

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND SCHEDULE

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter / Lead	Docs / Comments
Wednesday, 20 January 2021			
09:45	<i>MS Teams session will be opened. Participants can log in anytime between 09:45 and 10:00 CET, allowing for checking of video and audio connections.</i>		<i>MS Teams link will be sent to registered participants only.</i>
10:00	1. Opening of the Meeting		
	1.1. Welcome and announcements Short welcoming remarks, including a quick run through of the online meeting protocol.	Jenny Renell	Online Meeting Protocol for NSG9
	1.2. Adoption of the Agenda Members will be requested to review and adopt the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule. Late items and topics to be discussed under item 10 (Any other business) may be suggested. Rules of Procedure for the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee apply to the North Sea Group.	Peter Evans	Doc.1.2a Provisional Agenda Doc.1.2b Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule
	2. Implementation review: Bycatch		
	2.1. Implementation of existing regulations on bycatch of cetaceans (Action 2) The target of this Action is to ensure that existing regulations with respect to bycatch reduction measures are being effectively implemented and to collect data on their efficacy in reducing bycatch. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	
	2.2. Establishment of bycatch observation programmes (Action 3) The target of this Action is to further develop methods to observe and mitigate bycatch (including implementation monitoring) in small vessel fisheries. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	

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	<p>2.3. Regular evaluation of all fisheries with respect to extent of harbour porpoise bycatch (Action 4)</p> <p>The target of this Action is to estimate levels of bycatch of harbour porpoises in the North Sea at regular intervals to enable mitigation measures to be reviewed and if necessary modified. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p>	Members	
	Break 10 min.		
11:00	<p>2.4. Review of current pingers, development of alternative pingers and gear modifications (Action 5)</p> <p>The target of this Action is more universal acceptance by all stakeholders (and hence better implementation) of mitigation measures to reduce harbour porpoise bycatch. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p> <p>Presentation: ASCOBANS study: Cost-benefit Analysis for Mitigation Measures in Fisheries with High Bycatch.</p>	Members Fiona Read	
	<p>2.5. Finalize a management procedure approach for determining maximum allowable bycatch limits in the region (Action 6)</p> <p>The target of this Action is to progress towards finalising a population dynamics modelling framework for evaluating the effect of bycatches (and other anthropogenic activities) on harbour porpoises in the North Sea that anthropogenic activities do not prevent agreed conservation goals being met. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.</p>	Peter Evans Members	
	Break 10 min.		
12:00	3. Implementation Review: Research		
	<p>3.1. Monitoring trends in distribution and abundance of harbour porpoises in the region (Action 7)</p> <p>The target of this Action is to provide regular information on the abundance and distribution of harbour porpoises in the region as input into the management procedure approach discussed under Action 6 , to provide information relevant to evaluating mitigation measures</p>	Members	

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	including a comparison of the relative distribution of animals with anthropogenic activity. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.		
	3.2. Review of the stock structure of harbour porpoises in the region (Action 8) The target of this Action is to provide information on the stock structure and movements of harbour porpoises in the region that can be used in the management procedure. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	
	3.3. Collection of incidental porpoise catch data through stranding networks (Action 9) The target of this Action is to provide qualitative information on bycatch occurrence and an assessment of minimum number of annually bycaught porpoises. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	
	Break 30 min.		
13:30	3.4. Investigation of the health, nutritional status and diet of harbour porpoises (Action 10) The target of this Action is to obtain good quality data on health parameters and the diet of porpoise populations in the area of application of the Conservation Plan. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	Best Practice on Cetacean Post-mortem Investigation and Tissue Sampling
	3.5. Investigation of the effects of anthropogenic sounds on harbour porpoises (Action 11) The target of this Action is to obtain good quality data on the acoustic capabilities of harbour porpoises and relate this to 1) the acoustic properties of anthropogenic sounds (also see Action 12), and 2) the most relevant information on the effects of noise on porpoises. Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	
	3.6. Collection and archiving of data on anthropogenic activities and development of a GIS (Action 12) The target of this Action is to obtain data on relevant anthropogenic activities in the North Sea over time in a format suitable for incorporating into a GIS (along with data from Action 7). Members of the NSG to report, as appropriate.	Members	
	Break 10 min.		

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14:30	4. Other activities contributing to the conservation of the Harbour Porpoise in the North Sea		
	4.1. Update on the implementation of the Habitats Directive and actions of the European Commission relevant for the Harbour Porpoise Conservation Plan		
	4.2. Update on marine mammal indicators from an OSPAR perspective	Anita Gilles	
	4.3. Analysing Porpoise Mortality Rates	Olivia O'Connor	
	4.3. Update from the Wadden Sea	Sascha Klöpper	
	4.4. New Surveys The meeting will be invited to share any new projects and surveys not covered under agenda items 2 and 3.	All	
16:00	Close of Day 1		

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Thursday, 21 January 2021			
10:00	<p>5. Overall progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan (Action 1) <i>In the Conservation Plan, Action 1 refers to appointment of a Coordinator and a Steering Group. Since those are completed, we will discuss the overall progress.</i></p> <p>The Coordinator of the North Sea Plan will give a presentation reflecting the progress under the North Sea Plan. Members will be invited to comment and fill any gaps in the relevant parts of the Progress Report. Specific comments should be sent directly to the Coordinator in writing shortly after the meeting.</p>	Peter Evans	Progress Report
	<p>5.1. Review of the proposed criteria for assessment of progress for the different actions Members will be invited to provide feedback and agree on the 'Draft Status Assessment Criteria for Progress of the Implementation of the Actions of the North Sea Conservation Plan', which was circulated prior the meeting (and is included in the Progress Report).</p>	Peter Evans	Progress Report
	Break 10 min.		
11:00	<p>5.2. Review of the Conservation Plan Actions The meeting will be invited to discuss and provide guidance on whether or not the prioritization of Actions should be changed for 2021.</p>	Peter Evans	Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea
	<p>6. Liaison with other organisations The Coordinator will give an update on the liaison with other relevant Working Groups and organisations. The meeting will be invited to discuss data flow from ICES Working Groups and engaging with Regional Coordination Groups and North Sea Regional Advisory Council.</p>	Peter Evans	
	<p>7. Review of Recommendations from the North Sea Group Country members will be invited to report back on the status of relevant Recommendations given at the 8th Meeting of the North Sea Group (NSG8) in 2019, using the template circulated prior the meeting. Oral reports are welcome at the meeting, and written reports are encouraged to be sent to the Chair by 31 January.</p>	Members	Recommendations from NSG8

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	Break 30-45 min.		
12:45	<p>7. Review of Recommendations from the North Sea Group (continued)</p> <p>Participants will be invited to develop and review Recommendations from the current meeting, NSG9, and finalise them. Since the next ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC) meeting will not take place until November 2021, the Recommendations will be shared with the AC immediately for intersessional endorsement.</p>	Peter Evans	
	Break 10 min.		
14:00	<p>8. Consideration of special topics for the next Progress Report and NSG Meeting</p> <p>Members will be invited to propose any specific topics they feel we should focus upon in the coming period. Most recently, we reviewed information on life history parameters and diet.</p>	Members Peter Evans	
	<p>9. Planned review of the Conservation Plan</p> <p>It was always envisaged that the Conservation Plan would be reviewed periodically to adjust any actions to cater for the diverse changes that can occur, either in response to the results of the monitoring of the conservation plan actions themselves or to changing external factors.</p> <p>The meeting will therefore be invited to discuss a first review of the North Sea Plan, including timelines and the role of the Steering Group, and to share initial thoughts on whether particular Actions need to be revised / removed / added, whether priorities need to be changed, whether certain Actions should be reported every two years instead of annually, and whether division of areas between the ASCOBANS harbour porpoise action plans needs to be revised.</p>	Members Peter Evans	
	10. Any other business		
	<p>11. Next Meeting of the North Sea Group</p> <p>Members will be invited to discuss the timing of the next North Sea Group meeting. The Secretariat welcomes offers to host the next meeting of the North Sea Group.</p>	Jenny Renell	
16:00	12. Close of the Meeting		