

Agenda Item 2

Review of New Information on Threats and Other
Issues Relevant to Small Cetaceans

Information Document 2

**Summary Compilation of the 2020 National
Reports Submitted by ASCOBANS Parties**

Action Requested

Take note

Submitted by

Secretariat

SUMMARY COMPILATION OF THE 2020 NATIONAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY ASCOBANS PARTIES

This information document compiles, in a summary format, the responses given to the questions in the ASCOBANS National Report Form 2020. The National Reports compiled here are those submitted in time for AC26: [Belgium](#), [Denmark](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Lithuania](#), [The Netherlands](#), [Poland](#), and [United Kingdom](#). Please refer to these full reports for detailed information.

An answer marked with an asterisk (*) is information obtained outside the National Report, via consultation with the Party.

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High-level Summary of Key Messages

In your country, for the reporting period from 1 January to 31 December 2020, what does this report reveal about:

1. The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>1) A well-established strandings network.</p> <p>2) Consultations with the military about mitigation measures in case of the destruction of UxO.</p> <p>3) As a small country, an excellent collaboration with neighbouring countries through networking.</p>	<p>1) A significant amount of both national and international research, collaboration and debate on underwater noise is ongoing. This includes both noise impact on harbour porpoises and general noise management and mitigation.</p> <p>2) The first Danish Marine Spatial Plan will be sent out for consultation on the 31st of March 2021.</p>	<p>1) Attending the SAMBAH II proposal work.</p> <p>2) Acoustic monitoring continued 2020.</p> <p>3) Harbour porpoise included in the Finnish Marine Strategy in the PoM and in the monitoring plan as well as in the Finnish PAF (Prioritized Action Framework).</p>	<p>The launch of joint ASCOBANS-ACCOBAMS WG.</p>	<p>In particular the interest and participation of the European Commission (DG Environment and DG Mare) in ASCOBANS events in 2020 should be acknowledged.</p>	<p>The public awareness and interest to small cetaceans (mainly harbour porpoise) has significantly increased during the period when Lithuania has been Party to ASCOBANS.</p>	<p>1) Development of the updated Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise in The Netherlands.</p> <p>2) Continuation and formalisation (e.g. WOT - statutory research tasks) of monitoring tasks.</p> <p>3) More holistic analyses of different national and international data sets at both national and international levels (for example from strandings as well as survey databases).</p>	<p>1) A number of long-term, educational campaigns conducted.</p> <p>2) Establishment of the porpoise monitoring programme (in accordance with the MSFD) and marine species and habitats (in accordance with the Habitats Directive). Harmonisation of the monitoring programme at the Baltic Sea Region level with the HELCOM States Parties (fulfilment of the provisions of the MSFD).</p> <p>3) Ongoing work on the preparation of conservation plans for marine Natura 2000 sites, including those where porpoise is a conservation concern.</p> <p>4) Ongoing dialogue with the fishing community on the protection of the Baltic Sea ecosystem, including the porpoise.</p> <p>5) Continuing a project to remove lost fishing nets, popularisation of the problem of lost nets in regional and also global level.</p>		<p>Effective mitigation is applied to licenced sources of noise. Guidance is in place for mitigating noise for harbour porpoise SACs.</p>

2. The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>1) The work burden for international commitments and the overlap between the many different fora that require similar information.</p> <p>2) The overlapping analyses of data that are submitted in different fora, and assessments.</p>	<p>1) The rate of construction of offshore wind farms has been relatively constant, but the individual projects and turbine foundations are increasing. As such ensuring space and high quality habitat is a challenge.</p> <p>2) The lack of sufficient information on bycatch covering both the Baltic and the Belt Sea population makes it impossible to assess the treat level and decide on mitigations.</p>	<p>The ICES advice on emergency actions for harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea has caused some issues in Finland.</p>	<p>Reduce cetacean bycatch in the Bay of Biscay.</p>	<p>Still the reduction of bycatch is under the most important issues.</p>	<p>1) Lack of human resources, especially for researchers,</p> <p>2) lack of financial resources,</p> <p>3) lack of infrastructure</p>	<p>1) Long-term funding of monitoring or new research projects.</p> <p>2) Acquiring offshore animals (e.g. through bycatches) for post mortem exams.</p> <p>3) Methods for assessing cumulative impacts.</p> <p>4) Understanding the ecological role of the Harbour Porpoise in Dutch waters (and beyond).</p>	<p>1) Deterioration of the Baltic Sea both in terms of species structure and increasing dead, anaerobic areas on its bottom.</p> <p>2) Increase of human pressure in marine areas, including expansion of maritime transport, recreation, etc.</p>		<p>Balancing commitments to increase renewable energy production, with impacts on small cetacean populations.</p>

