Agenda Item 15	Continued Revision to National Reporting Format
Document Inf.15.g	**Annual National Report 2016: The Netherlands**
Action Requested	• Take note
Submitted by	Finland

NOTE:
DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED
TO BRING THEIR OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING

Secretariat's Note

The Rules of Procedure adopted at the 19th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee remain in force until and unless an amendment is called for and adopted.

National Reporting Format for ASCOBANS

2016

As outlined in ASCOBANS Resolution 8.1 on National Reporting, the national reports covering the year 2016 will cover the following Sections of the Annex to the Resolution:

- Section I
- Section II B3, B4, C8 and D15
- Section VII

The reports submitted will inform discussions at the 23rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee (5-7 September 2017, Le Conquet, France) and will tailor its agenda to focus on the topics selected for this national report.

Section I: General Information

Party Information

Name of Party

The Netherlands

National Coordinator (Focal Point) for ASCOBANS

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Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

B. Disturbance (including potential physical impacts)

3. Noise (impulsive and continuous/ambient)

3.1) To which noise registers/databases has your country contributed to date?

- ICES Impulsive Noise Register *(for HELCOM and OSPAR Parties): yes*
- *National registry, please specify (e.g. JNCC noise registry):*

  Data on Unexploded Ordnance are collected by the Dutch Navy and shared with the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI).
- *Other, please provide details:*

3.2) The perceived level of risk that underwater noise is posing to the favourable conservation status (FCS) of small cetaceans, i.e. is the pressure increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown:

Though there is no baseline on underwater noise and the level of risk to the favourable conservation status of small cetaceans needs to be assessed, .the pressure seemed to have increased compared to a decade ago.

3.3) Any notable instances/issues in the reporting period including providing information on planned or completed significant developments/activities, including the details of EIAs and monitoring in place before, during and after the project:

See section 4.

Development/ activity (e.g. windfarm)	***Status (planned/ completed)***	***Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)***	***Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)***	***Monitoring conducted***	***Further information on noise management***	***Latitude WGS 84***	***Longitude WGS 84***
	Planned/complete/Not Applicable	*Done/foreseen/not required/Not Applicable*	*Done/foreseen/not required/Not Applicable*			*Degree decimal to 4 places*	*Degree decimal to 4 places*

3.4) How is the pressure being managed, including a list of relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned):

The construction of offshore wind farms Is regulated by noise mitigation measures in the building permits..

The procedure to adjust the current protocol on detonation of unexploded ordnance is in place. To minimize the impact no single measure can be prescribed but a mix of measures depending on the situation will be prescribed.

For seismic surveys an EIA is obliged

3.5) List relevant new research/work/collaboration:

3.6) Report on noise management for cumulative impact, including assessment of associated or coincidental activities, regulations and guidelines, seismic shot point densities and level of impact that was assessed and deemed acceptable:

4. Ocean Energy

Wind Energy

4.1) Please enter one table per wind farm.

Name of wind farm	*GEMINI: Buitengaats and ZeeEnergie*

First operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)	dd/10/16
Output in megawatts per turbine	*4.0 MW*
Number of turbines	*150*
How were the individual wind turbines installed in the seabed?	*Pile-driving*
Was scour protection added?	*Yes*
Noise mitigation during construction used (multiple ticks possible)	*Acoustic Deterrent Devices* *Time/area closures*
If the wind farm is floating, how was it anchored?	
Additional information (optional):	*Test with simultaneous pile driving in both wind farms. Actual overlap on 9 occasions, less than half an hr.*

Wave Power

4.2) Please enter one table per wave power installation.

Name of installation	
Fist operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)	dd/mm/yy
Location	
Output in megawatts per turbine	
Number of turbines	
How is the installation anchored?	
Was scour protection added?	*Yes/No/Not Applicable*

Tidal Energy

4.3) Please enter one table per tidal energy installation.

Name of installation	
First operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)	
Location	
Output in megawatts per turbine	
Number of turbines	
Type	
Collision mitigation	

Tidal lagoon/barrage

4.4) Please enter one table per tidal lagoon/barrage.

Name of installation	*Tocardo Tidal Power Plant Eastern Scheldt*
First operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)	24/02/2016
Location	*In the storm surge barrier at the entrance of the Eastern Scheldt*
Output in megawatts per turbine	*1.25 MW*
Number of turbines	*5*
Type	*other, turbines are incorporated in the storm surge barrier.*
Collision mitigation	*No, mitigation restricted to logging of incidents, and two years of monitoring possible effects*

4.5) The perceived level of risk to favourable conservation status (FCS), i.e. is the pressure increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown:

Energy type	***Status 2016 relative to previous years***
Wind energy	Increasing
Wave power	Not Applicable
Tidal energy	Unknown
Tidal lagoon/barrage	Not Applicable

4.6) Any notable instances/issues in the reporting period

4.7) How the pressure is being managed, incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)

Relevant information will be reported to the EC under the MSFD framework.

4.8) Relevant new research/work/collaboration

In 2015, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Rijkswaterstaat initiated an integrated monitoring and research programme to study gaps in our knowledge relating to the impact of offshore wind farms on the ecosystem of the North Sea. This so-called WoZEP Offshore wind energy ecological programme 2017-2021 envisages research on more fundamental and overarching topics related to effects of wind farms on indicator species, including the harbour porpoise.

Using passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) and aerial surveys the abundance and behaviour of harbour porpoises were studied during construction of the GEMINI wind parks in 2015 (see 4.1). The results of this study are due in 2017.

