

Agenda Item 2

Annual National Reports 2011

Document 2-10

Annual National Report United Kingdom

Action Requested

- Briefly present highlights from reports (max. 5 minutes)
- Take note of the information submitted
- Comment

Submitted by

United Kingdom



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

**Revised Format for the
ASCOBANS Annual National Reports**

General Information

Name of Party: United Kingdom	Period covered: 2011
	Date of report: 15 March 2012

Report submitted by:	
Name: James Gray	Function: UK ASCOBANS Coordinator
Organization: Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	Address: Sea Fisheries and Cetacean Conservation Team, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR
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Any changes in coordinating authority or appointed member of advisory committee - N/A	

<p>List of national authorities, organizations, research centres and rescue centres active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans, including contact details</p> <p>Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). Contact: Eunice Pinn eunice.pinn@jncc.gov.uk</p> <p>UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP). Contact: Rob Deaville (Institute of Zoology) rob.deaville@ioz.ac.uk</p> <p>Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU). Contact: Simon Northridge spn1@st-andrews.ac.uk</p>

NEW Measures / Action Towards Meeting the Objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan and the Resolutions of the Meeting of Parties

Please feel free to add more rows to tables if the space provided is not sufficient.

A. HABITAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

1 Direct Interaction with Fisheries

Investigations of methods to reduce bycatch

The two main species affected by fishing in UK waters are the harbour porpoise and the short-beaked common dolphin. All Reports to the European Commission on activities conducted by the UK under Regulation 812/2004, and under Article 12(4) of the Habitats Directive, provide details of the monitoring work undertaken and estimates of bycatch.

A dedicated monitoring scheme is operated by the SMRU, while collaborative links with the three fishery research laboratories in the UK also allow selected observations from the Discard Sampling Programmes to be included in our assessment of cetacean bycatch. The observer scheme relies upon good collaborative links with industry. Nevertheless fisheries regulations were enacted in England and Scotland to ensure that there is also a legal obligation for skippers and owners to take observers when asked to do so.

The principle area of concern for cetacean bycatch remains the south-western waters of the Western Channel and Celtic Sea. The situation in the North Sea remains unclear as only limited monitoring has been done since the late 1990s. Monitoring is now being focused on these two areas and as sufficient data is compiled, more robust estimates of current bycatch rates will become available.

The UK is now undertaking more limited monitoring in its pelagic trawl fleets, except where cetacean bycatch is known to be a concern, or where there is insufficient information to form an assessment of likely bycatch rates. Most sampling effort is now directed at under 15m vessels using static gears in subareas VII and IV. Monitoring the efficacy of pingers in the over 12m gillnet fleet also continues, following a successful industry/science collaborative trial of DDD pingers that was completed in 2011.

Reports can be found at:

<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/protect/species/cetaceans/>

Details of our mitigation work are included below.

Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

Work on mitigation continues to focus on the use of one specific type of acoustic deterrent device (DDD).

These devices (DDD03F) are being used in the UK component (outside 12NM) of the midwater pair trawl fishery for bass in the Western English Channel with continued success. A variant of the same device (DDD03H) has been adopted by the over 12m gill and tangle net fleet in the Western Channel and Celtic Sea. Observations on this fleet segment have shown the effectiveness of these devices in minimising porpoise bycatch by over 90% in nets of up to 4km in length, but the effect on common dolphins is not yet clear.

Statistical analysis of existing bycatch data did not provide a clear picture of the main factors involved in determining bycatch rates, but mesh size, twine diameter and net height all appear to be implicated. A trial involving nets of the same height and mesh size but different twine diameters is now underway to explore these issues further.

The most accurate bycatch estimates for 2010, taken from the Annex to the UK annual report to the commission on the implementation of regulation 812/2004 in 2011, were of 536 porpoises (90% UCL of 1054; CV 0.13) in UK set net fisheries in the western Channel and

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Celtic and Irish Seas, and 287 common dolphins (UCL 713, CV: 0.17) in the same fisheries, No estimates were available for the North Sea as sampling levels had not reached a sufficient level to provide a reliable estimate.

Please provide any other relevant information, including bycatch information from opportunistic sources.

In addition, please attach or provide link to your country's Report under EC Regulation 812/2004.

2 Reduction of Disturbance

2.1 Anthropogenic Noise

Please reference and briefly summarise any studies undertaken

Following ASCOBANS request for Parties to introduce mitigation measures with respect to seismic surveys, the UK has presented data on 2D and 3D seismic survey activity in the UK maritime area for periods since 1997 at a number of ASCOBANS Advisory Committees and Meetings of the Parties over the past five years. The most recent update from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is in the 'Information on Seismic Survey Activities by the United Kingdom 2010' report. This report also covers 4D surveys undertaken, and is available on request.

2.2 Ship Strike Incidents

Please list all known incidents and for each, provide the following information:

Date	Species	Type of injury	Fatal injury (Yes / No)	Type of vessel (length, tonnage and speed)	Location (coordinates)	More information: (Name / Email)

2.3 Major Incidents Affecting Significant Numbers* of Cetaceans

Date	Location	Type of incident	Further Information
22/07/11	Kyle of Durness, northwest Scotland	Mass stranding	A pod of long finned pilot whales (<i>Globicephala melas</i>) entered the shallow, estuarine environment of the Kyle of Durness and 39 animals subsequently mass stranded. Rescue efforts led to the successful refloat of 20 of the stranded animals, but 19 died. A Defra/Marine Scotland funded investigation of the mass stranding event has been conducted by the CSIP, led by Scottish Agricultural College (Inverness). A full report of the investigation will be shortly

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			published.

*Two or more animals

2.4 Pollution and Hazardous Substances

Please report on main types of pollution and hazardous substances (including source, location and observed effects on cetaceans). Please provide information on any new measures taken to reduce pollution likely to have an impact.

During 2011, Defra funded the analysis of 100 retrospective samples from UK-stranded harbour porpoises (2004-2008) for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS, www.cefas.co.uk/). Combining this new data with older data from 1990-2008 has enabled a near 20-year time series of data for PCBs (n=540), OC pesticides (n=489) and brominated diphenyl ethers (BDEs) (n=415) in UK-stranded harbour porpoises (Law *et al* submitted). Initial results show that concentrations of organochlorine pesticides, HBCD and BDEs are declining. In contrast, PCB concentrations have reached a plateau since 1997 following earlier reductions due to regulation of commercial use. Further reductions in PCB levels in UK waters are likely to take decades. Blubber PCB concentrations are still at toxicologically significant levels in many stranded harbour porpoises (Jepson *et al* 2005) and occur at even higher levels in UK-stranded bottlenose dolphins and killer whales (ICES 2010), mainly due to their higher trophic level in marine food chains in these top predator species. Further reductions in PCB inputs into the marine environment are undoubtedly needed to mitigate risk from PCB exposure in these species (ICES 2010, Law *et al* submitted).

Given the concerns about high PCB levels, ASCOBANS funded IoZ to co-ordinate a project to assess PCB exposure in stranded bottlenose dolphins in European waters (Project ref: **SSFA/ASCOBANS/2010/3**). Blubber samples from stranded bottlenose dolphins from UK, Spain and Portugal are currently being analysed for organochlorine contaminants (PCBs). Data will be analysed and reported to the ASCOBANS Secretariat later in 2012.

ICES. 2010. Report of the Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology (WGMME), 12-15 April 2010, Horta, The Azores. ICES CM 2010/ACOM:24. 212 pp.
www.ices.dk/reports/ACOM/2010/WGMME/wgmme_final_2010

Jepson, P.D., Bennett, P.M., Deaville, R., Allchin, C.R., Baker, J.R., Law, R.J. (2005) Relationships between polychlorinated biphenyls and health status in harbor porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) stranded in the United Kingdom. *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* 24, 238-248.

Law, R.J., Barry, J., Barber, J.L., Bersuder, P., Deaville, R., Reid, R.J., Brownlow, A., Penrose, R., Barnett, J., Loveridge, J., Smith, B. and Jepson, P.D. Contaminants in cetaceans from UK waters: status as assessed within the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme from 1990 to 2008. (submitted for publication)

2.5 Other Forms of Disturbance

Please provide any other relevant information, e.g. relating to recreational activities affecting cetaceans.

Wales

The Ceredigion County Council study of cetacean site use and boat traffic along the Marine Heritage Coast and Cardigan Bay SAC is in its 19th year with over 8000 hours of volunteer effort.