3. The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>1) Streamlining the work in different international fora in order to avoid the duplication of work.</p> <p>2) Continuation of mitigating underwater noise and avoiding exposure to underwater noise of cetaceans during exploration, construction and demolition of UxO.</p> <p>3) Setting up consultations with the military about underwater noise and cetaceans, not limited to Belgian waters.</p>	<p>1) With the increasing use of marine territory for offshore installation, shipping ect, a larger focus on cumulative impacts and how to assess these would be relevant.</p> <p>2) Ensuring funding for participation in SAMBAH-II.</p>	<p>If SAMBAH II gets funding, it will implement majority of the goals of the Agreement in Finland.</p>	<p>SCANS 4 campaign, that we hope to implement in 2022.</p>	<p>Implementation of the results of the MOP 2020.</p>	<p>To involve the Lithuanian Maritime Museum in the activities when the Baltic Sea Animal Rehabilitation Center is built, to strive for the collection of information and the necessary research on the harbour porpoise.</p>	<p>1) International cooperation with all stakeholders /parties involved on assessing bycatch for the North Sea harbour porpoise.</p> <p>2) Development of alternative methodologies to make monitoring cost-effective and multi-targeted (e.g. High Definition aerial surveys, fishery monitoring, PAM, tagging).</p>	<p>1) Rebuild Baltic porpoise populations by improving protection in key areas of their existence, monitoring incidental fishing, and reducing pressure on Baltic harbour porpoises.</p> <p>2) Continuation of activities carried out so far, together with the promotion of pro-ecological practices throughout the country, which affects the quality of the waters feeding the Baltic Sea.</p>		<p>Crown estate Off-shore wind leasing Round 4; increasing the off-shore wind capacity to meet the UK government target of 40GW by 2030.</p>

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

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

3. Noise (impulsive i.e. piling and continuous/ambient i.e. shipping)

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

	BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
ICES Impulsive Noise Register	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		Yes
National Registry	Yes	N/A **	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Other	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No		No

** = continuous noise monitoring database

3.2. Any instances/issues in the reporting period including information on planned or completed significant developments/activities, including the details of monitoring in place before, during and after the project.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
The development of the first offshore windfarm zone, comprising in total 399 wind turbines, was finished in 2020. A new zone will start to be developed in around 2025. EIA & SEA done. Regulations / guidelines exist, monitoring conducted, mitigation in place.	4D Seismic survey Tyra oil field: EIA done; regulations / guidelines exist. Geophysical survey Thor offshore wind farm: EIA & SEA done; regulations / guidelines exist.	No.	TG Noise monitoring.	Construction of wind farms: EIA & SEA done; regulations / guidelines exist; monitoring conducted, mitigation in place. Pile driving for mussel seed collectors within the National Park No EIA / SEA; mitigation in place.	Naval Explosions 2013-2019. No EIA / SEA; regulations / guidelines exist, no mitigation in place.	Windpark construction Borssele I, II, III, IV: EIA done, regulations / guidelines exist; monitoring conducted; mitigation in place. Planned: Windpark Hollandse Kustpark, Windpark Ten noorden van de Waddeneilanden.	No.		Seismic surveys, sub-bottom profiler surveys, pile-driving, explosive use (e.g. UXO clearance), military sonar, and ADDs in Dogger Bank, Southern & Northern North Sea, Channel, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, and wider Atlantic (except no pile-driving in the wider Atlantic). EIA & SEA done; regulations / guidelines exist; mitigation in place (except 'n/a' for ADDs).

3.3. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on underwater noise in your country.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Monitoring of underwater noise during construction & operation of	30 publications and projects listed, incl. JOMOPANS , UWE , TANGO ,	2 resources listed: on underwater noise causes stress and on areas	6 projects / resources listed incl. proposing a guide of Recommendations to	7 resources listed, incl. on classification and assessment of impulsive	2 reports listed from 2020, incl. investigation of continuous underwater and	21 projects / publications listed, incl. JOMOPANS , WoZEP	The data obtained during monitoring, along with the interpretation of		34 projects/publications listed, incl. BEIS Offshore SEA Research

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
offshore wind farms; monitoring of marine mammals. (Link)	SATURN; Harbor Porpoise Reaction to a 3D Seismic Airgun Survey in the North Sea; How loud is the underwater noise from operating offshore wind turbines?	affected by underwater noise for MSP purposes and harmful reduction of impacts.	limit impacts of manmade underwater noise; protection protocol during seismic campaigns; RAGES.	noise with and without noise mitigation measures, and noise during the impulse pile-driving procedure.*	impulsive impact piling noise in Lithuanian marine waters. (5 listed from 2013-2019.)	Offshore wind energy ecological programme 2016-2023, SEANSE.	the research results, were included in the final report from implementation of the work entitled "Pilot implementation of marine species and habitats monitoring".		Programme, Methods for Monitoring for the Population Consequences of Disturbance in Marine Mammals.