Porpoise behaviour was studied by simultaneous visual observations and passive acoustic monitoring in the vicinity of a periodically active porpoise deterrent, the FaunaGuard-PM, in the Marsdiep, Western Dutch Wadden Sea, in February-April 2016. The efficiency of the FaunaGuard was tested in a pool and the distance up to which it would deter porpoises in the field has been modelled, but was not tested at sea until 2016. The results of the at sea study are due in 2017.

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

8. Unexploded Ordnance

8.1) To which registers/databases covering conventional and chemical munitions has your country contributed to date?

OSPAR Impulsive Noise Registry,

Other, please state: Because detonations of unexploded ordnance can interfere with geoseismic monitoring, all detonations exceeding 25 kg (TNT eq.) are also reported to the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI).

8.2) Please fill in table 8.2 (below) on unexploded ordnance, which except for the last four additional columns is the same as the OSPAR one. For explanation of terms see http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC22_Inf_4.6.c_OSPAR_MunitionsRec 2010.pdf

N/A for 2016

8.3) The perceived level of risk that unexploded ordnance and the management thereof is posing to the favourable conservation status (FCS) of small cetaceans, i.e. is the pressure increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown.

The pressure is probably increasing, given the construction of offshore wind farms and laying of cables and pipes.

8.4) Any notable instances/issues in the reporting period.

None

8.5) How is the pressure being managed, incl. relevant regulations/guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)

After publication of a report on unexploded ordnance in the Dutch North Sea (Von Benda-Beckman ea 2015) a procedure to adjust the current protocol is in place. To minimize the impact no single measure can be prescribed but a mix of measures depending on the situation will be prescribed.

8.6) Relevant new research/work/collaboration

D. Management of Cumulative Impacts

15. Marine Spatial Planning

Plan(s) in force	*The National Water Plan provides a policy framework for MSP based on the Water Act, and includes the Policy Document for the North Sea 2016-2021 as an appendix. This Policy Document includes a framework vision map and which currently constitutes the Netherlands' Maritime Spatial Plan.*
Plan(s) in preparation	*A revision of the Nature Protection Act is to be implemented in the relevant plans.*
Further information, including links to online resources and maps where available	*With the adoption of the EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (2014/89/EU), all coastal EU Member States are required to prepare cross-sectoral maritime spatial plans by 2021. These plans can be found on http://msp-platform.eu*

Section VII: Other Matters

A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement

As recommended in the Dutch harbour porpoise conservation plan (Camphuysen & Siemensma, 2011) a scientific advisory committee has been appointed: This committee has reviewed the Dutch research on harbour porpoises and provided advise for improvements.

The Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment chaired the ICG-Noise Group that the OSPAR MSFD Intermediate Assessment D11- indicator Distribution of Reported Impulsive Sounds.

Wageningen Marine Research had the lead for the implementation of the OSPAR MSFD M4-marine mammal indicator on abundance and distribution. In cooperation with the University of St Andrews and the Tursiops SEAs project assessments were drafted and subsequently reviewed by the ICES Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology in February 2016: one for coastal species, and one for wide ranging species. The results of the international SCANS III survey in July 2016 were incorporated in the latter assessment.

Wageningen Marine Research and Marine Science and Communication started a Remote Electronic Monitoring project in December 2012 to investigate bycatch of harbour porpoises by Dutch gill net fishery (targeting sole, seabass, cod, turbot and brill). This project has been extended to include the winter fisheries season of 2017 and includes the monitoring of 10 vessels. The project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. Final analysis will take place in 2017. Results are to be expected in fall 2017. During the project collaboration took place with the Department of Pathobiology, that investigated landed bycaught porpoises. A follow-up of the project is currently not foreseen, although the collaborators, including the fisheries are eager to continue the cooperation.

In December 2016 an evaluation meeting has been organised by Marine Science & Communication and Wageningen Economic Research, hosted by the Fisheries Knowledge Group. The focus in this meeting was not on the number of harbour porpoise bycatch - the main aim of the project - but on the social science aspects of the project. Main conclusion is that the project has contributed to build a relation and gain trust between fisheries, science and government. The report of this meeting contains a list of advice and can be found at: http://www.wur.nl/nl/Onderzoek-Resultaten/Projecten/Kenniskring-Visserij/Welke-Kenniskringen/Kustvisserij/Staandwantvisserij-op-tong.htm

B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement

N/A

Table 8.2 on Unexploded Ordnance (taken from OSPAR reporting format, with additional four columns at the end)

OSPAR Ref. No	**Latitude WGS 84**	**Longitude WGS 84**	**Nature of Encounter**	**Date**	**Type of munition**	**Action taken**	**State of munition (corrosion)**	**Release, Destruction Latitude WGS 84**	**Release, Destruction Longitude WGS 84**	**Remarks**	**Depth of explosion**	**Estimated net weight of explosive material of demolished UXO**	**Demolition charge: net weight of explosive material added**	**Observations during explosion**
If available, otherwise leave blank	*Degree decimal to 4 places*	*Degree decimal to 4 places. Negative for west of Greenwich*	*Diving, Dredging, Entanglement in Nets, Found on shore, Laying pipelines or cables, mine hunting, other*	*dd/mm/yy*	*Chemical, Firebomb, Conventional, unknown*	*Destroyed/blasted, Destroyed/other method, Released at Sea, Disposed of on land, Unknown, other*	*Heavily corroded, Partly corroded, Good condition, Unknown*	*Degree decimal to 4 places*	*Degree decimal to 4 places. Negative for west of Greenwich*	*Text*	*Meters* *On Seafloor/raised*	*TNT equivalent in kg*	*TNT equivalent in kg*	*high order/low order/ deflagration/unknown*