3 Marine Protected Areas for Small Cetaceans

Please provide any relevant information on measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas for cetaceans, including MPAs designated under the Habitats Directive and MPAs planned or established within the framework of OSPAR or HELCOM.

Scotland

The Wyville Thompson Ridge cSAC, identified for its habitat features, lists bottlenose dolphins as a feature of the site was submitted to the European Commission for consideration in October 2010. Three offshore sites which were identified for their habitat features, but also list harbour porpoises as a feature were also submitted. These are North West Rockhall Bank cSAC, Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton cSAC and Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge cSAC. Following submission, these sites are now being managed as if they were designated SACs.

Wales

Monitoring of bottlenose dolphin and harbour porpoise was undertaken in Cardigan Bay and Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau Special Areas of Conservation under contract to Countryside Council for Wales. Management advice was provided to CCW and the local County Councils (see Veneruso & Evans, 2012). Recent measures affecting both sites include the [The Scallop Fishing \(Wales\) \(No.2\) Order 2010](#) that provides protection to seabed habitats from scallop dredging activity for most of the sea area covered by these sites.

Jersey

Ramsar Management Plans prepared (one published; three in final draft) highlighting importance of cetaceans. Monitoring strategy includes monitoring on cetacean activity.

Please indicate where GIS data of the boundaries (and zoning, if applicable) can be obtained (contact email / website).

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030355>

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030363>

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030370>

<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030369>

B. SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

4.1 Overview of Research on Abundance, Distribution and Population Structure

Please provide a brief summary of (and reference to) any national work.

The Sea Mammal Research Unit has used spatial modelling to estimate abundance and explore species-habitat relationships of cetaceans in European Atlantic waters. The analysis combined data from SCANS-II (surveyed in 2005), CODA (surveyed in 2007) and

the Faroes block of TNASS (surveyed in 2007). Species for which abundance could be estimated were: harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), white-beaked dolphin, white-sided dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, short-beaked common dolphin, striped dolphin, long-finned pilot whale, minke whale, fin whale, sperm whale, and all beaked whale species combined. Preliminary results were presented in December 2011 to the Biennial Conference on Marine Mammal Biology in Tampa. Recently discovered minor issues with the processing of the SCANS-II and CODA data, which are currently being addressed, will alter the results very slightly. The final results will be available later this year.

Wales

Annual monitoring of bottlenose dolphin and harbour porpoise populations continued in Cardigan Bay, West Wales using photo-ID (bottlenose dolphin) and line transect survey (both species) (Veneruso & Evans, 2012). After earlier (2001-07) increases, abundance estimates of the bottlenose dolphin population of Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation show a general decline. In 2011, the overall Cardigan Bay abundance estimate for bottlenose dolphin was 296 (CV=28.8) and for harbour porpoise was 990 (CV=27.1), from line transect surveys. Life history parameters measured from photo-ID for bottlenose dolphin indicate a mean annual birth rate of between 5.2% and 7.7% (2001-11) depending upon whether a closed or open population model is adopted; an inter-calf interval ranging from 2-5 years, with 3 years being the most common; and calf mortality rates of 20.4% (year 1), 24.5% (year 2), and 10.2% (year 3) (Veneruso & Evans, 2012). Bottlenose dolphins from Cardigan Bay disperse in winter and generally move northwards in November to waters between Anglesey and the Isle of Man (and probably beyond) where they largely remain until the following April (Veneruso & Evans, 2012). Acoustic studies using T-PODs and C-PODs have been undertaken between 2009-12 (Hanna Nuuttila, PhD student, University of Bangor), extending other acoustic monitoring & research by SWF within Cardigan Bay SAC (Simon et al., 2010; Meier, 2010; Nurminem, 2010; Wahlberg et al., 2011).

Jersey

In Jersey the marine biology section of the Societe Jersiaise receive and collate information from the public concerning cetacean sightings. This data is available online. Sighting data is also recorded by the States of Jersey Fisheries Protection Vessel. Dolphins were sighted on 18 separate occasions in 2011. This was a decrease on 2010's figures, but still higher than most previous years and above the 10 year average (Fig. 10). All sightings were identified as bottlenose dolphins. Sightings occurred mainly to the north, east and south of the Island ranging from Les Écréhous in the north to Les Minquiers in the south. In total 124 adult dolphins and 15 Juveniles were observed. Juveniles represented 12% of sightings in 2011, compared to 9% in 2010, 10% in 2009 and just 3% in 2008. Pattern and frequency of patrols was reduced in 2011, with days at sea slightly less than in 2010 due to section re-structuring.

