NATIONAL AND REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMS

National (SMNH)
- Baltic Sea since 2017
- Kattegat Sea May 2019

Regional (SMNH/counties):
- Blekinge since 2016
- Öland since April 2020

(Funded by SwAM)
Temporal trends analysis

- Comparison of 11 stations
  - SAMBAH (2011-2013)
  - National monitoring (2017-2020) (SMNH)
- Preliminary results: DPD in the Baltic may be increasing over time?
CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROJECTS

Temporal trends analysis
- Comparison of 11 stations
  - SAMBAH (2011-2013)
  - National monitoring (2017-2020) (SMNH)
- Preliminary results: DPD in the Baltic may be increasing over time?

SAMBAH II
- Planning is ongoing (SwAM, SMNH, CCB, SLU Aqua, SLU Landscape)
- Michael Dähne presentation tomorrow
Population dynamics paper: Cervin et al. (in Review) (UGOT)

Methods:

- Somatic and demographic vital rates from 7 NS populations.
- Stochastic, individual-based population model, and performed a population viability analysis.
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Methods:
- Somatic and demographic vital rates from 7 NS populations.
- Stochastic, individual-based population model, and performed a population viability analysis.

Results:
- The Baltic Proper harbour porpoise is viable without anthropogenic stressors.
- Even the lowest estimated bycatch leads to a population collapse to ≤50 animals over the next 100 years.
- Adult survival is of critical importance.
WWF funded project on the Baltic Natura 2000 site (CCB, SMNH, FOI):

The effect of seal safe pingers on seal depredation:

- Data collection is due to be finished this summer
- Analyses should be finished at the end of 2020.
CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROJECTS

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Started modelling the effects of windfarm construction on the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise; hoping to include pinger use effects.
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Impact of noise on porpoise detection:
  - Proxy for shipping noise influences porpoise detection rate
  - Extent of the impact varies with season.
Harbour porpoise hunting from a bird's eye view (Stedt et al. 2019) (LU):

- **Method**: Drones to assess foraging behaviour

Photo: Bill Keener / Golden Gate Cetacean Research
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  - Switch between foraging strategies, including cooperative foraging
  - Confirms that porpoises spend considerable amounts of time and effort to capture their prey
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**Miniscans**

- Sweden co-funding survey and assisting where needed with planning.
CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROJECTS

TANGO STUDY (AU, FOI, SMNH, SLU Aqua):

- Impact of re-routing a major shipping lane (2019-2020)
- “Pre” data collection ongoing (change 1 July 2020)
BYCATCH PROJECTS

- Analysis of a historical (1995-1997) onboard observer programme of bottom gillnet fishery data:
  - Soak time, string length and water depth largest impact
  - Bycatch rate unsustainable for WBBK and NS populations

Photo: Sara Königson
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Ghost net removal
- MARELITT project: Action plan “The Baltic Sea Blueprint”.
  - Mapping, retrieval, recycling, and prevention of ghost nets.

Photo: Sara Königson
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Sara Königson (SLU): more at the end.
REPORTING SCHEME & HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

- Updating a web-based reporting form for live and dead observations (SMNH, funded by SwAM)

- SMNH collects any infomation on all dead porpoises (some are collected for necropsy by SVA and SMNH (funded by SwAM))

- Health report by SVA and SMNH (Presentation by Aleksija Neimane tomorrow)

OTHER ACTIONS

- Baltic Proper population listed as Critically Endangered (CR) on the Swedish Red List
- Updating of the monitoring program for National implementation of the Marine Strategic Framework Directive (SwAM).
- Finalising National Action Plan for harbour porpoises (SwAM, SMNH, SLU Aqua)

Photo: https://hakuresearch.wordpress.com/research/completed-projects/ongoing-project/
WORKING GROUPS

- ICES WGBYC (inc ADG) (SLU Aqua, SMNH)
- ICES special request (inc ADG) (SLU Aqua, SMNH) – Julia Carlström and Katarzyna Kamińska talk tomorrow
- ICES WGCATCH (SLU Aqua)
- ICES WGMME (SMNH)
- ASCOBANS JG, NSG (SLU Aqua, SMNH, SVA, SwAM)
- Development of HELCOM indicator on porpoise distribution and abundance (SMNH)
- HELCOM EGMAMA (SMNH)
- Joint OSPAR-HELCOM workshop developing indicators for incidental bycatch (Slu aqua)
- OSPAR MMEG (SMNH)
- FAO (SLU Aqua)
- STECF (SLU Aqua)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS