

ACTION POINTS

JASTARNIA PLAN

Bycatch Reduction

- 1) ASCOBANS should urge relevant authorities to investigate ways of limiting part-time and recreational set-net fisheries. – Priority: High to medium, depending on area
- 2) Parties should step up actions to reduce fishing effort involving gear known to cause high porpoise bycatch rates as required under the Jastarnia Plan, and to provide information documenting the magnitude and location of such effort. – Priority: High
- 3) In order to achieve favourable conservation status for Baltic harbour porpoises as required under the Habitats Directive, Parties should make concerted efforts to eliminate bycatch especially in current and future Natura 2000 sites (SACs) where harbour porpoises form part of the selection criteria. In these areas, this could be achieved by replacing set nets and introducing alternative gear that is considered less harmful. – Priority: High
- 4) The Chair of the Jastarnia Group and the Secretariat should write to ICES requesting statistics on IUU fisheries in the Baltic Sea, broken down by ICES areas, to be presented to the next Jastarnia Group Meeting. – Priority: Medium
- 5) A small drafting group should develop briefing notes on ASCOBANS positions regarding bycatch, insofar as possible based on any drafts that the North Sea Coordinator may prepare for fora in that area. These should be used by anyone representing ASCOBANS at Baltic RACs and other meetings of relevant EU and Baltic Sea bodies in order to maintain a consistent and appropriate approach. – Priority: Medium
- 6) The Secretariat should produce a synopsis of bycatch-related regulations of relevance to individual fishermen, especially with regard to legal sanctions for bycatch and incentives for those delivering carcasses with a view to using the carcasses obtained for porpoise conservation research, irrespective of whether such incentives are laid down in national legislation. Funding should be made available for a consultant to carry out this task on behalf of the Secretariat, based on Terms of Reference to be drafted by the Secretariat and agreed by JG10 (see Annex 5). – Priority: Medium
- 7) The Secretariat should commission a consultant to draft a position paper with ASCOBANS input for the revision process of EC Reg.812/2004, based on Terms of Reference to be drafted by the Secretariat. These Terms of Reference should be approved by National Coordinators, in consultation with the AC Chair. – Priority: High
- 8) Noting the trials of cod pots in Sweden, Parties should undertake or continue efforts to test and implement pots, traps and other porpoise-friendly gear. Parties are encouraged to report on related initiatives or research even where the intention is not primarily the conservation of marine mammals. – Priority: High
- 9) The Secretariat is to prepare a table on a shared cloud document with a synopsis of JG recommendations to facilitate the intersessional review process and Jastarnia Group members should provide comments by 21 December 2014.

Research and Monitoring

- 10) Parties should consider supporting any projects relevant for achieving the aims of the Jastarnia Plan. – Priority: High

- 11) Parties and NGOs are requested to ensure that the results of all relevant projects are made available to ASCOBANS. – Priority: High
- 12) The Jastarnia Group welcomes the project Baltic Smart Gear and recommends that WWF cooperate with other related projects going on around the Baltic Sea.
- 13) Parties should collect data on the extent of ghost nets in their waters, including net types and locations. Regular assessments should then be made of the total quantities of nets lost or discarded, taking account of the distribution of different types of fisheries. – Priority: Medium
- 14) Taking into consideration the future requirements under the MSFD, Parties should implement measures to prevent the loss of fishing gear, and mitigation measures for ghost nets, such as regular clean-ups, provision of disposal containers at ports, deposit systems, mandatory reporting of lost gear, marking of nets etc. Wherever possible fishing communities and other relevant stakeholders should be actively involved. A review of progress should be conducted by JG11. – Priority: High

Marine Protected Areas

- 15) Noting the ongoing process of developing a conservation programme for harbour porpoises in Poland, the Jastarnia Group encourages all stakeholders involved to maintain the momentum of the process and to adopt and implement the programme as soon as possible.
- 16) Parties, Range States and NGOs seeking to develop management plans for SACs and MPAs designated for harbour porpoises are encouraged to make use of the expertise available within the Jastarnia Group, and to consult or cooperate with other Parties that are in the process of developing or have developed management plans. – Priority: Low

Public Awareness

- 17) Parties should establish sightings and strandings programmes, preferably in a coordinated fashion for all Baltic Sea States. They should consider initiating sightings days or weeks, comparable to the National Whale and Dolphin Watch in the UK. They should also consider developing a sightings and strandings app for smartphones. – Priority: High
- 18) Parties are encouraged to consider producing an updated and slightly modified English-language version of the German Oceanographic Museum's publication on marine mammals of the Baltic Sea. Depending on the reaction of HELCOM HABITAT, this publication could be produced jointly with HELCOM. – Priority: Low

