

## **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 Republic of Poland**

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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?*

No data available

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:*

Unknown

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><i>Development/activity (e.g. windfarm)</i></b>	<b><i>Status (planned/completed)</i></b>	<b><i>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</i></b>	<b><i>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</i></b>	<b><i>Monitoring conducted</i></b>	<b><i>Further information on noise management</i></b>	<b><i>Latitude WGS 84</i></b>	<b><i>Longitude WGS 84</i></b>
	<i>Planned/completed/N</i>	<i>Done/foreseen/not</i>	<i>Done/foreseen/not</i>			<i>Degree decimal</i>	<i>Degree decimal</i>

	<i>ot Applicable</i>	<i>required/Not Applicable</i>	<i>required/No t Applicable</i>			<i>to 4 places</i>	<i>to 4 places</i>

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

Within the framework of the project *National Programme of Marine Water Protection* it is planned to develop noise maps based on existing information and on vessel traffic projections using the GIS environment tools. It is also planned to create a register of pulse noise sources based on data from existing OOS reports and information from relevant institutions. The creation of the register of noise will be coordinated at the regional level through participation of Poland in the EU expert group („TG noise”). The register may also be coordinated by HELCOM. Creating noise maps should be coordinated at the local level, but taking into account the advice of the „TG noise” group and the BIAS project methodology.

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

Sounds produced by the porpoises are a basis for obtaining information about the number and distribution as well as migration of the population. Within the framework of the project entitled „*Pilot implementation of monitoring marine species and habitats in the years 2015-2018*”, the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) is monitored. As part of the work, field studies are carried out with the use of instruments for porpoise click detection and passive acoustic monitoring, so-called C-POD. The instruments were installed in March 2016, for a period of 24 months. The recording instruments were installed in two areas which during the implementation of the SAMBAH project („*Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise*”, LIFE+, 01.10.2010-30.09.2015) were identified as the areas of the greatest presence of the harbour porpoise. In each area, i.e. Pomeranian Bay and Stilo Bank, there are 5 instruments to records clicks characteristic of the porpoise.

In each area, four of five devices were installed in the locations in which the instruments were installed during the SAMBAH project. The fifth instrument is to be installed in the middle of the rectangle designated by the C-POD locations from the SAMBAH project. The instruments in the Pomeranian Bay were distributed in this way. Due to the lack of consent to install the instruments on the testing ground (water area S-6, temporarily closed to navigation and fishing), it was decided to install the fifth instrument east of the Stilo Bank in the SAMBAH location. Installing C-POD in the same places in which the data has already been collected, will contribute to the comparability of the data obtained in the context of analysing temporal changes (tendencies or trends) in the presence of the Baltic harbour porpoise.

Currently, the work is underway on obtaining data from the collected recordings. To analyse the recordings, two algorithms are used, i.e. KERNO and HEL1. The latter (HEL1) has been developed specifically to detect the harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea based on the work carried out in Poland at the Marine Station of the Institute of Oceanography at the University of Gdańsk (SMIOUG) in 2010. Therefore, its use is recommended for the areas with the low number of the harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea.

The KERNO algorithm is used to automatically identify a series of clicks (clusters of clicks) and recognises their four properties:

- data quality class based on the probability of the origin of clicks – random products or narrow band high frequency products emitted by cetaceans (porpoises): high, medium, low and questionable;
- click type class: narrow band high frequency sounds of the porpoises, other cetaceans (dolphins), sonar, unknown;
- species classification quality: high, medium, low;
- ICI classification quality: using the KERNO classifier, only the series of high and medium quality clicks, belonging to species emitting in the narrow band of high frequencies of ICI series.

The HEL1 algorithm is used to remove false detections resulting mainly from the unclear series from unknown sources.

In order to present the occurrence (presence/absence) of the porpoises in the research area, three types of quantitative measures are used:

- minutes of positive detections of porpoises per hour (the sum of the minutes, during which the presence of the porpoises was recorded every hour,
- days of positive detections of porpoises;
- numbers of registered series of clicks of porpoises.

Currently, the contractor of the pilot monitoring of marine species and habitats analyses the collected data.

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:*

No data available

#### 4. Ocean Energy

##### Wind Energy

4.1) Please enter one table per wind farm.

