

# **REPORT OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ASCOBANS JASTARNIA GROUP**

**Stralsund, Germany**

**10-12 March 2015**



**Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans  
of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas**

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## REPORT OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE ASCOBANS JASTARNIA GROUP

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chairman, Rüdiger Stempel (Coalition Clean Baltic), opened the meeting and gave the floor to Oliver Schall (Germany), who welcomed the participants to Stralsund on behalf of the host country.

Mr Schall credited Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) with the idea of holding a meeting of the Jastarnia Group in Stralsund while the public exhibition “The last 300” on the Baltic harbour porpoise was being shown at the German Oceanographic Museum. He pointed out that delegates would have the opportunity of seeing the exhibition showing entries in the creativity competition that had been run in 2013. He also thanked Fabian Ritter (WDC) who was also present for his leading role in the organization of the exhibition. Mr Schall concluded his remarks by informing participants that there would be a reception hosted by the German Government on Tuesday evening.

Harald Benke (Director, German Oceanographic Museum and Ozeaneum) also welcomed the participants to the museum, which had long been involved in research into harbour porpoises. He recalled that on the day that the new Ozeaneum officially opened in July 2008, a harbour porpoise could be seen swimming past – a rare occurrence this far east. He pointed out that the old city of Stralsund was a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Ozeaneum, one of the town’s newest attractions, had achieved one million visitors within one and half years of opening and had also won the European Museum of the Year award. It had been commended for the way it presented scientific information in terms understandable to lay people. Delegates to the meeting would have free access to both museums.

As well as collecting, conserving and presenting, the Museum went one step further and tried to involve its visitors. It also maintained the public sightings programme for harbour porpoises. Another aim was to provide a platform for scientists to exchange ideas, and research into harbour porpoises was a major element of the Museum’s scientific work.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair presented the draft agenda and sought comments or suggestions for amending it. He pointed out that the item “Any Other Business” would be taken twice, once after the discussion of the Jastarnia Plan and again after discussion of the “Gap Area Plan”.

Sacha Viquerat (Germany) requested that Agenda Item 7 be taken earlier. The Chair noted the request.

### 3. Election of a Chair

Mr Stempel vacated the chair for the duration of this agenda item.

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) explained that the rules of procedure required working groups under the Advisory Committee to hold regular elections for their officers and an election for the chair of the Jastarnia Group was due. She had subsequently written to all Parties in the region and had received two replies, both nominating the incumbent. She asked whether there were any other nominees. There being none, she proposed that Mr Stempel be re-elected by consensus; the meeting concurred.

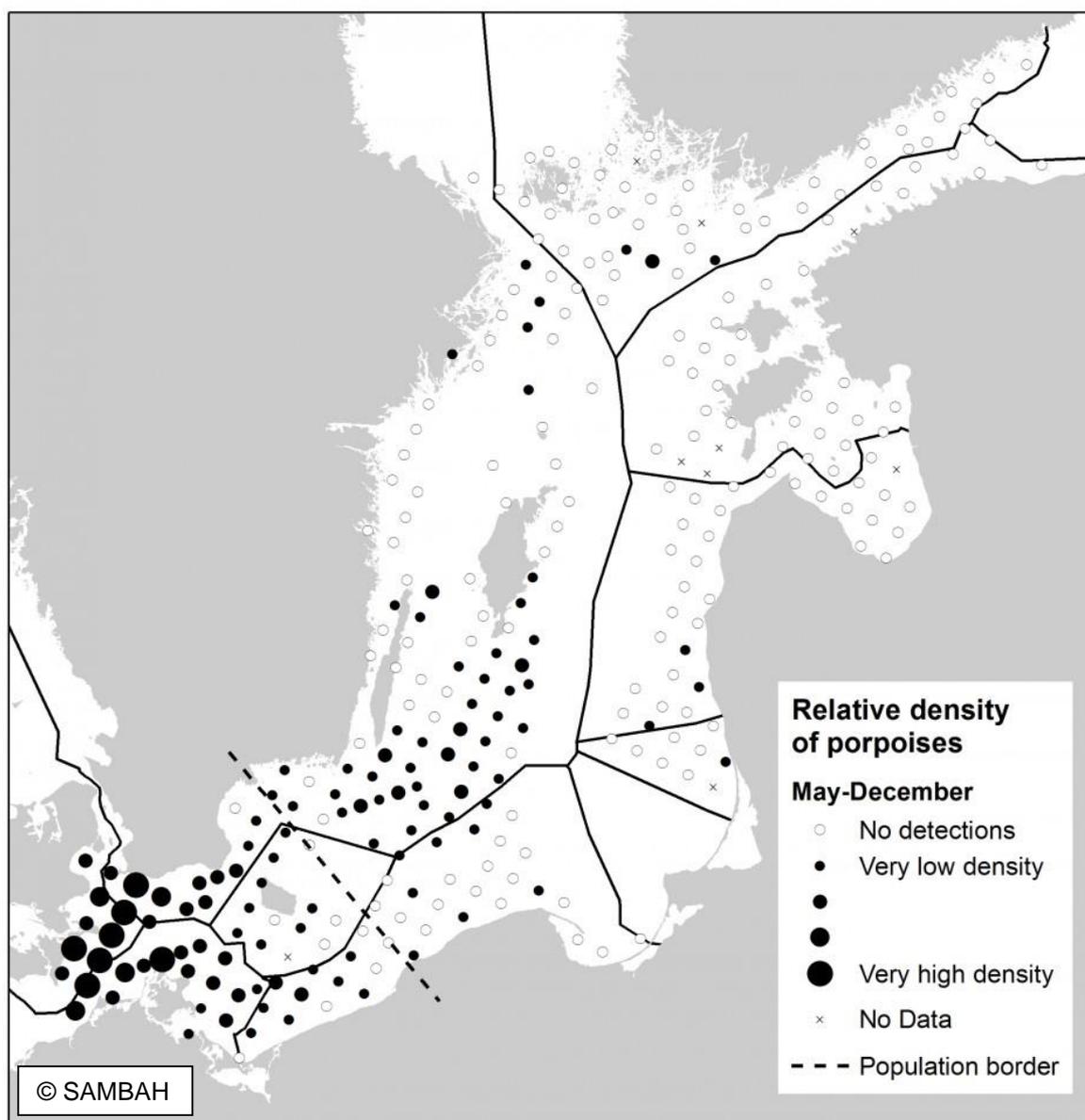
#### 4. Presentations by Invited Experts

Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) gave a presentation on SAMBAH, a large-scale static acoustic survey of the low density harbour porpoise population in the Baltic Sea. The project, funded through the LIFE + programme, had involved all EU Member States in the region.

The aims of SAMBAH had been to establish the number of harbour porpoises in the Baltic and their distribution, based on data gathered through CPODs set at 304 different locations.

Ms Carlén showed preliminary project results, noting that analysis of data and related modelling were still ongoing. The data showed a clear separation between the Baltic proper population and the population in the western Baltic, Belt Seas and Kattegat during the breeding period; not however during the winter months. Also, detections had been made throughout the Baltic proper, confirming that porpoises still existed in the northern and eastern parts of the basin.

In answer to a question from the floor, Ms Carlén said that the decision had been taken at the outset not to deploy the CPODs in deeper water (which accounted for the gaps on the map).



Summarizing the current status of the project, Ms Carlén said that all the field data had been collected and were being processed. The detection function was being determined and the first abundance estimates were now available as well as initial results of the habitat modelling.

The next steps were to examine the effects of ambient noise, to recalculate abundance estimates, to submit the project methodology to external review, to complete the habitat modelling and prepare the final report, which was due in December 2015. In the longer term, it was important to ensure that the results of SAMBAH were used in planning and policy formulation, such as marine spatial planning, identifying areas where harbour porpoises and human activities coincided (e.g. fisheries, ferry routes, windfarms, ammunition dumps and minefields) and determining which areas should be protected. In Sweden, county boards would use the information in determining which areas to propose as Natura 2000 sites (in conjunction with data obtained from tagged animals in the Kattegat and Skagerrak).

A workshop had been held in Kolmården, Sweden, in December 2014 with the participation of representatives of national governments, local authorities, NGOs, fishermen's associations, the military and industry.

Countries could also use data from SAMBAH in drawing up national conservation plans for harbour porpoises. Possible mitigation measures that could be recommended included fishing restrictions (both in terms of time and area), the use of acoustic deterrents ("pingers"), gear that was seal-safe and cod pots and other alternative fishing gear.

The vision for the future, once SAMBAH was fully finalized, was for the results of the project to guide measures aiming at the protection of the harbour porpoise. A follow-up project, MAMBO (Management Actions and Conservation Measures for Baltic Sea Odontocete) was planned. With seed money from the Swedish agency, SwAM, it was foreseen that an application under the LIFE programme would be made in September 2015.

Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) sought to place SAMBAH in a wider context and asked how the species would recover. As well as bycatch, winter ice and pesticide levels in the Baltic had been factors in the past. Pesticide levels had now been reduced, but it was unclear whether they still affected health status and fecundity. Ms Carlén said that it was difficult to place SAMBAH in a historical context because so little data were available. Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) suggested that Baltic harbour porpoises were likely to be as susceptible to toxins as their North Sea counterparts, and more data were available for that part of the Agreement Area.

Fabian Ritter (WDC) noted that the map showing shipping traffic had some very thick lines running from north-east to south-west passing through areas frequented by harbour porpoises, and he wondered whether re-routing ships was an option. Ms Carlén commented that larger ships were not the main problem; fast moving ferries and pleasure craft posed the greatest threat to porpoises.

Next steps included using the data obtained to inform national-level identification of the most important areas for protection. SAMBAH had produced high quality data over two years but circumstances changed and the situation was quite fluid. The MAMBO project might involve developing a monitoring scheme for the Baltic, and it was proposed to align the project design with EU Directives. Other related projects included BIAS (Baltic Sea Information on the Acoustic Soundscape). In the medium term, fundraising was a priority.

Iwona Pawliczka (Poland) said that SAMBAH gave a good general picture but it needed to be complemented with detailed information gleaned from local detection efforts.

Krzysztof Skóra (Poland) gave a presentation depicting a time-flow map of the Polish coast and activities of the herring fisheries. Detection of harbour porpoises in specific locations might be indicative of the prey species being hunted at any given time.

Mr Kock asked whether the points indicating that a harbour porpoise had been detected related to different individuals or were tracking the movements of a smaller number of animals.

He also asked whether it was understood why the animals moved west in winter. He speculated that it was to avoid icy conditions and recalled the years when the porpoises migrated too late and thousands perished.

Ms Carlén said that SAMBAH showed a clear northward movement in January and February indicated a specific migration pattern. No researcher had ever tagged a Baltic harbour porpoise.

