Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management
B. Disturbance

6. Recreational Sea Use

National Reports 2022

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28th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee
26-28 September 2023, Bonn, Germany
6.1. Are data on recreational sea use available for your country?

- **Available data?**
  - **No**
    - Lithuania
  - **Yes**
    - Number of recreational vessels
      - Belgium
      - Finland
      - The Netherlands
    - Tourist number
      - Germany
      - Finland
      - The Netherlands
    - Mapping of coastal and marine recreation / boating activity
      - Denmark
      - United Kingdom
      - The Netherlands
6.2. Is the information on main areas of recreational sea use available for your country?

- **NO RESPONSE**
- **NO**
  - Within the coastal zone, at the most up to a few miles offshore
  - No comprehensive overview
- **YES**
  - 1. PPGIS-mapping of 92 coastal and marine recreation
  - 2. 500 x 500 m cells and triangulated with AIS data for recreational boats

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**Countries:**
- **BE** (No & NA)
- **FI**
- **DE**
- **UK**
- **PL**
- **NL**
- **LT**
- **DK**

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**Meeting Information:**
26-28 September 2023, Bonn, Germany
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6.3. Were there any incidents of disturbance or harassment to small cetaceans in relation to recreational sea use in your country?

UK: 3 incidents (2021 – 2022)

Boat-related disturbances of dolphins:
1) Pod of feeding bottlenose dolphins → behaviour changes and animal displacement
2) 6 common dolphins → animal dispersal
3) 10+ common dolphins → behaviour changes
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?

**YES**

- **BE**: Legislation (2001): illegal to disturb marine mammals
- **DK**: Code of conduct for whale watching industry (2022)
- **NL**: Nature Conservation Act
- **UK**: Same codes as listed under 5.8
- **DE**: Laws in place (see 5.3 and 5.8)
  - Use of the Wadden Sea by ships and water sports (2023)
  - Area of the whale sanctuary
  - Speed boat tours in the Baltic Sea

**NO RESPONSE**

- **PL**
- **FI**
- **LT**
- **DE**
6.5. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on disturbance or harassment of small cetaceans through recreational sea use in your country?

**YES:**
- Denmark: 5 publications
- Germany: 1 publication
- The Netherlands: 1 publication
- United Kingdom: 1 project: Operation Seabird

**NA:** Finland & Lithuania.

**No response:** Belgium & Poland.
6.6. Have there been any other instances/issues related to recreational sea use in your country during the reporting period?

**YES:**

United Kingdom.

→ Increasing numbers of cetacean disturbance incidences in coastal waters in Cornwall.

**NO:**

Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, The Netherlands & Poland.
6.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from recreational sea use in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?