Agenda Item 14.3.3

Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial

Work Plan (2007-2009)

Review of New Information on Bycatch and

Other Causes of Mortality

Post-mortem and Stranding Schemes

Document 18

Information Submitted by Parties in Response to the Post-Mortem Research Questionnaire

a) Sweden

Action Requested

- take note of the information submitted
- comment
- decide on the reporting format and frequency for future meetings

Submitted by

Parties



Secretariat's Note

Attached are, as separate documents in order to minimise the need for revisions, the responses received on the Post-Mortem Research Questionnaire, as submitted by the ASCOBANS Parties.

on post mortem research schemes within the ASCOBANS Agreement area

Name and address of reporting institution	Department of Contaminant Research Swedish Museum of Natural History Box 50007 SE-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden
Name of respondent	Anna Roos
What data are recorded routinely?	Date, location, finder, length, weight and sex of specimen, cause of death, type of gear if bycaught, what samples are taken. We also measure blubber thickness on several locations, and circumference at the same places. We perform complete necropsy if we receive the specimen whole, to study general health status.
Description of methods and units of measure- ment used	Skagerrak - Kategat area: most often only dorsal fin and some teeth which are sent to the Swedish Museum of Natural History (SMNH), usually via the Museum of Natural History in Gothenburg. The Baltic: the whole carcass is sent to the SMNH and a complete necropsy is performed. Since 2006 a limited number of whole fresh carcasses from Skagerrak – Kattegat are sent to SMNH for a full necropsy and sampling.
List of tissue samples usually taken	If a carcass is sent whole to SMNH: blubber, skin, muscle, liver, kidney, lung, spleen, blood, brain and skeleton (or sometimes parts of skeleton such as cranium) are sampled and stored in the Environmental Specimen Bank (ESB).
How are the samples preserved?	Samples are packed in aluminium foil and plastic and kept in the ESB at -28°C, at the SMNH. Skull and skeleton are cleaned and kept dry. Sometimes samples are taken to formalin.
How are carcasses disposed of?	It is combusted in an incinerator. Transportation and disposal are handled according to EU regulations and are disposed at Vattenfall Heat in Uppsala.
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	Yes, data are incorporated in the ESB database. All data about the animal are recorded and can be retrieved at will, most of it via internet from our web page.
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	Approximately 20, with additional subsets.
Which computer software is used?	ESB-Base, a program specially designed for our purposes.
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?	Easier for international co-operation.

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