Agenda Item 2 Review of New Information on Threats to Small Cetaceans (reporting cycle 2017 only)

Document Inf.2.h

2017 Annual National Report: Sweden

Action Requested

- Take Note

Submitted by Sweden

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: Click or tap to enter a date.		
SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION Party Information		
A. Name of Party	Sweden	
B. Details of National Coordinator (Focal Point) for ASCOBANS	Susanne Viker Senior analyst and focal point for ASCOBANS Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management Box 119 30, SE 404 39 Göteborg +4610 698 6076 susanne.viker@havochvatten.se	
C. Details of Delegates (contributors to the report) *(For each, mention Name, Function, Organization, Postal Address, Telephone, Email)*	Julia Carlström (curator) and Annika Strömberg (senior assistant), Swedish Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 50007, 104 05 Stockholm, Sweden, +46851954190, julia.carlstrom@nrm.se Sara Königson, Researcher, Slu Aqua Katja Noren, Researcher, Slu Aqua Johan Lövgren, Researcher, Slu Aqua Slu Aqua, Turistgatan 5, 453 30 Lysekil Email:sara.konigson@slu.se	
D. List of relevant national institutions (*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)*	Kolmården Wildlife Park – add address etc Gothenburg Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 7283, 402 35 Gothenburg, Sweden, Svante Lysén, +46104414237, svante.lysen@vgregionen.se National Veterinary Institute, SVA, SE-75 189 Uppsala, Sweden, Aleksija Neimane, +4618674000, aleksija.neimane@sva.se	
E. List of relevant fisheries stakeholders in your country *(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)*	To add later	
SECTION II: HABITAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (THREATS AND PRESSURES ON CETACEANS)		
A. <u>Fisheries-related Threats</u> ***1. Bycatch***		
	☒Dedicated observer schemes	%

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">a) How is the magnitude of the threat assessed/monitored? (Include percentage where applicable in the adjoining column)</td><td colspan="2">☒Fisheries observers</td><td>%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">☐Remote Electronic Monitoring</td><td>%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">☒Strandings</td><td>%</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">☐None</td><td>%</td></tr>
<tr><td>b) In the last year, which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch? (Include numbers) Please provide the following information where available:
i. Species
ii. Number of bycaught animals
iii. Gear type
iv. ICES area
v. Overall sampling effort</td><td colspan="3">i. harbour porpoise
ii. 2
iii. GTR
iv. 23
v. 33 rips on gillnetters, 75 trips with bottom trawl, 12 trips with pot fishing boats

Of 20 necropsied stranded animals (harbour porpoise) in 2017, the cause of death was determined as bycatch for nine. Gear types and ICES areas for the location of bycatches are unknown. A total of 104 stranded animals were reported by a voluntary network.</td></tr>
<tr><td>c) In the last year, were there any notable incidents? E.g. mass bycatch incidents, unusual species bycatch etc.</td><td>☐ Yes
☒ No</td><td colspan="2">If you answer is yes, please provide details.
Click or tap here to enter text.</td></tr>
<tr><td>d) Are there any mitigation measures in place?</td><td>☒ Yes
☐ No</td><td colspan="2">If you answer is yes, please provide details.
Se below</td></tr>
<tr><td>e) If yes, what mitigation measures are being used and where? E.g. Acoustic deterrent devices, seasonal closures, gear modifications etc.</td><td colspan="3">Voluntary use of pingers in ICES area 21 and 23. Use of pots and trap-nets as an alternative to gillnets in area 24-25.</td></tr>
</table>

f) Other relevant information. *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.*	**Sweden 812/2004 report** **ICES WGBYC report**	
g) Relevant new research/work/collaboration on bycatch within the Agreement Area.	**Harbour porpoise behaviour in relation to pinger use in commercial fisheries are being studied.** **Development of a seal safe pinger ie a pinger not audible to seals.**	
2. Resource Depletion		
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?	☒ **Yes** ☐**No**	If your answer is yes, please provide details: ***Diet studies of harbour porpoise has shown that the one prefered food item is cod. If a depletion is defiened as when the landings of a stock is below 10 % of the historical highest landings, both the Kategatt cod and Easterna Baltic cod are candidates for being defined as a depleted stock. However it could also be mentioned that other stock species that are included in the diet of harbour porpoise are increasing such as herring.*** ***We did have a discussion on how to define "depleted stock"***
b) In Parties' national waters, where are these depletions occurring? *By ICES Area*	***Subdivison 21 and subdivision 25-32***	
c) What measures are being taken to manage pressures on depleted fish stocks, including relevant regulations/guidelines? *E.g. decrease in TAC, recovery plan etc.*	***A decrease in TAC and technical measures (closed areas ,selective gears) to keep the bycatch mortality to a minimum***	