Mr Skóra proceeded to show a map indicating fishing effort across Puck Bay and ice cover in the area. Reports of harbour porpoise presence were highest in the winter and spring with greatest densities recorded when temperatures were low, a situation similar to the one pertaining in the Norwegian fjords. When the shallower water iced over, the porpoises headed for deeper areas. Mr Skóra felt that the higher death toll in cold winters was due to the lack of prey rather than the direct effects of the ice. Porpoise metabolism required them to eat every day to survive. Finland apparently had historic data on ice cover over many years, but Mr Skóra had been unable to find them. Finn Larsen (Denmark) was aware of two occasions in the 1920s when the sea iced over completely. Mr Kock said that German records would also provide information on ice cover, but nothing on porpoise mortality other than the occasion when perhaps 10,000 had died. Mr Skóra did have data on harbour porpoises from the severe winters.

The Chair suggested that all those involved in the discussion should compare notes and ensure that Mr Skóra had access to all available relevant data. He also asked whether the Group would recommend that joint monitoring and local data collection should continue.

Monika Lesz (Poland) asked for suggestions on how to ensure the quality of local data gathering, and wondered whether a system of peer review could be devised. A discussion followed about whether it was the data that needed to be checked or the way they were subsequently interpreted. Mr Larsen said that in a peer review, the data themselves were not normally scrutinized. Mr Skóra felt that standardized methodologies were required and was supported by Mr Kock who said that this would facilitate compatibility.

In considering the wording of the recommendation, Mr Kock suggested that it should be reviewed at the next meeting and Patricia Brtnik (Germany) stressed that national efforts were being made, but more cross-border liaison was necessary over methodologies. Ms Pawliczka (Poland) suggested a reference be made to SAMBAH as the model for other methodologies to follow.

**Action Point**

8) The Advisory Committee should encourage Parties to explore the possibility of a joint monitoring effort and to promote the collection of data at the sub-regional and local levels based on the methods adopted by SAMBAH. Progress should be reviewed in 2016. – Priority: High

## 5. Jastarnia Plan

*Implementation of the Plan and Action Points (AP) recommended by the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group, as endorsed by AC21*

### 5.1 Bycatch Reduction

#### 5.1.1 Reduce Fishing Effort in Certain Fisheries (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 1)

##### 5.1.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 1, 2, 3, 4)

##### 5.1.1.2 Other related issues

The Chair read out the Action Points from the previous meeting. Regarding Action Point 4, the Secretariat confirmed that a letter requesting statistics on IUU fisheries in the Baltic Sea had been sent to ICES but no reply had yet been received.

Finn Larsen (Denmark) reported that there had been a reduction in Danish gill net fishing effort in ICES sub-division III d since 2006. There were also fewer gillnet fisheries in Finland and in Area 24. Krzysztof Skóra (Poland) said that fishing effort had also declined in Poland between 2009 and 2013. There had been a substantial reduction in gillnet fisheries since 2004 by some measures, but the number of days at sea did not indicate the number of nets deployed. Fishing effort was still high in both Puck Bay and Gdańsk Bay, and much of the reduction in effort had occurred further west along the coast in ICES Area 26.

Patricia Brtnik (Germany) raised the question of management plans and Fabian Ritter (WDC) explained further the situation in Schleswig-Holstein, where the fisheries minister had been criticized for the compromises he had agreed with fishermen. NGOs felt that the voluntary arrangements in place were not as effective as they should be. Oliver Schall (Germany) added that a coalition of NGOs had brought a court case against the Federal Nature Conservation Agency (BfN). Fabian Ritter (WDC) said that the central question in the case was the impact of fisheries interactions in marine protected areas. The NGOs had decided to go to court after a long period of unproductive discussions with authorities, as well as within the German Government. While the Federal Environment Ministry (BMUB) had seemed open to suggestions, the Federal Fisheries Ministry (BMEL) had seemed more reluctant to agree to progress. The verdict of the court case should bring clarity. There were two MPAs involved, one in the North Sea and the other in the Baltic. It could not be ruled out that the case would be referred to the European Court of Justice due to its relevance for European fisheries in general, which the NGOs thought would be appropriate.

Justyna Szumlicz (Poland) said that there were implications for Polish Natura 2000 sites and a review of the law on fisheries was being undertaken, a main aim of which was the reduction of bycatch. It seemed that the fishermen were approaching the review and the possibility of a monitoring programme with an open mind.

Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) was encouraged by the comments made by Poland and asked whether part-time fishermen were major players in Poland as they were in Germany. One problem was that the quality of the data that they provided was not as good as the data submitted by full-time fishermen. Ms Szumlicz said there were no part-time fishermen in her country.

The *tour de table* conducted regarding progress on Action Point 2 relating to gear with a high risk of bycatch revealed that no additional data were forthcoming. Mr Larsen suggested amending the Action Point by clarifying what data were being sought and placing the onus on the Secretariat. Previously information had been sought from the ICES Bycatch Working Group and this avenue could be pursued again.

Mr Skóra pointed out that data were available for larger ships but not for smaller vessels. Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) felt that it made more sense to use existing databases than to start a new one from scratch.

### Action Points

- 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 action 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 to ICES. The Secretariat should request the ICES WGBYC to present the information to the Jastarnia Group. – 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

## 5.1.2 Involve stakeholders in the work of reducing bycatch of harbour porpoises (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 2)

### 5.1.2.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 5, 6)

#### 5.1.2.2 Other related issues

There were two Action Points arising from the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group. The Chair said that the drafting group that he had been supposed to convene had not met and he undertook to ensure that more progress was made before the next meeting. Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) reported that some progress had been made with regard to the sixth Action Point insofar as resources had been identified within the German voluntary contribution to enable a contract to be let. The Secretariat would place a call for tenders as soon as possible.

### Action Points

- 4) 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
- 5) 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 agreed by JG10 (see Annex 5). – Priority: Medium

### **5.1.3 Replace fishing methods known to be associated with high porpoise bycatch (i.e. set nets) and introduce alternative gear considered less harmful (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 3)**

#### **5.1.3.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 8)**

#### **5.1.3.2 Other related issues**

Action Point 8 adopted at the previous meeting referred to trials undertaken in Sweden on alternative gear. Finn Larsen (Denmark) said that trials were also continuing in his country to establish whether pots were viable. The pilot project would finish in 2016 and interim results seemed to be encouraging.

Fabian Ritter (WDC) mentioned a project funded by the German Nature Conservation Agency (BfN) and implemented by NABU, a German NGO. This was examining the efficacy of alternative gear such as automated long line systems so as to avoid bycatch of both birds and harbour porpoises. It had started in December 2012 and would be completed in September 2015. Two vessels operating in the German Baltic were using a new design of fishing gear and were being closely monitored. Innovations in design included the shape of the hook and the use of bait on long lines. No conclusions could be drawn at this stage on how successful the project was.

It was agreed to carry over the existing Action Point with the same level of priority.

#### **Action Point**

6) 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

### **5.1.4 Implement a pinger programme on a short-term basis (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 4)**

The Chair recalled that the debate about the use of pingers, which were initially envisaged to serve as a short-term solution, had been going on for ten years. No definitive decision had been made concerning a set time line for the deployment of these devices.

When reviewing Action Points of previous meetings relating to bycatch, it was decided to amend what had been proposed by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group.

#### **Action Point**

7) Noting that Regulation 812/2004 in its current form is not protecting harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea sufficiently and while measures to be addressed in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) are still being defined, Baltic Sea Range States should implement comprehensively the bycatch mitigation measures laid down in Recommendations 1-4 of the Jastarnia Plan. – Priority: High

## 5.2 Research and Monitoring

### 5.2.1 Analyze stock affinities of harbour porpoises in the “transition zone” of the south- western Baltic (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 5)

The Chair pointed out that this item was drawn from a Recommendation of the Plan itself, and Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) added that there was a long-standing Action Point dating from the fifth meeting of the Group requesting Baltic Parties to provide research on stock identification. There had been a workshop held in 2007 predating the Action Point. The Agreement did not have a dedicated expert group examining this issue and no funds available to convene another workshop.

Patricia Brtnik (Germany) said that monitoring was taking place and Finn Larsen (Denmark) said that the level of understanding had increased over the years. Iwona Pawliczka (Poland) referred to the online database run by HELCOM to which countries should be requested to contribute data. Penina Blankett (Finland / HELCOM) raised a question concerning how effective the draft HELCOM indicators were in establishing the status of the harbour porpoise population. The forthcoming HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION meeting in May would re-examine the indicators and the presentation by Lena Avellan scheduled for the following day would allow the opportunity to ask further questions.

In response to the Chair’s question on whether the Action Point from the fifth meeting of the Group should be retained, Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) suggested that as much progress had been achieved as seemed possible and the issue should be revisited in a few years’ time. Mr Larsen suggested retaining the Action Point but was not sure when would be an appropriate time to reconsider the issue. He was aware of at least one relevant project in the pipeline but no firm dates had been set. He suspected that there might be some difficulties in the transition zone. Ms Brtnik said that she was seeking funding for more monitoring and would probably have firmer information next year.

There was consensus that it was premature to consider establishing an expert group, but as the situation was fluid and further information was emerging, setting up such a group might be more viable in the future. Ms Pawliczka urged Parties to continue gathering as much data as possible, while Mr Kock stressed the importance of establishing baseline data upon which to build.

#### **Action Point**

9) Baltic Parties are urged to continue to submit, as they become available, all results on genetic, morphological and other biological research dealing with the stock identity of Baltic porpoises, including results from ongoing relevant studies. – Priority: Medium

### 5.2.2 Develop and apply new techniques (e.g. acoustic monitoring) for assessing trends in abundance (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 6)

This agenda item related to a Recommendation of the Plan itself rather than an Action Point arising from the previous meeting. Several participants called for a reference to be made to the SAMBAH project now that its results were becoming known. The Chair said that the Group should at the very least recognize the progress achieved by the project.

Iwona Pawliczka (Poland) asked how the Jastarnia Plan could be changed as its sixth Recommendation had now been overtaken by events. The Chair explained that this could be done in the course of the next periodic revision of the Plan. Finn Larsen (Denmark) said that SAMBAH should be seen as a first step and a springboard to further actions. Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) drew the meeting’s attention to an Action Point adopted at the ninth meeting of

the Group, which had called for there to be a follow-up project after SAMBAH and had urged Parties to find some funding.

Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) said that, following completion of the first SAMBAH project, management actions needed to be initiated and monitoring continued in order to be able to assess trends.

It was agreed that a revised version of the Action Point from the ninth meeting should be adopted, with the redundant elements removed and reference made to the post-SAMBAH follow-up actions. Penina Blankett (Finland / HELCOM) said that the recommendation contained in the Plan should be reviewed in the light of progress. The Chair pointed out that the Jastarnia Plan had last been reviewed in 2008 and a revision was therefore overdue.