3.4. Report on noise management for cumulative impacts, including relevant regulations and guidelines, seismic shot point densities and level of impact deemed acceptable.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
N/a	Cumulative impacts are assessed through the periodic assessments of the Regional Seas Conventions, HELCOM and OSPAR; HOLASIII and Quality Status Report. Assessment of GES in Danish waters awaits guidance on methodologies and thresholds from EU (TG-Noise).	No information available *	MSFD GES assessment 2018: Assessment of the descriptor 11 (noise disturbance) in France. Scientific report for 2018 assessment into MSFD. (Link)	Various regulations to outline the management procedures for preventing cumulative impacts of impulsive noise from pile driving were provided. *	Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency (2020). Report on Lithuanian marine area ecological state and environmental targets. (III parts, including underwater noise)	The Framework for Assessing Ecological and Cumulative Effects (KEC) focuses on effects of offshore wind farms, including the noise during construction (link). More information can also be found in the chapter "noise" of the updated conservation plan for the harbour porpoise . Two additional resources provided.	No information available *		SNCB noise management process. JNCC (2020) sets out the advice of JNCC, Natural England and DAERA on assessing the significance of noise disturbance against Conservation Objectives of harbour porpoise SACs. (Thresholds listed.)

3.5. Is the perceived level of pressure from underwater noise in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Staying the same (HP). Construction of offshore wind-farms temporarily ceased; started in 2008. (Link)	Unknown (HP). Evidence: ICES impulsive	Unknown.	Unknown.	Increasing & decreasing (HP): According to BSH reporting there is a decreasing pressure in German Seas (also due to no windfarm construction during 2020). This information can only	Staying the same.	Staying the same. Underwater sound in the North Sea is likely to increase in the future. Wind park construction includes the removal (by	Unknown.		HP: increasing due to planned installation of wind farms in North Sea in areas of high densities. unknown. BD: increasing (major works within the Moray Firth / East Scotland). WBD: unknown. (There is the potential for increase in

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Mitigation measures stepped up since 2008, with currently acoustic deterrence and a double bubble curtain imposed.	noise register.			be confirmed for impulsive noise from pile driving activities, which are mitigated and monitored according to regulation in place. However, regionally areas of increasing pressure appear possible as the report of Schleswig-Holstein indicates. *		explosion) of unexploded ordnance from the area. This as well as the piling activities will introduce impulsive sound. Wind farm operation is linked to an increase in local shipping for servicing of the parks.			underwater noise in Scottish waters associated with planned installation of wind farms.) Additional comment: In future years, there are additional marine works planned within Welsh waters, such as Round 4, Morlais and others, which will predominantly affect bottlenose dolphin, harbour porpoise, common dolphin, Risso's dolphin, minke whale.

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

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

4. Ocean energy

4.1. Were there any new wind energy farms in development/construction during the reporting period?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
3 operational since 2020. 23-30 turbines. Turbines installed by pile-driving, scour protection used. Noise mitigation: double bubble curtains, ADDs, time/area closures.	1 with 72 turbines, which were installed by pile-driving (took place May-Aug 2020); scour protection used. Noise mitigation: single bubble curtains.	Wind power map (updated). On the wind power map you will find wind turbines operating in Finland and planned wind power projects.	8 wind farms planned: 2 to be operational in 2022, 2 in 2023, 1 in 2024, 2 in 2026, 1 in 2027. 3-83 turbines, installed by pile-driving, gravity foundation, tripod foundation, or anchor. Noise mitigation: ADDs or system to reduce of 7dB the acoustic emission. Other mitigation: Soft start, and efficiency of the measure is checked with acoustic device networks to detect the presence of marine mammals.	No.	N/a (no data)	2 wind farms planned. 77-94 turbines. Pile driving and scour protection used. Noise mitigation: double bubble curtains, ADDs, time/ area closures.	No / not applicable. At the moment there are no offshore wind farms in the Polish EEZ, but their construction is planned. It is estimated that the first offshore wind farm will be connected to the power grid in 2025.		3 operational in 2020, 3 began construction in 2020 (foreseen operational in 2021-2022), 1 planned construction starting in 2021. 6-165 turbines, installed by pile-driving to 4 wind farms (scour protection used), by jacket - piles to 3 farms, and 1 floating (semi sub foundations - 4 anchors). ADDs used as noise mitigation in 5 constructions. Other mitigation: MMOs, PAM, soft start prior to full power piling.

