2.1. Bycatch

National Reports 2021

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2.1.1 How is bycatch assessed/monitored in your country?

Figure 1: Number of countries using each respective bycatch assessment.
2.1.2. Which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch by commercial fishing in the reporting period?

- None: Finland
- N/A: Belgium, Lithuania

![Diagram showing bycaught species by commercial fishing.](image)

**Figure 2:** Bycaught species by commercial fishing.
2.1.3. Which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch by recreational fishing in the reporting period?

Harbour porpoise:
- Belgium (an illegally set beach trammel net in area 27.4.c)
- Germany

Short-beaked common dolphin:
- United Kingdom (rod and line in the area 27.7)

None or N/A:
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Lithuania
- The Netherlands
- Poland
2.1.4. Has there been any notable incidents/issues related to bycatch during the reporting period in your country?

Yes

France*

No

Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom

* Multiple stranding events with a short peak in end of February.

Table 1: Countries that reported incidents/ issues related to bycatch.
2.1.5. Are there any mitigation measures in place?

Answers included:
- Prohibition of recreational use of gillnets and trammel nets
- Use of acoustic deterrent devices
- Seasonal closure in selected areas
- Use of pingers (mandatory/voluntary)
- Gear modification

Figure 3: Number of countries with or without mitigation in places.
2.1.6. Have there been changes in fishing effort (for fisheries known to have an impact) in the reporting period?

Changes, *inter alia*:
- Decrease in gillnet and trammel net effort
- Decrease in fishing effort
- Depleted resources

Figure 4: Response by countries to changes in fishing effort.
2.1.7. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on bycatch in your country.

Denmark  1 report and 1 paper in journal
France    4 projects and 1 initiative at national level
Germany   4 publications
Lithuania 1 collaboration at regional level (BALTFISH)
The Netherlands 1 initiative (CIBBRiNA)
Poland    1 collaboration (CIBBRiNA)
United Kingdom 12 (7 new work, 3 publications, 1 workshop, 1 report)
None      Belgium, Finland
2.1.8. Is the perceived level of pressure from bycatch in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Staying the same: United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Lithuania, France
Unknown: Belgium (Harbour porpoise), France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland
N/A: Finland

Figure 5: Perception of pressure level from resource depletion.