

Agenda Item 8.1.1: Post-mortem and stranding schemes

**Information submitted by Parties in response to
post-mortem research questionnaire**

Submitted by: Secretariat



NOTE:
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING
THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

Secretariat's Note

As of 11 April 2007 the Secretariat had received reports from Finland, France and Sweden. These are attached.

Questionnaire
on post mortem research schemes
within the ASCOBANS Agreement area

Name and address of reporting institution	Finnish Food Safety Authority, Department of Animal Diseases and Food Safety Research, Oulu Research Unit P.O.Box 517, 90101 Oulu, Finland
Name of respondent	Marja Isomursu
What data are recorded routinely?	History anamnesis, standard diagnostic information, species, sex, weight and geographic location
Description of methods and units of measurement used	Post mortem including histology, parasitology, bacterial, fungal and virological examination according to macroscopical findings and history
List of tissue samples usually taken	Histology: lung, heart, liver, kidney, anything showing macroscopical changes Bacteriology: lung, liver, small intestine, anything showing macroscopical changes Parasitology: faeces, muscle (for trichinellosis)
How are the samples preserved?	Frozen, in alcohol, 10 % formalin, embedded in paraffin
How are carcasses disposed of?	Buried in the waste treatment area of the city of Oulu
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	LIMS (Laboratory information system) implemented in 1998.
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	
Which computer software is used?	Windows XP
Do you foresee any problems (e.g. regarding intellectual property rights etc.) related to a central database?	_____
What advantages would you expect from a central database?	_____

	FRANCE
Institution	Marine Mammal Research Centre (CRMM) - La Rochelle
Respondent	O. Van Canneyt - V. Ridoux
Which data are recorded routinely?	Species, location, date found, condition of carcass, probable cause of death, by catch sign or not, body measurements. All coasts of France : English Channel, Atlantic and Mediterranean
Methods and units used	Stranding Network - S.I units (metric units)
What tissue samples are taken ?	Teeth, blubber, muscle, kidney, liver, gonads, stomach, spleen, parasites.
How are these preserved ?	Teeth (alcohol), blubber (frozen), kidney (frozen/alcohol), liver (frozen), gonads (formalin), stomach (frozen), spleenn (frozen), parasites (alcohol).
Carcass disposal	Squaring, national disposal to take it in charge by the knaker's
Computer database	CRMM database on Personal Computer
Number of data sets	13 548 records
Software used	MicroSsoft Access + GIS (ArcGis)
Problem with common database ?	
Advantage of common database ?	Better description for the distribution, relation and comparison to show trends or accidents

Questionnaire
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Name and address of reporting institution	Contaminant Research Group Swedish Museum of Natural History Box 50007 SE-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden
Name of respondent	Anna Roos
What data are recorded routinely?	Date, location, finder, length, weight and sex of specimen, cause of death, type of gear if bycaught, what samples are taken. We perform complete necropsy if we receive the specimen whole, to study general health status.
Description of methods and units of measurement used	Skagerrak - Kattegat area: most often only dorsal fin and some teeth which are sent to the Swedish Museum of Natural History (SMNH), usually via the Museum of Natural History in Gothenburg. The Baltic: the whole carcass is sent to the SMNH and a complete necropsy is performed. Since 2006 a limited number of whole fresh carcasses from Skagerrak – Kattegat are sent to SMNH for a full necropsy and sampling.
List of tissue samples usually taken	If a carcass is sent whole to SMNH: blubber, skin, muscle, liver, kidney, lung, spleen, blood, brain and skeleton (or sometimes parts of skeleton such as cranium) are sampled and stored in the Environmental Specimen Bank (ESB).
How are the samples preserved?	Samples are packed in aluminium foil and plastic and kept in the ESB at -28°C, at the SMNH. Skull and skeleton are cleaned and kept dry. Sometimes samples are taken to formalin.
How are carcasses disposed of?	It is combusted in an incinerator. Transportation and disposal are handled according to EU regulations and are disposed at Vattenfall Heat in Uppsala.
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	Yes, data are incorporated in the ESB database. All data about the animal are recorded and can be retrieved at will, most of it via internet from our web page.
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	Approximately 20, with additional subsets.
Which computer software is used?	ESB-Base, a program specially designed for our purposes.
Do you foresee any problems (e.g. regarding intellectual property rights etc.) related to a central database?	No.
What advantages would you expect from a central database?	Easier for international co-operation.
Additional Information (e.g. website addresses)	