Thirteenth Compilation of Annual National Reports

Bonn, 2009

Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas

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Preface

The CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat is pleased to present the 13^{h} Compilation of Annual National Reports comprising reports from the ten ASCOBANS Parties. Most of the information included in this Compilation of Annual National Reports relates to the year 2008

The Secretariat would like to stress once more the importance of the timely submission of the Annual National Reports pursuant to Article 2.5 of the ASCOBANS Agreement. The compilations summarise and outline the measures and activities taken by Parties and Non-Party Range States over the years, providing a useful overview and valuable insights in the conservation progress and status of small cetaceans within the Agreement area.

Bonn, September 2009

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Summary of party details

Party	Period Covered	Report Compiler	Coordinating Authority
Belgium	2008	Jan Haelters (MUMM/RBINS); additional information provided by Thierry Jauniaux, Francis Kerckhof, Sigrid Maebe, Alexandre de Lichtervelde, Dominique Verbelen, Paul Van Daele and Geert Raeymaekers	Mr Paulus TAK Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment Place Victor Horta 40 Box 10 1060 Brussels paulus.tak@health.fgov.be Tel. +32 2 524 9631 Since 2006 the national co-ordinating authority is the Federal Public Service for Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment The RBINS (MUMM) participates on behalf of Belgium to the work of the Advisory Committee.
Denmark	2008	Magnus Wahlberg Fjord&Bælt, Margrethes Plads 1 5300 Kerteminde, Denmark; magnus@fjord-baelt.dk	Maj F. MUNK The Danish Forest and Nature Agency Haraldsgade 53 2100 København mfm@sns.dk Tel. +45 39 47 24 28
Finland	2008	Penina Blankett	Penina BLANKETT Ministry of the Environment P.O Box 35 00023 Government penina.blankett@ymparisto.fi Tel. +358 9 160 39 518
France	2008	Sami Hassani Océanopolis Port de Plaisance du Moulin Blanc	Martine BIGAN Ministère de l´Ecologie et du Développement durable 20, avenue de Ségur 75302 Paris martine.bigan@ecologie.gouv.fr Tel. +33 1 4219 1870
Germany	2008	Stefan Bräger Deutsches Meeresmuseum	Oliver SCHALL Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Robert-Schuman-Platz 3 53175 Bonn oliver.schall@bmu.bund.de Tel. +49 228 305 2632
Lithuania	2008	Laura Janulaitienė	Laura JANULAITIENE Nature Protection Departure

			Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania A. Jaksto st. 4/9 LT-01105 Vilnius l.janulaitiene@am.lt Tel. +370 5 266 35 48
Netherlands	2008	Meike Scheidat Wageningen Imares, meike.scheidat@wur.nl	Folchert R. van DIJKEN Department of Nature Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality Address: P.O.Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague The Netherlands f.van.dijken@minlnv.nl Tel: +31703785509
Poland	2008	Iwona Kuklik, Krzytzstof E. Skora Hel Marine Station, University of Gdansk	Monika LESZ Ministry of the Environment Department of National Forms of the Nature Protection 52/54 Wawelska St. 00-922 Warsaw Monika.Lesz@mos.gov.pl Tel. +48 22 5792667 Fax. +48 22 5792730
Sweden	2008	Christina Rappe	Christina RAPPE Swedish Environment Protection Agency Blekholmsterrassen 36 10648 Stockholm christina.rappe@naturvardsverket.se Tel. +46 8 698 1085
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2008	James Gray Marine Biodiversity Division, Department For Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	Jim GRAY Marine and Freshwater Biodiversity Division, Marine and Fisheries Directorate Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Area 2D Nobel House, 17 Smith Square London SW1P 3JR James.Gray@defra.gsi.gov.uk Tel: +44 207 238 4392

2. Institutions and Organizations mentioned in national reports

Country	Name	Pages
BELGIUM	Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos	25
	Belgian Marine Mammal Biobank (BMMB)	34
	Dienst voor de Zeevisserij	15
	Flanders Marine Institue (VLIZ)	33
	FPS Public health, Food Chain Safety and Environment	26
	Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models/Royal Belgium Institute for Natural Sciences (MUMM), Brussels	25, 26, 33, 34, 40
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	Natuurpunt, Mechelen	40
	Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)	29
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	National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Roskilde	26, 35
	National Institute of Aquatic Resources (DTU-Aqua), Lyngby	12
	University of Copenhagen	12
FINLAND	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Helsinki	15
	Ministry of Environment	15
FRANCE	Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins (CRMM), La Rochelle	21, 29, 35, 41
	French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER), Issy-les-Moulineaux Cedex	12, 21, 25, 35
	Groupe d'Etude de la Faune Marine Atlantique (GEFMA), Capbreton	29, 35
	Groupe d'Etude des Cétacés du Cotentin (GECC),	29, 35

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GERMANY	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Bonn	22
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SWEDEN	Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Stockholm	19, 24, 38, 55, 56
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	Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm	31, 39, 56
	Swedish Veterinary Institute, Uppsala	31
UK	The Joint Nature Conservation Committee	26, 38
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	Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Bangor	28, 37, 38
	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Bristol	14, 32, 56
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	Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS)	37
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B. NEW MEASURES/ACTION TAKEN BY PARTIES

1. Direct Interactions of small cetaceans with fisheries

a. Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch

BELGIUM
None
DENMARK
Fjord&Baelt, DTU-AQUA and Krog Consult investigated the behaviour of porpoises around gill nets, hearing of porpoises, function and efficiency of pingers, and estimated the present extent of bycatch of porpoises in Danish waters (project funded by the EU structural fishery fund and the Danish Ministry of Food and Agriculture). Reported in October, 2008 in Danish report: *Udvikling og afprøvning af foranstaltninger til afværgning af bifangst af småhvaler I garnfiskeriet*. Further analysis will be made through M.Sc. study at Copenhagen University and separate scientific publications.
FINLAND
None
FRANCE
Pilot study in progress in Iroise sea (EC 812/2004): species and level of by-catch + implementation of 3 acoustic deterrents (Aquamark, VO2, DDD) ; Iroise Marine Protected Area/Ifremer/Ocenopolis/Local fisherman representative are the participants involved in this study. The fishing Industry worked to prepare an observer programme (Filmancet) dedicated to set nets in the Channel, the aim is to determine the level of by-catch in this area and to test acoustic deterrents(decision of the National Committee of the Fisheries (CNPMEM: French industry) and the National Head of the Fisheries (French administration)). The Ministry of fisheries will also dedicate some additional observations on vessels in 2009 included in the project Obsmer. All those observation programmes planned by the Fishing Industry, the ministry of Fisheries and Ifremer have started in 2009 in the area VII in order to determine seasons, fishing grounds and fisheries having the highest bycatch rate. A standardization of a protocol for all the observation programs has been done and in 2009 the tasks will be similar in all the observations at sea (whatever is the regulation asking for observers). This means that cetacean bycatch will be recorded now for all gears and fisheries. Following the EU NECESSITY project to reduce cetacean by-catch in pelagic trawl fisheries, experiments of the acoustic deterrent CETASAVER on commercial vessels were carried on in 2007 and 2008 by Ifremer and the fishing industry. The methodology consists in having combined tows to compare control tows and test tows in several trips in the sea bass fisheries. A report has been published on internet by Morizur et al. (2008) (http://www.ifremer.fr/docelec/notice/2008/notice4506.htm) Some experiments planned for set nets equipped with pingers in a marine protected area in the Iroise Sea (project PingIroise).
GERMANY
The project conducted by the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum) on potential impacts of sound on ears of harbour porpoises using special histo-pathological methods was continued. [U. SIEBERT]

LITHUANIA

None

NETHERLANDS

A number of studies have taken place on captive harbour porpoises to investigate how they use acoustics, what they hear as well as how they react to sounds in water. This information is needed to better understand how porpoises use their sonar and to develop adequate devices (so called pingers) that will reduce bycatch of porpoises in nets.

Kastelein et al. (2008a) conducted a study in which they describe the echolocation effort number and duration of echolocation click trains produced by a harbour porpoise in relation to target presence, strength and distance, and performance of the detection task. The porpoise was presented with two target sizes at five distances 12–20 m, or no target, and had to indicate whether it could detect the target. Small, distant targets required long and multiple click trains. Multiple click trains mostly occurred when the small target was far away and not detected, and during target-absent trials in which the animal correctly responded. In target-absent trials, an incorrect response was linked to short click trains. Click train duration probably increased until the animal's certainty about the target's presence or absence exceeded a certain level, after which the porpoise responded.

Another study by Kastelein et al. (2008b) investigated the hearing of harbour porpoises. The 50% detection hearing thresholds of a harbour porpoise for a 4.0 kHz narrow-band FM signal, presented at the background noise level in a pool and with two masking noise levels, were measured using a go/no-go response paradigm and an up-down staircase psychometric method. The masker consisted of a 1/6-octave noise band with a centre frequency of 4.25 kHz. Its amplitude declined at 24 dB/octave on both sides of the spectral plateau. The absolute hearing threshold of the porpoise, found previously, was confirmed. The animal's auditory system responded in a linear fashion to the increase in masking noise. Since the narrow-band noise was off-centre of the test frequency, the critical ratio of a harbour porpoise for 4.0 kHz tonal signals in white noise can at present only be estimated to be between 18 and 21 dB re: 1 µPa.

Kastelein, R.A., Verlaan, M., Jennings, N. 2008a. Number and duration of echolocation click trains produced by a harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in relation to target and performance (L). J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 124, 40-43.

Kastelein, R. A., and Wensveen, P. J. 2008d. Effect of Two Levels of Masking Noise on the Hearing Threshold of a Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) for a 4.0 kHz Signal. Aquatic Mammals 34(4), 420-425.

POLAND

A 3-year pilot project: "Active protection of harbour porpoise against the by-catch" has been commenced in the Puck Bay. The project is financed by the National Fund of Environmental Protection and Water Management and the University of Gdansk. The program is carried out by the Hel Marine Station. The project framework envisages that the effectiveness of pinger acoustic barrier will be applied and its effects investigated. The method is a temporary measure for the reduction of the mortality of harbour porpoises on fishing grounds in the Puck Bay and allows to preserve the traditional methods of small fishery. At the initial phase of the project, that seasonal changes in the deployment of gill nets and the size of fishing quotas will be investigated along with the timing of the occurrence of harbour porpoises in the area. It is assumed that in the next years the subject of research will be the pinger barrier and its effectiveness in the hindering of harbour porpoises from entering fishing grounds which may be dangerous to them. An integral part of the project is broad action for the delivery to local fishermen and the public, of information, ideas and anticipated effects of research and protective actions. The purpose of the action is to receive reports on by-catches, observations and the findings of dead harbour porpoises on shores.

SWEDEN

Research for alternative fishing gear is carried out in Sweden.

Norwegian cod traps have been tried in the Baltic Sea. Results have been promising and show that the traps do catch cod and that they, in certain areas, can be an alternative to gill nets.

During 2008 modifications have been made on the traps to increase catch efficiency. Ten fishermen have tested fishing with cod traps in the south Baltic. The results from the tests showed that there is a possibility to catch large amounts of cods in the traps. However, further trials are needed and the project is continuing in 2009.

The pike perch fisheries in the Baltic sea have been suffered from seal damages for many years. In 2008 pike perch/white fish traps were being introduced as an alternative to gill nets with the purpose of reducing seal damage. A certain percent of the cost for the trap is funded by the government when fishermen are investing in the fishing gear. The traps used are so called push-up traps. They have been a success in Sweden in the salmon and white fish fisheries. In the salmon fisheries the traps mostly replace older traps but in the white fish and pike perch fisheries the traps replace nets and therefore reduce net effort.

UNITED KINGDOM

Acoustic deterrent devices (model DDD-02F) have been tested in the bass pair trawl fishery following on from earlier work in 2006-2007. No cetacean bycatches were observed (though sample sizes are still relatively small) and these results lend further support to the notion that these devices represent an effective way of minimising or eliminating bycatch in this fishery. Investigations on the use of exclusion devices in the pelagic pair trawl fishery have been shelved at present because of the apparently greater degree of bycatch reduction that can be achieved using these acoustic devices.

Gillnet pingers (model DDD-02) that are somewhat louder than the pingers mandated in Annex II of Council regulation 812/2004 have been tested in conjunction with T-Pods on a standard tangle net in Cornwall in order to determine how far porpoises and dolphins might be displaced by such devices. This study followed a similar one in 2007. The 2007 experiment suggested that the degree of exclusion was inversely related to distance from the devices out to about 1.5-2km from source. The 2008 experiments suggested a slightly greater degree of exclusion, again inversely related to distance (i.e. not complete exclusion) out to around 2.5-3km. Following these results DDD-02 devices have been deployed with three UK registered gill and tangle net boats in order to test the effectiveness in reducing bycatch of porpoises and dolphins.

