

# German National Report 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:** Germany

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

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### **Contributors to the report**

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

List of national authorities, organizations, research centres and rescue centres active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans:

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)  
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3; 53175 Bonn, Germany

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Kapelle-Ufer 1, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Areas (MELUR), Mercatorstraße 3, 24106 Kiel, Germany

Schleswig- Holstein´s Government-owned Company for Coastal Protection, National Parks and Ocean Protection (LKN), Schlossgarten 1, D-25832

State Chancellery, Düsternbrooker Weg 104, D-24105 Kiel

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Konstantinstr. 110, 53179 Bonn (branch: Vilm, Island of Rügen, 18581 Putbus), Germany

Federal Environmental Agency (UBA), Wörlitzer Platz 1, 06844 Dessau-Roßlau, Germany

National Park Administration Wadden Sea of Lower Saxony (NP-LS), Virchowstr. 1, D-26382 Wilhelmshaven

Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW) University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation; Werftstr. 6, 25761 Büsum, Germany

Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) Bernhard-Nocht-Straße 78, D-20359 Hamburg

German Oceanographic Museum (DMM), Katharinenberg 14-20, D-18439 Stralsund

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, State Ministry for Environment and Energy (BUE), Administration for the National Park Wadden Sea of Hamburg, Neuenfelder Straße 19, D-21109 Hamburg. Peter Körber, Tel. +49/40/42840-2169, peter.koerber@bue.hamburg.de

Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, State Ministry for Environment and Energy (BUE), Department for Nature Conservation / Species Conservation, Neuenfelder Straße 19, D-21109 Hamburg. Sylke Dawartz, Tel. +49/40/42840-3357, sylke.dawartz@bue.hamburg.de

Public Laboratories for Food-Safety, Health Protection and Environmental Assessment: Marckmannstraße 129a, 20539 Hamburg, Tel.: 040 42845-77, Fax: 040 42873-10854, E-Mail: InfoHU@hu.hamburg.de

University of Hamburg, Zoological Institute, Veit Hennig, Martin-Luther-King-Platz 3, D-20146 Hamburg, Tel. +49/40/42838-4235, mail@veit-hennig.de



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

In 2013 Germany implemented the Concept for the Protection of Harbour Porpoises from Noise Impact. During the Construction of Offshore Windfarms in the German North Sea (Noise Protection Concept, BMUB 2013). It includes a standard of dual noise immission criteria of 160 dB (SEL), resp. 190 dB (peak-peak) at 750 m distance, the use of scaring devices and a ramp-up procedure to enable avoidance of noise levels which could injure harbour porpoises and for the main concentration area around Sylt Outer Reef an instruction how to assess a significant disturbance (which has to be avoided) including a seasonal and a spatial component. This also takes cumulative effects of a number of construction activities into account.

Ancillary provisions in the approval for offshore windfarm constructions enable an adequate control that the noise standards given are met by the windfarm operator. For example, there is an obligation to measure and record noise emissions of piling work at each pile. Approval for piling positions is given only successive until the operator demonstrates that the standard is met.

Management plans for marine protected areas of the Natura 2000 network in the German EEZ are under preparation. These will also include measures for managing noise impact.

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

- Project funded by Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN): Effects of the Underwater Sound of Offshore Windfarms on Marine Mammals – Underwater Noise Effects („Auswirkungen des Unterwasserschalls der Offshore-Windenergieanlagen auf marine Säugetiere – Unterwasserschalleffekte (UWE)“)
- Study on Effects of offshore pile driving on harbour porpoise abundance in the German Bight (GESCHA). Final report: <http://bioconsult-sh.de/site/assets/files/1573/1573.pdf>

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:*

#### 4. Ocean Energy

##### Wind Energy

4.1) Please enter one table per wind farm.

<i>Name of wind farm</i>	Nordergründe <a href="http://www.4coffshore.com/windfarms/nordergr%C3%BCnde-germany-de20.html">http://www.4coffshore.com/windfarms/nordergr%C3%BCnde-germany-de20.html</a>
<i>First operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)</i>	dd/mm/yy planned 2017 but pending due to problems caused by insolvency
<i>Output in megawatts per turbine</i>	6,5 MW
<i>Number of turbines</i>	18 turbines
<i>How were the individual wind turbines installed in the seabed?</i>	<i>Pile-driving/suction bucket/ gravity foundation/ tripod foundation/ other, please specify:</i> pile driving
<i>Was scour protection added?</i>	<i>Yes/No/Unknown</i> yes
<i>Noise mitigation during construction used (multiple ticks possible)</i>	<i>Single bubble curtains: yes</i> <i>Double bubble curtains: yes</i> <i>Acoustic Deterrent Devices: yes</i> <i>Time/area closures:</i> <i>Other, please specify:</i>
<i>If the wind farm is floating, how was it anchored?</i>	-
<i>Additional information (optional):</i>	-

4.1b) Please enter one table per wind farm.