#### **Action Point**

10) ASCOBANS and the Parties should explore the possibility of co-funding and/or otherwise supporting dedicated follow-up studies for SAMBAH, among other things with a view to assessing trends. – Priority: High

#### **5.2.3 Develop interactive pingers or pingers using frequencies not audible to seals (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 7)**

Finn Larsen (Denmark) said that as far as he knew, work on interactive pingers was not continuing, whereas work on altering pingers was continuing. Patricia Brtnik (Germany) said that funding had been found to continue work in Germany with a project on porpoise alarms. These were not interactive, but instead of deterring the animals were designed to alert them to the presence of the nets. Currently trials in fisheries were being undertaken, and the project was due to finish in 2017. Mr Larsen mentioned that funding had been sought from ASCOBANS to help develop a pinger not audible to seals, but the proposal had not been successful in the selection process.

#### **5.2.4 Investigate possible detrimental effects of various types of sound and disturbance (including pinger signals, noise from vessels, wind parks or construction and seabed exploration for oil and gas) on harbour porpoises (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 8)**

##### **5.2.4.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 10, 11)**

##### **5.2.4.2 Other related issues**

The two relevant Action Points related to publicizing research. Penina Blankett (Finland / HELCOM) mentioned the BIAS project, which was investigating underwater noise in the Baltic. Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) pointed out the overlaps with SAMBAH and the findings related to harbour porpoises, and other projects including LAMBADA and MAMBO. The aggregated data from CPODs and other acoustic detectors should provide a very detailed picture of the effects of sound on harbour porpoises. She was also aware of related work being done in Denmark on ambient noise. Ms Carlén stressed that funding for MAMBO was not yet certain.

Patricia Brtnik (Germany) was aware of work being done in both the North Sea and the Baltic, while Krzysztof Skóra (Poland) was keen to investigate the effect of different types of vessel in the mouth of Puck Bay. Funding for the project had not been found so far but he was optimistic that a source would be identified.

Ms Blankett referred to the International Maritime Organization's guidelines on shipping noise, which had been adopted recently. It was important that they be implemented.

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) added that the CMS Secretariat was about to issue a letter related to the COP resolution on noise adopted in 2011. The resolution called for EIAs to take the effects of noise on marine biota into account. The CMS Secretariat was seeking to establish the level of implementation of the resolution through a questionnaire. The scope of the exercise extended to other species than the harbour porpoise.

The Chair commented that there had been little evidence in the past that transport ministries took the issue of noise pollution seriously, but Ms Blankett said that some progress had been made in implementing some of the 35 actions identified in the guidelines on shipping noise. In response to a query from Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany), Ms Frisch confirmed that the IMO was aware of the interests of ASCOBANS in the issue of noise and that she had been part of the noise correspondence group in the earlier stages of the process on behalf of CMS and ASCOBANS. However, when discussions in IMO had turned to highly technical matters such as hull and propeller design, she had discontinued her direct involvement.

Fabian Ritter (WDC) cited a passage from a recent Advisory Committee report which called for collaboration with the IMO on the issue of ship strikes.

Both Action Points were reiterated.

#### **Action Points**

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

12) Parties and NGOs are requested to ensure that the results of all relevant projects are made available to ASCOBANS. – Priority: High

#### **5.2.5 Monitor bycatch in fisheries known to be harmful to harbour porpoises to be able to estimate bycatch levels (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 9)**

This item related to a recommendation of the Jastarnia Plan itself rather than an Action Point adopted by a previous meeting.

Finn Larsen (Denmark) said that a project was under way in Areas 24 and 25 involving a small number of boats operating there. The results were not yet known.

#### **5.2.6 Further develop sustainable alternative fishing gear with no bycatch of harbour porpoises (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 10)**

##### **5.2.6.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 12)**

##### **5.2.6.2 Other related issues**

The Action Point from the previous meeting alluded to a project on alternative fishing gear being conducted by WWF. Katarzyna Pietrasik (CCB / WWF Poland) said that the project was nearing its conclusion and early indications were that a clearer picture of the extent of the problem was emerging and this would help identify solutions. WWF Poland together with WWF Germany and Denmark were now working on the proposal for an international project dedicated to developing selective fishing gears. An update would be provided at the next meeting of the Jastarnia Group.

## 5.2.7 Compile data on fishing effort (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 11)

### 5.2.7.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 25)

#### 5.2.7.2 Other related issues

The Chair called for updates relating to Action Point 25, pointing out that this had been identified as a low priority. He was unaware of any information having been provided in the inter-sessional period. Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) suggested that the wording of the Action Point should be changed to mandate the Secretariat to request the information from the Parties.

Krzysztof Skóra (Poland) said that Hel Marine Station was still actively pursuing its work examining fisheries effort and comparing findings *in situ* with the evidence provided by fishermen's log books. Some discrepancies were apparent which meant that different conclusions might be drawn. He was waiting to see how ICES would propose to solve the problem of collecting data from small boats. So far in the bycatch key/hot spot areas they had collected fishing effort data *in situ* by conducting surveys over 600-800m transects by counting the nets and taking their coordinates. Those data were compared with the official statistics. This was time-consuming and laborious field work.

Fishermen reported where they set their nets and the Hel Marine Station team was checking to see whether the situation on the ground reflected the information provided. While larger boats could be tracked electronically, smaller vessels were more difficult to evaluate as they did not have the sophisticated equipment on board to provide accurate information. In future, smart phones, laptop computers or tablets could be used. As things stood, it seemed clear that some logbooks or monthly fishing reports data were not providing an accurate picture of places where gillnets were deployed. Mr Skóra said that he hoped that the European fisheries authorities were planning to devise ways of measuring the effort of smaller vessels more accurately because the actual data from some logbooks and reports currently were unreliable in the meaning of high resolution data. A further complication was that changes of fisheries effort were very dynamic. In his view, lack of knowledge about the fishing effort of small gill netters was the main problem not only in Poland. It was necessary to reconcile the different approaches or methods in the Baltic. Fisheries authorities had to pay more attention to this problem in order to be able to estimate the bycatch threat for porpoises as well as birds and seals.

Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) said that Germany faced a similar problem with its part-time fishermen. The authorities only had a rough idea of where they were operating and the returns submitted by the fishermen provided little detailed information.

Justyna Szumlicz (Poland) explained the reporting requirements imposed on fishermen, under which they had 24 hours to make their returns. Mr Skóra said that these returns provided data on the fish that were being landed but some were imprecise with regard to location, number and time of using the set gill nets. Monika Lesz (Poland) said that fishermen wanted to abide by the law and provided the information required of them as best they could.

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) said that at the bycatch workshop in January it appeared that Sweden had the best experience of collecting information from smaller vessels. Data were collected on mesh sizes and the gear deployed, together with the total weight of the catch for each target species and the location of fishing effort was based on the mean position of vessels.

### Action Point

13) The Secretariat should ask Parties 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

#### 5.2.8 Examine habitat preference for harbour porpoises (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 12)

Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) said that she was using data from SAMBAH with the intention of devising a single model that gave the best prediction of harbour porpoise distribution and habitat preference. This would be based on spatial modelling with those environment factors included that enable habitat preference to be determined.

#### 5.2.9 Investigate the prevalence of derelict ("ghost") gear and the feasibility of its removal (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 13)

##### 5.2.9.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 13, 14)

##### 5.2.9.2 Other related issues

The Chair introduced the two Action Points, one dealing with the extent of the problem of "ghost nets" and the other mitigation methods.

Finn Larsen (Denmark) mentioned that the European Commission's policy initiative "[Towards a circular economy: A zero waste programme for Europe](#)" included proposals for revising the waste legislation and for an aspirational target for reducing marine litter including ghost nets by 30% by 2020. DTU Aqua was seeking funds for a large project to be carried out in cooperation with fishermen, the industry and local communities to recover and recycle lost fishing gear. The distribution and abundance of ghost nets would be assessed and the question of whether ghost nets were a source of micro-plastics would be examined. A recycling programme in Denmark, which had provided skips where old gear could be discarded, had ceased operating.

Penina Blankett (Finland / HELCOM) said that there was a proposal for a project to assess the extent of ghost nets. It was unlikely that large scale professional fishermen were responsible for many ghost nets. The situation was less clear with regard to smaller operators. Monika Lesz (Poland) reported on a Polish project which sought to collect ghost nets and discarded plastic.

Patricia Brtnik (Germany) pointed out that the German Oceanographic Museum had had an exhibit made of the plastic waste that had been recovered from the sea locally. Katarzyna Pietrasik (CCB / WWF Poland) said that WWF Poland, following its prior work on the subject, was part of the world's largest removal project for derelict fishing gear, which had just started in Poland. The project was carried out by the Kołobrzeg Fish Producers Group in collaboration with WWF Poland. From May to August 2015, dozens of fishing boats and a team of divers were planning to remove up to 350 tonnes of derelict nets from the Polish part of the Baltic Sea, thereby significantly reducing the negative impact of derelict fishing gear on the Baltic ecosystem. An electronic net tagging system would also be developed under the project. It was hoped that in the future this system would make it possible to identify the owner of lost or abandoned fishing gear, minimising the likelihood of deliberate gear discards. The project was supported by the Ministry of Environment, the National Water Management Authority, and the Polish MEP, Jaroslaw Walesa, who was planning to organize in partnership with WWF a special conference to present the project to the members of the European Parliament later in 2015.

Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) recalled that in the southern oceans nets had to be marked for ownership. Recovered gear could easily be identified as belonging to licensed fishermen or illegal operators.

Fabian Ritter (WDC) said that the NGO World Animal Protection had started a global ghost gear initiative (GGGI), which provided the public with information and was working with the industry and other stakeholders to try to find solutions. As an example, materials recovered from the sea were being recycled by different companies into socks and carpets. More partners were being sought for GGGI – from local groups collecting lost gear to people and organizations to collate data. Ms Pietrasik said she was unaware of the initiative and would like to make contact.

### Action Points

14) Parties should continue to 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

15) Taking into consideration the future requirements under the MSFD, Parties should continue to 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 JG12. – Priority: High

## 5.3 Marine Protected Areas

### 5.3.1 Expand the network of protected areas in the Baltic Sea and improve its connectivity to ensure the development of appropriate harbour porpoise management plans for these areas (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 14)

#### 5.3.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 15, 16)

#### 5.3.1.2 Other related issues

The Chair read out the text of the two related Action Points, the first concerning the Polish process for identifying marine protected areas and the second concerning the use of the expertise of the Jastarnia Group.

Monika Lesz (Poland) said that, similarly to a year ago, Poland was working on its Natura 2000 sites. The process had been suspended because of the forthcoming elections.

Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) said that Sweden's national harbour porpoise management plan was being drafted.

Penina Blankett (Finland / HELCOM) said that the Finnish national action plan for the harbour porpoise was being reviewed. The original dated from 2006 and it would be revised in the light of information obtained from SAMBAH. She stressed that the harbour porpoise was not on Finland's species reference list under the Habitats Directive.

Katarzyna Pietrasik (CCB / WWF Poland) said that a major media campaign on the status of the harbour porpoise in the Baltic and North Sea might add some pressure on governments to act.

