UN environment programme

ASCOBANS

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

ASCOBANS/AC30/NR.6
02 June 2026

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

2025 NATIONAL REPORT: GERMANY

2025 ASCOBANS National Report

ASCOBANS

Online Reporting System

Party: Germany

Submitted Date: 2026-06-01

2025 ASCOBANS National Report

Creation Date: 2026-01

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Language: English

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Introduction

Year 2 (2025) ASCOBANS National Report

1 January to 31 December 2025.

As outlined in ASCOBANS Resolution 10.1 *National Reporting 2025-2028*, this form will cover information from 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)
- 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.

- 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 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 strandings records)

- Implementation and enforcement of the amended North Sea Navigation Regulation:
  The extension of the regulation to the entire Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park, including the whale sanctuary, continues to be effectively enforced. The 16-knot speed limit above ground has contributed to reduced underwater noise levels and a decreased risk of ship strikes on harbour porpoises.
- Progress in spatial protection measures within the whale sanctuary:
  Further steps have been taken toward restricting fishing practices, particularly set gillnets, leading to reduced bycatch risk in key harbour porpoise habitats.
- Continued monitoring of harbour porpoise:
  Continued development of acoustic monitoring (e.g. C-PODs) provides a unique, high-resolution time series that reveals both spatial differences and seasonal dynamics in porpoise occurrence within the Wadden Sea.
- Strengthened cooperation between authorities and research institutions:
  Collaboration between federal and state authorities, scientific institutions, and NGOs has improved the knowledge base for conservation measures.
- Increased awareness and stakeholder engagement:
  Outreach activities targeting fishers, shipping operators, and the public have contributed to better compliance and awareness of harbour porpoise conservation needs.

In your country, for 2025 (Year 2), what does this report reveal about 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 strandings records - kindly note that challenges with regards to other topics can be reported on under Section VII.B *Difficulties in implementing the Agreement)*

- Harmonizing the EU Habitats Directive (Natura 2000) with the Common Fisheries Policy remains a key challenge.
- Insufficient data on bycatch levels:
  Systematic and representative monitoring of bycatch is still lacking, limiting the ability to assess population-level impacts.
- Cumulative impacts of human activities:
  Increasing pressures from shipping, offshore wind energy development, and underwater noise continue to pose risks to harbour porpoises.
- Climate change and ecosystem shifts:
  Changes in prey availability and habitat conditions add uncertainty to conservation planning and may affect porpoise distribution.

In your country, for 2025 (Year 2), what does this report reveal about the main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement?

(List up to five items, ideally related to the topics of Year 2: bycatch, resource depletion, marine debris, surveys and research, use of strandings records)

- Full implementation of fisheries restrictions in the whale sanctuary:
  Priority remains the introduction of a comprehensive ban on set gillnets, trammel nets, and other fishing methods within the 12 nm zone for all EU vessels.
- Establishment of a robust bycatch monitoring system:
  Development and implementation of standardized, mandatory bycatch monitoring to provide reliable data for management decisions.
- Further reduction of underwater noise.
- Further fishery management measures in the N2K sites in the Baltic EEZ although within the framework of Baltfish

Section I: General Information

A. Country Information

1. Name of Party / Non-Party Range State:

Germany

2. Details of the Report Compiler

Details of the report compiler

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Does the Report Compiler act as ASCOBANS National Coordinator (i.e. focal point)?

Please select only one option

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

3. Details of contributor(s)

Please provide the following details per contributor: Name, Function, Organization, Postal Address, Telephone, Email, and Topic(s) contributed to.

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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.

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

	Used? (Yes/No)	Percentage (% by monitoring method, of total bycaught animals, by gear type if applicable)
Dedicated observer schemes		
Fisheries observes	yes	less than 1%
Remote Electronic Monitoring		
Self-reporting by fishermen	yes	
Pathological investigation	yes	(for federal state MV only): 1 (14,29)
Assessment at stranding site		

Comments:

none

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

Please provide details in this table - download and then attach it using the blue 'clip' button.