Results from these trials are expected in the Spring of 2009, but early indications are that they are indeed an effective means of minimising porpoise bycatch at a spacing of 2km. Use of this model would mean using far fewer devices while maintaining an appropriate level of bycatch mitigation, which in turn would mean that devices can be attached and detached from nets before and after hauling, thereby minimising breakages. These devices are also rechargeable on board and this should help ensure that battery replacement is not an issue. These three studies are being carried out by the Sea Mammal Research Unit at the University of St. Andrews and are funded by Defra.

The Scottish Government is currently funding a project to investigate the occurrence and causes of minke whale entanglement in Scottish waters. Using photo-identification techniques and strandings data, the project aims to discover how widespread such events are and whether there are any simple measures that might be taken to lessen the risk. The results of this project will be available in Autumn 2009.

b. Implementation of methods to reduce by-catch

BELGIUM
No concrete measures were taken with the objective to avoid bycatches in recreational or professional fisheries. The inconsistencies between the regional fishery legislation concerning the use of static gear in recreational fisheries and the local (municipal) legislation remains unresolved in certain local communities. At the Community of De Haan (11 kms of coastline) the use of gillnets for recreational use was restricted in early 2009 to 2 stretches of beach of 300 m each – recreational beach gillnet fishermen started a petition in 2009 to obtain changes to this restriction; up to 20 March 2009 73 recreational fishermen had requested authorisation to use gillnets at this community. Although the European Commission sent a 'reasoned opinion' to Belgium (on 16 October 2008) in the framework of the infraction number 2003/2081 (on the non-compliance with article 12, 1a, of Directive 92/43), indicating a term of 2 months to take additional measures for recreational beach gillnet fisheries (known to incidentally kill harbour porpoises), no concrete measures were taken by 20 March 2009. The Flemish authorities responsible for nature conservation prepared a draft ministerial decree concerning species protection; this might form the basis for future measures to address bycatch of harbour porpoise in recreational beach fishing, although the competence for taking concrete fisheries measures remains with the administration dealing with fisheries. The infraction was an article 226 of the EC Treaty proceeding, initiated for not implementing Community law correctly. In 2008 four Belgian fishing vessels deploying static gear were active in and outside Belgian waters: Inside and outside territorial waters (small vessels): 3 vessels, on average active 107 days per year, although mostly not 100% of their fishing days with static gear (also potting for cuttlefish, angling for seabass, etc.); outside territorial and/or outside Belgian waters 1 larger vessel active for 143 days (data provided by Dienst voor de Zeevisserij, Flemish Community).
DENMARK
None
FINLAND
The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have established a common practice of recommending fishermen to avoid fishing with nets in coastal areas where harbour porpoises have been sighted.
FRANCE
Modification of practices in pelagic trawling (headline at 5 m depth)
GERMANY
None
LITHUANIA
None
NETHERLANDS
None
POLAND
Actions for the reduction of by-catches, implemented in Poland, are based on Regulation 812/2004/EU. Since January 1, 2008, the drift nets use has been banned and that type of nets is no longer declared in fishing licenses of Polish Baltic fishermen. The number of driftnets has been reduced in polish fishery on phased basis; in the first year – by almost

18%, in the second year by 24% and in the third year directly preceding the imposition of the ban – by further 2%. The use of set gill nets has achieved the level of 71% of 2004 and such level has prevailed for the last two years.

Table

The rate of reduction of the number of gill nets – GND and GNS types – declared to be owned by Polish fishermen in years 2004-2008 (2004 year as a 100%). Data based on the registers held by the Ministry of Agriculture and Development of Rural Areas for 2004-2008)

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
GND	100%	82%	76%	74%	-
GNS	100%	79%	77%	74%	71%

And further, the Fishery Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Development of Rural Areas purchased 500 pingers and delivered them to fishermen so that the pingers are applied on fishing grounds of ICES 24. It's estimated that when all these devices are delivered to local fishermen, the pingers purchased will cover only one fifth of the whole demand for pingers needed by gill set nets (GSN) which may be used by local fishery.

SWEDEN

Implementation of pingers: Currently at least 9 fishermen have purchased pingers and use them in the waters covered by the EU regulation 812. The fishermen on the west coast of Sweden believe the pingers are effective in reducing by-catch of harbour porpoises. However, there is an increase in numbers of by-caught harbour seals.

UNITED KINGDOM

All vessels involved in the bass pair trawl fishery are now voluntarily using DDD-02F devices to minimise dolphin bycatch. Skippers are convinced that these devices are an effective solution to this problem. Scientific investigations continue alongside this voluntary deployment in a collaborative study with industry (see above). Three static net vessels are also using DDD-02s in the gill and tangle net fisheries in ICES Division VII. Two of these are over 12m and are required to use pingers under Council regulation 812/2004 and are using these devices as part of a scientific study under the derogations specified under Article 2 para 3 and Article 3 para 2 of Council regulation 812/2004.

c. Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries

BELGIUM			
Observed bycatch in 2008			
Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Estimates are provisional			
Phocoena phocoena	13 (+); this is the number of bycaught animals obtained; this number has not been extrapolated to stranded	IVc	Recreational beach fisheries and professional fisheries (indirect evidence)

	animals with unknown cause of death or to an estimation of actual bycatch		
DENMARK			
Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Observer program for marine mammals	0	IIIabcd, IVb	Pelagic trawl (single and pair), 5.9% of the fishery is covered
FINLAND			
No further information			
FRANCE			

Observers for the EC regulation (n° 812/2004) are deployed for vessels greater than 15 meters and for vessels less than 15 m. As it is not possible to put observers on boats less than 8m for security reason, a correction has been used by using a relationship between vessel size and length of nets.

The table below brings the2007 bycatch estimates available for pelagic trawl fisheries and set nets observed under the Reg 812/2004 (national report delivered in 2008; the report is available on internet http://agriculture.gouv.fr/sections/publications/rapports/captures-accidentelles8343/downloadFile/FichierAttache_1_f0/Cetaces_rapport2007_

DPMA_mai2008.pdf?nocache=1134040585.85)

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Phocoena phocoena	600	VIIIa,b	Set net (all size vessels) (all the year)
Delphinus delphis	240	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (winter mainly)
Stenella coeruleolba	40	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (summer)
Tursiops truncatus	50	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (summer)
Globicephala melas	10	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (summer)

GERMANY	
No information supplied	
LITHUANIA	
No information supplied	

NETHERLANDS

No by-catches have been recorded in the ongoing monitoring programme on the incidental bycatch of cetaceans in Dutch pelagic fisheries under EU Council Regulation 812/2004 in 2008.

A monitoring programme financed by the LNV (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality) for part of the set net fishery targeting cod and turbot, took place in 2008. One animal was by-caught. Extrapolation to the fleet gives 2-30 specimens during the period covered (week 7-22).

Just over 300 porpoises stranded on Dutch beaches in 2008. Eighty-one of these were secured for detailed necropsies and stored frozen. The University of Utrecht hosted an international necropsy session to work through these animals, from 7-12 December 2008. An international team of some 25 necropsy experts, lead by Prof. Dr. Andrea Gröne of the Veterinary Department of Utrecht University, Dr Thierry Jauniaux (Vet. Dept., Univ. Luik) and Mardik Leopold (Wageningen Imares) performed the necropsies. As in the two previous years, bycatches in -presumed- fishing gear and various diseases were the main obvious causes of death. Fine-tuning of necropsy results will follow later, after all samples taken for lab-analyses (histology) will have been processes.

The incidence of bycatch in 2008 seems slightly lower than in previous years, partly due to the fact that very few porpoises stranded in Spring 2008. Springtime was the peak of both strandings and bycatch percentages among strandings in previous years; the pattern of strandings was very different in 2008 as compared to 2006 and 2007. Shortly after the necropsy session, from end December 2008 and through March 2009, a relatively large number of by-caught animals stranded on Texel and the northern part of Noord-Holland, again a pattern in strandings previously unknown. First analyses indicates that a large proportion of these animals were by-caught.

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
-	unknown	Dutch North Sea coast	-

POLAND

Year 2008 was another year following the implementation of regulation 812/2004/EU, when no reports on by-catches were delivered on a voluntary basis, which may indicate that the population of animals dropped or that fishermen are not willing to deliver such reports.

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Phocoena phocoena	0	–	In 2008, the – so called – "Observers Programme" – for the monitoring of by-catches of whales was not carried out.

SWEDEN

During 2007 there has been an ongoing observer program in the pelagic trawl and set net fisheries as asked for in the 812 regulation. Three observers worked full time. Starting September 2006, the observers boarded pelagic trawlers exceeding 15 meters in length in order to monitor bycatch of harbour porpoises. The North Sea, Skagerrak / Kattegatt, Southern, Eastern and Northern Baltic Sea were covered. A total of 1342 trawl hours were observed until the end of December 2007 which corresponds to 4,61% of the fishing efforts(with mandatory monitoring) of the Swedish pelagic trawlers. No bycatch of harbour porpoise was observed in any of the sea areas during the programme. In 2007, 3 219 227

net meter hours were observed and this corresponds to 9,2 % of the fishing effort concerned in the 812 regulation. No by-catch of harbour porpoises was observed.

An interview survey was conducted in 2001. Swedish fishermen were interviewed regarding by catches of seals, harbour porpoises and birds gave the following estimates:

Estimations from the survey conducted in 2001:

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Phocena phocena	About 25 per year	III a, in the Swedish part of Skagerrak.	Bottom trawls
Phocena phocena	About 89 per year	IIIa, Swedish Kattegat Sea	Gillnets and trammel nets and pelagic trawls

Study of by-catches of birds and marine mammals in the recreational fisheries

The bycatch rate of recreational fisheries in Sweden is largely unknown. Bycatch rates have therefore been estimated mainly from various fishing trials and studies within the commercial sector.

The Swedish Board of Fisheries has investigated bycatch of birds and mammals in the recreational fisheries in Sweden by gathering material from different available sources. The investigation was funded by SEPA. The study is largely putting existing information from previous studies together, most of which are not directly concerned with the question of bird and mammal bycatch in the recreational fishing sector.

The study has concentrated on the net and trap fisheries, where the is particular cause for concern about bycatch. Although the available data is insufficient by normal standards, all estimates of bycatch frequencies gave similar results, in the order of 0.001 to 0.01 birds per km of net per day. Total loss in the recreational sector, due to bycatch, for the country as a whole works out to be less than 10,000 birds and 600 seals per year. These amounts are not considered to constitute a threat to any individual species. Comparing fishing effort in the commercial and recreational sectors show that in most areas the recreational sector is responsible for bycatch of the same magnitude as the professional fishermen. Future bycatch studies should encompass all sectors of the net and trap fisheries, and the bycatch debate should encompass all stakeholders in our marine environment, not just the licensed fishermen.

Pilot study of Electronic Monitoring (EM) system for fisheries control on smaller vessels

The cetacean by-catch programme set up in response to EU council regulation no. 812/2004 requires the monitoring of fisheries by-catches by independent observers. The purpose of this pilot study was to see if remote Electronic Monitoring (EM) using onboard cameras could meet the requirement more effectively than maintaining fisheries personnel onboard the fishing vessels. The regulations only require monitoring of vessels over 15m length, for both practical and economic reasons, but they encourage member states to carry out pilot studies on smaller vessels as well. This is what the Swedish Board of Fisheries has done, with trials involving two gillnetters in the central Baltic Sea during the summer of 2008. The trials were cofunded by SEPA.

The system was tested for 4 months, including 71 days of fishing operations, and proved to be reliable, with only a few days of data lost due to technical problems. The same set-up lends itself to recording bycatches of seabirds and seals; to the documenting of seal-induced damage to catches; and even to monitoring by-catches of non-target fish species.

UNITED KINGDOM

Bycatch monitoring is being undertaken to meet the requirements of EU Council Regulation 812/2004 and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EC). Bycatch estimates for 2008 are not yet available, but will be produced for the Report on Regulation 812/2004 that is due for submission to the Commission in June 2009. Data for 2007 are presented in the Annual Report of the United Kingdom to the European Commission on the implementation of Council Regulation 812/2004 on cetacean by-catch for 2007 and are summarised below.

Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries

Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Harbour porpoise	592	VIIadefghj	All set gillnet and tangle net fisheries
Common dolphins	114	VIIadefghj	Hake gillnet and Tangle net fisheries (turbot, monkfish, skates, rays, crayfish, spider crabs)

2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

a. Information on levels of disturbance (e. g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans etc.)

