8.9, 8.3, 7.1, 6.1

Depletion in fish stocks due to overfishing and other factors generates pressure on the favourable conservation status of small cetaceans (through possible food shortage). More integrated management and reductions in fishing effort (also prompted by concern about fish stock depletion or other ecosystem considerations) have been encouraged, especially in areas of known risk. Further research, effective fishery regulations and innovation within certain fishing methods are considered to be helpful steps towards mitigating this pressure.

Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed on a number of resolutions that (1) determine the impact of the depletion of fish stocks on small cetaceans, (2) encourage fishing effort reductions and (3) review new information on these depletions to make recommendations. Resource depletion in the Agreement Area requires improved monitoring, collation of data, and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures, while also taking into account similar work in other areas.

It is of particular interest to ASCOBANS to understand the extent of prey depletions, any related ongoing work, monitoring and mitigation measures in the Agreement Area. Countries are requested to provide relevant information.

Questions:

2.1. Based on the latest stock assessments, are there any notable depletions of fish species which would be a concern for small cetaceans?

- No.
- Yes.

Please provide details.

All Baltic cod stocks have been significantly depleted for several years. In addition herring stocks and especially western herring stock (ICES subdivision 20-24) (spring spawners) is significantly depleted, but also central herring (ICES 25-29, 32) is not in a very good state. According to latest ICES advice for 2025 for cod (24-32), western and central herring (20-24, 25-29, 32) and sprat (22-32), there is no significant improvement of stocks observed, especially concerning SSB (Spawning Stock Biomass).

Herring and cod are important food resources for harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea (Andreasen et al. 2017) (Andreasen, H., Ross, S. D., Siebert, U., Andersen, N. G., Ronnenberg, K., & Gilles, A. (2017). Diet composition and food consumption rate of harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the western Baltic Sea. *Marine Mammal Science*, 33, 1053–1079. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mms.12421>).

2.2. Where are these depletions in national waters occurring?

Sub-areas/regions as defined by ICES/OSPAR & HELCOM.

PL fishing vessels fishing operations in sub-areas/regions where the fish stock depletions are observed

| Area | Region |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 27.3.d.24 | H Arkona Basin |
| 27.3.d.25 | H Bornholm Basin |
| 27.3.d.26 | H Gdansk Basin |
| 27.3.d.26 | Eastern Gotland Basin |

2.3. What measures are being taken to manage pressures on depleted fish stocks, including relevant regulations/guidelines (current / planned / year of implementation)?

| Measure | Timeframe information | Relevant driver |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| TAC/Quota | Every year | EU fisheries regulations for commercially exploited fish species |
| Multiannual plans | Every year | EU fisheries regulations |
| Protection of spawning sites | Every year | National measure in coastal regions |
| Closed seasons | Temporal measure, every year | EU fisheries regulations for commercially exploited fish species |

2.4. Is there any evidence within your country's national waters that resource depletion may be impacting small cetaceans (e.g. evidence of starvation)?

No.

Yes.

Please provide details.

Due to very low number of harbour porpoises present in Polish waters it is not possible to collect enough samples to confirm that resource depletion may have an impact on small cetaceans.

2.5. Are there any national efforts to evaluate cetacean body condition at sea (e.g. surveys)?

No.

Yes.

Please provide details.

Due to very low number of harbour porpoises present in Polish waters it is not possible to collect enough samples to evaluate cetacean body condition at sea.

2.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on resource depletion in your country.

List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information

2.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from resource depletion in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. Please provide the nature of the evidence and describe per species (Annex B) where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| HP Harbour porpoise | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Too little samples to confirm impact of this pressure on small cetaceans in the Polish marine waters |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Not applicable. Comments:

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

3. Noise (impulsive i.e. piling and continuous/ambient i.e. shipping)

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating negative effects on small cetaceans from underwater noise during the reporting period.

Relevant Resolutions: 10.3, 9.2 (Rev.MOP10), **8.11 (Rev.MOP9)**, 8.9, 8.6 (Rev.MOP10), 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.1, **6.2 (Rev.MOP10)**, 6.1

Small cetaceans are especially susceptible to underwater noise due to their high responsiveness to sound and wide hearing range. Good environmental status, as defined by the European Union, suggests that the introduction of energy, including underwater noise, is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment. Anthropogenic noise pollution has generally increased in recent times and generates a broad range of frequencies due to a wide variety of human activities. Impulsive and continuous noise present different impacts on small cetaceans, which include communicative masking, behavioural response and physiological injury. Noise in marine environments potentially impedes communication, affects distribution and hence feeding and reproduction of small cetaceans. Studies show that not only cetaceans but also fish and other marine life may be negatively impacted by anthropogenic noise.

Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed on implementation of measures through a number of resolutions that (1) highlight the potential impact that noise pollution may have on small cetaceans in the Agreement Area and (2) commit to reduce the pressure presented by underwater noise. The Agreement Area requires improved monitoring, collation of data, and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures.

To better understand the extent to which noise negatively impacts the health of small cetaceans, and to learn about new work relevant to the topic, countries are requested to provide related information.

Questions:

3.1. To which noise registers/databases has your country contributed to date?

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| ICES Impulsive Noise Register (for HELCOM and OSPAR Parties) | National registry | Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable Specify (e.g. JNCC noise registry): | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Specify: |

3.2. Any instances/issues in the reporting period including information on planned or completed significant developments/activities, including the details of monitoring in place before, during and after the project:

| Development/ Individual Activity of impulsive noise (e.g. construction, seismic, sonar) | Status | Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) | Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) | Information on noise management and monitoring | | | Region |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | Regulations/ guidelines exist | Monitoring conducted | Mitigation in place | |
| | Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
| | Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
| | Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |

3.3. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on underwater noise in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

3.4. Report on noise management for cumulative impacts, including relevant regulations and guidelines, seismic shot point densities and level of impact deemed acceptable.

Guidelines for the environmental impact assessment of offshore wind farms
<https://www.gov.pl/web/gdos/wytyczne-w-zakresie-oceny-oddzialywania-na-srodowisko-morskich-farm-wiatrowych>

3.5. Is the perceived level of pressure from underwater noise in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. To be done per species basis where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Not applicable. Comments:

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

4. Ocean Energy

AIM: to understand the extent and development of current and planned ocean energy projects, and progress in monitoring and mitigation of their negative effects on small cetaceans during the reporting period.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.11 (Rev.MOP9), 8.9, **8.6 (Rev.MOP10)**, 8.3, 6.2 (Rev.MOP10)

Renewable energy is a necessary component of the efforts to supply the energy needs of human populations while combatting climate change. Efforts to harness renewable energy sources, however, should be conducted in a way that does not have a harmful impact on biological diversity and the marine environment. There are potential adverse effects of ocean energy on small cetaceans from such energy projects. In regard to small cetaceans, this can include potential lethal interactions or injury, negative behavioural impacts from displacement and changes in fecundity, calf survival and juvenile and adult mortality. There remains uncertainty regarding quantifying the (magnitude of the) pressure from ocean energy production on small cetaceans.

Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed to introduce precautionary measures and procedures for activities surrounding the development of renewable energy in marine environments in order to minimise and mitigate possible effects on small cetaceans, by following best practices. Parties have committed to investigating such pressures and robustly monitoring and mitigating them through environmental impact assessments. Addressing all aspects relevant to the conservation of protected species in regard to ocean energy and collaboration with other organizations working on or potentially interested in the issue is to the benefit of small cetaceans in the Agreement Area.

It is of particular interest to ASCOBANS to understand current and ongoing renewable energy projects in the Agreement Area, mitigation measures and procedures in use and other work relevant to the topic. Countries are requested to provide information relevant to their activities.

Questions:

4.1. Please enter wind energy farm data into the table below.

| Name of wind farm | Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date) | Area | Output (megawatts per turbine) | Number of turbines | How were the individual wind turbines installed in the seabed? | Was scour protection used? | Noise mitigation during construction used? (multiple ticks possible) | If the wind farm is floating, how was it anchored? | Other mitigation used in pre-/post-construction | Additional information |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------|---|--|---|------------------------|
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: | | | |
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: | | | |

4.2. Please enter wave power installation data into the table below.

| Name of installation | Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date) | Area | Output (megawatts per turbine) | Number of turbines | How is the installation anchored? | Was scour protection used? | Mitigation used in pre-/during/post-construction | Additional information |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. | | |
| | Dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. | | |

4.3. Please enter tidal energy installation data into the table below.

| Name of installation | Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date) | Area | Output (megawatts per turbine) | Number of turbines | Type | Collision mitigation | Other mitigation used in pre-/during/post-construction | Additional information |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | |
| | Dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | |

4.4. Please enter tidal lagoon/barrage installation data into the table below.

| Name of installation | Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date) | Area | Output (megawatts per turbine) | Number of turbines | Type | Collision mitigation | Other mitigation used in pre-/during/post-construction | Additional information |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | |
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | |

4.5. Has there been any other instances/issues related to ocean energy during the reporting period in your country? No. Yes.

Please provide details:

4.6. How is the pressure managed, incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)?**Guidelines for the environmental impact assessment of offshore wind farms**<https://www.gov.pl/web/gdos/wytyczne-w-zakresie-oceny-oddzialywania-na-srodowisko-morskich-farm-wiatrowych>**4.7. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ocean energy in your country.**

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

4.8. Mark the perceived level of pressure from ocean energy in your country to the table below.

For example, active construction of new developments could increase the pressure, while decommissioning or addition of mitigation measures to pre-existing projects could decrease the pressure.

| Energy type | Status in [year] relative to previous years | Nature of the evidence |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Wind energy | Choose an item. | |
| Wave power | Choose an item. | |
| Tidal energy | Choose an item. | |
| Tidal lagoon/barrage | Choose an item. | |

Comments:**4.9. Has there been any other instances/issues related to ocean energy during the reporting period in your country?** No. Yes.