Tick all that apply

- [ ] AWSD - Atlantic white-sided dolphin

- [ ] BBW - Blainville's beaked whale
- [ ] BD - Bottlenose dolphin
- [ ] CBW - Cuvier's beaked whale
- [ ] CD - Short-beaked Common Dolphin
- [ ] FKW - False killer whale
- [ ] GBW - Gervais' beaked whale
- [x] HP - Harbour Porpoise
- [ ] KW - Killer Whale
- [ ] LFPW - Long-finned pilot whale
- [ ] NBW - Northern bottlenose whale
- [ ] PKW - Pygmy killer whale
- [ ] PSW - Pygmy sperm whale
- [ ] RD - Risso's dolphin
- [ ] RTD - Rough-toothed dolphin
- [ ] SBW - Sowerby's beaked whale
- [ ] SD - Striped dolphin
- [ ] SFPW - Short-finned pilot whale
- [ ] TBW - True's beaked whale
- [ ] WBD - White-beaked dolphin
- [ ] Not Applicable
- [ ] Others _____

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

Please provide details in this table - download and then attach it using the blue 'clip' button.

Tick all that apply

- [ ] AWSD - Atlantic white-sided dolphin
- [ ] BBW - Blainville's beaked whale
- [ ] BD - Bottlenose dolphin
- [ ] CBW - Cuvier's beaked whale
- [ ] CD - Short-beaked Common Dolphin
- [ ] FKW - False killer whale
- [ ] GBW - Gervais' beaked whale
- [ ] HP - Harbour Porpoise
- [ ] KW - Killer Whale
- [ ] LFPW - Long-finned pilot whale
- [ ] NBW - Northern bottlenose whale
- [ ] PKW - Pygmy killer whale
- [ ] PSW - Pygmy sperm whale
- [ ] RD - Risso's dolphin
- [ ] RTD - Rough-toothed dolphin
- [ ] SBW - Sowerby's beaked whale
- [ ] SD - Striped dolphin
- [ ] SFPW - Short-finned pilot whale
- [ ] TBW - True's beaked whale
- [ ] WBD - White-beaked dolphin

- [x] Not Applicable
- [ ] Others _____

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

Please select only one option

- (●) No
- ( ) Yes

1.5. Are there any mitigation measures in place?

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in this table - download and then attach it using the blue 'clip' button.

Please select only one option

- ( ) No
- (●) Yes

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

Please select only one option

- ( ) No
- ( ) Unknown/not applicable
- (●) Yes

Please provide details:

Baltic Sea: Reduction of fishing effort in gill net and trammel net fisheries targeting cod and herring due to quota reductions

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

Project: Bycatch and health assessment on harbor porpoises from 2023 to 2026. https://www.tiho-hannover.de/en/clinics-institutes/institutes/institute-of-terrestrial-and-aquatic-wildlife-research-itaw/research/projects-aquatic/ongoing-projects-aquatic/bycatch-and-health-assessment-on-harbor-porpoises-from-2023-to-2026

Project: EU LIFE CIBBRiNA - Coordinated Development and Implementation of Best Practice in Bycatch Reduction in the North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean Regions (https://www.tiho-hannover.de/itaw/forschung/projekte-aquatisch/aktuelle-projekte/life-cibbrina-coordinated-development-and-implementation-of-best-practice-in-bycatch-reduction-in-the-north-atlantic-baltic-and-mediterranean-regions)

Project: CUMBIAH - Conservation Union for Management of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise Populations and Their Habitat (https://www.deutsches-meeresmuseum.de/wissenschaft/projekte/aktuell/cumbiah)

https://www.deutsches-meeresmuseum.de/wissenschaft/projekte/aktuell/cumbiah

CUMBIAH - Conservation Union for Management of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise Populations and Their Habitat

https://www.tiho-hannover.de/itaw/forschung/projekte-aquatisch/aktuelle-projekte/life-cibbrina-coordinated-development-and-implementation-of-best-practice-in-bycatch-reduction-in-the-north-atlantic-baltic-and-mediterranean-regions

EU LIFE CIBBRiNA

https://www.tiho-hannover.de/itaw/forschung/projekte-aquatisch/aktuelle-projekte/life-cibbrina-coordinated-development-and-implementation-of-best-practice-in-bycatch-reduction-in-the-north-atlantic-baltic-and-mediterranean-regions)

Bycatch and health assessment on harbor porpoises from 2023 to 2026

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)
harbour porpoise	unknown	No systematic assessments of bycatch

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.

