

## **National Reporting Format for ASCOBANS**

**2016**

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

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

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

### **Section I: General Information**

#### **Party Information**

##### **Name of Party**

Belgium

##### **National Coordinator (Focal Point) for ASCOBANS**

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##### **Contributors to the report**

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(for each one: Name, Function, Organization, Postal Address, Telephone, Email)

##### **List of relevant national institutions**

Text boxes (List of national authorities, organizations, research centres and rescue centres active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans. For each one: Name, Postal Address, Contact Person, Telephone, Email)

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

**B. Disturbance (including potential physical impacts)**

**3. Noise (impulsive and continuous/ambient)**

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

- [ICES Impulsive Noise Register](#) (for HELCOM and OSPAR Parties):

yes

- National registry, please specify (e.g. JNCC noise registry):

Data held by RBINS on impulsive noise from piling; data held by the Belgian Navy for detonation of UxO

- Other, please provide details:

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

Given that the construction of offshore wind farms in which pile driving was involved started in 2009 in Belgian waters, we would assess the pressure as having increased.

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

<b>Development/activity (e.g. windfarm)</b>	<b>Status (planned/completed)</b>	<b>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>	<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</b>	<b>Monitoring conducted</b>	<b>Further information on noise management</b>	<b>Latitude WGS 84</b>	<b>Longitude WGS 84</b>
Nobelwind wind farm: see further	Piling completed (May – Sept. 2016)	Done	Done in the past (spatial planning)	Yes; yearly reports	See following section	51.6640° N	2.8170° E

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

See following section

3.5) *List relevant new research/work/collaboration:*

See further

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

See further

#### 4. Ocean Energy

##### Wind Energy

4.1) *Please enter one table per wind farm.*

<i>Name of wind farm</i>	Nobelwind
<i>First operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)</i>	09/01/2017
<i>Output in megawatts per turbine</i>	3.3
<i>Number of turbines</i>	50
<i>How were the individual wind turbines installed in the seabed?</i>	Pile driving, monopiles
<i>Was scour protection added?</i>	Yes
<i>Noise mitigation during construction used (multiple ticks possible)</i>	Acoustic Deterrent Devices Time/area closures Soft start
<i>If the wind farm is floating, how was it anchored?</i>	-
<i>Additional information (optional):</i>	The environmental impact assessment, the permission and conditions for construction, an overview of monitoring and other information is publicly available at <a href="https://odnature.naturalsciences.be/mumm/en/windfarms/">https://odnature.naturalsciences.be/mumm/en/windfarms/</a> .

##### Wave Power

4.2) Please enter one table per wave power installation.

None

**Tidal Energy**

4.3) Please enter one table per tidal energy installation.

None

**Tidal lagoon/barrage**

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

None

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

<b>Energy type</b>	<b>Status 2016 relative to previous years</b>
Wind energy	Increasing (first installation using piling 2009)
Wave power	Not Applicable
Tidal energy	Not Applicable
Tidal lagoon/barrage	Not Applicable

4.6) Any notable instances/issues in the reporting period

None

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

All relevant information is publicly available online.

Relevant information will be reported to the EC in the frame of the MSFD.

4.8) Relevant new research/work/collaboration

Aerial surveys

Passive Acoustic Monitoring

Underwater noise measurements

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

## 8. Unexploded Ordnance

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

OSPAR

MSFD national reporting foreseen in 2018

8.2) Please fill in table 8.2 (below) on unexploded ordnance, which except for the last four additional columns is the same as the OSPAR one. For explanation of terms see [http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC22\\_Inf\\_4.6.c\\_OSPAR\\_MunitionsRec2010.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC22_Inf_4.6.c_OSPAR_MunitionsRec2010.pdf)

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

The pressure is probably increasing, given (1) the level of intensity of UxO surveys for purposes of offshore wind farm construction and cable and pipe laying and (2) the recently imposed measures for reporting UxO.

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

None

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

Notification of UxO required, well-established system for notification (BaZ 1).

8.6) Relevant new research/work/collaboration

## D. Management of Cumulative Impacts

### 15. Marine Spatial Planning

Plan(s) in force	Marine spatial plan (Royal Decree 20 March 2014; valid 2014-2020)
Plan(s) in preparation	Preparation of a revision of the Marine Spatial Plan 2020- (revision process started 2017)
Further information, including links to online resources and maps where available	More information, including maps, at: <a href="https://odnature.naturalsciences.be/marine-atlas/marine-spatial-plan">https://odnature.naturalsciences.be/marine-atlas/marine-spatial-plan</a>

## Section VII: Other Matters

### A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement

More details on relevant matters, and for a longer time frame, will be available in the OSPAR IA 2017 and (around mid-2018) in the national reporting to the MSFD (Descriptor 11).

**B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement**

None



