

Agenda Item 2

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

National Report 1

2022 Annual National Report: Finland

Action Requested

Take note

Submitted by

Finland



ASCOBANS

2022 ASCOBANS National Report

The deadline for the submission of National Reports is **31 May 2023**.

As outlined in ASCOBANS Resolution 8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting, this form will cover the year 2022 (Year 3), and the following topics included in the Annex to the Resolution, in addition to the standard Sections I (General Information) and VII (Other Matters):

- Cetacean watching industry (Section II B5)
- Recreational sea use (Section II B6)
- Other sources of disturbance (Section II B7)
- Pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics) (Section II C10)
- Ship strikes (Section II C11)
- Climate change (Section II C12)
- Physical habitat change (Section II C13)
- Other issues (Section II C14)
- Protected areas (Section II E16)
- Education and outreach (Section VI A)

The national reports submitted will inform discussions at the 28th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (26-28 September 2023).

- All questions apply to the reporting period of 1 January - 31 December 2022.
- Region in the tables refers to the sub-regions as defined by the HELCOM and OSPAR, and Areas refers to the sub-areas as defined by ICES. An overview and maps of these can be found in **Annex A**. Species can be chosen from the list provided, based on ASCOBANS species list, see **Annex B**.
- Throughout the form, please include relevant web links where applicable.

Where possible, National Coordinators should consult with, or delegate to, experts for particular topics so as to ease the reporting burden. The Secretariat has provided a list of potential country contacts as a starting point. Once the baseline information is in place, it should become easier to update in the future.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat: ascobans.secretariat@ascobans.org.

High-level Summary of Key Messages

In your country, for 2022 (Year 3), what does this report reveal about:

The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement?(List up to five items)

>>> Finland has been active participating in the work of ASCOBANS
Finland has been active to take part in the work to find funding for SAMBAH II.

The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement? (List up to five items)

>>> No major challenges.

The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement? (List up to five items)

>>> To implement the proposed work in SAMBAH II and continue finding effective conservation measures for Baltic proper harbour porpoise.

I. General Information

A. Country Information

Name of Party / Non-Party Range State:

>>> Finland

Details of the Report Compiler

Name:

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Function:

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Does the Report Compiler act as ASCOBANS National Coordinator (i.e. focal point)?

Yes

Details of contributor(s)

Please provide the following details per contributor:

Topic(s) contributed to, Name, Function, Organization, Postal Address, Telephone, and Email.

>>> To all topics:

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II. Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

5. Cetacean Watching Industry

AIM: to determine if the developing cetacean watching industry poses a threat to small cetaceans.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 6.1, 5.4

Whale and dolphin watching is a global industry that can provide socio-economic benefits to local communities by attracting tourism, as well as strengthening public awareness of conservation needs. However, it also has the potential of being harmful when it interferes with the behaviour of animals in their natural environment and may even lead to injury or death. As the cetacean watching industry is still scarcely developed in some countries, collecting this data now allows tracking the development of the industry.

It is of particular importance to ASCOBANS to obtain an overview of the current scale of the activities and to monitor the development of the industry in the future. This is done by quantifying the number and locations of operators, reporting negative interactions and providing information on the development and implementation of any guidelines regarding cetacean watching.

Filling out this section accurately and completely will help to detect any indications of potential threats, allow timely mitigation action and enable Parties and Non-Party Range States to work towards a coordinated approach regarding the development of cetacean watching guidelines in the Agreement Area.

Note: We are only addressing commercial cetacean watching activities which take place from vessels and include viewing of small cetacean species. Operators are defined as those offering trips with a **primary focus:** they advertise specifically with the aim to see small cetaceans, or a **secondary focus:** they advertise either for other taxa, such as birds or seals, or large cetaceans, or more general for wildlife, but mention the opportunity to see small cetaceans.

5.1. Do you have any commercial small cetacean watching industry operation in your country?

No. Go to Question 5.3.

5.3. Does your country have a definition of the term 'harassment' in general and/or as it relates to the Cetacean Watching Industry?

