

Agenda Item 4.3

Reports

National Reports of ASCOBANS Parties

Information Document 4.3

**Summary Compilation of the National
Reports 2016-2019 Submitted by
ASCOBANS Parties**

Action Requested

Take note

Submitted by

Secretariat



Note:

Delegates are kindly reminded to bring their own document copies to the meeting, if needed.

SUMMARY COMPILATION OF THE NATIONAL REPORTS 2016-2019 SUBMITTED BY ASCOBANS PARTIES

This information document compiles, in a summary format, the responses given to the questions in the ASCOBANS National Reporting Form 2016-2019 ([MOP9/Inf.5.1](#)). The National Reports compiled here are those submitted in time for MOP9: [Belgium](#), [Denmark](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [The Netherlands](#), and [United Kingdom](#). Please refer to these full reports for detailed information.

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High-level Summary of Key Messages

In your country, for the reporting period from 2016 to 2019, what does this report reveal about:

1. The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>1) Offshore windfarm construction taking account of marine mammals.</p> <p>2) Success in limitation of bycatch in recreational fisheries.</p> <p>3) Information to the public in yearly reports.</p> <p>4) Efficient strandings intervention network.</p>	<p>Monitoring for harbour porpoise presence in the waters around Bornholm 2018-2019.</p>	<p>1) Acoustic monitoring (since 2011).</p> <p>2) Participation in international cooperation, incl. SAMBAH II planning.</p> <p>3) The public awareness and interest to small cetaceans (mainly harbour porpoise) has significantly increased during the period when Finland has been Party to ASC.</p> <p>4) Inclusion of obligatory by-catch report (HP & seals) in the Fishing Act.</p>	<p>Implementation of a national action plan dedicated to the protection of cetaceans.</p>	<p>1) The sound protection strategy for harbour porpoises applied in pile driving appears to be a helpful instrument for lowering the noise burden of cetaceans in German marine waters.</p> <p>2) Research to analyze possibilities to lower bycatch by pingers / PALs is increasing even if more work on its efficiency, limits and long-term effects appears necessary.</p> <p>3) The preparation of the new Red List of Mammals in Germany (publication foreseen in 2020) shows that the threat status of harbor porpoises has since more than 40 years not worsened (1977 “A.1.2 - Threatened by extinction” and in later red lists until nowadays “A.2 Critically endangered” – even if A.2 is still far beyond a satisfying situation.)</p>		<p>1) SCANS survey summer 2016.</p> <p>2) REM project to estimate bycatch in the Dutch commercial set-net fishery.</p> <p>3) Development of the updated Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise in The Netherlands.</p> <p>4) Continuation and formalisation (e.g. WOT - statutory research tasks) of monitoring tasks.</p> <p>5) More holistic analyses of different national and international data sets at both national and international levels (e.g. from strandings and survey databases)</p>			<p>1) UK was able to contribute considerable financial support to ensure that SCANS-III was delivered.</p> <p>2) UK has continued to enforce pinger use (as per Reg. 812/2004) and has established a new project to test further approached to mitigating bycatch in inshore fleets.</p> <p>3) the UK continues to implement a dedicated PETs bycatch monitoring scheme; one of the few dedicated schemes in Europe.</p> <p>4) the UK continues to fund the Cetacean Strandings and investigation Scheme which provides invaluable monitoring on the health of cetaceans.</p> <p>5) UK is actively tracking and managing impulsive noise through the development and upkeep of the Marine Noise Register and advice for SACs.</p>

2. The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>1) Dealing with the overlap in activities and obligations between agreements and conventions, such as EC Directives and OSPAR, incl. challenges in dealing with streamlining reporting obligations and a heavy administrative workload.</p> <p>2) Continued need to coordinate monitoring, assessments and management internationally, reflecting the population extent of cetaceans.</p>	<p>The lack of sufficient information on bycatch covering both the Baltic and the Belt Sea population makes it impossible to assess the treat level and decide on mitigations.</p>	<p>No difficulties, however, the implementation of many of the monitoring actions and concrete conservation measures is either not applicable or impossible / extremely difficult in Finnish waters due to extremely low density of animals (harbour porpoise) on the northern edge of their distribution range.</p>	<p>Significantly reduce incidental catches.</p>	<p>One of the greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement is to balance necessities of the EU Nature Protection Legislation (Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC) and the Fisheries Legislation (EU Regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy 1380/2013), especially with a view to the harbour porpoise protection measures in the Baltic Sea. Another challenge is the need for a scientific monitoring of bycatches that would serve as a basis for reasonable protection measures.</p>		<p>1) Long-term funding of monitoring or new research projects.</p> <p>2) Acquiring offshore animals (e.g. through bycatches) for post mortem exam.</p> <p>3) Methods for assessing cumulative impacts.</p> <p>4) Understanding the ecological role of the Harbour Porpoise in Dutch waters (and beyond).</p>			<p>1) Resource limitation (limited funds and number of people working on it).</p> <p>2) Government reprioritisation in a post-COVID landscape</p>

3. The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>1) Limit extra work due to the overlap in activities and obligations, incl. reporting, between agreements and conventions, especially EC Directives and OSPAR.</p> <p>2) Coordinate monitoring, assessments and management internationally, reflecting the population extent of cetaceans.</p> <p>3) Accepting that measures should be taken in the appropriate framework.</p> <p>4) Bringing nature and fisheries closer together.</p>	<p>Funding for participation in SAMBAH-II.</p>	<p>Continue: 1) to gather opportunistic sightings, 2) national acoustic monitoring, 3) international cooperation, including planning of SAMBAH II.</p>	<p>1) Significantly reduce incidental catches. 2) Knowledge of the area and small cetacean populations. 3) Maintaining good scientific cooperation. 4) Impact of climate change.</p>	<p>The protection of the harbour porpoise population of Baltic proper and all realistic measures, which could be realized in close future for its benefit merit to have the highest priority.</p>		<p>1) Finalization of the new Dutch Conservation Plan for HP 2020. 2) International cooperation with all stakeholders/parties involved on assessing bycatch for the North Sea harbour porpoise. 3) Development of alternative methodologies to make monitoring cost-effective and multitargeted (e.g. High Definition aerial surveys, fishery monitoring, PAM, tagging).</p>			<p>Continued focus on improving bycatch monitoring and mitigation.</p>

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

A. Fisheries-related Threats

1. Bycatch

1.1. How is bycatch assessed/monitored in your country?

Year	Method	BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
2016	Dedicated observer schemes										✓
	Fisheries observers	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
	Remote Electronic Monitoring		✓					✓			
	Self-reporting by fisherman	✓		✓		✓		✓			
	Pathological investigation	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓
	Assessment at stranding site	✓			✓						✓
2017	Dedicated observer schemes										✓
	Fisheries observers	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
	Remote Electronic Monitoring		✓					✓			
	Self-reporting by fisherman	✓		✓		✓		✓			
	Pathological investigation	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓
	Assessment at stranding site	✓			✓						✓
2018	Dedicated observer schemes										✓
	Fisheries observers	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
	Remote Electronic Monitoring		✓								
	Self-reporting by fisherman	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
	Pathological investigation	✓			✓			✓			✓
	Assessment at stranding site	✓			✓						✓
2019	Dedicated observer schemes										✓
	Fisheries observers	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
	Remote Electronic Monitoring		✓								
	Self-reporting by fisherman	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
	Pathological investigation	✓			✓			✓			✓
	Assessment at stranding site	✓			✓						✓

1.1. (continued)

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>Fisheries observers: only beam trawler monitoring; no bycatch. Self-reporting fishermen: <1% of animals. Pathological investigation 50% of bycaught animals. Assessment at stranding site 50% of bycaught animals.</p>	<p>Fisheries observers & REM.</p>	<p>Self-reporting by fishermen.</p>	<p>2016-2017: fisheries observers (0.1-1.0 fishing effort depending on gears), pathological investigation (10%), assessment at stranding site (90% of animals). 2018-2019 also self-reporting fishermen, and in 2018 also dedicated observe schemes (1 pair of PTM).</p>	<p>100% fisheries observers. Lower Saxony Waddensea National Park: There are hardly fisheries in the National Park area other than shrimp and blue mussel fishery. Both use either beam trawls or mussel dredges. No bycatch of cetaceans has been reported. The “Germany Lower Saxony mussel dredge and mussel culture” and the “North Sea Brown Shrimp” fisheries are MSC certified. Further information on MSC measures to reduce bycatch see here. NLPV has no data on bycatch.</p>		<p>REM 65-80% in 2016-2017. Pathological investigation 90% in 2018-2019. The scale of pathological investigation about the same between years. Self-reporting by fishermen occurs occasionally. Structural continuation of the cooperation with the gillnet fisheries sector is lacking as well as representative monitoring in gillnet fisheries. In addition, fisheries observers assess the incidental bycatch of cetaceans in Dutch pelagic fisheries. Also, a limited coverage of static gear within observer program. No bycatch reported in either fishery 2016-2018.</p>			<p>Pathological investigations: 63 out of 523 necropsied, all species. Assessment at stranding site: 169 out of 475 non-necropsied and BEEP assessed strandings in Cornwall. In 2016-2018, dedicated observer schemes reported under EC Reg. 812/2004: coverage varies depending on metier level reported; contract aims for ~ 400 monitored days at sea per year. See 1.2 for cetaceans bycaught.</p>

1.2. Which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch by commercial fishing in the reporting period?

Species	BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB	Total
CD Short-beaked Common dolphin				180						57	237
HP Harbour porpoise	37+	51		13	3		5			37	146
LFPW Long-finned pilot whale				5						2	7
WBD White-beaked dolphin	1										1
SD Striped dolphin				1							1
KW Killer Whale										1	1
NBW Northern bottlenose whale										1	1
SBW Sowerby's beaked whale										1	1
Total	38+	51	0	199	3		5			99	395+

1.2. (continued)

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Strandings monitoring. Gear type mostly unknown - when known, trammel and/or gillnet (HP).	All in set gillnet (HP), in 2016-2018. Monitoring method: REM.	HP by salmon net.	Most in midwater pair trawls (most of them CD N=180, most in area 27.8). (No records for 2019.) Methods: mostly fishery observer onboard. Fishermen declaration (1 dedicated program in 2018 - reported 54 bycaught), dedicated observer (1 in 2018).	3 HP in 2017, static net. Self-reporting by fishermen.		5 HP in trammel net or single-walled gillnet. Methods: REM (also outside monitored effort). 1 report from the public.			64 unknown gear type (monitoring method: necropsies from strandings). 35 static net (monitoring method: dedicated observer scheme under EC Reg. 812/2004 and Habitats Directive). Most recorded in area 27.7(e).

1.3. Which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch by recreational fishing in the reporting period?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
1 HP observed, other animals suspected. Trammel net, fyke (beach fisheries).	N/a.	1 HP in 2018, released. Salmon net. Self-reporting (mandatory by fishing legislation).	3 HP in Dec 2018. Set gillnets. Monitored from strandings.	None.		-			None.

1.4. Has there been any notable incidents/issues related to bycatch during the reporting period in your country?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	Yes. Periods of multiple stranding events typically from late January to mid-March every year of the reporting period. Total stranded CDs with bycatch marks are 354 in 2016, 525 in 2017, 403 in 2018, and 799 in 2019, corresponding to an estimated mortality of 5200 [3470; 8500] in 2016, 9270 [6180 ; 15170] in 2017, 5390 [3590; 8820] in 2018 and 12630 [8420; 20660] in 2019. Total stranded HPs with bycatch marks were 94 in 2016, 55 in 2017, 61 in 2018 and 43 in 2019, corresponding to an estimated mortality of 940 [580; 1800] in 2016, 660 [410; 1260] in 2017, 920 [570; 1770] in 2018 and 520 [350; 850] in 2019.	No.		No.			No.