The Chair suggested that Action Point 15 be deleted as it had partly been implemented and was now stalled because of the national elections. Although nothing had been reported as having been done under Action Point 16, it was still relevant and could be retained at low

priority. Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) said that unless specifically declared closed, the old Action Point would remain live and that there was no need to reiterate it.

Fabian Ritter (WDC) referred to a report compiled by WDC on the necessity for developing management options for the harbour porpoise in the UK: "The necessity of Management Options for effective harbour porpoise conservation in the UK: Case studies of emerging Areas of Concern". Although the UK was located in the North Sea region under the Agreement, there might still be interesting lessons to learn applicable to the Baltic. The report included an assessment of threat of and susceptibility to human activities and identified areas of concern where mitigation measures to conserve harbour porpoises should be implemented. Four categories of concern were included: barriers to movement, physical traumas, disturbance, and ecosystem effects (habitat degradation). He particularly pointed out the executive summary with a description of possible management options and suggested policies regarding fishing and aquaculture, windfarms and oil and gas exploration. The report also included a number of maps overlaying the location of major threats with the main habitats.

## 5.4 Public Awareness

### 5.4.1 Develop a comprehensive public awareness campaign (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 15)

#### 5.4.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 17, 18)

There had been two Action Points adopted by the previous meeting, one concerning strandings networks and the other an English translation of the German Oceanographic Museum's book on Baltic mammals. No progress had been made on the translation, and as none was likely, it was agreed to make the Action Point inactive.

Patricia Brtnik (Germany) said that the running of the website that allowed porpoise sightings to be reported had been taken over by the Museum from the Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (GSM). Penina Blankett (Finland / HELCOM) said that the Finnish national scheme would continue and it was hoped to increase public awareness and enhance cooperation with fishermen. Monika Lesz (Poland) said that patrols were continuing along the Baltic coast of Poland.

Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) said that while in Sweden there was little activity on the ground to organize local groups, there were databases in operation where sightings and strandings could be reported; one was managed by the Museum of Natural History and the other, which dealt with a wide range of species, was called the *Art Databanken*, the Swedish Species Information Centre. The Chair urged that these platforms work together to exchange data and be publicized so that the public became aware of them and reported sightings.

Penina Blankett (Finland / HELCOM) said that the Finnish database was also receiving information from Sweden and efforts were being made to ensure that the data obtained were passed to the appropriate offices in Sweden.

Krzysztof Skóra (Poland) said that he was trying to record all bycaught animals, but this was an opportunistic rather than a systematic exercise. For the years from 2007 to 2013, he had data on seal and harbour porpoise strandings and bycatch, based on reports by fishermen and on the findings of the Hel Marine Station and WWF Poland. The majority of the data related to strandings and comparatively little from reported bycatch.

Finn Larsen (Denmark) said that there was a webpage where Danish sightings could be voluntarily reported.

Summarizing, the Chair said that it appeared that those countries that already had systems in place were continuing to monitor strandings, but countries without networks appeared not to be making any progress in establishing them.

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) referred to an Action Point adopted at the eighth meeting of the Group, which called for networks to be interlinked and for data to be submitted to HELCOM. She requested that the URL addresses of all the national sites be submitted to the Secretariat so that they could be published on the ASCOBANS website.

Ms Blankett speaking of her experiences with HELCOM said that in Finland all data were verified to ensure the quality of the information submitted to HELCOM. The HELCOM database covered sightings, strandings and bycatch incidents. The Chair said that the meeting could revisit this issue when the agenda item on cooperation with HELCOM was discussed.

Mr Larsen asked that the data to be collected should be specified. He also pointed out that reporting information was voluntary in Denmark and the wording of the Action Point should be toned down to reflect this. The Chair therefore suggested that the Action Point should encourage Parties to collate data. Ms Carlén asked what was meant by “interlinking” the data; it was agreed that the intention was that information be exchanged, not that the databases be directly connected.

#### **Action Point**

16) Each country is encouraged to designate one website for reporting of sightings and strandings by the public. The URLs should be made available for use on the ASCOBANS website. There should be an exchange of information between these databases as appropriate. GIS referenced data should be submitted to HELCOM regularly. – Priority: High

#### **5.4.1.2 Other related issues**

Katarzyna Pietrasik (CCB / WWF Poland) reported on a national media campaign conducted by WWF Poland in close collaboration with Hel Marine Station. It had been found that 50 per cent of the population was aware that harbour porpoises were present in Polish waters, so one aim of the campaign was to raise public awareness. Another main aim was to engage national authorities in harbour porpoise protection and to implement the national conservation programme for harbour porpoise. The campaign involved a tour of the country and visits to 20 cities with the support of celebrity endorsements. Over 90,000 people had been directly contacted and a further report would be made at next year’s meeting of the group. Krzysztof Skóra (Poland) added that a dedicated Facebook page had been set up where all activities could be reported and videos and photos posted. The Chair felt that the fact that 50 per cent of all Polish people were aware of harbour porpoises was a significant achievement and doubted whether all other countries in the region could match that level.

Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) said that WWF Sweden would include the harbour porpoise in its campaign for 2015.

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) recalled that Oliver Schall (Germany) had mentioned the campaign “The last 300” focusing on the Baltic harbour porpoise. The associated exhibition which could be seen at the Oceanographic Museum in Stralsund. The exhibition showed many of the contributions to the creativity competition run in 2013 as a collaborative effort by NABU, WDC, OceanCare and ASCOBANS. About a hundred entries (such as paintings, illustrations, films, sculptures) had been received and the winners had been determined by public vote and a jury; the three winning entries had also been presented to the German Environment Minister in 2014, who had agreed to be patron of the exhibition. Delegates would have the opportunity of visiting the exhibition during the meeting.

Fabian Ritter (WDC) praised the spirit of cooperation between ASCOBANS and the NGOs. The presentation of the winning entries to the Minister had also given the three NGOs the opportunity to hand over a statement on suggested management options. He also mentioned a campaign called *Walheimat* (Homes for Whales) in which WDC was informing the public and working with expert groups and administrators. It included writing letters setting out a wish list for management measures to be taken in the German EEZ, with a specific focus on MPAs.

The Chair, speaking in his capacity of representative of Coalition Clean Baltic, said that the organization had produced a new leaflet following the completion of the SAMBAH project. Copies of the leaflet would be made available to the meeting and various language versions of it were being prepared.

Ms Frisch reminded the meeting of an Action Point from 2005 asking for public awareness focal points to be appointed by the ASCOBANS Parties. No related action had ever been reported. Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) said that Petra Deimer's area of expertise had been public awareness and she had not been replaced since her retirement. It was pointed out that while Ms Deimer had done much public awareness-raising, it was not her specific role within ASCOBANS. Ms Frisch called upon National Coordinators to consider nominating someone whom the Secretariat could address to find material to post on the Agreement's Facebook page and use in other outreach efforts.

#### Action Point

17) National focal points for public awareness should be established. – Priority: Medium

## 5.5 ASCOBANS Cooperation with Other Bodies

### 5.5.1 Strive for close consultation and cooperation between ASCOBANS and other relevant regional and international bodies (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 16)

#### 5.5.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 19, 20, 21, 24)

The Chair ran through the Action Points associated with this Agenda item pointing out that cooperation with HELCOM had partly been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) said that relating to Action Point 20 (raising the issue of bycatch with the European Commission and ICES) the Secretariat was currently in communication with ICES and a letter had been sent asking whether enough data for a status assessment for harbour porpoises in the Baltic Proper were available; the reply had been received that day and asked whether the contact details of the ICES Working Group on marine ecology (WGMME) should be forwarded, as this group might be better placed to help than the bycatch working group (WGBYC).

Penina Blankett (Finland / HELCOM) felt that when it came to Baltic harbour porpoises, the Jastarnia Group should have at least as much expertise as ICES WGMME. She also pointed out that ICES was not solely interested in the Baltic. Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) recognizing that one problem the Jastarnia Group faced was a lack of data, expressed doubts that a rich seam of new information would be discovered in ICES. What was important was ensuring that bycatch was reported and the information was shared. Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) said that no dataset was likely to be complete and the Group should also approach the IWC and other forums that collected data, so that the Jastarnia Group could have access to all useful material. Krzysztof Skóra (Poland) pointed out that ICES was also dependent on the data provided by its member states in their national reports; he suggested that a research project be commissioned, as the reports compiled did not provide the information that was required.

Mr Kock feared that the Group was turning in circles as the same discussion had been held for the past seven years. Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) recalled that at the previous meeting a letter had been drafted but it had been agreed not to pursue the idea because the information required was either public, did not exist or was sensitive and would not be released. The Action Point did not ask for data to be made available, but rather for WGBYC's opinion whether enough data for a status assessment for harbour porpoises in the Baltic Proper were available. Mr Larsen said that more data from observations were likely to become available the following year; it remained to be seen if any light would be cast on bycatch.

It was agreed that Action Point 20 should be made inactive.

Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) asked when the report of the workshop would be published. Ms Frisch said that a final draft would be ready shortly and circulated to participants for clearance. Patricia Brtnik (Germany) suggested waiting until the arrival of Geneviève Desportes, who could brief the Group on the workshop's main conclusions. Ms Carlén said that the Action Point might be refined in the light of the findings of the workshop. It was pointed out that obligations under the Habitats Directive were not being met and the Commission was threatening to take action against Member States not in compliance.

The Chair said that the existing Action Point should remain in place.

Action Point 24 related to data on fisheries effort in gillnet and trammel net fisheries held by HELCOM. Ms Blankett said that the issue could be raised with HELCOM Fish which was attended by people with access to the information sought. Ms Frisch said that an actor should be identified in the Action Point; she suggested that the Secretariat be mandated to contact HELCOM. The Chair made further suggestions to amend the Action Point, stating that there was no certainty that the information requested was available. Mr Kock said that in his experience he had only ever been given access to German fisheries effort data and never to information relating to other countries; such data were considered sensitive. Ms Carlén concurred saying that information on individual vessels was confidential and she asked whether HELCOM data were filtered in any way. Mr Larsen asked what the basis for submitting data to HELCOM was.

The Chair was concerned that the group was seeking the impossible by asking for data that either did not exist or could not be released. Ms Blankett said that information existed for longline fisheries and bottom trawling but could not confirm that the data available were what the Group was seeking. Ms Frisch added that the resolution of the data was also an issue.

The information seemed to be crucial to the Group's work, but the Group had to define more precisely what it needed. Ms Carlén said that she would need high resolution data to work with for modelling. It was agreed to defer further discussion until the session when Lena Avellan of HELCOM would participate via Skype.

#### **5.5.1.2 Other related issues (including CORESET II)**

Lena Avellan (HELCOM) joined the meeting from Helsinki via Skype to explain CORESET II, through which HELCOM was operationalizing its core indicators. HELCOM had a set of targets, commonly agreed assessment tools, across a range of themes. The indicators had a unified structure, enabling progress towards achieving the targets to be evaluated. The project was due to finish in June 2015; it was subdivided into smaller parts, each guided by a Team Manager in the Lead (TML) with overall supervision effected by HELCOM GERA and various Working Groups.

The HELCOM Monitoring and Assessment Strategy was based on holistic and thematic assessments, core and supplementary indicators and supporting parameters. The 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Monitoring and Assessment Group (MONAS 19-2013) had defined a number of terms relating to indicators and HELCOM had developed indicators and DPSIR (driver, pressure, status, impact and response).

HELCOM's online report was structured based on agreed criteria for each operational core indicator. Intermediate products of the report were maps with coloured shapes indicating where targets had been hit or missed across the entire Baltic or within sub-basins. The sub-basins could in turn be subdivided into smaller water bodies.

While CORESET I 2013 had focused on population growth and distribution for marine mammals, CORESET II in 2014 had focused on harbour porpoises. The HELCOM State and Conservation Group developed a harbour porpoise distribution indicator and the Seal Expert Group supported the proposals and agreed to work in conjunction with the Jastarnia Group, with Penina Blankett (Finland), Anders Galatius (Denmark), Iwona Pawlickza (Poland) and Ursula Siebert (Germany) leading for each country.

Background pressures were one core indicator, with bycatch as one example measured by the number of drowned animals (marine mammals and birds) in different gear types.

First developed in CORESET I, and elaborated further in CORESET II, was the focus on data collection and legislative gaps. The main problem identified was the lack of coordinated monitoring. Other core indicators related to harbour porpoises were the reproductive status and nutritional status of marine mammals, the effect of low and mid frequency impulsive sounds and ambient noise; the noise issues were being examined in the BIAS project.

Harbour porpoise distribution was plotted against the boundaries of areas reaching GES (good environmental status). Questions regarding the species' range included whether to include areas historically used by harbour porpoises and definitions of when an area was considered to be occupied.

The Chair thanked Ms Avellan for the thorough presentation and invited questions from the floor. There were none, so the Chair then asked what the next steps should be.

With regard to the paper on distribution, Jonas Teilmann (Denmark) said that it indicated that harbour porpoises were present but did not mention trends or numbers. Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) said that her first reaction was that it seemed that the Baltic provided a good environment for the species but this might not necessarily lead to its recovery, as the population was depleted and would need time to spread and resettle. Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) questioned whether distribution alone was a good indicator, given that the population was well below historic levels; abundance was more important. Krzysztof Skóra (Poland) asked whether the audience for which the paper had been written was the general public or policy-makers.

Penina Blankett (Finland / HELCOM) said that the indicators on abundance, distribution and bycatch should be considered together, and possibly the indicators on abundance and distribution could be combined. Mr Teilmann said that abundance was not an absolute but a relative term and it was important to see how trends developed over time. Historic data were scarce, so there was no certainty over where harbour porpoises used to be found and recent surveys such as SAMBAH provided the baseline. He assumed that in order to set targets, a baseline had to be established. SAMBAH provided an indication of both abundance and distribution.

Ms Blankett said that data existed for distribution but not for abundance and Finn Larsen (Denmark) commented that there were inherent problems in using distribution as an indicator (e.g. the definition of when an area was occupied; how long ago it was last occupied; thresholds for the number of animals); abundance would be more useful. Iwona Pawlicza (Poland) said abundance and distribution data were needed in combination, and for a species as depleted as the Baltic harbour porpoise, any presence should be recorded.

Sacha Viquerat (Germany) advocated separating the two approaches as having sufficient suitable habitat did not guarantee that the species would occupy it.

Mr Teilmann said qualitative measures were needed and that might mean repeating the SAMBAH methodology every six years with its monthly figures providing a basis for calculating relative abundance for each sub-area. Incidental sightings were too random.

Fabian Ritter (WDC) said that set timeframes were needed and the longer, the better to provide the parameters to overcome the problems presented by a highly mobile species. Mr Larsen said that a longer timeframe would result in more ticks in more locations but asked whether the exclusion of deeper waters from the SAMBAH project had implications for indicators. Mr Teilmann did not think that this was an issue. Deeper waters had been deliberately excluded as the low levels of oxygen meant that there were fewer fish and therefore no need for the harbour porpoises to frequent these areas. Periodic data helped establish trends, whereas having comprehensive geographic coverage was important for mapping the distribution range. Ms Carlén said that it was an option to survey areas where harbour porpoises were thought to be unlikely to occur in order to ascertain whether their range was expanding; this however did have cost implications with equipment deployed in empty waters on the off chance of detecting an animal.

The Chair said that there was consensus that the SAMBAH method could be useful to HELCOM and the only outstanding question was whether abundance and distribution should be combined in some way or kept separate.

Commenting that prior to joining ASCOBANS, Finland had not been sure whether the species occurred in its waters (a fact confirmed by SAMBAH), Ms Blankett asked whether monitoring for abundance and distribution should be done at different intervals and whether one was a better indicator than the other.

Moving to the draft bycatch indicator, Ms Avellan's presentation included a slide showing the number of mammals and waterbirds drowned in fishing gear. The associated report was in the final stages of preparation and it was hoped that it would be published in March. Two key issues remained to be settled, namely alternative methodologies for establishing environmental targets and the threshold for the percentage of the population that could be lost to bycatch.

Fabian Ritter (WDC) said that the percentage threshold issue had preoccupied ASCOBANS for some time and he did not want to reopen the debate at this meeting but stressed that the target should always be zero bycatch. Iwona Pawliczka (Poland) agreed. Mr Ritter emphasized that setting a threshold would represent a shift from a conservation-oriented to a management-oriented philosophy. He criticized the fact that what initially had been considered societal questions now mostly seemed to be negotiated in expert groups, i.e. without participation of a wider public. Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) said that there had been delays in preparing the proposed workshop to find common ground on thresholds. Mr Ritter said that the workshop originally intended for January was being prepared now but no date had been set.

The Chair said that HELCOM needed input as soon as possible and could not wait for the next Advisory Committee. He requested that participants at the meeting send any comments in writing as soon as possible particularly with regard to how to use the indicators.

The Chair asked what monitoring participants would ideally like to see. Mr Larsen said that Denmark was monitoring marine mammal and seabird bycatch in ICES Areas 22, 23 and 24. Having responded to the HELCOM questionnaire he was surprised at some of the statements contained in the document and undertook to provide further comments in writing.

The January workshop had discussed monitoring and the Chair requested that HELCOM should receive the report as soon as it was available.

## 6. Cross-cutting Issues

### 6.1 Cross-cutting Action Points Adopted by JG 10 (AP 39, 40)

Action Point 39 from the previous meeting called for the appointment as soon as possible of a Baltic Sea Coordinator, but had nonetheless been accorded “Low” priority.

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) said that the discussion about a Baltic Coordinator and maintaining of the North Sea Coordinator post was continuing. As instructed by the Advisory Committee, the Secretariat had written round asking for voluntary contributions. So far no commitments had been made from any Baltic countries, while some limited commitments had been made for the North Sea.

Oliver Schall (Germany) said that Germany wanted some other countries to come forward with additional funds to support the continuation of the North Sea Coordinator’s post, and having taken the lead in that part of the Agreement Area, wanted another country to take the initiative in the Baltic.

The Chair said that the Action Point as it stood was obsolete and the question was whether to delete or revise it. Mr Schall said enquiries should be made to see if Fisheries Ministries would be able to contribute and consideration should be given to having a single coordinator for both sub-regions, as it seemed unlikely that funding would be found for two posts,

Ms Frisch urged Parties to think about a sustainable way of funding the post(s) as it was impossible to make an appointment without guaranteed funding and voluntary contributions by their nature were not reliable beyond the immediate term. The Meeting of Parties (MOP) in 2016 would present an opportunity for Parties to bolster the core budget and provide resources for the post(s). Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) advocated placing the item on the agenda of the Advisory Committee and the MOP as a means of stressing the importance of the post(s).

The Chair said that Action Point 40 relating to the host country of the meeting trying to ensure the presence of an expert on the Common Fisheries Policy had been raised regularly and ought to be retained. The Secretariat might remind the host country well in advance of the meeting that an appropriate expert should be identified and invited to the meeting.

#### Action Points

18) In light of the positive experience with the North Sea Coordinator, the Jastarnia Group recommends that the Advisory Committee ensure that the appointment of a Baltic Sea Coordinator, or a joint coordinator for both regions, possibly attached to the Secretariat, is considered by the next MOP. – Priority: High

19) 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. The Secretariat should recall this recommendation to the Coordinating Authority of the host country in good time before the meeting. – Priority: High

### 6.2 New Terms of Reference for the Jastarnia Group

#### 6.2.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 22)

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) said that Action Point 22 related to Parties attracting environmental and fisheries-related NGOs to the Group. New terms of reference had been drawn up which required NGOs to coordinate among themselves in advance of the meeting to identify their representatives. Parties had not provided any new candidates, so the Secretariat had contacted its existing mailing list.

Katarzyna Pietrasik (CCB / WWF Poland) said that it would be necessary to establish rules and procedures. Potentially more NGOs might be interested than could be allowed according to the terms of reference and there needed to be an agreed way of filtering and selecting applications.

The Chair suggested leaving the Action Point in place as it remained relevant and again asked that the Secretariat remind Parties in advance of the next meeting to identify potential interested organizations. The Chair also asked whether the terms of reference should be amended again as it would now be difficult to accommodate another environmental NGO, given that one of the two places was taken by Coalition Clean Baltic which currently provided the Group's chair. One additional NGO had been able to attend the meeting as adviser to the chair, but there was no further leeway to accommodate any more. One option discussed but rejected as too arbitrary, was "first come, first served", so an alternative needed to be devised. For the current meeting, the NGOs had been asked to resolve the question of who attended amongst themselves and they had come to an amicable arrangement. Fabian Ritter (WDC) said that limiting the number of NGOs attending in itself seemed unnecessary, when all those present had contributed positively. The North Sea Group, which had very similar terms of reference, did not have this restriction and had not experienced difficulties.

The Chair pointed out that the terms of reference for the Group had been presented to the Advisory Committee for adoption in 2014. The number of NGOs representing the fisheries and conservationist interest had been increased from one each to two each. Penina Blankett (Finland / HELCOM) while sympathizing with the NGOs' case said that she was reluctant to revise the terms of reference again so soon after they had been amended following much discussion. Monika Lesz (Poland) found it strange that government representatives should have a say in who attended on behalf of the NGO community.

The Chair was inclined to follow the maxim of not interfering with a system that worked but noted that on this occasion the problem had been averted through the good will of the NGOs. He advocated reviewing the terms of reference if the situation recurred, although there was some flexibility available as the Chair could invite advisers to the meeting and these could be drawn from NGOs as was the case at the present meeting with WWF Poland.

Ms Frisch pointed out that while there were more candidates among the environment NGOs than the two places assigned to them, not a single fisheries organization had requested to attend. This prompted the Chair to urge representatives from fisheries ministries to prevail upon fishermen's organizations to take an interest in participating in the work of the Group. Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) said that two fisheries organizations had played a full part in the Swedish SAMBAH workshop and the Chair drawing on his experience at the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat said that the working relationship with fishermen was cordial and constructive.

