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Agenda Item 5.5: **Annual National Reports**

Eighth Compilation of Annual National Reports

Submitted by: **Secretariat**

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

Eighth Compilation of Annual National Reports

Bonn, 2004

Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas

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Preface

The 8th Compilation of Annual National Reports covers the year 2003, the 10th year since the Agreement's entry into force and the final year of its fourth triennium. Moreover, it contains the report of one of the Baltic Non-Party Range States, Estonia, provided under the harmonized reporting scheme agreed on by ASCOBANS and HELCOM [1].

This compilation bears witness to the continued efforts of ASCOBANS Parties to implement the Agreement on the eve of the 5th Triennium, a Triennium in which ASCOBANS will face new and additional challenges in an enlarged Agreement area, as agreed by the 4th Meeting of the Parties (Esbjerg, Denmark, August 2004)[2]. Moreover, the 4th Meeting of the Parties also took a decision pertaining to the Parties' National Reports themselves. Starting with the new triennium, the Triennial Reports hitherto required of Parties have been abolished, leaving only the Annual National Reports pursuant to Article 2.5 of the Agreement, thereby substantially increasing the importance of the Annual Compilations. The Secretariat looks forward to the continued support of the ASCOBANS Parties and Range States in producing these compilations.

[1] Cf. Recommendation 17/5, taken at the 5th Meeting of HELCOM HABITAT and the relevant decisions of ASCOBANS bodies

[2] MOP 4 Res. 4

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Summary of Party Details

Party	Period Covered	Report Compiler	Coordinating Authority
Belgium	1 January – 31 December 2003	Jan Haelters MUMM 3e en 23e Linienregimentsplein 8400 Oostende	Dr Thierry Jacques, MUMM* Ministère de la santé publique et de l'Environnement, Gulledulle 110 1200 Bruxelles
Denmark	2003	Maj F. Munk and Genevieve Desportes, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment – Forest and Nature Agency, Esbjerg Fisheries and Maritime Museum, Fjord&Bælt, Danish Institute for Fisheries Research, and National Environmental Research Institute.	Maj F. Munk Ministry of Environment The Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Division for Wildlife Management Haraldsgade 53 DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø Denmark
Finland	1 January – 31 December 2003	Penina Blankett	Penina Blankett Ministry of the Environment P.O. Box 380 00131 Helsinki Finland
Federal Republic of Germany	1 January – 31 December 2003	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Dr Tilman Pommeranz Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Postfach 120629 53048 Bonn
Poland	1 January – 31 December 2003	Iwona Kuklik, Krzysztof Skora Hel Marine Station University of Gdańsk P.O. Box 37 84-150 Hel	Mr Andrzej Langowski Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry, Department for Nature Conservation Ul Wawelska 52/54 00-922 Warsaw
Sweden	1 January – 31 December 2003	Christina Rappe	Christina Rappe Swedish Environmental Protection Agency Blekholmsterrassen 36 10648 Stockholm
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1 January – 31 December 2003	Rachel Harris, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Ms Christine Rumble Dept. for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) Species Conservation Branch Temple Quay House 2 The Square Bristol BS1 6EB

Range States	Period Covered	Report Compiler	Coordinating Authority
Estonia	May 2003 – September 2004	Ivar Jüssi Estonian Ministry of Environment Toomppuiestee 24 15172 Tallinn Estonia	

2. Institutions and Organisations mentioned in national reports

Country	*Name*	*Pages*
Belgium	Laboratoire d'Océanologie, Université de Liège	24
	Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models/Royal Belgium Institute for Natural Sciences (MUMM)	24, 28, 34
	Marine Fisheries Services	10
	Nature and Environmental Council of the Flemish Community	34
	Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS), Brussels	28, 34
Denmark	Danish Environmental Research Institute	29
	Danish Institute for Fisheries Research	7, 29
	Fisheries and Maritime Museum, Esbjerg	25, 35
	Fjord&Bælt, Kerteminde	7, 14, 29, 34
	Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation	7
	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fishery	10
	National Environmental Research Institute	14
	Nordic Council of Ministers	7
	Zoological Museum, Copenhagen	25
France	Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins, La Rochelle	24
Germany	Research and Technology Centre, Büsum	7, 15, 25, 30
	German Oceanographic Museum, Stralsund	15, 25, 30
	GKSS Research Centre, Geesthacht	25
	Federal Research Centre for Fisheries	15
	Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing	18
	Institute for Marine Research at the University of Kiel	15, 30
	Veterinary Institute for Fish and Fishery Products, Cuxhaven	25
	Multimar-Wattforum Tönning	35
	National Park Service Schleswig-Holstein	35
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Poland	Hel Marine Station, University of Gdansk	12, 25, 30, 35, 36
	Centre of Excellence for Baltic Development, Education and Research (BALTDER)	36
	Foundation for the Development of University of Gdansk	35
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	Medical University of Gdańsk	30
	Ministry of Environment	18
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Sweden	Kolmårdens Djurpark	7
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	Institute of population genetics at the University of Stockholm	31
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B. NEW MEASURES /ACTION TOWARDS MEETING THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

1. Direct Interactions of small cetaceans with fisheries

a. Investigations of methods to reduce bycatch

Belgium

Nothing to report

Denmark

The research project NAPER, "New Alternatives to Porpoise Entanglement Reduction", funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Kolmården Fund Raising Foundation and carried out by Fjord&Bælt (DK), Kolmårdens Djurpark (Sweden) and the Danish Institute for Fisheries Research (DK) was completed. In the summer of 2002 and 2003, the NAPER project tested in the wild the prototype of an interactive type "pinger", where the deterrent sound is triggered by the porpoises' own sonar (Rosager Poulsen, 2004[3]). The interactive pinger is an interesting alternative to the beacon mode pinger since the deterrent sounds are only transmitted when they are necessary, i.e. when a porpoise is swimming toward a net. As a consequence, the sound emitted to the environment is reduced and the unpredictability of the deterrent signal will delay habituation. The experiments showed that an interactive pinger was effective at displacing the porpoises, but did not exclude them from a wider area. Changes in swimming behaviour compared to baseline were indeed significant for the dive where the displacement sound was emitted, but not for any of the subsequent dives. Since the purpose of a pinger is to keep the animals at a safe distance from nets but not to scare them off, the interactive pinger seemed to work as intended. Also, the sound monitoring showed that the interactive pinger emitted less than 3% of the amount of deterrent sounds a beacon mode pinger would emit. Further testing will be carried out with an array of interactive pingers in August 2004.

Finland

Nothing to report

Federal Republic of Germany

Pingers used as acoustic alarms or deterrents e.g. in gill net fisheries are suspected to be deleterious to cetaceans because their signals are transmitted with high intensity. Therefore the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum) of the University of Kiel examines ears of harbour porpoises from the North and Baltic Seas found freshly dead for potential impacts of sound. Special histo-pathological methods for cetacean inner ears (Ketten 1992) and

[3] Rosager Poulsen, L. (2004): The efficiency of an interactive pinger (activated by biosonar) in displacing wild harbour porpoises, Phocoena phocoena. [M.Sc. thesis] University of Aarhus. 43pp + appendices.

computerized tomography (CT) were applied for the first time on animals from German waters.

Poland

A pilot research project on monitoring of seasonal occurrence and abundance of porpoises with application of acoustic high frequency Porpoise Detectors (PODs) has been carried out in the Puck Bay area, which is identified as a .hot spot. for porpoises due to the highest level of reported incidental take in fishing nets. This project aims on finding possible relation between seasonality of harbour porpoise occurrence and salmon fishery in this area. In March 2003 first three PODs were set in the Puck Bay, and 10 additional started monitoring in 2004 year in April. According to a very law number of porpoises left in the Baltic such monitoring programme is established as a several-year-project to obtain sufficient data for interpretation.

An additional expected output of the project might be a setting of the best time and model of the pinger programme in this area, one of the recommended short-term methods of bycatch reduction. The idea is not to use pingers on each net fishing in the Puck Bay, but establish an acoustic barrier at the entrance to the Bay. Such a barrier would be activated during the periods recognized as porpoise positive. (occurrence of porpoises has been confirmed), if simultaneous with the most intensive salmon fishery.
Fishery sector did not undertake any investigations on the methods of bycatch reduction. The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Fishery expects such an effect by the reduction of fishing fleet. According to the data from the Ministry 176 shipowners applied for scrapping grant for their fishing vessels, which is ca. 40% of Polish fishing fleet. There is lack of data on how many of them are licensed for salmon driftnets fishery and were fishing with the nets considered hazardous for porpoises.

Sweden

A continuation of research on interactive pingers, NIPPER (Nordic Interactive Pinger for Porpoise Entanglement Reduction), has been funded by the Nordic Counsil and will be carried out as a cooperation between Fjord&Baelt, Kjerteminde, DK, Dr Geneviève Desportes, Kolmården Djurpark/ (SE): Dr. Mats Amundin, Danmarks Fiskeriundersøgelser, Charlottenlund, (DK): Finn Larsen, and Havforskningsinstituttet, Oslo, (N): Dr Arne Bjørge.

A study is ongoing of using a Norwegian fish pot as alternative fishing gear in the gillnet fishery for cod.

United Kingdom

The UK Small Cetacean Bycatch Response Strategy set out the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs thinking on what measures should be taken to reduce bycatch to a level where it does not threaten cetaceans' conservation status. The Strategy begins with a review of existing information concerning the population and abundance of small cetaceans occurring in UK waters. Existing information (including long-standing research on stranded cetacean) enables an assessment to be made of the current level of small cetacean bycatch in UK fishing sectors, including set net fisheries, pelagic and dimersal trawls, and dredging. This information is important in assessing where effort to reduce

mortality is best directed. But it is not simply the UK fleet that is entitled to fish in UK waters, and information is also available on the effects of activities of fishing fleets of other nations.
Potential bycatch mitigation techniques identified to possibly reduce bycatch can usefully be grouped into three main areas: acoustic deterrents, gear modifications, and fisheries management.