For example, the US Marine Mammal Protection Act uses the term harassment, and defines two levels: Level A harassment means any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance that has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild. Level B harassment refers to acts that have the potential to disturb (but not injure) a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by disrupting behavioural patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

Yes

Provide definition:

>>> Nature conservation act 70§ stipulates that intentional harassment of all protected animal species is forbidden.

5.4. Have there been any incidents of harassment towards small cetaceans in the context of commercial cetacean watching reported to authorities during the reporting period?

No

5.5. Does your country have any operators that offer swimming with dolphins (or other small cetaceans)?

In some parts of the world, this has become an important tourism industry with potential impacts for both small cetaceans and swimmers. Although scarcely developed, it has occurred within the ASCOBANS Agreement Area, and requires at least background monitoring. Sometimes incidents occur and can lead to harm for small cetaceans and/or swimmers.

No

5.6. List any incidents of harassment to small cetaceans during the reporting period in your country in the context of swimming with small cetaceans reported to authorities - and the outcome if known (behavioural response, injury, death, any court proceedings).

Per date, please provide: the context of incidence, outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death), legal procedures/court proceedings/convictions that took place, responsible authority for such reports,

and link to websites or documentation of the report.

>>> NA

5.7. Are there any solitary sociable dolphin interactions in your country?

Occasionally, individual solitary dolphins may associate with humans, resulting in increased interactions between the two which may lead to impacts upon either. Sometimes incidents occur and can lead to harm for small cetaceans and/or swimmers.

Please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue link button below.

Select "Yes" when you have attached the table.

No. Go to Question 5.10.

5.10. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on the cetacean watching industry, "swim with small cetacean" operations, solitary sociable dolphin interactions and their possible effects on small cetaceans in your country.

List initiatives/projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information).

>>> NA

5.11. Have there been any other instances/issues related to the cetacean watching industry during the reporting period in your country?

No

5.12. Is the perceived level of pressure from commercial small cetacean watching in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Not Applicable. Comments:

6. Recreational Sea Use

AIM: to determine whether recreational sea use is detrimental to small cetaceans and, if so, to identify types of activity and areas of concern.

Relevant Resolutions: **8.9, 8.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.4**

Recreational use of the sea by humans includes a wide variety of activities, some of which are known to have a potential negative impact on small cetaceans. This includes the use of RIBs (rigid-hulled inflatable boats), hard-hulled boats exceeding 10 knots in speed, yachts and personal watercrafts such as jet skis, kayaks and surfboards; and excludes recreational fishing and sea-angling.

Interactions can cause animals to change behaviour and move away, but can also have more serious impacts, such as injury or even death due to collision. ASCOBANS has agreed on a number of resolutions that highlight the importance to review all available information on recreational use of the sea. Obtaining an overview of best practices and guidelines will enable comparisons to be made across the Agreement Area, and ultimately may lead to the provision of overall, consistent guidelines that might be developed at a regional or national level. In this section we strive to obtain an overview of potential risk areas and national sources that have data on incidents with small cetaceans related to recreational sea use.

6.1. Are data on recreational sea use available for your country?

Yes. Please provide information below.

Provide the type of information (e.g. number of licensed recreational vessels per region, tourist number per region, other) and web link or other relevant link to the data (where can this information be found)

>>> Look at the previous reports.

6.2. Is the information on main areas of recreational sea use available for your country?

Many Range States are mapping human activities to fulfil obligations under the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, MSFD, OSPAR, and HELCOM; this information is relevant (though often not readily accessible) to ASCOBANS in understanding the extent and trends of human activities potentially impacting small cetaceans.

Yes. Please provide information below.

Provide per region (Annex A): type of information (e.g. maps, GIS, reports), whether the data is available online, and link to data, or comment on unavailability.

>>> Look at previous reports.

6.3. Were there any incidents of disturbance or harassment to small cetaceans in relation to recreational sea use in your country?

Unknown

6.4. Does your country have any mitigation measures (codes of conduct/guidelines/laws/rules) in place in the event of disturbance or harassment of small cetaceans through recreational sea use?

No

6.5. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on disturbance or harassment of small cetaceans through recreational sea use in your country?

List initiatives/projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information.

>>> NA

6.6. Have there been any other instances/issues related to recreational sea use in your country during the reporting period?