### 6.3 Implementation of SAMBAH-related Action Points adopted by JG10 (AP 23)

The Action Point related to using the results of the SAMBAH project for conservation. It was agreed to reiterate the Action Point, now that results of the project were available.

#### **Action Point**

20) Parties are encouraged to use SAMBAH results for harbour porpoise conservation in the Baltic Sea. – Priority: High

#### **6.4 ASCOBANS Workshop on the Requirements of Legislation to Address Monitoring and Mitigation of Small Cetacean Bycatch (JG10 AP 7)**

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) gave a brief overview of the Workshop, stressing that a more comprehensive report would be given the next day by Geneviève Desportes, who had been hired as a consultant to help prepare and run the workshop. The report was nearly ready and the final draft version would be circulated later that day. Twenty-five people had attended including fisheries representatives and some good outputs, not all of which would have been predicted in advance, had been achieved.

Geneviève Desportes (Consultant) reported that among other things, the workshop had tried to identify a preferred strategy for placing bycatch-related regulations at European level. The Commission's preferred option was spreading all mitigation and monitoring measures across different legislation, which in the view of the workshop participants however posed the danger of provisions being watered down and would rely on greater inter-disciplinary cooperation. Another option would be to continue having a single, overarching, umbrella regulation which would probably provide greater focus. The preferred option was a combination of both approaches, with a new focused regulation or directive setting the conservation aims and detailed technical measures to reach and monitor those set in the more flexible technical measures framework and data collection framework under the Common Fisheries Policy.

Participants had agreed that a defined limit for bycatch was needed. Mitigation and monitoring should take account of local circumstances. In the Baltic, there was clearly a depleted harbour porpoise population and while some data were available on bycatch, there was no confidence in estimating the rate. There were also distinct sub-populations within the wider Baltic region, and for the smaller population in the Baltic Proper, the bycatch rate had to be reduced to as close to zero as possible.

Mitigation measures would have to be negotiated and agreed locally and nationally and be tailored to specific fisheries. Efforts should focus on areas and gear types with the highest risk, and should include monitoring to establish the rate of bycatch. The data provided through the SAMBAH project should provide pointers. The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) should be approached to secure funding for bycatch mitigation measures, such as exchange of gear to more harbour porpoise friendly options.

Krzysztof Skóra (Poland) stressed again the importance in defining effort as the contribution of the number of vessels, ship size, the length of line deployed and soak time. "Days at sea" were not necessarily comparable.

Fabian Ritter (WDC) said that the workshop had done important work and had covered key areas but it had been by invitation only and there had been no NGO involvement, which he found regrettable. Some profound discussions had taken place about the future of Regulation and setting thresholds, but he wanted to know what the next steps were and to whom the report would be sent. The absence of NGOs gave rise to suspicions that the process was not entirely transparent.

Ms Frisch said that NGOs had not been deliberately excluded and one NGO that was meant to attend had cancelled at the last minute. Invitees had been determined in consultation with Parties' National Coordinators, who had been asked to suggest who was to be invited from their countries with the intention being to have experts present, irrespective of their affiliation.

Ms Frisch explained that the report would be circulated to participants by email for final comments and clearance. Before the report was sent to the European Commission as the input of ASCOBANS to the review process, the approval of the Parties would be required.

Mr Ritter, supported by Mr Kock, asked that the members of the Jastarnia Group be given opportunity to provide comments on the report. It was agreed that this should be made possible, on the understanding that these would not change the report but be transmitted to Parties in conjunction with it.

Action Point 21 can be found under item 8, 'Any other Business'.

## **7. Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat**

*Implementation of the Plan ("Gap Area Plan", GAP) and action points (AP) recommended by the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group, as endorsed by AC21*

### **7.1 Objective a. Involvement of All Stakeholders in the Implementation of the Plan and its Evaluation**

#### **7.1.1 Actively seek to involve fishermen in the implementation of the plan and mitigation measures to ensure reducing bycatch (GAP Recommendation 1)**

##### **7.1.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 26, 27)**

##### **7.1.1.2 Other related issues**

The Chair read out the two Action Points. Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) reported that there was now a forum involving fishermen and WWF in the German *Land* of Schleswig-Holstein. So far there were no tangible gains but the initiative had only just been started. Progress might well be achieved with a new minister appointed in the *Land* government.

#### **7.1.2 Cooperate with and inform other relevant bodies about the Conservation Plan (GAP Recommendation 2)**

There were no comments on this sub-item.

### **7.2 Objective b. Mitigation of Bycatch**

#### **7.2.1 Protect harbour porpoises in their key habitats by minimizing bycatch as far as possible (GAP Recommendation 3)**

##### **7.2.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 28, 29, 30, 31)**

##### **7.2.1.2 Other related issues**

There were four related Action Points - one on reduction of bycatch in SACs designated for harbour porpoises; one on funding research into alternative fishing gear; one on eco-labelling programmes and one on promoting the use of pingers in gillnet fisheries regardless of the size of vessel. All were deemed to still be relevant and were retained.

Regarding Action Point 29, Finn Larsen (Denmark) and Patricia Brtnik (Germany) confirmed that research on alternative fishing gear and practices was continuing in both their countries, in Denmark's case in cooperation with Sweden.

Regarding eco-labelling, Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) reported that the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) had reviewed its fisheries certification requirements the previous year and these now seemed to place greater emphasis on avoiding negative impacts of bycatch. The Secretariat needed assistance in assessing whether the new MSC approach was sound and the views of the Jastarnia Group and the Bycatch Working Group would be welcome. The MSC had also produced a second document providing guidance on best practice for fisheries. Both papers had been made available for the meeting.

Fabian Ritter (WDC) said he had read parts of the document and stressed that this would be an opportunity to influence the MSC but it would take time if it were to be done properly. He also suggested inviting a representative of the MSC to an ASCOBANS meeting. Ms Frisch said that a MSC representative had wished to attend the last Advisory Committee meeting but had cancelled at the last minute. She felt that expert advice was needed and as the MSC

guidance was global, she felt that the Bycatch Working Group would be the most appropriate forum within ASCOBANS to comment, stressing that only a small part of the guidance related to bycatch of protected species, so not all needed to be reviewed. Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) said that he had had experience of a consulting company used by MSC; he had raised the issue of seal culling in southern fisheries after which the consultants had not contacted him again. He suggested that it should be a representative of the consultants rather than the MSC itself that should be invited.

Iwona Pawliczka (Poland) said that the MSC had consulted Hel Marine Station regarding a Polish fishery, but the advice on recommendations developed by ASCOBANS had been ignored. She did not know whether they had been in contact before or after adopting the new criteria. One problem was that the MSC needed to know what the rate of bycatch was to determine whether to give accreditation and it was impossible to give definitive figures.

#### **Action Points**

22) A request should be made to the Bycatch Working Group to advise whether the revised MSC assessment standards meet ASCOBANS' requirements. – Priority: High

23) The Secretariat should invite a MSC representative to next Jastarnia Group meeting. – Priority: High

#### **7.2.2 Implement pinger use in fisheries causing bycatch (Recommendation 4)**

On Action Point 31 and the use of pingers in gillnet fisheries, Mr Larsen reported on events being organized by the Danish Ministry. Mr Kock gave details of a project that had been initiated at the request of fishermen east of the island of Rügen anxious to prove that they were not responsible for harbour porpoise bycatch. Unfortunately there was less enthusiasm to repeat the project further west. Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) said that a project scheduled to take place to test pingers on the west coast of Sweden had been postponed.

Mr Larsen said that some fisheries in Denmark and beyond were required to use pingers but it was difficult to assess how well the requirements were being enforced. Referring to the ICES WGBYC 2015 report, he mentioned that in the area relevant to the Jastarnia Group, only Poland had reported both how many vessels were obliged to use pingers and how many were actually carrying pingers on board.

In Poland only a small percentage of the fleet was required to use pingers. Pingers had been provided for Polish fishermen operating in ICES Area 24 but the batteries would be flat by now. Geneviève Desportes (Consultant) said that at the January workshop it had become apparent that there were infringements on pinger use being committed in Denmark. Mr Larsen said that DTU Aqua had conducted trials of different pinger types and had found that habituation was apparent with pingers that used the same signal at fixed intervals, whereas no signs of habituation had been observed with pingers with several different signals and varying intervals. He also mentioned that DTU Aqua had conducted handling trials with the Fishtek Banana-pinger and found that it performed well in a gillnet fishery. It had several features that were considered an advantage over some other pingers, including a warning light for low battery power and the ability to replace the battery.

### **Action Point**

24) 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

### **7.2.3 Where possible replace gillnet fisheries known to be associated with high porpoise bycatch with alternative fishing gear known to be less harmful (GAP Recommendation 5)**

There had been no Action Point arising from the previous Meeting. However, Fabian Ritter (WDC) referred to the project mentioned above (see item 5.1.3.2 above). This project had been funded by the German Nature Conservation Agency (BfN) and run by the NGO NABU. It had involved testing long lines in the North Sea and there was a possibility of the project being extended to the Western Baltic, Belt Seas and Kattegat area.

Oliver Schall (Germany) said that the German National Report would include details on trials of alerting devices.

## **7.3 Objective c. Assessment of the Bycatch Level**

### **7.3.1 Estimate total annual bycatch (GAP Recommendation 6)**

#### **7.3.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 32)**

#### **7.3.1.2 Other related issues**

There was one Action Point arising from the previous meeting, encouraging Parties to undertake or promote research regarding bycatch estimation. Finn Larsen (Denmark) reported on a project being undertaken in ICES Areas 22, 23 and 24 with on-board video monitoring systems. The fishermen had proved to be cooperative as they were eager to show that they were not responsible for bycatch.

## **7.4 Objective d. Monitoring the Status of the Population**

### **7.4.1 Estimate trends in abundance of harbour porpoises in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat (GAP Recommendation 7)**

#### **7.4.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 33, 34)**

Action Points 33 and 34 related to inter-SCANS surveys and the projected SCANS III.

Jonas Teilmann (Denmark) said a survey had been undertaken in 2012 and another was scheduled for 2016 and it was hoped that a further exercise would be carried out in 2020. He suggested that the Action Points be updated to reflect what had been done and encourage efforts to continue.

Sacha Viquerat (Germany) said that he had just published a paper on surveys in Germany and looked forward to repeating the exercise. He stressed that there was a great deal of cooperative work being done.

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) reported that at the end of January the SCANS III project team had contacted her with the news that the application for EU Life funding had been unsuccessful and alternative sources of finance were being investigated. Mr Teilmann said that it seemed likely that a project of more limited scope, funded solely with national resources, would proceed. Due to the financial restrictions, it would likely be confined to surveying with no conservation element. Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) said discussions were being

conducted on what could be included in the project and what additional funds should be sought. Finn Larsen (Denmark) stressed that SAMBAH data would be available for the next phase of SCANS in whatever form it took and should be used to inform the planning of this survey.