4.2 New Technological Developments

Please provide a brief summary of any relevant information

SWF is working with the University of Bangor's SEACAMS Project to develop a hand-held device with software application for easy logging and retrieval of sightings & effort data for boat operators. This is being tested out first with a sample of wildlife trip operators in Wales.

4.3 Other Relevant Research

Please provide a brief summary of any relevant information

Other research, including from the voluntary sector includes.

Joint Cetacean Protocol (JCP)

The JCP was first introduced at the 2007 AC meeting and welcomed again in 2009 as part of improvements in approach to assessments. The JCP will deliver information on the distribution, abundance and population trends of cetacean species occurring in NW European waters. It is intended that the project outputs will assist governmental reporting to various Directives (e.g. the Habitats Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive) and will also improve the robustness of marine Environmental Impact Assessments.

The JCP brings together effort-related cetacean sightings data from a variety of sources including large scale international surveys such as SCANS I & II and CODA, surveys based on platforms of opportunity such as ICES International Bottom Trawl Surveys (European Seabirds at Sea (ESAS) cetacean data), as well as more localised non-governmental data (e.g. SeaWatch Foundation and ARC) and industry data (e.g. that collected in relation to potential renewable energy installations). These data, collected between 1979 and 2010, represent the largest NW European cetacean sightings resource ever collated and have been standardised to a common format, checked and cleaned. It should be noted that the JCP is heavily dominated by UK lead survey work. Other sources should be encouraged to join JCP in the future, notably from waters other than UK similarly collected from dedicated surveys or platforms of opportunity.

For harbour porpoises, bottlenose dolphins and common dolphins in the Irish Sea, Paxton & Thomas (2010) reported that quite small declines in modelled population density (0.3-2.2% per year) over a 6-year reporting period could be detected with power of 0.8, for the latter part of the survey period. For other species and earlier time periods, only very large changes in modelled population density would be detectable. However, the modelled population densities rely on spatial and temporal smoothing, and hence sudden declines would not necessarily be detectable.

The models developed by Paxton & Thomas (2010) have been further refined and expanded to include the Scottish west coast (Paxton et al, 2011). Density surfaces varying in time were generated for harbour porpoise, minke whale, bottlenose dolphin, short-beaked common dolphin and white-beaked dolphins; with a non-temporal model used for Risso's dolphin. The density surfaces proved complex to model and some bootstrap confidence intervals were very wide especially in areas of low effort and associated with high predictions.

For harbour porpoises, monthly abundances were found to peak in August and there is evidence for a strong temporal trend. Estimated numbers fluctuated in their high season (summer) between 10,200 (CI: 5,500 – 17,700, CV: 0.30) in 1991 and 107,900 (CI: 87,800 – 142,000, CV: 0.13) in 2005. The imprecise estimates for 1985 are associated with low effort leading to a high uncertainty, otherwise in this Poisson model, uncertainty is associated with larger estimated numbers.

The outputs of the JCP project covering the European North Atlantic area are expected later in 2012 will include:

- Annual estimates of species specific cetacean abundance (with 95% confidence intervals) at a Regional Seas scale, suitable for Habitats Directive and MSFD reporting.

- Species specific summary datasets depicting cetacean distribution and relative abundance at a range of resolutions with advice on the most robust resolution. Where there is sufficient data, density surface plots will be produced for each season annually, with an assessment of trends over time and the power to detect these trends. It is expected that the power to detect trends over this area are unlikely to be as high as those reported for the Irish Sea subset in Paxton & Thomas (2010).

The European Commission has recently published its guidance for Article 17 reporting under the Habitats Directive (FCS) in 2013. Following feedback from various Member States and ICES (2009) on the 2007 reporting round for cetaceans, there is a much greater emphasis on the need for transboundary reports for relevant species. It is likely that the outputs of the JCP will provide the necessary distribution and abundance information for the compilation of transboundary reports.