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

Please select only one option

- ○ No
- ◉ Yes

Please provide details:

Western Baltic: Spawning stock biomasses as well as reproduction rates of spring spawning herring and cod are on low levels;

North Sea:

Based on the latest ICES stock assessments for the North Sea **(ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort (2025))**, there is no clear indication of widespread depletion across all key prey species relevant to small cetaceans. However, some key forage fish stocks, particularly sandeel, show signs of low biomass and poor recruitment, with ICES advising zero catch in parts of the North Sea.

2.2. Where are these depletions in national waters occurring?

Please choose the sub-Regions from Annex A as defined by OSPAR & HELCOM.

Tick all that apply

- ☐ OI Norwegian Sea
- ☐ OII Dogger Bank
- ☑ OII Southern North Sea

- [ ] OII Northern North Sea
- [ ] OII Channel
- [ ] OII Norwegian Trench
- [ ] OII Skagerrak
- [ ] OIII Celtic Sea
- [ ] OIII Irish Sea
- [ ] OIII Irish & Scottish W. Coast
- [ ] OIV N. Bay of Biscay
- [ ] OIV Iberian Sea
- [ ] OIV Gulf of Cadiz
- [ ] OV Wider Atlantic
- [ ] H Bothnian Bay
- [ ] H Bothnian Sea
- [ ] H Archipelago Sea
- [ ] H Aland Sea
- [ ] H Gulf of Finland
- [ ] H Northern Baltic Proper
- [ ] H Western Gotland Basin
- [ ] H Eastern Gotland Basin
- [ ] H Gulf of Riga
- [ ] H Gdansk Basin
- [ ] H Bornholm Basin
- [x] H Arkona Basin
- [ ] H Kattegat
- [x] H Belt Sea
- [ ] H The Sound
- [ ] Not Applicable

Please choose the sub-Areas from Annex A as defined by ICES.

Tick all that apply

- [ ] 27.3 Skagerrak, Kattegat, Sound, Belt and Baltic Seas
- [ ] 27.3.a Skagerrak and Kattegat
- [ ] 27.3.a.20 Skagerrak
- [ ] 27.3.a.21 Kattegat
- [ ] 27.3.b,c Sound and Belt Sea
- [ ] 27.3.b.23 Sound
- [x] 27.3.c.22 Belt Sea
- [ ] 27.3.d Baltic Sea
- [ ] 27.3.d.24 Baltic West of Bornholm
- [ ] 27.3.d.25 Southern Central Baltic – West
- [ ] 27.3.d.26 Southern Central Baltic – East
- [ ] 27.3.d.27 West of Gotland
- [ ] 27.3.d.28.1 Gulf of Riga
- [ ] 27.3.d.28.2 East of Gotland
- [ ] 27.3.d.29 Archipelago Sea
- [ ] 27.3.d.30 Bothnian Sea
- [ ] 27.3.d.31 Bothnian Bay
- [ ] 27.3.d.32 Bay of Finland

- [ ] 27.4 North Sea
- [ ] 27.4.a Northern North Sea
- [ ] 27.4.b Central North Sea
- [x] 27.4.c Southern North Sea
- [ ] 27.6 Rockall, NW Coast of Scotland and N. Ireland
- [ ] 27.6.a NW Coast of Scotland and N. Ireland
- [ ] 27.6.b Rockall
- [ ] 27.6.b.1 Rockall / NEAFC Reg. Area I
- [ ] 27.6.b.2 Rockall / Non-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
- [ ] 27.7.a Irish Sea
- [ ] 27.7.b West of Ireland
- [ ] 27.7.c Porcupine Bank
- [ ] 27.7.c.1 Porcupine Bank / NEAFC Reg. Area
- [ ] 27.7.c.2 Porcupine Bank / Non-NEAFC Reg. Area
- [ ] 27.7.d Eastern English Channel
- [ ] 27.7.e Western English Channel
- [ ] 27.7.f Bristol Channel
- [ ] 27.7.g Celtic North Sea
- [ ] 27.7.h Celtic Sea South
- [ ] 27.7.j SW of Ireland – East
- [ ] 27.7.j.1 SW of Ireland – East – Parts of the NEAFC Reg. Area
- [ ] 27.7.j.2 SW of Ireland – East – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area
- [ ] 27.7.k SW of Ireland - West
- [ ] 27.7.k.1 SW of Ireland – West – Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area
- [ ] 27.7.k.2 SW of Ireland – West – Part of the Non-NEAFC Area I
- [ ] 27.8 Bay of Biscay
- [ ] 27.8.a Bay of Biscay North
- [ ] 27.8.b Bay of Biscay Central
- [ ] 27.8.c Bay of Biscay South
- [ ] 27.8.d Bay of Biscay Offshore
- [ ] 27.8.d.1 Bay of Biscay Offshore – Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area
- [ ] 27.8.d.2 Bay of Biscay Offshore – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area
- [ ] 27.8.e Wet of Bay of Biscay
- [ ] 27.9 Portuguese Waters
- [ ] 27.9.a Portuguese Waters – East
- [ ] 27.9.b Portuguese Water - West
- [ ] 27.9.b.1 Portuguese waters – West Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area
- [ ] 27.9.b.2 Portuguese waters – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area