Acoustic deterrents comprise the use of 'pingers' on nets, using sound to deter cetaceans. These are known to be effective in set net fisheries but there are nevertheless concerns about use; the cetaceans may become too used to them, or may become frightened to use traditional gathering grounds. And pingers may cause operational difficulties for fishermen using 'pingered' nets. These issues need to be fully considered to ensure optimum application.

The effect of reflective nets in reducing bycatch has been trailed, and there is ongoing work into possible use of selector grids in trawl fisheries.

Fisheries management measures can include closures by time or by area, which might be triggered by a particular level of bycatch: but closures may simply move the problem into other areas, if not planned effectively

A full analysis of these issues allows the strategy to propose targets for specific fisheries in specific areas: and recommendations for action (with indicative costings, and with careful consideration of the practicability and proportionality of proposed measures.)

The Sea Mammal Research Unit has continued work on exclusion devices in the bass pair trawl fishery. A 12 day trial in which a camera was mounted in front of the exclusion device, during March, the period where highest bycatch and greatest fishing effort have been observed in 2000-2002, showed no dolphins approaching the grid during 31 tows. Dolphin bycatch rates were relatively high in 2003, and adjacent boats had several dolphin bycatch tows during this period. After the trial the grid and camera were left on board and monitored by the skipper and an observer for a further 51 tows. Two animals were recorded as having drowned while apparently trying to negotiate the escape panel during these tows. The overall bycatch rate for the vessel using the exclusion device was an order of magnitude lower than expected and it was concluded that the device had had some effect, though the mechanism for this effect is unclear. Further work in 2003-2004 should help develop these initial findings.

Work on porpoises and gill nets have also been continued by the Sea Mammal Research Unit. In paired trials using thin twined (0.4mm monofilament) 90mm mesh nets and thicker twined (0.6mm) 267mm mesh nets, significantly more seals and porpoises where caught in the thicker twined nets. This experiment proved for the first time that there are indeed different catch rates in different net types, and assertion previously based on uncontrolled observed correlations. There were also significantly more large holes in the net panels, and we speculate that the animals such as seals and porpoises may be able to break free from thinner twined nets. Trials using barium sulphate filled monofilament nets were also conducted, in which BaSo4 filled nets with a twine diameter of 0.67mm and a mesh size of 241mm were compared in a paired trial with regular monofilament nets of 0.6mm twine and 267mm mesh size. There was a higher bycatch of both porpoises and seals in the BaSo4 nets, and we speculate that this may be due to the thicker twine used in this type of netting.

Experimental work has also been carried out, and is currently being analysed, by the University of Dundee in collaboration with the Sea Mammal Research Unit, on the mechanics of net breakage under a range of laboratory conditions.

b. Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

Belgium

Controls of recreational beach fisheries by the relevant authorities were kept at a high level. The use of illegal gill nets seems to diminish, thanks to these controls. Some illegal bottom set gill nets were confiscated at sea (illegal recreational fishery), some on the beach (gill nets set too far offshore, below the low water mark, or nets with an incorrect mesh size). By the Marine Fisheries Services (Dienst Zeevisserij - Ministry of the Flemish Community), the Belgian Navy and the Federal Police (SPN), 20 illegal gillnets, with a total length of 3900m were confiscated in 2003. The individual length of the nets ranged from 50m up to 400m (data Dienst Zeevisserij).

Denmark

Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce by-catch:

In 2003, the Danish Joint Task Group on Marine Mammals started a process of revising the Danish Action Plan for Reducing Incidental By-catches of Harbour Porpoises endorsed in 1998. It is supposed to be agreed in 2004.

In 2000 the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fishery issued a ministerial order on compulsory application of "pingers" in the wreck gill-net fishery in the North Sea in the period 1 August to 31 October.

Finland

Nothing to report

Federal Republic of Germany

Fishery with bottom set gill nets for cod and turbot or other demersal fish, i.e. fishery potentially harmful to small cetaceans is conducted by only one vessel of 17 m length. The by-catch is monitored.

Poland

Fishery sector has been searching for the financial sources to implement pingers.

In years 2003-2004 no methods of bycatch reduction were implemented in Polish fishery. Fishing sector considers bycatch in Polish EEZ insignificant for Baltic population of harbour

porpoises. At the same time drift nets are considered proper and only possible method to fish salmon and seatrout in Polish waters, although there is another fishing technique for salmonids, long-lines, traditionally used by Polish fishermen and never noticed as a threat for harbour porpoise.

One of the methods to reduce bycatch in Polish waters, particularly in the Puck Bay, might be establishing a protected area within NATURA 2000 system in the part of the Bay. However the necessary condition to achieve that aim would be to take into consideration the harbour porpoise needs in the future management plan worked out for that area.

Sweden

Voluntary use of pingers in mackerel driftnet fishery in the Skagerrak and turbot fishery in the Kattegatt.

United Kingdom

In February 2003 UK Fisheries Minister Elliott Morley wrote to EU Commissioner Franz Fischler, urging consideration of urgent measures to widen observer coverage on pelagic trawlers in ICES Area VII in the light of UK observations of significant bycatch in the offshore bass fishery. Elliott Morley also urged the Commission to consider contributing to the SCANS (Small Cetacean Abundance Survey in the North Sea) II project.

Publication of the Bycatch strategy

Turtle and Cetacean Biodiversity Action Plan Group – initiated trials into pinger handling.

Pinger trials led by SEAFISH involving the Cornish Fish Producers Organisation.

c. Estimates of bycatch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries

Belgium

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Phocoena phocoena	3^{+}	IVc	Recreational beach fisheries, probably bottom set gill nets

Denmark

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Phocoena phocoena	No new estimate for 2003. The most recent estimate are that from 2001-2002 presented by Vinther and Larsen (2004)[4]	IVc	Recreational beach fisheries, probably bottom set gill nets
Other species	Few, but the exact number and species involved unknown.		

Finland

Nothing to report

Federal Republic of Germany

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Phocoena phocoena *Phocoena phocoena*	1 Few	IVb (Stranded in) 37F8 and 38F8	

Poland

Data on the by-catch in the Polish waters are available only as minimal numbers. The by-catch level has not been estimated due to lack of information on both fishing potential (mainly in artisanal fishery) and population size of harbour porpoises. Fishermen reported all data collected by Hel Marine Station voluntarily. However not all fishermen report the bycaught animals. Fishermen underestimate the scale of bycatch in Polish waters due to lack of obligation in Polish law to report the bycatch of marine mammals.

By-catch in Polish EEZ in 2003-2004 was reported in cod set nets and salmon semi-drift nets in coastal fishery.

[4] Vinther and Larsen (2004): Updated estimates of harbour porpoise by-catch in the Danish bottom set gillnet fishery. J.Cetacean Res. Manage. 6(1): 19-24.

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, etc.)
Phocoena phocoena	1	ICES/IIId - Polish west coast	Salmon semi-drift nets (artisanal fishery)
Phocoena phocoena	2	ICES/IIId. Polish central coast	Cod set nets
Phocoena phocoena	1	ICES/IIId . Gulf of Gdańsk	Cod set nets
Phocoena phocoena	4	ICES/IIId . Puck Bay	Salmon semi-drift nets (artisanal fishery)

Recent publication which summarises all collected data on the bycatch of harbour porpoises in Polish EEZ is:
Skóra K.E., Kuklik I. 2003. Bycatch as a potential threat to harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena* L.) in Polish Baltic Waters . NAMMCO Sci. Pub. 5: 303-315

Sweden

An interview study of by-catches, sampling 10 % of the Swedish fishing effort, was made for the year 2001. From this study the by-catches in the Skagerrak and Kattegatt were approximately 20 and 80 respectively. The decrease compared to earlier estimates is due to a large reduction of the cod gillnet fishery.

In the Kattegatt most of the bycatches are made in gillnets and trammel nets and a few in pelagic trawls. In the Skagerrak bottom trawls is the major gear causing by-catch.

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Phocena phocena	About 20 per year	III a, in the Swedish part of Skagerrak.	Bottom trawls
Phocena phocena	About 80 per year	IIIa, Swedish Kattegat Sea	Gillnets and trammel nets and pelagic trawls

United Kingdom

Jersey
None (see 2002 report)

United Kingdom

Estimates of bycatch for gill net fisheries have been updated based on changes in fishing effort. These estimates assume that there is a more or less constant underlying bycatch rate throughout the measurement (1996-2000) and extrapolation (1995-2002) period. While this is probably a reasonable assumption over a few years, the longer the time period concerned the

more likely it is that population level changes, changes in fishing practices, changes in porpoise distribution or foraging behaviour may violate this assumption. The declines in estimates of total catch shown below are driven entirely by decline in fishing effort. The estimate of common dolphins bycatch in the offshore pelagic trawl fishery for bass is derived from mean bycatch rates and fishing effort for the years 2000-2003, and is therefore an estimate of average annual bycatch over this period.

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Phocoena phocoena	439 (95% CL 371-640)	IV	UK set nets 2002
Phocoena phocoena	48 (96% CL 25-68)	VIa	UK set nets 2002
Delphinus delphis	91 (95% CL 53-147)	VIIed	UK bass pair trawl 2001-2003

2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

a. Information on levels of disturbance (e. g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans etc.)

Belgium

No more high-speed ferry routes between Belgium and the United Kingdom are in operation.

Denmark

The National Environmental Research Institute investigates the effects on harbour porpoises from wind farm construction and operation at Nysted Offshore Wind farm and Horns Reef Offshore Wind Farm. Investigations are based preliminary on acoustic recordings (T-PODs) and ship surveys. Reports on the effect from the construction phase are available. The final report on the projects will be available in 2006.

Very limited information is available on disturbance from various sources. The impacts on harbour porpoises and other small cetaceans from high-speed ferries are not known. However, the operations with that type of vessels are strictly regulated as new routes cannot be established without a proper EIA procedure including considerations on the disturbance to sea birds and marine mammals.

The Ruhr University in Bochum (Germany) has completed in February 2004 a project investigating the hearing sensitivity of harbour porpoises at the Fjord&Bælt, for looking at the effect of man-made noise on harbour porpoise hearing, especially offshore windmill construction works, and to provide guidelines for safe intensity level for sound emissions during underwater operations. Analysis is ongoing.

Finland

Nothing to report

Federal Republic of Germany

Offshore windmills

In 2002 and 2003 the research project MINOS (Marine Warm-blooded Animals in the North and Baltic Seas: Foundations for Assessment of Offshore Wind Farms) was carried out. The German Oceanographic Museum (Stralsund), the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum), the Federal Research Centre for Fisheries (Hamburg), the Institute for Marine Research at the University of Kiel and the the Ruhr University (Bochum) were involved.

The project had focussed on two items:
- Spatial and temporal variation in distribution and abundance of marine mammals in the German Bight and in the German waters of the Baltic.
- Effects of sound emissions on marine mammals.

Within the scope of the project distributions and migrations of harbour porpoises and seals were determined. Moreover measurements of the acoustic sensitivity of an unsedated harbour porpoise and of harbour seals have been conducted by means of an electrophysiological methodology. This methodology (acquisition of auditory evoked potentials, AEPs) has successfully been established on a porpoise and on seals in captivity as well as on free-ranging seals.

The project on the whole is supposed to contribute to fundamental knowledge needed in order to avoid as far as possible the installation of offshore windmills in the main habitats of marine mammals. Another aim is to minimize sound emissions in acoustic ranges relevant to harbour porpoise. The project is assumed to contribute to reduction of acoustic disturbance. The final report of MINOS is available from April 2004 on.

Seismic investigations

In 2003 no seismic investigations were carried out in the Wadden Sea or adjacent areas of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein.

Information on German seismic investigations during 1997 - 2003 will be given to ASCOBANS by a separate report.

High speed ferries

On the North Sea coast of Schleswig-Holstein there is only one high speed ferry in the offshore area. It has a maximum speed of 44 nm/h and connects Helgoland with Amrum, Sylt and Büsum. Within the area subject to the Traffic Order (i.e. the area initially delimited for the National Park) the speed is, however, restricted to 16 nm/h.

There is another high-speed ferry in the inshore area. In this case certain exemptions are granted from the speed restrictions. In the navigable waters a maximum of 24 nm/h is permitted, in the protection zones 12 nm/h.

Negotiations with the shipping companies, yacht clubs and others have resulted in agreements on a future maximum speed of 16 nm/h in the offshore area too and 24 nm/h in certain corridors.

Further information on German high-speed ferries is annually given to ASCOBANS by means of the Secretariat's questionnaire.

Poland

Wind power stations:
No windmills farms projects were realized and no permits were issued for such investments in Polish Baltic waters in years 2003-2004. Potential investors did not carry out the investigation on the effects of constructing and functioning such hydro technical investments on marine mammals, leaving this problem for theoretical consideration to the authors of the environmental impact assessment. It is a common conclusion that there are so few marine mammals in Polish waters that the potential harmfulness of the investment is insignificant for the natural resources of those animals.

Seismic activity:
Seismic investigations are carried on in Polish waters aimed on an oil and natural gas deposit prospecting. Basic method of generating the acoustic waves and registering the reflected ones is used.
There is a lack of data confirming any acoustic disturbance for harbour porpoises caused by the seismic activity in Polish waters and further investigations are needed to analyze the potential threat for porpoises.

High-speed ferry routes:
6 hydrofoils operate the lines of Polish shipping companies in the Baltic. That is the only type of high-speed boats (excluding sport and tourist motor boats) which according to their max. speed over 30 knots might be considered the source of acoustic disturbance for harbour porpoises. No information on the high-speed boats operating in the navy, coastguard and antiterrorist units is available.

The timetables of Polish hydrofoils in 2004 showed that most of the lines covered a narrow stripe of waters in the western part of the Gulf of Gdańsk, the entrance to the Puck Bay. The most frequent connections were run between the following harbours:

1. Gdynia - Hel – Gdynia	6 round trips a day
2. Sopot . Hel – Sopot	3,5 round trips a day
3. Gdańsk . Hel – Gdańsk	3 round trips a day
4. Gdynia-Sopot, Sopot-Gdynia	1,5 round trip a day
5. Gdynia-Jastarnia, Jastarnia-Gdynia.	2 round trips a day

In total only in summer season hydrofoils made the trips across the Bay 32 times a day. (June-August).

So far there is no evidence of the occurrence of harbour porpoises in the Puck Bay in summer season since the main indicator of their presence is the bycatch in fishing nets used in the autumn-spring months. However it is not sufficient information to conclude that hydrofoils operating in this region do not cause acoustic disturbance to those animals.
Another area where hydrofoils run regularly in summer season is the Vistula Lagoon. There are two lines, one national and one international, with 6-8 round trips each day. However that area has not been visited by harbour porpoises and so far no further analysis of possible impact on porpoises were done.

Seasonal connections between Polish harbours on the central coast (Kołobrzeg, Ustka, Darłowo) and Danish Bornholm (Nexo) were operated by one hydrofoil in 2003 and 2004. The frequency of the courses and in consequence assessing possible threat for porpoises, were difficult to analyse since numerous technical breakdowns of the vessels caused a high irregularity of the daily number of trips. A plan for 2004 assumed 2-6 trips a day according to the following timetable:

1. Darłowo-Nexo-Darłowo	Mo. - 2 round trips, Fr. 3 round trips
2. Kołobrzeg-Nexo-Kołobrzeg.	Tu., Wed. 3 round trips, Thu. . 2 round trips
3. Ustka-Nexo, Nexo-Ustka	Sa. . 1 round trip, S. . 1 round trip

The line Poland-Bornholm was closed finally on 28 August 2004.

Sweden

High Speed Ferries

Name/type of craft	**Route (return)**
HSS Stena Carisma	Gothenburg-Fredrikshavn
HSC Gotland	Nynäshamn-Visby
HSC Delphin	Trelleborg-Rostock
HSC Villum Clausen	Ystad-Rönne

United Kingdom

Nothing to report

b. Implementation of guidelines, new legislation etc. to reduce disturbance

Belgium

In 2003, an offshore wind farm, totalling 50 turbines of each 2MW, was licensed an environmental permit. However, after a court case, the permit was suspended, and a final decision has not been taken yet. A request for a permit (accompanied by an environmental impact assessment report) for the construction and exploitation of another offshore wind farm (60 turbines of 3.6 up to 5MW each) was submitted to the authorities in 2003. The environmental impacts of this project are being assessed, and a decision will be expected by April 2004.

In the assessment of the environmental impacts of the construction and exploitation of offshore wind farms, due consideration is given to possible effects on marine mammals.

Denmark

Within some nature and wildlife reserves, e.g. the Wadden Sea, general measures (speed limits) are taken to reduce disturbance to marine mammals. Special guidelines and legislation are not implemented.

Finland

Nothing to report

Federal Republic of Germany

For North Sea coastal waters the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein seeks to introduce a speed reduction for vessels within three nautical miles seawards off the region of Dithmarschen and twelve nautical miles off the region of Nordfriesland (outer border of the National Park including the Whale Protection Area; see below). This requires alteration of the Traffic Order for North Sea National Parks. A working group of all stakeholders achieved the following result: In the inner Wadden Sea the maximum speed should be 12 nm/h (in the navigable waters 16 nm/h, in protection zones apart from the protection period 8 nm/h.), in the outer Wadden Sea 16 nm/h (in certain corridors 24 nm/h). After further fine-tuning it is intended to present this proposal to the responsible Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing.

Poland

In connection with Poland`s accession to EU a Polish law was corrected in accordance to the European law. Polish parliament adopted a new act on nature protection on 16 April 2004 (Dz. U. Nr 92, poz. 880) and new decrees of the Ministry of Environment specifying the lists of protected species and methods of their protection. The decree of the Minister of Environment from September 28, 2004 on the protected wild species of fauna (Dz. U. Nr 220, poz. 2237) lists a harbour porpoise and other cetaceans in Appendix 1 Wild species of fauna under strict protection, including the species requiring active protection. Harbour porpoise, according to its status of threatened species in the Baltic, is listed, as needed active protection.

New act on nature protection provides establishing protected areas within a network of NATURA 2000 in Polish Baltic waters. That will become the first important tool in Polish law for protection of habitats. Those new regulations may contribute to more effective implementation of ASCOBANS recommendations.

Sweden

Nothing to report

United Kingdom

JNCC

Studies on the noise caused by the installation and operation of wind farms were initiated. Early results indicate relatively high sound levels are generated during the piling phase of installation. Such information will be used to inform both Strategic Environmental Assessments and the Environmental Impact Assessment processes.

A review of the JNCC guidelines to reduce disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys was undertaken throughout the year. Revised guidelines will be in use during the 2004 seismic survey season. Guidelines for explosive use during decommissioning of marine industrial locations have been drafted. Funding has been secured to review and publish a final version of the explosive guidelines during 2004.

DTI

The DTI with the JNCC has continued to develop mechanisms to collate data to map the pattern of seismic activity through the UKDEAL database. This will be a useful tool to aid in the management of seismic surveys in an effort to reduce disturbance. Efforts in 2003 concentrated on obtaining historical data from companies to more fully populate the database, with results expected in early 2004. For the first time in 2003 DTI has made the reporting of seismic survey data a legally binding condition of consent. This data will help with the ongoing population of UKDEAL.

In September 2003the DTI published its position paper on the mitigation and management of seismic surveys. The paper outlined the Departments current position and forward plan and requests comments from all interested parties. A full public consultation is underway with a deadline of January 2004 (http://www.org.dti.gov.uk/).

The DTI with MOD and some oil companies are funding a major research program to characterize noise sources from oil and gas activities. The first stage draft report is due in early 2004 and when finalized this will be made public. In a separate initiative the DTI has commissioned a desk study to assess active acoustic monitoring as a means of mitigation during seismic surveys. The report is currently in draft and when finalized will be made public.

Wales

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) has in draft, a detailed boat-users Code of Conduct for minimising disturbance to Cetaceans. This bilingual (Welsh and English) booklet explains the new laws under the CroW Act and is being produced in consultation with Police Wildlife Crime officers. In addition, the North Wales police are producing a poster about the new penalties for disturbing marine wildlife.

Scottish Executive

The Scottish Executive's Nature Conservation (Scotland) Bill is currently undergoing Stage 2 scrutiny in the Scottish Parliament. This contains measures to improve the existing species protection offered by the Wildlife and Countryside Act, including the extension of existing protections for cetaceans from intentional disturbance to encompass protection from "reckless" disturbance in line with that offered by the CROW Act 2000 in England and Wales.

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

a. Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

Belgium

No protected areas for cetaceans are identified in Belgium.

Denmark

The Danish implementation of the EU Habitat Directive includes the designation of several sites, which are considered important for harbour porpoises. A list of Danish designated Habitat Directive sites important for harbour porpoises was included in the National Report 1998.

Finland

Nothing to report

Federal Republic of Germany

The Whale Protection Area off the islands of Sylt and Amrum in force since 1999 is a habitat preferred by harbour porpoises and an important nursery ground. In the Whale Protection Area any type of fishery is prohibited that is potentially resulting in by-catches. Presently this includes
- fishery with bottom set gill nets with more than 2.00 m stretched net height,
- industrial fishery and
- drift net fishery.

The implementation of the national provisions into European regulations is still pending. In 2003 it was decided to modify the provisions for the Whale Protection Area of the Coastal Fisheries Order of the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein. The amendment is expected for early 2004. It incorporates a decrease of the maximum height of bottom set gill nets to 1.30 m. Furthermore the definition of the Whale Protection Area in the Coastal Fisheries Order is adapted to the National Park Act, i.e. the definition is extended southwards in the Coastal Fisheries Order.

The new provisions of the Coastal Fisheries Order are intended to serve as a basis for a later proposal to the EU.

It is planned to introduce speed limits for vessels in the Whale Protection Area (see above), i.e. generally a maximum of 16 nm/h and two relatively short corridors tolerating 24 nm/h.

Poland

Data on bycatch collected in years 2003-2004 based on fishermen voluntary reports confirmed that the Puck Bay is an area where harbour porpoises are especially threatened by fishing nets.

Nadmorski Landscape Park as an only form of protection in the area, as well as existing fishery regulations do not protect marine mammals from the bycatch.

During the reported period 2003-2004 no marine protected area for small cetaceans was established. The only new marine protected area was established in 2004 as an enlargement of Słowiński National Park by 2 miles of coastal waters, but no regulations for harbour porpoises protection were implemented. An internal part of the Puck Bay is also proposed to be included in the system of NATURA 2000.

Project of monitoring of the occurrence of harbour porpoises using hydro acoustic detectors in the Puck Bay is to support the future management plan for NATURA 2000. Puck Bay via delivering data on the number and seasonal distribution of harbour porpoises in this region.

It is assumed that protected areas of NATURA 2000 stemming from the Bird Directive No 79/409/EWG, might support the reduction of harbour porpoise bycatch. In Polish Baltic waters SPAs (Special Protection Areas) cover most of the areas, where both the occurrence and the bycatch of porpoises have been noticed. A necessary condition for achieving such aim is to implement the adequate regulations in fishery concerning the methods and seasons of certain fishery to mitigate the bycatch of wintering diving birds. Harbour porpoise might become a beneficent of implementing such measures.

Sweden

No area has been identified as a protective area for harbour porpoise in the Baltic.

In the Skagerrak three Natura 2000 sites has been identified to harbour porpoises.
Management plans have not yet been produced.
The sites are:

Vrångöskärgården (SE0520001)
Koster(SE0520133)
Väderöarna (SE0520143)

United Kingdom

The CCW commissioned the Sea Watch Foundation in collaboration with Dr Graham Pierce, University of Aberdeen to analyse harbour porpoise sightings from the Joint Cetacean Database. A number of areas were highlighted as having greater than average numbers of porpoises regularly present during an important period (April-September) in the annual cycle of the species.

Work continued on the development of agreed protocols for the monitoring of cetaceans (bottlenose and common dolphins/harbour porpoise) in Wales by CCW. This included the formation of the Wales Cetacean Group. The group (formerly the Cardigan Bay Dolphin Workshop) was set up in November 2003 to bring together those studying cetaceans in Welsh

waters. Its function was to exchange information, share resources, develop methods and co-ordinate surveys. Within the WCG, Welsh waters are interpreted fairly widely to include areas contiguous with Wales and UK Territorial Seas.

JNCC

Two analyses have been undertaken of data on harbour porpoise distribution in order to determine if it is possible to identify hotspots in distribution that might be suitable for designation as protected sites. The results of these analyses are still being considered.

Scottish Executive

The Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative, which was launched in October 2002 to look at the special value of Scotland's marine environment and to examine how it can be managed more sustainable, has now entered its second phase. Phase I of the initiative, which comprised of the conceptualisation of this work together with the scooping of a separate Phase II study was concluded in November 2003, and the final report will be published shortly.

Phase II of the project is designed to explore the benefits of a sustainable management and ecosystem based approach to Scotland's marine environment. This phase will lay all the necessary foundations for the third phase of the initiative, which aims to launch and run pilot management schemes.

England

Under the Habitats Directive Annex II aquatic species, which range over wide areas, such sites [SACs] will be proposed only where there is a "clearly identifiable area representing the physical and biological factors essential to their life and reproduction. The difficulties in selecting sites for wide ranging species like cetaceans is one of the issues being considered by the EU Marine Expert group. This was set up in late 2002 to consider aspects of implementation of the Habitats and Birds Directives in the marine environment.

The first meeting of the EC Marine Working Group was held on 5th March 2003, and is co-chaired by a Defra official.
The group will focus on the following key tasks and submit proposals for consideration of the Habitats Committee:

1. Propose habitats and species of Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive and Annex I and migratory bird species of the Birds Directive for which marine NATURA 2000 sites should be considered.

2. Propose the best means of locating and assessing these habitat types and species.

3. Propose definitions of marine habitats, and propose amendment to the Interpretation manual as necessary.

4. Propose site selection rationale(s).

5. Consider management measures necessary for adequate site protection.

6. Consider alternative/complementary conservation measures for 'wide ranging' species (for which sites cannot be meaningfully identified or for which sites might only represent a minor contribution to their overall protection). Cetaceans will fall into this category

7. Based on the above to draw together some initial impressions on adaptation of the Annexes for marine habitat types and species.

The UK is the coordinator for a sub group of the expert group charged with developing guidance on locating, assessing and selecting marine sites in offshore waters, including those for harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin.

A draft paper is currently before the Expert Group for discussion. With regard to cetaceans there are a number of scientific difficulties encountered when attempting to identify sites for wide ranging marine mammals; these are very similar to those encountered when attempting to identify sites for wide ranging birds. The draft paper stated that, "In practice, areas identified for both groups are likely to overlap as they often feed on common food sources (i.e. shoals of small fish). The main difficulty in identifying potentially important areas for both groups is in applying existing site selection criteria in an environment with no or few obvious natural boundaries, and to species which are widely dispersed, highly mobile and may be difficult to observe." Final guidance is expected to be published at the end of 2004.

Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &C.) Regulations

As a result of a UK court judgment in 1999, the UK Government is currently taking steps to implement both the Wild Birds and the Habitats Directives beyond its territorial waters where it exercises sovereign rights. The Regulations to extend the Directives' application were consulted upon on 6 August 2003. It is expected the legislation will be laid Summer/Autumn 2004. This will provide additional protection in the UK offshore marine area for cetaceans listed under the Habitats Directive.

Review of Marine Nature Conservation (RMNC)

The RMNC was established in 1999 in recognition of the fact that more needs to be done to protect UK's marine environment. Led by Defra and supported by a Working Group drawing on a broad range of stakeholder interests, the Working Group considered various options for how the protection available to marine habitats and species (including cetaceans) might be improved. The Interim Report, produced in March 2002, made a number of recommendations, including the commencement of a pilot scheme at regional sea scale to test some of the ideas developed during the course of the Review. The Pilot ran from May 2003 and will complete its work in March 2004. The Irish Sea was chosen as the location for this Pilot. The primary purpose of the pilot was demonstrate the application of new concepts and to examine how far the conservation management needed within the pilot area could be delivered through existing systems. The Pilot tested the application of a new framework for marine nature conservation which included as an integral component the identification of those parts of the regional seas ecosystem that are of nature conservation value or importance. Examining how to integrate nature conservation into key sectors to make an effective contribution to sustainable development on a regional basis.

The Irish Sea Pilot considered what species and habitats could be considered nationally important to the UK. Criteria were designed to test proportional importance, rarity, decline and threat of significant decline of species and habitats. The criteria, was tested using data form the Irish Sea. A comprehensive list of features though likely to meet the criteria, was compiled to create a "provisional" list. On the list of species which may be of national importance where a number of cetaceans, including: Blue Whale, Sei whale, Mink whale, Fin whale, Pilot whale, Killer whale, Common dolphin, Risso dolphin, Atlantic white-sided dolphin, White-beaked dolphin, Harbour porpoise and Bottle-nosed dolphin.

The Irish Sea Pilot has reported its findings of the Pilot study to the Working Group. They are now considering how to best take this work forward and the other recommendations form the Pilot.

OSPAR Convention – The Conservation for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Northeast Atlantic.

OSPAR is concerned with by human impacts on the North East Atlantic. At the Biodiversity Committee meeting in February 2004, they will be discussing the development of Ecological Quality Objectives.

The Fifth North Sea Conference and OSPAR in 2002 agreed to an Ecological quality objective relating to the bycatch of harbour porpoises in the North Sea would be given and objective "Annual bycatch levels should be reduced to levels below 1.7% of the best population estimate". At the Biodiversity Committee meeting in 2003 the UK agreed to be the lead country for this. The UK requested Contracting Parties establish and maintain monitoring schemes for harbour porpoises bycatch in order to fully implement the EcoQO.

Initial OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats.

The OSPAR Commission meeting in June 2003 agreed on an initial OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats and set out the next steps for its future work programme on biodiversity and ecosystems, including actions relating to this list. The Harbour porpoise is listed as threatened, also included on the list are the Bowhead whale, Blue whale and Northern right whale.

One of the next steps is the identification of the need for measures to protect the species and habitats on the OSPAR list, and of the authorities or international bodies competent for taking such measures, together with facilitating the development of programmes and measures. The Netherlands agreed at BDC 2003 to carry out supporting research to address this question by circulating a questionnaire to Contracting Parties and Observers and reporting the findings to the next meeting of the Marine Protected Areas and Species & Habitats Committee (MASH) and the Biodiversity Committee in 2004. The main objective of this study is to provide an overview of current and proposed management measures relating to the listed species and habitats. A secondary objective is to contribute to an analysis of what might be required in the future by giving a qualitative indication of the views of Contracting Parties and Observers on the effectiveness of current measures directed at the listed species and habitats.

Jersey

Plans in place to designate Jersey's offshore reef as Ramsar sites. Process started at the end of 2003, with aim of designation during 2004.

4. Further research on small cetaceans

a. Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

Belgium

All stranded cetaceans were autopsied at the University of Liège. A report on the strandings between 1995 and 2003 is in preparation (MUMM – University of Liège). The co-operation with the Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins (C.R.M.M., *National Stranding Network*, Institut de la Mer et du Littoral, Port des Minimes, F-17000, La Rochelle, France) for the research of stranded marine mammals is continued.

Denmark

A Danish contingency plan concerning marine mammals includes guidelines for handling stranded cetaceans.

As many stranded harbour porpoises as possible are collected for analyses in order to improve the knowledge on population structure, age and sex ratio, nutritional status, general health and the levels of contaminants in tissues and organs.

All other stranded cetaceans are collected and tissue samples and skeletons kept in the collections of the two responsible museums, Fisheries and Maritime museum, Esbjerg and Zoological Museum, Copenhagen.

The following observations of stranded *cetaceans* were recorded in 2003:
- Harbour porpoise: 124 (some are probably discarded by-caught animals)
- White-beaked dolphin: 7
- Common dolphin: 3
- Minke whale: 2

Finland

None

Federal Republic of Germany

A stranding network for cetaceans is in force since the 1950's for the coast of the federal state of Mecklenburg - Vorpommern in the Baltic Sea and since 1990 for the coast of Schleswig-Holstein in the Baltic Sea and North Sea. The coast of Niedersachsen in the North Sea is covered too.

Necropsies of all stranded and by-caught cetaceans were carried out by the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum), the Veterinary Institute for Fish and Fishery Products (Cuxhaven) and the German Oceanographic Museum (Stralsund).

In 2003 70 stranded and 1 by-caught harbour porpoises were studied in Schleswig-Holstein (46 from the North Sea, 21 from the Baltic, 4 of unknown origin). Examinations of stranded

harbour porpoises took place in Niedersachsen (North Sea) and in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Baltic) too (numbers not yet available). No unusual illnesses or particular epidemics were found.

Projects of the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum) and the GKSS Research Centre (Geesthacht) investigate the genetic structure of parasites from the respiratory tract of harbour porpoises. Cytokine expression is measured in full blood using Reverse Transcriptase-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) in order to evaluate the immune system of harbour porpoises.

Poland

Post mortem analysis of small cetaceans was done in Hel Marine Station, where international procedures of sampling, analysis and maintenance of the tissue and data banks are implemented. In years 2003-2004, 7 bycaught animals were dissected and sampled. 3 specimens found stranded were not dissected due to the stage of decomposition of the carcasses.

To propagate international standard procedures, a workshop on methods of post mortem analysis of small cetaceans was organized in Hel Marine Station in 2003 within the European Centre of Excellence BALTDER, workpackage 7. Endangered species of Baltic marine mammals: threats, investigations and conservation measures.. 30 students, scientists and administrators from different institutions in Poland participated in this two days meeting combined with lectures and practical presentations done by European specialists.

Sweden

Post mortem investigations are carried out on all small cetaceans by-caught or found stranded in the Baltic. The animals have to be brought fresh to the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm where the investigations are conducted. From harbour porpoises by-caught or stranded on the Swedish west coast, a piece of tissues from the dorsal fin is sampled. For further detail see prior information sent to ASCOBANS.

United Kingdom

During 2003, under the Defra-funded UK Cetacean Stranding Programme, a total of 797 cetacean stranding comprising 14 species were reported to the Natural History Museum (NHM) from England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Bailiwick of Jersey (see Annex 1). All UK cetaceans stranding (together with by-caught cetaceans and those seen floating dead at sea) continue to be recorded on the NHM's National Cetacean Stranding database.

As part of this research the Institute of Zoology (IOZ) and the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) are continuing to investigate diseases and causes of death in UK stranded cetaceans. Since 1990, over 2500 marine mammal carcasses have been examined in the UK. Pathological and other data and tissue samples from these investigations continue to be archived centrally in the Poseidon database and tissue archives held jointly at the IOZ, SAC and NHM.

In 2003 177 necropsies of stranded cetaceans (of 9 species) were conducted in the UK, and a further 5 necropsies of by-caught harbour porpoises retrieved from fishing vessels (mainly as part of observer-based research conducted by the Sea Mammal Research Unit). Harbour porpoises (n=114) and common dolphins (n=40) were the most common stranded species to be examined. By-catch was identified as the cause of death of 24/40 (60%) common dolphins, 11/114 (10%) harbour porpoises, 3/10 (30%) striped dolphins and 1/3 (33%) white beaked dolphins. The harbour porpoise by-catches continue to exhibit injuries consistent with entanglement in monofilament gillnet-type gear, whereas the common dolphin by-catches typically had different external lesions more consistent with smaller-mesh trawl-type gear. As in previous years, the harbour porpoise and common dolphins diagnosed as by-catches predominantly originated form the southwest of England (mainly Cornwall and Devon) during the winter (December-March). The annual number of all common dolphin and harbour porpoise stranding (including those examined and diagnosed as by-catch) in SW England during the winter (mainly December-April) has been consistently increasing between 1999 and 2003.

In addition, 23 harbour porpoises were diagnosed as fatally attacked by bottlenose dolphins in Scotland (mainly within the Moray Firth-Firth and Forth area) and in west Wales. The number of harbour porpoises killed by bottlenose dolphins in west Wales has increased annually since 1999. Another 22 harbour porpoises died due to heavy parasitic infections and/or pneumonias caused by combinations of parasitic, bacterial and mycotic infections and 5 porpoises had fatal generalized bacterial infections. Starvation caused the death of 17 harbour porpoises and 1 mink whale, and physical trauma (often of unidentified origin) caused the death of a further 8 harbour porpoises and 1 white beaked dolphin.

Finally, 8 common dolphins, 4 Atlantic white-sided dolphins, 4 harbour porpoises, 4 stripped dolphins, 2 minke whales, 1 white beaked dolphin, 1 sperm whale and 1 Sowerby's beaked whale that were apparently healthy died after stranding alive.

In addition to the strandings co-coordinators funded by Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government continues it's funding of the Welsh strandings Co-coordinator in conjunction with CCW.

Jersey

Meeting conducted with Richard Sabin, coordinator of the National Strandings Programme at the Natural History Museum (NHM), in summer 2003 to improve stranding reporting. All historic records held by Societe Jersaise have been digitized were passed to NHM. Jersey now participated in the NHM's stranding programme, by reporting all stranded cetaceans to NHM and filing an NHM136 form for each stranding (Annex 2).

Wales

In addition to the strandings coordinators funded by Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government continues it's funding of the Welsh Strandings Coordinator in conjunction with CCW.

Ireland

Environment and Heritage Services are part of an all Ireland consortium along with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS – formally DUCHAS) and the Heritage Council, which is jointly funding the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group to run the Irish Scheme for Cetacean Observation and Public Education (ISCOPE) programme. ISCOPE is a new initiative, initially over three years 2003-05, which aims to promote better awareness and knowledge of cetaceans in Irish waters, by encouraging public participation in cetacean recording. The

scheme records efforts related to sighting and strandings around the Irish coast as well as recruiting and training observers. Part of the programme also includes on-board Ferry surveys on the Dublin-Holyhead and the Rosslare-Strasbourg routes.

b. Research on abundance, population structure etc.

Belgium

In 2003, 35 harbour porpoises stranded, the largest part during late winter, spring and summer. This is the highest number ever recorded (see figure 1). Strandings were reported during every month, except in February. In figure 2, the monthly distribution of strandings between 1990 and 2003 is given. A lot of the stranded animals of 2003 were in an advanced state of decomposition, which did not allow for a firm conclusion on the cause of death. In March 2003, 3 porpoises were accidentally drowned in recreational beach fisheries.

