

Agenda Item 5.2: Post-mortem and stranding schemes

**Information submitted by Parties and Range States in response to
post-mortem research questionnaire**

Submitted by: Secretariat



ASCOBANS

NOTE:
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR
OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

France

Institution	Marine Mammal Research Centre (CRMM) - La Rochelle
Respondent	O. Van Canneyt - V. Ridoux
Which data are recorded routinely?	Species, location, date found, condition of carcass, probable cause of death, by catch sign or not, body measurements. All coasts of France : English Channel, Atlantic and Mediterranean
Methods and units used	Stranding Network - S.I units (metric units)
What tissue samples are taken ?	Teeth, blubber, muscle, kidney, liver, gonads, stomach, spleen, parasites.
How are these preserved ?	Teeth (alcohol), blubber (frozen), kidney (frozen/alcohol), liver (frozen), gonads (formalin), stomach (frozen), spleen (frozen), parasites (alcohol).
Carcass disposal	Squaring, national disposal to take it in charge by the knacker's
Computer database	CRMM database on Personal Computer
Number of data sets	9871 records
Software used	Microsoft Access (Windows)
Problem with common database ?	Problems of use data not published, and data homogeneity
Advantage of common database ?	Better description for the distribution, relation and comparison to show trends or accidents

Germany

Name and address of reporting institution	Lower Saxony Federal State Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety – Veterinary Institute for Fish and Fishery Products Cuxhaven, Schleusenstr. 1, D – 27472 Cuxhaven Tel.: +4721 6989-24 / FAX: +4721 698916 e-mail: Michael.stede@laves.niedersachsen.de
Name of respondent	Dr. Michael Stede
What data are recorded routinely?	Place and date of stranding; sex and estimated age; condition of carcass; according to the possibility of the condition -, of taking and transport there will be an autopsy done by the reporting institution.
Description of methods and units of measurement used	Autopsy according to the general principles of veterinary autopsies, - further analysis according to the condition of the animal: Histology; Parasitology; Xenobiotics,, Radiology, Bacteriology
List of tissue samples usually taken	Histology: -according to the condition of the carcass: all main organs; Bacteriology: according to the affected organ system:-in general: liver, lung, spleen. Xenobiotics, radiology: blubber, liver, kidney, muscle
How are the samples preserved?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. frozen (-20⁰ to – 70⁰ C; 2. Formaldehyd or other special preservatives according to the target of examination
How are carcasses disposed of?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If not to be transported (outer sands, wadden sea, deserted islands): - by digging in; 2. Rendering plants; but no production of commercial value. 3. Museums; 4. only entitled persons/institutions are allowed to take over the carcasses after autopsy according to nature conservation regulations
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	no
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	Approx. 120 on a paper form
Which computer software is used?	no
Do you foresee any problems (e.g. regarding intellectual property rights etc.) related to a central database?	Yes: beside others use only by a restricted number of persons who contribute to the base
What advantages would you expect from a central database?	Faster and better detection of problems; Faster cooperation; safer basis for proposals prepared for governmental decisions.
Additional information	

Name and address of reporting institution	Germany: Area of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern ; Deutsches Meeresmuseum Katharinenberg 14/20, 18439 Stralsund, Germany
Name of respondent	Dr. Harald Benke
What data are recorded routinely?	Species, location of finding, date of finding, circumstances, finder, by-catch/stranding/life stranding, state of preservation, estimated age, frozen before necropsy or dissected freshly
Description of methods and units of measurement used	Post mortem examinations were performed together with Dr. Ursula Siebert, University of Kiel, according to the Proceedings of the First ECS Workshop on Cetacean Pathology (Kuiken and Hartmann, 1993). Measurements were taken in metric system. Kuiken, T. and Hartmann, M. G. (1993). Dissection techniques and tissue sampling. <i>Proceedings of the ECS Workshop</i> , Leiden, 39 pp.
List of tissue samples usually taken	In close co-operation with Dr. Ursula Siebert, University of Kiel, all organ systems were examined macroscopically and samples of lesions and different organ systems, including lungs, trachea, stomach (1 st , 2 nd , and 4 th compartment), intestine, esophagus, liver, pancreas, thyroid gland, adrenal gland, kidney, urinary bladder, testis, uterus, ovary, spleen, thymus, pulmonary and intestinal lymph nodes, retropharyngeal lymph nodes, heart, aorta, skeletal muscles, rete mirabilis of the intercostal musculature, skin, blubber, brain, spinal cord, eye, bone, bone marrow, and tissue of the aural peribullar cavity, blood, urine etc.
How are the samples preserved?	Formalin, alcohol, other special fixation, frozen at -20-30°C or 70-80°C, OCT etc.
How are carcasses disposed of?	Incineration
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	Data base on important biological parameters of harbour porpoises from the German Baltic Sea (e.g. morphometrics, genetics, chemical analyses, stomach content, age, reproductive data, pathological data)
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	Since 1951 all strandings of cetaceans at the coast of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern were collected by the Deutsches Meeresmuseum
Which computer software is used?	Excel
Do you foresee any problems (e.g. regarding intellectual property rights etc.) related to a central database?	Data should be put in an international data base after publication. Use and interpretation of data sets should be restricted
What advantages would you expect from a central database?	Exchange and comparison of all data collected in different countries. This will give a more precise picture of the different sub-populations of harbour porpoise.
Additional information	