BELGIUM
The monitoring of the effects of the construction and operation of offshore windfarms has started. In 2008, 6 wind turbines of 5 MW each were constructed offshore on the Thornton Bank. Underwater noise measurements were made, and a monitoring programme for marine mammals was initiated. Given that gravity foundations were used, no important disturbance effects originating from underwater noise over large areas were expected to occur in 2008. From 2009 onwards, the construction of more wind turbines is planned, amongst which a number which will be based on monopiles, driven into the seafloor. Next to the monitoring of underwater noise, also basic information was gathered about the presence of porpoises in Belgian waters, inside and outside the (future) windfarm areas, using different methods: aerial surveys, collection of ad hoc information about sightings (info collected during seabird surveys – effort related, reports of opportunistic sightings), use of C-PoDS (from 2009 onwards). A first estimation of harbour porpoise abundance in Belgian waters was made from observations during an aerial survey on 8-9 April 2008. It was estimated that in Belgian waters an average density of 0.61 (0.40-0.92) animals/km² occurred, or in total (in 3.600 km²) 2.192 (1.449-3.316) animals (preliminary data; 90% confidence limits; Haelters et al., in prep.). An aerial survey on 5 May 2008 yielded lower numbers (0.19 animals/km²), but large confidence limits. Aerial surveys will be continued in 2009.
DENMARK
Recent data on acoustic disturbance of marine mammals from wind farms and other sources are collected in the volume Popper, A. N., A. D. Hawkins, M. Wahlberg (2008). Bioacoustics, Vol. 17, Special edition on effects of noise on underwater wildlife.
FINLAND
A preliminary research of underwater noise in Archipelago Sea related to ship (ferry) noise and leisure boat noise.
FRANCE
A study (bibliography, part of a post-doc work) is currently under way for refining the (sonar/seismics) risk threshold definition, in terms of parameters (species, frequencies, signals). Models for predicting the radiated level of sonar and seismic systems are being improved. Some experiments on the effect of some commercial pingers and prototypes were carried out on common dolphins by CRMM and IFREMER. These studies on acoustic impact were done through the EU NECESSITY project. A directional pinger is experimented on trawls in order to restrict the exclusion area to the trawl only in order to avoid a too large exclusion area. The pinger (CETASAVER) is now commercialized.
GERMANY
NGOs (NABU, GRD, GSM) highlighted the risk of foreseen ammunition detonations for harbour porpoises at the Baltic sea coast close to Schleswig Holstein and asked the responsible authorities for avoidance or at least comprehensive mitigation measures to substantially reduce the risks for cetaceans. In this context the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) initiated the contact between the responsible State Ministry for the Interior of Schleswig-Holstein and its respective service ("Kampfmittelräumdienst") and marine experts of the Federal Agency for Nature Protection

(BfN Vilm) to help mitigate the impact of underwater explosions of ammunition in Kiel Bight. Due to the constant support of NGOs, which organized a specific symposium on ammunition removal, these efforts finally reached a successful testing of so-called bubble curtains to reduce the emitted sound pressure levels. [O. SCHALL]

Responding to an initiative of three German non-governmental organisations (NABU, GRD, GSM) to reduce the impact of ammunition removal on marine mammals, the Federal Armed Forces Underwater Acoustics and Marine Geophysics Research Institute (FWG) investigated means of reducing the shock wave of underwater detonations. Using a double bubble curtain, in test detonations (of 1 kg charges) a noise reduction by 14 to 18 dB was achieved. This could reduce the area of impact by up to 98 %. [S. KOSCHINSKI]

A research project funded by the Federal Agency for Shipping and Hydrography (BSH) has started to investigate effects of the construction noise in the first German Offshore test-field for windfarms “Alpha Ventus” close to Borkum Reef, Germany. Visual surveys by airplane and ship as well as acoustic surveys with a towed hydrophone and stationary acoustic monitoring using C-PODs are carried out. [U. SIEBERT]

Concerns exist in Lower Saxony regarding the disturbance due to heavy dredging for harbour constructions in the estuary of the river Elbe. [R. CZECK]

LITHUANIA

No measures on disturbance reduction have been implemented.

NETHERLANDS

Several studies continued in 2008 investigating the possible impact of an offshore wind park in the North Sea on porpoise habitat use. Both boat surveys and the deployment of hydrophones (T-PODs) have been used. The study is ongoing and will finish in 2009 and results will be published.

Two further studies by Kastelein et al. (2008c and 2008d) were addressing the effect of acoustics on harbour porpoise behaviour:

First of all the use of ultrasonic sounds in alarms for gillnets may be advantageous, but the deterring effects of ultrasound on porpoises are not well understood. Therefore a harbour porpoise in a large floating pen was subjected to a continuous 50 kHz pure tone with a source level of 122 3 dB re 1 Pa, rms . When the test signal was switched on during test periods, the animal moved away from the sound source. Its respiration rate was similar to that during baseline periods, when the sound was switched off. The behaviour of the porpoise was related to the sound pressure level distribution in the pen. The sound level at the animal’s average swimming location during the test periods was approximately 107 3 dB re 1 Pa, rms. The avoidance threshold sound pressure level for a continuous 50 kHz pure tone for this porpoise, in the context of this study, is estimated to be 108 3 dB re 1 Pa, rms. This study demonstrates that porpoises may be deterred from an area by high frequency sounds that are not typically audible to fish and pinnipeds and would be less likely masked by ambient noise.

Additionally, two harbour porpoises in a floating pen were subjected to five pure tone underwater signals of 70 or 120 kHz with different signal durations, amplitudes and duty cycles (% of time sound is produced). Some signals were continuous, others were intermittent (duty cycles varied between 8% and 100%). The effect of each signal was judged by comparing the animals’ surfacing locations and number of surfacings (i.e. number of respirations) during test periods with those during baseline periods. In all cases, both porpoises moved away from the sound source, but the effect of the signals on respiration rates was negligible. Pulsed 70 kHz signals with a source level (SL) of 137 dB had a similar effect as a continuous 70 kHz signal with an SL of 148 dB (re 1 lPa, rms). Also, a pulsed 70 kHz signal with an SL of 147 dB had a much stronger deterring effect than a continuous 70 kHz signal with a similar SL. For pulsed 70 kHz signals (2 s pulse duration, 4 s pulse interval, SL 147 dB re 1 lPa, rms), the avoidance threshold sound pressure level (SPL), in the context of the present study, was estimated to be around 130 dB (re 1 lPa, rms) for porpoise 064 and

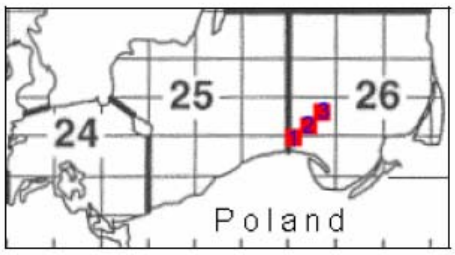
around 124 dB (re 1 lPa, rms) for porpoise 047. This study shows that ultrasonic pingers (P70 kHz) can deter harbour porpoises. Such ultrasonic pingers have the advantage that they do not have a ‘‘dinner bell” effect on pinnipeds, and probably have no, or less, effect on other marine fauna, which are often sensitive to low frequency sounds.

Kastelein, R. A., Verboom, W. C., Jennings, N., de Haan, D., van der Heul, S. 2008c. The influence of 70 and 120 kHz tonal signals on the behaviour of harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in a floating pen. Marine Environmental Research 66, 319-326.

Kastelein, R.A., Verboom, W.C., Jennings, N., and de Haan, D. 2008d. Behavioural avoidance threshold level of a harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) for a continuous 50 kHz pure tone (L). J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 123, 1858-1861.

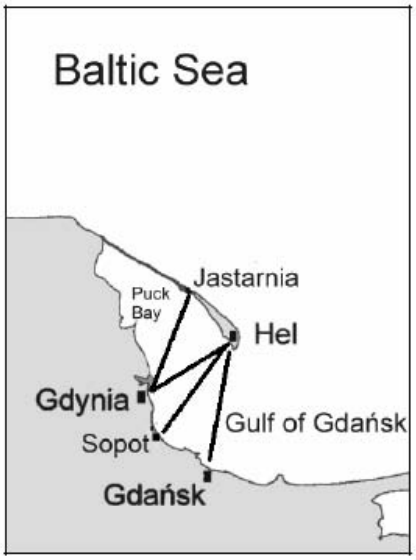
POLAND

According to information obtained from the Department of Geology and geological Licenses and Concessions of the Ministry of Environment, geological investigations using acoustic seismic methods were carried out in December 2008 in the area of basins situated in the 26 ICES square. Field investigation of natural gas and oil beds were carried out by CGG Veritas being a French company. For the purpose of investigation three ships were used, namely Ventur, Maggie M and Ramco Energy.



№	Licence / Object	Type of works	Size
1	№ 34/2001/p „Gaz Południe”, B22	2D	205 km^2
2	№ 37/2001/p „Łeba”, B101	2D	191 km^2
3	№ 38/2001/p „Rozewie”, B28	2D	87 km^2
		3D	44 km^2

The only basin in the Polish Baltic Zone in which high speed ferries are used and harbour porpoises appear is the Gulf of Gdansk including the Puck Baz. The number of hydrofoils does not increase and in the top of the summer season hydrofoils are exploited on lines from Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia to Hel and Jastarnia.



SWEDEN

Sweden participates in an international project (MINUS) of mapping the distribution of underwater noise in coastal water with the aim of :

- Identifying areas where special attention to marine mammals should be given by shipping.
- Studying how and to what degree anthropogenic noise in coastal waters has impact on marine mammals
- Describing different propeller types, engines etc. and finding a way to reduce the impact on marine mammals.
- Increasing public awareness of the noise problems through a campaign, “Silent Sea”.
- Creating and promoting an eco-labelling, which informs the user how much underwater noise is being created by different marine equipment.

SEPA is funding investigations on noise and the presence of harbour porpoise in Skälderviken in the Kattegat. The research is going to be carried out in 2009.

UNITED KINGDOM

Further trials have been completed to assess the extent to which acoustic deterrent devices (pingers, model DDD-02) may displace porpoise and dolphins. Such devices may be used in certain fisheries to minimise bycatch and there is a concern that widespread usage may have an impact on foraging success of dolphins and porpoises in the area whilst also protecting them from entanglement. Trials in 2008 suggested that displacement effects are detectable out to at least 2km for both porpoises and dolphins, but if all over 12m UK – based vessels were to deploy such devices the area of affected would likely be less than 1% of the area available for foraging in the Celtic Sea.

The Ceredigion County Council Study of cetacean site use and boat traffic along the Marine Heritage Coast and Cardigan Bay SAC is in its 16th year with over 8000 hours of volunteer effort.

b. Implementation of guidelines, new legislation etc. to reduce disturbance

BELGIUM

For both licensed offshore windfarm projects the impact on cetaceans is being/will be monitored. For pile-driving operations, measures such as ramp-up procedures and the deployment of pingers are in force. More information concerning the offshore windfarm

projects in Belgium is available at MUMM's website (http://www.mumm.ac.be).

Flemish authorities are planning a review of the legislation in Flanders, dating from 1980, on the protection of species (see above). It will take account of the original legislation and the requirements in the Habitats Directive, and will most probably enter into force in 2009 (notified by Véronique Verbist, Agentschap voor Natuur en Bos, Flemish authorities).

The federal public environment authority has prepared a new Royal Decree for permits of non-industrial and non-commercial activities in the Belgian Part of the North Sea (formal adoption and publication in OJ foreseen in 2009). This allows the competent administration to assess the impact of non-industrial and non-commercial activities on the marine environment, i.c. protected species.

DENMARK

None

FINLAND

None

FRANCE

An Ifremer report entitled "Analysis of the risks for marine mammals caused by acoustical methods in oceanography" published in 2007 is now made available on internet (http://www.ifremer.fr/docelec/doc/2007/rapport-2390.pdf)

IFREMER now applies on his seismic surveys mitigation measures, based on the classical international recommendations (MMOs onboard, amplitude ramp-up for airgun arrays). The development and installation of a PAM system on oceanographic vessels is under way. Contacts have been taken for cooperation with oil companies R&D departments.

