

Agenda Item 6.5: Disturbance by seismic surveys

Data submitted by Parties

Submitted by: Secretariat



ASCOBANS

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

Secretariat's Note

At its 7th Meeting the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee to ASCOBANS decided that collection of data on seismic activities in the Agreement area should continue. The meeting agreed that ideally line-kilometer of "high-energy" seismic information, per 1°x 1° rectangle (or similar) for each month and year since 1997 in the ASCOBANS area was a minimum. If information on the size/power of gun and use of observers was easily obtainable, that information should be sought also.

As requested by AC7, the Secretariat in cooperation with the vice-chairman, wrote to the IAGC requesting this information. The data needed are, however, unavailable from the IAGC.

The Secretariat asked Parties and Non-Party Range States to provide the information required. Six Parties responded to this enquiry, providing the following information:

Belgium

No high-energy seismic surveys are carried out from Belgian vessels. Only high-resolution surveys using low energy sources are carried out from the oceanographic vessel Belgica.

Since 1997 seismic surveys (low-energy) are carried out in Belgian waters (1 week) and in the Porcupine Basin, south of Ireland (2 weeks per year). Exact data on position, dates and input of energy are available.

Sources used in the Porcupine Basin are a SIG surface sparker (80 electrodes, energy: 500J up to 1000J) and a watergun (140 bar). Streamers are surface streamers and multi-channel deep-tow streamers (used up to 800m deep). Since 2000, a "whale watcher" is on board the Belgica during these campaigns, in collaboration with the Coastal Resources Centre of the University of Cork (*Cetaceans and Birds at Sea Project*). This centre is particularly interested in the deep-tow streamer systems, in order to (passively) detect and listen to whales.

Part of the campaigns in Belgian waters took place in the framework of the control of a no-longer active ammunition dumpsite to the east of the harbour of Zeebrugge.

Finland

Finland has no data on seismic activities

Germany

No seismic activities took place in German waters

Poland

No seismic activities took place in Polish waters

Sweden

It is not possible to obtain the requested data

United Kingdom

The Department of Trade and Industry is currently unable to provide the information requested. Work has, however, been initiated to enable the Department to provide it in the future.