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
Quota reductions for western Baltic cod and spring		

spawning herring		

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)?

Please select only one option

- (●) No
- ( ) Yes

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

Please select only one option

- (●) No
- ( ) Yes

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

no new research

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
harbour porpoise	unknown	

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.

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

Please select only one option

- ○ No (Go to Question 9.3)
- ◉ Yes

Provide information below:

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

Germany participates in several OSPAR monitoring programmes, which provide standardized and long-term data series on marine debris, including:

- Beach litter (abundance, composition and trends)
- Seafloor litter (composition and spatial distribution)
- Plastic particles in fulmar stomachs (indicator of plastic ingestion)

These programmes are part of the OSPAR Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP) and contribute to the OSPAR Quality Status Report 2023.

In addition, monitoring of impacts on marine mammals is conducted through regular necropsies of harbour porpoises and seals, including documentation of ingested litter and entanglement cases.

9.2. Are these data publicly available?

Please select only one option

- ○ No
- ◉ Yes (please provide web link)

9.3. What species of small cetaceans were found to have been impacted by marine debris? Please provide details in the table.

Please provide details: download this table and then attach it using the blue 'link' button.

none

9.4. Are there any mitigation measures in place?

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.

Please select only one option

- ○ No
- ◉ Yes

Per measure, please provide: date of implementation, Region (Annex A), identify whether the measure has been effective and provide comments, and other relevant information.

“Fishing for Litter”: The initiative is actively implemented in Schleswig-Holstein in cooperation with fishers, authorities and the NABU. Litter caught during fishing operations is brought ashore and properly disposed of, contributing to the reduction of marine debris in the Wadden Sea region.

Beach clean-up and awareness activities: Regular “Strandmüll-Sammelaktionen” and participation in international initiatives such as Coastal Cleanup Day are organised within the National Park, involving volunteers, NGOs and local authorities.

9.5. How is marine debris managed?

(incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation, current and planned)

“

- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)
- National Reports (http://www.meeresschutz.info/msrl.html)
- Directive 2008/98/EC on waste
- Directive (EU) 2015/720 on reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags
- Regulation (EU) 2019/883 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships
- IMO, MARPOL Annex V
- Directive (EU) 2024/3019 on urban wastewater treatment
- Regulation (EU) 2025/2365 on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution
- Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment
- OSPAR Region Action Plan on Marine Litter (link)
- OSPAR Decisions and Recommendations (link)
- „Runder Tisch Meeresmüll“ (http://www.muell-im-meer.de)

http://www.meeresschutz.info/msrl.html
• National Reports MSFD

http://www.muell-im-meer.de
Runder Tisch Meeresmüll

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

Unger, B., Philipp, C., Ehlers, S. M., Panti, C., Baini, M., Galli, M., Fossi, M. C., Koop, J. H. E., & Siebert, U. (2025). When the small ones tease the largest: microplastic and phthalate ester occurrence in cetaceans occasionally found in the German North Sea and Baltic Sea. Marine Pollution Bulletin, 218, Article 118138. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2025.118138

- German round table on marine litter - products, supporting studies, activities of members (Link)
- BioConsult (2025). OSPAR beach litter monitoring at the german North Sea coast - results 2022-2024 (Link)
- Guse et al (2025). Fulmar litter monitoring in Germany - update 2024 (Link)
- OSPAR reports on marine litter (Link)
- Plastic in the environment - sources, sinks, solutions (Link)

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2025.118138
Unger, B., Philipp, C., Ehlers, S. M., Panti, C., Baini, M., Galli, M., Fossi, M. C., Koop, J. H. E., & Siebert, U. (2025). When the small ones tease the largest: microplastic and phthalate ester occurrence in cetaceans occasionally found in the German North Sea and Baltic Sea

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

Please select only one option

- ○ Increasing
- ○ Decreasing
- ○ Staying the same
- ◉ Unknown

Not applicable.
Comments:

Please provide the nature of the evidence and describe per species (Annex B) where applicable:

na

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.