GERMANY

OSPAR (BDC /EIHA) is presently working on a modular "Comprehensive overview of the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise in the marine environment" (Paper BDC 09/16/12-E draft). Module 7 focuses on "seismic surveys". The potential mitigation measures described there would be considered already in an approval procedure by LBEG if there would be a project; but the latter was not the case in 2008. [M. FRICKE]

Following the instructions for the German Navy on the protection of marine mammals and maritime habitats that were enacted in September 2007, marine mammal sightings are collected by the German fleet and recorded in a data base to improve knowledge about the distribution and habitat use of abundant species and take into account the information for further planning of trials. [S. LUDWIG]

The Federal Republic of Germany (BMU) initiated and helped to table the draft resolution on "Adverse Anthropogenic Marine/Ocean Noise Impacts on Cetaceans and Other Biota" adopted as UNEP/CMS/Resolution 9.19 at the ninth Conference of Parties. [O. SCHALL]

LITHUANIA

No new guidelines or legislation implemented.

NETHERLANDS

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POLAND

No new legal regulations intended to reduce disturbances for whales in the Polish Baltic Zone (EEZ) were implemented. But, at the end of 2008, the project for detonating 500 kg ammunition in the Puck Bay was halted on request by the Ministry of Environment having regard to a potential risk to the health and lives of harbour porpoises. The project was

postponed until a relevant plan for the reduction of its impact is developed.
SWEDEN
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UNITED KINGDOM
The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has produced statutory guidance relating to the deliberate disturbance and injury offences contained in the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 in the marine area. The primary focus of the guidance is on the deliberate disturbance and injury of cetaceans, as these are the most prevalent Annex II species found in UK waters. We expect the guidance will be published on the JNCC website shortly. The UK Government has introduced the Marine and Coastal Access Bill in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary approval we anticipate the Bill receiving royal assent later this year. The Bill includes proposals for a new system of marine planning and licensing, modernized inshore fisheries management, and new tools to designate and protect areas as Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) for nature conservation purposes.

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

a. Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

BELGIUM
The Special Area of Conservation Trapegeer-Stroombank, ((181 km²) has been designated by Royal Decree (KB14.10.2005) under the EU-Habitats Directive, but it was not designated specifically for porpoises. Management / policy plans for the marine protected areas in the Belgian part of the North Sea have been drawn up in 2008 by the FPS Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, Marine Unit, and have gone through public consultation. These plans propose a number of actions, a.o. to maintain or restore the harbour population to a 'favourable state of conservation', taking into account the socio-economical and recreational requirements. The competent authority (FPS Public health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, Marine Unit) has contracted the KBIN-BMM (IRSnB-MUMM) to draw up a list of potential sites of community importance (pSCIs – EU Habitats Directive) for Annex I Habitat types and Annex II species (e.g. harbour porpoise) in the Belgian part of the North Sea. The report of this project will be available by fall 2009.
DENMARK
The following report was used as background information to propose new Natura 2000 areas for harbour porpoises in Danish waters: Teilmann, J., Sveegaard, S., Dietz, R., Petersen, I.K., Berggren, P. & Desportes, G. 2008: High density areas for harbour porpoises in Danish waters. National Environmental Research Institute, University of Aarhus. 84 pp. – NERI Technical Report No. 657. http://www.dmu.dk/Pub/FR657.pdf After a public hearing the final areas will be decided and submitted by the Danish Government to EU by summer 2009.

FINLAND

None

FRANCE

During the year 2008, 76 Natura 2000 marine sites has been designated by France.

Among all existing Natura 2000 sites in the ASCOBANS area, Bottlenose dolphin is present in 33 and Harbour porpoise in 31, both on the Channel and Atlantic coast.

Council Management Plan of the Marine Protected Area in Iroise Sea (West Brittany) has started to work.

National Agency for the Marine Protected Areas (Brest): work has been started for the creation of others MPA, through a national strategy.

GERMANY

In spring 2008 the first two monitoring surveys covering the waters of the Lower Saxonian coastal zone were carried out by using a standard line-transect-method. The results showed a higher concentration of harbour porpoises in the western part of this area than in the eastern part. In April 2008, a concentration of about 1 animal/km² was detected between Borkum and Langeoog and a concentration of about 0,34 aminals/km² was found in the eastern part. The monitoring results are published on the internet, see "Monitoringergebnisse" at http://www.nationalparkwattenmeer.niedersachsen.de/master/C43559691_N28553490_L20_D0_I5912119.html. It is planned to continue this monitoring. Caused by the high sediment loading there are difficulties to find the appropriate number in the big estuaries as shown by the high number of carcasses found in the Elbe estuary (eastern part of LS wadden sea) and the low level of sightings in this region. [R. CZECK]

LITHUANIA

No protected areas for cetaceans are identified in Lithuania.

NETHERLANDS

A study started in 2006 to identify candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the Habitats Directive and OSPAR in the Dutch sector of the North Sea. In the Dutch Continental Shelf and Coastal Waters 4 sites have been identified as marine areas: Doggersbank, Klaverbank and two parts of the coastal zone, Noordzeekustzone in the north and Vlakte van de Raan in the south. These areas will be proposed to the EU commission as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the European Habitats Directives and will also be reported to the OSPAR Secretariat as MPA's according to the OSPAR Convention. Although these future SACs will not be designated for small cetaceans especially, they will contribute to their protection.

POLAND

In establishing Natura 2000 areas in the Polish Baltic Zone (EEZ), basins in which harbour porpoises appeared and by-catches occurred were taken into consideration. These areas are:

1. Refugium in the Pomerania Bay – PLH 990002
2. Waters covered by the Wolin National Park – PLH 320019
3. Slupsk Bank – PLC 990001
4. Slowinski Bank – PLH 220023
5. The Puck Bay and the Hel Peninsula – PLH 220032

There are also areas of Polish Baltic waters the importance of which for the protection of harbour porpoises is not confirmed by recent data:

6. The Vistula Mouth Shoal –PLH 220044
7. Vistula Lagoon and the Vistula Sandbar – PLH 280007
8. The Mouth of the Odra River and the Szczecin Basin – PLH 320018

Advanced operations for the identifications of those areas in the aspect of the harbour porpoises protection have been implemented furthest in the Puck Bay where the Hel Marine Station of the University of Gdansk, Institute of Oceanography has been carrying out a 3-year project for the active protection of these animals against by-catch. The operations include the monitoring of fishing activities with regard to seasonal changes in the strategies of gillnet fishing. The results of and conclusions derived from the research works are to help to manage the nature protection activities in that area and will enable a more accurate description of the south and east border zones of the Natura 2000 habitat area established in that basin.

It should be noted that amendments to the *Act on environmental protection* and certain other acts strengthened the supervisory powers and competence of the directors of Marine Offices over Nature 2000 areas established in the Polish EEZ.

SWEDEN

No area has been identified as a protective area for harbour porpoise in the Baltic. In the Skagerrak, two Natura 2000 sites has been identified to harbour porpoises.

The sites are: Vrångöskärgården and Koster-Väderöfjorden.

UNITED KINGDOM

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has a Memorandum of Agreement until 2012 with the Lighthouse Field Station, Aberdeen University, to monitor the bottlenose dolphin feature of the Moray Firth SAC. The latest report (2008) indicates that the number of dolphins using the Moray Firth is stable, although variable between years. Individuals from this population are known to travel outside the SAC, along the east coast of Scotland at least as far as the Firth of Forth, but the SAC still remains a core area for the population.

The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) had 6 TPODs deployed in coastal locations in the Cardigan Bay SAC. The use of acoustic data loggers such as TPODs provide a method of collecting data continuously irrespective of light and weather conditions and is particularly useful for collecting data on rates of habitat use and revealing diel cycles of activity about which we currently know little. Bottlenose dolphin and harbour porpoise detection rates are negatively correlated and increased competition for limited prey may be a factor that may also be a reason for the rise in porpoise deaths resulting from attacks by bottlenose dolphin.

The report of Cardigan Bay and Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SAC bottlenose dolphin and harbour porpoise monitoring from 2005 to 2007 has been produced along with a photoID catalogue. CCW continued to grant-aid Seatrust to conduct a small cetacean survey of the Bristol Channel (2007-2010).

CCW has grant-aided Seawatch to carry out a baleen whale survey of the Irish Sea (2007-2010). CCW has grant-aided West Wales Divers to survey harbour porpoise around Pembrokshire Islands. The surveys are conducted on an opportunistic basis as part of tourist wildlife trips and has resulted in some novel statistical analysis.

CCW has grant-aided Marine Awareness North Wales to undertake further land and boat based surveys of harbour porpoise, 2006-2009 to support selection of SACs for this species. Analysis of data gathered in a previous study period (2002-2004) showed that a relatively high density of porpoise is found during the summer months. Distribution is not homogeneous with particular areas showing higher densities than others.

Connectivity of Bottlenose Dolphins in Welsh Waters has also been produced: A Bottlenose Dolphin PhotoID study conducted in collaboration with CCW, Seawatch Foundation and Marine Awareness North Wales. As a result of CCW funding for Bottlenose Dolphin PhotoID studies in North Wales, we now know a significant proportion of the Cardigan Bay SAC population use these waters during autumn and winter.

4. Further research on small cetaceans

a. Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

BELGIUM
Preliminary data for 2008 indicate that in total 62 porpoises washed ashore, were bycaught or were found dead at sea. Many were in an advanced state of decomposition. Most of the carcasses were available for research, and were investigated according to the state of decomposition. The following figures are preliminary, given that some carcasses still need to be investigated. - For 31 porpoises the cause of death is (still) unknown - For 18 porpoises the cause of death was probably natural - For 13 porpoises the cause of death was probably or certainly bycatch; amongst these at least 4 can be attributed to recreational beach fisheries (March and April); for the others it is unclear in which fishery they were caught, but at least some were taken in professional fisheries None of the bycatches was reported by fishermen, although reporting bycatch in Belgian waters is required by legislation. The number of porpoises washing ashore has decreased for 2 consecutive years, but remains high compared to a decade ago. In 2008 one white-beaked dolphin washed ashore alive; the animal died on the beach. Another white-beaked dolphin was observed floating at sea (decomposed; notified by INBO).
DENMARK
None
FINLAND
Finland has continued the harbour porpoise sighting campaign and received information of two sightings of totally 6 animals in year 2008.
FRANCE
The French stranding network is nationally coordinated by CRMM/ULR (Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins, Université de La Rochelle) under an agreement with the Ministry in charge of the Environment. Local voluntary observers, generally under local supervision by various institutions or NGOs (Oceanopolis, GEFMA, GECC, GMN, OCEAM, CMNS, Picardie Nature, ONCFS…), have been trained to process stranded cetaceans under a common standardized protocol. An annual synthesis of all strandings reported in France is produced by CRMM/ULR. Statistics of stranding for the coast of France in 2008 indicate more than 800 cetaceans reported, data input in progress (CRMM/ULR and all National Stranding Scheme field correspondents). Stranding data provides information on mortality causes, demographic structure (age and reproductive status), diet (stomach content), trophic levels (stable isotopes) and subpopulation structure or movement pattern (stable isotopes, heavy metals and contaminants).
GERMANY
The stranding network for cetaceans along the German coasts of the North and Baltic Seas operated routinely to its full extent. Necropsies of all stranded and by-caught cetaceans were carried out as usual by the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum), the Veterinary Institute for Fish and Fishery Products (Cuxhaven) and the German Oceanographic Museum (Stralsund). The German Oceanographic Museum collaborated also with the State Veterinary Agency of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Rostock). Projects of the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum) to investigate the genetic structure of parasites from the

respiratory tract of harbour porpoises were continued. [U. SIEBERT]

The collecting of information on incidental strandings and sightings-by-chance is continued (see http://www.nationalparkwattenmeer.niedersachsen.de/master/C43559691_N28553490_L20_D0_I5912119.html). Pathological investigations were limited by decay of most of the stranded animals. [R. CZECK]

LITHUANIA

None

NETHERLANDS

Porpoises were collected for necropsies in 2008 and in the following years, to follow the development of by-catch percentages and for other studies into porpoise biology, such as gathering dietary information. Since 2006 LNV (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality) is conducting research on stranded cetaceans with the help of veterinary pathologists from the University of Utrecht. One of the main results so far is that for about half of the animals the cause of death is drowning in fishing nets. Increasingly carcasses that strand show signs of cuts or are partly cut up. The reasons for this are unclear. A second result is that in the winter months in general the overall health status is good (few lethal diseases, full stomachs, large blubber layer). However, in the summer months more animals died because of disease and showed empty stomachs as well as small blubber layers. Finally, the results show a clear spring peak in the percentage of by-catch in the years 2006 and 2007 of the analysed animals. In 2008 this peak was not visible, but in December 2008 to March 2009 a new peak of strandings of by-caught animals occurred.

A PhD project started in 2007, investigating whether food availability is a governing factor for the abundance of porpoises in Dutch coastal waters, unravelling possible links between shifts in the feeding ecology and changes in their distribution and relative abundance in the Southern North Sea. In this project, 3 methods of diet analysis are used: [1] stomach contents analysis (identification of recently ingested and undigested prey remains, [2] fatty acid analysis (QFASA, discerning the diet of the last 3-4 month) and [3] stable isotope analysis (C13:C12 and N15:N14 ratios). This combination of techniques will provide information on prey species, relative prey composition and trophic level, both in space (e.g. estuarine versus open sea) and time (e.g. short, mid and long term).

A study by Osinga et al. (2008) analysed stranding data and recorded post-mortem findings for 153 harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*), which were collected by the Seal Rehabilitation and Research Centre (SRRC; Pieterburen, The Netherlands) in the period 1984–2006. Special consideration was given to 'by-catch' listed as a major cause of death. A distinct increase in the numbers of strandings of porpoises along the Dutch coastline has occurred in the recent years of the studied period. This corresponds to the number of porpoises observed in Dutch waters in the same period. Although strandings occurred throughout the entire year, they were most frequent during the January to July period. By-catch and drowning were noted most frequent in the winter and spring seasons (December–April). By-catch and drowned porpoises were found along the entire Dutch coastline. The numbers of animals per area varied depending on the collection efforts. At post-mortem investigation, three probable causes of death were identified most frequently: pneumonia, emaciation and by-catch/drowning. The by-catch and drowning rate was calculated to vary between 7% and 19%.

Osinga, N., 't Hart, P. and Morick, D. 2008. By-catch and drowning in harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) stranded on the northern Dutch coast. Eur. J. Wild. Res 54:667-674

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

An overview of strandings between 1998 and 2007 in the Netherlands has been published by Camphuysen et. al. (2008). In total 2063 cetaceans were found stranded, representing at least 14 species of which two species are additions to the Dutch list. All individual cases other than harbouw porpoises are listed in this paper, reporting species, date, locality,

reporter, sex, total length (TL), collected remains, and remarks. For porpoises (n= 1968), overall stranding patterns by means of frequencies, seasons, sex ratios and age classes are discussed. The role of by-catch as a cause of death is discussed and a dialogue with fisheries organisations is proposed to explore the issue further and to try and mitigate the problem.

POLAND

The Hel Marine Station of the University of Gdansk, Institute of Oceanography continues its action of previous years in order to collect information about stranded whales and samples of their tissues are collected by the Station. All dead whales that are brought to the Station are examined to the extent possible. Minimum scope of sampling includes the collection of fat tissues for genetic examination and teeth needed to determine the age of the animal. In 2008, only one case of stranded harbour porpoise was reported to the Hel Marine Station. That animal was found near Mechelinki, in the area of the Puck Bay.

SWEDEN

The Baltic: Post mortem investigations are carried out on all small cetaceans by-caught or found stranded in the Baltic. The animals are sent to the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, where the investigations are conducted. Often the specimens are too rotten to be sent to the museum for investigations. During 2008 the museum received 5 harbour porpoises (or parts of) from the Baltic. The museum also received a report of a dead porpoise in the Baltic.

The west coast: The museum received samples (or whole animals) from 21 porpoises found dead in 2008 from the Swedish west coast (via Gothenburg Natural Museum). Most of these porpoises were found dead (stranded), often with signs of prior being caught in fishing gear. In most cases only a piece of tissue from the dorsal fin is sampled from harbour porpoises by-caught or stranded on the Swedish west coast.

In some cases whole specimen from the Swedish west coast are sampled so a full necropsy can be conducted. During the fall of 2008 a research-cooperation with the Swedish veterinary Institute in Uppsala has been initiated. From now on all whole small cetaceans that are sent to the Swedish Museum of Natural History undergo a detailed necropsy by a veterinarian.

For further details see report to ASCOBANS on Post Mortem Research Schemes.

UNITED KINGDOM

In 2008, 583 cetaceans were reported to the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP), 6.2% higher than the number reported in 2007. Of these, 485 were found stranded and dead, 81 were seen to have stranded alive and 17 were dead cetaceans found at sea. Consistent with previous years, the most common UK-stranded cetacean species in 2008 were the harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*, n=270) and the short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*, n=113). In addition, reports of 27 stranded marine turtles and six basking sharks (*Cetorhinus maximus*) were also received in 2008.

In 2008, 136 cetacean strandings (comprising 13 species), 10 loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) strandings and one Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) turtle stranding were examined at post mortem using standardised protocols. No basking sharks were examined

at post-mortem during 2008. The most common causes of mortality of the 69 stranded harbour porpoises examined at post-mortem in 2008 were starvation (n=28), pneumonias due to combinations of parasitic, bacterial and/or mycotic infections (n=14), bottlenose dolphin attack (n=12) and by-catch (n=8). Cases of fatal attack from bottlenose dolphins occurred in west Wales (n=5), north-east Scotland (n=4) and Cornwall (n=3) where porpoises have sympatric distributions with resident or semi-resident bottlenose dolphin groups.

Stranding alive (in otherwise healthy animals) was the most common cause of death in 29 of the 41 (71%) UK-stranded short-beaked common dolphins examined in 2008, including the mass stranding event (MSE) in Cornwall in June 2008. In contrast, only two UK-stranded common dolphin carcasses were diagnosed as by-catch in 2008, a marked reduction compared to the previous 18 year period where by-catch was the most common cause of death in the large number of common dolphins that predominantly stranded in south-west England (Cornwall and Devon) between January and April. The reason for the reduction in numbers of stranded harbour porpoises and common dolphins that were diagnosed as by-catch in 2007 and 2008 (mainly in south-west England) is not known.

There were two unusual stranding events in the UK during 2008. The first involved 12 Cuvier's beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) (mainly in western Scotland), 11 long-finned pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*) (ten in Scotland, one in west Wales), three Sowerby's beaked whales (*Mesoplodon bidens*) (mainly in Western Scotland) and one unidentified beaked whale (in Wales) that stranded between 21 January and 10 April 2008. Most carcasses were found dead and in a degree of decomposition that was largely unsuitable for detailed post-mortem examination. The degree of decomposition appeared to deteriorate further as strandings progressed over time, consistent with death occurring at a similar point in time. This mortality event was investigated as part of larger cluster of strandings that occurred between 13 January and 14 April 2008 and included another 13 long-finned pilot whales and three unidentified beaked whales that stranded in Ireland (Dolman *et al* 2008). The cause(s) of the unusual mortality event was not established, predominantly due to the degree of carcass decomposition (Dolman *et al* 2008).

The second unusual mortality event was the MSE of common dolphins first discovered in the Fal estuary, Falmouth Bay, Cornwall on the morning of 9 June 2008. At least 26 dolphins stranded alive and died and more were refloated back to open water by rescue groups and bystanders. A full investigation of the MSE was funded by UK Government (Defra) through a variation to the existing contract. Detailed post-mortem examinations were conducted along with a comprehensive range of additional diagnostic tests for bacteria (including *Brucella* sp.), viruses (including morbilliviruses) and histopathological examinations in all 26 animals, together with the quantification of algal and chemical toxin levels in tissue samples from the adults only (n=7), making this one of the most intensively investigated cetacean MSEs ever undertaken. On post-mortem examination, all 26 dolphins were found to have empty stomachs and to be in good nutritive condition and all were suspected to have stranded alive. A number of potential causes of this MSE can be either excluded or considered highly unlikely. These include distemper (morbillivirus), brucellosis, other infectious diseases, gas embolism, fat embolism, boat strike, by-catch, attack from killer whales or bottlenose dolphins, feeding unusually close to shore, ingestion of harmful chemical or algal toxins, abnormal weather/climatic conditions and high-intensity acoustic inputs from seismic airgun arrays, recreational craft and natural sources (e.g. earthquakes). An international naval exercise was conducted in the South Coast Exercise Area prior to the MSE but information provided freely by the *UK Ministry of Defence*, under strict legally binding *Freedom of Information* legislation*,* indicates a period of approximately 60 hours between the cessation of mid-frequency antisubmarine sonar deployment and the discovery of the MSE. The naval exercise is therefore considered unlikely to have directly triggered the MSE. Ultimately, a definitive cause for the MSE could not be determined. The findings were most consistent with an adverse group behavioral response to an unknown trigger, or an intrinsic "error of navigation", or a confluence of additional unknown factors within an otherwise healthy social group of dolphins. Greater insight into the causes of any future MSEs may require either a direct observation of the onset, or the emergence of an unusual level of coincidence of MSEs or violent reactions with one or more causal factors. A report on this MSE will become

available later in 2009.

Data and tissue samples generated from the systematic examination of UK-stranded cetacean carcasses since 1990 continues to supports a broad range of multidisciplinary scientific research activity and has resulted in over 150 publications within the peer-reviewed scientific literature in that period.

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b. Research on abundance, population structure etc.

BELGIUM

Sightings

Next to sightings made during dedicated surveys for marine mammals or birds, the public has ample opportunity to report sightings; eventually all these are collected in MUMM's database, which can be consulted (partly) online.

Other sites where sightings are reported are:

dolphin@mumm.ac.be : the dedicated email address for reporting sightings to MUMM.

http://www.waarnemingen.be : (sightings with species, number of animals, geographical location, …)

http://www.zeezoogdieren.org : (sightings and strandings, Belgium, The Netherlands, and interesting news on marine mammals from around the world)

In 2008 the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) acquired a (towed) hydrophone system for tracking porpoises and other cetaceans. This system is used during ship based surveys of seabirds. MUMM aquired 4 C-PoDs (passive acoustic monitoring).

Harbour porpoises:

Numerous sightings of harbour porpoises were reported in 2008.

White-beaked dolphins:

9 sightings of white-beaked dolphins were reported, of which 8 between February and June (the 9th in December). Average group size reported was 3 animals.

Bottlenose dolphins:

Numerous observations were reported of a single animal, apparently having been present irregularly between January 2008 and the beginning of august 2008 (with confirmed sighting until 7 August). This probably concerned the animal that was present at the same location during 2007 (see national report 2007).

Research projects

WAKO

Uitbreiding: Evaluatie van de milieu-impact van WArrelnet- en boomKOrvisserij op het Belgisch Continentaal Plat (WAKO-I): 2006–October 2007

This project, aimed at a preliminary evaluation of the environmental impact of beamtrawling against bottom set gill net fisheries in Belgian marine waters, was finished in 2008. It will be followed up by a more extensive project which includes also activities in the field in 2009-2010.

Contact persons: Jochen Depestele: Jochen.Depestele@ilvo.vlaanderen.be and Jan Haelters: j.haelters@mumm.ac.be).

MARIN

The Federal department of Science Policy funded a veterinary pathologist at the MUMM department of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (2006–2008). This veterinary pathologist dealt with the autopsies of marine mammals washing ashore in Belgium, the co-ordination with neighbouring countries, and the inventory of a tissue bank of marine mammals.

Systematic collection and preservation of marine mammal tissues started in 1990 and was extended since 1995 with samples from other regions in the southern North Sea through international co-operation with France and the Netherlands. This collection now constitutes the Belgian Marine Mammal Biobank (BMMB) placed under the joint management of RBINS and the University of Liège, with the purpose to provide high quality samples of marine mammals (small and large cetaceans as well as pinnipeds) to scientists in a non-profit scientific collaboration. Samples may be used for studies in pathology, microbiology, toxicology, life history, etc. Contact persons: Thierry Jauniaux: t.jauniaux@ulg.ac.be and Johan De winter j.dewinter@mumm.ac.be.

Harbour porpoises in the southern North Sea

IFAW funded the project “Harbour porpoises in the southern North Sea: trends, threats and research & management proposals”, executed by MUMM and the Royal NIOZ (The Netherlands). The report deals with the decline and increase of porpoises in the 20th and 21st century, focus on the related conservation problems, and propose realistic management measures. Results will be printed in spring 2009, and will be distributed. Contact persons: Jan Haelters (j.haelters@mumm.ac.be) and Kees Camphuysen (camphuys@nioz.nl).

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DENMARK

In 2008 five harbour porpoises were tracked with satellite tags in the Kattegat, Danish belts and the Baltic Sea (Jonas Teilmann, NERI).

FINLAND

Finland has taken part in a shared LIFE + application for SAMBAH – (Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Harbour porpoise) project.

FRANCE

Monitoring of the coastal group of bottlenose dolphins (Oceanopolis Brest in Iroise Sea), photo-identification, home range, population structure...

Photo identification of bottlenose dolphins of the Bay of Mont Saint Michel and Cotentin (GECC, GMN, AL Lark)

Boat surveys on cetaceans in the southern Bay of Biscay (GEFMA); relationship between cetacean populations and climate change (MNHN in the framework of a regional programme on the marine environment).

Data collection of opportunistic sightings (CRMM/ULR, GECC, GEFMA, Oceanopolis Brest).

