SCANS-IV
Small Cetaceans in European Atlantic waters and the North Sea

Photo: M. Scheidat

AC 26 ASCOBANS
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**Summary**

**SCANS-IV** is the fourth SCANS survey (1994, 2005, 2016). It is covering shelf and offshore waters of the European Atlantic.

The main objectives are:

- Abundance estimates and trend assessment of the regularly occurring cetacean species by population-wide surveys

Provide outputs for Member States to report under the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive** (Article 8: due 2024), the **Habits Directive** (Article 17: 2019 – 2024) and for **OSPAR/HELCOM** assessments.

Provide outputs for **impact assessments** of offshore industries and fisheries.

Development of a **governance framework** for future SCANS surveys conducted in 6-year cycles to ensure long-term implementation.
Draft study area

Aerial surveys
- 8 to 9 planes
- Using regional (existing) survey teams where available

Shipboard surveys
- 2 to 3 vessels
- Covering primarily offshore waters
Project structure

Funding bodies*  | Scientific project partners
---|---
Denmark  | Aarhus University
France  | La Rochelle University
Germany  | University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover
Netherlands  | Wageningen Marine Research
Portugal  | Instituto da Conservação da Natureza
Spain  | Instituto Español de Oceanografía
Sweden  | Swedish Museum of Natural History
United Kingdom  | University of St. Andrews, Joint Nature Conservation Committee

*can be several agencies per country

Project coordination

- Survey preparation
- Survey area and transect design
- Aerial surveys
- Boat surveys
- Data validation
- Abundance estimates and trend analyses for MSFD
- Development future governance framework SCANS surveys
- Final report and dissemination of results in relevant fora

Time line

- Q1 2022: Survey preparation
- Q2 2022: Survey area and transect design
- Q3 2022: Aerial surveys
- Q4 2022: Boat surveys
- Q1 2023: Data validation
- Q2 2023: Abundance estimates and trend analyses for MSFD
- Q3 2023: Development future governance framework SCANS surveys
- Q4 2023: Final report and dissemination of results in relevant fora
Thank you to all funding agencies for their commitment for SCANS-IV!

Thanks to the ongoing efforts from the participating institutes to get this off the ground.

And thanks to ASCOBANS for supporting this process .... and we hope Parties can continue to do so to make sure it is a success.