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

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in this table - download and then attach it using the blue 'clip' button.

Attach maps separately, clearly marking which survey they apply to.

Note: Information relevant to SCANS-IV is to be provided in Question 1.2.

Please select only one option

- ○ No
- ◉ Yes. Please provide details in table.

995/Sec-III_A_1.1.xlsx

Relevant information on distribution during the reporting period:

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

none

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.

Biuw, M., Desportes, G., Garagouni, M., Gilles, A., Givens, G. H., Hakamada, T., Hammond, P. S., Harris, D., Heide-Jørgensen, M. P., Katara, I., Kitakado, T., Mikkelsen, B., Pike, D., & Sigurdsson, G. M. (2025). Report of the Working Group on Abundance Estimates. 32nd meeting of the Scientific Committee as NAMMCO/SC/32/05, Copenhagen (Denmark), 23.-26.09.2025. North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission. https://nammco.no/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/report_aewg_2025-02.pdf

Gilles, A., Authier, M., Pigeault, R., Ramirez-Martinez, N., Benoit, V., Carlström, J., Eira, C., Geelhoed, S. C. V., Laran, S., Sequeira, M., Sveegaard, S., Taylor, N. L., Saavedra, C., Vázquez-Bonales, J. A., & Hammond, P. S. (2025). Distributional changes of small cetaceans in European Atlantic waters and the North Sea from SCANS-IV in 2022. In 36th Conference of European Cetacaen Society: navigating waters of change. https://www.europeancetaceansociety.eu/conference-program-abstract-book-36

Gilles, A, Authier, M, Pigeault, R, Ramirez-Martinez, NC, Benoit, V, Carlström, J, Eira, C, Geelhoed, SCV,

Laran, S, Sequeira, M, Sveegaard, S, Taylor, NL, Saavedra, C, Vázquez-Bonales, JA, Hammond, PS (2025).

Spatial models of cetacean density in European Atlantic waters based on SCANS-IV summer 2022

survey data. Final report published 14 May 2025. 31 pp plus Appendix. https://tinyurl.com/3rv246v5

Hansen, R.G., Sveegaard, S., Teilmann, J., Kyhn, L., Gilles, A., Ramirez-Martinez, N., & Nachtsheim, D. A. (2025). Trends in harbour porpoise abundance from aerial survey monitoring in the North Sea (2011–2023). In 36th Conference of European Cetacaen Society: navigating waters

of change (CM–07). https://www.europeancetaceansociety.eu/conference-program-abstract-book-36

Ramirez-Martinez, NC, Nachtsheim, D, Pigeault, R, Avila, I, Malhke, L, Siebert, U, Gilles, A (2025). Monitoring of marine mammals in the German North and Baltic Sea in 2024. Monitoring report Published: June 2025. 10 pp. https://www.bfn.de/wirbeltiere

Ramirez-Martinez, NC, Nachtsheim, D, Mahlke, L, Pigeault, R, Avila, I, Siebert, U, Gilles, A (2025). Monitoring of marine mammals in the German North and Baltic Sea in 2025. Monitoring report published: December 2025. 6 pp. https://www.bfn.de/wirbeltiere

Ramirez-Martinez, NC, Hammond, PS, Blanchard, A, Geelhoed, SCV, Laran, S, Taylor, NL, Gilles, A (2025). winterSCANS: Estimates of cetacean abundance in the southern North Sea in winter 2024. Final report published 9 May 2025. 14 pp. https://tinyurl.com/3756prc5

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.