Systematic boat survey of cetaceans in relation to oceanographic, planktonic and pelagic fish patterns in the Bay of Biscay (programme PELGAS, Ifremer, CRMM/ULR)

Ferry observer surveys between Roscoff and Cork, Portsmouth and Santander (Oceanopolis Brest/Orca), using a standardized protocol.

Genetic study on harbour porpoise (collaboration between the university of Brest and Oceanopolis Brest).

Cetacean distributions and relative abundances were surveyed over the shelf of the Bay of Biscay (May) and English Channel (January) by CRMM/ULR in order to determine relative abundances, preferential habitats and relationships with distribution of small pelagic fish as determined by simultaneous acoustic survey carried out by Ifremer/ Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) research vessel Thalassa. This survey followed a standardized protocol in use since 2003 in Bay of Biscay area (PELGAS survey) and since 2007 in the English Channel (IBTS survey). In 2007 and 2008, collaboration between CRMM/ULR and the Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo (IEO) allowed data on cetacean distribution to be collected by using standardized protocol and same research vessel during April and September pelagic fish survey in the south of the Bay of Biscay (PELACUS survey).

Aerial surveys carried out by Oceanopolis Brest using line transect protocol to estimate the abundance and the seasonality of small cetaceans in Iroise sea (west Brittany).

GERMANY

In 2008, a total of 12 days of aerial surveys were conducted by the Research and Technology Centre (Büsum). In the south-western Baltic Sea, surveys were conducted in February and June 2008. In the North Sea, surveys were conducted in the 12sm zone of Lower-Saxony in April and May 2008, in the area of Sylt Outer Reef in July/August 2008 and in the area of the offshore test field "alpha ventus" in August and September 2008. Findings

from previous survey years such as very high densities around Sylt Outer Reef and increasing densities in the southern part of the German Bight were confirmed. In the Baltic Sea, high densities were detected in the northern part of Kiel Bight and around the island of Fehmarn. [U. SIEBERT]

For a possible military sonar test area in the Bay of Biscay, a detailed study concerning the abundance and habitat use of marine mammals including data of a prediction model and other biotic parameters (e.g. food resources) was carried out. New data for the German marine mammal data base (containing sightings, strandings, worldwide maps of occurrence and characteristics of 126 species) were integrated. In total, about 5000 systematic sightings, 3000 random sightings and 3500 stranding records from the German Baltic and North Sea areas were implemented, collected by national scientific institutes. Furthermore, sighting records from free available data bases were also added. Data about the occurrence and characteristics of 40 squid species, the most important food source for beaked whales, were generated. Information about existing and applied marine protected areas in national and international waters were collected, including 32 countries and mainly focussed on European waters. Within the data base, data of the relative environmental suitability (RES) model that includes seasonal predictions of habitat suitability, densities and uncertainties of marine mammal species, was extended with 10 toothed whale species: common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*), Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*), white-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*), long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala melas*), Rissos dolphin (*Grampus griseus*), killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) and sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*). A new rapid response audiometry system for measuring the hearing ability of marine mammals, using the AEP method (Auditory Evoked Potential), was calibrated and tested on harbour porpoises in captivity. The system is used on captive and life-stranded animals to investigate potential influences of noise exposure on the hearing abilities. [S. LUDWIG]

Four research projects by the environmental consultancy 'BioConsult SH' aimed to investigate the impacts of offshore wind farms, pile-driving, and sand extraction on harbour porpoises. In 2005 and 2006, the impact of operating wind turbines was studied in two Danish wind parks with the use of static acoustic monitoring (T-PODs). The effect of pile-driving was studied in the German offshore test area "alpha ventus" and at the Danish wind farm "Horns Rev II" again using static acoustic monitoring. Pile-driving clearly had an impact on porpoise acoustic activity. It appeared that harbour porpoises completely left the area next to the construction site for a medium time of 16.6 hours after pile-driving. The impact of sand extraction on harbour porpoises was assessed with aerial surveys and static acoustic monitoring. Passive acoustic monitoring devices revealed a short term avoidance of the vicinity of the dredging ship by porpoises, possibly due to acoustic disturbance, which lasted about four hours. [A. DIEDERICHS]

LITHUANIA

The LIFE project "Marine Protected Areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea" (LIFE05 NAT/LV/000100) is implemented in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 2005-2009 (www.balticseaportal.net). One of the goal of this project – to inventory the marine mammals.

For detecting Harbour porpoise and measuring its activity passive submerged porpoise detectors (T-PODs) was used. The project inventory covered the whole length of the Eastern Baltic Sea coast from Lithuania to the Gulf of Finland. Arrays of T-PODs was deployed in pre-selected places (6 T-PODs in each Baltic country). In 2007 and 2008 different pre-selected areas was used, so different project areas was covered. These detectors were physically placed in the sea and every three months the data from T-PODs were downloaded and batteries exchanged.

The T-PODs for harbour porpoise detection have been purchased and programmed, later on deployed to first survey site for survey. So far, within the year 2007/2008, no harbour porpoises were detected near deployment locations.

NETHERLANDS

Aerial surveys were conducted within a research project funded by LNV (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality) and RWS (Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management) to cover part of the southern coastal Dutch waters to estimate abundance of harbour porpoises during different times of the year. The first aerial surveys using distance sampling methodology and were conducted in May 2008 and November 2008. Analyses of habitat use and abundance estimates are ongoing and will be expected to be published in 2009 and 2010.

A towed hydrophone array has been used during a number of studies in the North Sea. The data is still being analysed but the method is promising to collect data on harbour porpoise occurrence, especially in weather conditions when visual surveys can not be conducted. Data continues to be collected on an ad hoc basis whenever adequate vessels are available.

POLAND

Apart from the aforementioned case of a dead animal, no other data such that could complement data on the structure of the population in the Polish Baltic Zone (EEZ) was obtained. Data and materials obtained in the previous years were submitted for genetic analysis which have been carried out within the framework of a German project co-ordinated by FTZ Buesum according to the decisions of the Experts of the Jastarnia Group. The said data are currently developed and will be published soon.

SWEDEN

Investigating the presence of harbour porpoises in the vicinity of gill nets

The aim of the study was to investigate if gill nets might attract harbour porpoises. The presence of harbour porpoises close to gill nets were investigated by using Porpoise click loggers (PCL). PCL:s were placed close to gill nets in a control area where no fishing was carried out. The results show that porpoises were equally present in both areas, there were no difference in the presence in the two areas.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage are funding a project examining the distribution, abundance and population structure of bottlenose dolphins in Scottish coastal waters. The project is a collaboration between the University of Aberdeen, Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) and Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) and is due for completion in September 2009.

Welsh Marine Mammal Atlas: CCW has contracted Seawatch Foundation to collate and analyse all available cetacean distribution and abundance data, provided by various NGO's, developers and CCW. This will result in a high resolution dataset for Wales based on a GIS platform and will underpin CCW's advice on oil, gas and renewable energy exploration. Additionally, in Wales a number of reports have been produced on Bottlenose dolphin monitoring and identification (see references below).

During 2008, a preliminary assessment of how Joint Cetacean Protocol data might be used to detect changes in abundance or range of UK and Ireland cetacean species was undertaken. The monitoring objectives that arise from Article 11 of the EC Habitats Directive were reviewed, and consideration was given to what measures might feasibly be monitored. Targets such as having high power to detect a 1% annual decline in abundance or range over a 6 year reporting period are not remotely feasible, and it is suggested that a 15-30% annual decline may be detectable over that period. Analysis of JCP data is difficult because the data are sparse, are collected over a range of spatial and temporal scales and often lack direct information about detectability. Potential analysis methods are reviewed, and methods for data integration and conduct an exploratory analysis of JCP datasets suggested. This assessment is provided as part of the documentation for the 2009 AC (Thomas, 2009).

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c. Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

BELGIUM
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DENMARK
None
FINLAND
None
FRANCE
Transfer and bioaccumulation of heavy metals (mainly mercury and cadmium) in cetaceans (LIENs/ULR)
GERMANY
None
LITHUANIA
None
NETHERLANDS
None
POLAND
None

SWEDEN

The SEPA is funding research of he effects of environmental contaminants on the health status of harbour porpoises during 2009-11. The investigations are to be carried out by the Swedish Museum of Natural History.

UNITED KINGDOM

PCB contamination has been linked to reduced pregnancy rates in harbour porpoises (Pierce et al., 2008). 17mg/kg lipid has been identified as the critical level at which the concentration of PCBs begins to affect harbour porpoise health (Jepson et al., 2008). This level has recently been proposed as one of the criteria used to assess the health status of harbour porpoises under monitoring plans being developed for the species by OSPAR.

Levels of hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) have been found in harbour porpoises has decreased since 2003, possibly linked with the closure of a manufacturing plant at that time (Law et al., 2008a). Attention has also focused on perfluoroctane sulphonate (PFOS), a synthetic chemical with a wide range of uses including provision of resistance to water and oil, use as a flame retardant and as an active ingredient in pesticides and cleaning products. This has been found in significant concentrations in harbour porpoises stranded or bycaught in UK waters (Law et al., 2008b). This data is contributing to the OSPAR assessment of efficacy of regulatory controls and voluntary limitations on PFOS use. Currently the European Commission are considering measures to restrict the production, marketing and use of PFOS.

In order to improve our understanding of the scale and impacts of human derived noise occurring in the marine environment, the UK intends to complete a call for research proposals in early 2009. This call will be to identify and take forward research on assessing the current status of marine noise occurring in the marine environment, including shipping, and assessing what the impacts is on marine life.

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5. Public awareness and education

a. Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement

BELGIUM

Information on stranded animals and on sightings, is given on the website of MUMM (in Dutch, English and French):

http://www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Management/Nature/search_strandings.php

The NGO Natuurpunt organised a whale-watching trip to the Bay of Biskay from 16 to 21 August 2008 on the MV Princess Danae ('Ultimatepelagics'). People on board could participate in lectures on cetaceans and conservation initiatives. This trip was covered in the media (a.o. in the weekly magazine "Knack"; article by Dirk Draulans, and in the popular scientific journal "EOS", article by Tim Vanderjeugd)

During 2008 several observation daytrips (on a ship with a capacity of 30-40 people), called 'Ostend Pelagics' were organised, the first initiative in Belgium to present cetaceans in their natural environment to the wider public. More information on www.ostend-pelagics.be. The initiative was covered by national radio and television (a.o. Dutch television: VARA). Observations made during the Ostend Pelagics were reported to MUMM.

At the festival "Oostende voor Anker" MUMM presented (a.o.) information on cetaceans, windfarms and marine mammal conservation issues; on display were a life-size maquette of a white-sided dolphin and a skull of a pilot whale. Approximately 250.000 people participated in the festival, which ran from 22 to 25 May 2008.

On the 28th of August 2008 a life-size (fake but immensely realistic) stranded sperm whale was present in Antwerp, on the banks of the river Scheldt (Kunstenaarscollectief "Boomer"). Thousands of people made it to the spot, and it received a lot of media attention. The intervention network dealing with stranded cetaceans at the coast participated, and took the opportunity to inform the public on their interventions in case of real whale strandings, and on ASCOBANS (leaflets were distributed). More information and images of this event are available at MUMM' website, news sections:

http://www.mumm.ac.be/NL/News/index.php?page=4&total=128.

Information panels on marine protected areas (Natura 2000 sites) will be installed in a number of coastal communities in front of the SAC *Trapegeeer Stroombank*.

DENMARK

Fjord and Bælt is housing 4 harbour porpoises for public display and research. The animals are presented for over 60,000 guest per year. Within the presentations of the animals and the exhibit activities at the centre, information about harbour porpoise conservation is given. During 2009 there has been a lot of political and media interest for the centre and its research activities, culminating with the visit of the Fishery Minister in September to discuss issues around harbour porpoise bycatch.

Through an agreement with the Danish Ministry of Environment (Skov og Naturstyrelsen) Fjord and Bælt arranged a 1-day workshop around the harbour porpoise bycatch problems, in November, 2008. More than 30 people participated, including environmental NGOs, government officials, and many of the most well esteemed harbour porpoise scientists in Denmark and their students.

In all such activities at Fjord and Bælt, the ASCOBANS agreement is very often and actively discussed.

FINLAND

Finland has continued the harbour porpoise sighting campaign and received information of two sightings of totally 6 animals in year 2008.