Paxman, C. & Thomas, L., 2010. Phase One Data Analysis of Joint Cetacean Protocol Data. Available at: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JCP_Phase_1_Analysis.pdf

Paxton, C.G.M., M. Mackenzie, M.L Burt, E. Rexstad & L. Thomas. 2011. Phase II Data Analysis of Joint Cetacean Protocol Data Resource. Draft Report to Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Contract number C11-0207-0421. Available at: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JCP_Phase_II_report.pdf

Land-based effort related watches were conducted at sites around the UK as part of Sea Watch Foundation's (SWF) national observer network that has been running since the 1970s. Surveys using a mixture of chartered vessels and platforms of opportunity were undertaken (some in collaboration with other bodies) in the central North Sea, inshore waters of East Scotland, Northern Isles, Hebrides, and Irish Sea. Regional analyses/reviews were undertaken for the Thames Estuary region, Grampian region (Anderwald et al., 2010), Orkney (Evans & Baines, 2010), and the Irish Sea (Baines & Evans, 2012).

SWF holds Photo-ID catalogues for the following species: minke whale, humpback whale, killer whale, bottlenose dolphin, and Risso's dolphin, with small numbers of ID images (<20 per species) also for fin whale, short-beaked common dolphin, and white-beaked dolphin. Additions were made to all these catalogues during 2011, whilst publications involving analyses of photo-ID data include Cheney et al. (2012) and Veneruso & Evans (2012).

Habitat modelling and spatial analyses were undertaken on various species: harbour porpoise (Coomber, 2011; Isojunno et al., 2012), bottlenose dolphin (Meatcher, 2010), and minke whale (Anderwald et al., 2011b, 2012).

Studies and recommendations for methodologies for monitoring & surveillance were also undertaken (Davis, 2010; Evans, 2011b; Evans & Thomas, 2011).

An analysis of by-catch risk for cetaceans in Welsh waters was conducted (Evans & Hintner, 2010), and sensitivity indices developed (Evans, 2011).

The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) continues Risso's Dolphin Photo-ID studies in waters off the UK's west coast, focused around Bardsey Island in North Wales and the Isle of Lewis in the Western Isles of Scotland. Collaborations exist with CCW, Sea Watch Foundation and Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch in Wales and with local communities and the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) in Scotland.

A study was undertaken in West Wales examining long-term trends in recreational boat activity in relation to trends in bottlenose dolphin sightings rates. Areas with the highest densities of boat traffic experienced declines in bottlenose dolphin sightings rates

(Lohrengel et al., 2012; Veneruso & Evans, 2012).

A risk analysis of vessel strikes was undertaken throughout the ASCOBANS Agreement Area using VOS ship data and effort-related cetacean sighting rates derived from multiple data sources (including SCANS II & CODA), found highest potential overlap between cetaceans (particularly large whales) and vessels in the Bay of Biscay (Evans et al., 2011).

Genetic studies using mtDNA and microsatellites of North Atlantic minke whales indicate two sympatric yet genetically distinct populations (Anderwald *et al.*, 2011a). The implication is that minke whales range extensively across the North Atlantic seasonally but segregate to some extent on at least two distinct breeding grounds.

Anderwald, P., Danielsdottir, A.K., Haug, T., Larsen, F., Lesage, V., Reid, R.J., Vikingsson, G.A. and Hoelzel, A.R.

(2011) Possible cryptic stock structure for minke whales in the North Atlantic; implications for conservation and management. *Biological Conservation*, 144(10): 2479-2489.

Jersey

Jersey continues to participate in the NHM's strandings programme. Two acoustic receivers have been set by Groupe d'Etude des Cetaces du Cotentin, at Les Minquiers reef as part of a wider study in the Normano-Breton gulf. An aerial survey has also been planned as part of the Marine Park project. This survey will occur in 2012.