Please provide details:

4.10. How is the pressure managed, incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)?**4.11. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ocean energy in your country.**

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

4.12. Mark the perceived level of pressure from ocean energy in your country to the table below.

Status relative to previous years. For example, active construction of new developments could increase the pressure, while decommissioning or addition of mitigation measures to pre-existing projects could decrease the pressure.

| Energy type | Status in [year] relative to previous years | Nature of the evidence |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Wind energy | Choose an item. | |
| Wave power | Choose an item. | |
| Tidal energy | Choose an item. | |
| Tidal lagoon/barrage | Choose an item. | |

Comments:

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

5. Cetacean Watching Industry

AIM: to determine if the developing cetacean watching industry poses a threat to small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 10.3, 8.9, 6.1, 5.4

Whale and dolphin watching is a global industry that can provide socio-economic benefits to local communities by attracting tourism, as well as strengthening public awareness of conservation needs. However, it also has the potential of being harmful when it interferes with the behaviour of animals in their natural environment and may even lead to injury or death. As the cetacean watching industry is still scarcely developed in some countries, collecting this data now allows tracking the development of the industry.

It is of particular importance to ASCOBANS to obtain an overview of the current scale of the activities and to monitor the development of the industry in the future. This is done by quantifying the number and locations of operators, reporting negative interactions and providing information on the development and implementation of any guidelines regarding cetacean watching.

Filling out this section accurately and completely will help to detect any indications of potential threats, allow timely mitigation action and enable Parties and Non-Party Range States to work towards a coordinated approach regarding the development of cetacean watching guidelines in the Agreement Area.

Note: We are here only addressing commercial cetacean watching activities which take place from vessels and include viewing of small cetacean species. Operators are defined as those offering trips with a primary focus: they advertise specifically with the aim to see small cetaceans, or a secondary focus: they advertise either for other taxa, such as birds or seals, or large cetaceans, or more general for wildlife, but mention the opportunity to see small cetaceans.

Questions:

5.1. Do you have any commercial small cetacean watching industry operating in your country?

- No.** Go to Question 5.3.
- Yes.**

5.2. Please identify the total number of operators conducting commercial cetacean watching in your country and provide details in the table below.

- 0-5
- 6-10
- 11-20
- 21+

In the table, provide the sub-regions in which commercial cetacean watching takes place. Identify if small cetacean watching is a primary and/or secondary focus of the operators and, in the first case, what the target species are.

Overview of commercial small cetacean watching activities per sub-region. If necessary, add rows.

| Region | Small cetacean watching | | Link to website or contact details (include information on ports and operators if available) |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| | Primary focus / target species | Secondary focus | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Choose a species Choose a species Choose a species Choose a species | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Choose a species Choose a species Choose a species Choose a species | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5.3. Does your country have a definition of the term ‘harassment’ in general and/or as it relates to the Cetacean Watching Industry? ¹

No.

Yes. Provide definition below:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

5.4. Have there been any incidents of harassment towards small cetaceans in the context of commercial cetacean watching reported to authorities during the reporting period?

No.

Yes. Provide information on table below. If necessary, copy table.

| Date dd/mm/yy | Context of incidence | Outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Legal procedures / court proceedings / convictions that took place | | Responsible authority for such reports |
| Link to websites or documentation of this report | | |

5.5. Does your country have any operators that offer swimming with dolphins (or other small cetaceans)?

In some parts of the world this has become an important tourism industry with potential impacts for both small cetaceans and swimmers. Although scarcely developed, it has occurred within the ASCOBANS Agreement Area, and requires at least background monitoring. Sometimes incidents occur and can lead to harm for small cetaceans and/or swimmers.

No.

Yes. Provide information in the table below.

| Location | Species | Operator | Any reported incidents between small cetaceans or swimmers. |
|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| | Choose an item. | (include link to website) | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please describe: |
| | Choose an item. | (include link to website) | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please describe: |
| | Choose an item. | (include link to website) | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please describe: |

5.6. List any incidents of harassment to small cetaceans during the reporting period in your country in the context of swimming with small cetaceans reported to authorities – and the outcome if known (behavioural response, injury, death, any court proceedings).

| Date | Context of incidence | Outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | Legal procedures/ court proceedings/ convictions that took place | Responsible authority for such reports | Link to websites or documentation of this report |
|----------|----------------------|---|---|--|---|
| dd/mm/yy | | | | | |
| dd/mm/yy | | | | | |
| dd/mm/yy | | | | | |

5.7. Are there any solitary sociable dolphin interactions in your country?

Occasionally, individual solitary dolphins may associate with humans, resulting in increased interactions between the two which may lead to impacts upon either. Sometimes incidents occur and can lead to harm for small cetaceans and/or swimmers.

No. Go to Question 5.12.

Yes. Provide information in the table below.

| Region | Date | Species | Link to websites | Reported incidents between small cetaceans and swimmers |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Choose an item. | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | |

¹ For example, the US Marine Mammal Protection Act uses the term harassment, and defines two levels: Level A harassment means any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance that has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild. Level B harassment refers to acts that have the potential to disturb (but not injure) a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by disrupting behavioural patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering. NB. The UK uses the term ‘disturbance’ in its legislation.

| | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|--|--|
| Choose an item. | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|--|--|

5.8. Does your country have any mitigation measures (codes of conduct/guidelines) in place in the event of disturbance or harassment in the context of commercial cetacean watching, swimming with cetaceans, and interactions with solitary sociable dolphins?

- No.**
 Yes. Please provide information below:

| | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Measure: (may include regional measures) | | | |
| Date of implementation: | | Region: Choose an item. | |
| Has the measure been effective? | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: | | |
| Other information: | | | |

Copy table if needed.

5.9. List any incidents of harassments to small cetaceans during the reporting period in the context of interactions with solitary sociable dolphins reported to authorities – and the outcome if known (behavioural response, injury, death, any court proceedings).

| Date | Context of incidence | Outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | Legal procedures/ court proceedings/ convictions that took place | Responsible authority for such reports | Link to websites or documentation of this report |
|----------|----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| dd/mm/yy | | | | | |
| dd/mm/yy | | | | | |

5.10. Relevant new research/ work/ collaboration on the cetacean watching industry, “swim with small cetacean” operations, solitary sociable dolphin interactions and their possible effects on small cetaceans in your country.

| |
|--|
| (List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information) |
|--|

5.11. Have there been any other instances/issues related to cetacean watching industry during the reporting period in your country?

- No.**
 Yes. Please provide details:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

5.12. Is the perceived level of pressure from commercial small cetacean watching in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Not applicable. Comments:

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

6. Recreational Sea Use

AIM: to determine whether recreational sea use is detrimental to small cetaceans and, if so, to identify types of activity and areas of concern.

Relevant Resolutions: 10.6, 10.3, 8.9, 8.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.4

Recreational use of the sea by humans includes a wide variety of activities, some of which are known to have a potential negative impact on small cetaceans. This includes the use of RIBs (rigid-hulled inflatable boats), hard-hulled boats exceeding 10 knots in speed, yachts and personal watercrafts such as jet skis, kayaks and surfboards; and excludes recreational fishing and sea-angling.

Interactions can cause animals to change behaviour and move away, but can also have more serious impacts, such as injury or even death due to collision. ASCOBANS has agreed on a number of resolutions that highlight the importance to review all available information on recreational use of the sea. Obtaining an overview of best practices and guidelines will enable comparisons to be made across the Agreement Area, and ultimately may lead to the provision of overall, consistent guidelines that might be developed at a regional or national level. In this section we strive to obtain an overview of potential risk areas and national sources that have data on incidents with small cetaceans related to recreational sea use.

Questions:

6.1. Are data on recreational sea use available for your country?

- No.** Go to Question 6.3.
 Yes. Provide information in the table below:

Type of information: (e.g. number of licenced recreational vessels per region, tourist number per region, other)

Web link or other relevant link to data: (where can this information be found)

6.2. Is information on main areas of recreational sea use available for your country?

Many Range States are mapping human activities to fulfil obligations under the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, MSFD, OSPAR, and HELCOM; this information is relevant (though often not readily accessible) to ASCOBANS in understanding the extent and trends of human activities potentially impacting small cetaceans.

- No.**
 Not applicable. Comments:
 Yes. Provide information in the table below.

| Region | Type of information | Is the data available online? | Provide link to data, or comment on unavailability |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Choose an item. | (e.g. maps, GIS, reports) | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | (weblinks) |
| Choose an item. | (e.g. maps, GIS, reports) | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | (weblinks) |

6.3. Were there any incidents of disturbance or harassment to small cetaceans in relation to recreational sea use in your country?

- No.**
 Unknown.
 Yes. Provide information in the table below.

| Date | Area | Context of incidence | Outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human | Legal procedures/ court proceedings/ convictions | Link to websites or documentation of the incident |
|----------|-----------------|---|--|--|---|
| dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | (e.g. what kind of recreational activity) | (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | | |
| dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | (e.g. what kind of recreational activity) | (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | | |

6.4. Does your country have any mitigation measures (codes of conducts/ guidelines/ laws/ rules) in place in the event of disturbance or harassment of small cetaceans through recreational sea use?

- No.
- Yes. Please provide information in table below:

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Measure: | | |
| Date of implementation: | | Region: Choose an item. |
| Has the measure been effective? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: | |
| Other information: | | |

Copy table if needed.

6.5. Relevant new research/ work/ collaboration on disturbance or harassment of small cetaceans through recreational sea use in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

6.6. Have there been any other instances / issues related to recreational sea use in your country during the reporting period?

- No.
- Yes. Please provide details:

6.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from recreational sea use in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

- Not applicable. Comments:

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

7. Other Sources of Disturbance

AIM: to identify new sources of disturbance that could be a threat to small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 10.7, 10.3, 8.9, 8.3, 7.1, 6.1

Overlap of small cetacean and human habitat use is not covered by the questions above, while human activities in the seas are increasing, particularly in the coastal zone. Human activities can, for example, cause a small cetacean to change behaviour, or it can cause physical harm or death. This section aims to identify new sources of disturbance that could be a threat to small cetaceans. The issue of noise is covered under section B3.

7.1. Have there been any incidents of disturbance to small cetaceans in your country during the reporting period, not covered in the items above?