Name of wind farm	Borkum Riffgat <a href="http://www.4coffshore.com/windfarms/riffgat-germany-de21.html">http://www.4coffshore.com/windfarms/riffgat-germany-de21.html</a>
First operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)	operational since 2014
Output in megawatts per turbine	3.6 MW
Number of turbines	30 turbines
How were the individual wind turbines installed in the seabed?	Pile-driving/suction bucket/ gravity foundation/ tripod foundation/ other, please specify: pile driving
Was scour protection added?	yes
Noise mitigation during construction used (multiple ticks possible)	Acoustic Deterrent Devices, IHC Noise Mitigation System
If the wind farm is floating, how was it anchored? -	
Additional information (optional): -	

**Beyond these two examples cf. more details in the enclosed table 4.1!**

**4.2 - 4.4) Wave Power / Tidal Energy / Tidal lagoon/barrage**

There are no wave power or tidal energy installations or tidal lagoons in Germany.

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
Wave power	Not Applicable
Tidal energy	Not Applicable
Tidal lagoon/barrage	Not Applicable

4.6) Any notable instances/issues in the reporting period

The Federal Ministry for the Environment has started to develop a sound protection strategy for harbour porpoises in the German Baltic Sea (EEC) based on the experiences of the existing sound protection strategy of the North Sea (EEC).

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

Cf. former reports and 4.6 !

4.8) *Relevant new research/work/collaboration*

Project funded by Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN): Effects of the Underwater Sound of Offshore Windfarms on Marine Mammals – Underwater Noise Effects („Auswirkungen des Unterwasserschalls der Offshore-Windenergieanlagen auf marine Säugetiere – Unterwasserschalleffekte (UWE)“)

## **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

(database on munitions encounters 2015 data)

*Other, please state:*

Munitionskataster Meer (National ammunition cadaster AmuCad)  
<https://www.amucad.org>

Mine Warfare Datacenter, German Navy (not public)

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\\_MunitionsRec\\_2010.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC22_Inf_4.6.c_OSPAR_MunitionsRec_2010.pdf)*

2016 data can be submitted by September when OSPAR reporting is available, additional requested data on munition items need further improvement in German reporting procedures

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.*

Most (by number) objects of warfare material found on seabed is considered to be safe for handling and thus has been remediated and (if containing explosives) destroyed by thermal processes ([www.geka-munster.de](http://www.geka-munster.de)) on land.

However every year 50 to 100 items of UXO are found in German marine waters (including EEZ) and are considered not handling safe and thus are either being exploded in-situ, or in

some instances translocated into shallow waters for detonation, with and without a bubble curtain as a measure of mitigation. The effects resulting from the shock wave and impulsive sound wave of detonations can be deleterious to individual harbour porpoises and may also in some circumstances have effects at the population level, depending on the radius of injury/hearing loss of a detonation, the number of detonations and the distribution and abundance of porpoises (von Benda-Beckmann et al. 2015). Due to increasing offshore activities, the number of detonations have increased in recent years.

Currently there are no scientific data on the effect of detonations in German waters on harbour porpoises, No post-detonation surveys are being conducted. Thus it is not known whether there is a risk to reaching a favorable conservation status of harbour porpoises.

*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)*

Since 2009 the German cross-administrative working group ([www.underwatermunitions.de](http://www.underwatermunitions.de)) actively seeks and shares information between public authorities from federal and state-level are being responsible for relevant areas of concern with regard to underwater munitions, as there are safety, security, nature conservation or pollution control issues. As one result some guidelines were implemented between authorities and recommendations were drafted and submitted to the general public. The annual report of the working group in German language is available on the Website:

[http://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/UXO/Themen/Fachinhalte/textekarten\\_Berichte.html](http://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/UXO/Themen/Fachinhalte/textekarten_Berichte.html)

EOD teams of the federal states Schleswig-Holstein, Niedersachsen and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are aware of the potential threat of explosions to small cetaceans. Mitigation measures considered for each planned detonation include separation of the fuse box from the main charge in certain types of air mines, translocation of UXO and detonation in shallow waters or on a sandbank (in air), use of pingers/seal scarers, use of bubble curtains.