4.2. Were there any new wave power installations in development/construction during the reporting period?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.***	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.		No.

*** According to the Denmark have conducted several test-projects with regard to wave and tidal power, but according to the [Danish Energy Agency](#), no projects are currently running.

4.3. Were there any new tidal energy installations in development/construction during the reporting period?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.***	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No, n/a.		1 planned to be operational in 2022: 6 turbines, gravity -type, collision mitigation, demonstration site - MMO, visual, cameras. Development of collision risk models. (1 operational since 2019: collision mitigation, part of MS demonstration research project - tagging, PAMs, cameras, sonar, etc.)

*** According to the Denmark have conducted several test-projects with regard to wave and tidal power, but according to the [Danish Energy Agency](#), no projects are currently running.

4.4. Were there any new tidal lagoon/barrage installations in development/construction during the reporting period?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	Not relevant for DK.	No.	No. (1 operational since 1966.)	No.	No.	No.	No.		1 operational since 2018 but various periods of non-operation incl. most of 2020. Type: tidal kite, 1 turbine. Collision mitigation, PAM monitoring / adaptive management.

4.5. Has there been any other instances/issues related to ocean energy during the reporting period in your country?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	Yes. At the moment for each farm, the government representatives lead two committees, one for general issues and one to support this group with scientific information, if necessary. Reflexions are ongoing to create 4 Committees, one for each of the 4 French maritime sea basin. Each committee will be supported by a scientific council of the sea basins. The reference for monitoring offshore wind farms becomes the seafront instead of the farm. However, the sea basin committee could refer particular commission related to each farm to answer specific local questions. In addition, one national Committee should also be created. The aim is to be more efficient and treat subject at the right level. Impact on marine mammals is a good example of a subject which is broader than one project.	No.	No.	No.	No.		No.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Environmental permit issued by the minister responsible for the North Sea includes all conditions for	Guidelines for assessment and mitigation of impulsive noise from pile driving is currently under revision by the Energy Authority. Two background	During the planning, the current state of the area and the presence of protected animals and plants are always determined. For the most part, subject to the same regulations as other	The French legislation on the environment requires mandatory impact assessment studies, ERC measures and the measure to follow the	Marine EARS , Stiftung Offshore Winden ergie , BSH underwater sound ,	No data.	Windpark development is regulated by Dutch law . To manage the pressure, specific sound level criteria need to be met during construction. These are regularly reviewed. For the construction of Borssele measures to limit or monitor the introduction of impulsive sound included a	Due to the lack of renewable energy installations, there are no studies to assess the environmental impact of such installations. The		Managed through statutory consent processes i.e. licensing, environmental assessments, etc. All Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)& Developments of National Significance (DNS) in Wales required to go through the Planning Inspectorate process in England and undertake EIAs and HRAs under the various

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>exploration, construction and exploitation. The conditions are based on the results of the EIA process.</p>	<p>reports are currently available, written in preparation for revision of guidelines (references provided). Until the revised guidelines are presented pile driving is regulated by guidelines based on two background reports (references provided).</p>	<p>construction. Should always be based on the land use plans drafted in accordance with the Land Use and Building Act. Building permits are always required. It should be noted that land use planning has no means of solving issues related to special legislation. Depending on the location, an obstacle approval pursuant to the Aviation Act, a water permit pursuant to the Water Act or an environmental permit pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act may be required.</p>	<p>impact of offshore wind farms (OWF). In 2017, the Ministry of Environment revised the guideline to realise the impact assessment studies for OWF. In addition, the Ministry of environment chairs a working group about cumulative effects with the aim to elaborate new guidelines in 2021. The pressures on marine mammals are identified as a priority in this working group.</p>	<p>GeoSeaPortal. See also 3.4. *</p>		<p>maximum sound level during piling of SEL @ 750m: 160-172 dB re $\mu\text{Pa}^2\text{s}$. Noise was to be monitored continuously and mitigated if the criteria were exceeded. The NL has developed the 'Framework for Assessing Ecological and Cumulative effects' (KEC). Sound Exposure Level (SEL) threshold value at 750 metre from the source for piling has been set for the construction of all offshore wind farms on the Dutch Continental Shelf. This threshold will remain subject to review as new information becomes available. In addition to the noise threshold, mitigation measures (ADD, soft start) have to be used to encourage harbour porpoises to move away in order to reduce the risk of hearing damage (Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS)). More information can be found in the Updated Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise in the Netherlands.</p>	<p>environmental impact, as well as mitigation and remedial measures of the planned offshore wind farms will be determined within the EIA procedure. Investors applying for permits rely, among others, on the experience of other Baltic countries on this issue.</p>		<p>national and EU legislation. In relation to offshore wind construction in the Southern North Sea SAC, there is also the requirement for projects to undertake a pre-construction Site Integrity Plan (SIP). Underwater noise guidance for noisy activities in SACs published by JNCC, NE and DAERA (2020). JNCC mitigation guidelines for underwater explosions, seismic activity and pile driving. All marine projects in Scotland licensed through Marine Scotland and required to go through EIA and HRA. All marine projects in Northern Ireland licensed through DAERA and required to go through EIA and HRA. All marine projects in Wales licensed through Natural Resources Wales and required to go through EIA and HRA. The Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process was introduced to streamline the decision-making process for major infrastructure projects, making it fairer and faster for communities and applicants alike.</p>

4.7. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ocean energy in your country.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yearly monitoring reports here .	Not aware of any. *	SmartSea project : the integrated value of nature will be assessed and discussed with the different stakeholders. In the future, this helps planners to do decisions that are efficient, and accepted by the society. Marine Spatial Planning of offshore wind farms: environmental values and cost .	The France Energie Marine Institute for the energetic transition is very active in the field of innovation for renewable marine energy and environment.	5 publications listed, such as The soundscape of the Anthropocene ocean ; Small cetacean in a human high-use area: Trends in harbour porpoise abundance in the North Sea over two decades ; Effects of multiple exposures to pile driving noise on harbor porpoise hearing during simulated flights . *	None.	2 projects: WOZEP Offshore wind energy ecological programme initiated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Rijkswaterstaat is ongoing to study gaps in our knowledge relating to the impact of offshore wind farms on the ecosystem of the North Sea. PAM conducted during construction of the Borssele wind parks. 2 additional publications listed.	No information available. *		9 publications listed, such as Passive acoustic methods for tracking the 3D movements of small cetaceans around marine structures ; Collision risk modelling for tidal energy devices: A flexible simulation-based approach ; Impulsive noise pollution in the Northeast Atlantic . For projects see also 3.3.

4.8. Mark the perceived level of pressure from ocean energy in your country to the table below.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Wind energy - unchanged.	Wind energy - increasing: The rate of construction of offshore wind farms has been relatively constant, but the individual projects and turbine foundations are increasing.	Wind energy - unknown: constructions are increasing, however level of pressure to harbour porpoise is unknown.	-	Wind energy - decreasing: no construction work in 2020. Increasing in Schleswig-Holstein due to the (generally) increasing number of activities and ongoing pressures.	Wind energy - increasing: planned wind park projects.	Wind energy - increasing: planned wind park projects.	No information available *		Wind energy - increasing: Planned installation of wind energy is increasing and will continue to increase in the future as the UK looks to meet their green / net zero targets. Wave power - unchanged: Some application in process. No change to present installations in 2020. Tidal energy - increasing: Number of installed turbines increased in Wales since 2019. Many more planned in future. Tidal lagoon/ barrage - unchanged: Notable applications expired so no current installations. Future applications probable.

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

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?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
OSPAR	OSPAR, HELCOM	HELCOM. Sea-Dumped Chemical Munitionsal Munitions . About 40,000 tonnes of chemical munitions were dumped into the Baltic Sea after the Second World War. It is estimated that these chemical munitions contained some 15,000 tonnes of chemical warfare agents.	OSPAR	OSPAR, HELCOM, Schleswig-Holstein , ICES .	Unknown	OSPAR	-		OSPAR

8.2. How many UXOs were detonated / released at sea?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
For impulsive noise, we would like to point to the relevant submissions on ODIMS and to ICES . Data on these platforms are up to date as much as possible but can still change. For UxO, the data can be found here .	10-49 (for 2019), see ICES	-	100+	-	100+	-	-		100+