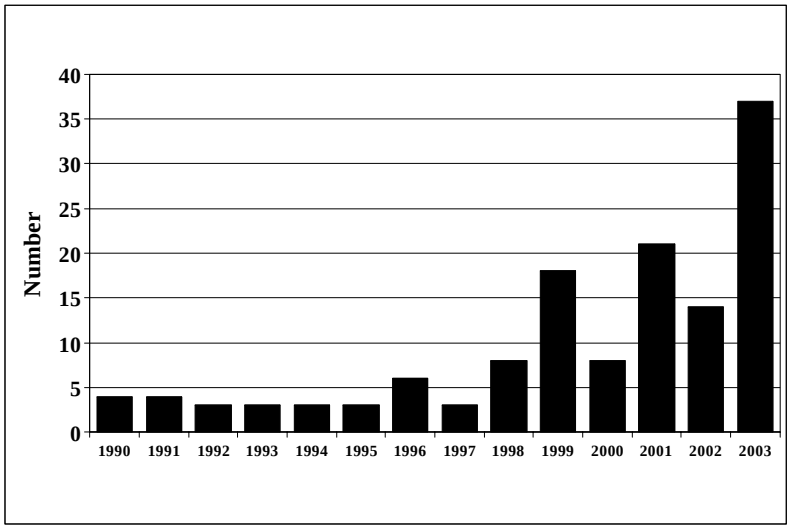


Figure 1: Number of stranded porpoises stranded at the Belgian coast between 1990 and 2003 (including a small number of animals found dead at sea).

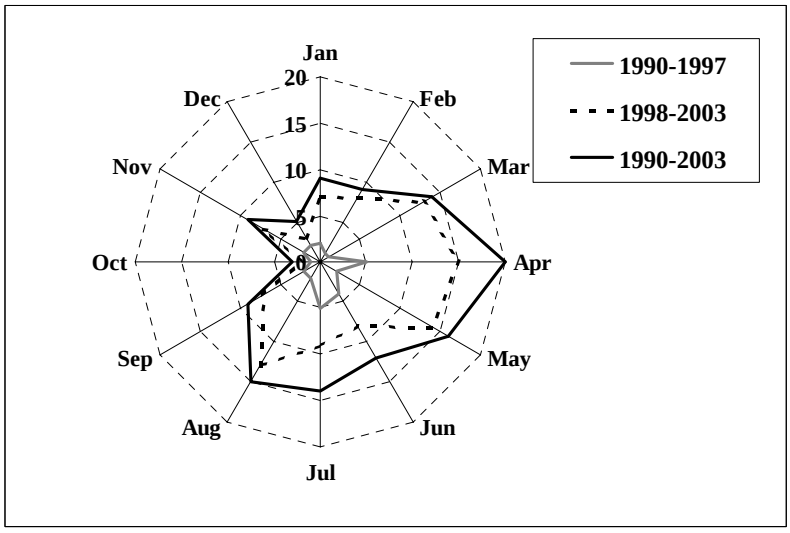


Figure 2: Monthly distribution of the strandings of harbour porpoises at the Belgian coast between 1990 and 2003.

In summer and autumn (August until November), a larger number of newborn animals (0.7 up to 1m long) washed ashore than the years before.

Of the stranded animals, five stranded alive. Two of these were refloated, and swam away, two died on the beach, and the last one was transported by MUMM/RBINS to the rehabilitation Centre at the Marine Mammal Park Harderwijk, The Netherlands, where it died.

Next to the stranded animals, two dead porpoises (found dead at sea) were provided to the authorities by (professional) fishermen, according to the legislation in force since 14 February 2002.

From January until April, relatively large numbers of porpoises were observed in Belgian waters, as was the case during the years before.

Next to observations of porpoises, also small groups of white-beaked dolphins were observed in Belgian waters (at least in January, February, March, April and November).

Some publications:

Das, K., Lepoint, G., Leroy Y & Bouquegneau, J.M., 2003. Marine mammals from the southern North Sea: feeding ecology data from delta 13C and delta 15N measurements. Marine Ecology Progress Series 263: 287-298.

Communications:

Brenez, C., Jauniaux T., Siska, J., Spitz, J. & Coignoul, F., 2003. Parasitic infestations in newborns pilot whales, *Globicephala melas*, stranded on the French Atlantic coast. 17th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas, Spain, March 2003.
El Mijyad, N. Jauniaux, T., Baise, E. & Coignoul, F., 2003. Cases of morbillivirus infections among seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and fin whales (*Balaenoptera physalus*) stranded on the Belgian and northern French coast from 1997 until 2002. 17th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas, Spain, March 2003.
Haelters, J., Kiszka, J., Tavernier, J. & Jauniaux, T., 2003. The harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the southern North Sea: a comeback in northern French and Belgian waters? 15th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA, 15-19 December 2003.
Jauniaux, T. & Coignoul, F., 2003. Causes of death of small cetaceans and pinnipeds on continental coastlines of the southern North Sea. 17th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas, Spain, March 2003.

Denmark

Data analysis of the genetic population structure and relatedness of the Harbour porpoise in Danish and adjacent waters are ongoing at the Danish Environmental Research Institute, Dept. of Wildlife Ecology and Biodiversity.

During 1997-2003 60 harbour porpoises were tagged with satellite tags in a cooperation between the National Environmental Research Institute, the Danish Institute for Fisheries

Research and the Fjord&Bælt. Results from the study is available at: http://www.dmu.dk/1_viden/2_Publikationer/3_fagrapporter/rapporter/FR484_samlet.PDF

In 2003 a young minke whale was live caught in a pound net at Skagen, the northernmost point of Denmark, and equipped with a satellite tag. Contact remained with the whale for 3 months. After being released at Skagen, it swam north of the British Isles and then headed south, passing the Azores, Cap Verde Islands and the Canary Islands. The last locations were received from the Mediterranean.

Finland

None (look at point 5)

Federal Republic of Germany

The study on the recent situation of *Phocoena phocoena* along the coast of the federal state of Lower Saxony is finalized. As a result it seems, that the geographical occurrence of harbour porpoise differs throughout the year, but the reason for this is uncertain. A report was compiled and will be the basis for further investigations.

Steps were taken to improve the system of occasional sightings of small cetaceans off Lower Saxony.

Aerial surveys were conducted by the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum) in 2003 in order to estimate density of harbour porpoises in German waters as well as to study distribution patterns. Using the circle-back method by Hiby the strip width as well as g(0) (probability of detection on the transect line) for different environmental conditions were calculated for the survey team and applied to the tracks flown. The resulting maps showed a non-even distribution of porpoises in the summer months (May to August) in the German North Sea. In the Baltic study area all sightings in 2003 were limited to the area west of the island of Rügen.

In 2003 the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum) continued research in the Whale Protection Area off the islands of Sylt and Amrum. One aim of that study, starting in 2002, was to conduct visual surveys from boats in this area to determine the distribution and density of harbour porpoises. Additionally porpoise detectors (PODs) were deployed in the North Sea and also towed during the visual surveys in order to decide whether these devices can be used to monitor habitat use. The results of aerial and ship-based surveys showed a tendency towards higher numbers of sightings per kilometre and higher numbers of porpoises per kilometre in aerial surveys. The POD data underlined the importance of the area as a whale protection area. Porpoises occurred continuously in the area throughout the year.

Poland

Poland together with other countries, was participating in finalizing the preparatory work in the SCANS II project. The main survey is planned for 2005. According to a very law number of porpoises in the Baltic Sea the best recommended survey method is a long term

hydroacoustic monitoring programme based on the platforms of opportunities such as regular shipping routes and stationary hydro technical installations placed within surveyed areas.

Data on the opportunistic sightings of harbour porpoises in Polish Baltic waters were collected and investigations on the biology and ecology of the species (reproduction, parasitology, intoxication, age and diet) were carried on in Hel Marine Station, University of Gdańsk.

Analysis of fishery impact on harbour porpoises according to the type of nets and seasonal strategy of fishery were continued.
In Medical University of Gdańsk research on intoxication of internal organs of harbour porpoises from Polish Baltic waters was carried on.

Hel Marine Station began a cooperation with Forschungs- und Technologiezentrum Westkueste Buesum, University of Kiel and Deutsches Meeresmuseum in Stralsund within a project. Investigations on harbour porpoises from the Baltic as basis for the implementation of the recovery plan for the Baltic population (Jastarnia Plan). The project aims on investigation of presence, habitat use, population- and age structure as well as reproduction and health status of the Baltic porpoise with the help of acoustical, genetical and pathological methods.

Sweden

An examination of other scientists works concerning population structure of harbour porpoises in Swedish and adjacent water was initiated during 2002. The study was carried out by the Institute of population genetics at the University of Stockholm and completed in 2003.

United Kingdom

<u>England</u>
In 2003, Defra funded, or contributed to, a number of projects examining population abundance

<u>Wales</u>
In 2003, CCW funded, or contributed to, a number of projects examining population abundance and structure.

1. A cetacean sightings database for Wales. Ongoing.
2. Extended survey of Risso's Dolphins, harbour porpoises and other cetaceans in Cardigan Bay, 2002-2005 (Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society). Both land-based and boat-based survey techniques were used including acoustic porpoise detectors (or PODs) and photographic identification. Four cetacean species were sighted and useful data was gathered on the distribution and abundance of porpoises in relation to different habitats around Bardsey Island.
3. Risso's Dolphin and other cetacean boat-based surveys in west Wales, 2003 (Friends of Cardigan Bay). Boat-based surveys were undertaken off Bardsey Island, Cardigan Bay and Pembrokeshire. Four species of cetacean were sighted.
4. North Anglesey surveys of harbour porpoise, 2002-2005 (Marine Awareness North Wales). Land and boat-based survey techniques were used and the first years data showed over 70% of all sightings were within 0-5m of the shore.

5. Harbour porpoise occurrence in Carmarthen Bay, 2002-2004 (Gower Peninsula to Swansea Bay Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Partnership). This acoustic survey has enabled comparison between results gained from static TPODs and towed hydrophone arrays. Preliminary results show that there is a year-round porpoise presence on this stretch of the south coast.
6. Year-round surveys of bottlenose dolphin and harbour porpoise in Cardigan Bay, 2003-2005 (Sea Watch Foundation). Distance sampling and photo-identification surveys were undertaken. 133 dolphin groups were photographed and of the images analysed so far 61 dolphins that can be recognized from either side of the animal have been identified.

Jersey

A Number of meetings have been held with voluntary sectors to improve co-ordination of sighting data, as a result of which the Environment Department of the States of Jersey is developing a web based marine mammals sightings database in order to form a centralized database. It is planned to launch the site towards the end of April 2004 accompanied by publicity to promote use of the site to report sightings.

Porpoise Operating Device: it has been identified that more detailed cetacean monitoring is necessary. A POD is due to be purchased early in 2004. Deployment will be via the Fisheries Vessels and recording stations and monitoring protocols will be agreed with the necessary stakeholders.

c. Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

Belgium

Some publications:

Van de Vijver, K.I., Hof, P.T., Das, K, Van Dongen, W., Esmans, E.L., Jauniaux, T., Bouquegneau, J-M., Blust, R. & De Coen, W., 2003. Perfluorinated chemicals infiltrate ocean waters: links between exposure levels and stable isotope ratios in marine mammals. Environmental Science and Technology 37: 5545-5550.

Communications:

Das, K., Siebert, U., Fontaine, M., Jauniaux, T., Holsbeek, L., Tolley, K., & Bouquegneau, J.M., 2003. Trace metals in the harbour porpoise from the North Sea and adjacent areas: relationship with stable isotopes measurements, the nutritional status, lesions of the respiratory system and parasitism. 17th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas, Spain, March 2003.

Beans, C., Das, K., Jauniaux, T., Massart, A. C., De Pauw, E. & Bouquegneau, J.-M., 2003. Dioxins, furans and coplanar PCBs in juvenile harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) from the Belgian coast. 17th Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Las Palmas, Spain, March 2003.

Beans, C., Debacker, V., Jauniaux, T., Massart, A-C., Eppe, G., Bouquegneau, J-M. & De Pauw, E., 2003. Dioxins, furans and dioxin-like PCBs in juvenile harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) from the North Sea, DIOXIN 2003, 23rd International Symposium on

Halogenated Organic Pollutants and Persistent Organic Pollutants. Boston, Massachussets, USA, 24-29 August 2003.
Brenez, C., Gerkens, P., Jauniaux, T., De Pauw-Gillet, M-C. & De Pauw, E., 2003. Identification of specific biomarkers related to the effects of pollutants on the immune system of marine mammals. 15th Biennal Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals. Greensboro, North Carolina, USA, 15-19 December 2003.

Denmark

No new information available

Finland

None (Please have a look at point 5)

Federal Republic of Germany

A study on the impact of contaminants on the thyroid and immune system of harbour porpoise from the Northeast Atlantic is conducted within the scope of the Marie Curie Scholarship (EU). Pollutants and stable isotopes are determined, the thyroid gland and cytokines are examined on animals from different regions including Belgium, UK, Germany, Denmark, Iceland, and Norway.

Poland

No direct investigations on the effects of pollutants on harbour porpoise health are carried out in Poland. Indirect information is delivered by the analysis of the level of pollutants in different organs of this species from Polish Baltic waters.

Results on pollutants in the tissues of harbour porpoises were published in:
• Ciesielski T., Wasik A., Kuklik I., Skóra K., Namieśnik J., Szefer P. 2004. Organotin compounds in the liver tissue of marine mammals from the Polish coast of the Baltic Sea. Environmental Science and Technology. American Chemical Society. Accepted. Vol.38 no.5: 1415-1420
Another paper showing indirect impact of pollutants on the immunological system of harbour porpoise from Polish Baltic waters, reflected in a higher number of parasites, was published:
• Kijewska A., Jankowski Z., Kuklik I., Rokicki J. 2003 Pathological changes in the auditory organs of the harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) associated with *Stenurus minor* (Kuhn, 1829) Acta Prasitologica 41(1):60-63

Sweden

Nothing to report

United Kingdom

In 2003, potential relationships were investigated between PCB exposure and infectious disease mortality in UK-stranded harbour porpoises using a case-control approach (Institute Of Zoology/Scottish Agricultural College). Mean levels of the sum of 25CB congeners (Σ25CBs) in healthy porpoises that died of physical trauma (control group) (n=175) where compared statistically to those that died of infectious disease (n=82). The analysis shows that Σ25CBs were significantly elevated in the infectious disease group and were not confounded by the effects of age, loss of nutritional status, regional variations in PCB exposure or the effect of maternal PCB offloading.

Statistical analysis demonstrated that (Σ25CBs) and mercury (Hg) exposure (but not butyltins) were correlated with a quantitative index of thymic involution (using histological techniques), consistent with their potential role as thymotoxicants in experimental studies of terrestrial mammals. The association between Σ25CBs and thymic involution is considerably stronger when tested above a proposed total PCB threshold level for adverse toxic effects in marine mammals based on experimental data in seals, otters and mink. Collectively, these findings are consistent with the hypothesis that a casual relationship exists between PCB-induced immunotoxicity and infectious diseases mortality in UK-stranded harbour porpoises.

5. Public awareness and education

a. Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement

Belgium

Information on stranded animals and on sightings, is given on the website of MUMM (in Dutch, English and French):

http://www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Management/Nature/search_strandings.php

From 17 June to 2 November 2003, a temporary exhibit on the North Sea environment was organised at the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS), Brussels. The exhibit was organised in an interactive way, and paid attention to human threats to the environment, amongst others to threats to small cetaceans.

In the Nature and Environmental Council of the Flemish Community (MiNa Raad), an information session was organised concerning the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (27 January 2003). MUMM made a presentation on the obligations in nature conservation Conventions and Agreements (a.o. ASCOBANS) and on the current impact of different kinds of fishery on the ecosystem.

(Reference: Haelters, J., 2003. De invloed van visserij op het ecosysteem., In: MiNa-Raad, 2003. Advies op hoofdlijnen van 3 juni 2003 over de regionale adviesraden in het kader van het gemeenschappelijk visserijbeleid: verslag hoorzitting van 9 juli 2002 omtrent de Belgische zeevisserij en de hervorming van het gemeenschappelijk visserijbeleid: verslag hoorzitting van 27 januari 2003 omtrent de Belgische zeevisserij en de hervorming van het gemeenschappelijk visserijbeleid. Milieu- en Natuurraad van Vlaanderen, Advies en verslagen, 2003/31: 19-23.)

On 6 September 2003 MUMM/RBINS participated in the fishery festival at Ostend, and presented information concerning the marine environment, especially concerning protected species.

After the delivery of two harbour porpoises, found dead at sea by fishermen, information was provided on harbour porpoises, and the relevant measures, in a magazine popular with fishermen.
(Reference: Haelters, J., 2003. Twee bruinvissen opgevist in april 2003. Vriendenkring Noordzee-aquarium Oostende (VNAO) 53: 38-41.)

Denmark

The Fjord&Bælt houses harbour porpoises for research purposes and public education and awareness. Through exhibition and talks, the centre provides information to the general public and special groups on harbour porpoises in general, the by-catch problem and the effort undertaken to mitigate it in Denmark. The Fjord&Bælt web page also contains information on harbour porpoise conservation and has a direct link to the ASCOBANS web page.

The Fishery and Maritime Museum is a public museum, which offers lessons on cetaceans as well as exhibitions on whales and whale strandings. Its homepage; www.hvaler.dk reports on whales and whale sightings in Danish waters.

Finland

We continued the harbour porpoise sighting campaign and received information of five sightings of which three were single animals and two observations consisted of 4-6 animals swimming together. We could conclude that there have probably been **at least** 5 - 6 harbour porpoises in the Finnish waters during the summer 2003. (Zusatz von mir->)

Federal Republic of Germany

In Schleswig-Holstein the National Park Service continued to distribute three available brochures, i.e. on harbour porpoise, on whales and seals in general and also on seals and whales especially in the Wadden Sea.
A new wing for exhibitions on whales (inaugurated in January 2003) of the „Multimar-Wattforum-Tönning“ on the North Sea Coast of Schleswig-Holstein was frequented strongly. It accommodates a sperm whale skeleton and information on harbour porpoise.

Poland

Information and education on the status of Baltic population of harbour porpoise were the most important means to achieve the public acceptance for implementation measures aimed on more efficacious protection of the species. Hel Marine Station, University of the of Gdańsk and Foundation for the Development of University of Gdańsk took a leading role in this activity.

On 28th of January 2004 National Bank of Poland new coins with harbour porpoise effigy in the series called Animals of the World. A 2zł coin was issued in number of 800,000 and a 20 zł silver coin (for collectors) in number of 56,ooo. The coins were distributed by the National Bank and numismatic companies. A brochure (in Polish, English and German) on the status and threats of harbour porpoise in the Baltic was distributed in addition to the coins. This campaign was aimed on increasing a public awareness about the situation of the Baltic porpoises.

Polish version of the ASCOBANS exhibition "Harbour porpoise in distress! Save our native cetaceans" and the exhibition „Marine mammals of the Baltic Sea" showed in Hel Marine Station, University of Gdańsk were visited by 412,000 in 2003 and 365,000 people in 2004. Brochures, leaflets, postcards and stickers with harbour porpoise and other small cetaceans, including materials delivered by ASCOBANS Secretariat, were distributed at place. ASCOBANS info materials were translated into Polish thanks to the Secretariat help.

New brochure on harbour porpoises in the Baltic and Polish waters was published in two versions – Polish and English.

New EU regulation No 812/2004 on banning the drift nets in the Baltic Sea was widely commented in the media. It offered an opportunity to present main assumptions of Jastarnia Plan to the public. That problem was presented in Polish TV, radio and press.

Special campaigns organized by the NGO "Friends of Hel" gave a significant support for the protection of the Baltic harbour porpoise in Poland. The articles on situation of harbour porpoise has been published in its magazine "Helska Bliza" regularly[1] Members of the association join in different activities, mainly educational, such as publishing printed materials, making VHS and DVD movies, organization of lectures and exhibitions.