Cooperation with Other Bodies

- 19) Parties are strongly encouraged to fulfil their obligations under the current Regulation 812/2004 and the Habitats Directive. – Priority: High
- 20) The Chair of the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat should continue approaching the European Commission and the ICES Bycatch Working Group to draw attention to the need to address the bycatch problem in the Baltic. The ICES Bycatch Working Group should be asked to advise whether enough data for a status assessment for harbour porpoises in the Baltic Proper are available. – Priority: High
- 21) Parties are urged to provide all relevant data to the HELCOM harbour porpoise database. – Priority: Medium

Terms of Reference

- 22) Parties are urged to ensure that calls for participation in the Jastarnia Group are relayed to the environmental and fisheries organizations in their respective countries. – Priority: Medium

SAMBAH-related Action Points

- 23) Parties are encouraged to use SAMBAH results for harbour porpoise conservation in the Baltic Sea. – Priority: High
- 24) ASCOBANS should request HELCOM to make updated and high resolution data on fisheries effort in gillnet and trammel net fisheries available in their web-database. – Priority: Medium
- 25) ASCOBANS Parties are asked to provide information as to the definitions of the term 'fisheries', rules and regulations applicable to the various types of fisheries in their national legislation, as well as related statistics. This information should be provided in time for the next JG meeting. – Priority: Low

WESTERN BALTIC, BELT SEAS AND KATTEGAT PLAN

Stakeholder Involvement

- 26) National Coordinators should provide an overview of measures currently ongoing in their countries actively to engage fishing communities and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Plan, in order to identify existing gaps and lessons learnt of interest to all Parties. Parties should provide the funding required for measures needed to fill the gaps. Parties should explore the possibility of obtaining EU funding for this purpose. – Priority: Medium
- 27) Noting the successful Natura 2000 dialogue forums conducted in Denmark, Parties are encouraged to consider establishing a similar format for the stakeholder working group required under Objective a. of the Plan. – Priority: High

Bycatch Mitigation

- 28) Parties are strongly encouraged to take all necessary steps to develop without delay their joint recommendations to the European Commission regarding the management of harbour porpoise SACs to minimize bycatch rates within these areas. – Priority: High
- 29) Parties should continue to provide funding for research on alternative fishing gear and practices as needed. – Priority: High
- 30) ASCOBANS should seek to influence existing eco-labelling programmes to take full account of the need to avoid cetacean bycatch in certifying fisheries. In the case of MSC, the Secretariat is requested to liaise directly with the organization in order to determine the appropriate means of influencing their eco-labelling programmes. – Priority: Medium
- 31) Parties are strongly encouraged to take all necessary steps to develop as soon as possible agreements to implement immediately the use of pingers in gillnet fishery associated with bycatch irrespective of vessel size or type, as provided for in the Plan, and to enforce the use of pingers. – Priority: High

Assessment of Bycatch Level

- 32) Parties are encouraged to undertake or promote research regarding bycatch estimation.
– Priority: High

Population Status

- 33) Parties are strongly encouraged to continue to undertake and cooperate on inter-SCANS surveys of the Western Baltic (gap area) harbour porpoise population and evaluate trends in population density and abundance. – Priority: High
- 34) Parties are strongly encouraged to lend their support to the projected SCANS III survey.
– Priority: High
- 35) The animals collected should be necropsied and examined with regard to health status, contaminant load and causes of mortality. The resultant data should be fed into a common database, such as the future database required under MOP Resolution 7.4. – Priority: Medium
- 36) Parties are strongly encouraged to coordinate and standardize their monitoring efforts and determine the number of stranded or bycaught animals to be collected for necropsies in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat. For this purpose, ASCOBANS is requested to establish a coordination group comprised of the scientists involved, whose names should be notified to the Secretariat by 15 October 2014. The first meeting of this group could take place in conjunction with JG11. – Priority: High

Habitat Quality

- 37) Parties should use existing data or undertake efforts to collect data on relevant prey and prey communities and investigate the consequences of impacts on these prey communities for harbour porpoises. – Priority: Medium
- 38) Parties should undertake or promote continual monitoring of the effects of projects with a potential impact on harbour porpoise behaviour and distribution, and baseline studies on this issue. Research is also required on the context in which porpoises are using the habitats. – Priority: High

Cross-cutting Action Points

- 39) Pending further discussion with the Jastarnia Group as a whole, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Plans, the Group reiterates its recommendation, as endorsed by AC17, to appoint as soon as possible a Baltic Sea Coordinator. – Priority: Low
- 40) The Coordinating Authorities of the countries hosting the Group's meetings are asked to ensure the attendance of an expert on the CFP at the respective meetings of the Group.
– Priority: High