FRANCE

Public conferences (Oceanopolis-Brest and CRMM/ULR)

National stranding network: training for volunteers and national meeting (CRMM/ULR)

Observer training in the frame of fishing observation scheme, council regulation 812/04 (CRMM/ULR)

Symposium on monitoring strategies for marine mammal populations La Rochelle, 2008 November 21st and 23th (CRMM/ULR). The symposium was hosted by Université de La Rochelle and co-hosted by Agence des Aires Marines Protégées and Ministère de l'Ecologie, l'Energie, le Développement Durable, et l'Aménagement du Territoire. It was sponsored by Région Poitou-Charentes, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, Ville de La Rochelle, Conseil Général de la Charente Maritime. It was supported by ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS.

Movie on cetaceans and ferries survey produced by Brittany Ferries and Oceanopolis broadcasted onboard the ferries+ conference on board

Information concerning the "Year of the Dolphin" on the Oceanopolis website.

New exhibition on cetaceans: National Museum Paris, partnership Oceanopolis. An itinerant version will circulate in Europe.

GERMANY

An informational leaflet about the harbour porpoise has reached the state of conceptual design and will probably be published in 2009. [R. Czeck]

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) / O.Schall published two articles entitled "Protection of Small Cetaceans in the Northeast Atlantic: Extension of the ASCOBANS Agreement in Force" (BMU Umwelt 4/2008: 198; in German) and "Progress and Deficiencies in the Conservation of Small Cetaceans" (BMU Umwelt 6/2008: 320.322; in German) summarizing the results of AC-15.

The Federal Republic of Germany (BMU) has agreed to support the work of ASCOBANS in 2008 with a voluntary contribution of €25,600. Furthermore, it funded the part-time position of S. Bräger to work as chair of the Advisory Committee and additionally financed travel costs of Cetacean experts. [O. Schall]

Following the annual tradition since 2002, the GSM has again approached 450 sailing clubs marinas and campgrounds as well as several yachting magazines to raise awareness for its project "Sailors on the lookout for harbour porpoises". The media feedback is still very good, and the dissemination of the request for sightings is widespread (http://www.habitatmare.de/de/schweinswalsichtungen1m.php). [P. Deimer]

An informational leaflet about the harbour porpoise has reached the state of conceptual design and will probably be published in 2009. [R. Czeck]

LITHUANIA

The lectures for schoolchildren and students on protection of marine ecosystems including small cetaceans as well as local harbour porpoises are permanently organized in the Lithuanian Sea Museum display.

Lithuanian Sea Museum for the 6th time celebrated International Harbour Porpoise Day in 2008. This year was the first one when Lithuanian Sea Museum specialists thought of broader perspective: they decided to knit some ecological factors with Harbour Porpoise problems, and call this view as eco-perspective towards whole environment of Harbour Porpoise. The event was split into 2 parts: scientific and relaxation. Scientific part was dedicated to students and lectures of universities, colleges, schools or just "ordinary" people who are not indifferent in Harbour Porpoise problems. Relaxation part was organized as a night event for visitors' attraction. Also for the popularizing both events, this year Lithuanian Sea Museum decided to appeal to society's emotions using didactic learning method of parallel: they created relation of the meanings for 2 animals (Harbour Porpoise, *Phocena*

Phocena, and Guinea Pig, *Cavia porcellus*). Both animals in the Lithuanian language have almost the same meaning: Harbour Porpoise as “Jūros kiaulė”, and Guinea Pig as “Jūros kiaulytė”. Therefore each visitor holding a picture of Guinea Pig on the Day of International Harbour Porpoise day was allowed to visit sea museum for free. Such idea was amusingly accepted and was widely spread by the means of media. In the press releases Lithuanian Sea Museum specialists explained how sounding the same; animals might differ in reality. Not only emotional contact for people having such Guinea Pigs at home worked, but also like “hidden idea”, and they were interested to get to know something about another animal, sounding the same. The themes about International Harbour Porpoise day were widely discusses and commented in the biggest informational web sites and newspapers.

Events:

1. *Open seminar-discussion dedicated to International Harbour Porpoise day in the Lithuanian Sea Museum*. At early morning a very special exhibition was opened “Birds of Kopgalis”. This exhibition is very particular for Kopgalis region, where the Baltic Sea and Curonian Lagoon meets. In the seminar Dr. Nerijus Blažauskas (Coastal Research and Planning Institute) presented his paper on the problems of Lithuanian Coast: past, present situation and perspectives. He paid a lot of attention towards harbour expanding and industrial region in the coast; Doc. dr. Darius Daunys (Coastal Research and Planning Institute) presented collaborative work made with Prof.hab.dr. Sergej Olenin (Coastal Research and Planning Institute) on the condition and values that have to be saved of the underwater world of the Baltic Sea; Egidijus Bacevičius (Lithuanian State Centre for Pisciculture and Fishery research) presented historical background and nowadays situation on registered facts of toothed and barbate whales that have been observed in the Baltic Sea; Arūnas Grušas (Lithuanian Sea Museum) presented a report on the occurring problems of the biggest sea mammals in the Baltic Sea. The greatest attention was drawn towards the possibilities of seeking collaboration with Ministry of Environment and local fisherman; Laura Janulaitienė (Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania) presented an issue on the theme Harbour Porpoise conservation in the ecology perspective; Saulius Karalius (Lithuanian Sea Museum) draw his comments on the filmed material from Fjord&Baelt centre (Denmark) about birth of a calf of Harbour Porpoise and training; Monika Konkel (Hel Marine Station, University of Gdansk, Poland) presented work in this center and the special programs they create for conservations of Harbour Porpoises and Jurgita Eglinskienė (Lithuanian Sea Museum) presented ecological AquaRing project that has been proceeding in the Lithuanian Sea Museum.
2. *Night with Harbour Porpoise in the Dolphinarium*. Night with Porpoises started at late night in the Dolphinarium with underwater dolphin show (educational program under the water). Visitors may question the trainers and get the answers or ask to show anything of the dolphins. After such marvellous experiences, visitors may join further program in the Hall. Visitors may ask questions of trainers, see films and pictures of Harbour Porpoise, listened to attractive educational program on the difference between Black Sea Bottlenose Dolphins and Harbour Porpoise. Also visitors may relax listening to splendid concert that was prepared by children collection “Clean Seashore”.

A life-size model of harbour porpoise have been exhibited at the aquarium hall of the Lithuanian Sea Museum

NETHERLANDS

An article on Underwater noise will be published in the Magazine “Kust & Zee Gids 2009

POLAND

Educational and informative actions covering environmental protection issues pertaining to small whales were subordinated to requirements of the protection of the Baltic population of harbour porpoises. A new IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in which the said population

was classified under CR, confirms the said requirement is well grounded.

The main actions were carried out by the Marine Station of Gdansk University, Institute of Oceanography in Hel. Over the whole year an exhibition “The Baltic sea – House of Harbour Porpoises” was displayed there. The exhibition was arranged in co-operation with the Foundation for the Development of the University of Gdansk and local NGO – “The Friends of Hel”

Funds for actions undertaken in 2008 originated from the budget of the Marine Station of the Gdansk University, Institute of oceanography in Hel and the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management. They were assigned in relation to the project of the Active Protection of Harbour Porpoise against By-Catching, implemented in the Puck Bay.

The educational and informative efforts included, but were not limited to the following actions and events

- A 70cm x 100 cm poster about the need to protect Baltic harbour porpoises was printed
- A 16page brochure was developed in order to provide public with the explanation of the biology and ecology of the Baltic population
- Fishermen were addressed with a 6page leaflet titled “Fishermen and Harbour Popoises” developed in order to explain opportunities for the mitigation of a conflict between environmental protection requirements and fishing practices, and a “Pinger” leaflet intended to provide information about the application of acoustic devices in fishing practice in order to reduce the mortality of harbor porpoises, resulting from by-catches
- Sailors and marines as well as fishermen were addressed with label prompting people to report observations of harbour porpoises taken over voyages, cruises etc.

In addition to the foregoing, a tinned fish food was manufactured under the label of “The Delicacy of Harbour porpoise”. The tin was packed in a case bearing notices about the status of the species and the promotion of the eco-mark, showing that tinned fish caught in a manner which is friendly to harbour porpoises.

On a number of occasions provided by public events, information stands promoting the protection of Baltic harbour porpoises were arranged. They included:

- An outdoor stand was arranged at the monument of the animal in Gdynia during the festival of the International day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise.
- An outdoor stand arranged at the Baltic Festival of Science, which promoted the research methods and protection means used by Polish researchers in regard to harbour porpoises
- An outdoor stand at the “Gifts for the Sea” Festival of Science, which promoted the research methods and protection means used by Polish researchers in regard to harbour porpoises and promote the image of species amongst children and young people
- A stand at the Poleko Ecological Fair, Poznan, Poland. The project of the active protection of harbour porpoises in the Puck Bay, performed by the Marine Station of the Gdansk University, Institute of Oceanography and the general idea of the protection of the species were promoted at that stand

Polish information materials concerning the protection of harbour porpoises were also distributed over the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise, held at the Lithuanian Sea Museum in Klaipeda, Lituania. A researcher from the Hel Marine Station had a lecture on the protection of the species and protection measures used in Poland. The lecture was specifically addressed to young audience.

Actions for the increase of public awareness were complemented and supported by publications in local and national press, radio broadcasts and tv programmes as well as information displayed on the Internet site www.morswin.pl

As in the previous years, a similar opportunity to present the requirement to protect small and large whales in the Baltic Sea was created by the occurrence of a humpback whale near the middle shoreline in summer which event arose a great interest in mass media. A number of interviews were given to journalism from polish mass media.

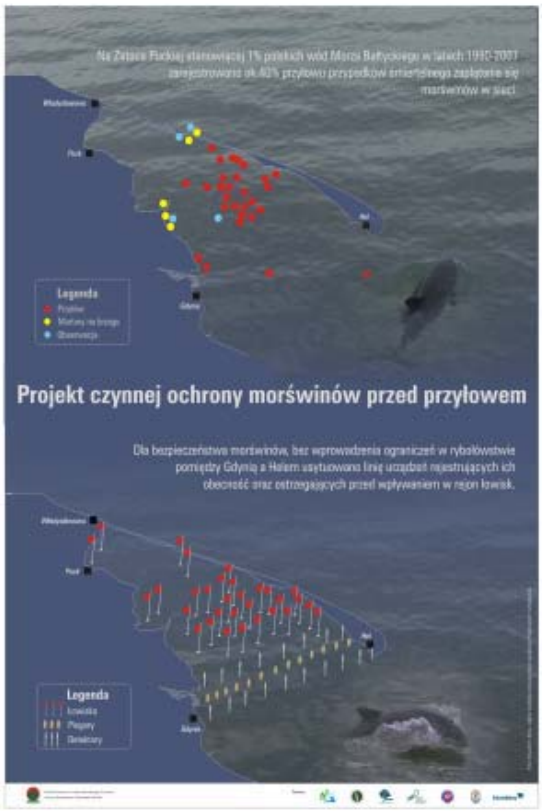
Meetings with fishermen were also held to talk about issues related to harbour porpoise as well as to explain the rationale Regulation 812/2004/UE and – in particular- its provisions concerning the ban on the use of drifting nets and the scope of the – so called – Observer's Programme.

In its effort to promote the image of the harbour porpoise and the awareness of the protection of harbour porpoise being necessary, the shop of the Marine Station and the Foundation for the Development of Gdansk University has extended its trade offer by new patterns of goods, gadgets and souvenirs.

Exhibition: The Baltic Sea – the House of the Harbour Porpoise

Selected display cases at the exhibition presented in the Marine Station of the Gdańsk University Institute of Oceanography, Hel (47 thousand visitors in 2008).

Selected examples of display boards showing threats to the harbour porpoise and protection measures taken in order to protect the species




Gdzie natrafiano na morświny?
Rozmieszczenie polskich raportów
o złowionych, zaobserwowanych i znalezionych na brzegu morświnach w latach 1990 - 2007
Obserwacja
Przyłów
Wyrzucony na brzeg


Zauważyłeś morświna?
Zawiadom Stację Morską UG w Helu
tel. 0 601 88 99 40
Tel. 058/ 675-08-36, fax. 058/675-04-20,
e-mail: hel@univ.gda.pl
www.morswin.pl

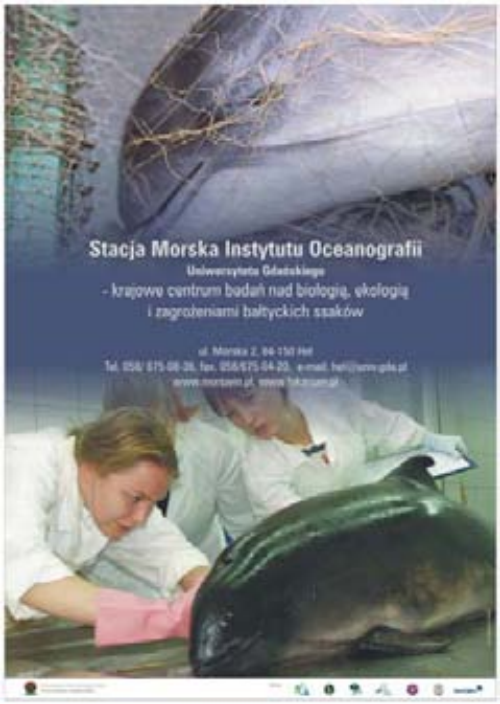

Czynna ochrona morświnów przed przyłowem
Projekt realizowany przez: Stację Morską Instytutu Oceanografii Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego


Pinger - sojusznik rybaka, ochroniarz morświna
- podwodne akustyczne urządzenie odstraszające morświny od sieci
Pinger typu Fumodo FMDP-2000
Sposoby mocowania
pingera typu "AQUAmark 100"


Ośrodek ratowania i rehabilitacji morświnów
w holenderskim delfinarium w Harderwijk
Akcja SOS Dolphin


Ośrodek badań i hodowli moświnów
Fjord&Baelt w duńskim Kerteminde


Morświny - morskie ssaki, to najmniejsze walenie na świecie.
W Bałtyku dorastają zwykle do ok.170 cm. Żyją kilkanaście lat.
Występują głównie w strefie przybrzeżnej morza,
gdzie polują na drobne ryby będące ich pokarmem:
szproty, śledzie, babki, tobiasze i dobijaki.
W lecie, zwykle co dwa lata samica rodzi jedno młode,
które karmi mlekiem przez około 6 miesięcy.
Żyjąc w Bałtyku morświny są zagrożone wyginięciem.
Pozostało ich zaledwie kilkaset sztuk.
W wszystkich krajach morświny są objęte ochroną prawną.


Stacja Morska Instytutu Oceanografii
Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego
- krajowe centrum badań nad biologią, ekologią
i zagrożeniami bałtyckich ssaków

Poster and brochures

A poster (70 cm x 10 cm) and the covers of brochures: *Fishermen and Harbour Porpoises, The Baltic Harbour Porpoise, Pinger – the Guard of Harbour Porpoises and the Friend of Fishermen* [www.morswin.pl/index_base.php?Screen_Option=1&Page_ID=97]

Fish boxes

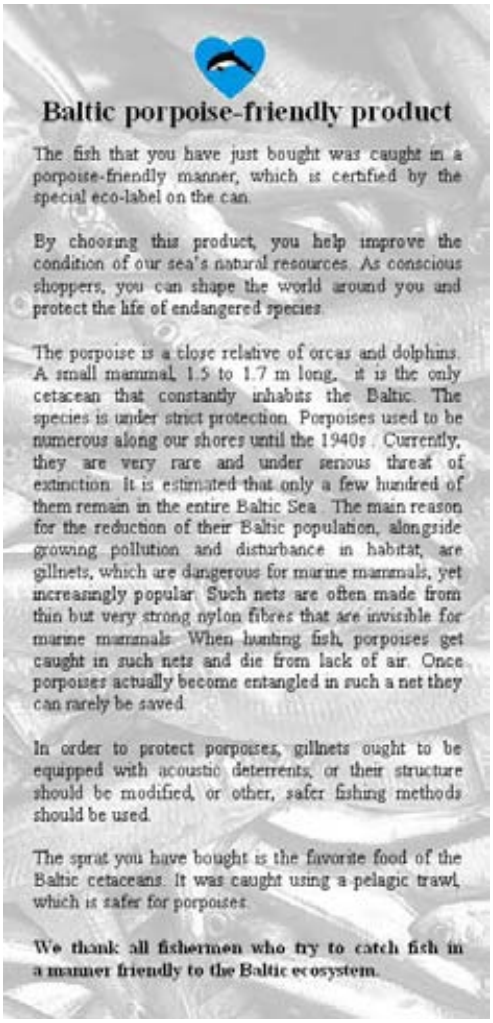
Boxes are being delivered to Hel

Label engraved on the lateral walls of the boxes

Tinned fish

A board promoting the new product

Templates



Baltic porpoise-friendly product

The fish that you have just bought was caught in a porpoise-friendly manner, which is certified by the special eco-label on the can.

By choosing this product, you help improve the condition of our sea's natural resources. As conscious shoppers, you can shape the world around you and protect the life of endangered species.

The porpoise is a close relative of orcas and dolphins. A small mammal, 1.5 to 1.7 m long, it is the only cetacean that constantly inhabits the Baltic. The species is under strict protection. Porpoises used to be numerous along our shores until the 1940s. Currently, they are very rare and under serious threat of extinction. It is estimated that only a few hundred of them remain in the entire Baltic Sea. The main reason for the reduction of their Baltic population, alongside growing pollution and disturbance in habitat, are gillnets, which are dangerous for marine mammals, yet increasingly popular. Such nets are often made from thin but very strong nylon fibres that are invisible for marine mammals. When hunting fish, porpoises get caught in such nets and die from lack of air. Once porpoises actually become entangled in such a net they can rarely be saved.

In order to protect porpoises, gillnets ought to be equipped with acoustic deterrents, or their structure should be modified, or other, safer fishing methods should be used.

The sprat you have bought is the favorite food of the Baltic cetaceans. It was caught using a pelagic trawl, which is safer for porpoises.

We thank all fishermen who try to catch fish in a manner friendly to the Baltic ecosystem.

English version

Produkt przyjazny bałtyckim ssakom

Ryby, które znajdują się w kupionej przez Państwa puszce, zostały złowione metodami bezpiecznymi dla morświnów. Świadczy o tym zamieszczony na opakowaniu specjalny eko-znak.

Wybierając taki właśnie produkt wpływacie Państwo na poprawę stanu zasobów przyrodniczych naszego morza. Robiąc zatem zakupy, możecie Państwo świadomie kształtować świat wokół siebie i troszcz życia ginących gatunków.

Morświny to blizcy krewni orek i delfinów. Te niewielkie 1,5-1,7 metrowe ssaki są jedynymi waleniami stale zasiedlającymi Bałtyk. Podlegają ścisłej ochronie. U naszych brzegów były liczne do lat 40. XX wieku. Obecnie występują sporadycznie i są silnie zagrożone wyginięciem. Przypuszcza się, że w całym Bałtyku pozostało ich kilkaset. Podstawową przyczyną zanikania ich bałtyckiej populacji stały się oprócz wzrostu zanieczyszczeń i zakłóceń, coraz liczniej stosowane niebezpieczne dla życia morskich ssaków sieci przelowe. Wiele z nich jest dziś wykonywana z cienkich, ale bardzo silnych nylonowych włókien. Zawieszone w toni wodnej stają się dla morskich ssaków niespodziewanymi pułapkami. Morświny w pogoni za rybami wpadają w nie i giną z braku powietrza. Przypadki uratowania przez rybaków zaplątanego w sieć tego małego bałtyckiego walenia są niezwykle rzadkie.

Ochrona życia morświnów wymaga wyposażania sieci skrzelowych w akustyczne odstraszacze, zmian technologii ich konstrukcji lub połowu ryb takimi metodami, które są dla tego gatunku bardziej bezpieczne.

Szproty, które Państwo właśnie kupiliście – są przysmakiem bałtyckich waleni. Złowiono je bezpieczniejszym dla życia morświnów sposobem – włokiem pelagicznym.

Dziękujemy rybakom, którzy starają się łowić w sposób przyjazny dla ekosystemu Bałtyku.

Polish version

Notice attached to the fish tine case

Events

International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise (ASCOBANS)

The Baltic Festival of Science

The information stand of the Hel Marine Station of the Gdańsk University (Gdynia, 01 Jun 2008)

The “Gifts of the Sea” Festival of Marine Products

The educational stand of the Hel Marine Station of the Gdańsk University
(Gdynia, 26 Jul 2008)

POLEKO Fairs

The educational stand of the Hel Marine Station of the Gdańsk University, venue at the ecological fairs -POLEKO, (Poznań, 27-30 0ct 2008)

New internet site

www.morswin.pl – Polish Internet site about the harbour porpoise

New label

A label to be used by yachtsmen, sailors, seamen and fishermen

Gadgets

A few samples of gadgets and souvenirs labeled with the image of the harbour porpoise

Press coverage

A few samples of press coverage on problems concerning the Baltic harbour porpoise

SWEDEN

In 2008 the Action program for harbour porpoise was revised by SEPA in cooperation with the National Board of Fisheries.. In the present plan (2008-1013) , limits to anthropogenic mortality of harbour porpoises are proposed to be calculated in agreement with national and international conservation objectives and regional working groups with the objective to reduce the number of bycatch of harbour porpoises to sustainable levels will be established. Further actions proposed in the plan are for example systematic collections of “ghost nets”, development of fish traps as alternatives to gillnets, development of a camera system for data collection on bycatches and a survey of bycatches in recreational fisheries. The effects of environmental contaminants on the health status of harbour porpoises and the levels of anthropogenic underwater noise will also be investigated. The long term objective of the action plan is that in year 2018, the environmental conditions shall allow the stocks of harbour porpoise in Swedish waters to recover to at least 80 % of their carrying capacity.

The International Day of the Porpoises was celebrated at “Havets Hus” (an aquarium in

Lysekil, on the Swedish West Coast).

The Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm has a web site where sightings of live porpoises are collected. The web page has been active since 2003 and an increasing number of sightings has been noted.

A poster and an information brochure, produced by the SEPA and the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, are continually being distributed to the general public, shipping and boating associations, fishermen, the coastguard etc. One objective with these information efforts is to achieve more reports on porpoise observations, particularly in the Baltic sea.

UNITED KINGDOM

A new website has been launched to promote the work of the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) http://www.ukstrandings.org

A link to the ASCOBANS homepage has been placed on the whale and dolphin pages of the Defra website.

The Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code, launched in 2006, continues to promote responsible and sustainable wildlife watching by providing guidance on minimising disturbance to marine wildlife. It is relevant to both commercial tour operators and recreational users of the marine environment.

6. Other relevant news

BELGIUM

In the framework of the International Whaling Commission, The Belgian Federal Ministry of Environment has produced a folder on ship strikes with cetaceans which includes information on the centralised ship strikes database hosted by the IWC Secretariat, as well as advice to help avoid collisions with whales. The folder will be available in June 2009 in six languages: English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. The database can be accessed and updated at www.iwcoffice.org/sci_com/shipstrikes.htm".

On December 8-12, 2008: a necropsy session of 81 harbour porpoises stranded on the Dutch coast was organized at the Utrecht Veterinary College; the Department of Pathology of the University of Liege, Belgium collaborated with the department of Pathology (Veterinary College) of Utrecht and IMARES/NIOZ, the Netherlands.

NETHERLANDS

In order to improve the conservation status of harbour porpoises in the North Sea, the meeting of parties and the North Sea ministers have decided that a Conservation Plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea should be developed. After compiling a background document (expert paper by Eisfeld & Kock), a draft conservation plan has now been written and will be discussed at the next AC meeting.

Reijnders, P.J.H., G.P. Donovan, A. Bjorge, K.H. Kock & M.L. Tasker. 2008. ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the North Sea. AC15, doc. 14, 28pp.

UNITED KINGDOM

Table 1: Cetacean Strandings in United Kingdom & Bailiwick of Jersey during 2006

	ENGLAND, WALES, ISLE OF MAN & BAILIWICK OF JERSEY	SCOTLAND	NORTHERN IRELAND	TOTAL

FAMILY BALAENOPTERIDAE				
Minke Whale	5	13	-	18
Fin Whale	2	1	-	3
Humpback whale	3	1	-	4
Unidentified rorqual	-	-	1	1
FAMILY DELPHINIDAE				
Short-beaked common dolphin	126	5	-	131
Common/striped dolphin indet.	2	1	-	3
Long-finned pilot whale	5	6	-	11
Risso's dolphin	1	4	-	5
White-sided dolphin	1	13	1	15
White-beaked dolphin	3	9	-	12
White-sided/white-beaked indet.	-	1	-	1
Striped dolphin	7	1	1	9
Bottlenose dolphin	8	2	-	10
Unidentified dolphins	25	5	1	31
FAMILY PHOCOENIDAE				
Harbour porpoise	302	113	3	418
FAMILY PHYSETERIDAE				
Sperm whale	5	5	-	10
FAMILY ZIPHIIDAE				
Sowerby's beaked whale	1	1	-	2
Northern bottlenose whale	3	1	-	4
Beaked whales sp. indet.	1	-	1	2
Unidentified toothed whales	10	8	-	18
Unidentified cetaceans	27	4	-	31
TOTALS	537	194	8	739