Hel Marine Station was carrying on the distribution of information about the events connected with harbour porpoises on the internet webpage[2] dedicated to the progress of implementation of Jastarnia Plan in Poland. An example of a new form of transferring the information to the public were radio chats dedicated to small cetaceans problems. They are available on the internet webpage of Polish Radio[3]

A particular activity of Hel Marine Station was organizing special exhibitions called „A world of harbour porpoises" during the I and the II Baltic Festivals of Science in 2003 and 2004. The

1 last article in: www.przyjacielehelu.org/helska_bliza/hb_183/hb.htm

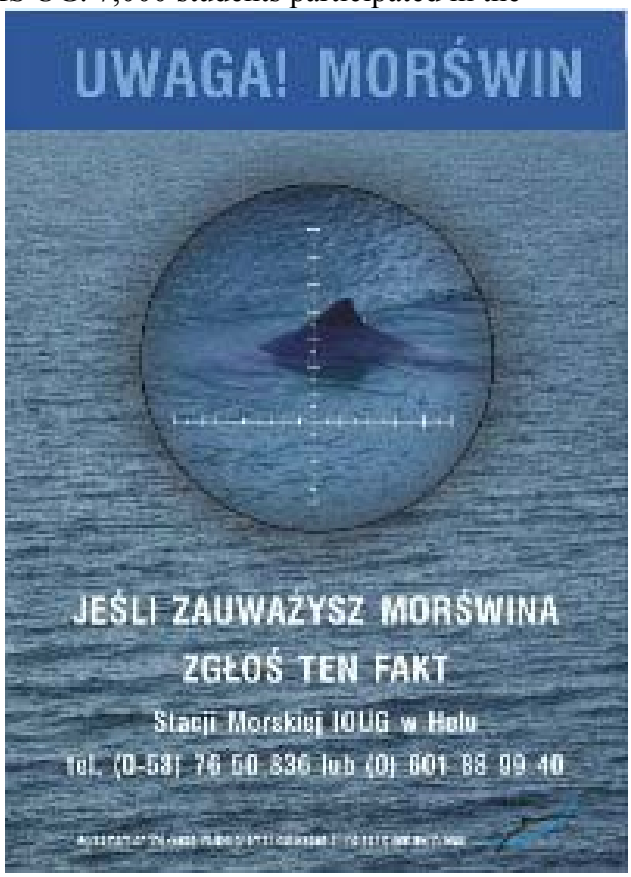
2 www.hel.univ.gda.pl/animals/morswin.htm

3 www.radio.com.pl/nauka/zooptikon_new/morswiny.asp

exhibitions were organized on the occasion of the International Day of Harbour Porpoise in June 2003 and 2004. Several groups of students and schoolchildren visited the exhibitions and listened to the presentation on the state of research on the biology and ecology of that species, including the acoustic monitoring of its presence in Polish waters.

An educational workshop and course of lectures on endangered species of Baltic marine mammals was organized in Hel Marine Station within the workpackage no 7 of Centre of Excellence for Baltic Development, Education and Research "BALTDER" in October 2003. The problems of protection and restoration of harbour porpoise population in the Baltic Sea was also one of the topics of the Student Summer Course of the Baltic University on „Restoration ecology – healing aquatic environments" organized in Hel Marine Station in August 2004.
Problems of the status of small cetaceans are also included in educational program for schoolchildren called "Blue School" carried out in the HMS UG. 7,000 students participated in the Blue School lessons in the period 2003-2004.

In the end of 2004 Hel Marine Station began to make efforts to obtain reports on occasional sightings of harbour porpoises from the crews of navy ships. A special brochure and a poster were prepared and distributed to those ships.



The rescue telephone (24h) was operating at the Hel Marine Station for collecting information on stranded, by-caught and observed cetaceans. The telephone number and the address has been included in all information materials to facilitate the delivery of the reports.

Sweden

A brochure to inform fishermen, the coast guard, municipalities and people living off and by the sea, what to do if they find a stranded or by-caught small cetacean is available at present. In 2003 SEPA also produced another brochure for the general public with the objective of rising public awareness and receiving reports on sighted harbour porpoises. This information will also be available at the SEPA website.

A reporting system of porpoise sightings was produced by the Swedish Museum of Natural History in cooperation with SEPA in 2003.

United Kingdom

In 2003, a meeting was held between the Natural History Museum (NHM), London, and the Environment Department, States of Jersey, to facilitate the transfer of stranding data. Under the new agreement, the Environment Department feeds strandings data directly from Jersey into the main UK dataset compiled annually by the NHM.

CCW funded and contributed towards a number of projects in 2003 including:

Centre for Marine Awareness for North Wales, 2002-2005 (Marine Awareness North Wales) - support for an information centre and education officer in Bangor, North Wales. This includes an education outreach scheme involving visits to schools, press releases and events implementing community involvement in marine biodiversity action plans.

Marine Environmental Education for Cardigan Bay and environs, 2002-2005 (Sea Watch Foundation) - support for an information centre, and education officer for The West Wales Marine Wildlife Centre, New Quay. This involves running a visitor centre, managing volunteers and providing educative and interpretive material. The educational resource will be in line with the National Curriculum in Wales.

Cetacean surveys in Wales – training and use of volunteer observers, 2002-2005 (Sea Watch Foundation). Work includes the promotion of a national sightings scheme, the training of volunteer participants in this network and the provision of sightings data on cetaceans encountered during training. In 2003, 60 people, including local volunteers, attended the courses.

Cetaceans in Welsh Waters booklet 2003. This booklet is being produced as part of CCW's species series and has an emphasis on Biodiversity Action Plans for harbour porpoise and small dolphins.

Guidance for the production of local Marine Habitats and Species Action Plans in Wales, 2004. The aim of this publication is to provide local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships in Wales with the information needed to prepare and implement local plans. The guidance consists of supporting information for local marine plans, including ecological information within a Welsh context and suggestions for local action, and a series of individual information documents for BAP habitats and species. The latter are being built up over time and the guidance for harbour porpoise has been completed.

Jersey
Sighting website (mentioned in 4 above) will include information on one a code of practice for boat owners encountering marine mammals and two links to information about ASCOBANS and its implementation.

Marine Mammal Media Course: BDMLR visited Jersey in December 2003 to conduct a training course. Arising from this is the formation of a local group who will be able to attend strandings and wishes to raise money (approx £1.6k) for the purchase of dolphin pontoons. The group also intends to carry out a mass stranding exercise in order that those attending the initial course could gain their advanced certificate if they wish. Protocols are now in place for a vet to be onsite to make the decision whether to euthanasia or attempt a refloat. All live strandings will be directed to the JSPCA who will coordinate the rescue effort.

C. NEW ACTIONS/MEASURES BY NON-PARTY RANGE STATES

1. Direct Interactions of small cetaceans with fisheries

a. Investigations of methods to reduce bycatch

Estonia

No investigations carried out

b. Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

Estonia

No methods implemented

c. Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries

Estonia

Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Harbour porpoise	No by-catch estimated		

2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

a. Information on levels of disturbance (e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans, etc.)

Estonia

No new information

b. Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance

Estonia

No changes in legislation since the last reporting period, no guidelines implemented

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

a. Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

Estonia

No measures taken

4. Further research on small cetaceans

a. Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

Estonia

Public awareness campaign is planned, with appr. start at March 2005. Part of named campaign is collection of data about any record of harbour porpoises, information about strandings included

b. Research on abundance, population structure etc.

Estonia

Acoustic survey with porpoise detectors started in September 2004.

c. Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

Estonia

Not planned in nearest future

5. Public awareness and education

a. Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement

Estonia

No information

ANNEX 1

Table 1: Cetacean strandings in United Kingdom & Bailiwick of Jersey during 2003

	ENGLAND, WALES, ISLE OF MAN & BAILIWICK OF JERSEY	**SCOTLAND**	**NORTHERN IRELAND**	*TOTAL*
FAMILY BALAENOPTERIDAE				
Balaenoptera acutorostrata	6	13	1	20
Megaptera novaeangliae	1	-	-	1
FAMILY DELPHINIDAE				
Delphinus delphis	181	16	-	197
D. delphis/ S. coeruleoalba	1	2	-	3
Globicephala melas	2	3	-	5
Grampus griseus	-	7	-	7
Lagenorhynchus acutus	1	12	-	13
Lagenorhynchus albirostris	4	4	-	8
Lagenorhynchus sp.indet.	-	1	-	1
Orcinus orca	1	-	-	1
Stenella coeruleoalba	10	2	-	12
Tursiops truncatus	7	1	-	8
Unidentified dolphins	138	9	-	147
FAMILY PHOCOENIDAE				
Phocoena phocoena	223	81	6	310
FAMILY PHYSETERIDAE				
Physeter catodon	2	6	-	8
FAMILY ZIPHIIDAE				
Hyperoodon ampullatus	1	-	-	1
Mesoplodon bidens	1	1	-	2
Unidentified toothed whales	11	4	-	15
Unidentified cetaceans	27	11	-	38
TOTALS	**617**	**173**	**7**	**797**

ANNEX 2

Jersey Marine Mammal Strandings for 2003

Ref	Species	Date	Location	Remarks
102	Common Dolphin (D.delphis)	03/02/2003	St Quens Bay Near La Pulente	Badly decomposed – disposal by public services
103	Common Dolphin (D.delphis)	03/02/2003	St Quens Bay Near Le Etacq	Badly decomposed – disposal by public services
104	Common Dolphin (D.delphis)	05/02/2003	St Quens Bay Near Le Braye slipway	Badly decomposed – disposal by public services
105	Common Dolphin (D.delphis)	09/08/2003	West of Green Island	Picked up by Ross Goodnicke. V young male – 100cm. Fairly fresh. All fins intact. Gouge under next. Photos taken, ref 105 std NHM form 136 filled in and forwarded to NHM
106	Common Dolphin (D.delphis)	26/12/2003	Pomtac 3003 east of slip	Animals' Shelter received a call on Boxing day at 11:15am and contacted H Forshaw. A Male dolphin – 2m 30cm – in very good condition. HF suspects drowning (possibly nets) though no post mortem. Photographs taken