

Agenda Item 2

Review of New Information on Threats to
Small Cetaceans (reporting cycle 2017 only)

Document Inf. 2.g

**2017 Annual National Report:
France**

Action Requested

- Take note

Submitted by

France



**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 ASCOBANS 8th Meeting of Parties remain in force until and unless an amendment is called for and adopted.

NATIONAL REPORTING FORMAT FOR ASCOBANS

1ST JANUARY – 31ST DECEMBER 2017

As outlined in ASCOBANS [RESOLUTION 8.1](#) on National Reporting, the national reports covering the year 2017 will cover the following sections of the Annex to the Resolution, in addition to the standard sections I and VII:

- bycatch (section II A1)
- resource depletion (section II A2)
- marine debris (section II C9)
- surveys and research (section III)
- use of bycatches and strandings (section IV).

The reports submitted will inform discussions at the 24th Meeting of the Advisory Committee, which will be held in September 2018 and will tailor its agenda to focus on the topics selected for this national report.

Date: 22-Jun-18

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Party Information

A. Name of Party	FRANCE
B. Details of National Coordinator (Focal Point) for ASCOBANS	Florian EXPERT
	Chargé de mission espèces marines
	Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire
	Tour Sequoia 92055 La Défense cedex
	0033 (0) 1-40-81-32-09
	Florian.expert@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
C. Details of Delegates (contributors to the report) <i>(For each, mention Name, Function, Organization, Postal Address, Telephone, Email)</i>	Hélène Peltier (Pelagis)
D. List of relevant national institutions <i>(List of national authorities, organizations, research centres and rescue centres active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans. For each one mention the name, postal address, contact person, telephone and email address)</i>	Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire, Tour Sequoia, 92055 La Défense Cedex Observatoire Pelagis, UMS 3462 Université de La Rochelle/CNRS, 5 allées de l’océan, 17000 La Rochelle, France; Vincent RIDOUX, vridoux@univ-lr.fr; +33546507669
E. List of relevant fisheries stakeholders in your country <i>(List of fisheries associations and cooperatives, research centres, relevant private sector entities and other organizations involved in fisheries in waters frequented by cetaceans. For each one mention the name, postal address, contact person, telephone and email address)</i>	Ministère de l’agriculture et de l’alimentation/ Direction des pêches maritimes et de l’aquaculture, Tour Sequoia, 92055 la Défense cedex Contact: Laureline GAUTHIER laureline.gauthier@agriculture.gouv.fr Comité national des pêches maritimes et des élevages marins 134 Avenue de Malakoff, 75116 Paris Contact: Perine DUCLOY pducloy@comite-peches.fr Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne 7, rue Félix Le Dantec . Creac'h Gwen 29000 Quimper Contact: Thomas RIMAUD thomas.rimaud@pecheursdebretagne.eu

SECTION II: HABITAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (THREATS AND PRESSURES ON CETACEANS)		
A. Fisheries-related Threats		
1. Bycatch		
a) How is the magnitude of the threat assessed/monitored? <i>(Include percentage where applicable in the adjoining column)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated observer schemes	%
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fisheries observers	5 % of effort
	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Electronic Monitoring	%
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strandings	N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/> None	%
b) In the last year, which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch? <i>(Include numbers)</i> <i>Please provide the following information where available:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Species ii. Number of bycaught animals iii. Gear type iv. ICES area v. Overall sampling effort 	Click or tap here to enter text.	
c) In the last year, were there any notable incidents? <i>E.g. mass bycatch incidents, unusual species bycatch etc.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If you answer is yes, please provide details. Two unusual stranding events were recorded in February and march 2017 accounting for a total of over 793 strandings of small cetaceans over the period, of which 84% were common dolphins. Among necropsied carcasses 95% were diagnosed as bycatch.
d) Are there any mitigation measures in place?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If you answer is yes, please provide details. Click or tap here to enter text.
e) If yes, what mitigation measures are being used and where? <i>E.g. Acoustic deterrent</i>	Click or tap here to enter text.	

<p><i>devices, seasonal closures, gear modifications etc.</i></p>		
<p>f) Other relevant information. <i>E.g. provide links to OSPAR reports (FCS and GES being covered already so no need to duplicate), annual bycatch reports (for more detailed information) etc.</i></p>	<p>See ICES/WGBYC 2017, 2018; IWC/SC67b/HIM papers;</p> <p>Presentation of common dolphin stranding data for winter 2017; presentation of common dolphin and harbour porpoise mortality numbers and rates as inferred from stranding data in the Bay of Biscay; mortality numbers and areas for harbour porpoise in the North Sea and adjacent Atlantic regions; relationship between common dolphin mortality areas and fisheries in the Bay of Biscay.</p>	
<p>g) Relevant new research/work/collaboration on bycatch within the Agreement Area.</p>	<p>See ICES/WGBYC 2018</p> <p><i>France launched a national-scale working group on small cetaceans bycatch in the Atlantic, chaired by fisheries Directorate, and encompassing many actors from this thematic (administration, scientists and fishersmans organisations. This group aims at :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Improving knowledge on interactions between fisheries and small cetaceans population ;</i> - <i>Bycatch mitigation</i> - <i>Mobilisation of fishermen so that they provide accurate information on bycatch</i> 	
<p>2. Resource Depletion</p>		
<p>a) Based on the latest stock assessments (carried out in advance of the December Council negotiations), are there any notable depletions of fish species which would be a concern for cetaceans?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details:</p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>