d) Is there any evidence within your national waters that resource depletion may be impacting cetaceans (e.g. evidence of starvation)?	☒ **Yes** ☐**No**	If your answer is yes, please provide details: Since 2016, up to 20 dead habour porpoises per year are necropsied and body condition estimated.
e) Are there any national surveys which evaluate cetacean body condition?	☐**Yes** ☒**No**	If your answer is yes, please provide details: ***However, Kauhala et al. (2017) show a correlation between decreased blubber thickness of Baltic grey seals and increased herring catches (and reduced herring weight). However a recovery has been seen in some seal groups since 2011. It is unknown if the reduced herring quality also has affected harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea.***
f) Relevant new research/work/collaboration	Click or tap here to enter text.	
B. **<u>Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)</u>** 1. Marine Debris		
a) What monitoring is in place to assess the level of marine debris? *E.g. type of litter (size, shape, material) amount, impacts on species, geographical location etc.*	**Sweden is one of several countries assessing litter on the seafloor in the North Sea and in the Baltic two times per year. Type of litter (several categories witin plastic, metal, rubber, glass, natural products). Size and weight is measured. Litter on beaches on the Swedish Skagerrakk coast has been monitored since 2001.** **Marelitt Baltic. An Intereg Baltic project with many Baltic states involved trying to reduce the impact of marine litter in the form of derelict fishing gear. Transecting the ocean to quantify the amount of derelict nets and recover them.**	
b) What parameters are provided through this monitoring?	***The seafloor monitoring results in number of specific items per km2 and the beach monitoring results in number of items (112 categories) per 100 meter beach.***	
c) Are these data publicly available? Y/N If so, please provide a link.	☒ **Yes** ☐**No**	***Link*** ***https://datras.ices.dk/Data_products/Download/Download_Data_public.aspx***

d) In the last year, what species of small cetaceans were found to have been impacted by marine debris?	Click or tap here to enter text.	
e) Are there any mitigation measures in place? Y/N	☒ **Yes** ☐**No**	If yes, what mitigation measures are being used? *E.g. changes in gear to prevent loss, entanglement response, adoption of measures to reduce land-based/boat-based source of marine debris.* **http://www.marelitt.eu/**
f) Other relevant information. *E.g. link to OSPAR reports (FCS and GES being covered already so no need to duplicate)*	***Are looking at different tagging to find the nets easier as well as degradable nets.***	
g) Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine debris.	***To be added…***	

SECTION III: SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

A. <u>Biological Information (per species)</u>

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.	Click or tap here to	Click or tap here to	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.

	enter text.	enter text.				

B. <u>Other relevant monitoring/survey activities</u>

1.	Is there a national monitoring programme that enables Conservation Status of cetaceans in your waters to be assessed? *(provides abundance estimates and/or life history parameters and information on pressures)*	☒**Yes** ☐**No**	If yes, please provide details: Static acoustic monitoring of harbour porpoises using C-PODs at 10 former SAMBAH stations and 1 former BIAS station in the Baltic Proper. The monitoring is continuous and started in spring 2016. Some of the stations are within the Natura 2000 site Hoburgs bank och Midsjöbankarna (SE 330308).
2.	Please provide an overview of current national monitoring programmes:		
	• Within MPAs	**Approach:** ☐Photo-ID ☐Line transect surveys ☒Passive Acoustic Monitoring ☐Strandings	
		Target Species: **Harbor porpoise**	
	• Wider Seas	**Approach:** ☐Photo-ID ☐Line transect surveys ☒Passive Acoustic Monitoring ☐Strandings	
		Target Species: **Harbour porpoise**	
3.	Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other Parties?	☒**Yes** ☐**No**	If yes, please provide details: In the way that several other countries around the Baltic Sea monitor at SAMBAH stations applying SAMBAH methodology.
4.	Links to Relevant Outputs	**Exported data publicly available by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI)**	

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	☐**Yes** ☒**No**	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
2.	Inter-birth intervals	☐**Yes** ☒**No**	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
3.	Calf and adult mortality rates	☐**Yes** ☒**No**	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.