8.3. Have there been any other instances/issues related to the issue of unexploded ordnance during the reporting period in your country?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	Unknown. No incident has been reported but cannot conclude they have not happened.	No.	The instability of seabed hardens the mine sweeping because an UXO can be release or disappear in a short period of time. Besides, it is safer to eliminate the UXO directly underwater because of potential instability due to corrosion state. This can lead many technical obstacles, such as depth intervention or UXO treatment within protected areas. It can be hazardous to pull up a submerge unexploded ordnance because of the danger of pulling up unexploded ordnances to the open air without the knowledge of their state of preservation. Based on our current knowledge, it seems safer to let unexploded ordnances submerged where their condition remain stable whereas to bring the open air, which could quicken their deterioration and hazardness.	Yes. detection of British airborne ground mines (WW II) at STOLLER GROUND, just north of traffic separation zone KIEL-LIGHTHOUSE. Remaining in the sea, area has been indicated as "explosives dumping ground" (code 23.4) on Nautical Charts. *	No.	No.	Yes. In 2020, 3 naval mines were neutralised, located in the area under the jurisdiction of the Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia.		No.

8.4. How is the issue of unexploded ordnances being managed?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Consultation ongoing with the	Regulated by the Environmental	Finnish Navy is responsible of	French navy is in charge of localization and treatment of unexploded ordnance.	Lower Saxony: binding guideline for the handling UXO. Major features: if possible, UXOs are	Every year a planned area to be	-	Maritime Authorities are responsible for the coordination of operations involving		Through marine mammal mitigation protocols, and through limitation of numbers, frequencies and

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>military about the use of acoustic deterrence (seal scarer) prior to detonation.</p>	<p>Department of the Danish Ministry of Defence estate agency</p>	<p>management of unexploded ordnance. Information is mostly restricted.</p>	<p>Specialised units are employed to lead operations to detect and neutralize UXO at sea or on shore. Special procedures in case of discovery of UXO by sea users. When countermining is not avoidable, operations are examined on a case-by-case basis according to an environmental safety risk assessment. Measures to prevent environmental damages are taken such as wildlife dispersal and mitigation measures before and during explosion. When countermining is avoidable or is not an acceptable option, the State representative at sea (Maritime Prefet) can decide an alternative way to handle unexploded ordnances such as gathering in a referenced munition warehouse or regulating the activities in the zone.</p>	<p>defused. If not possible, UXOs are towed to tidal areas, where ignition above water level is possible during low tide. If removal is not possible, ignition is carried out on site, using double bubble curtain and seal scarer. (Link) Since 2009 the German cross-administrative working group seeks and shares information between public authorities from federal and state-level are being responsible for relevant areas of concern with regard to UXOs → guidelines were implemented between authorities and recommendations were drafted and submitted to the general public (see annual report of the working group in German). Explosive Ordnance disposal 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</p>	<p>cleaned from UXOs. Military is reacting to any call related to observed UXOs.</p>		<p>the detonation of explosives in marine areas. Prior to the detonation, they always apply to the Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection (RDEP) for permission to derogate from the prohibitions applicable to protected animal species. Since the Jastarnia Group meeting in June 2020, work is underway to develop new methods with more modern protective measures. 3rd Ship Flotilla is responsible for clearing beaches of the seacoast of Pomerania and Warmia-Masuria Voivodships from explosive and dangerous objects. 8th Coastal Defence Flotilla is responsible for beaches of the seacoast of Western Pomerania Voivodship and marine areas of Poland.</p>		<p>timings of explosions in some cases. Marine mammal protocols typically include the use of marine mammal observers, passive acoustic monitoring, and ADDs. Due to the effectiveness of ADDs at displacing marine mammals to distances outside the injury zone, it is not typically recommended in English waters to also use 'scare charges'; small explosions (typically <250g) ramping up in size prior to UXO detonation. Bubble curtains to be used for munitions over 50kg, assuming certain environmental conditions are met. However, there is still no evidence they are effective for UXOs in the North Sea. Managed by Marine Scotland through licensing processes with mitigation applied on a case-by-case basis. In Wales, managed by Natural Resources Wales through licensing processes with mitigation applied on a case-by-case basis. Alternatives to high order detonation, i.e. low order detonation, are beginning to be considered for marine developments (details provided). JNCC guidelines for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from geophysical surveys.</p>

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
				pingers/seal scarers, use of bubble curtains. *					

8.5. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on the issue of unexploded ordnance in your country