<p>b) In Parties' national waters, where are these depletions occurring? <i>By ICES Area</i></p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p>c) What measures are being taken to manage pressures on depleted fish stocks, including relevant regulations/guidelines? <i>E.g. decrease in TAC, recovery plan etc.</i></p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
<p>d) Is there any evidence within your national waters that resource depletion may be impacting cetaceans (e.g. evidence of starvation)?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details: Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p>e) Are there any national surveys which evaluate cetacean body condition?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>If your answer is yes, please provide details: Body condition index based on measurement of stranded dolphins</p>
<p>f) Relevant new research/work/collaboration</p>	<p><i>Development of aforementioned body condition index</i></p>	
<p>B. <u>Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)</u></p>		
<p>1. Marine Debris</p>		
<p>a) What monitoring is in place to assess the level of marine debris? <i>E.g. type of litter (size, shape, material) amount, impacts on species, geographical location etc.</i></p>	<p>Interaction with marine litter as observed from stranded cetaceans (entanglement and ingestion) Distribution of marine litter from multitarget visual surveys, either aerial or ship-based</p>	

b) What parameters are provided through this monitoring?	<p><i>Frequency of interaction inferred from stranding data</i></p> <p><i>Density inferred from visual surveys</i></p>	
c) Are these data publicly available? Y/N If so, please provide a link.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<p><i>Link</i></p> <p><i>Available on request</i></p>
d) In the last year, what species of small cetaceans were found to have been impacted by marine debris?	<p>Deep divers, including pilot whales, Risso's dolphins, and beaked whales. For information: sperm whales are also impacted.</p>	
e) Are there any mitigation measures in place? Y/N	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<p>If yes, what mitigation measures are being used? <i>E.g. changes in gear to prevent loss, entanglement response, adoption of measures to reduce land-based/boat-based source of marine debris.</i></p> <p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
f) Other relevant information. <i>E.g. link to OSPAR reports (FCS and GES being covered already so no need to duplicate)</i>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	
g) Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine debris.	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>	

SECTION III: SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

A. Biological Information (per species)

1. Dedicated Surveys (abundance and distribution)

If additional space is required, please submit the information in a table in excel. Attach maps separately, clearly marking which survey they apply to.

Region (map of survey area)	Project	Time Period	Method (e.g. line transect, Photo ID etc.)	Species	Abundance of animals (including confidence limits) if applicable	Link to project/report/ publication
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.			

B. Other relevant monitoring/survey activities

<p>1. Is there a national monitoring programme that enables Conservation Status of cetaceans in your waters to be assessed? <i>(provides abundance estimates and/or life history parameters and information on pressures)</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>If yes, please provide details: MSFD Monitoring Programme</p>
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2. Please provide an overview of current national monitoring programmes:

<p>• W i t h i n M P A S</p>	<p>Approach: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strandings Target Species: Bottlenose dolphins, harbour porpoise, common dolphins, others...</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> W i d e r S e a s 	Approach: <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strandings	
	Target Species: All cetaceans	
3. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other Parties?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details: SCANS surveys
4. Links to Relevant Outputs	SCANS-3 report	
C. <u>Life history parameters by ASCOBANS species – if easier please submit information in a table in Excel format.</u>		
1. Age at sexual and physical maturity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: https://www.istor.org/stable/24873595 https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0032615
2. Inter-birth intervals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0032615 https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf
3. Calf and adult mortality rates	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0032615 https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf
4. Potential reproductive span/capacity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0032615 https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf
5. Longevity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0032615

		https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf
6. Diet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1748-7692.2006.00088.x https://www.jstor.org/stable/24871932?seq=1#page_sc_an_tab_contents https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S138511010600027X https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S027277140600165X https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022098110001930 https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/article/70/2/452/797965
7. Age and sex structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0032615 https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf
8. Other relevant factors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0032615 https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/174666/1/Murphy%20et%20al.%202010%20JNWAFS.pdf
<p><i>If you are entering information for more than one species, please enter the data in the above-mentioned categories here:</i> <i>Mostly common dolphin, harbour porpoise, bottlenose dolphin,...</i></p>		
SECTION IV: USE OF BYCATCHES AND STRANDINGS		
A. <u>Stranding Network</u>		
1. Is there a national stranding network in place?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details below: Our network aims at improving knowledge of marine mammals population through collection of biological and ecological data. It enables answering smoothly to any emergency situation in case of stranding of a living animal.
2. Please add the names and URLs of all national	http://observatoire-pelagis.cnrs.fr/observatoire/Suivi-des-echouages-37/	