No

6.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from recreational sea use in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Staying the same

Please provide the nature of the evidence and describe per species (Annex B) where applicable:

>>> NA

7. Other Sources of Disturbance

AIM: to identify new sources of disturbance that could be a threat to small cetaceans.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 6.1

Overlap of small cetacean and human habitat use is not covered by the questions above, while human activities in the seas are increasing, particularly in the coastal zone. Human activities can, for example, cause a small cetacean to change behaviour, or it can cause physical harm or death. This section aims to identify new sources of disturbance that could be a threat to small cetaceans. The issue of noise is covered under section B3.

7.1. Have there been any incidents of disturbance to small cetaceans in your country during the reporting period, not covered in the items above?

Any incidents of disturbance to small cetaceans not covered in Sections B5 or B6.

Unknown

7.2. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on other sources of disturbance in your country.

List initiatives/projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other information.

>>> NA

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

10. Pollution and Hazardous Substances (incl. microplastics)

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating impacts of important current and emerging pollution-related hazards on small cetaceans. during the reporting period

Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 8.8, **8.7**, 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, **7.4**, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7

Marine environments have been subject to a wide range of different types of pollution over the last decades. Top predators, such as small cetaceans that feed on higher trophic prey, tend to accumulate many of these potentially hazardous substances. There are a number of contaminants and pathogens that are known, or suspected, to have impacts on small cetacean health, immune status or reproduction. These include, for example: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs), oil pollution (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), toxins from harmful algal blooms (HABs), sewage, radionuclides, toxic elements, tri-butyl tin (TBT), morbillivirus, and Brucella. In addition, micro- and nano-plastics are also present in marine environment and their impacts are presently poorly understood. Monitoring can be done using body tissue from small cetaceans obtained from live animals through biopsies, or from dead animals that are generally found on the shore. Necropsies allow the sampling of different types of tissue such as blubber, muscle, kidney or liver and these can be analyzed subsequently.

To better understand the impact of contaminants on small cetacean health, to detect new emerging

hazards and to work towards a common protocol for analyzing samples, countries are asked to provide information on their programs.

Note: Includes microplastics. Macroplastics and discarded fishing gear are covered under Section C 9 Marine Debris.

10.1. Does your country conduct monitoring of pollutants in small cetaceans?

Several pollutants have serious effects on individual small cetaceans and can threaten populations. The aim is to capture the nature of existing monitoring and identify gaps in terms of which pollutants are monitored, the extent of this monitoring and the establishment of securely funded long-term data series.

No. Go to Question 10.7.

10.7. Does your country determine microplastics in small cetaceans?

No. Go to Question 10.9.

10.9. If applicable, list any additional evidence/data of reduced impacts of pollutants on small cetaceans following implementation of national mitigation measures (e.g. decline of contaminant levels in blubber over time).

>>> NA

10.10. Have there been any instances/issues related to pollution and hazardous substances in your country during the reporting period?

No

10.11. Is the perceived level of pressure from pollution and hazardous substances in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Unknown

11. Ship Strikes

AIM: understanding the potential risk of ship strike as a cause of injury/death in small cetaceans.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 8.2, 8.1 (Rev.MOP9), 6.1, 5.4

Ship strikes are collisions between vessels and cetaceans. In the last decades, evidence has emerged that ship strikes might occur more often than previously thought and can have a significant impact on small resident cetacean populations. Most research so far has focused on large cetaceans as those animals are often carried visibly into port at the bow of a vessel. For small cetaceans, ship strike events are not well documented.

Ship strike occurrence is directly linked to the frequency of shipping activity, including such directed at cetaceans, i.e. cetacean watching. To quantify this pressure, it is important to know what kind of vessels are involved in the strike, as well as the type, size and speed of the vessel. But it is also important to have information on the small cetaceans involved, in particular if the animals were engaged in certain behaviour such as feeding.

Ship strike can cause direct death or injury in cetaceans. Even collisions that are non-fatal might leave individuals with a reduction in their chance of survival. To determine the occurrence of ship-strikes, different sources are used. For small cetaceans, direct observations are the rarest. Necropsies of stranded animals can find evidence of characteristic trauma and photographs of animals that survived ship strikes can show typical injuries, such as marks left by propellers. One way to quantify how many animals in a population are impacted by ship strike is to assess the percentage of animals in a photo-identification catalogue that bear ship strike marks.