- No.
- Unknown.
- Yes. Please provide information in the table below.

Any incidents of disturbance to small cetaceans not covered in Sections B5 or B6 by the report.

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Description of event: | | Date: dd/mm/yy | Area: Choose an item. |
| Outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human | (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | | |
| Describe mitigation measures: | | | |
| Legal procedures/ court proceedings/ convictions: | | | |
| Links to relevant information: | (Websites, etc.) | | |

7.2. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on other sources of disturbance in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

8. Unexploded Ordnance

AIM: to provide information on the mitigation, management and potential negative impacts of unexploded ordnance on small cetaceans during the reporting period.
Relevant Resolutions: 8.11 (Rev.MOP9), 8.9, 8.8, 8.3

Unexploded chemical and conventional munitions present a threat to small cetaceans. Hazards exist from unexploded munitions, which release chronic contaminants, and upon detonation, which is physically hazardous from extreme underwater noise and a sudden release of toxic substances. Unexploded ordnance is a notable threat in many areas, such as the Baltic Sea, where the quantity is unknown, though estimates are high. Information on disposal, state of corrosion and quantities of dumped munition is limited, as are meaningful data on the measured environmental impacts. The significance of this pressure's impact on small cetaceans requires further quantification. However, it is clear that mitigation measures are necessary to support alternatives to detonations, and when no alternative is feasible, to reduce negative impacts on small cetaceans.

In the ASCOBANS Area, millions of tons of unexploded ordnance are present in the marine environment and thousands of sea users, such as fishermen, encounter such munitions every year. Parties have agreed on resolutions to support (1) research investigating the pressure on marine animals and habitat and (2) mitigation measures regarding effects of disintegrating submerged munitions on the marine environment. Parties are to strive towards providing relevant information to required bodies and supporting efforts to address the negative implications from this pressure in other regional and international organizations and waters.

Questions:

8.1. To which registers/databases covering conventional and chemical munitions has your country contributed to date?

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> OSPAR | <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HELCOM | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please state: | |

8.2. How many UXOs were detonated / released at sea?

- 1-9
 10-49
 50-99
 100+

Provide link to database if available:

8.3. Have there been any other instances/issues related to the issue of unexploded ordnance during the reporting period in your country?

- No.
- Yes.

Please provide details:

8.4. How is the issue of unexploded ordnances being managed?

(incl. mitigation measures, relevant regulations/guidelines, year of implementation; may include planned management – please distinguish between a) management of single UXOs and b) management of big amounts of ammunitions in one place e.g. munition dumpsites)

8.5. Is your country monitoring the chemical contaminants released from discarded munition material and unexploded ordnance? (including at munition dumpsites, war wrecks carrying ammunition, UXO detonation zones)

- No.
- Yes.

Please provide details:

8.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on the issue of unexploded ordnance in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

8.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from unexploded ordnance in your country:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing | <input type="checkbox"/> Decreasing | <input type="checkbox"/> Staying the same | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|

Please provide the nature of the evidence where applicable:

- Not applicable. Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

9. Marine Debris (ingestion and entanglement)

AIM: to illustrate progress, during the reporting period, on understanding, monitoring and mitigating impacts of marine debris on small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 10.3, 10.4, 9.3, 8.8, 8.3, 7.1, 6.1

Marine debris, such as macroplastics and discarded fishing gear, poses a threat to small cetaceans due to the potential for these materials to be ingested or to cause entanglement. Commercial fishing operations, recreational fishing and cargo shipping are notable sources of this material, of which the majority is plastic and ghost nets. However, it is assumed that most of the marine litter worldwide comes from land, although this differs per region. Even small amounts of macroplastics that have been ingested may present serious effects on small cetaceans, such as detrimental influence on the gastrointestinal tract or leaching pollutants into the body, potentially leading to mortality or reduced body condition. Entanglement is well-established as a threat to small cetaceans as plastic debris continues to accumulate in aquatic environments, and may cause physical injuries, reduced survival or drowning.

To better understand the impact of marine debris on small cetaceans and measures in place to mitigate these effects, countries are requested to provide relevant information.

Note: Includes macroplastics and discarded fishing gear. Microplastics are covered under Section C10 Pollution and Hazardous Substances.

Questions:

9.1. Does your country have monitoring in place to assess levels of marine debris?

- No. Go to **Question 9.3**.
 Yes. Provide information in the table below:

| |
|---|
| Include parameters provided through monitoring (e.g. type of litter (size, shape, material), amount, impacts on species, geographical location, etc.) |
|---|

9.2. Are these data publicly available?

- No.
 Yes. Please provide web link:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

9.3. What species of small cetaceans were found to have been impacted by marine debris?

| Species | # of impacted individuals | Year | Region | Description of the impact |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Choose an item. | | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | |
| Choose an item. | | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | |
| Choose an item. | | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | |

9.4. Are there any mitigation measures in place?

- No.
 Yes. Provide information in the table below.

Mitigation measures might include changes in gear to prevent loss, entanglement response, adoption of measures to reduce land-based/boat-based sources of marine debris, etc.

| | | | |
|--|---|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Measure: | Ghost Diving Poland | | |
| Date of implementation: | 2021 | Region: | H Gulf of Riga H Bornholm Basin |
| Has the measure been effective? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: | | |
| Other information: | | | |

Copy table if needed.

9.5. How is marine debris managed? (incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation, current and planned)

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

9.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine debris in your country.

| |
|---|
| List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information e.g. link to OSPAR reports |
|---|

9.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from marine debris in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|

Not applicable. Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

10. Pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics)

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating impacts of important current and emerging pollution-related hazards on small cetaceans. during the reporting period
Relevant Resolutions: 10.3, 10.4, 8.9, 8.8, 8.7, 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.4, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7

Marine environments have been subject to a wide range of different types of pollution over the last decades. Top predators, such as small cetaceans that feed on higher trophic prey, tend to accumulate many of these potentially hazardous substances. There are a number of contaminants and pathogens that are known, or suspected, to have impacts on small cetacean health, immune status or reproduction. These include, for example: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs), oil pollution (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), toxins from harmful algal blooms (HABs), sewage, radionuclides, toxic elements, tri-butyl tin (TBT), morbillivirus, and Brucella. In addition, micro- and nano-plastics are also present in marine environment and their impacts are presently poorly understood.

Monitoring can be done using body tissue from small cetaceans obtained from live animals through biopsies, or from dead animals that are generally found on the shore. Necropsies allow the sampling of different types of tissue such as blubber, muscle, kidney or liver and these can be analysed subsequently.

To better understand the impact of contaminants on small cetacean health, to detect new emerging hazards and to work towards a common protocol for analysing samples, countries are asked to provide information on their programs.

Note: Includes microplastics. Macroplastics and discarded fishing gear are covered under Section C 9 Marine Debris.

Questions:

10.1. Does your country conduct monitoring of pollutants in small cetaceans?

Several pollutants have serious effects on individual small cetaceans and can threaten populations. The aim is to capture the nature of existing monitoring and identify gaps in terms of which pollutants are monitored, the extend of this monitoring and the establishment of securely funded long-term data series.

- No.** Go to Question 10.7.
- Yes.**

Comments:

10.2. Who is carrying out the pollutant monitoring program? Please provide information on the institution(s)/agencies that collect the samples and carry out the analyses. Copy table if needed.

Name:
Role in monitoring: (e.g. sample collection, analyses, other)
Postal Address:
Contact Person:
Telephone:
Email:
Weblink:

10.3. Identify the small cetacean species that were covered by your monitoring program during the reporting period. Mark the year in which the species was sampled with an x.

| 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | Species | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | Species |
|------|------|------|------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------------------|
| | | | | Choose a species | | | | | Choose a species |
| | | | | Choose a species | | | | | Choose a species |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|------------------|--|--|--|------------------|
| | | | | Choose a species | | | | Choose a species |
|--|--|--|--|------------------|--|--|--|------------------|

Comments:

10.4. Select the source of your samples (multiple answers possible)

- Necropsy from stranding
- Necropsy from bycatch
- Sample from live stranding
- Biopsy from live animal
- Other (specify in comments)

Comments:

10.5. Select the geographical coverage of your monitoring program (several answers are possible)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>OSPAR Region I Arctic Waters</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Sea | <p>OSPAR Region IV Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast</p> <input type="checkbox"/> N. Bay of Biscay <input type="checkbox"/> Iberian Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Cadiz | <p>HELCOM cont.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Finland <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Baltic Proper <input type="checkbox"/> Western Gotland Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Gotland Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Riga <input type="checkbox"/> Gdansk Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Bornholm Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Arkona Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Kattegat <input type="checkbox"/> Belt Sea <input type="checkbox"/> The Sound |
| <p>OSPAR Region II Greater North Sea</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Dogger Bank <input type="checkbox"/> Southern North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Northern North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Channel <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Trench <input type="checkbox"/> Skagerrak | <p>OSPAR Region V Wider Atlantic</p> <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <p>OSPAR Region III Celtic Sea</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Celtic Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Irish Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Irish & Scottish W. Coast | <p>HELCOM</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Bay <input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Archipelago Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Åland Sea | |

A map of the OSPAR and HELCOM regions and sub-regions can be found in the Annex A.

10.6. Select the contaminant / pathogen analyses you have conducted for small cetaceans.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> POPs (e.g. PCBs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Radionuclides | <input type="checkbox"/> Brucella | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oil (e.g. PAHs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic elements | <input type="checkbox"/> Microplastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAB toxins | <input type="checkbox"/> TBT | <input type="checkbox"/> Nanoplastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage | <input type="checkbox"/> Morbillivirus | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: |

Comments:

10.7. Does your country determine microplastics in small cetaceans?

- No.** Go to Question 10.9.
- Yes.** Please provide information in the table below:

Do you have a specific protocol to monitor microplastic in small cetaceans? No Yes (If yes, please provide details and weblinks or upload document.)

There is currently no agreed protocol between Parties. Best practice needs to be established to make sure that all results obtained are comparable between research institutes. In particular, it is essential to avoid contamination of samples during processing, e.g. with airborne microplastic fibres.