Example: Some 150 ground mines found off Schleswig-Holstein between 2012 and 2016 have been defused by intersecting the explosive container from the part with sensors and fuse by blasting practices (requiring only a small charge). The treated objects were translocated to a safe place to be finally destroyed in situ by automatic systems, expected to be available in the near future.



*8.6) Relevant new research/work/collaboration*

Decision Aid for Marine Munitions (DAIMON), international project consisting of partners from Poland, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Lithuania and Russia (Lead: Poland)- <http://www.daimonproject.com/>

Environmental monitoring for the delaboration of munitions on the seabed (UDEMM) <https://udemmm.geomar.de/>

Robotic underwater salvage and disposal process with the technology to remove explosive ordnance in the sea, in particular in coastal and shallow waters (RoBEMM) <http://www.munitionsraeumung-meer.de/en/national-research/robemm/>

MSFD Measure UZ2-04 (Dealing with munitions at sea) including following aspects:

- Measures for dealing with hazardous situations (e.g., establishment of a national registry for munitions encounters, development of leaflets, research projects as provided above)
- Measures to complete the still incomplete knowledge (e.g., archive research, co-operation project with scientific bodies, investigations at known munitions dumping sites, development of a munitions cadastre (see 8.1), development of scientific methods)
- Development of a systematic procedure for risk assessment and prioritization of munitions contaminated areas.

**Management of Cumulative Impacts**

**15. Marine Spatial Planning**

<i>Plan(s) in force</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marine Spatial Planning of the EEZ (North- and Baltic Seas) since 2009</li> <li>2. State Development Plan 2010 (Landesentwicklungsplan Schleswig-Holstein vom 13.07.2010 (LEP; Amtsbl. Schl.-H. 2010 Seite 719)</li> <li>3. State Development Plan Mecklenburg Vorpommern (2016) : <a href="http://www.regierung-mv.de/Landesregierung/em/Raumordnung/Landesraumentwicklungsprogramm">http://www.regierung-mv.de/Landesregierung/em/Raumordnung/Landesraumentwicklungsprogramm</a></li> <li>4. State Development Niedersachsen (2017): <a href="http://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/themen/raumordnung_landesplanung/landesraumordnungsprogramm/landesraumordnungsprogramm-niedersachsen-5062.html">http://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/themen/raumordnung_landesplanung/landesraumordnungsprogramm/landesraumordnungsprogramm-niedersachsen-5062.html</a></li> </ol>
<i>Plan(s) in preparation</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update of the State Development Plan Schleswig-Holstein</li> <li>2. FABENA (Fachbeitrag Naturschutz zur maritimen Raumordnung; Marine conservation's expert contribution to Maritime Spatial Planning)</li> </ol>

<p><i>Further information, including links to online resources and maps where available</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="http://www.bsh.de/en/Marine_uses/Spatial_Planning_in_the_German_EEZ/index.jsp">http://www.bsh.de/en/Marine_uses/Spatial_Planning_in_the_German_EEZ/index.jsp</a></li> <li>2. The State Development Plan includes the land and the sea areas of Schleswig-Holstein. It outlines the principles and objectives for the spatial development in Schleswig-Holstein and is valid up to the 12 nautical mile border. Principles and objectives for the maritime spatial planning in Schleswig-Holstein will be addressed in the state development plan only, because the municipalities have no jurisdiction beyond their coastlines. (<a href="http://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Fachinhalte/L/landesplanung_raumordnung/raumordnungsplaene/landesentwicklungsplan/neuer_landesentwicklungsplan.html">http://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Fachinhalte/L/landesplanung_raumordnung/raumordnungsplaene/landesentwicklungsplan/neuer_landesentwicklungsplan.html</a>)</li> <li>3. <a href="https://www.io-warnemuende.de/project/126/fabena.html">https://www.io-warnemuende.de/project/126/fabena.html</a></li> <li>4. State Development Plan Mecklenburg Vorpommern (2016) : <a href="http://www.regierung-mv.de/Landesregierung/em/Raumordnung/Landesraumentwicklungsprogramm">http://www.regierung-mv.de/Landesregierung/em/Raumordnung/Landesraumentwicklungsprogramm</a></li> <li>5. State Development Niedersachsen (2017): <a href="http://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/themen/raumordnung_landesplanung/landesraumordnungsprogramm/landesraumordnungsprogramm-niedersachsen-5062.html">http://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/themen/raumordnung_landesplanung/landesraumordnungsprogramm/landesraumordnungsprogramm-niedersachsen-5062.html</a></li> </ol>
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