As this is still a not well documented threat, this section aims to obtain an overview of what kind of data and research is available and ongoing in the countries.

11.1 Are there reports available in your country of ship strikes with small cetaceans from visual observations?

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) has a global database for ship strike incidents with small cetaceans. Whether or not your country is Party to the IWC, it is encouraged for countries to provide all ship strike incident information to the IWC database.

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

No

11.2. Are there reports in your country of vessel strikes from necropsies of stranded animals for the reporting period?

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

No

11.3. Does your country have a protocol in use to determine that a cause of death in post-mortem examination is due to a vessel strike?

Yes

Please provide information below:

>>> Finland is using the ASCOBANS protocol.

11.4. Is there evidence in your country from existing photo-identification catalogues of small cetaceans of any non-lethal ship strike during the reporting period?

For populations of small cetaceans, such as bottlenose dolphins, one can identify those animals in photo-identification catalogues of animals that show ship-strike evidence (e.g. scars). Monitoring the % of animals that show ship strike evidence can be a useful tool to monitor the development of this threat.

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

No

11.5. Do you have any other photographs or evidence of ship strikes outside of the photo identification catalogue?

No

11.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ship strikes and its possible effects on small cetaceans in your country.

List initiatives/projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information).

>>> NA

11.7. List any management/policy actions/relevant regulations/guidelines related to mitigating ship strike for small cetaceans (re-routing, tracking animals, ship speed limits) in your country and the year of implementation (current and planned).

Provide web links if available.

>>> NA

11.8. Have there been any other instances/issues of ship strike on small cetaceans in your country in the reporting period?

No

11.9. Is the perceived level of pressure from ship strikes on small cetaceans in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Unknown

12. Climate Change (incl. ocean acidification)

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating negative effects of important and emerging climate change related impacts on small cetaceans.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.4, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7

It is certain that climate change is altering the habitat of cetaceans. However, our understanding of how the predicted changes will impact different species and populations can be further developed by identifying issues and trends through reporting. CMS[1] highlights the importance of addressing potential issues through the engagement of (1) researchers to better understand the underlying processes, as well as (2) conservation managers and policy makers to monitor changes and to mitigate negative impacts. Focus should be given to understanding tangible climate change effects relevant to cetaceans, such as changing ocean temperatures, prey depletion / prey range shifts, ocean acidification, increased frequency and intensity of ocean storms, changes in sea ice and weakening of the North Atlantic Drift. Such occurrences require that we gather evidence on the existence and nature of climate change effects on small cetaceans and evaluate current monitoring programmes and mitigation measures.

This section aims to provide an overview of what kind of activities are already ongoing in the member states to address climate change. The focus is on those actions specifically regarding cetaceans as well as the most likely impacts on their habitat and prey. Climate change possibly represents one of the most important future threat to the status of cetaceans in the ASCOBANS region. Direct effects may arise due to ocean warming, resulting in distribution shifts (generally northward) so that the animals continue to occupy waters with temperature regimes compatible with their thermal niches. Key indirect effects will result from changes in prey distribution and abundance due to ocean warming, ocean acidification and changes in

ocean current systems.

[1]CMS Resolution 12.21on Climate Change and Migratory Species.

12.1. Does your country undertake monitoring that has potential to contribute to knowledge and identification of climate impacts on small cetaceans?

Climate change will have a multitude of possible direct and indirect effects on small cetaceans. Attempting to quantify this is challenging. These questions are an attempt at providing an overview of the type of monitoring programmes that are conducted that may provide indirect evidence of climate change on small cetaceans.

Yes. Continue to Question 12.2.

12.2. Which effects has your country been monitoring during the reporting period?

Hold 'Ctrl' to select multiple options.

Other (specify in comments)

Comments (if possible, provide contact/link to project):

>>> General monitoring of the marine environment and climate e.g. in Helcom context (EN CLIME) and MSFD can contribute to assessments.

