

Agenda Item 4

Annual National Reports 2008

Document 59 rev.1

Reports received from France
a) Stranding Questionnaire
b) Annual National Report

Action Requested

- Briefly present highlights from reports (max. 5 minutes)
- Take note of the information submitted
- Comment

Submitted by

France



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

Questionnaire
on post mortem research schemes
within the ASCOBANS Agreement area

Name and address of reporting institution	Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins Université de La Rochelle Pôle Analytique - 5 allée de l'Océan 17000 La Rochelle - FRANCE
Name of respondent	Van Canneyt Olivier and Ridoux Vincent
What data are recorded routinely?	Species, location, discover date, condition of carcass, probable cause of death, by catch sign or not, body measurements, sex...
Description of methods and units of measurement used	Stranding Network with standard protocol - S.I units (metric units) - geographic data (latxlong, WGS 84)
List of tissue samples usually taken	Teeth/baleen plate, skin, bubbler, muscle, liver, kidney, stomach, gonads, spleen....
How are the samples preserved?	Frozen
How are carcasses disposed of?	Squaring, national disposal to take it in charge by the knaker's
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	National database, all coasts of France : English Channel, Atlantic and Mediterranean since 1972
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	Common dolphin : 5407 Striped dolphin : 1702 Bottlenose dolphin : 565 Pilot whale : 541 Risso's dolphin : 132 Other dolphins : 79 Harbour porpoise : 942 Fin whale : 127 Minke whale : 40 Other baleen whales : 11 Unidentified baleen whale : 38 Sperm whale : 52 Pygmy/dwarf sperm whale : 26 Cuvier's beaked whale : 89 Other beaked whales : 23 Unidentified beaked whale : 7 Pinnipeds : 1372 Unidentified dolphins : 2685 Others cetaceans (unidentified) : 946
Which computer software is used?	PC with Access database and ArcGis

<p>Do you foresee any problems (e.g. regarding intellectual property rights etc.) related to a central database?</p>	<p>Conduct code signed by all members of the stranding network, any problem to extend it</p>
<p>What advantages would you expect from a central database?</p>	<p>Easy request, spatial and temporal scales adapted to study trends in cetacean population</p>
<p>Additional Information (e.g. website addresses)</p>	<p>http://crmm.univ-lr.fr</p>

ASCOBANS Annual National Report

A. General information

Name of party : FRANCE	Period covered : year 2008
Name of report compiler/ Sami Hassani	Date of report: 19/ 03/09
Any changes in co-ordinating authority, appointed member of advisory committee	