1.5. Are there any mitigation measures in place?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Recreational use of gill and trammel nets not allowed. Effective (regular controls).	Yes. Mandatory use of acoustic deterrents in certain net gear fisheries (since 2004). Unknown, if effective or not.	No.	Yes. DDD-03 H/STM Pingers fitted on 3 pairs of PTM in 2019 (Northern Bay of Biscay) - effective (65% reduction in CD bycatch from those trials). DDD-3 L Pingers for harbour porpoise in 2016-2019 (Channel) - 9 set gillnets	Yes. Pingers obligatory in ICES SD 24; for boats >12 m (Arkona Basin, 2004). Porpoise Alert Pingers on voluntary basis in ICES SD 22 (Belt Sea, 2016). Reduction of net length during summer months on voluntary basis in Schleswig Holstein coastal gillnet fisheries (Belt Sea). In the whale sanctuary within the National Park Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea all kinds of gillnet fishery are prohibited within the 3 nautical mile		Yes. Pingers (voluntary, not monitored) and closures (effectiveness not monitored).			Yes. Acoustic deterrent devices (DDD-03L) (Celtic Sea). Effective: Data collected by dedicated PETS observers indicates that harbour porpoise bycatch rates continue to be significantly reduced as a result of pinger use. Pinger in use in relevant

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
			/ trammel nets in area 27.7.	zone. Beyond the 3 nautical mile zone gillnet fishery in the whale sanctuary with nets exceeding a special height and mesh size is prohibited for German fishermen. (Southern North Sea, 2013.) All these mitigation measures “presumably” effective, no known assessment project so far.					métiers in subarea 7 and 4 as per Regulation 812/2004.

1.6. Have there been changes in fishing effort (for fisheries known to have an impact) in the reporting period?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	Unknown / n/a.	Yes. The fishing effort for static gillnet among professional and recreational fisheries is decreasing.	Unknown / n/a. Insufficient knowledge of changes in gillnet, trammel net and GOV characteristics (length x height of nets; height of GOV).	No.		Yes. In general fishing effort for bottom-set gillnet has been decreasing over the last decade.			Yes. There has been a reduction in fishing effort for sea bass in the western English Channel following emergency measures to protect stocks introduced in 2015/16.

1.7. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on bycatch in your country.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	4 publications listed.	-	13 publications / projects listed.	STELLA research project.		7 listed.			7 listed.

1.8. Is the perceived level of pressure from bycatch in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Decreasing (HP). Lower number of stranded animals diagnosed as bycaught in recreational fisheries compared to before 2015.	Unknown (HP).	Unknown (HP).	Increasing (CD, evidence: strandings). Unknown (HP, evidence: variable levels of strandings).	Unknown (HP).		Unknown (HP). There are no indications that bycatch events have changed from the time the REM project was running (2013 to 2017). However, this is not certain as fishing effort and porpoise distribution are changing over time, likely influencing bycatch numbers.			Staying the same. Evidence: dedicated observer scheme (HP); expert opinion - proportion of strandings examined at post-mortem (CSIP database) (BD); Dedicated observer scheme - proportion of strandings examined at post-mortem (CSIP database) (CD).

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

A. Fisheries-related Threats

2. Resource Depletion

2.1. Based on the latest stock assessments, are there any notable depletions of fish species which would be a concern for small cetaceans?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Not all species were assessed on a national level, and hardly any attention was paid to non-commercial species which are of high importance to harbour porpoises. See ICES assessments.	No. Danish commercial fisheries are conducted in line with the CFP. Quota for different fish species are based on ICES advice, in which natural mortality from predators etc. are incorporated.	No.	Yes. Mackerel, blue whiting, horse mackerel, sand eel (See MSFD report for France).	No. Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park: Stock assessments of relevant prey species is carried out in a larger scale and reported to ICES. Fishing quota are subject of European CFP. Fishes are hardly subject to fishing activities in the National Park or coastal waters of Lower Saxony. There are hints that shifts in prey fish abundance in coastal waters are caused by a rise in water temperature due to global warming.		No. Porpoises in Dutch waters are opportunistic foragers and have been shown to feed on a large range of different species. The information on their prey consumption based on stranded animals (stomach contents) does not indicate a change that could be linked to a fish stock in the southern North Sea that has been reduced. Additionally, porpoises in Dutch waters likely conduct seasonal movements related to prey availability. These relationships are, however, still poorly understood. Cod numbers have been declining up to the early 2000s but recovered in most of the North Sea in the years 2016/17, with the exception of the southern North Sea. Since then there is a general decrease in all areas with unclear reasons. The spawning stock biomass of herring has fluctuated over the years; there is no decline. However, a potential concern is the low recruitment since 2002 and especially low recruitment in 2015 and 2017. For whiting the spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has fluctuated since the mid-1980s. Recruitment (R) has been fluctuating without trend, but the last two-year classes are below average.			Yes. Several North Sea stocks analytically assessed by ICES have current fishing mortality rates above FMSY, including cod, whiting, haddock, mackerel, and blue whiting. The over-exploitation of such stocks may therefore be of concern to cetaceans that predate on these species. However, it should be noted that 24 of 32 North Sea stocks assessed by ICES are exploited at rates at or below FSMY, therefore any reduction in prey as a result of over-exploitation is likely to be localised. Overall fishing pressure on the commercial fish and shellfish stocks in the Celtic Seas ecoregion has decreased since its peak in 1998.

2.2. Where are these depletions in national waters occurring?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Area 27.4.c (Southern North Sea)	-	-	Areas 27.7 (Channel), 27.7 (Celtic Sea), 27.8 (Northern Bay of Biscay)	Such depletions are unknown.		Area 27.4.c (Southern North Sea).			-

2.3. What measures are being taken to manage pressures on depleted fish stocks, including relevant regulations/guidelines (current / planned / year of implementation)?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Measures taken in the Common Fisheries Policy (TACs and quota, minimum sizes, landing obligation).	EU quota system, Technical measures (EU regulation).	-	MSFD national environmental target to maintain 0 catch of micronecton until 2026.	Cf. 2.2 – therefore no measures foreseen.		ICES provides advice annually on takes for the various fish stocks. Relevant driver: information on biomass, recruitment, mortality.			DAERA : Management in NI under Maximum Sustainable Yield framework. English approach to fisheries management in MPAs. Marine Scotland fisheries measures for MPAs includes measures relating to sandeels and other prey species.

2.4. Is there any evidence within your country’s national waters that resource depletion may be impacting small cetaceans (e.g. evidence of starvation)?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Data deficient: a number of stranded HP have died due to starvation, but a link to resource depletion cannot be made given that the species is opportunistically feeding on available prey species.	No.	No.	No.	No.		No. There is some indication that the cause of death of younger porpoises in the summer is linked to malnutrition. These younger animals feed primarily on fish of no commercial interest, such as gobies. These have a low nutritional value and it is hypothesized that this might cause malnutrition and subsequent starvation. It is no clear if the prey choice is linked to resource depletion or due to the inexperience of the young animals to hunt other prey.			No. Evidence/diagnosis of starvation in a number of UK stranded cetaceans examined at necropsy. But <u>not</u> possible to link this with resource depletion as there are many possible drivers of nutritional loss.

2.5. Are there any national efforts to (e.g. surveys) evaluate cetacean body condition at sea?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.		Yes. There has been a pilot study to see if drone footage can be used to determine body conditions of harbour porpoise. The research is ongoing.			Yes. SWF ongoing study – Aerial Drone photogrammetry surveys of bottlenose dolphins in Cardigan Bay (West Wales) in combination with vessel-based photo-ID surveys to establish changes in body conditions for individual dolphins.

2.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on resource depletion in your country

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Continued stock assessments of commercial species (ICES, EC CFP).	No official surveys, but Fjord & Belt is conducting a drone study (2017-2019, report not finished) to examine how the size of porpoises can be estimated from drone photos. This is a good first step in assessing the nutritional state of wild porpoises.	-	Observatoire Pelagis monitoring of energy density of forage fish in the Bay of Biscay. + 1 thesis listed.	-		1 publication listed (on bio-energetic modeling of medium-sized cetaceans).			Ongoing analyses of spatio-temporal variation in abundance for 12 cetacean species in relation to changes in prey distributions and trends in stock sizes across NW European seas. AFBI ongoing study. JNCC contracts to develop " calorific maps " of harbour porpoise prey.

2.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from resource depletion in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Unknown (HP).	Unknown (HP).	Unknown (HP).	Unknown (CD).	N/a (HP).		Unknown (HP, WBK).			Unknown (HP).

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

3. Noise (impulsive i.e. piling and continuous/ambient i.e. shipping)

3.1. To which noise registers/databases has your country contributed to date?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
ICES. OSPAR. Jomopans project.	ICES. National (continuous noise monitoring database).	None. No national registry; and no reporting to ICES since 2017 (personnel changes). However, data contributions planned as part of the MSFD monitoring scheme.	ICES. National (SIRENE). QuietMED.	ICES. German Noise Registry at BSH .		ICES. Data on UXO collected by the Dutch Navy and shared with the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI).			ICES. JNCC Marine Noise Registry.

3.2. Any instances/issues in the reporting period including information on planned or completed significant developments/activities, including the details of monitoring in place before, during and after the project:

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Offshore windfarm construction, complete. EIA and	All information for DK is	Nord Stream 2 construction -> Removal of	See OSPAR Impulsive	Construction of wind farms (in Arkona Basin and Southern North		Wind farm construction (2 in Southern North			Southern North Sea, Northern North Sea, Irish & Scottish W.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
SEA done. Regulations / guidelines exist, monitoring conducted, mitigation in place.	available in the ICES impulsive noise register .	unexploded munitions, complete. EIA done. Regulations / guidelines exist, monitoring conducted, mitigation in place.	Noise Registry for Bay of Biscay, North Atlantic and North Sea regions.	Sea). EIA and SEA done. Regulations / guidelines exist, monitoring conducted, mitigation in place. Also, pile driving for mussel seed collectors within the National Park (Southern North Sea): EIA done, SEA not. Regulations / guidelines exist, mitigation in place, no monitoring conducted.		Sea). EIA done. Regulations / guidelines exist, monitoring conducted; mitigation in place for 1 of them.			Coast: Construction of various wind farms and other large projects. +Southern North Sea: oil and gas surveys. For all, EIA and SEA done. Regulations / guidelines exist, monitoring conducted, mitigation in place.

3.3. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on underwater noise in your country

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yearly monitoring reports for offshore windfarm construction. Implementation reports to the EC (MSFD).	Projects: BIAS , JOMOPANS , TANGO . +15 other references provided.	SHEBA project 2015-2018 in the Baltic. BIAS LIFE project that ended in 2016 (SE, FI, ES, PO, DE, DK). HELCOM Noise group. Projects / initiatives compiled by MSFD TG-Noise here .	Report (2020) from the Ministry, IFREMER , JONAS , RAGES , MSFD GES assessment (2018). +1 other listed.	3 R&D projects: Classification and assessment of impulsive noise with and without noise mitigation measures; Underwater noise during the impulse pile-driving procedure ; Inclusion of noise mitigation measures in the reporting to the impulsive noise registry. +5 other references.		JOMOPANS , WoZEP Offshore wind energy ecological programme 2017-2021, SEANSE, 3S-project. +21 publications listed.			7 initiatives/funding; 4 projects (DEPONS, PCoD, EU funded projects e.g. COMPASS and JOMOPANS, and project specific monitoring projects); 3 initiatives / collaborations; 14 papers / publications.

3.4. Report on noise management for cumulative impacts, including relevant regulations and guidelines, seismic shot point densities and level of impact deemed acceptable.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Cumulative impacts assessed in EIAs, as far as possible (see links above).	Unknown.	No.	MSFD GES assessment 2018: Assessment of the descriptor 11 (noise	Outline of management procedures for preventing cumulative impacts of impulsive noise from pile driving: Approvals given by BSH (Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency). BSH include two incidental provisions with measures for the protection of the marine environment from noise impact due to pile-driving works: Reduction of the noise at the source & Avoidance of significant cumulative impacts. For the protection of the marine environment, the BSH		3 references listed.			See above.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
			disturbance) in France	follows the precautionary principle and considers the state of knowledge and requirements set by BMU, UBA and BfN. • It must be ensured, that at any time, not more than 10% of the area of the German EEZ of the North Sea and not more than 10% of an adjacent nature conservation area are affected by significant disturbance-causing noise due to pile-driving works for the foundations. During the sensitive period of the harbour porpoise from 1st May to 31st August, it must be ensured, that not more than 1% of the subregion I of the nature conservation area „Sylter Außenriff – Östliche Deutsche Bucht“ with the special function of a breeding area is affected by significant disturbance-causing noise due to pile-driving works for the foundations.					

3.5. Is the perceived level of pressure from underwater noise in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Increasing (HP) since 2009 (start of construction of offshore windfarms).	Staying the same (HP). Evidence: ICES impulsive noise register.	Unknown (HP).	N/a.	Staying the same (HP). This information can only be confirmed for impulsive noise from pile driving activities, which are mitigated and monitored according to regulation in place		Increasing (HP) based on an expected increase in wind farm construction and shipping.			Increasing: for all relevant species in the Southern/Central North Sea and Northern North Sea, development of offshore wind farms, combined with ongoing oil and gas surveys, other construction and shipping means underwater noise has increased between 2016-2019 and will continue to increase in the future as the UK looks to meet our green / net zero targets. Staying the same: For all relevant species in the Irish & Scottish West Coast, development of offshore wind farms, and other construction remains limited. Shipping level are expected to remain the same. Therefore, underwater noise has not thought to have increased between 2016-2019.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

4. Ocean Energy

4.1. Please enter wind energy farm data into the table below.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
9 operational in total, 6 in 2016-2019 (oldest since 2008).	2 operational Turbines installed by pile-driving).	1 operational since Aug 2017. Turbines: steel	8 planned (2021-2026). Turbines installation by pile-	27 operational in total, 14 in 2017-2019 (oldest since		2 operational since 2016. Turbines installation by pile-			4 operational, 3 foreseen 2021-2023. Turbines

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Turbines installed by pile-driving. Scour protection used. In 8/9 cases, noise mitigation used (time/area closures 8, acoustic deterrent 6, double bubble curtains 3, single bubble curtains 1). If floating, secured by monopile.	Unknown, if scour protection was used. No noise mitigation indicated, but guideline followed in pile-driving.	shell structure undersea foundations. Unknown, if scour protection was used. No noise mitigation during construction. 3 planned in northern Gulf of Bothnia.	driving, gravity foundation, tripod foundation, anchor. Noise mitigation: acoustic deterrent (in 1 case, system to reduce of 7 dB the acoustic emission); "soft start and efficiency of the measure is checked with acoustic device networks to detect the presence of marine mammals".	2010). Most turbines installed by pile-driving. Scour protection used. Noise mitigation: in most cases single/double bubble curtains, or other e.g. HSD-system in combination with DBBC. Mitigation measures are mandatory.		driving. Scour protection used. Noise mitigation: acoustic deterrent devices, time / area closures. Test with simultaneous pile driving in both wind farms. Actual overlap on 9 occasions, less than half an hr.			installation by pile-driving. No noise mitigation indicated.

4.2. Please enter wave power installation data into the table below.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-		-			1 in Cornwall (area 27.7.a). Scour protection was used. (info)

4.3. Please enter tidal energy installation data into the table below.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-		-			2 operational (2016, 2018). Mitigation: PAM monitoring and adaptive management used in the latter.

4.4. Please enter tidal lagoon/barrage installation data into the table below.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-					Tocado Tidal Power Plant Eastern Scheldt (area 27.a.c) since Feb 2016, 1.25 MW. Mitigation restricted to logging of incidents, and two years of monitoring possible effects. Specific location: In the storm surge barrier at the entrance of the Eastern Scheldt. Turbines are incorporated in the storm surge barrier.

4.5. Has there been any other instances/issues related to ocean energy during the reporting period in your country?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	Yes. Government representatives lead 2 committees (general issues and scientific	Yes. Laying of cables by the Interconnector Nord.Link (DC high voltage power cable) from		No.			Yes. Several tidal stream, tidal range,

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
			information, if necessary, for each farm - 4 in discussion). The reference for monitoring offshore wind farms becomes the seafront instead of the farm. The aim is to be more efficient and treat subject at the right level. Impact on marine mammals is a good example of a subject which is broader than one project.	Norway to Büsum through territorial and coastal waters (started in 2018 in the coastal waters of SH). EIA has been carried out within the licensing process. No adverse effects to harbour porpoises due to mitigation measures (e.g. cable route does not cross the whale sanctuary of the Wadden Sea National Park SH; choice of cable laying techniques, time frame)					wave, offshore wind applications currently being assessed in Wales.

4.6. How is the pressure managed, incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Conditions set in the environmental permit; see here .	DK follow this guideline with regard to piledriving	During the planning of wind power projects, the current state of the area and the presence of protected animals and plants are always determined. Building permits are always required. It should be noted that land use planning has no means of solving issues related to special legislation: depending on location, permit pursuant to Aviation Act, Water Act or Env Protection Act may be required.	The French legislation requires mandatory impact assessment studies, ERC measures and the measure to follow the impact of offshore wind farms (OWF). In addition, the Min. of Env chairs a working group about cumulative effects with the aim to elaborate new guidelines in 2021. The pressures on marine mammals are identified as a priority in the WG.	Status quo offshore wind energie ; BSH website ; Marine Explorer and Registry of Sound (established in 2016). See also 3.4		-			Managed through usual consent processes ie licensing, environmental assessments etc. See legislation in section 3.2. All large projects required to go through the Planning Inspectorate process in England and undertake EIAs and HRAs under the various national and EU legislation. Underwater noise guidance for noisy activities in SACs published by JNCC, NE and DAERA (2020). JNCC guidance for management of underwater explosions, seismic activity and pile driving. All marine projects in Scotland licensed through Marine Scotland and required to go through EIA and HRA. The Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process was introduced to streamline the decision-making process for major infrastructure projects, making it fairer and faster for communities and applicants alike.

4.7. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ocean energy in your country.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Research project on	3 publications listed, e.g. Predicting the impacts of	Planning wind farm construction	The France Energie Marine Institute for the energetic transition is very active in the	-		3 projects and 2 publications listed, e.g. North Sea wind			For noise impacts – please see section 3.3 above. +1 paper listed.

wave energy.	anthropogenic disturbances on marine populations.	(update 2016).	field of innovation for renewable marine energy and environment.			farms: ecological risks and opportunities.			
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4.8. Mark the perceived level of pressure from ocean energy in your country to the table below.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Wind energy - increasing (see 4.1).	Wind energy - unchanged (DK has been building wind farms for several decades).	Wind energy - increasing (more permits requested, but no direct evidence on pressures to cetaceans).	-	Wind energy - unchanged.		Wind energy - increasing. Tidal energy - unknown. Tidal lagoon / barrage - unchanged.			All increasing. Wind energy - several applications, existing farm extensions, UK gov green energy targets. Wave power & Tidal energy - several applications in England. Tidal lagoon / barrage: several applications.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

5. Cetacean Watching Industry

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	Yes.	No.	Yes.	No.		Yes.			Yes.

5.2. In the table below, provide the sub-regions from which commercial cetacean watching takes place. Please tick the boxes if small cetacean watching is a primary and/or secondary focus of the operators and, in the first case what the target species are.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	HP primary focus in Belt Sea & The Sound; general marine life secondary focus in Belt Sea (links provided).	-	BD in Channel, Celtic Sea, Northern Bay of Biscay and Iberian Sea. (ports and number of operators provided - 11 in total)	No commercial whale watching. HP in Belt Sea & Southern North Sea (primary focus).		HP in Southern North Sea (secondary focus). 1 operator, link provided.			BD, HP, KW, RD, WBD in Northern North Sea. Dozens of ports and operators for each region. BD, CD, RD, WBD in Irish & Scottish W. Coast. BD, CD, HP, RD for Irish Sea. BD, CD, HP, RD, WBD for Celtic Sea and Channel.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No. But general legislation indicates that deliberate disturbance is not allowed, explicitly mentioned in legal framework for the marine environment.	No.	“It is forbidden for individuals belonging to protected species: to cause them deliberate disturbance, especially during the period of reproduction of animals, in important resting areas of rest or otherwise in places important for their life cycle.”	No. (In process of defining in the law the approach of cetaceans inferior at 100m as harassment.)	Yes. “It is prohibited [...] to significantly disturb wild animals of strictly protected species [...]. A disturbance shall be deemed significant if it causes the conservation status of the local population of a species to worsen.” Concerning the German respective term “Störung” there is no legal definition. However, there is a huge variety of definitions in legal commentary books and articles in legal journals and furthermore “jurisdiction” defining this issue. Federal State of Lower Saxony: animals are to be protected from harassment; animals should not be damaged, harmed or unnecessarily disturbed. National Park Law Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea: not permitted [...] to pursue or trap wild animals, to disturb wild animals with noise or by other means [...]		Yes. A number of regulations relating to Animal Welfare - but mainly relate to domesticated animals. For wild animals the Nature Conservation Act (follows the EU Habitats Directive) defines deliberate disturbance.			No. There is currently no UK-wide set definition of ‘harassment’ for small cetaceans, but there are specific mentions of harassment in various documents (see 5.8) and in general harassment is classed as repeated disturbance. In the UK, reference is made to “deliberate disturbance” of European Protected Species (i.e. all cetaceans) in accord with the Habitats Directive. Scottish marine wildlife watching code .

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?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.		No.			Yes. Four boats approaching dolphins too closely, boats following individuals, cutting off direction of travel, and/or speeding close to dolphins (Scotland, 2016-2018). Outcome: behavioural response. Convictions: warnings given. In 2017: Party of up to seven boats following a group of Bottlenose Dolphins off Rathlin Island. Outcome: probably minor impact, some disturbance. Convictions: organizer written to by DAERA.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.		No.			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).

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-		-			-

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. BD in Southern North Sea. No incidents (curious dolphin seeking interaction without negative outcome).	Yes. BD in Belt Sea. 2-3 times / year 1-2 dolphins stay in the Belt Sea area for a couple of months. The locals have interactions both during swimming and sailing.	No.	Yes. BD (possibly 3) in Bay of Brest since 2016. BD in Finistère, first observer in 2001. Incidents with swimmers in both locations reported, but not archived.	Yes. BD (in 2016) and CD (April 2019), both in Belt Sea. No reported incidents.		No.			Yes. BD in 2017-2019, Beluga whale in 2018. None reported incidents. In 2019, incident with jetskiers and boats circling the dolphin, reported but other than guidance issued as per the link no further action taken

5.8. Does your country have any mitigation measures (codes of conduct/guidelines) in place in the event of disturbance or harassment in the context of commercial cetacean watching, swimming with cetaceans, and interactions with solitary sociable dolphins?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	-	Yes. A national code of conduct in progress (update of regulation on whale watching). One done by Océanopolis and implemented for first commercial watching boat 2003-2006. One implemented in Iroise Sea MPA. Océanopolis did one code for solitary dolphin in 2007 (code in preparation with local authorities). Falls under general laws on the conservation of marine mammals (last update 2011). The measure has not been effective.	Yes. Code of conduct : voluntary guideline by NGOs WDC and GRD in cooperation with the Federal Agency for Nature Protection (BfN) to regulate the behaviour of humans around wild cetaceans in German waters – including non-commercial watching. Federal State of Schleswig Holstein: laws in place which forbid it. Date of implementation: June 2020.		No.			Yes. 15 listed, e.g. WiSe training Scheme , Sea Watch Foundation best practice advice , Zoological Society London code of conduct , The Cornwall Wildlife Institute code of conduct , etc. These voluntary codes and guidelines make recommendations on best practice such as: appropriate method of approach; minimum distance to cetaceans; appropriate speed and methods to reduce noise; maximum numbers of vessels; and time limits to spend with cetaceans.

5.9. List any incidents of harassments to small cetaceans during the reporting period in the context of interactions with solitary sociable dolphins reported to authorities – and the outcome if known (behavioural response, injury, death, any court proceedings).

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-		-			Jet skiers and boats approaching and circling dolphin (2019). Behavioural response. Warning issued.

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.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	2 listed.	-	2 listed.	-		-			18 listed.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	Yes. IWC whale watching handbook (profile France).	No. None with respect to a “cetacean watching industry”. However, in a larger context of cetacean watching, incl. creating awareness of visitors of beaches close to porpoise habitats: “whale path” consisting of information sign-posts along the western beach of the island of Sylt (i.e. adjacent to the harbour porpoise sanctuary) has been expanded and now totalling 22 positions. Signposts inform about the presence, biology and many other aspects of harbour porpoises and other cetaceans (and other animals).		No.			No.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
N/a. No commercial small cetacean watching allowed.	Staying the same (HP). There are so few operators / tours, very unlikely that they constitute any kind pressure.	N/a.	Increasing (BD), based on the number of whale watching companies.	N/a. There is no commercial whale watching in German waters.		Staying the same (HP). No change in the number of dolphin operators or the scale of the operation.			Increasing for BD, CD, KW, HP, RD based on expert opinion, and surveys of commercial trip boat encounters. Staying the same for WBD based on expert opinion.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

6. Recreational Sea Use

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Number of recreational fishing vessels: +- 814 vessels, monitoring report of the recreational fishing sector here (NL). It is however difficult to extract the amount of pressure from this data, as the intensity of fishing is highly variable between vessels.	No.	Yes. The number of recreational vessels (but incl. also inland water). For marine sites, there are a higher number of visitors, because those who came by boat and don't visit e.g. visitor centres are not usually counted.	Yes. (links provided)	Yes. Federal State of Lower Saxony: 1) Structures of the German boat market (with data differentiated between coast and inland). 2) Several online platforms on Marinas at the North Sea coast. (links provided, incl. tourism density in Germany)		Yes. The Maritime Research Institute Netherlands (MARIN) is working on estimates on recreational vessels, due in the last quarter of 2019.			Yes. (Outside of reporting period but still useful) In 2014, the Scottish Government commissioned Land Use Consultants to undertake a study to fill data gaps on marine recreation and tourism activity in Scotland and to provide baseline information for marine planning. Survey carried out in 2015. Data .

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Southern North Sea. Study with report. Data not available online.	-	Yes. Northern Baltic Proper. General information, incl maps etc. Data available online (many links provided).	Yes. Normandy-Brittany Gulf (Channel), Iroise Sea (Channel / Celtic Sea/Northern BoB), Capbreton Trench (Iberian Sea). Designated uses map and descriptive sheet for each sector for the Eastern Channel – North Sea basin. Data available online .	No. Southern North Sea. Data on marine traffic worldwide (see density maps) including pleasure craft. Data available online .		No.			Yes. Northern North Sea, Irish Sea, Irish & Scottish W. Coast. Data available online (many links provided).

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	Unknown.	No.	-	Unknown. Publications about cetaceans in Germany do not tackle incidents of disturbance or harassment in relation to recreational sea use. However, such incidents might have happened.		No.			Yes. 4 cases 2017-2019. Jet skier, water sports and / or recreational boats. In all cases, no legal procedures, warning given. (links provided)

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Legislation (2001) indicating that deliberate disturbance is not allowed.	No.	No.	Yes. Order of 1 July 2011 establishing the list of marine mammals protected on national territory and the modalities of their protection. No guidelines specific to Atlantic shore.	Yes. 1) Boating regulation for the marine National Park limits speed of boats (1992). Enforcement is difficult. 2) National Park Law Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea: regarding shipping and watersports. Yes, measure has been effective: Presumably even more effective for other species than for harbour porpoises, but the avoidance of speed boat races et al. helps harbour porpoises too to avoid ship strikes.		Yes. The Nature Conservation Act requires an assessment of new activities that can potentially cause negative effects in harbour porpoises. Mitigation measures need to be taken when effects are expected. Effective - some events like boat races were forbidden (<2016) due to concerns they might cause harm to porpoises.			Yes. Detailed above in section 5.8

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	1 listed.	-	-	-		-			9 listed.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	-	Yes. The NPNordSBefV is currently under revision by the Federal Ministry of Transport which triggers discussions with recreational sea user organisations.		No.			No.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Increasing (HP).	Unknown.	Unknown (HP).	-	Unknown (HP). Lack of data on recreational boating and related issues.		Unknown (HP).			Increasing (BD, CD, KW, HP, WBD, RD) based on expert opinion.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

7. Other Sources of Disturbance

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?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	Unknown.	-	Unknown.		No.			No.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	10 publications listed.	-	-	-		-			-

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

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

8. Unexploded Ordnance

8.1. To which registers/databases covering conventional and chemical munitions has your country contributed to date?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
OSPAR.	OSPAR, HELCOM.	HELCOM.	OSPAR.	OSPAR. Schleswig-Holstein.		OSPAR. Because detonations of unexploded ordnance can interfere with geoseismic monitoring, all detonations exceeding 25 kg (TNT eq.) are also reported to the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI).			OSPAR.

8.2. Please fill in Table 8.2 below on unexploded ordnance.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Full list on yearly encounters can be found at the OSPAR Data portal.	-	-	(table provided with: Weight of active ingredient destroyed, Total weight of ammunition destroyed, Number of munitions dealt with)	(Tables in annex with 100+ records)		-			3 listed.

8.3. Have there been any instances/issues (not listed in Table 8.2) related to the issue of unexploded ordnance during the reporting period in your country?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	Unknown.	No.	Yes. It is not possible to pull up a submerge unexploded ordnance. Such operation could face several obstacles, such as technical costs (divers operating up to 80m) and the danger of pulling up unexploded ordnances to the open air without the knowledge of their state of preservation. Based on our current knowledge, it seems safer to let unexploded ordnances submerged where their condition remain stable whereas to bring the open air, which could quicken their deterioration and hazardousness. Organized infrastructures of elimination or of reprocessing of unexploded ordnances should be established at shore.	No.		No.			Yes. The updated NMFS (2018) and Southall et al (2019) noise criteria for PTS and TTS have meant that PTS estimates for the largest UXOs now extend 12 – 15km. Currently there is no evidenced mitigation which can cover this.

8.4. How is the issue of unexploded ordnances being managed?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Currently no mitigation measures, but negotiations undertaken between military and environmental administration will lead to the use of mitigation measure (alerting device) in the near future.	The Danish military coordinated the handling of UXOs.	Nothing in the current reporting period. MERCW project 2005-2009, CHEMSEA project 2011-2014.	In French territorial seas, French navy is in charge of localization and treatment of unexploded ordnance. Specialised units use to lead operations to detect and neutralize unexploded ordnance at sea or on shore. Moreover, special procedures in case of discovery of unexploded ordnance by sea users have been established. When countermining at sea is not avoidable, operations are examined on a case-by-case basis according to a risk assessment and conditions laid out by fishermen unions and protected areas representatives. Moreover, measures to prevent environmental damages are taken such as wildlife dispersal measures before explosion. Bubbels haze device is currently studied	Lower Saxony: binding guideline for handling of UXO. Key features: if possible, UXOs are defused. If not possible, UXOs are towed to tidal areas, where ignition above water level is possible during low tide, If removal is not possible, ignition is carried out on site, using double bubble curtain and seal scarer. Since 2009 the German cross-administrative working group actively seeks and shares information between public authorities from federal and state-level are being responsible for relevant areas of concern with regard to underwater munitions. Explosive Ordnance disposal teams of the federal states Schleswig-Holstein, Niedersachsen and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are aware of the potential threat of explosions to small		After publication of a report on unexploded ordnance in the Dutch North Sea (Von Benda-Beckman et al, 2015) a procedure to adjust the current protocol is in place. To minimize the impact no single measure can be prescribed but a mix of measures depending on the situation will be prescribed.			Through marine mammal mitigation protocols, and through limitation of numbers, frequencies and timings of explosions in some cases. The MMO have added the requirement for bubble curtains to be used for munitions over 50kg. However, there is still no evidence they are effective for UXOs in the North Sea. Managed by Marine Scotland through licensing processes with mitigation applied on a case by case basis. JNCC guidelines for minimising the risk of injury to marine mammals from geophysical surveys (2017):

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
			to limit the fragments dispersion's and noise made by explosions. When countermining is avoidable or is not an acceptable option, the maritime prefect can decide an alternative way to handle unexploded ordnances such as gathering in a referenced munition warehouse or regulating the activities in the zone.	cetaceans. Mitigation measures considered for each planned detonation include separation of the fuse box from the main in certain types of air mines, translocation of UXO and detonation in shallow waters or on a sandbank (in air), use of pingers/seal scarers, use of bubble curtains.					

8.5. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on the issue of unexploded ordnance in your country

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	The HELCOM Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Hazardous Submerged Objects (SUBMERGED) works to compile and assess information about all kinds of hazardous objects and assess the associated risks.	An ongoing inter-ministerial working group is dedicated to unexploded ordnance issue in order to increase our knowledge of localisation and nature of UXO, to collect scientific information about conservation state, and to strengthen the efficiency of our national environmental monitoring.	Expert group . Project: DAIMON (with partners from PL, DE, SE, FI, NO, LT, RU), UDEM , RoBEMM , BASTA . MSFD Measure UZ2-04 (Dealing with munitions at sea).		-			BEIS Offshore Research SEA Programme has funded a UXO project, undertaken by NPL and Loughborough university. The first phase is near completion, with a second phase to take place over the upcoming year (2020/21). Final reports will be available here .

8.6. Is the perceived level of pressure from unexploded ordnance in your country:

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Increasing.	Unknown.	Unknown.	-	Increasing. Evidence: regular assessment .		Unknown.			Increasing due to UXO clearance during windfarm and other construction.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

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

9. Marine Debris (ingestion and entanglement)

9.1. Does your country have monitoring in place to assess levels of marine debris?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>Yes. OSPAR beach litter monitoring, latest in 2017. OSPAR monitoring of litter on the seabed, latest in 2017. Monitoring of (macro) litter in the stomachs of marine mammals. Other smaller initiatives that are periodically listed in reports (see below).</p>	<p>Yes. Under the MSFD several indicators relate to the collection of marine debris and microplastic are under development (report).</p>	<p>Yes. 1) Macro litter (beach litter monitoring). 2) Micro litter monitoring (sea surface and sediment). Additionally, look at HELCOM webpage on Marine litter and HELCOM Marine litter Action Plan. 3) Entanglement and other impacts of macroplastics on animals, such as mammals and fish and seabirds are being developed.</p>	<p>Yes. MSFD /OSPAR beach surveys. Sea floor litter: trawl survey, fisheries survey. Microplastics at surface: regular monitoring (MSFD related). Visual surveys of floating marine litter from vessel and aircraft megafauna surveys, etc.</p>	<p>Yes. During regularly conducted necropsies of harbour porpoises, harbour seals and grey seals the focus is additionally set on detecting ingested litter items and information on incidents of entanglement of all three species. 'Fishing for Litter' cooperative project incl. fishermen. OSPAR Monitoring Programmes. Also, fish monitoring in the framework of Habitats Directive includes bycaught litter.</p>		<p>Yes. OSPAR Litter Monitoring Programme of beach litter, OSPAR Plastic particles in Fulmar stomachs in the North Sea, Dutch seafloor litter monitoring in the North Sea.</p>			<p>Yes. The UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme routinely records evidence of marine debris ingestion and/or entanglement found in UK stranded cetaceans which undergo to post-mortem examination (see section 9.2). The project also includes the Scottish Entanglement Alliance, which is a collaborative funded project with the aim of engaging with the Scottish inshore fishing industry to better understand the incidence of marine animal entanglements which may be in active or discarded gear, and to develop sustainable, proportional mitigation strategies. Scottish Marine Litter Strategy – monitoring of beaches, seabed and water column. Northern Ireland beaches (DAERA). Some research NGOs (e.g. HWDT, SWF) systematically record marine debris during dedicated cetacean surveys (most data from Irish Sea and West Coast Scotland).</p>

9.2. Are these data publicly available?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Reports of the latest regional assessment activities of OSPAR. Information on the presence of litter in the stomachs of marine mammals. (+2 other reports)	Yes. By contacting DCE.	Yes. (link)	Yes. On request to data collector / providers. DALI lfremer .	Yes. OSPAR (assessment of marine litter , beach litter , litter seafloor , plastic particles in fulmar stomachs). Wadden Sea (marine litter , pollution). ICES (litter seafloor).		Yes.			Yes. 7 links provided, e.g. to CSIP annual reports (2016 , 2017 , 2018 ; 2019 in press).

9.3. What species of small cetaceans were found to have been impacted by marine debris?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
1 Narwhal in 2016 (Southern North Sea). Over 20 plastic items found in stomach.	-	-	CBW (c.50%), PSW (c.30%), LFPW (c.20%), HP (<5%), BD (<5%), CD (<1% of examined animals). Ingestion. All in Northern Bay of Biscay.	1990-2014: 9 HP, 5 entanglement, 4 ingestion (fishhook, plastics, bracelet). In Southern North Sea and Belt Sea.		HP, number of impacted individuals unknown (sampling not systematic). No entanglements were recorded. Ingested plastics are found in a small proportion of HP. Marine debris has not been found to be a cause of death for HP. Southern North Sea.			2016-2019: 19 (6 CD, 5 HP, 2 WBD, 2 SD, 1 BD, 1 KW, 1 RD, 1 NBW). Most cases: non-fatal and incidental ingestion.

9.4. Are there any mitigation measures in place?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. National action plan on marine litter (2017) incl. several measures ranging from avoiding the production of plastic to the avoidance of litter being discarded at sea, placing collection points. Effective. We observe an increased willingness of relevant sectors (fishing, pharmaceutical, etc.) to tackle the issues involving marine litter. Main observed successes are related to clean up.	No.	No.	Yes. 1) The Law on energy transition for green growth (2015, implementation 2017). Single use plastic bags are no longer distributed since 2017. Effective. 2) Reclaiming biodiversity, nature and landscapes law (2016, implementation 2018). Microbeads in cosmetics are banned since January 1st, 2018. Effective.	Yes. ‘Fishing for litter’ has been effective. An environmental initiative, internationally coordinated by KIMO and OSPAR, aiming to reduce the amount of litter in the sea and to highlight the problem of marine litter among the public and the fishing sector. NABU coordinating in DE. +Coastal Cleanup Day, DropS -project, and “Strandmüll-Sammelaktionen”.		No.			Yes. https://www.gov.scot/policies/marine-environment/marine-litter/ . British Divers Marine Life Rescue – Large Whale Disentanglement Team (LWDT). The Scottish Entanglement Alliance runs a programme of training to enable Scottish fishers to safely disentangle whales spotted at sea. This measure has been effective: There have been successful releases of entangled animals at sea e.g. https://bdmlr.org.uk/orknet-humpback-freed

9.5. How is marine debris managed? (incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation, current and planned)

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>Marine litter originating from ships and how to prevent it is regulated by EU Directive 2019/883. This is being implemented in BE by OVAM at the moment.</p>	<p>DK follow the protocol and data gathering determined by HELCOM and OSPAR.</p>	<p>Baltic-wide mitigation measures have been listed in HELCOM Marine litter action plan. National MSFD - related mitigation measures are being updated for 2021-2027. Several national projects ongoing related to marine litter and plastics also as part of the MSFD programme of measures. MOE will start preparing the implementation of the EU directive (2019/904) on the reduction of the environmental impact of certain plastic products.</p>	<p>FR has adopted several laws that ban a list of single use plastics items. MSFD: the 1st cycle of the national plan of actions for the MSFD has been implemented since 2016, with various measures to prevent marine litter. Roadmap “zero plastic waste at sea”: the roadmap (2019), has planned 35 actions to prevent marine litter. The Ministry is developing the national charter “Beaches without plastic waste”. Etc.</p>	<p>Clean-up of beaches after deposition onshore by the waves through collection machines at public bathing beaches. Beach clean-ups outside public bathing sites by events with volunteers, coordinated by the National Park authority (MSFD measure). Collection of debris by beach combers and deposition in special collection sites (‘Beach-Debris-Box’). Objects are collected during regularly conducted necropsies of harbour porpoises from the North Sea and Baltic Sea. Objects and lesions found are noted, measured and archived at ITAW. This meets the needs for implementing the MSFD.</p>		<p>OSPAR Regional Action Plan contains measures to reduce plastic pollution.</p>			<p>Guidelines for the collection of offshore litter data. International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) and its Annex 5. EU Port Waste Reception Directive. London Convention. Basel Convention. MSFD Good Environmental Status indicator 10. EU Single-use Plastics Directive.</p>

9.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine debris in your country.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>OSPAR beach litter monitoring programme. National Action plan on marine litter (link). MSFD programme measures (21,22 & 29) related to waste generated by</p>	<p>6 publications listed, e.g. Risk assessment of added chemicals in plastics in the Danish marine environment.</p>	<p>Policy Brief on microplastics. KAPYYSI (EMFF project) 2018-2020 mapped the ghost network situation in FI coastal areas</p>	<p>French organisations are involved in 2 Interreg project dealing with marine litter in the framework of MSFD and OSPAR RAP: Clean Atlantic focused on macrolitter and OceanWise focused on expanded / extruded polystyrene EPS/XPS and</p>	<p>Research project on macroplastics. 8 other references listed, incl. a Doctoral thesis and</p>		<p>7 scientific publications listed, e.g. Quantifying ingested debris in marine megafauna: A review and recommendations for standardization.</p>			<p>7 publications and resources linked, e.g. supporting KIMO’s Fishing For Litter, which helps fishermen remove and bring ashore litter that they catch in their nets.</p>

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
fisheries (link). Flemish action plan on marine litter. (+2 other reports)		and aimed to remove them.	alternatives. Also, a national research consortium dedicated on the fate of plastic in marine environment has recently been created.	scientific publications.					

9.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from marine debris in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Staying the same (HP). Litter items hardly ever found in HP and up to now unrelated to cause of death; no entanglement observed.	Unknown.	Unknown (HP).	Unknown (BD, CD, HP).	Unknown (HP). The number of impacted animals in 1990-2014 was low, the associated lesions severe. No clear trend could be drawn to judge an increase or decrease. This is a minimum estimate - not all animals are washed ashore and are available for necropsy. Possible increasing: Experience from MSC Zoe ~350 container loss on 1 January 2019.		Decreasing (HP). The formal MSFD indicator for marine debris shows decreasing trends.			Unknown for all species based on UK strandings programme.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

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

10. Pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics)

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. No structural programme, but cooperation within OSPAR for the development of an indicator.	No.	No. HP is the only regular species in FI waters. Numbers are extremely low and due to lack of samples we are not able to monitor pollutants directly in small cetaceans. However, pollutants are monitored mainly from seawater, herring and sediments.	Yes. CD in the BoB; HP in the Channel; BD in BoB and channel (30 ind. every two years). In addition, micro- and, possibly, nano-plastics are also present in marine environment and their impacts are presently poorly understood.	Yes. Faeces samples of HPs collected since 2014 (German North Sea and Baltic Sea) in the course of the regular conducted necropsies at ITAW. Evaluation of the quantity and quality (RAMAN Spectroscopy) has started.		Yes.			Yes. Through a long-term collaboration between the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), one of the worlds largest datasets on pollutants in cetaceans has been generated. A long-term time series of levels of PCBs, OCPs, PBDEs, HBCD and PFCs in harbour porpoises is being added to each year. In addition, samples from a variety of other UK stranded marine mammals have also been analysed (see below). Microplastics are also monitored through stomach contents analysis as part of post-mortem analysis of stranded animals.

10.2. Who is carrying out the pollutant monitoring program? Please provide information on the institution(s)/agencies that collect the samples and carry out the analyses.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
1 listed.	-	4 listed.	1 listed.	2 listed.		2 listed.			2 listed.

10.3. Select the small cetacean species that were covered by your monitoring program during the reporting period. Mark the year in which the species was sampled with an x.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
HP 2016-2019	-	-	HP, CD, BD 2016-2019	HP 2016-2019		HP 2016-2019			In 2016-2019: 277 HP, 169 CD, 16 SD, 11 WBD, 11 LFPW, 10 RD, 9 SBW, 8 BD, 4 KW, 3 AWSC, 2 CBW, 2 PSW, 1 NBW. The above details numbers of stranded cetaceans examined at <u>necropsy</u> by the UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme, where samples for potential pollutant analyses were collected. It does <u>not</u> indicate those where subsequent analyses occurred. In addition to the above, SMASS/SRUC volunteers collected 265 additional sets of samples from 12 species of non-necropsied cetacean between 2016-2019, which are also available for potential analyses. Contaminant analyses were carried out at Cefas on a large number of samples collected above (see Section 10.8 for more detail).

10.4. Select the source of your samples.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Necropsy from stranding & from bycatch.	-	-	Necropsy from stranding.	Necropsy from stranding & from bycatch.		Necropsy from stranding & from bycatch.			Necropsy from stranding & from bycatch.

10.5. Select the geographical coverage of your monitoring program.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
OSPAR Region II Greater North Sea (Southern North Sea)	-	HELCOM (6 areas)	OSPAR Region II (Southern North Sea, Channel); Region III (Celtic Sea); Region IV (N. Bay of Biscay)	OSPAR Region II (Southern & Northern North Sea), HELCOM (Arkona Basin, Belt Sea)		OSPAR Region II (Southern North Sea)			OSPAR Region II (Southern & Northern North Sea, Channel), OSPAR Region III (Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, Irish & Scottish W. Coast)

10.6. Select the contaminant / pathogen analyses you have conducted for small cetaceans.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
POPs, Morbillivirus, Brucella.	-	-	POPs, Toxic elements, others (emerging pollutants). Occasionally Brucella and Morbillivirus.	POPs, Toxic elements, HAB toxins, Morbillivirus, Brucella, Microplastics.		POPs, Toxic elements, Microplastics, others: potential infectious agents. Pathogen analysis is conducted in suspected cases as after macro- and microscopic examination			POPs, Radionuclides, Morbillivirus, Brucella, Microplastics.

10.7. Does your country determine microplastics in small cetaceans?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	No.	Yes. No specific protocol. All animals are sampled if the state of decay allows for sample taking. A protocol for sample handling was established in the course of a PhD study and is about to be published. This mainly focusses on the avoidance of secondary pollution.		Yes. Specific protocol .			Yes. Specific protocol: ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS “European Best Practice on Cetacean Post-mortem Investigation and Tissue Sampling” (2019). Microplastics in marine mammals stranded around the British coast : ubiquitous but transitory?

10.8. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on impact of pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics) on small cetaceans in your country.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	4 listed.	3 listed.		4 publications and 1 project listed.			4 PhD or Masters projects, 14, publications listed. Analyses summary on contaminants PCBs in apex predators, PBDEs, HBCD, PFASs incl. PFOS. ChemPop project.

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).

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	We do not have time series of fat-soluble pollutants in small cetaceans from Danish waters.	-	-	-		-			-

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	-	No.		No.			No.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Unknown (HP).	Unknown (HP, WBD); increasing (WBD). No evidence.	Unknown (HP).	N/a.	Unknown (HP). Evidence concerning microplastics.		Unknown (HP).			Unknown for all species, based on strandings / necropsies and CSIP / Cefas collaboration. Given the range of pollutants and hazardous substances listed in 10.6, the summary table above is a crude way of trying to assess the perceived level of pressure related to these substances - it's difficult to provide an overall assessment of the impact of such a broad range of potential pressures within a single table. In the UK, a globally significant dataset on POPs and other pollutants of concern has been generated, giving an insight into their potential impact on a number of cetacean species.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

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

11. Ship Strikes

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	5 records listed (2016-2018), not submitted to the IWC Ship Strike Database. 2 CD (Northern Bay of Biscay), 2 HP (Channel), 1 WBD (Channel). Animals found stranded.	No.		No.			-

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	No.	Yes. 20 possible + 20 certain (HP) in Southern North Sea: Hamburg Port area, May 2016, mainly after Port anniversary (special situation with lots of vessels and fast watercraft).		Yes. 2-3 HP / year in Southern North Sea. The cause of death is blunt trauma. Though other causes for blunt trauma have been ruled out, there is no certainty that this is caused by ship strikes. Reports (in Dutch) on the results of the necropsies conducted on harbour porpoise since 2009.			Yes. 4 certain in the reporting period (1 / year). 3 CD, 1 HP. Diagnosed from necropsy of strandings. CSIP 2017, 2018 and 2019 annual reports (see section IV, 1.10).

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?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. General necropsy protocol	No.	No.	Yes. Description of external lesions; ECS necropsy protocol.	Yes. Ship strikes are protocolled (if occurring) within the standard post-mortem examination protocol. Ship strikes seem not an issue of concern in the German marine waters. However, observations show that porpoises manage to reach the estuaries and freshwater parts of German rivers. Their presence is monitored and the situation of ship strikes assessed.		Yes. It is not a stand-alone protocol but part of a procedure to determine the likelihood the observed blunt trauma was caused by a ship-strike or other causes.			Yes. All cetacean post-mortem investigations (including tissue sampling) in the UK between 2011-2019 were conducted using standardized and systematic necropsy procedures (Deaville 2019 ; ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS best practice)

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?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	-	No.		Yes. Cumulative identified animals up to 2019: 72. There is a photo-identification catalogue from Stichting Rugvin for a small harbour porpoise population in the Oosterschelde (Eastern Scheldt), an estuary in the southern part of the Netherlands. Some animals show healed			Yes. Irish Sea, 308 BD in the photo-identification

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
						wounds, for example from Grey seal attacks. There is one animal that shows a scar that has been identified as having been caused possibly by a ship-strike. No certain visible ship strike scars have been identified. The photo-identification webpage is updated regularly.			catalogue, 4 possible showing ship strike markings.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	No.	Yes. https://walschutz.org/		No.			Yes. 1 publication listed.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-		Necropsy reports + 4 publications listed.			As part of the NERC/Defra funded MERP (Marine Ecosystem Research Programme) Project, Sea Watch Foundation / Bangor University have been developing risk maps applied across NW European Seas for all the major cetacean species, by mapping shipping of different sizes & speeds using AIS data and comparing the extent of overlap with densities for each species derived from species distribution maps prepared as the main output of this element of the research programme. Risk factors for each species are being developed based upon the results of the IWC ship strike database and necropsy results from Strandings Investigation Programmes. + 1 PhD project listed.

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).

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	None for small cetacean in NW Atlantic French marine waters, except within MPA (Iroise Marine Natural Park)	Rules that regulate the speed of motorboats inside National Parks at the coast of the North Sea and Baltic Sea . The regulations aim primarily on seals and migratory birds, but all marine species benefit from it. See answer in 6.4 (on recreational sea use and disturbance / harassment)		-			-

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.		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?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
N/a.	Unknown.	Unknown (HP).	Unknown. (CD, HP, BD).	Unknown (HP). The presence of HPs in the Wadden Sea increased		Unknown (HP).			Stayin the same (BD, HP, CD). Nature of evidence: UK strandings

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
				during the last decade which might also imply an increased exposure to ship strikes in our region but no data / assessment available.					programme. A relatively low incidence of ship strikes recorded in UK stranded small cetaceans examined at post-mortem.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

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

12. Climate Change

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes.	-	No.	-	Yes.		Yes.			Yes.

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

	BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Changes in small cetacean abundance	✓	✓	-	✓	✓		✓			✓
Changes in small cetacean distribution	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Changes in small cetacean migration or movement range										✓
Changes in small cetacean migration or movement timing					✓		✓			✓
Changes in small cetacean community structure				✓						
Changes in reproductive success and timing in small cetaceans				✓						✓
Changes in prey (fish) abundance and distribution	✓			✓	✓		✓			✓
Changes in timing of prey (fish) spawning and migration				✓						✓
Changes in fishing effort				✓	✓					✓
Changes in the occurrence of pathogens							✓			✓
Incidences of algal blooms				✓	✓					✓
Other (specify)										

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.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-		Not to our knowledge.			7 references listed.

12.6. 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?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. It is suspected that changes occurred in the distribution /occurrence of white-beaked dolphin in the southern North Sea, but this should be assessed on a much wider scale than Belgian waters.	Unknown.	No.	No.	No.		No.			Potential issues: shift or contraction in range; changes to physical habitat; changes to food web, prey distribution and availability and predator-prey relationships; increased susceptibility to disease and contaminants; effects on reproductive success.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
N/a. there are much better ways of assessing pressure of climate change in Belgian waters than marine mammal occurrence and distribution; e.g. changes in pelagic constitution – phyto- and zooplankton, occurrence of southerly species, abiotic factors such as temperature and acidity.	Unknown.	Unknown (HP).	-	Unknown (HP). No effects known so far: However, effects due to increasing water temperatures or change in distribution of prey species appear likely in the future.		Unknown (HP).			Increasing (HP, BD, RD, C, WBD) based on expert opinion in relation to documented prey responses.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

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

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

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.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Southern North Sea. Reports, maps, GIS. Data available online.	-	Gulf of Finland. General info, incl. maps etc. Data available online.	CEREMA has database on dredging.	Southern North Sea. Grid connection of Nordergründe Wind farm constructed in 2016 (data online). Dredging activities (data online). https://www.mdi-de.org/		Sand extraction areas, dredge dump areas (Southern North Sea). Data available online.			Norther North Sea, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea. Marine Information System (MIS) is provided by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). DAERA , Marine Scotland & maps . (data online)

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	-	No.	-	No.		No.			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)?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Construction wind farms: already mentioned in the section on offshore wind; None for dredging or sand and gravel extraction	-	No.	In the framework of Saint-Brieuc windfarm project, steering committee, with scientific committee with process to avoid impacts on cetaceans, and monitor them. As part of the tidal turbine pilot project (Sabella) in Fromveur, Mer d'Iroise, environmental monitoring has been carried out and will continue to be carried out under the control of the parc naturel marin of Iroise.	Yes. Noise mitigation for the construction of increasingly large offshore wind turbines (effective). In the German EEZ and coastal waters noise mitigation measures to prevent impacts due to construction activities esp. pile driving on small cetaceans are set by a series of legislative and administrative actions. (Effective.)		No.			Yes. Normally developed as part of marine mammal mitigation plans for projects, which are a requirement of EIAs for offshore development.

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).

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	1 listed.	-	1 listed.	3 listed.		Not to our knowledge.			Most of the studies on human activities such as construction and the potential impacts on small cetaceans are related to disturbance due to noise and/or presence of vessels rather than physical habitat change. These studies are usually covered in National Reporting Section B4 Ocean Energy. +4 publications listed.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	-	No.	-	No.		No.			-

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Increasing (HP). Evidence: activities such as offshore windfarm construction and cable laying increasing.	-	Unknown (HP).	-	Unknown.		Unknown (HP).			Unknown (HP, BD, RD, CD, WBD).

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)
C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

14. Other issues

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-		-			-

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)
D. Management of Cumulative Impacts

15. Marine Spatial Planning

15.1. Please provide information in regard to current and foreseen marine spatial planning.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>National: Marine spatial plans 2014-2020, the Marine Spatial Plan 2020-2026 was prepared and approved in the period covered by this report. It's operational since 20 March 2020.</p>	<p>National: Regualtions in Directive 2014/89/EU establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning. The Danish Maritime Authority is responsible for establishing Denmark's first maritime spatial plan that will enter in to force in 2021.</p>	<p>National: The coastal regions will compile maritime spatial plans by the end of March 2021. Transboundary : HELCOM-VASAB guidelines.</p>	<p>National: MSP Framework Directive are currently being prepared. Their strategic part (notably environmental objectives) was adopted in 2019 and the whole (action plans, surveillance programme) will be adopted in 2022.</p>	<p>National: MSP of the EEZ (North- and Baltic Seas) since 2009. State Development Plan Mecklenburg Vorpommern (2016) and Niedersachsen (2017). Landesentwicklungsplan Schleswig-Holstein (being reviewed).</p>		<p>National: National Water Plan, The Dutch Nature Conservation Act. The latter will be integrated in the Environmental and Planning Act (expected earliest 2021) in a policy neutral way i.e. level of protection will not change. The Act will also provide the legal basis for the implementation. With the adoption of the EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (2014/89/EU), all coastal EU Member States are required to prepare cross-sectoral maritime spatial plans by 2021.</p>			<p>National: Welsh National Marine Plan. Marine Plan for Northern Ireland has been drafted.</p>

15.2. Have there been any other instances/issues in your country regarding marine spatial planning during the reporting period?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	-	No.		No.			Yes. Welsh National Marine Plan.

15.3. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine spatial planning in your country.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
New leaflet on the revised marine spatial plan.	ECOMAR project to suggest MSP for DK.	Finnish MSP webpage for materials and reports.	EU project SIMNORAT .	-		-			Marine protected areas and marine spatial planning for the benefit of marine mammals.

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

E. Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas

16. Protected areas, e.g. Natura 2000 sites

16.1. Does your country have MPAs (existing or proposed) where small cetaceans are the primary reason for the (proposed) designation?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	Yes. Please find all details on all HP MPA in the national progress report of 2018 .	No.	Yes 3, designated outside reporting period. 1) on Celtic Sea (3500m ²) in 2007. 2) on Iberian Sea (6500 m ²) in 2015. 3) on Channel (2300m ²) in 2006. French law on MPAs (2006). N/a to ASC action plans. Site-specific management plan for all. (Links provided)	Yes. 24 listed (6 designated in the reporting period). Biggest is the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park (4,410km ²) with 2,840m ² whale sanctuary. Site-specific management in place for all. All applicable to several ASC action plans. (Links provided)		No.			Yes. 9 listed (6 designated in the reporting period). Site-specific management in place for all but one MPA. Biggest is the MPA in Southern North Sea (36,950 km ²), designated in Feb 2019, and the only one applicable to ASC action plan (North Sea Plan). Legislation: Habitats Directive. (Links provided.)

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. 1 on Southern North Sea (n/a to ASC action plans), 1099 km ² . MPA status: designated (2012). Legislation: Habitats Directive, OSPAR. Site-specific management plan in place.	Yes. Please find ALL details on all harbour porpoise MPA in the national progress report of 2018 .	No.	49 Natura 2000 Special Areas of Conservation designated in 2008: 29 in Channel, 14 in N. BoB, 1 Channel/Celtic Sea, 1 Channel/Celtic Sea/ N. BoB, 1 N. BoB/Iberian Sea, 3 Iberian Sea.	Yes. 5 designated in 2008. Applicable to ASC action plans. Legislation: Habitats Directive. (links provided)		Yes. 10 listed (2 designated in 2016), 2 of them MSFD areas (proposed measures aim at reducing bottom trawling, which will benefit porpoises). Most of MPAs applicable to ASC North Sea Plan. Habitats Directive, MSFD, CFP.			Yes. 2 listed (designated in 2017 in the Irish Sea and in 2004 in the Celtic Sea). Legislation: Habitats Directive.

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).

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
1. Pressure: bycatch, disturbance. Measure: none site-specific.	-	-	1) Iroise marine nature park. Pressure: reduce noise exposure for BD. Measure: jetski prohibition, ban on seaweed harvesting. BD photo-ID monitoring; Mega scope yearly offshore campaigns. 2) Plateau de Rochebonne. Pressure: bycatch. Measure: fisheries closure in Dec/Jan.	For 4 sites, pressures listed are fisheries, shipping, bycatch, ship strikes, noise, disturbance, and fishing. Measures incl. spatial restrictions in shallow waters, prohibiting gillnet fishery, application of selective fishing methods.		-			For 2 sites, MPA Management Measures / Improving protection of PMF. Measure: advice . For multiple other sites: Conservation Objectives for the site; and advice on any operations which may cause deterioration of natural habitats or the habitats of species, or disturbance of species, for which the site has been designated. Links to measures listed in the table.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Nonspecific for the site.	The MPAs designated under the Habitat Directive are all monitored since 2011. Latest report here .	-	-	Visual monitoring (2015). Acoustic monitoring (2016-2018, ongoing).		MPA-specific measures for cetaceans are lacking. Generic measures to reduce bycatch and impacts of underwater noise are implemented. Harbour Porpoise Conservation Plan is updated in 2020.			Monitoring programmes: Moray Firth SAC – University of Aberdeen Cardigan Bay and Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau SACs – Sea Watch Foundation North East Lewis MPA – Whale & Dolphin Conservation.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	1 listed.		ICES WGMME report . Dutch Marine Strategy .			5 listed, incl. Development of UK Dolphin and Porpoise Conservation strategy (due for publication 2020).

Section III: Surveys and Research
A. Biological Information (per species)

1. Abundance estimates

1.1. Please submit the relevant information on national dedicated surveys on abundance and distribution during the reporting period into the table below.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>Belgian part of the North Sea: 1) Aerial distribution and abundance surveys (2-4/year). Line transect, HP. 2) Impact assessment of offshore wind farms (continuous). PAM, HP.</p>	<p>CPOD monitoring in MPAs (NOVANA project, since 2011). PAM, HP.</p>	<p>Acoustic monitoring in Northern Baltic Proper and Åland Sea, Oct 2016 - ongoing. PAM, HP. PAM in SAMBAH LIFE+ revealed that harbour porpoise occurs also in Finnish offshore areas south from Åland and Archipelago Sea. National monitoring was started in that area in October 2016 and the results show similarly to SAMBAH that harbour porpoise is regular but in very low numbers, and the distribution range of the Baltic Proper population extends up to ca. 60N and 23E.</p>	<p>1) Southern North Sea: DUNKRISK (2018). 6 surveys, once every 2 months. Aerial line transect, HP. 2) Western Channel: GECC (2016-2019). Photo ID, BD. 3) Celtic Sea / Western Channel: PNMI (2016-2019). Photo ID, BD. 4) BoB: SPEE (2019). Aerial line transect, CD. Highlight: importance of dynamic redistribution of CD in the BoB in winter and its relationship with the bycatch issue.</p>	<p>19 listed (17 in the reporting period). Methods: mostly line transect, also PAM. Harbour Porpoise. In addition, there are opportunistic sighting programmes (links provided).</p>		<p>3 listed for HP: 2017, 2018, 2019 (links include distribution maps per year). Aerial survey - line transect distance sampling</p>			-

1.2. Other relevant new research/work/collaboration on abundance estimates in regard to small cetaceans in your country during the reporting period.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>Yearly stranding reports (including other relevant information)</p>	<p>See SCANS-III report.</p>	<p>N/a.</p>	<p>Deep Sea Reasearch-II special issue 2017.</p>	<p>National Monitoring Program.</p>		<p>6 scientific publications listed.</p>			<p>9 references listed, e.g. SCANS III,</p>

1.3. Is the abundance of species in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Unknown (HP). Evidence: Increase followed by recent decrease based on strandings.	Staying the same (HP Belt Sea); unknown (HP Baltic Sea).	Unknown (HP). Evidence: PAM shows regular presence (see 1.1.) however in very low numbers and without detectable trends.	-	Staying the same (HP). Nature of evidence.		Staying the same (HP). See 2.2. time series 2016-2019 provides no measurable change.			-

Section III: Surveys and Research

A. Biological Information (per species)

2. New information on life history parameters

2.1. Is there new information on the following life history parameters in the reporting period?

	BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Age of sexual and physical maturity				✓			✓			
Inter-birth intervals										✓
Calf and adult mortality rates										✓
Potential reproductive span/capacity										
Longevity		✓					✓			
Diet	✓			✓			✓			
Age and sex structure	✓			✓	✓					
Other relevant factors	✓	✓					✓			

2.1. (continued)

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Other aspect of strandings investigation, such as grey seal predation on HP.	Longevity: data suggest a different length-to-age-function that what has been assumed from bycaught data. Other: DK has a limited monitoring program for		Age of sexual and physical maturity: Using data from stranded individuals, age at first reproduction for HP in the Channel and Bay of Biscay was estimated at 3,4 (standard error: 1 year) and 2,5 (standard error: 1 year) years respectively. Diet: Prey consumption by cetaceans reveals the importance of energy-rich food webs in the Bay of Biscay (HP). Age and sex structure: Using data from	Age of sexual and physical maturity, inter-birth intervals, potential reproductive span/capacity: Investigations not carried out on a regular basis, but within the framework of		Longevity: from strandings data the oldest male porpoise was 13 years of age, the oldest female 24 years of age. Other: mortality due to Grey seal attacks on HP.			A new approach to estimate fecundity rate from inter-birth intervals . Inter-birth interval estimates derived from photo-ID monitoring of bottlenose dolphins in Cardigan Bay undertaken by SWF. Calf and adult mortality: Variations in age- and

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
	blubber thickness, HP		stranded individuals, life-tables for HPs in the Channel and Bay of Biscay were estimated.	specific research questions.					sex-specific survival rates could explain population trend in a discrete marine mammal population. Calf mortality rate estimates derived from photo-ID monitoring of bottlenose dolphins in Cardigan Bay undertaken by SWF.

Section III: Surveys and Research

B. Monitoring Programmes

3. Overview of current monitoring and survey schemes

3.1. Are there national monitoring programmes that enable assessment of the Conservation Status of small cetaceans in your waters (i.e. provides abundance estimates and/or life history parameters and information on pressures)?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Line transect surveys, PAM, strandings - both within MPAs and wider seas.	Yes. PAM, HP within MPAs. Line transect surveys in wider seas (HP).	No.	Yes. Photo ID (BD), strandings (all species) within MPAs. Line transect surveys, PAM (HP), photo ID (BD), strandings in wider seas.	Yes. Line transect surveys, PAM, strandings - both within MPAs and wider seas (HP).		Yes. Line transect surveys in the Dutch Continental Shelf (HP, WBD). PAM in Easter Scheldt (HP).			Yes. PAM and Photo-ID (HP), and line transect surveys and Photo-ID (BD) within MPAs. Line transect surveys, PAM and Photo-ID also in wider seas (HP, BD, RD, KW).

3.2. Please provide the relevant information with regards to aerial surveying activities.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
2-4/year, Belgian waters, HP.	1 at Belt Sea (SCANS-III) in July 2016. Annual surveys (July) in Danish Skagerrak and Danish Southern North Sea, HP.	-	6 in Southern North Sea (HP) in 2017-2018. 12 in Central Bay of Biscay (HP 8, CD 4) in 2019. 8 surveys SPEE 15,000km ² (marine megafauna) in 2019-2020. 26 surveys in total.	See 1.1. German North Sea and Part of German Baltic Sea (HP).		In the Dutch Continental Shelf, 3 surveys in a summer for HP and 3 for WBD. 4 surveys bi-monthly on HP. 10 surveys in total.			North Wales: digital surveys Colwyn Bay (NW5) windfarms, summer 2016 - winter 2017 (HP). South East England: East Anglia wind farms

3.3. Please provide the relevant information with regards to Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM).

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Belgian waters, continuous, HP, C-POD.	2019-2020: Northern Little Belt and Flensborg Fjord. 2018-2019 waters around Bornholm. 2017-2018: Central Great Belt and Kalundborg Fjord. HP. C-POD, Chelonia.	Northern Baltic Proper, Åland Sea, Oct 2016 - ongoing, HP, C-POD.	Dunkirk, 2017-2019, HP, CPOD. Arcachon, 2015-2016, HP, CPOD.	Since 2002 (ongoing all year); and 2011-2019 (ongoing). C-Pods.		Borssele wind farms Southern North Sea. Surveys Oct 2019-2020, HP. CPOD, soundtraps.			7 sites / projects listed. From 2016 - present (continuous monitoring). Instruments used: C-POD, soundtrap with click detector, Vemco VR2AR. For ECOMASS (East coast of Scotland), C-PODs and SM2Ms are deployed at 30 sites across 10 locations along the east coast.

3.4. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other countries?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Scientific publications.	Yes. SCANS-III with SE, DE.	No.	No. SCANS-III with NW Europe countries.	Yes. Mini-SCANS with DE, DK, SE.		Yes. Database for the North Sea including SCANS surveys together with national aerial surveys in the North Sea following SCANS protocol.			Yes. COMPASS , MarPAMM , SCANS III . Many collaborators.

3.5. Please provide details on any planned activities relevant to monitoring programmes.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	In 2020, MiniSCANS-II will be conducted. An aerial survey of the Belt Sea population in collaboration with DE, SE.	SAMBAH II in preparation; national passive acoustic monitoring ongoing.	MSFD monitoring programme for marine mammals 2020-2026 (incl. SAMP aerial survey during winter 2020-2021, SAMP and/or SCANS aerial survey summer/winter, collaboration with Spain and Portugal on Megascopie yearly campaigns, development of coastal and offshore acoustic monitoring programmes, improvement of the national stranding network). There was also acoustic monitoring of cetaceans in the Fromveur Sept 2017 - Oct 2018 (PNMI).	Monitoring of harbour porpoises .		Wageningen Marine Research survey scheme will be changed; 3-yearly surveys in spring and summer. This is planned in addition to a 6-yearly international SCANS survey.			North coast NI bottlenose dolphin survey – joint survey with AFBI and IWDG – scheduled for May 2020 but cancelled due to Covid – rescheduled for later in 2019/2020.

3.6. Relevant outputs/findings from monitoring programmes to note.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
HP, two studies linked: Seasonal habitat-based density models for a marine top predator, the harbor porpoise, in a dynamic environment; Distribution maps of cetacean and seabird populations in the North-East Atlantic.	HP, monitoring report 2018.	HP is regular, but in very low numbers in the Finish offshore area south of ca. 60N and west of ca. 23N.	MFSD GES evaluation 2018: 1) HP population threatened in the Channel, North Sea and Celtic sea due to bycatch. 2) CD population threatened in the Celtic sea and Bay of Biscaye due to bycatch.	HP: Wadden Sea report on marine mammals. Reports on C-POD , HP monitoring & distribution , sighting map .		-			BD: Using social media as a cost-effective resource in the photo-identification of a coastal bottlenose dolphin community; AFBI Coastal Bottlenose Dolphin Photo-Identification Catalogue . HP: Fine-scale distribution of harbour porpoise within a coastal Marine Protected Area + 3 other papers listed. + 2 listed for all species.

Section III: Surveys and Research

B. Monitoring Programmes

4. Other research (not mentioned elsewhere in Section II, III or IV)

4.1. Please provide relevant information in regard to other research (not mentioned elsewhere in Sections II, III, IV).

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	Experimental campaigns in 2019 to collect environmental DNA for the identification of marine mammals in Iroise (BIOGEMME/PNMI).	1) Harbour porpoises frequenting the rivers Weser and Elbe (2007, 2012). 2) Opportunistic sightings since 2002, online maps since 2012.		-			-

Section IV: Use of Strandings Records

A. Stranding Network and Strandings

1.1. Is there a national stranding network in place?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Coordinated by RBINS / MUMM (since 1992).	No. DK has a contingency plan for stranded marine mammals, but not a network. Max. 125 stranded HPs has	No.	Yes. The FR stranding network is co-ordinated by the Joint Service Unit Observatoire Pelagis, UMS 3462 University of La Rochelle/CNRS,	Yes. This issue is under the competency of the German (Länder" (Federal States).		Yes. Consisting of volunteers, SOS Dolfijn, and Utrecht University.			Yes. The collaborative UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) is contracted by UK government to collect/collate, analyse and report data on all cetacean

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
	been reported / year. The animals that are reported are filed to a database by Denmark's Maritime Museum (FIMUS), Esbjerg. A yearly report is produced.		dedicated to monitoring marine mammal and seabird populations and funded by the Ministry in charge of the environment and the French Agency for Biodiversity. It is constituted of around 400 trained volunteers distributed along the French coast who collect data according to a standardized observation and dissection protocol.	Therefore, no national network but local stranding networks in respective Federal States (in 3).		Naturalis Biodiversity Centre maintains the database.			strandings around the UK coast; and to undertake post-mortem examinations on a proportion of stranded animals to learn more about the anthropogenic pressures these species face in UK waters. Partner organisations are the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, Scotland's Rural College, Inverness, the Natural History Museum, Marine Environmental Monitoring, Cornwall Wildlife Trust Marine Strandings Network and University of Exeter. The CSIP has been funded since 1990, with current funding from Defra and the Devolved Governments of Scotland and Wales. JNCC administers the strandings programme contract on behalf of funders.

1.2. Does the national stranding network cover the whole, or part of the reporting country's coastline?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Whole.	Part. There is no stranding network per se. There is a general lack of knowledge in the public about the need for reporting stranded marine mammals. Reports of stranded porpoises are therefore incidental.	-	Whole.	Whole.		Whole.			Whole.

1.3. Are necropsies carried out to determine cause of death?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Standard protocol used.	Yes. <25 HP can be collected for necropsy per year. The purpose of the necropsies is to assess cause of	Yes. In case of animals found, yes (no strandings during recent decades).	Yes. The presence of epidermis and intact viscera in very fresh to slightly decomposed carcasses allowed the observers to carry out the full sampling protocol	Yes. Schleswig-Holstein: depending on the state of preservation, basic biometrics are recorded, or a full necropsy is performed, taking samples from different organs for histological, microbiological and virological		Yes. A sample of 50 fresh stranded HPs is necropsied annually. Also other species are necropsied, if possible (but strandings of other species are very limited, see below). Reports .			Yes. All cetacean post-mortem investigations (including tissue sampling) in the UK between 2011-2019 were conducted using standardised and systematic necropsy procedures. Deaville

	death. Relevant institutions have access to sampling the animals during necropsies.		and therefore establish the cause of death. Necropsies are carried out on 5-10% of individuals found stranded.	investigations varying on a case-to-case basis. If possible, a cause of death is determined based on macroscopic findings and results from further investigations.							2019 . See Section 1.10 for additional details. ASCOBANS / ACCOBAMS best practice 2019 .
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1.4. Is there a database of strandings?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.		Yes.			Yes.

1.5. Is the data available online or downloadable on request?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Selection of data.	Yes. Can be exported on request.	Yes. Data available in HELCOM-ASCOBANS harbour porpoise database.	Yes. Elementary data (species, date, location of stranding) are freely available online . More detailed data are send on request,	Yes. Federal State of Lower Saxony , of Schleswig Holstein (annual reports), of Mecklenburg Vorpommern .		Yes , maintained by Naturalis Biodiversity Centre.			Yes. The current CSIP web accessed relational database facilitates the entry of data on UK stranded cetaceans, marine turtles, basking sharks and seals by partners within the CSIP consortium. It is not currently public facing, although a project is underway to allow display of data to the public from a ZSL administered portal. Regional web accessible databases and offline databases are also held by the Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme and the Cornwall Wildlife Trust Marine Strandings Network.

1.6. Provide details for the institution(s) responsible for a stranding database, responding to live strandings, collection of carcasses, and for conducting necropsies.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
2 provided. (All responsibilities covered in BE)	5 provided. (All responsibilities covered in DK)	2 provided. (All responsibilities covered in FI)	1 provided. (All responsibilities covered in FR)	4 provided. (All responsibilities covered in DE)		3 provided. (All responsibilities covered in the NL)			8 provided. (All responsibilities covered in GB)

1.7. Are any cases photographed, measured or sampled even if not collected for necropsy?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Yes. Some cases photographed and measured.	Yes. Sometimes, but not as a general rule.	No. (No strandings reported lately)	Yes. Most individuals (80%) are examined by French stranding networks. Minimum examination includes species and sex identification, location, date, external measurements and set of photography.	Yes. Schweinswale e.V. receives many photos from citizens contributing to the sighting scheme. Reports received of stranded HP are forwarded to the responsible institutions.		Yes. Volunteers provide pictures and measurements and can enter these into the database . However, training is needed to improve data collection by volunteers. Efforts are conducted to extend the database and improve the registration of animals in the future.			Yes. Photographs from a majority of UK stranding events (incl. those not recovered for necropsy) are routinely sent to national and regional stranding network/s from members of public, local authorities and other reporting bodies. In addition, in Scotland the Scottish Marine Animal Strandings Scheme (SMASS) strandings volunteer network ; Cornwall Wildlife Trust Marine Strandings Network volunteer scheme . See also Section 1.10.

1.8. Provide details relevant for recorded stranding events during the reporting period.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Total 375, most were HP. Live stranded (6) also died later.	HP in 2019, but we don't the number since the monitoring is very sporadic.	-	Most were CD (3,633), HP (1,176). Total strandings 5,181 - of which 199 live (124 successfully rescued).	Total strandings 1,468 (5 live). Most were HP (only 5 were other species)		Total strandings 2,336 (51 live). Most were HP (only 17 were other species).			Total strandings 3,182 (186 live). Most were HP (1,952), CD (847). Annual stranding figures above given for the UK as a whole. OSPAR regions not detailed, too complex to provide a breakdown over the six regions across the UK. The UK strandings programme also records data on cetaceans found entangled in gear or floating dead at sea (n=66, 2016-2019). For further detail on UK strandings (2016-2019), see relevant UK annual reports.

1.9. Provide details relevant to necropsies.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
Standard protocol (Kuiken, ECS). Number of carcasses necropsied: 50% of	National protocol. 28 necropsied. Cause of death: Assumed bycaught	-	Protocol used (inspired by Geraci & Lounsbury 2005). 514 carcasses necropsied (all	According to Siebert et al. (2001). 1010 carcasses necropsied.		Joint ACCOBAMS / ASCOBANS Best Practice protocol . 220 carcasses necropsied			Deaville 2019 ; see 2016 , 2017 , 2018 , 2019 (in press) CSIP annual

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>stranded HP, 5/7 of others. 1 WBD bycaught (100% known cause of death). 40 HP bycaught (25% of animals with known cause of death), 41 HP grey seal predation (25% of animals with known cause of death). Starvation (narwhal, porpoises).</p>	<p>(no other cause of death established); Bacterial infections Pnemonia / Bronchopneumonia ; Parasite infections; Depredation by supposedly grey seal.</p>		<p>species, all areas). Causes of death identified: Bycatch (50%, average all areas, all species. 90% for CDs in Biscay in winter). Live strandings (5%). Pathology (?)</p>	<p>Suspected bycatch (3,3%), bycatch (1,7%), cachexia (1,6%), suspected predation (0,9%), suspected trauma (0,8%), suffocation due to fish in larynx (0,7%), suspected septicaemia (0,3%), death of mother (0,2%).</p>		<p>in 2016-2019 (breakdown provided per year). Most were HP (217). Cause of death: mainly infectious diseases (28-36% throughout the reporting period), Grey seal attacks (18-31%).</p>			<p>report for further details.</p>

1.10. Other relevant new research/work/collaboration on strandings and stranding networks in your country.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	<p>French stranding network protocols for external examination; French stranding network protocols for stranding interventions; Using Stranding Data to Inform Conservation Practice (2019); Can modelling the drift of bycaught dolphin stranded carcasses help identify involved fisheries? (2020). +5 others listed.</p>	2 listed.		<p>15 scientific publications listed, e.g. bacterial transmission from grey seals to harbour porpoises.</p>			<p>55 references listed (peer reviewed literature, reports). All SMASS annual reports also available on https://osf.io/ks2v6/.</p>

Section V: Legislation

A. Overview of Legislative Framework

1.1. Please provide the applicable information regarding legislation and guidelines relevant to small cetaceans in the table below.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>National guidelines: Guidelines/conditions for offshore activities (including construction). National legislation: General legal framework for the marine environment, Environmental permit</p>	<p>National guidelines: underwater noise. National legislation: All small cetaceans are protected under the</p>	<p>National guidelines: Harbour porpoise – updated proposal on measures for the conservation of harbour</p>	<p>National guidelines: Guidelines on the reduction of noise impact on marine species. National legislation: 2011 Decree regarding protection of</p>	<p>National guidelines: Noise Protection Concept. National legislation: BNatSchG (Federal Nature Conservation Act) and respective legislation of the German Federal states (called: Länder).</p>		<p>National guidelines: Dutch Conservation Plan and Framework for Cumulative Assessment. National legislation: Nature Protection Act (Habitats Directive) and MSFD. Regional / international</p>			<p>National legislation: The Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations (2017), The Conservation of Offshore Species and Habitats Regulations (2017).</p>

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p>system for offshore activities. Bycatch limits; bycatch notification; avoidance of disturbance, etc.</p> <p>Regional / international guidelines: No.</p> <p>Regional / international legislation: OSPAR, EC (e.g. Habitat Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive).</p>	<p>Habitat Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and CFP.</p> <p>Regional / international guidelines: No.</p> <p>Regional / international legislation: EU habitats directive and MSFD and CFP.</p>	<p>porpoise in Finland (Finnish).</p> <p>National legislation: Nature Conservation Act, Act on the conservation of whales and arctic seals and Fishing Act.</p> <p>Regional / international guidelines: Harbour porpoise – updated proposal on measures for the conservation of harbour porpoise in Finland (Finnish) is based on the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Plan.</p> <p>Regional / international legislation: EU habitats directive and MSFD and CFP.</p>	<p>marine mammals in France; Note of 27 April 2017NOR: DEVL1709454Non the reporting of stranded or drifting, dead or missing marine mammals, and in distress, for their scientific exploitation; 2019 Decree AGRM1928574A for <u>mandatory use of pingers</u> on pelagic trawls over 12m long.</p> <p>Regional / international guidelines: ASCOBANS / ACCOBAMS / IWC / Pelagos guidelines.</p> <p>Regional / international legislation: EU habitat directive, EU CFP and Regulation 2019/1941 on technical measures.</p>	<p>Regional/ international guidelines: There is even respective regional legislation in place in all for 4 German Coastal Länder. This includes the regional Nature protection Acts or specific regulations for National Parks.</p> <p>Regional / international guidelines: Regional legislation cf. above.</p> <p>Supranational legislation of the EU - in particular the Habitats Directive - was already addressed in several parts of this report.</p>		<p>guidelines: ASCOBANS HP Conservation Plan.</p> <p>Regional / international legislation: OSPAR and ASCOBANS requirements.</p>			<p>Regional/ international guidelines: Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code.</p> <p>Regional / international legislation: Marine (Scotland) Act 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 &The Conservation Regulations (Northern Ireland (1995) • EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive • OSPAR • CMS • CBD • CITES

1.2. Have there been any instances/issues related to national, regional and/or international legislation during the reporting period in your country?

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	-	No.		No.			Lack of specific regulations related to wildlife watching – disturbance levels increasing...

Section VI: Information and Education

A. Education and Outreach

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.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	2 listed.	6 listed.	7 listed.		11 listed.			17 listed.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
2 listed (links provided). ASC can distribute.	1 listed (with link). ASC can distribute.	2 listed (links provided). ASC can distribute.	4 listed (links provided). ASC can distribute.	1 listed (link provided). ASC can distribute.		4 listed (links provided). 2 can be distributed by ASC.			1 listed (link provided).

1.3. List other organizations engaged in outreach relevant to the ASCOBANS Area, incl. web links.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	Aarhus Uni, AVENTURA, Fjord&Belt, www.hvaler.dk , Middelfart Museum, Øresund Aquarium.	WWF Finland	-	Jade Wale. www.whales.org , https://marine-mammals.com , https://www.meeresmuseum.de/ .		North Sea Foundation , WWF Netherlands , Stichting In De Noordzee , Stichting Duik de Noordzee School ('Dive the North Sea Clean foundation').			-

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
All information taken up in yearly marine mammal reports.	-	N/a.	-	Jan Hermann. Schweinswale e.V.		-			-

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-		-			Promotion of the 'Beachtracker' app to assist in reporting strandings, quantifying survey effort and qualitatively assessing visible marine litter on the coastline.

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

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
No.	No.	No.	-	No.		No.			-

Section VII: Other Matters

A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	-	-	-	-		4 references provided, e.g. Crossing boundaries for cetacean conservation: Setting research priorities to guide management of harbour porpoises.			-

B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement.

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
-	The lack of sufficient information on bycatch covering both the Baltic and the Belt Sea population makes it impossible to assess the treat level and decide on mitigations.	No difficulties, however, the implementation of many of the monitoring actions and concrete conservation measures is either not applicable or impossible / extremely difficult in Finnish waters due to extremely low density of animals (HP) at the northern edge of their distribution range.	-	-		-			-