12.3. Relevant new research/work/collaborations which provide evidence/data about climate change, including its emerging potential issues and effects on small cetaceans in your country.

List initiatives/projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information); include the species concerned, the climate change effect observed, who did the work)

>>> Look at the Helcom Climate change fact sheet: <https://helcom.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Baltic-Sea-Climate-Change-Fact-Sheet-2021.pdf>

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Helcom Climate Change Fact Sheet](#) - To provide a better understanding of the effects of climate change in the Baltic Sea, Baltic Earth and HELCOM have recently published the first Baltic Sea Climate Change Fact Sheet. The publication compiles the latest available science in the region on what has now become a global emergency.

12.4. Have there been any instances/issues related to identified trends in small cetacean populations as a result of climate change in your country during the reporting period?

No

12.5. Is the perceived level of pressure from climate change to small cetaceans in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Unknown

13. Physical Habitat Change (e.g. from construction)

AIM: human activities in the Agreement Area have the potential to impact upon small cetaceans. Tracking those activities that cause physical habitat change and improving our understanding of their relative impacts will help shape any necessary mitigation action required.

Relevant Resolutions: **8.11 (Rev.MOP9)**, 8.9, 8.6, 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 8.3, 7.1, 6.2, 6.1, 5.7

This section aims to review new information on physical habitat change, e.g. from construction, and its impacts on small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat, and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.

The collation of this information will contribute to the development of risk maps showing the spatial and temporal (by season) distribution of activities that have an impact on small cetaceans, including information provided in National Reports, taking into account the work done by other organizations.

Note: In the term "physical habitat change", we include a) coastal/marine construction – artificial islands, harbours, bridges, oil/gas platforms, wind turbines, tidal turbines; and b) seabed damage – dredging, bottom trawling.

13.1. Provide spatial information on locations (in form of maps and/or links) of physical habitat change in your country by activity type (dredging, marine construction, coastal construction) for the reporting period.

Many range states are mapping human activities to fulfil obligations under the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, MSFD, OSPAR, and HELCOM; this information is relevant (though often not readily accessible) to ASCOBANS in understanding the extent and trends of human activities potentially impacting small cetaceans.

Please provide per region (Annex A): the type of information (e.g. maps, GIS, reports), whether the data is available online, and web links to data, or comment on unavailability.

>>> Look at the Helcom data and map service to find information.

13.2. Does your country have any reported cases of physical habitat changes (e.g. dredging, marine construction, coastal construction) impacting small cetaceans during the reporting period?

If you select 'Yes', please also provide web links if available.

No

13.3. Does your country have any mitigation measures (regulations/guidelines) to prevent impacts on small cetaceans during physical habitat change activities (e.g. dredging, marine construction, coastal construction)?

Per measure, please provide: the applicable industry, activity type, whether the measure has been effective with additional comments, and other relevant information.

>>> In some cases we have used bubble curtains.

13.4. Relevant new initiatives/projects/publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) in your country during the reporting period on impacts from physical habitat change on small cetaceans (incl. title, organization, lead author).

Provide web links if available.

>>> NA

13.5. Have there been any other instances/issues in your country regarding physical habitat change during the reporting period?

No

13.6. Is the perceived level of pressure from physical habitat change in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

Increasing

Please provide the nature of the evidence and describe per species (Annex B) where applicable:

>>> Wind power constructions are increasing especially in the Gulf of Bothnia.

14. Other Issues

14.1. List any other issues related to habitat change and degradation not mentioned above.

>>> NA

E. Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas

16. Protected Areas, e.g. Natura 2000 Sites

AIM: to provide information on existing and proposed marine protected areas with small cetaceans as part of the selection criteria.

Relevant Resolutions: 5.7

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are considered under numerous agreements (including the Convention on Biological Diversity, Habitats Directive, Bern Convention, Ramsar Convention, OSPAR Convention, HELCOM, ACCOBAMS, MSFD) as a tool to achieve conservation goals. Part of ASCOBANS remit is to provide expert advice on the conservation and management of small cetaceans. This includes inviting Parties and Range States to continue or initiate research aimed at locating areas of special importance to the survival (in particular breeding and feeding) of small cetaceans as suitable sites for the establishment of protected areas. This also includes advising on appropriate management measures in these areas, on their own or in the context of other intergovernmental bodies to ensure the protection of small cetaceans.