C. USE OF BY-CATCHES AND STRANDINGS

5 Post-Mortem Research Schemes

<p>Contact details of research institutions / focal point</p>	<p>UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP). Contact point- Rob Deaville, Institute of Zoology, Regents Park, London, NW1 4RY, ENGLAND.</p> <p>rob.deaville@ioz.ac.uk www.ukstrandings.org</p> <p>Countryside Council for Wales - Dr Mandy McMath, Senior Marine Vertebrate Ecologist</p>
<p>Methodology used (reference, e.g. publication, protocol)</p>	<p>Methodology in Deaville and Jepson <i>et al</i> (2011) followed;</p> <p>Deaville and Jepson (compilers) (2011) CSIP Final Report for the period 1st January 2005-31st December 2010. Pp 1-98 http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=FinalCSIPReport2005-2010_finalversion061211released[1].pdf</p>
<p>Collection of samples (type, preservation method)</p>	<p>A range of samples are routinely collected according to the method of Deaville and Jepson <i>et al</i> (2011). A variety of tissues are routinely sampled for any bacteriological, virological and/or histopathological investigations when deemed appropriate. Any non-routine samples are also collected as necessary. A number of preservation methods are employed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stored frozen at -20°C or -80°C; • stored in 70% ethanol (parasites); • or in 10% buffered formalin (fixed samples)

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	In addition to the strandings co-coordinators funded by Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government continues its funding of the Welsh Strandings Co-ordinator in conjunction with CCW. The cetacean most commonly found stranded on the Welsh coast is the harbour porpoise and the most common cause of death for this species is from attack by bottlenose dolphins.
Database (Number of data sets by species, years covered, software used, online access)	The CSIP holds data on nearly 10500 cetaceans which were reported stranded around the UK between 1990 and 2011. In addition, detailed pathological data is also held on over 3000 UK stranded cetaceans which were necropsied by the CSIP during the same period. Data collected on strandings and during necropsies are routinely recorded in a web-accessed relational database (http://data.ukstrandings.org). A proportion of data held on this system is also made available to the public via a Defra funded portal, the NBN gateway (www.nbn.org.uk/).
Additional Information (e.g. website addresses, intellectual property rights, possibility of a central database)	Further information on the CSIP is available at www.ukstrandings.org . Intellectual property rights to the data directly generated as a result of CSIP research belong to Defra. At the ASCOBANS AC meeting in Bonn in 2010, the ASCOBANS Secretariat agreed to fund IoZ to co-ordinate a feasibility study into the creation of a centralised point of access for selected data collected by stranding networks within the ASCOBANS region (Project ref: SSFA/ASCOBANS/2010/2). The project report on this feasibility study has been recently submitted to the Secretariat and it is hoped that this will be the first step towards the eventual creation of a central database on strandings and necropsies, encompassing ASCOBANS Parties and Range states.

Contact details of research institutions / focal point	Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) Dr Mandy McMath, Senior Marine Vertebrate Ecologist
Methodology used (reference, e.g. publication, protocol)	
Collection of samples (type, preservation method)	In addition to the strandings co-coordinators funded by Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government continues its funding of the Welsh Strandings Co-ordinator in conjunction with CCW. The cetacean most commonly found stranded on the Welsh coast is the harbour porpoise and the most common cause of death for this species is from attack by bottlenose dolphins.
Database (Number of data sets by species, years covered, software used, online access)	
Additional Information (e.g. website addresses, intellectual property rights, possibility of a central database)	

5.1 Number of Necropsies Carried out in Reporting Period:

Species	Recorded cause of death
Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> , n=74)	Pneumonia, Parasitic (n=13) Starvation (n=13) Physical Trauma (n=8) Bycatch (n=7) Bottlenose Dolphin Attack (n=7) Starvation (neonate) (n=5) Live Stranding (n=3) Others (n=3) Physical Trauma, Boat/Ship Strike (n=2) Gastritis and/or Enteritis (n=2) Pneumonia, Parasitic and Bacterial (n=1) Pneumonia, Bacterial (n=1) Not Established (n=1) pending (n=8)
Short-beaked common dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i> , n=31)	Live Stranding (n=10) Bycatch (n=7) Starvation (n=4) Physical Trauma (n=3) Physical Trauma, Boat/Ship Strike (n=2) Bottlenose Dolphin Attack (n=1) Gastritis and/or Enteritis (n=1) Neonatal death (n=1) Others (n=1) Pneumonia, Parasitic and Bacterial (n=1)
Long-finned pilot whale (<i>Globicephala melas</i> , n=18)	Live Stranding (n=17) Generalised Bacterial Infection (n=1)
Striped dolphin (<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> , n=9)	Live Stranding (n=4) Physical Trauma (n=2) (Meningo)encephalitis (n=2) Generalised Bacterial Infection (n=1)
Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> , n=5)	Generalised Bacterial Infection (n=1) (Meningo)encephalitis (n=1) Starvation (neonate) (n=1) Others (n=1) Not Established (n=1)
White beaked dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> , n=5)	Starvation (n=3) Live Stranding (n=2)
Atlantic white-sided dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i> , n=5)	Live Stranding (n=4) Others (n=1)
Sperm whale (<i>Physeter catodon</i> , n=3)	Starvation (n=2) pending (n=1)
Minke whale (<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> , n=2)	Entanglement (n=1) Generalised Bacterial Infection (n=1)
Fin whale (<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> , n=2)	Starvation (n=1) Live Stranding (n=1)
Killer whale (<i>Orcinus orca</i> , n=1)	Not Established (n=1)
Sei whale (<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> , n=1)	Live Stranding (n=1)
Sowerby's beaked whale (<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i> , n=1)	Live Stranding (n=1)
Pygmy sperm whale	Live Stranding (n=1)

(<i>Kogia breviceps</i> , n=1)	
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NB Causes of death in some individuals are provisional and pending the results of follow up analyses. Finalised causes of death will be given in the CSIP 2011 annual report to Defra and the devolved administrations in the UK, which will be shortly published at; <http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=17835&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=strandings&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>.

Please provide any other relevant information on post-mortem / stranding schemes.

CSIP Annual Report to Defra for the period 1st January-31st December 2010
<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=FINALUKCSIPAnnualReport2010.pdf>

CSIP Final Report for the period 1st January 2005-31st December 2010
[http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=FinalCSIPReport2005-2010_finalversion061211released\[1\].pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=FinalCSIPReport2005-2010_finalversion061211released[1].pdf)

Links to both these reports can also be found on the CSIP website (www.ukstrandings.org/csip-reports/).

D. LEGISLATION

6.1 Relevant New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

Please provide any relevant information.

[The Scallop Fishing \(Wales\) \(No.2\) Order 2010](#) provides protection to seabed habitats from scallop dredging activity for most of the sea area covered by these sites (this is also included in Section 3).

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) uses an intelligence led risk based enforcement model to direct enforcement activities and resources. Any intelligence received by the MMO in relation to offences against cetaceans or anthropogenic impacts in MPAs designated for them is considered and appropriate enforcement action taken.

As part of the Marine Licensing process for offshore construction, the MMO require and monitor the implementation of Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocols (MMMPs) to mitigate against harm and disturbance to cetaceans, including for piling work on wind farms.

E. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

7.1 Public Awareness and Education

Please report on any public awareness and education activities to implement or promote the Agreement to the general public and to fishermen.

A leaflet campaign was launched at the end of 2011, encouraging members of the public to report animals found stranded around the UK coast to the CSIP (http://ukstrandings.org/CSIP_leaflet.pdf).

The tenth National Whale & Dolphin Watch Event was held between 5th and 7th August 2011. This involved >1,000 observers, and received both regional and national media attention (Gibas, 2011; Nekar & Albray, 2011). A Dolphin Adoption scheme has targeted children in schools and coastal communities. A wide range of educational materials has been produced, and two environmental video films were made by three primary and one secondary school in Pembrokeshire, SW Wales. These were awarded first & second prize respectively in a national media festival. Links have been established with Eco schools England - who held a marine mammal month - and with Eco Schools Scotland, with curriculum specific materials now available to teachers on both organisation's web sites. SWF continues to work with the Pembrokeshire County Council "Buzz Biz" project to involve local school children in marine conservation issues. Ongoing work with children's magazines is helping raise awareness of the UK's cetacean populations, and in particular of conservation issues facing the harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin.

References:

Gibas, D. (2011) *10th National Whale & Dolphin Watch Event, 5th-7th August 2011*. Sea Watch Foundation, New Quay, Ceredigion. 17pp.

Nekar, W. and Albray, J. (2011) *Sea Watch Media Relations Activity Report, 2011*. Sea Watch Foundation, Leamington Spa. 27pp.

Jersey

A code of conduct is available for fishermen and general public. Code reviewed and updated as necessary. WiSe courses run as required for commercial operators and other interested individuals.

POSSIBLE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT

Please provide any relevant information.

Please return this form, preferably by e-mail, to:

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