10.8. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on impact of pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics) on small cetaceans in your country.

We need to capture information on new knowledge arising from monitoring schemes or other research projects, especially results which enhance our understanding of impacts of hazardous pollutants and/or assess their known or likely effects on small cetacean population status (e.g. considering PCB concentrations in blubber in relation to threshold for inhibition of reproduction). Where relevant, please report separately per pollutant, species and area.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

10.9. If applicable, list any additional evidence/ data of reduced impacts of pollutants on small cetaceans following implementation of national mitigation measures (e.g. decline of contaminant levels in blubber over time).

10.10. Have there been any instances/ issues related to pollution and hazardous substances in your country during the reporting period?

No.

Yes. Please provide details:

10.11. Is the perceived level of pressure from pollution and hazardous substances in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Not applicable. Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

11. Ship Strikes

AIM: understanding the potential risk of ship strike as a cause of injury/death in small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 10.6, 8.9, 6.1, 5.4

Ship strikes are collisions between vessels and cetaceans. In the last decades, evidence has emerged that ship strikes might occur more often than previously thought and can have a significant impact on small resident cetacean populations. Most research so far has focused on large cetaceans as those animals are often carried visibly into port at the bow of a vessel. For small cetaceans, ship strike events are not well documented.

Ship strike occurrence is directly linked to the frequency of shipping activity, including such directed at cetaceans, i.e. cetacean watching. To quantify this pressure, it is important to know what kind of vessels are involved in the strike, as well as the type, size and speed of the vessel. But it is also important to have information on the small cetaceans involved, in particular if the animals were engaged in certain behaviour such as feeding.

Ship strike can cause direct death or injury in cetaceans. Even collisions that are non-fatal might leave individuals with a reduction in their chance of survival. To determine the occurrence of ship-strikes, different sources are used. For small cetaceans, direct observations are the rarest. Necropsies of stranded animals can find evidence of characteristic trauma and photographs of animals that survived ship strikes can show typical injuries, such as marks left by propellers. One way to quantify how many animals in a population are impacted by ship strike is to assess the percentage of animals in a photo-identification catalogue that bear ship strike marks.

As this is still a not well documented threat, this section aims to obtain an overview of what kind of data and research is available and ongoing in the countries.

Questions:

11.1. Are there reports available in your country of ship strikes with small cetaceans from visual observations?

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) has a global database for ship strike incidents with small cetaceans. Whether or not your country is Party to the IWC, it is encouraged for countries to provide all ship strike incident information to the IWC database.

- No.**
- Yes.** Please provide information from the reporting period in the table below.

| Has the ship strike been submitted to the IWC Ship Strike Database? | Region | Species (if known) | Date of incident (dd/mm/yy) | Contact (if available contact details of the observer) | Description of the observed incidence (Group size if other cetaceans present, dead/alive after collision, animal retrieval, animal being dead before collision, other information, vessel type/name, speed, damage to vessel or injuries to people) | Is there a necropsy report? | Websites, other information, photographs or publications: (provide links) |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. Link: | |
| Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. Link: | |
| Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. Link: | |

11.2. Are there reports in your country of vessel strikes from necropsies of stranded animals for the reporting period?

- No.**
- Yes.** Please provide information in the table below.

| General Information | | | Necropsied animals | | Comments |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|---------|----------|
| Year | Region | Species | Number of animals with cause of death ship strike (e.g. animals showing ship strike markings ²) | | |
| | | | possible | certain | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | |

Provide source of information and database link if applicable:

² These can be sub-acute (animal dies not immediately after the ship-strike) or chronic lesions (scar forming starts, but there is likely infection/inflammation) or healed lesions that are unrelated to the cause of death (although they could have affected an animals health status in the longer term).

11.3. Does your country have a protocol in use to determine that a cause of death in post-mortem examination is due to a vessel strike?

- No.
- Yes. Please provide information below:

11.4. Is there evidence in your country from existing photo-identification catalogues of small cetaceans of any non-lethal ship strike during the reporting period?

For populations of small cetaceans, such as bottlenose dolphins, one can identify those animals in photo-identification catalogues of animals that show ship-strike evidence (e.g. scars). Monitoring the % of animals that show ship strike evidence can be a useful tool to monitor the development of this threat.

- No.
- Yes. Please provide information in the table below.

Overview of ship strike evidence in photo-identification catalogues

| General Information | | | Photo-identified animals in the catalogue | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|---|---------|---------|
| Year | Region | Species | # individual animals in the photo-identification catalogue | # animals showing ship strike markings (e.g. scars) | | |
| | | | | possible | certain | Unknown |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | | |

11.5. Do you have any other photographs or evidence of ship strikes outside of photo-identification catalogue?

- No.
- Yes. Please provide details:

11.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ship strike and its possible effects on small cetaceans in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

11.7. List any management/ policy actions/ relevant regulations/ guidelines related to mitigating ship strike for small cetaceans (re-routing, tracking animals, ship speed limits) in your country and the year of implementation (current and planned).

Provide web links if available.

11.8. Have there been any other instances / issues of ship strike on small cetaceans in your country in the reporting period?

- No.
- Yes. Please provide details:

11.9. Is the perceived level of pressure from ship strikes on small cetaceans in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Not applicable. Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

12. Climate change (incl. ocean acidification)

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating negative effects of important and emerging climate change related impacts on small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 10.3, 8.9, 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.4, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7

It is certain that climate change is altering the habitat of cetaceans. However, our understanding of how the predicted changes will impact different species and populations can be further developed by identifying issues and trends through reporting. CMS³ highlights the importance of addressing potential issues through the engagement of (1) researchers to better understand the underlying processes, as well as (2) conservation managers and policy makers to monitor changes and to mitigate negative impacts. Focus should be given to understanding tangible climate change effects relevant to cetaceans, such as changing ocean temperatures, prey depletion / prey range shifts, ocean acidification, increased frequency and intensity of ocean storms, changes in sea ice and weakening of the North Atlantic Drift. Such occurrences require that we gather evidence on the existence and nature of climate change effects on small cetaceans and evaluate current monitoring programmes and mitigation measures.

This section aims to provide an overview of what kind of activities are already ongoing in the member states to address climate change. The focus is on those actions specifically regarding cetaceans as well as the most likely impacts on their habitat and prey. Climate change possibly represents one of the most important future threats to the status of cetaceans in the ASCOBANS region. Direct effects may arise due to ocean warming, resulting in distribution shifts (generally northward) so that the animals continue to occupy waters with temperature regimes compatible with their thermal niches. Key indirect effects will result from changes in prey distribution and abundance due to ocean warming, ocean acidification and changes in ocean current systems.

Questions:

12.1. Does your country undertake monitoring that has potential to contribute to knowledge and identification of climate impacts on small cetaceans?⁴

Climate change will have a multiplicity of possible direct and indirect effects on small cetaceans. Attempting to quantify this is challenging, these questions are aimed to provide an overview of the type of monitoring programmes that are conducted that may provide indirect evidence of climate change on small cetaceans.

- No.** Go to Question 12.3.
- Yes.** Continue to Question 12.2.

12.2. Which effects has your country been monitoring during the reporting period?

Overview of monitoring activities related to climate change effects on small cetaceans. Please add additional direct or indirect effects if applicable.

| Monitoring activity | Comments (if possible, provide contact / link to project) |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean abundance | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean distribution | |

³ CMS Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14) Climate Change and Migratory Species.

⁴ This refers to direct and indirect effects.

| Monitoring activity | Comments (if possible, provide contact / link to project) |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean migration or movement range | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean migration or movement timing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean community structure | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in reproductive success and timing in small cetaceans | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in prey (fish) abundance and distribution | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in timing of prey (fish) spawning and migration | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in fishing effort | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in the occurrence of pathogens (from sampled individuals) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Incidences of algal blooms (if yes, where; specify year) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): | |

12.3. Relevant new research/ work/ collaborations which provide evidence/ data about climate change, including its emerging potential issues and effects, on small cetaceans in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information); include the species concerned, the climate change effect observed, who did the work)

12.4. Have there been any instances / issues related to identified trends in small cetacean populations as a result of climate change in your country during the reporting period?

- No.**
- Yes.** Please provide details:

12.5. Is the perceived level of pressure from climate change to small cetaceans in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. To be done per species basis where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Not applicable. Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

13. Physical Habitat Change (e.g. from construction)

AIM: human activities in the Agreement Area have the potential to impact upon small cetaceans. Tracking those activities that cause physical habitat change and improving our understanding of their relative impacts will help shape any necessary mitigation action required.
 Relevant Resolutions: 10.3, 8.11 (Rev.MOP9), 8.9, 8.6 (MOP10), 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.1, 6.2, 6.1, 5.7

This section aims to review new information on physical habitat change, e.g. from construction, and its impacts on small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat, and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.

The collation of this information will contribute to the development of risk maps showing the spatial and temporal (by season) distribution of activities that have an impact on small cetaceans, including information provided in National Reports, taking into account the work done by other organizations.

Note: In the term “physical habitat change”, we include a) coastal/marine construction – artificial islands, harbours, bridges, oil/gas platforms, wind turbines, tidal turbines; and b) seabed damage – dredging, bottom trawling.

Questions:

13.1. Provide spatial information on locations (in form of maps and/or links) of physical habitat change in your country by activity type (dredging, marine construction, coastal construction) for the reporting period.

Many range states are mapping human activities to fulfil obligations under the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, MSFD, OSPAR, and HELCOM; this information is relevant (though often not readily accessible) to ASCOBANS in understanding the extent and trends of human activities potentially impacting small cetaceans.

| Region | Type of information (e.g. maps, GIS, reports) | Is the data available online? | Provide web link to data, or comment on unavailability |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| Choose an item. | | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | |
| Choose an item. | | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | |
| Choose an item. | | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | |

13.2. Does your country have any reported cases of physical habitat change (e.g. dredging, marine construction, coastal construction) impacting small cetaceans during the reporting period?

- No.
- Yes. Please provide details:

Provide web links if available.