To monitor the progress of such work to fulfil the obligations of Resolution 5.7 and actions in the workplan, ASCOBANS requires information (e.g. location, species, status, spatial data, management plans and monitoring) on existing and proposed marine protected areas with small cetaceans as part of the selection criteria.

It is of particular interest to ASCOBANS to obtain an overview of the current scale of marine protected areas and to review best practice approaches to management of marine protected areas, in order to make recommendations to Parties.

16.1. Does your country have MPAs (existing or proposed) where small cetaceans are the

primary reason for the (proposed) designation?

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

No

16.2. Does your country have MPAs (existing or proposed) with small cetaceans are forming part of the selection criteria?

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

No

16.3. Provide information on management measures, including regulations/guidelines, particularly relevant to small cetaceans in MPAs listed above. Including any temporal/spatial restriction of activities (i.e. seasonal fishery closures).

In order to monitor implementation of MPA management measures and make recommendations on best practice, we need to understand what management measures are being used and be aware of examples of what approaches are proving effective.

Please provide per site name, the pressure, and the measure per pressure.

>>> NA

16.4. Provide details of existing or proposed monitoring schemes related to the effectiveness of MPAs/management measured listed above for small cetaceans.

>>> NA

16.5. Relevant new research/work/collaboration relating to MPAs in your country.

In order to plan future approaches to MPA management and monitoring, we need to be aware of current gaps and emerging issues.

List initiatives/projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information; include the species concerned, who did the work)

>>> In Life IP Biodiversea project the whole MPA network and many individual MPAs will be evaluated.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Life IP Biodiversea](#) - Biodiversea LIFE IP (2021–2029) is the largest collaborative project carried out in Finland to safeguard the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea. The main aim of the project is to enhance the protection of marine nature and promote the sustainable use of natural resources in the marine and coastal areas of Finland.

VI. Information and Education

A. Education and Outreach

A. Education and Outreach

AIM: to determine if there are gaps in the outreach and education activities and if additional material should be produced in your country or by the Secretariat (e.g. on certain themes, species, regions, languages, for certain target audiences).

Relevant Resolutions: 8.13, 8.3, 8.2, 5.8

The revised ASCOBANS Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan (see ASCOBANS/MOP9/Doc.5.3 Annex 1) was endorsed by the 9th Meeting of the Parties (2020). The purpose of the CEPA Plan is to identify realistic activities relevant to ASCOBANS and mandated by Parties, to be undertaken by the Secretariat, Parties, and relevant partners. It seeks a clearer focus amongst Secretariat, Parties, Partners, and stakeholders regarding objectives. (The previous CEPA Plan is available at AC17/Report/Annex10.) The purpose of this section is to highlight successes and to identify potential gaps in outreach and education activities and related materials.

1.1. List education/outreach activities in the reporting period in your country, which are of relevance to conservation of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS Area.

E.g. activities during the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Proposee in May.

Per activity, please identify: the organizer, name of activity (incl. translation to English, where applicable), date(s), location, target audience (general public, scientists, children, fisheries; others - please state), and links for further information.

>>> No

1.2. List current information/outreach materials produced in your country, which are of relevance to the ASCOBANS Area and species.

Per publication, please provide: the name of the publication (incl. translation into English, where applicable), author(s), publisher, year, links (to download publication), and identify whether ASCOBANS may distribute the link to publication for outreach purposes.

>>> No

1.3. List other organizations engaged in outreach relevant to the ASCOBANS Area.

Please include web links where applicable.

>>> No changes from previous years.

1.4. List other initiatives/work/collaboration relevant to the ASCOBANS Area that are not included above.

>>> No changes.

1.5. List any gaps in your country's outreach relevant to the ASCOBANS Area. What would be needed to fill these gaps?

>>> Shortage of resources.

1.6. Resources permitting, are there any materials that you think the ASCOBANS Secretariat should produce?

No

VII. Other Matters

B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement.

>> Look at previous reports.

C. Burning Issues.

>> Wind power constructions -> EU RePower plan.