B. NEW measures/action towards meeting the resolutions of the 2nd Meeting of Parties

1. Direct interaction of small cetaceans with fisheries

<p>Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch</p> <p>Pilot study in progress in Iroise sea (EC 812/2004): species and level of by-catch + implementation of 3 acoustic deterrents (Aquamark, VO2, DDD) ; Iroise Marine Protected Area/Ifremer/Ocenopolis/Local fisherman representative are the participants involved in this study.</p> <p>The fishing Industry worked to prepare an observer programme (Filmancet) dedicated to set nets in the Channel, the aim is to determine the level of by-catch in this area and to test acoustic deterrents(decision of the National Committee of the Fisheries (CNPMEM: French industry) and the National Head of the Fisheries (French administration)). The Ministry of fisheries will also dedicate some additional observations on vessels in 2009 included in the project Obsmer. All those observation programmes planned by the Fishing Industry, the ministry of Fisheries and Ifremer have started in 2009 in the area VII in order to determine seasons, fishing grounds and fisheries having the highest bycatch rate. A standardization of a protocol for all the observation programs has been done and in 2009 the tasks will be similar in all the observations at sea (whatever is the regulation asking for observers). This means that cetacean bycatch will be recorded now for all gears and fisheries.</p> <p>Following the EU NECESSITY project to reduce cetacean by-catch in pelagic trawl fisheries, experiments of the acoustic deterrent CETASAVER on commercial vessels were carried on in 2007 and 2008 by Ifremer and the fishing industry. The methodology consists in having combined tows to compare control tows and test tows in several trips in the sea bass fisheries. A report has been published on internet by Morizur et al. (2008) (http://www.ifremer.fr/docelec/notice/2008/notice4506.htm) Some experiments planned for set nets equipped with pingers in a marine protected area in the Iroise Sea (project PingIroise).</p>																											
<p>Implementation of methods to reduce by-catch</p> <p>Modification of practices in pelagic trawling (headline at 5 m depth)</p>																											
<p>Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries</p> <p>Observers for the EC regulation (n° 812/2004) are deployed for vessels greater than 15 meters and for vessels less than 15 m. As it is not possible to put observers on boats less than 8m for security reason, a correction has been used by using a relationship between vessel size and length of nets.</p> <p>The table below brings the 2007 bycatch estimates available for pelagic trawl fisheries and set nets observed under the Reg 812/2004 (national report delivered in 2008; the report is available on internet http://agriculture.gouv.fr/sections/publications/rapports/captures-accidentelles8343/downloadFile/FichierAttache_1_f0/Cetaces_rapport2007_DPMA_mai2008.pdf?nocache=1134040585.85)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Estimated number of by-caught animals</th> <th>Area (ICES area or more detailed)</th> <th>Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Phocoena phocoena</td> <td>600</td> <td>VIIIa,b</td> <td>Set net (all size vessels) (all the year)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Delphinus delphis</td> <td>240</td> <td>VII&VIII</td> <td>pelagic trawling (winter mainly)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stenella coeruleolba</td> <td>40</td> <td>VII&VIII</td> <td>pelagic trawling (summer)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tursiops truncatus</td> <td>50</td> <td>VII&VIII</td> <td>pelagic trawling (summer)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Globicephala melas</td> <td>10</td> <td>VII&VIII</td> <td>pelagic trawling (summer)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)	Phocoena phocoena	600	VIIIa,b	Set net (all size vessels) (all the year)	Delphinus delphis	240	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (winter mainly)	Stenella coeruleolba	40	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (summer)	Tursiops truncatus	50	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (summer)	Globicephala melas	10	VII&VIII	pelagic trawling (summer)
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2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

<p>Information on levels of disturbance (e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans, etc.)</p> <p>A study (bibliography, part of a post-doc work) is currently under way for refining the (sonar/seismics) risk threshold definition, in terms of parameters (species, frequencies, signals). Models for predicting the radiated level of sonar and seismic systems are being improved.</p> <p>Some experiments on the effect of some commercial pingers and prototypes were carried out on common dolphins by CRMM and IFREMER. These studies on acoustic impact were done through the EU NECESSITY project. A directional pinger is experimented on trawls in order to restrict the exclusion area to the trawl only in order to avoid a too large exclusion area. The pinger (CETASAVER) is now commercialized.</p>

Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance

An Ifremer report entitled "Analysis of the risks for marine mammals caused by acoustical methods in oceanography" published in 2007 is now made available on internet (<http://www.ifremer.fr/docelec/doc/2007/rapport-2390.pdf>)
 IFREMER now applies on his seismic surveys mitigation measures, based on the classical international recommendations (MMOs onboard, amplitude ramp-up for airgun arrays). The development and installation of a PAM system on oceanographic vessels is under way. Contacts have been taken for cooperation with oil companies R&D departments.

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

During the year 2008, 76 Natura 2000 marine sites has been designated by France.
 Among all existing Natura 2000 sites in the ASCOBANS area, Bottlenose dolphin is present in 33 and Harbour porpoise in 31, both on the Channel and Atlantic coast.
 Council Management Plan of the Marine Protected Area in Iroise Sea (West Brittany) has started to work.
 National Agency for the Marine Protected Areas (Brest): work has been started for the creation of others MPA, through a national strategy.