Name and address of reporting institution	Germany: Area of Schleswig-Holstein ; Forschungs- und Technologiezentrum Westküste (FTZ) Werftstr. 6, 25761 Büsum, Germany
Name of respondent	Dr. Ursula Siebert
What data are recorded routinely?	Species, location of finding, date of finding, circumstances, finder, by-catch/stranding/life stranding, state of preservation, estimated age, frozen before necropsy or dissected freshly
Description of methods and units of measurement used	Post mortem examination were performed according to the Proceedings of the First ECS Workshop on Cetacean Pathology (Kuiken and Hartmann, 1993). Measurement were taken in metric system. Kuiken, T. and Hartmann, M. G. (1993). Dissection techniques and tissue sampling. <i>Proceedings of the ECS Workshop</i> , Leiden, 39 pp.
List of tissue samples usually taken	All organ systems were examined macroscopically and samples of lesions and different organ systems, including lungs, trachea, stomach (1 st , 2 nd , and 4 th compartment), intestine, esophagus, liver, pancreas, thyroid gland, adrenal gland, kidney, urinary bladder, testis, uterus, ovary, spleen, thymus, pulmonary and intestinal lymph nodes, retropharyngeal lymph nodes, heart, aorta, skeletal muscles, rete mirabilis of the intercostal musculature, skin, blubber, brain, spinal cord, eye, bone, bone marrow, and tissue of the aural peribullar cavity, blood, urine etc.
How are the samples preserved?	Formalin, alcohol, other special fixation, frozen at -20-30°C or 70-80°C, OCT etc.
How are carcasses disposed of?	Incineration
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	Data base on important biological parameters of harbour porpoises from the German North an Baltic Sea (e.g. morphometrics, genetics, chemical analyses, stomach content, age, reproductive data, pathological data)
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	Between 1990 and 2003 the following number of data sets has been collected per species: Phocoena phocoena: 1277 Delphinus delphis: 4 Lagenorhynchus albirostris: 22 Physeter catodon: 6 Balaenoptera acutorostrata: 6 Balaenoptera physalus: 3 Globicephala melaena: 3
Which computer software is used?	Ingres, Excel, Filemaker
Do you foresee any problems (e.g. regarding intellectual property rights etc.) related to a central database?	Data should be put in an international data base after publication. Use and interpretation of data sets should be restricted
What advantages would you expect from a central database?	Exchange and comparison of all data collected in different countries. This will give a more precise picture of the different sub-populations of harbour porpoise.
Additional information	

Sweden

Name and address of reporting institution	Swedish Museum of Natural History, Contaminant Research Group, P.O. Box 50007, SE-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden.
Name of respondent	Anna Roos
What data are recorded routinely?	Date, locality, length, sex, condition data, cause of death
Description of methods and units of measurement used	Standard procedures of the same kind as used for marine mammals including autopsy.
List of tissue samples usually taken	Blubber, muscle, kidney, liver, lung, brain.
How are the samples preserved?	Frozen, preserved in formalin
How are carcasses disposed of?	Disposal is carried out by the local communities
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	Yes, in our database for the Environmental Specimen Bank. Biological data are stored together with abiotic data.
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	Approx. 20, with additional subsets.
Which computer software is used?	Excel, Access, Statistical software.
Do you foresee any problems (e.g. regarding intellectual property rights etc.) related to a central database?	No
What advantages would you expect from a central database?	Make it easier for international co-operation.
Additional information	Observations of harbour porpoises are reported to the Swedish Museum of Natural History, that presents them on Internet

United Kingdom

Name and address of reporting institution	Institute of Zoology (Zoological Society of London), Scottish Agricultural College (Inverness), The Natural History Museum (London). Full addresses can be provided on request.
Name of respondent	Submitted by Stacey Hughes, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Bristol, UK.
What data are recorded routinely?	No new information
Description of methods and units of measurement used	
List of tissue samples usually taken	
How are the samples preserved?	
How are carcasses disposed of?	
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	
Which computer software is used?	
Do you foresee any problems (e.g. regarding intellectual property rights etc.) related to a central database?	
What advantages would you expect from a central database?	
Additional information	<p>A completed post-mortem questionnaire on the Defra-funded Cetacean & Turtle Strandings Scheme was submitted in 2002. There is nothing further to add except that the following reports of work carried out under the Scheme were published during 2002:</p> <p>Muir, A.I., Chimonides, P.D.J., and Spurrier, C.J.H. (2002) Trends in Cetacean Strandings on the British Coastline 1994-1999. Hard copies are available on request.</p> <p>Ross, H.M., Patterson, I.A.P. and Reid, R.J. (2002) Cetacean Strandings Investigation, Scotland 1995-2000. A copy of the report can be found on Defra's website at: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/cetaceanscot/index.htm</p> <p>Bennet, P.M., Jepson, P. and Deaville, R. (2002) Cetacean Strandings Investigation: England and Wales and Poseidon Database 1995-2000. A copy of the report can be found on Defra's website at: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/resprog/findings/cetacean/index.htm</p>