stranding/necropsy networks		
3. Does this cover the whole or part of the reporting country's coastline?	Whole country	
4. Are necropsies carried out to determine cause of death?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details below: Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Are any cases photographed, measured or sampled even if not collected for necropsy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details below: Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Is there a database of strandings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide link to and details of responsible institutions: Helene Peltier, Observatoire Pelagis
7. Is the data available online or downloadable on request?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please provide details below: http://www.observatoire-pelagis.cnrs.fr/les-donnees/les-donnees-de-l-observatoire/les-donnees-d-echouages
8. ASCOBANS is currently developing a web-accessed database for marine mammals strandings and necropsy data (see AC23/Inf.9.1.a). Please indicate which national stranding network(s) you designate to become part of this international web-accessed database:	Pelagis, ULR/CNRS Observatoire Pelagis, UMS 3462 Université de La Rochelle/CNRS, 5 allées de l'océan, 17000 La Rochelle, France;	
9. Please state whom to contact for integrating this stranding network into the	Hélène PELTIER, Observatoire Pelagis. helene.peltier@univ-lr.fr +33546507669	

ASCOBANS database (name, position, email, telephone)	
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B. Parties Involved

1. Live-Stranding Responses Details (phone, email, website)	<i>Pelagis,</i>
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2. Reporting of Carcasses Details (phone, email, website)	<i>Pelagis</i>
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C. Stranding numbers from reporting year (2017)
If additional space is required, please submit the following information in a table in excel, as an attachment with this form.

Species	Total number of stranding events	Total number of individuals (dead/alive)	Number necropsied	Most common cause of death	Other Causes of Death
See attached table	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

D. New and Relevant Publications
(Including new methods and any new projects using samples/outputs)

Mahfouz, C., Meziane, T., Henry, F., Abi-Ghanem, C., **Spitz, J.**, Jauniaux, T., Bouveroux, T., Khalaf, G., Amara, R. (2017). Multi-approach analysis to assess diet of harbour porpoises *Phocoena phocoena* in the southern North Sea. Marine Ecology Progress Series, 563, pp. 249-259.

Peltier H., Authier M., Deaville R., **Dabin W.,** Jepson P.D., Deaville R., **Van Canneyt O.,** Daniel P., **Ridoux V.** 2016. Small cetacean bycatch as estimated from stranding schemes: The common dolphin case in the northeast Atlantic. Environ. Sci. Policy 63:7-18

Unger B., Bravo Rebolledo E.L., Deaville R., Gröne A., IJsseldijk L.L., Leopold M.F., Siebert S., **Spitz J.,** Wohlsein P. & Herr H., 2016. Large amounts of marine debris found in sperm whales stranded along the North Sea coast in early 2016. Marine Pollution Bulletin, in early view only. [dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2016.08.027](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2016.08.027)

Méndez-Fernandez, P., Simon-Bouhet, B., Bustamante, P., Chouvelon, T., Ferreira, M., López, A., Moffat, C.F., Pierce, G.J., Russell, M., Santos, M.B., **Spitz, J.,** Vingada, J.V., Webster, L., Read, F.L., González, A.F., Caurant, F. (2017). Inter-species differences in polychlorinated biphenyls patterns from five sympatric species of odontocetes: Can PCBs be used as tracers of feeding ecology? Ecological Indicators, 74, pp. 98-108.

SECTION V: OTHER MATTERS

A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement

Designation of a large offshore Natura 2000 site under the Habitats and Bird directives, along the continental shelf of the Bay of Biscay and the celtic Shelf.

B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement

Click or tap here to enter text.

Region	Project	Time Period	Method	Species	Abundance of animals	Link to publication
Atlantic	SAMM	2011-2012	line transect (plane)	All cetaceans	see winter and summer abundances, in the Bay of Biscay and the English Channel (Table 3)	https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0967064516304088
Atlantic	Megascope	since 2002	line transect (boat)	All cetaceans	N/A	
Atlantic	SCANS III	summer 2016	line transect (plane)	All cetaceans	see abundances in the report	https://synergy.st-andrews.ac.uk/scans3/files/2017/05/SCANS-III-design-based-estimates-2017-05-12-final-revised.pdf
Pas de Calais (Eastern Channel)	Dunkrisk	year 2017	line transect (plane)	All cetaceans	analyses in progress	

2016

Species	Total number of stranding events	Total number of individuals	Number necropsied	Most common cause of death	Other causes of death
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	6	6	2	bycatch	
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	1	1	1	ship strike	
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	621	621	299	bycatch	pathology
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	11	11	9	live stranding	
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	6	6	5	bycatch	live stranding
<i>Kogia breviceps</i>	1	1	1	live stranding	
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	1	1	1		
<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	1	1	1		
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	365	365	119	bycatch	
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	3	3	3		
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	47	47	30	live stranding	bycatch
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	30	30	18	bycatch	live stranding
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	2	2	2		