

Agenda Item 6.1

Cooperation with other Bodies

Reports by the Secretariat, Parties and
Partners

Information Document 6.1b

Information document from ICES

Action Requested

Take note

Submitted by

ICES



Information document by ICES
Relevant to ASCOBANS AC27 agenda items 2.1 (Bycatch) and
2.5 (Use of stranding records)

1. Coordination of stranding data gathering and data format

ICES is developing the database format and initiation of systematic collection of stranding data (see section 5, ICES, 2022a). Stranding data is to some extent already used to inform ICES bycatch assessments of marine mammals. However, a new database will hopefully utilise more of the information available, be more compatible and have a better format linked to systematic data collection. The database should also include information on necropsy findings, life history parameters and health status, which can aid in the interpretation of the stranding data and improve our understanding of marine mammals' mortality.

Several organizations (e.g. IWC, ASCOBANS, HELCOM) already request submission of cetacean stranding data, therefore an ICES data call on marine mammals stranding data may represent an extra burden and seen as duplication of efforts. By harmonizing and/or joining data calls for collection of stranding data (including information on both cetaceans and seals) by all relevant international organizations, the workload can be optimised. ICES has highlighted the need for effective cooperation with conservation and regional sea management organisations (e.g. ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS, HELCOM, and OSPAR) to improve data collection, information sharing, indicator development, joint methodology and efficient use of resources (ICES, 2022b) and would support any such joint initiatives with active participation.

References

ICES. 2022a. Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology (WGMME). ICES Scientific Reports. In prep.

ICES. 2022b. Road map for ICES bycatch advice on protected, endangered, and threatened species. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, section 1.6. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19657167>

2. Current work on improving protected species bycatch monitoring

ICES is currently addressing a special request for advice from EU DG ENVIRONMENT on appropriate bycatch monitoring systems for protected species. Work done so far to answer this request includes: i) a review of monitoring PETS bycatch of mammals, birds, turtles and fish (Murphy *et al.*, 2022) and, ii) a technical service containing inventory of EU Member States' monitoring programmes of bycatch of PETS (ICES, 2022c). Further work will include two

dedicated workshops in 2023 (dates to be decided). The workshops will analyze case studies and data sets collected under different monitoring programs/sampling protocols and will identify criteria and best practices for designing a multipurpose programme for sampling and estimating bycatch of PETS. Both workshops will be open meetings and will benefit from participation of relevant ASCOBANS members.

References

- Murphy, S., Borges, L., Tasker, M. 2022. External report on the review of monitoring PETS bycatch of mammals, birds, turtles and fish for ICES under the service of EC DG Environment. ICES Scientific Reports. 4:17. 69 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.10075>
- ICES 2022c. EU request on the inventory of Member States' monitoring programmes of bycatch of protected, endangered, and threatened species under the service of EC DG ENVIRONMENT. ICES Advice: Technical Services. Report. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices>