

Agenda Item 4

Annual National Reports

Document 51

Reports received from Finland
a) Annual National Report

Action Requested

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

Submitted by

Finland



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

Name of party Finland	1 January - 31 December 2008 Period covered
Name of report compiler Penina Blankett	Date of report 25.3.2009
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

None			
Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch			
The Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry have established a common practice of recommending fishermen to avoid fishing with nets in coastal areas where harbour porpoises have been sighted.			
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.)

2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans

A preliminary research of underwater noise in Archipelago Sea related to ship (ferry) noise and leisure boat noise.
Information on levels of disturbance

(e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans, etc.)
None
Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

No
Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

4. Further research on small cetaceans

Look at point 5.
Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans
Finland has taken part in a shared LIFE + application for SAMBAH – (Static Acoustic Monitoring of the BAItic Harbour porpoise) project.
Research on abundance, population structure etc.
None
Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

5. Public awareness and education

Finland has continued the harbour porpoise sighting campaign and received information of two sightings of totally 6 animals in year 2008. Look also at point 1.
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Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement