Stranding database, Stranding network
Polish experience

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Stranding database in Poland

No nationally designed and funded stranding network in Poland. Prof. Krzysztof Skóra Hel Marine Station UG has maintained the stranding database since 1980. Since 2010 data has been collected with the help of Blue Patrol of WWF Poland.

Hel Marine Station UG
(collection of information on by-catch, stranding and sightings, collection of carcasses of stranded individuals for post mortem analysis)

Blue Patrol WWF
(collection of information on strandings and sightings in cooperation with Hel Marine Station UG)

Data provided to HELCOM/ASCOBANS database
Stranding and sightings network/cooperation with society
Collection of data

Information boards who to contact (in case of sightings or stranding) are easily accessible at the Polish marine coast.
Recent examples
(alive seals observations and rescue)

Gdańsk, 29.03.2023
Gdynia, 3.04.2023

Source: https://www.gdansk.pl/wiadomosci/Foczka-znaleziona-na-chodniku-trafilo-do-stacji-na-Helu,a,239736, Hel Marine Station
Sightings of *T. truncatus*

Data collected by Hel Marine Station UG with Blue Patrol WWF
Further examples of data collected via stranding network and their use

22.09.2019
between Dąbki and Łazy
- 54.331725
- 16.232461
- decomposed

2019-07-02
Dąbki
- 54.380800
- 16.310100

2019-07-06
Pogorzelica
- 54.112800
- 15.148800

2019-07-17
between Międzyzdroje and Wisełka
- 53.959902
- 14.493299

Source: WWF/HMSUG stranding database (2019)
Strandings and one sighting 2022, with pictures allowing the assessment of the state of the carcass
Stranding database and data availability

Database updated by scientific experts on a basis of information provided by stranding network (limited access to the database).

Stranding data can be used by managers, investors, scientists.

**Data for managers, investors** (provided on request) may include: date, location of stranding/sighting (coordinates, name of the town) (and e.g. possible reason for death if possible to assess)

**Data for scientists may include:** date, location, picture allowing assessment of the condition of carcass, if carcass is in good state: possible reason for death, length, sex, information if carcass was collected for necropsy.
Identify groups and organisations who would use the data?

Where to locate investments such as windfarms?

Source: Ministry of Infrastructure, PL
Effectivity of stranding scheme - reported bycatch and strandings data

Data: Hel Marine Station UG
Necropsies

Usually carcasses are in a bad state, samples of teeth and bones can be taken for genetic studies (in rare occasions necropsy can be conducted).

One of the carcass to be taken under necropsy examination, Hel Marine Station,
Conclusions

- In PL we have well developed, efficient network of volunteers to monitor the shore and provide information on strandings and sightings;
- Data are provided to the database kept and updated by nominated expert;
- Data are used (in PL case) for various purposes, including bycatch estimation, environmental impact assessment during planning and construction of e.g. windfarms, and for necropsies (if the state of carcass allows to do the necropsy).
Thank you for your attention