Please select only one option

- ○ Increasing
- ◉ Decreasing
- ○ Staying the same
- ○ Unknown
- ○ Not applicable _____

Please provide the nature of the evidence and describe per species (Annex B) where applicable:

Comments: Regional differences; no abundance estimates through PAM

Nachtsheim DA, Viquerat S, Ramírez-Martínez NC, Unger B, Siebert U, Gilles A (2021) Small cetacean in a human high-use area: Trends in harbor porpoise abundance in the North Sea over two decades. Frontiers in Marine Science 7: 606609. doi:10.3389/fmars.2020.606609

Owen K, Gilles A, Authier M, Carlström J, Genu M, Kyhn LA, Nachtsheim DA, Ramírez-Martínez NC, Siebert U, Sköld M, Teilmann J, Unger B, Sveegaard S (2024) A negative trend in abundance and an exceeded mortality limit call for conservation action for the Vulnerable Belt Sea harbour porpoise population. Frontiers in Marine Science 11: 1289808. doi:10.3389/fmars.2024.1289808

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 parameters, please identify the species and provide web links and details where applicable.

	Yes/No	Describe per species
Age of sexual and physical maturity	no	
Inter-birth intervals	no	
Calf and adult mortality rates	no	
Potential reproductive span/capacity	no	
Longevity	no	
Diet	yes	Heße, E., Boyi, J. O., Das, K., Jung, K., Lehnert, K., Piette, M., Pinzone, M., Schückel, S., Schückel, U.,

		Siebert, U., & Gilles, A. (2025). A multi-method approach reveals long- and short-term dietary differences in individual harbour porpoises Phocoena phocoena in the southern North Sea. Marine Ecology Progress Series: MEPS, 755, 115–132. https://doi.org/10.3354/meps14787 MV: Diet analyses publication in progress Species: HP Harbour porpoise
Age and sex structure	no	
Other relevant factors	no	

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.

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?

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in this table - download and then attach it using the blue 'clip' button.

Please select only one option

- ○ No
- ◉ Yes. Please provide an overview in the table.

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.

The long-term aerial monitoring of harbour porpoises in the German North Sea and Baltic Sea (with a focus on the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)) was established in 2002 and continued in 2025 to estimate harbour porpoise abundance and density, as well as to determine distributional patterns. The dedicated monitoring serves to fulfil the European obligation under the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (Directive 2008/56/EC), as well as the regional marine conventions OSPAR and HELCOM. The monitoring is funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) and conducted by the Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW) of the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation, on behalf of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). The work is implemented following the federal government and the states measurement program (BLMP). The sampling periods, as well as the selection of survey areas, were coordinated in close consultation with the BfN and followed the monitoring fact sheet “Mammals” (https://mhb.meeresschutz.info/de/kennblaetter/details/pid/30) from the BLMP monitoring manual. An overview and presentation of the 12 survey areas (A-L) can be found on https://www.bfn.de/wirbeltiere as well as in the monitoring report from 2017 (Nachtsheim et al. 2019). Data from the regular marine vertebrate monitoring are available as georeferenced data and web applications in the BfN portal (https://geodienste.bfn.de/schweinswalmonitoring and https://geodienste.bfn.de/schweinswalverbreitung).

Since 2017 observer-based aerial surveys are complemented by digital aerial surveys to 1) align seabird and marine mammal monitoring programmes and 2) avoid collision risks of low-altitude observer-based surveys in offshore wind farm areas. Digital surveys are planned to replace observer-based aerial surveys in Germany in the near future. In the transition phase, parallel surveys are conducted with two planes with the aim to enable long-term coherence in the monitoring programme.

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.

The ITAW is conducting two projects to acoustically monitor harbour porpoises in the North and Baltic Seas. The monitoring in the North Sea started end of 2011 and is still ongoing. Five monitoring stations are operating in the German Wadden Sea, ranging from Sylt in the North to the mouth of the river Elbe in the South. The Baltic Sea monitoring started at the beginning of 2021 and consists of five stations, ranging from Flensburg in the North to Eckernfoerde in the South. All stations are equipped with C-PODs (Cetacean Porpoise Detectors, Chelonia Ltd.) to detect harbour porpoise clicks. In another project (HABITATWal), two acoustic stations were deployed in the SAC Dogger Bank in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from 2023 to 2025 each year from February to June to particularly record minke whales and additionally white-beaked dolphins. For these long-term recordings, AMARs (Autonomous Multichannel Acoustic Recorders, JASCO Applied Sciences) were used. In the months April and May, four additional recorders (SoundTraps, Ocean Instruments NZ) were deployed for max. 2 weeks each year to record the same species while simultaneously conducting a ship-based visual survey. In addition, all the six stations were equipped with C-PODs to detect harbour porpoises as well.

DMM is conducting PAM in German Baltic Sea (Mecklenburg Vorpommern) since 2002 with C-Pods with the project HaMoNa (funded by BfN) https://www.deutsches-meeresmuseum.de/wissenschaft/projekte/aktuell/hamona

https://www.deutsches-meeresmuseum.de/fileadmin/_processed_/a/b/csm_Position_TopMarine_0c17ef3f51.png

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

Please select only one option

- ○ No
- ◉ Yes

Provide information below.

Please provide the collaborators and links per programme.

If possible aerial line-transect surveys are coordinated with Denmark (Aarhus University) and the Netherlands (Wageningen Marine Research)

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

Provide web links if available.

Visual, acoustic and stranding monitoring will continue in 2026

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

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

https://www.bfn.de/wirbeltiere

https://geodienste.bfn.de/c-pod?lang=de

https://geodienste.bfn.de/schweinswalmonitoring?lang=de

https://geodienste.bfn.de/schweinswalverbreitung?lang=de

https://www.deutsches-meeresmuseum.de/wissenschaft/sichtungen/sichtungskarte/

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), and the method.

Nachtsheim, D. A., Ramirez Martinez, N., Escobar Calderon, J. F., Siebert, U., & Gilles, A. (2025). Comparative analysis of harbour porpoise density from parallel observer-based and digital aerial surveys: challenges and opportunities. In 36th Conference of European Cetacean Society: navigating waters of change. https://www.europeancetaceansociety.eu/conference-program-abstract-book-36

Vrooman, J., Scheidat, M., Teilmann, J., Baltzer, J., Bie Thøstesen, C., Diederichs, B., Geelhoed, S., Gilles, A., IJsseldijk, L., Keijl, G., Nabe-Nielsen, J., Ruser, A., Schnitzler, J., Sveegaard, S., & Siebert, U. (2025). Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and requirements for trilateral monitoring. In 36th Conference of European Cetacaen Society: navigating waters of change (CM–04). https://www.europeancetaceansociety.eu/conference-program-abstract-book-36

Project: HABITATWal, institution: ITAW, duration: May 2022 until December 2026, distribution patterns, population sizes and trends of marine mammals as well as their habitat selection will be studied in more detail, method: dedicated surveys

https://www.tiho-hannover.de/en/clinics-institutes/institutes/institute-of-terrestrial-and-aquatic-wildlife-research-itaw/research/projects-aquatic/ongoing-projects-aquatic/habitatwal-habitat-selection-and-population-dynamics-of-harbour-porpoises-in-the-ecosystem-of-the-german-north-sea-and-baltic-sea

Project: Akustisches Monitoring (POD) Schweinswal 2023-2026. https://www.tiho-hannover.de/itaw/forschung/projekte-aquatisch/aktuelle-projekte/akustisches-monitoring-pod-schweinswal-2023-2026

Project: Untersuchungen zur Habitatnutzung von Schweinswalen in der westlichen Ostsee mittels akustischem Monitoring, 2024-2026. https://www.tiho-hannover.de/itaw/forschung/projekte-aquatisch/aktuelle-projekte/untersuchungen-zur-habitatnutzung-von-schweinswalen-in-der-westlichen-ostsee-mittels-akustischem-monitoring

Celemín E, Gusev N, Domínguez M, Havenstein K, Berggren P, Heide-Jørgensen MP, Lesage V, Lockyer C, Pampoulie C, Pawliczka I, Roos A, Siebert U, Sigurðsson GM, Öztürk AA, Öztürk B, Tiedemann R (2025a) Evolution and organization of MHC II genes in harbour porpoises: insights from long-read cetacean genome assemblies, whole genome re-sequencing and locus-specific genotyping. *Molecular Ecology* **34**, e70006.

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.

1.1. Is there a national stranding network in place?

Please select only one option

- ○ No
- ◉ Yes

Please provide details:

This issue is under the competency of the German 'Länder' (Federal States). Therefore, there is no national network, but rather local stranding networks in the respective federal states.

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

Please select only one option

- ○ Whole coastline
- ◉ Part of the coastline

Please provide details:

It covers the coastlines of the federal states respectively.