4. Further research on small cetaceans

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

The French stranding network is nationally coordinated by CRMM/ULR (Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins, Université de La Rochelle) under an agreement with the Ministry in charge of the Environment. Local voluntary observers, generally under local supervision by various institutions or NGOs (Oceanopolis, GEFMA, GECC, GMN, OCEAM, CMNS, Picardie Nature, ONCFS...), have been trained to process stranded cetaceans under a common standardized protocol. An annual synthesis of all strandings reported in France is produced by CRMM/ULR. Statistics of stranding for the coast of France in 2008 indicate more than 800 cetaceans reported, data input in progress (CRMM/ULR and all National Stranding Scheme field correspondents). Stranding data provides information on mortality causes, demographic structure (age and reproductive status), diet (stomach content), trophic levels (stable isotopes) and subpopulation structure or movement pattern (stable isotopes, heavy metals and contaminants).

Research on abundance, population structure etc.

Monitoring of the coastal group of bottlenose dolphins (Oceanopolis Brest in Iroise Sea), photo-identification, home range, population structure...

Photo identification of bottlenose dolphins of the Bay of Mont Saint Michel and Cotentin (GECC, GMN, AL Lark)

Boat surveys on cetaceans in the southern Bay of Biscay (GEFMA); relationship between cetacean populations and climate change (MNHN in the framework of a regional programme on the marine environment).

Data collection of opportunistic sightings (CRMM/ULR, GECC, GEFMA, Oceanopolis Brest).

Systematic boat survey of cetaceans in relation to oceanographic, planktonic and pelagic fish patterns in the Bay of Biscay (programme PELGAS, Ifremer, CRMM/ULR)

Ferry observer surveys between Roscoff and Cork, Portsmouth and Santander (Oceanopolis Brest/Orca), using a standardized protocole.

Genetic study on harbour porpoise (collaboration between the university of Brest and Oceanopolis Brest).

Cetacean distributions and relative abundances were surveyed over the shelf of the Bay of Biscay (May) and English Channel (January) by CRMM/ULR in order to determine relative abundances, preferential habitats and relationships with distribution of small pelagic fish as determined by simultaneous acoustic survey carried out by Ifremer/ Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) research vessel Thalassa. This survey followed a standardized protocol in use since 2003 in Bay of Biscay area (PELGAS survey) and since 2007 in the English Channel (IBTS survey). In 2007 and 2008, collaboration between CRMM/ULR and the Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo (IEO) allowed data on cetacean distribution to be collected by using standardized protocol and same research vessel during April and September pelagic fish survey in the south of the Bay of Biscay (PELACUS survey).

Aerial surveys carried out by Oceanopolis Brest using line transect protocol to estimate the abundance and the seasonality of small cetaceans in Iroise sea (west Brittany)

Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

Transfer and bioaccumulation of heavy metals (mainly mercury and cadmium) in cetaceans (LIENS/ULR)

5. Public awareness and education

Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement

Public conferences (Oceanopolis-Brest and CRMM/ULR)

National stranding network: training for volunteers and national meeting (CRMM/ULR)

Observer training in the frame of fishing observation scheme, council regulation 812/04 (CRMM/ULR)

Symposium on monitoring strategies for marine mammal populations La Rochelle, 2008 November 21st and 23th (CRMM/ULR). The symposium was hosted by *Université de La Rochelle* and co-hosted by *Agence des Aires Marines Protégées* and *Ministère de l'Ecologie, l'Energie, le Développement Durable, et l'Aménagement du Territoire*. It was sponsored by *Région Poitou-Charentes*, *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*, *Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication*, *Ville de La Rochelle*, *Conseil Général de la Charente Maritime*. It was supported by ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS.

Movie on cetaceans and ferries survey produced by Brittany Ferries and Oceanopolis broadcasted onboard the ferries+ conference on board Information concerning the "Year of the Dolphin" on the Oceanopolis website.

New exhibition on cetaceans: National Museum Paris, partnership Oceanopolis. An itinerant version will circulate in Europe.