13.3. Does your country have any mitigation measures (regulations/guidelines) to prevent impacts on small cetaceans during physical habitat change activities (e.g. dredging, marine construction, coastal construction)?

- No.
- Yes. Please provide details below:

Overview of mitigation measures related to small cetaceans and physical habitat change activities.

| | |
|--|--|
| Measure: | Appropriate mitigation measures are introduced in a decision on environmental conditions, which must be issued before obtaining the necessary administrative decisions. This decision defines the conditions for the use of the area at the stages of the implementation, operation or use and closure of the project and impose the obligation to carry out prevent, reduce and monitor the environmental impact of a project. Measures introduced to prevent impact on marine mammals depends on the type of the project. The scope of the measures includes: soft start procedures, using acoustic scaring devices called “pingers”, bubble curtains, presence monitoring during the construction phase |
| Industry: | Marine renewables |
| Activity type: | Dredging, marine construction. |
| Has the measure been effective? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Other information: | |
|---------------------------|--|

Copy table if needed.

13.4. Relevant new initiatives/projects/publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) in your country during the reporting period on impacts from physical habitat change on small cetaceans (incl. title, organization, lead author).

Provide web links if available.

Guidelines for the environmental impact assessment of offshore wind farms

<https://www.gov.pl/web/gdos/wytyczne-w-zakresie-oceny-oddzialywania-na-srodowisko-morskich-farm-wiatrowych>

13.5. Have there been any other instances/issues in your country regarding physical habitat change during the reporting period?

No.

Yes. Please provide details:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

13.6. Is the perceived level of pressure from physical habitat change in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Status relative to previous years. To be done per species basis where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Not applicable. Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

14. Other issues

14.1. List any other issues related to habitat change and degradation not mentioned above.

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

D. Management of Cumulative Impacts

15. Marine Spatial Planning

AIM: to provide information on existing and proposed marine spatial plans and processes during the reporting period that may impact small cetaceans.

Relevant Resolutions **10.5**, 10.3, 8.9, 8.6 (Rev.MOP10), 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3

A growing demand for use of maritime space increases pressure on ecosystems and marine resources. Marine ecosystems with good environmental status provide notable benefits to a number of economic outputs. Implementation of an integrated spatial planning and management approach can better mitigate negative impacts from maritime activities on marine environments. Spatial planning can support sustainable marine development through coordinated, coherent and transparent decision-making and the encouragement and identification of multi-purpose uses in relevant projects. Marine spatial planning is essential when selecting the most appropriate siting for marine-based projects. Particular attention should be given to critical habitat and relevant species, such as small cetaceans, in order to achieve good environmental status.

ASCOBANS Parties have agreed on a number of resolutions that support the integration of marine spatial planning into development processes. Small cetaceans benefit from good marine spatial planning, and this is highlighted in the resolutions. Countries are requested to provide information relevant to their country in this regard.

Questions:

15.1. Please provide information in regard to current and foreseen marine spatial planning.

| | |
|---|--|
| National plans(s) and processes in force: | |
| National plan(s) and processes in preparation: | |
| Further information, including links to online resources and maps where available: | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

15.2. Does your national MSP include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

- No.**
- Yes.** → In the box below, list the species covered by ASCOBANS which are explicitly assessed. If those species present in your national waters are not explicitly assessed in your SEA, explain why.

15.3. Does your MSP include specific provisions such as reservation or priority layers for the management of one or more ASCOBANS listed species (e.g. such as the reservation areas for harbour porpoises in the German MSP)?

- No.**
- Yes.** → In the box below, explain how these will be applied, including specific management actions, and whether or not these provisions are restricted in time (e.g. selected period of months).

15.4. Does your MSP include buffer zones between areas designated for particular economic use (e.g. offshore wind, shipping) and marine protected areas (including Natura 2000 sites) or areas of particular importance for ASCOBANS-listed species?

- No.**
- Yes.** → In the box below, explain how these will be applied, including specific management actions), and whether or not these buffer zones are intended to benefit ASCOBANS-listed species.

15.5. Does your MSP include provisions for the mitigation of underwater noise with regards to ASCOBANS species (e.g. for shipping, during offshore wind park construction)?

- No.**

- Yes.** → In the box below, explain how and where these are being applied, including specific management actions.

15.6. Please assess how your country's MSP⁵ implements key elements for applying the ecosystem-based approach⁶ in MSP (from 1 where it is not applied to 5 where it is completely applied):

| Key element for applying the ecosystem-based approach in MSP | 1 (not applied) | 2 (partially applied) | 3 (moderately applied) | 4 (well applied) | 5 (completely applied) |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Best available knowledge & practice | | | | | |
| Precaution | | | | | |
| Alternative development | | | | | |
| Identification of ecosystem services | | | | | |
| Mitigation | | | | | |
| Relational understanding | | | | | |
| Participation and communication | | | | | |
| Subsidiarity and coherence | | | | | |
| Adaptation | | | | | |

E. Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas

16. Protected areas, e.g. Natura 2000 sites

AIM: to provide information on existing and proposed marine protected areas with small cetaceans as part of the selection criteria.
Relevant Resolutions: 5.7

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are considered under numerous agreements (including the Convention on Biological Diversity, Habitats Directive, Bern Convention, Ramsar Convention, OSPAR Convention, HELCOM, ACCOBAMS, MSFD) as a tool to achieve conservation goals. Part of ASCOBANS remit is to provide expert advice on the conservation and management of small cetaceans. This includes inviting Parties and Range States to continue or initiate research aimed at locating areas of special importance to the survival (in particular breeding and feeding) of small cetaceans as suitable sites for the establishment of protected areas. This also includes advising on appropriate management measures in these areas, on their own or in the context of other intergovernmental bodies to ensure the protection of small cetaceans.

To monitor the progress of such work to fulfil the obligations of Resolution 5.7 and actions in the workplan, ASCOBANS requires information (e.g. location, species, status, spatial data, management plans and monitoring) on existing and proposed marine protected areas with small cetaceans as part of the selection criteria.

It is of particular interest to ASCOBANS to obtain an overview of the current scale of marine protected areas and to review best practice approaches to management of marine protected areas, in order to make recommendations to Parties.

⁵ If your country has several separate MSPs (e.g. for the coastal zone(s) and the EEZ), please enter one table per MSP.

⁶ For further explanation of these key elements see e.g. HELCOM-VASAB [Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach to Maritime Spatial Planning \(MSP\) in the Baltic Sea area](#).

Questions:

16.1. Does your country have MPAs (existing or proposed) where small cetaceans are the primary reason for the (proposed) designation?

No.

Yes. Please provide details/updates in table below:

| Name (full name of MPA) | ASCOBANS Action Plan | Region | Size (km ²) | Species | MPA status | Date of designation (if applicable) | Legislation/ directive (e.g. Habitats Directive) | Is there a site-specific management plan in place? | Link to shapefile and/or online map | Link to any other online information |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Jastarnia Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Sea Plan <input type="checkbox"/> WBBK Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Common Dolphin SAP <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. (Copy drop-down to add more species) | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | dd/mm/yy | | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Link: | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Jastarnia Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Sea Plan <input type="checkbox"/> WBBK Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Common Dolphin SAP <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. (Copy drop-down to add more species) | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | dd/mm/yy | | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Link: | | |

16.2. Does your country have MPAs (existing or proposed) with small cetaceans are forming part of the selection criteria?

No.

Yes. Please provide details/updates in table below:

| Name (full name of MPA) | ASCOBANS Action Plan | Region | Size (km ²) | Species forming part of selection criteria | MPA status | Date of designation (if applicable) | Legislation/ directive (e.g. Habitats Directive) | Is there a site-specific management plan in place? | Link to shapefile and/or online map | Link to any other online information |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Jastarnia Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Sea Plan <input type="checkbox"/> WBBK Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Common Dolphin SAP <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. (Copy drop-down to add more species) | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | dd/mm/yy | | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Link: | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Jastarnia Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Sea Plan <input type="checkbox"/> WBBK Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Common Dolphin SAP <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. (Copy drop-down to add more species) | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | dd/mm/yy | | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Link: | | |

16.3. Provide information on management measures, including regulations/guidelines, particularly relevant to small cetaceans in MPAs listed above. Including any temporal/spatial restriction of activities (i.e. seasonal fishery closures).

In order to monitor implementation of MPA management measures and make recommendations on best practice, we need to understand what management measures are being used and be aware of examples of what approaches are proving effective.

| Site Name | Pressure (add pressures per site as applicable) | Measure (add measures per pressure per site as applicable) |
|-----------|--|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

16.4. Provide details of existing or proposed monitoring schemes related to the effectiveness of MPAs / management measures listed above for small cetaceans.

16.5. Relevant new research/work/collaboration relating to MPAs in your country.

In order to plan future approaches for MPA management and monitoring we need to be aware of current gaps and emerging issues.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information; include the species concerned, who did the work)

Section III: Surveys and Research

A. Biological Information (per species)

1. Abundance estimates

AIM: to provide new information on abundance and life history parameters of small cetaceans during the reporting period.
Relevant Resolutions: 10.3, 8.5 (Rev.MOP9), 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7, 5.5, 4.7, 3.5, 3.3

Abundance estimates and information on life history are of critical importance for the determination of broader species attributes such as populations levels, health and overall status. These parameters can contribute towards determination of GES and provide a reference for mortality events. Abundance and life history parameters are typically assessed from monitoring programmes. Fluctuations in these parameters can provide insight into trends in populations. Information on abundance and life history parameters can inform the need for mitigation measures, and regional assessment of these parameters allows for a more spatially targeted and concentrated response to support national assessments.

In the ASCOBANS Area, small cetacean abundance and life history should be monitored in response to a number of ASCOBANS resolutions. Continued monitoring of these parameters is essential to understanding current status and trends.

Questions:

1.1. Did your country conduct national dedicated surveys on abundance and distribution during the reporting period?

- No.
- Yes. Provide information in the table below.

Add rows if necessary. Attach maps separately, clearly marking which survey they apply to. Note: Information relevant to SCANS-IV is to be provided in Question 1.2.

| Location | Project | Time period | Method | Species | Animal abundance (including confidence limits or CV) | Link to project/ report/ publication |
|---|-----------|-------------------|--|---------------------|--|---|
| Polish part of the Baltic Sea Arkona Basin, Bornholm basin, Gulf of Gdansk etc. Eastern Gotland Basin | SAMBAH II | Jul 2024-Jul 2025 | Acoustic monitoring (using C-POD) (e.g. line transect, Photo ID, etc.) | HP Harbour porpoise | Not confirmed yet | https://mir.gdynia.pl/sambah-ii-24-badanie-wystepowania-morswina-populacji-baltyckiej-w-oparciu-o-monitoring-akustyczny-w-polskich-obszarach-morskich-jako-czesc-projektu-sambah-ii/ |
| | | | (e.g. line transect, Photo ID, etc.) | Choose an item. | | |
| | | | (e.g. line transect, Photo ID, etc.) | Choose an item. | | |

Relevant information on distribution during the reporting period:

Include species, method, time period, weblinks, and other relevant information.

1.2. Other relevant new research/work/collaboration on abundance estimates in regard to small cetaceans in your country during the reporting period.

List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study and information relevant to SCANS-IV; web links to other relevant information.

1.3. Is the abundance of species in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown? Status relative to previous years. Please provide the nature of the evidence and describe per species (Annex B) where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Not applicable. Comments:

A. Biological Information (per species)

2. New information on life history parameters

2.1. Is there new information on the following life history parameters in the reporting period?

For each life history parameter, please identify the species and provide web links and details where applicable.

| | |
|---|---|
| Age of sexual and physical maturity | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Inter-birth intervals | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Calf and adult mortality rates | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Potential reproductive span/capacity | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Longevity | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Diet | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Age and sex structure | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Other relevant factors | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |

B. Monitoring and Survey Schemes

3. Overview of current monitoring and survey schemes

AIM: to provide information on the progress of monitoring programmes, relevant methodologies and aims thereof, and status of small cetaceans during the reporting period.
Relevant Resolutions: 10.3, 8.11 (Rev.MOP9), 8.9, 8.8, 8.5 (Rev.MOP9), 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7

Monitoring programmes provide important data on biological and environmental attributes, such as population status, abundance and spatial-temporal distribution. They create opportunities for new research and development, including potential improvements to methodology for monitoring in terms of accuracy, practicality and cost efficiency.

In the ASCOBANS Area, application of coherent monitoring programmes focused on small cetaceans, which collect and provide objective, robust and comparable data, is a key component in understanding and improving the conservation status of small cetaceans through appropriate management. Parties have agreed to design, implement and support relevant monitoring programmes through a number of resolutions. Such efforts are also supported by legislation from a number of bodies which identify monitoring as a requirement in management systems. Additionally, Parties have been encouraged to coordinate their monitoring programmes, which promotes international cooperation and synergies. Parties have also been encouraged to review such monitoring programmes and propose improvements for the betterment of conservation efforts.

It is the interest of ASCOBANS to understand the current monitoring programmes utilised, their outputs, and future activities in the Agreement Area. Countries are requested to provide information relevant to their activities as well as potential improvements to such programmes and efforts.

Questions:

3.1. Did your country have national monitoring programmes that enabled assessment of the Conservation Status of small cetaceans in your waters (i.e. provides abundance estimates and/or life history parameters and information on pressures) during the reporting period?

No.

Yes. Please provide an overview in the table below.

Add rows if necessary.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Within MPAs | Approach: <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Strandings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: |
| | Target Species: (Copy drop-down to add more species) Choose an item. |
| | Institution(s): (Name, website, etc) National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI). www.mir.gdynia.pl; |
| Wider Seas | Approach: <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Strandings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: |

| | |
|--|---|
| | Target Species: (Copy drop-down to add more species) Choose an item. |
| | Institution(s): (Name, website, etc) National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI). www.mir.gdynia.pl; |

3.2. Please provide the relevant information regarding aerial surveying activities.

Provide the number of surveys, area covered, relevant species, and timeframe of the survey.

3.3. Please provide the relevant information regarding Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM).

Provide the location of moored instruments, timeframe of the survey, the relevant species, and the make and model of instruments used. Location: **Entire Polish coast, instruments used C-PoDs, timeframe Jul 2024-Jul 2025, species: Baltic Proper harbour porpoise population**

3.4. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other countries?

- No.**
- Yes.** Provide information below.

Please provide the collaborators and links per programme.
SAMBAH II

3.5. Please provide details on any planned activities relevant to monitoring programmes.

Provide web links if available.

3.6. Relevant outputs/findings from monitoring programmes to note.

Per species, please identify the relevant outputs. Provide web links if available.

C. Other Research

Please provide relevant information in regard to other research (not mentioned elsewhere in Sections II, III, IV).

Per project, please provide the institution, duration, aim(s) / objective(s), **In 2025, the Polish multi-industry corporation “Orlen” organized a competition called “ Baltic Biodiversity Grant”. Nine projects were accepted for implementation, including a laboratory examining the conservation status of mussels and rehabilitation centers. and the method. the impact of pharmaceuticals on the macrofauna of the Baltic Sea.**

Section IV: Use of Strandings Records

A. Stranding Networks and Strandings

AIM: to provide information on stranding events and demonstrate progress of stranding networks in understanding, monitoring and mitigating strandings of small cetaceans.
 Relevant Resolutions: 10.4, 10.3, **8.10 (Rev.MOP9)**, 8.7, 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.4, 7.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7

Stranding of cetaceans is an ever-present occurrence and analysis through necropsy and sampling can provide indications of reason for injury and death. Stranding numbers also provide information on population status, abundance and distribution. Effective response to strandings contributes to the maintenance of favourable conservation status of small cetaceans and also has implications for animal welfare. Comprehensive stranding networks are a critical asset in managing small cetacean strandings and have

resulted in large numbers of animals rescued and returned to sea. These networks also have the capacity to guide the public on animal welfare, human health and safety considerations during stranding events.

In the effort to mitigate the anthropogenic causes of these occurrences, Parties have agreed to measures through a number of resolutions. Continued monitoring of stranding causation and further developing guidance for best practices in stranding response and necropsies was identified by Parties as important tasks to pursue, as was setting up stranding response networks. This information is to align with appropriate sampling practices and countries should ensure that the data is available for researchers. Additionally, development and support of international strandings databases and regular reporting is conducted through relevant research institutes and stranding schemes. ASCOBANS Secretariat encourages the ongoing funding and support of engagement with organizations for further development of guidelines, best practices and maintaining dataflow for capacity building across stranding networks.

To better understand the extent to which stranding events occur and how these events are managed, it is the interest of ASCOBANS for countries to provide the relevant information on these occurrences within the Agreement Area, procedures undertaken in response to stranding events, necropsies and information on stranding networks.

Questions:

1.1. Is there a national stranding network in place?

No. Go to **Question 1.4.**

Yes.

Please provide details:

WWF Blue Patrol – volunteers

1.2. Does the national stranding network cover the whole, or part of the reporting country's coastline?

Whole coastline.

Part of the coastline.

Please provide details:

WWF Blue Patrol – volunteers

1.3. Are necropsies carried out to determine cause of death?

No.

Yes.

Please provide details:

Hel Marine Station UG carries out the necropsies only if the body is in a good condition

1.4. Is there a database of strandings?

No. Go to Question 1.6.

Yes. Continue to Question 1.5.

1.5. Is the data available online or downloadable on request?

No.

Yes.

Please provide details:

On request

1.6. Provide details for any new institution(s) responsible for a stranding database, responding to live-strandings, collection of carcasses, and for conducting necropsies.

Please identify the new responsible institution(s) and provide their: responsibility (responding to live-strandings, collection of carcasses, necropsies, stranding database), phone number, email, and website.

1.7. Were cases photographed, measured or sampled even if not collected for necropsy during the reporting period?

- No.
 Yes.

Please provide details:

Each case of stranding was photographed, measurements were made for the body length when carcass was complete and samples taken when possible. Only one body of stranded harbour porpoise was in a condition allowing for postmortem and was collected for necropsy

1.8. Were there recorded stranding events in your country during the reporting period?

- No.
 Yes.

How many strandings occurred? (Specify live and dead)

28 _____

Please also provide more details in the table below.

| Species | Region | Total animals stranded | Number of dead animals | Number of animals stranding alive | Response to live stranding (describe # of successful cases and methods used) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Choose an item. | H Gdansk Basin | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Choose an item. | H Bornholm Basin | 23 | 23 | 0 | |
| Choose an item. | H Eastern Gotland Basin | 4 | 4 | 0 | |

1.9. Were any necropsies conducted during the reporting period?

- No.
 Yes.

Please provide information below:

Per necropsy, please provide: the protocol used or dissection / methodologies / collection of samples etc., number of carcasses necropsied, what causes of death were identified (add percentage if available), and any additional comments. -

28 carcasses found stranded, 6 strandings in the Baltic Proper population range.

3 sampled for teeth, 1 taken for further analysis

1.10. Other relevant new research/work/collaboration on strandings and stranding networks in your country.

List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

Section V: Legislation

A. Overview of Legislative Framework

AIM: to provide information on national, regional and international legislation and guidelines relevant to small cetaceans during the reporting period.

Relevant Resolutions: 10.5, 10.3, 9.2 (Rev.MOP10), 8.10 (Rev.MOP9), 8.9, 8.8, 8.6 (Rev.MOP10), 8.5 (Rev.MOP9), 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.1, 6.2 (Rev.MOP10), 6.1, 5.7, 5.4

Legislation and guidelines are a key component of efforts to support favourable conservation status of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS Area. A number of existing legislation and guidelines bear relevance to conservation efforts for small cetaceans on national, regional and international scales. Regular updating and adaptation of guidelines and legislation (where applicable) can ensure ongoing prevention, minimization and reduction of negative impacts of marine activities on small cetaceans. In addition, these actions support transparent and reliable management.

Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed to support the requisition, development and the implementation of legislation and guidelines to assess, minimize and mitigate pressures on favourable conservation status of small cetaceans in the Agreement Area. Parties have committed to these actions through a number of resolutions regarding pressures known to be detrimental to small cetaceans. It is in the interest of ASCOBANS for countries to provide information on current and foreseen national, regional and international legislation and guidelines relevant to small cetaceans in the Agreement Area.

Questions:

1.1. Please provide the applicable information regarding legislation and guidelines relevant to small cetaceans in the table below.

| | |
|--|---|
| Are national guidelines relevant for small cetaceans currently in place in your country? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please identify the guidelines concerned: |
| Is national legislation relevant for small cetaceans currently in place in your country? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please identify the legal statutes concerned: |
| Are regional and/or international guidelines relevant for small cetaceans currently in place in your country? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please identify the guidelines concerned: |
| Is regional and/or international legislation relevant for small cetaceans currently in place in your country? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please identify the legal statutes concerned: |

1.2. Have there been any instances/issues related to national, regional and/or international legislation during the reporting period in your country?

- No.**
 Yes. Please provide details:

Section VI: Information and Education

A. Education and outreach

AIM: to determine if there are gaps in the outreach and education activities and if additional material should be produced in your country or by the Secretariat (e.g. on certain themes, species, regions, languages, for certain target audiences).
Relevant Resolutions: 10.2, 5.8

The revised ASCOBANS Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan (see [ASCOBANS/MOP9/Doc.5.3](#) Annex 1) was endorsed by the 9th Meeting of the Parties (2020). The purpose of the CEPA Plan is to identify realistic activities relevant to ASCOBANS and mandated by Parties, to be undertaken by the Secretariat, Parties, and relevant partners. It seeks a clearer focus amongst Secretariat, Parties, Partners, and stakeholders regarding objectives. The purpose of this section is to highlight successes and to identify potential gaps in outreach and education activities and related materials.

Questions:

1.1. List education/outreach activities in the reporting period in your country, which are of relevance to conservation of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS Area (e.g. activities during the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise in May)

| Organizer | Name of activity (incl. translation to English, where applicable) | Date(s) | Location | Target audience (general public, scientists, children, fishers; other – please state) | Links (for further information) |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|----------|---|---------------------------------|
| Hel Marine Station UG | ASCOBANS International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise | 18.05.2025 | Gdynia | General public | |
| Hel Marine Station UG | Exhibition dedicated to harbour porpoise "Hause of Harbour Porpoise" | All year 2025 | Hel | General public | |
| | | | | | |

1.2. List current information/outreach materials produced in your country, which are of relevance to ASCOBANS Area and species.

| Name of publication (incl. translation into English, where applicable) | Author(s) | Publisher | Year | Links (to download publication) | Can ASCOBANS distribute the link to publication for outreach purposes? |
|--|-----------|------------|------|---|--|
| WWF Blue Guide | | WWF Poland | 2025 | Z naturą na plaży przez cały rok – sięgnij po Błękitny Poradnik WWF WWF Polska Enjoy nature on the beach all year round – get the WWF Blue Guide WWF Poland | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes but current edition is only in Polish |
| | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

1.3. List other organizations engaged in outreach relevant to the ASCOBANS Area, incl. web links.

1.4. List other initiatives/work/collaboration relevant to the ASCOBANS Area that are not included above.

1.5. List any gaps in your country’s outreach relevant to the ASCOBANS Area. What would be needed to fill these gaps?

1.6. Resources permitting, are there any materials that you think the ASCOBANS Secretariat should produce?

No.

Yes. Please describe what, and why:

Section VII: Other Matters

A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement:

(Opportunity to include other information missing from the form)

B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement:

(Opportunity to describe any other issues that were not covered by the 2025 (Year 2) form - i.e. other topics than bycatch, resource depletion, marine debris, surveys and research, use of strandings records)

C. Burning Issues:

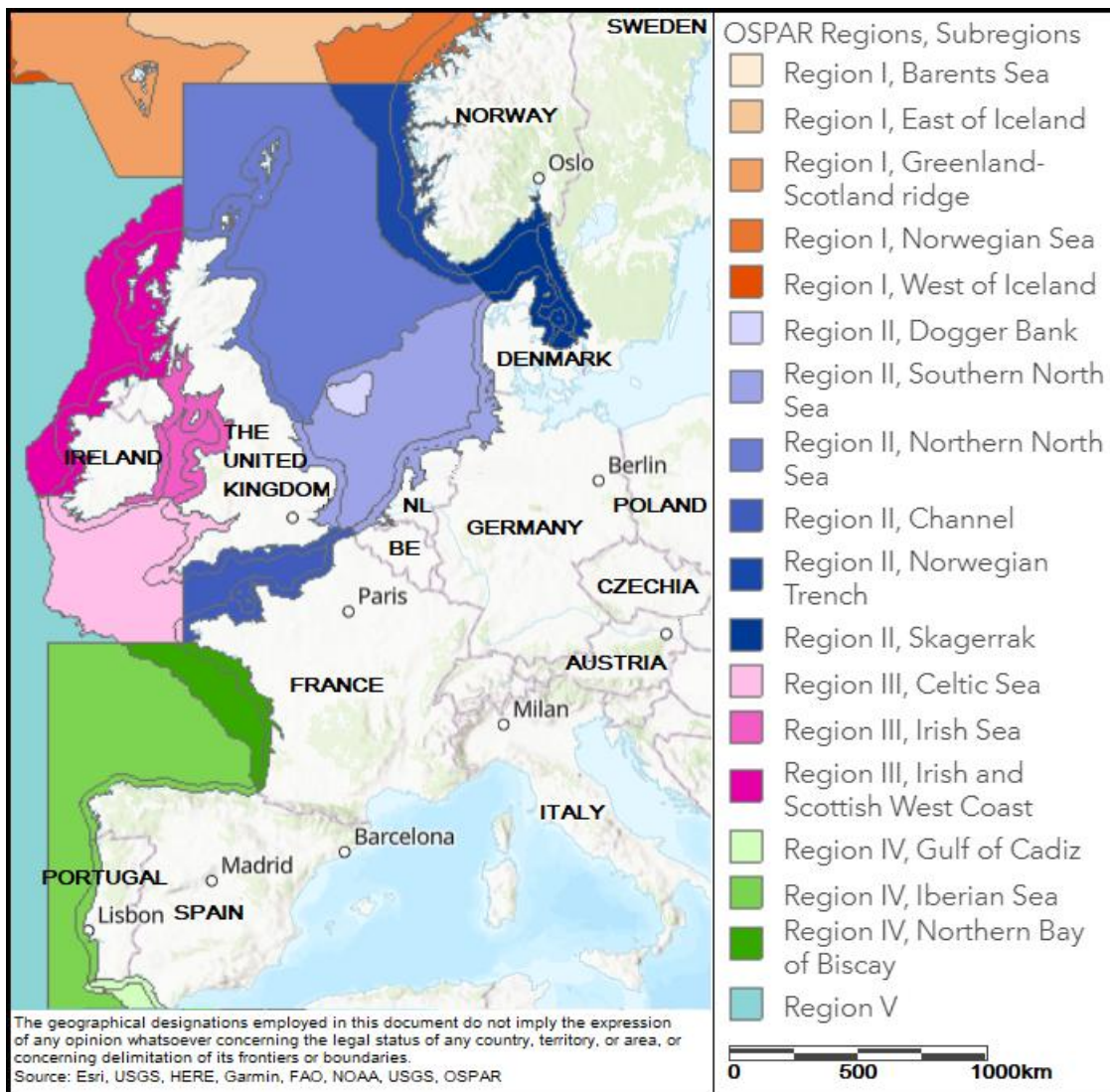
(Opportunity to highlight urgent or emerging issues)

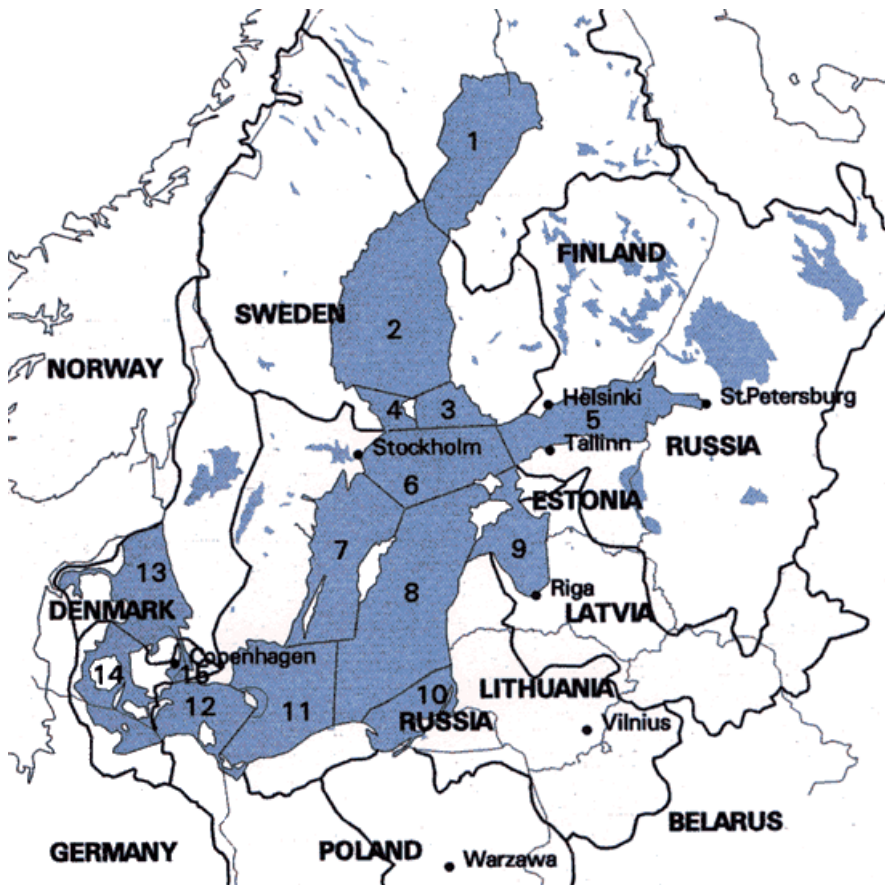
Annex A: Overview of the sub-regions as defined by OSPAR and HELCOM, and areas as defined by ICES.