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

Please select only one option

- ○ No
- ◉ Yes

Please provide details:

Every animal that is collected along the coastline of SH will be transported to the Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research, University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover, Foundation. Depending on the state of preservation, basic biometrics are recorded, or a full

necropsy is performed, taking samples from different organs for histological, microbiological and virological investigations varying on a case-to-case basis. If possible, a cause of death is determined based on macroscopic findings and results from further investigations.

Mecklenburg Western Pomerania: Depending on the state of preservation, basic biometrics are recorded, or a full necropsy is performed, taking samples from different organs for histological, microbiological and virological investigations varying on a case-to-case basis. If possible, a cause of death is determined based on macroscopic findings and results from further investigations.

1.4. Is there a database of strandings?

Please select only one option

- ○ No
- ◉ Yes

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

Please select only one option

- ○ No
- ◉ Yes

Please provide details:

https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/fachinhalte/A/artenschutz/Downloads/meeressaeugerfunde2024.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2

https://www.deutsches-meeresmuseum.de/en/science-research/news/report-stranded-marine-mammals

All stranding data and pathological results from necropsies of harbour porpoises and all other cetaceans stranded in the reporting period are published in a yearly report on the website of the Ministry for Energy Transition, Climate Protection, Environment and Nature (MEKUN).
https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/fachinhalte/A/artenschutz/meeressaeuger

Mecklenburg Western Pomerania:

Annual reports about stranding data and necropsy results from Mecklenburg Vorpommern can be found on the website of the Landesamt für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Geologie

https://www.lung.mv-regierung.de/insite/cms/umwelt/natur/artenschutz/as_saeuger.htm

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.

Schleswig Holstein:
Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW), Buesum Germany
University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation
https://www.tiho-hannover.de/itaw

Mecklenburg Vorpommern:
German Oceanographic Museum (DMM), Stralsund Germany
https://www.deutsches-meeresmuseum.de/

Lower Saxony:
Seehundstation Norden Norddeich,
Dörper Weg 24; D-26506 Norden, +49 (0) 4931 - 9 73 33 0
info@seehundstation-norddeich.de

NLWKN Norden, Jahnstraße 1
26506 Norden
Tel.: 04931 – 947-0
poststelle.norden@nlwkn.niedersachsen.de

NLPV, Virchowstr. 1, 26382 Wilhelmshaven,
LAVES Nds. Landesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit
Lebensmittel- und Veterinärinstitut Oldenburg
Martin-Niemöller-Str. 2
26133 Oldenburg
Tel.: 04 41/ 97 13-0, poststelle@laves.niedersachsen.de

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

Please select only one option

- No
- (●) Yes

Please provide details:

Regional (federal states) differences

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

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in this table - download and then attach it using the blue 'clip' button. Provide details relevant for recorded stranding events during the reporting period.

Please select only one option

- No
- (●) Yes

996/Sec-IV_A_1.8_0.xlsx

How many strandings occurred during the reporting period?

(Specify live and dead)

see table Sec-IV_A_1.8_0

1.9. Were any necropsies conducted during the reporting period?

Please select only one option

- 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 sere identified (add percentage if available), and any additional comments.

MV: Necropsies on 7 animals from 2025 were conducted, the remaining animals will be dissected in the following year.

SH: Necropsies on animals from 2025 were conducted

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)

Petitguyot, M. A. C., Fariñas-Bermejo, A., Brownlow, A., Ahola, M. P., Álvarez Neches, E., Arbelo, M., Authier, M., Balsera Riesgo, R., Berrow, S., Bjørge, A., Brackmann, J., Brasseur, S., Carreira, G., Cervin, L., Claver, C., Covelo, P., Crespo-Picazo, J. L., Dabin, W., Dähne, M., et al. (2025). European stranding networks as a tool for monitoring marine mammal populations (part I): towards optimising the functioning of networks. ICES Journal of Marine Science: Journal Du Conseil, 82(11), Article fsaf194. https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsaf194

Striewe, L. C., Wohlsein, P., Siebert, U., & Lehnert, K. (2025). Diphyllobothrium stemmacephalum infections in harbor porpoises (Phocoena phocoena) in German waters. International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife, 27, Article 101076. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijppaw.2025.101076

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.

(Several) Live Strandings of one humpback whale in the Baltic Sea incl. entanglement in a fisher net. Whale was live rescued and transported to the North Sea but died afterwards (off the coast of Denmark)