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	None in open sources in 2019 and 2020.	DAIMON 2 offers training in using the new tools and develops them further into standard operating procedures for the environmental impact assessment. DAIMON project : Decision Aid for Marine Munitions (partners from PL, DE, SE, FI, NO collaborating with experts worldwide, united by the goal of solving the problem of underwater munitions. It has budget of 900.000 EUR and is part-financed by the EU INTERREG Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020).	An ongoing inter-ministerial working group is dedicated to unexploded ordnance issue in order to increase our knowledge of localisation and nature of unexploded ordnances, to collect scientific information about conservation state and to strengthen the efficiency of our national environmental monitoring.	The contribution of underwater noise effects as causes for bycatch need to be investigated in detail in order to find successful management solutions because cetaceans may be permanently (PTS) or temporarily (TTS) impacted by underwater noise, showing strong behaviour reactions and being stressed or unable to detect nets by masking underwater noise. (Report .) Publication: Exploration of the munition dumpsite Kolberger Heide in Kiel Bay, Germany . For information on the expert group and their annual reports see here . Projects: DAIMON (lead: Poland); UDEM ; RoBEM ; MSFD Measure UZ2-04 (Dealing with munitions at sea) including following aspects: Measures for dealing with hazardous situations; Measures to complete the still incomplete knowledge; Development of a systematic procedure for risk assessment and prioritization of munitions contaminated areas. Ongoing historical document research to gather information in order to improve the knowledge about UXO locations, participating in international research projects like DAIMON II , BASTA with regards to munitions in the seas. *	None in open source in 2020.	-	6 research / collaborations listed, incl. on decision support on dumped ammunition; support for decision-making on how to deal with dumped ammunition on the bottom of the Baltic Sea; Characterisation of interactions between, dumped in the Baltic, chemical warfare agents and water by means of experimental studies and first-principles calculations; Toxicity and biodegradation of chemical weapons dumped in the marine environment.		BEIS Off-shore SEA Research Programme, and associated 4 papers listed, e.g. Underwater acoustic characterisation of unexploded ordnance disposal using deflagration .

8.6. Is the perceived level of pressure from unexploded ordnance in your country:

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Staying the same. It increased around 2008 due to the many	Staying the same. There has been what is perceived as a steady level of activity over the last decade, limited by the	Unknown.	Staying the same.	Not applicable. As a result of the corona crisis, less blastings were carried out in 2020 in the territorial waters of Schleswig-Holstein.	Staying the same.	Staying the same.	Staying the same, N/A. In the future, it is planned to build wind farms, which		Unknown: All offshore developments must ensure their sites are safe and clear of UXOs before construction begins. Given the UK ambitions for offshore wind development, it can be assumed the requirement for UXO

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
construction works for off-shore wind-farms (including cable laying).	capacity of the Navy for clearing UXOs. No actual numbers are available prior to 2019.			ITAW points out that the pressure increases in relation to the whole area which comprises both the German territorial waters and the EEZ.			will certainly increase the noise level at the stage of their construction.		clearance will increase. However, should deflagration or other low-order methods become best practice, the impacts from this clearance should be less than if using traditional, high-order methods of detonation.

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

D. Management of Cumulative Impacts

15. Marine Spatial Planning

15.1. Please provide information in regard to current and foreseen marine spatial planning.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>National: Marine spatial plan 2020-2026 in force.</p> <p>Trans-boundary: Espoo procedures applied.</p>	<p>National: The first Danish MSP will be sent out for consultation in March 2021. DMAs website will furthermore be updated with relevant information, links and event dates.</p> <p>Trans-boundary: No official trans-boundary MSP plans has been conducted, though international collaborations is broadly used for intra-</p>	<p>National: The Maritime Spatial Plan 2030 covering Finland’s territorial waters and EEZ is complete, approved Nov-Dec 2020. MSP map.</p> <p>Trans-boundary: HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG has developed The Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation (adopted 2016). The Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group has</p>	<p>National: Currently being prepared. Strategic part (environmental objectives) adopted in 2019 and operational part (action plans, monitoring program) to be adopted in 2022. France implements the MFSD along with the MSPD, within one single planning document for each marine region. The new National Strategy for protected areas (2020-2030) also supports ambitious objectives to develop our national network, including strongly protected areas (10% of national seas by 2030).</p> <p>Transboundary: France is involved in CetAMBICion project</p>	<p>National: Maritime Spatial Planning of the EEZ (North and Baltic Seas) - consultation started 2020; Schleswig-Holstein; Mecklenburg Vorpommern (2016); Niedersachsen (2017). The first periodic update of the Maritime Spatial Planning (ROP) of the German EEZ in the North and Baltic (2009) started consultation of a draft plan in 2020. The final update is scheduled for 2021. A periodic update of the Site Development Plan for offshore Wind Energy in the German EEZ (2020).</p> <p>Transboundary: The BSH has been a partner in European projects on maritime spatial planning since 2009. The main topics are energy, shipping and the environment. In the North</p>	<p>National: Lithuania MSP was approved by Lithuanian parliament in 2015. The new Comprehensive plan of the Territory of Lithuania is in final stage now (see summary & its SEA in English). Its MSP part is now in action. European MSP Platform.</p> <p>Trans-boundary: Poland and Lithuania are jointly implementing Harmony Link, which aims to create a new</p>	-	<p>National: Maritime Spatial Plan of Polish Sea Areas in scale 1:200 000. The Spatial Development Plan for Polish sea area has been drafted, but in accordance with national law, it will be adopted in the form of a regulation of the Council of Ministers. Legislative work is advanced, and it is expected that the regulation on the</p>		<p>National: In force: Scotland NMP, Welsh NMP, England MSP, Marine Plan for Northern Ireland, East England Marine Plan, South England Marine Plan. National marine plans in preparation (awaiting approval): North East England, North West England,</p>

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
	national sparing concerning our ongoing MSP work. See link .	worked since 2010 for regionally coherent regional Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the Baltic Sea.	(2021-2022), shared by FR, ES, PT and financed by the EU, it aims to facilitate regional cooperation in the implementation of the MSFD, and to propose a coordinated strategy for the assessment, monitoring and management of cetacean by-catches in the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian coast sub-region.	Sea region, all neighbouring countries (except DK) have prepared and approved MSPs, with varying degrees of detail, focus or legal obligation. In the Baltic Sea region, LT & DE has so far established a valid spatial planning plan which also covers the maritime areas. With HELCOM and OSPAR there are intergovernmental structures that pursue objectives that require cross-border coordination.	electricity connection. It will be a submarine cable line built using high voltage direct current technology. This project is of strategic importance to the EU and to the energy security of the whole of Central and Eastern Europe.		adoption of the plan will enter into force in March 2021. (Link) Transboundary: The draft development plan for the Polish Sea Areas underwent consultations with vulnerable countries as part of the strategic environmental assessment.		South East England, South West England, Northern Ireland. Transboundary: N/a. (The UK does not have any transboundary plans in preparation or in force. *)

15.2. Have there been any other instances/issues in your country regarding marine spatial planning during the reporting period?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No. DMA is participating in the following MSP groups: NorthSEE, North Sea MSP Collaboration Group, HELCOM/VASAB, capacity4MSP, Planners forum, Member States Expert Group (MSEG).	No.	Yes. Ministry of Seas recently created.	Yes. In 2020 a great effort took place on the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the periodic update of MSP for the German EEZ. Both drafts of MSP-plan and Environmental Report have been open to consultation. The first consultation phase was finished in December 2020.		No.	Yes. Department Gospodarki Morskiej, Ministerstwo Infrastruktury.		No.

15.3. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine spatial planning in your country.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
See here for a full overview of background and brochure.	6 publications listed (from 2017-20) e.g. ECOMAR: A data-driven framework for ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial	Work under MSP has been very active in Finland during the last few years. Scenarios for maritime areas 2050 : These are descriptions of the possible and alternative futures of the	EU project SIMNORAT (Supporting the Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the North Atlantic Region)	Small cetacean in a human high-use area: Trends in harbour porpoise abundance in the North Sea over two decades. BfN 2020: Naturschutzfachlicher Planungsbeitrag des Bundesamtes für Naturschutz zur	Assessing marine ecosystem services richness and exposure to anthropogenic threats in small sea areas: A case	-	-		MarPAMM is an environment project to develop tools for monitoring and managing a number of protected coastal marine environments in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland. Managing marine protected areas in

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
	Planning in Danish marine waters.	operating environment in Finnish maritime areas until 2050.		Fortschreibung der Raumordnungspläne für die deutsche Ausschließliche Wirtschaftszone in der Nord- und Ostsee	study for the Lithuanian sea space.				Europe: Moving from 'feature-based' to 'whole-site' management of sites

Section VII: Other Matters

A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-

B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	It is a slow process to develop and implement indicators of the EU MSFD. Once implemented, these will hopefully provide a framework, that will ensure progress in protecting this species. The lack of sufficient information on bycatch covering both the Baltic and the Belt Sea population makes it impossible to assess the treat level and decide on mitigations (not covered by subjects in this report).	-	See "key messages" above mentioned.	No difficulties.	-	-	-		No further comments.

C. Burning Issues

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Overcoming challenges to protect beaked whales in the Northeast Atlantic - ASCOBANS Intersessional Working Group Report.	Ensuring funding for SAMBAH-II, since it is of key importance to monitor the Baltic Proper population and to ensure that key sites for this population are stable and that protection is applied where needed.	-	No further comments.	No burning issues.	-	-	-		No further comment.