Drop-down menu sub-regions OSPAR and HELCOM

Choose an item.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>OSPAR Region I Arctic Waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Sea <p>OSPAR Region II Greater North Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dogger Bank <input type="checkbox"/> Southern North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Northern North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Channel <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Trench <input type="checkbox"/> Skagerrak <p>OSPAR Region III Celtic Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Celtic Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Irish Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Irish & Scottish W. Coast | <p>OSPAR Region IV Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> N. Bay of Biscay <input type="checkbox"/> Iberian Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Cadiz <p>OSPAR Region V Wider Atlantic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <p>HELCOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Bay <input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Archipelago Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Åland Sea | <p>HELCOM cont.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Finland <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Baltic Proper <input type="checkbox"/> Western Gotland Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Gotland Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Riga <input type="checkbox"/> Gdansk Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Bornholm Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Arkona Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Kattegat <input type="checkbox"/> Belt Sea <input type="checkbox"/> The Sound |
|---|--|--|





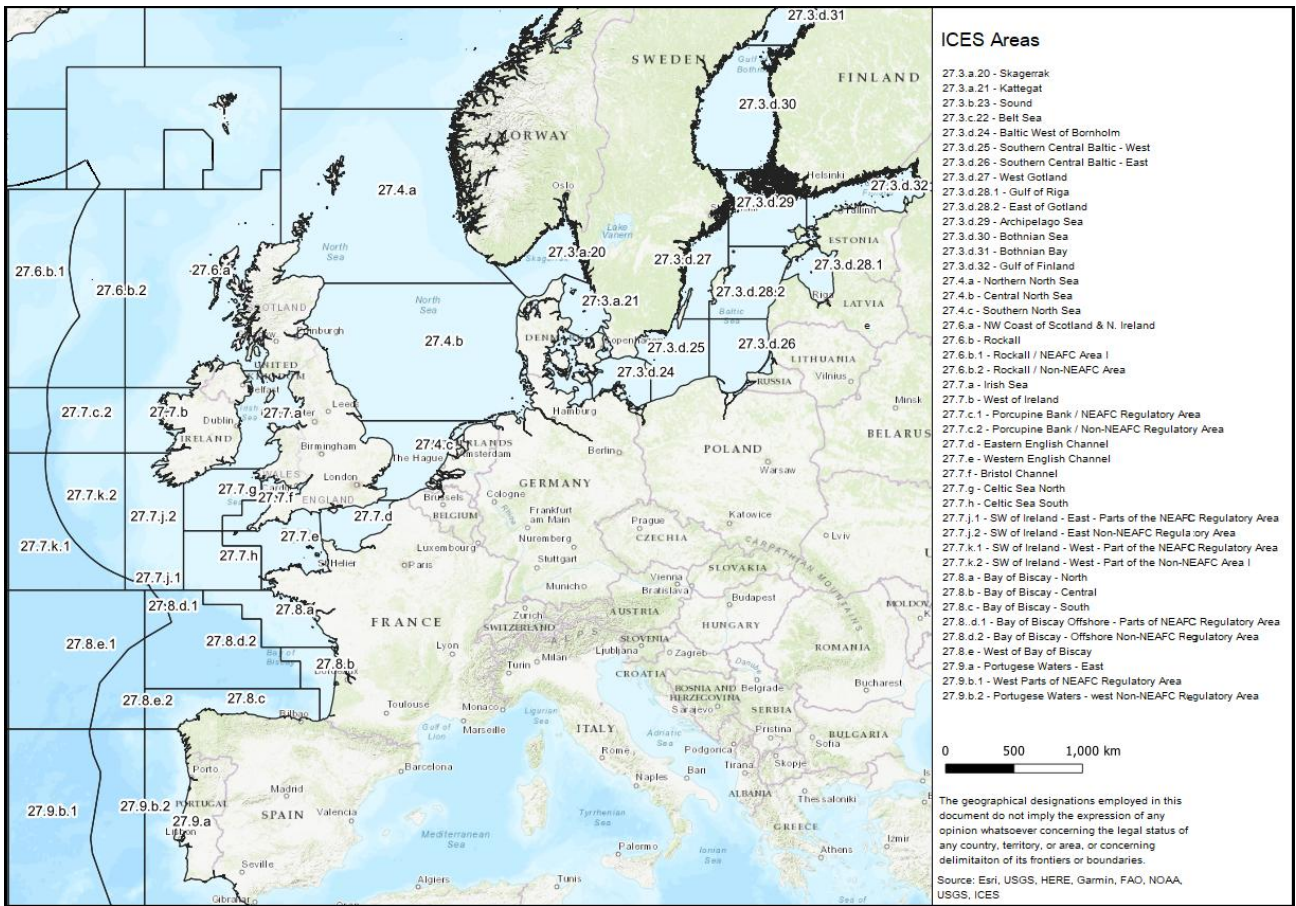
A map of the Baltic Sea drainage basins (catchment area), and marine subdivisions, including basins.

1. Bothnian Bay
2. Bothnian Sea
3. Archipelago Sea
4. Åland Sea
5. Gulf of Finland
6. Northern Baltic Proper
7. Western Gotland Basin
8. Eastern Gotland Basin
9. Gulf of Riga
10. Gdansk Basin
11. Bornholm Basin
12. Arkona Basin
13. Kattegat
14. Belt Sea
15. The Sound

Drop-down menu of ICES Areas

Choose an item.

| Area | Area Description | Area | Area Description |
|-------------|--|----------|--|
| 27.3 | Skagerrak, Kattegat, Sound, Belt and Baltic Seas | 27.7.b | West of Ireland |
| 27.3.a | Skagerrak and Kattegat | 27.7.c | Porcupine Bank |
| 27.3.a.20 | Skagerrak | 27.7.c.1 | Porcupine Bank / NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.3.a.21 | Kattegat | 27.7.c.2 | Porcupine Bank / Non-NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.3.b.c | Sound and Belt Sea | 27.7.d | Eastern English Channel |
| 27.3.b.23 | Sound | 27.7.e | Western English Channel |
| 27.3.c.22 | Belt Sea | 27.7.f | Bristol Channel |
| 27.3.d | Baltic Sea | 27.7.g | Celtic North Sea |
| 27.3.d.24 | Baltic West of Bornholm | 27.7.h | Celtic Sea South |
| 27.3.d.25 | Southern Central Baltic – West | 27.7.j | SW of Ireland – East |
| 27.3.d.26 | Southern Central Baltic – East | 27.7.j.1 | SW of Ireland – East – Parts of the NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.3.d.27 | West of Gotland | 27.7.j.2 | SW of Ireland – East – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.3.d.28.1 | Gulf of Riga | 27.7.k | SW of Ireland - West |
| 27.3.d.28.2 | East of Gotland | 27.7.k.1 | SW of Ireland – West – Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.3.d.29 | Archipelago Sea | 27.7.k.2 | SW of Ireland – West – Part of the Non-NEAFC Area I |
| 27.3.d.30 | Bothnian Sea | 27.8 | Bay of Biscay |
| 27.3.d.31 | Bothnian Bay | 27.8.a | Bay of Biscay North |
| 27.3.d.32 | Bay of Finland | 27.8.b | Bay of Biscay Central |
| 27.4 | North Sea | 27.8.c | Bay of Biscay South |
| 27.4.a | Northern North Sea | 27.8.d | Bay of Biscay Offshore |
| 27.4.b | Central North Sea | 27.8.d.1 | Bay of Biscay Offshore – Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.4.c | Southern North Sea | 27.8.d.2 | Bay of Biscay Offshore – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.6 | Rockall, NW Coast of Scotland and N. Ireland | 27.8.e | Wet of Bay of Biscay |
| 27.6.a | NW Coast of Scotland and N. Ireland | 27.9 | Portuguese Waters |
| 27.6.b | Rockall | 27.9.a | Portuguese Waters – East |
| 27.6.b.1 | Rockall / NEAFC Reg. Area I | 27.9.b | Portuguese Water - West |
| 27.6.b.2 | Rockall / Non-NEAFC Reg. Area | 27.9.b.1 | Portuguese waters – West Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.7 | Irish Sea, West of Ireland, Porcupine Bank, Eastern and Western English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North and South, and Southwest of Ireland – East and West | 27.9.b.2 | Portuguese waters – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.7.a | Irish Sea | | |



Annex B: Species covered by ASCOBANS

| Code | Common name | Scientific name |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| AWSD | Atlantic white-sided dolphin | <i>Leucopleurus acutus</i> |
| BBW | Blainville's beaked whale | <i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i> |
| BD | Bottlenose dolphin | <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> |
| CBW | Cuvier's beaked whale | <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> |
| CD | Short-beaked Common Dolphin | <i>Delphinus delphis</i> |
| FKW | False killer whale | <i>Pseudorca crassidens</i> |
| GBW | Gervais' beaked whale | <i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i> |
| HP | Harbour Porpoise | <i>Phocoena</i> |
| KW | Killer Whale | <i>Orcinus orca</i> |
| LFPW | Long-finned pilot whale | <i>Globicephala melas</i> |
| NBW | Northern bottlenose whale | <i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i> |
| PKW | Pygmy killer whale | <i>Feresa attenuata</i> |
| PSW | Pygmy sperm whale | <i>Kogia breviceps</i> |
| RD | Risso's dolphin | <i>Grampus griseus</i> |
| RTD | Rough-toothed dolphin | <i>Steno bredanensis</i> |
| SBW | Sowerby's beaked whale | <i>Mesoplodon bidens</i> |
| SD | Striped dolphin | <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> |
| SFPW | Short-finned pilot whale | <i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i> |
| TBW | True's beaked whale | <i>Mesoplodon mirus</i> |
| WBD | White-beaked dolphin | <i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> |

Drop down menu small cetacean species:

Choose an item.