4. Potential reproductive span/capacity	☐**Yes** ☒**No**	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Longevity	☐**Yes** ☒**No**	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Diet	☐**Yes** ☒**No**	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
7. Age and sex structure	☐**Yes** ☒**No**	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
8. Other relevant factors	☐**Yes** ☒**No**	If yes, please provide links and details where applicable: Click or tap here to enter text.
If you are entering information for more than one species, please enter the data in the above-mentioned categories here: Click or tap here to enter text.		

SECTION IV: USE OF BYCATCHES AND STRANDINGS

A. <u>Stranding Network</u>

1. Is there a national stranding network in place?	☒**Yes** ☐**No**	If yes, please provide details below: **See below**
2. Please add the names and URLs of all national stranding/necropsy networks	**Information on how to report a stranded harbour porpoise is given on the web page of the Swedish Museum of Natural History (NRM) www.nrm.se/tumlare. NRM arranges the collection of selected animals in collaboration with the Gothenburg Museum of Natural History, regional and local authorities, other organisations and the public. Funded by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management.** **The network valar.se shares information on encounters of other cetacean species than harbour porpoises. Information is published at www.valar.se.**	
3. Does this cover the whole or part of the reporting country's coastline?	**The entire coastline, however the logistics and the possibilities of collecting an animal varies along the coastline.**	
4. Are necropsies carried out to determine cause of death?	☒**Yes** ☐**No**	If yes, please provide details below: **Up to 20 harbour porpoises per year are necropsied in collaboration with the Swedish National Veterinary Institute.**
5. Are any cases photographed, measured or sampled	☒**Yes** ☐**No**	If yes, please provide details below: **A photograph is often provided as part of the report of a stranded cetacean. In a few cases harbour porpoises that are not collected for necropsy are measured and sampled. Other**

even if not collected for necropsy?		**cetacean species are measured and sampled when possible. The samples are primarily skin + blubber + muscle, and if possible also teeth.**
6. Is there a database of strandings?	☒**Yes** ☐**No**	If yes, please provide link to and details of responsible institutions: The Swedish Museum of Natural History: www.nrm.se/tumlare (harbour porpoises only) Species observations ("all" species) can also be reported to the Swedish Species Observation System: www.artportalen.se, however this does not discern between dead and live specimens and there is no quality control of cetacean observations.
7. Is the data available online or downloadable on request?	☒**Yes** ☐**No**	If yes, please provide details below: **The data collected by the Swedish Museum of Natural History can be viewed as a map, but no table can be downloaded. Data is available on request.** **The information collected by the Swedish Species Observation System can be viewed on a map and downloaded in table format.** **The information reported to both systems above can be viewed on a map and downloaded in table format from www.gbif.org.**
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:	Click or tap here to enter text.	
9. Please state whom to contact for integrating this stranding network into the ASCOBANS database (name, position, email, telephone)	**Julia Carlström, Curator, Swedish Museum of Natural History, julia.carlstrom@nrm.se, +46 (0)8 51954190**	
B. Parties Involved		

1. Live-Stranding Responses Details (phone, email, website)	Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Reporting of Carcasses Details (phone, email, website)	*Annika Strömberg, Swedish Museum of Natural History, +46 (0)8 51954276, annika.stromberg@nrm.se, www.nrm.se/tumlare*

C. <u>Stranding numbers from reporting year (2017)</u>

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***
Harbour porpoise	***103***	***104***	***20***	***Bycatch***	***Disease, starvation, trauma***
Pilot whale	***2***	***1***	***1(by German Oceanographic Museum)***	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Minke whale	***1***	***1***	***0***		
White beaked dolphin	***1***	***1***	***0***		

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

SECTION V: OTHER MATTERS	
A. **Other information or comments important for the Agreement**	Click or tap here to enter text.
B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement	Click or tap here to enter text.