

Agenda Item 4

Annual National Reports

Document 35

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

Action Requested

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

Submitted by

Denmark



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

ASCOBANS Annual National Report

A. General information

Denmark	1 January - 31 December 2008
Name of party	Period covered
Magnus Wahlberg	27 th of February, 2009
Name of report compiler	Date of report
Any changes in coordinating authority, appointed member of advisory committee	

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

1. Direct interaction of small cetaceans with fisheries

<p>Fjord&Baelt, DTU-AQUA and Krog Consult investigated the behavior of porpoises around gill nets, hearing of porpoises, function and efficiency of pingers, and estimated the present extent of bycatch of porpoises in Danish waters (project funded by the EU structural fishery fund and the Danish Ministry of Food and Agriculture). Reported in October, 2008 in Danish report: <i>Udvikling og afprøvning af foranstaltninger til afværgning af bifangst af småhvaler I garnfiskeriet</i>. Further analysis will be made through M.Sc. study at Copenhagen University and separate scientific publications.</p>			
Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch			
Implementation of methods to reduce by-catch			
Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries			
Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)
Observer program for marine mammals	0	IIIabcd, IVb	Pelagic trawl (single and pair), 5.9% of the fishery is covered

2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

<p>Recent data on acoustic disturbance of marine mammals from wind farms and other sources are collected in the volume Popper, A. N., A. D. Hawkins, M. Wahlberg (2008). <i>Bioacoustics</i>, Vol. 17, Special edition on effects of noise on underwater wildlife.</p>
<p>Information on levels of disturbance (e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans, etc.)</p>
<p>Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance</p>

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

The following report was used as background information to propose new Natura 2000 areas for harbour porpoises in Danish waters:

Teilmann, J., Sveegaard, S., Dietz, R., Petersen, I.K., Berggren, P. & Desportes, G. 2008: High density areas for harbour porpoises in Danish waters. National Environmental Research Institute, University of Aarhus. 84 pp. – NERI Technical Report No. 657. <http://www.dmu.dk/Pub/FR657.pdf>

After a public hearing the final areas will be decided and submitted by the Danish Government to EU by summer 2009.

Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

4. Further research on small cetaceans

Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

In 2008 five harbour porpoises were tracked with satellite tags in the Kattegat, Danish belts and the Baltic Sea (Jonas Teilmann, NERI).

Research on abundance, population structure etc.

Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

5. Public awareness and education

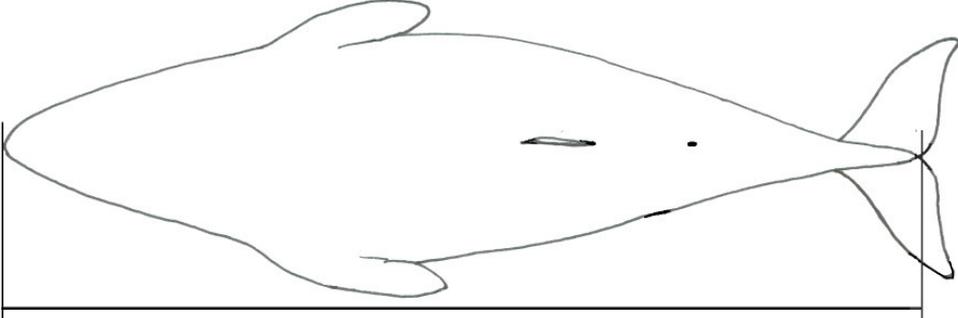
Fjord and Bælt is housing 4 harbour porpoises for public display and research. The animals are presented for over 60,000 guest per year. Within the presentations of the animals and the exhibit activities at the center, information about harbor porpoise conservation is given. During 2009 there has been a lot of political and media interest for the center and its research activities, culminating with the visit of the Fishery Minister in September to discuss issues around harbor porpoise bycatch.

Through an agreement with the Danish Ministry of Environment (Skov og Naturstyrelsen) Fjord and Bælt arranged a 1-day workshop around the harbor porpoise bycatch problems, in November, 2008. More than 30 people participated, including environmental NGOs, government officials, and many of the most well esteemed harbor porpoise scientists in Denmark and their students.

In all such activities at Fjord and Bælt, the ASCOBANS agreement is very often and actively discussed.

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

Questionnaire
on post mortem research schemes
within the ASCOBANS Agreement area

Name and address of reporting institution	Danish Forest and Nature Agency Haraldsgade 53 2100 Copenhagen Ø
Name of respondent	Henrik Lykke Sørensen
What data are recorded routinely?	Date, location, species, sex and body length
Description of methods and units of measurement used	<p>The registration is often done by non experts. "Keep it simple" has been a priority. Body length is measured in centimetres.</p> 
List of tissue samples usually taken	We take samples of liver, muscle, blubber and kidney. This is from the more rare species and not from all the Harbour porpoises. Only a few Harbour porpoise are investigate, but they are recorded with location, sex and body length. From the other whale species we also take the skeleton except from very rotten whales
How are the samples preserved?	In a freezer (-20 degrees)
How are carcasses disposed of?	Carcasses are sent to DAKA Bio-industries
Are data recorded in a computer database? Please describe	Yes, all the measurements and samples are registered in a database
How many data sets (by species) do you have?	

Which computer software is used?	Microsoft Excel
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?	?
Additional Information (e.g. website addresses)	