<i>Name of wind farm</i>	At the moment, there are no offshore wind farms in the Polish exclusive economic zone but there are plans to construct them. Offshore wind farms, in accordance with the Polish legislation, may be located only in the area of the exclusive economic zone.
<i>First operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)</i>	It is estimated that the first projects of offshore wind farms may be carried out not earlier than in 2021.
<i>Output in megawatts per turbine</i>	
<i>Number of turbines</i>	
<i>How were the individual wind turbines installed in the seabed?</i>	

<i>Was scour protection added?</i>	
<i>Noise mitigation during construction used (multiple ticks possible)</i>	
<i>If the wind farm is floating, how was it anchored?</i>	
<i>Additional information (optional):</i>	In 2016, the number of valid permits relating to the location of offshore wind farms in the exclusive economic zone amounted to 13. Obtaining the above-mentioned permit initiates the process of acquiring necessary permissions to implement the project. If an offshore wind farm is to be built, in addition it is necessary to obtain an environmental decision preceded by an environmental impact assessment and construction permit. An offshore wind farm should have access to transmission infrastructure and obtain an agreement on its location and ways of maintenance in the marine areas, as well as it should conclude a connection agreement, obtain the connection conditions and win an auction, as referred to in the Act of 20 February 2015 on renewable energy sources. Therefore, obtaining a location permit does not prejudice the creation of an offshore wind farm.

**Wave Power**

4.2) Please enter one table per wave power installation.

<i>Name of installation</i>	There are no such installations in the Polish marine areas and their construction is not planned in the near future.
<i>Fist operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)</i>	dd/mm/yy
<i>Location</i>	
<i>Output in megawatts per turbine</i>	
<i>Number of turbines</i>	
<i>How is the installation anchored?</i>	

<i>Was scour protection added?</i>	<i>Yes/No/Not Applicable</i>
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**Tidal Energy**

4.3) Please enter one table per tidal energy installation.

<i>Name of installation</i>	There are no such installations in the Polish marine areas and their construction is not planned in the near future.
<i>First operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)</i>	dd/mm/yy
<i>Location</i>	
<i>Output in megawatts per turbine</i>	
<i>Number of turbines</i>	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Floating/gravity/other, please specify:</i>
<i>Collision mitigation</i>	<i>No/ Yes, please specify:</i>

**Tidal lagoon/barrage**

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

<i>Name of installation</i>	There are no such installations in the Polish marine areas and their construction is not planned in the near future.
<i>First operational on (if in planning, then please enter foreseen grid connection date)</i>	dd/mm/yy
<i>Location</i>	
<i>Output in megawatts per turbine</i>	
<i>Number of turbines</i>	
<i>Collision mitigation</i>	<i>No/ Yes, please specify:</i>

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

4.6) *Any notable instances/issues in the reporting period*

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

4.8) *Relevant new research/work/collaboration*

### **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?*

Unknown

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.*

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

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

8.6) *Relevant new research/work/collaboration*

### **D. Management of Cumulative Impacts**



### 15. Marine Spatial Planning

<i>Plan(s) in force</i>	
<i>Plan(s) in preparation</i>	<p>In Poland, since 2015 there has been the process related to planning and spatial management of the Polish marine areas, understood as the analysis and organisation of the use of the marine areas, in order to achieve the ecological, economic and social objectives. In 2016, the directors of the maritime offices started drafting the Spatial development plan of the Polish marine areas in the scale of 1:200,000, and forecasts of the environmental impact of this project, which includes the areas of: the exclusive economic zone, together with an adjacent zone, the territorial sea of the Republic of Poland, marine internal waters adjacent to the territorial sea and situated between the baseline of the territorial sea and the coastline, marine internal waters of the Gdańsk Bay.</p> <p>The draft plan does not cover the following Lagoons: Vistula, Szczecin, Kamień, as well port water areas. For these water areas, specific plans will be developed. Plans will be the basis for the adoption, in a form of a regulation, spatial management plans of the Polish marine areas.</p>
<i>Further information, including links to online resources and maps where available</i>	

#### **Section VII: Other Matters**

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

Text box

##### **B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement**

Text box