#### **Action Points**

25) Noting activities that have already taken place in 2012, 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

26) Parties are strongly encouraged to lend their support to the projected SCANS III survey and secure the necessary funding. – Priority: High

#### **7.4.1.2 Other related issues**

Finn Larsen (Denmark) raised the issue of the harbour porpoises that lived in the transition zone between the western Baltic and the Baltic proper. The overlap was most noticeable in the winter months and was a factor to be taken into account when counting populations. He posed the question of whether the animals concerned should be treated as belonging to the Baltic or the population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat and suggested that consideration be given to adjusting the boundary.

Jonas Teilmann (Denmark) said that an interesting point had been raised but it was too early to make any recommendation as the SAMBAH report had not been published. The project seemed to indicate that there was a distinct boundary during summer, but that some animals crossed it. Sacha Viquerat (Germany) asked how distinct the boundary indicated by SAMBAH was. Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) said that boundaries on maps were often quite arbitrary lines reflecting circumstances at a given time. The lines could not be fixed permanently on the basis of the results of the SAMBAH project.

The Chair said that the discussion should be noted and the issue revisited at the next meetings of the Advisory Committee and the Jastarnia Group. This was also a matter to be considered when the plans were next reviewed.

#### **7.4.2 Monitor population health status, contaminant load and causes of mortality (GAP Recommendation 8)**

##### **7.4.2.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 35, 36)**

##### **7.4.2.2 Other related issues**

There were two Action Points, one relating to specimens to be collected and subjected to necropsy and another to encourage standardization of practice and for a scientific coordination group to be established which would meet in conjunction with the Jastarnia Group.

Sacha Viquerat (Germany) said that in Germany the database had been established and was now operating.

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) said that thanks to the German voluntary contribution it would be possible to make progress on the ASCOBANS area-wide initiative to link databases. ZSL had done a feasibility study a few years ago and feedback from the strandings networks had been positive but many technical questions had been raised, which would now be addressed. The Secretariat was also trying to elicit nominations from Parties for members of the Necropsy Coordination Group – Denmark and Germany had both provided their two names, but no nominations had been received from Sweden.

### **Action Point**

27) 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 1 May 2015. The first meeting of this group could take place in conjunction with JG12. – Priority: High

## **7.5 Objective e. Ensuring Habitat Quality Favourable to the Conservation of the Harbour Porpoise**

### **7.5.1 Ensure a non-detrimental use of pingers by examining habitat exclusion and long-term effects of pingers (GAP Recommendation 9)**

The Chair pointed out that there had been no Action Points relating to this Agenda Item from the previous meeting.

Finn Larsen (Denmark) said that work was being done on habitat exclusion but the report was not ready for publication. He was however prepared to make a brief presentation on harbour porpoise behaviour in the presence of pingers, based on a study conducted in three areas (two off the coast of Denmark - Jammerland Bay and Gilleleje Flak - and one off Scotland – St Andrews Bay).

Mr Larsen undertook to circulate the report when it was published, but said that there was evidence that some degree of habituation was occurring, which Jonas Teilmann (Denmark) suggested might be a good thing, as it meant that the harbour porpoises were not being excluded from habitats they chose to frequent but might be aware of the presence of nets.

Mr Teilmann said that another project on pinger use in the Great Belt was expected to go ahead later in the year after several postponements.

### **7.5.2 Include monitoring and management of important prey species in national harbour porpoise management plans (GAP Recommendation 10)**

#### **7.5.2.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 37)**

#### **7.5.2.2 Other related issues**

Action Point 37 related to data on prey species. Jonas Teilmann (Denmark) said data were collected routinely for commercially exploited species and he asked why this Action Point had been raised. Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany) assumed that harbour porpoises also took species that were not commercially exploited, but he was not aware of which species might have been intended. Patricia Brtnik (Germany) said that the interest was not so much on the prey species but the consequences for the harbour porpoises.

Mr Teilmann said that the Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Seas and the Kattegat contained a specific recommendation; it was the rationale behind the Action Point from the previous meeting that seemed obscure. Studies were done for sea birds that depended on sand eels, but such studies were easier given that birds nested on at fixed points which made monitoring them easier.

Finn Larsen (Denmark) suggested being more proactive by encouraging a study to be done, if prey depletion was of sufficient concern in the Baltic.

Mr Kock commented that in the 1960s most harbour porpoise bycatch was associated with herring fisheries. More recently, specimens retrieved from strandings indicated different

symptoms. Mr Teilmann said that the opportunity to make the comparisons over time had been lost and he proposed that the Action Point could be deleted.

**Action Point**

28) Parties should promote research on the consequences of impacts on prey communities for harbour porpoises. – Priority: Medium

**7.5.3 Restore or maintain habitat quality (GAP Recommendation 11)**

**7.5.3.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 38)**

**7.5.3.2 Other related issues**

Patricia Brtnik (Germany) raised the issue of wind farms and Jonas Teilmann (Denmark) said that the number of reports was growing and more would be available by the next meeting of the Group. Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) asked how this information should best be presented, with options being that a member of the Group be mandated to lead or an expert could be invited. Both Ms Brtnik and Mr Teilmann said that they would be prepared to make a presentation on the cluster project “Effects of underwater noise on marine mammals” (“Auswirkungen von Unterwasserschall auf marine Wirbeltiere”). Mr Teilmann said that a model project on the North Sea using real parameters had measured animals’ reactions to pile driving. Jacob Nabe-Nielsen of Aarhus University, the leader of the project, “Disturbance Effects on the Harbour Porpoise Population in the North Sea” (DEPONS), could be approached to attend the next meeting of the Jastarnia Group as an invited expert.

The Chair said that the existing Action Point should be retained but saw no reason to reiterate it.

**Action Point**

29) The Secretariat should ask Jacob Nabe-Nielsen of Aarhus University, the leader of the project “Disturbance Effects on the Harbour Porpoise Population in the North Sea” (DEPONS), to attend the next meeting of the Jastarnia Group as an invited expert.

**8. Any other Business**

Revisions of the Action Plans

It was pointed out that a review of the Jastarnia Plan was overdue. The Chair read out the text of an Action Point which urged Parties to provide the requisite funding for a review of the Jastarnia and Western Baltic, Belt Seas and Kattegat Plans in the light of the findings of the SAMBAH project. The Parties might decide that the Jastarnia Group should undertake the reviews without the support of a consultant, but both Plans contained provisions for revisions after five years and the Jastarnia Plan has already missed its first regular review cycle.

Ida Carlén (Invited Expert / Sweden) felt it would be preferable for the two Plans to operate on the same cycle. It was also agreed that it would make sense for the reviews to be conducted jointly.

### Action Point

21) In view of the SAMBAH results and the requirement for regular reviews and updates of both the Jastarnia Plan and the Gap Area Plan, an urgent revision of both plans is needed with the aim of presenting drafts for adoption by MOP8 in 2016. Parties are urged to provide the necessary funding. – Priority: High

### Western Baltic, Belt Seas and Kattegat (“Gap Area”) – Bycatch Workshop Recommendations

Geneviève Desportes (North Sea Coordinator) presented the summary of findings and concerns on screen.

The plan focussed on a single species with a depleted population but no significant decline had been detected between the SCANS I (1994) and SCANS II (2012) surveys.

Certain gear types were the cause of concern because they were associated with higher rates of bycatch. Data on fishing effort were available but there were questions about their reliability and it was not clear what the bycatch rate was. Four strategies were required: one each for conservation, mitigation, monitoring and data collection.

### 8.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 9)

Heidrun Frisch (Secretariat) was invited by the Chair to present the list of all Action Points adopted by the Jastarnia Group which had been circulated to participants in advance of the meeting. The list was structured thematically rather than chronologically. The meeting was invited to make comments and Ms Frisch inserted updates and corrections directly on screen.

Consideration was given to how to progress this process most efficiently. It would be time-consuming to take each point individually, but it would also be difficult to conduct the exercise by email and obtain a clear majority decision on whether to keep Action Points active or retire them. It was therefore agreed to continue while time allowed, and thereafter further decisions on deletions, amendments and retentions would have to be made inter-sessionally. The Secretariat would circulate proposals and the Group would agree to abide by majority decision; silence would be construed to mean consent. The revised format of the table was acceptable to all present.

The resulting tables are annexed to this report as Annex 4.

### 9. Date and Venue of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group

Monika Lesz (Poland) offered to host the next meeting of the Group at Hel Marine Station. The dates of the meeting would be confirmed in due course but the preferred period was early March 2016.

### 10. Close of Meeting

After the customary expression of thanks to all involved in the organization and execution of the meeting, especially the German Oceanographic Museum and the Government of Germany, the Chair declared proceedings closed.

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## AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of a Chair
4. Presentations by Invited Experts

### 5. Jastarnia Plan

Implementation of the Plan and Action Points (AP) recommended by the 10th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group, as endorsed by AC21

#### 5.1 Bycatch Reduction

##### 5.1.1 Reduce Fishing Effort in Certain Fisheries (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 1)

###### 5.1.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 1, 2, 3, 4)

###### 5.1.1.2 Other related issues

##### 5.1.2 Involve stakeholders in the work of reducing bycatch of harbour porpoises (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 2)

###### 5.1.2.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 5, 6)

###### 5.1.2.2 Other related issues

##### 5.1.3 Replace fishing methods known to be associated with high porpoise bycatch (i.e. set nets) and introduce alternative gear considered less harmful (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 3)

###### 5.1.3.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 8)

###### 5.1.3.2 Other related issues

##### 5.1.4 Implement a pinger programme on a short-term basis (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 4)

#### 5.2 Research and Monitoring

##### 5.2.1 Analyze stock affinities of harbour porpoises in the “transition zone” of the south- western Baltic (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 5)

##### 5.2.2 Develop and apply new techniques (e.g. acoustic monitoring) for assessing trends in abundance (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 6)

##### 5.2.3 Develop interactive pingers or pingers using frequencies not audible to seals (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 7)

##### 5.2.4 Investigate possible detrimental effects of various types of sound and disturbance (including pinger signals, noise from vessels, wind parks or construction and seabed exploration for oil and gas) on harbour porpoises (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 8)

###### 5.2.4.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 10, 11)

###### 5.2.4.2 Other related issues

##### 5.2.5 Monitor bycatch in fisheries known to be harmful to harbour porpoises to be able to estimate bycatch levels (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 9)

- 5.2.6 Further develop sustainable alternative fishing gear with no bycatch of harbour porpoises (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 10)
  - 5.2.6.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 12)
  - 5.2.6.2 Other related issues
- 5.2.7 Compile data on fishing effort (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 11)
  - 5.2.7.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 25)
  - 5.2.7.2 Other related issues
- 5.2.8 Examine habitat preference for harbour porpoises (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 12)
- 5.2.9 Investigate the prevalence of derelict (“ghost”) gear and the feasibility of its removal (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 13)
  - 5.2.9.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 13, 14)
  - 5.2.9.2 Other related issues
- 5.3 Marine Protected Areas
  - 5.3.1 Expand the network of protected areas in the Baltic Sea and improve its connectivity to ensure the development of appropriate harbour porpoise management plans for these areas (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 14)
    - 5.3.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 15, 16)
    - 5.3.1.2 Other related issues
- 5.4 Public Awareness
  - 5.4.1 Develop a comprehensive public awareness campaign (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 15)
    - 5.4.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 17, 18)
    - 5.4.1.2 Other related issues
- 5.5 ASCOBANS Cooperation with Other Bodies
  - 5.5.1 Strive for close consultation and cooperation between ASCOBANS and other relevant regional and international bodies (Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 16)
    - 5.5.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 19, 20, 21, 24)
    - 5.5.1.2 Other related issues (including CORESET II)
- 6. Cross-cutting Issues**
  - 6.1 Cross-cutting Action Points Adopted by JG 10 (AP 39, 40)
  - 6.2 New Terms of Reference for the Jastarnia Group
    - 6.2.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 22)
  - 6.3 Implementation of SAMBAH-related Action Points adopted by JG10 (AP 23)
  - 6.4 ASCOBANS Workshop on the Requirements of Legislation to Address Monitoring and Mitigation of Small Cetacean Bycatch (JG10 AP 7)

## 7. Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat

Implementation of the Plan ("Gap Area Plan", GAP) and action points (AP) recommended by the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group, as endorsed by AC21

- 7.1 Objective a. Involvement of All Stakeholders in the Implementation of the Plan and its Evaluation
  - 7.1.1 Actively seek to involve fishermen in the implementation of the plan and mitigation measures to ensure reducing bycatch (GAP Recommendation 1)
    - 7.1.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 26, 27)
    - 7.1.1.2 Other related issues
  - 7.1.2 Cooperate with and inform other relevant bodies about the Conservation Plan (GAP Recommendation 2)
- 7.2 Objective b. Mitigation of Bycatch
  - 7.2.1 Protect harbour porpoises in their key habitats by minimizing bycatch as far as possible (GAP Recommendation 3)
    - 7.2.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 28, 29, 30, 31)
    - 7.2.1.2 Other related issues
  - 7.2.2 Implement pinger use in fisheries causing bycatch (Recommendation 4)
  - 7.2.3 Where possible replace gillnet fisheries known to be associated with high porpoise bycatch with alternative fishing gear known to be less harmful (GAP Recommendation 5)
- 7.3 Objective c. Assessment of the Bycatch Level
  - 7.3.1 Estimate total annual bycatch (GAP Recommendation 6)
    - 7.3.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 32)
    - 7.3.1.2 Other related issues
- 7.4 Objective d. Monitoring the Status of the Population
  - 7.4.1 Estimate trends in abundance of harbour porpoises in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat (GAP Recommendation 7)
    - 7.4.1.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 33, 34)
    - 7.4.1.2 Other related issues
  - 7.4.2 Monitor population health status, contaminant load and causes of mortality (GAP Recommendation 8)
    - 7.4.2.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 35, 36)
    - 7.4.2.2 Other related issues
- 7.5 Objective e. Ensuring Habitat Quality Favourable to the Conservation of the Harbour Porpoise
  - 7.5.1 Ensure a non-detrimental use of pingers by examining habitat exclusion and long-term effects of pingers (GAP Recommendation 9)

- 7.5.2 Include monitoring and management of important prey species in national harbour porpoise management plans (GAP Recommendation 10)
  - 7.5.2.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 37)
  - 7.5.2.2 Other related issues
- 7.5.3 Restore or maintain habitat quality (GAP Recommendation 11)
  - 7.5.3.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 38)
  - 7.5.3.2 Other related issues
- 8. Any other Business
  - 8.1 Implementation of relevant JG10 APs (AP 9)
- 9. Date and Venue of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group
- 10. Close of Meeting

## **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 action 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 to ICES. The Secretariat should request the ICES WGBYC to present the information to the Jastarnia Group. – 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) 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
- 5) 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 agreed by JG10 (see Annex 5). – Priority: Medium
- 6) 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
- 7) Noting that Regulation 812/2004 in its current form is not protecting harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea sufficiently and while measures to be addressed in the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) are still being defined, Baltic Sea Range States should implement comprehensively the bycatch mitigation measures laid down in Recommendations 1-4 of the Jastarnia Plan. – Priority: High

#### **Research and Monitoring**

- 8) The Advisory Committee should encourage Parties to explore the possibility of a joint monitoring effort and to promote the collection of data at the sub-regional and local levels based on the methods adopted by SAMBAH. Progress should be reviewed in 2016. – Priority: High
- 9) Baltic Parties are urged to continue to submit, as they become available, all results on genetic, morphological and other biological research dealing with the stock identity of Baltic porpoises, including results from ongoing relevant studies. – Priority: Medium

- 10) ASCOBANS and the Parties should explore the possibility of co-funding and/or otherwise supporting dedicated follow-up studies for SAMBAH, among other things with a view to assessing trends. – Priority: High
- 11) Parties should consider supporting any projects relevant for achieving the aims of the Jastarnia Plan. – Priority: High
- 12) Parties and NGOs are requested to ensure that the results of all relevant projects are made available to ASCOBANS. – Priority: High
- 13) The Secretariat should ask Parties 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
- 14) Parties should continue to 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
- 15) Taking into consideration the future requirements under the MSFD, Parties should continue to 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 JG12. – Priority: High

### **Public Awareness**

- 16) Each country is encouraged to designate one website for reporting of sightings and strandings by the public. The URLs should be made available for use on the ASCOBANS website. There should be an exchange of information between these databases as appropriate. GIS referenced data should be submitted to HELCOM regularly. – Priority: High
- 17) National focal points for public awareness should be established. – Priority: Medium

### **Cross-Cutting Issues**

- 18) In light of the positive experience with the North Sea Coordinator, the Jastarnia Group recommends that the Advisory Committee ensure that the appointment of a Baltic Sea Coordinator, or a joint coordinator for both regions, possibly attached to the Secretariat, is considered by the next MOP. – Priority: High
- 19) 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. The Secretariat should recall this recommendation to the Coordinating Authority of the host country in good time before the meeting. – Priority: High
- 20) Parties are encouraged to use SAMBAH results for harbour porpoise conservation in the Baltic Sea. – Priority: High
- 21) In view of the SAMBAH results and the requirement for regular reviews and updates of both the Jastarnia Plan and the Gap Area Plan, an urgent revision of both plans is needed with the aim of presenting drafts for adoption by MOP8 in 2016. Parties are urged to provide the necessary funding. – Priority: High

### **Western Baltic, Belt Seas and Kattegat Plan**

#### **Mitigation of Bycatch**

- 22) A request should be made to the Bycatch Working Group to advise whether the revised MSC assessment standards meet ASCOBANS' requirements. – Priority: High
- 23) The Secretariat should invite a MSC representative to next Jastarnia Group meeting. – Priority: High
- 24) 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

#### **Population Status**

- 25) Noting activities that have already taken place in 2012, 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
- 26) Parties are strongly encouraged to lend their support to the projected SCANS III survey and secure the necessary funding. – Priority: High
- 27) 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 1 May 2015. The first meeting of this group could take place in conjunction with JG12. – Priority: High

#### **Habitat Quality**

- 28) Parties should promote research on the consequences of impacts on prey communities for harbour porpoises. – Priority: Medium
- 29) The Secretariat should ask Jacob Nabe-Nielsen of Aarhus University, the leader of the project "Disturbance Effects on the Harbour Porpoise Population in the North Sea" (DEPONS), to attend the next meeting of the Jastarnia Group as an invited expert.

**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
 MADE BY THE ASCOBANS JASTARNIA GROUP ON THE JASTARNIA PLAN**

**Bycatch Reduction**

Implementation of Recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair
<b>Jastarnia Plan Objective</b>	<b>Bycatch Reduction</b>												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP07	Noting that Regulation 812/2004 in its current form does not protect harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea sufficiently and that according to EC Communication (2011) 578, a revision is not foreseen in the near future and that bycatch mitigation measures will probably in future be addressed in the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), Baltic Sea Range States should implement comprehensively the bycatch mitigation measures laid down in Recommendations 1-4 of the Jastarnia Plan.	Parties / Baltic Sea Range States	High	??	without delay	JG9/p.10/5 .1.4 "regulation unlikely to be amended"					ANR2009/p.13-14 ANR2010/p.14-15 JG9/p.17/5 .5.1.1 "new pingers included in resolution" "observing more vessels than required"	
	JG8/AP06	Noting that Regulation 812/2004 in its current form does not protect harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea sufficiently and that according to EC Communication (2011) 578, a revision is not foreseen in the near future and that bycatch mitigation measures will probably in future be addressed in the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), Baltic Sea Range States should implement comprehensively the bycatch mitigation measures laid down in Recommendations 1-4 of the Jastarnia Plan.	Parties / Baltic Sea Range States		??								
	JG7/AP09	Noting that Regulation 812/2004 in its current form is not sufficiently protecting harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea, the Jastarnia Group encourages Baltic Sea Range States to implement comprehensively the bycatch mitigation measures laid down in the Jastarnia Plan.	Parties / Baltic Sea Range States		n/a								

Implementation of Recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Reduce Fishing Effort in Certain Fisheries (#1)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP01	ASCOBANS should urge relevant authorities to investigate ways of limiting part-time and recreational set-net fisheries.	AC	High to medium, depending on area	Done in some countries	without delay		JG8/p.5/5.aa.	JG4/p.4/5.a.			ANR2008/p.19 JG8/p.5/5.aa.	JG10/p.2/4.1.1
	JG10/AP01	ASCOBANS should urge relevant authorities to investigate ways of limiting part-time and recreational set-net fisheries.	AC		n/a	without delay							
	JG5/AP01	Parties should urge their relevant authorities to investigate ways of limiting part-time and recreational set-net fisheries.	Parties		n/a								
	JG4/AP13	Parties should urge their relevant authorities to investigate ways of limiting part-time and recreational set-net fisheries.	Parties		n/a								
	JG3/AP01	Parties should urge their relevant authorities to investigate ways of limiting part-time set-net fishery.	Parties		n/a								
	JG8/AP05	With respect to recreational fisheries, Parties should work towards banning those types of gear known to pose a threat to harbour porpoises.	Parties		??		ANR2009/p.12						
	JG7/AP23	With respect to recreational fisheries, Parties should work towards banning those types of gear known to pose a threat to harbour porpoises.	Parties		n/a								
	JG6/AP14	With respect to recreational fisheries, Parties should work towards banning those types of gear known to pose a threat to harbour porpoises.	Parties		n/a								
	JG11/AP02	Parties should step up action 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 to ICES. The Secretariat should request the ICES WGBYC to present the information to the Jastarnia Group.	Parties	High	Ongoing	without delay	ANR2010/p.11	JG8/p.5/5.aa	ANR2011/p.11		JG8/p.5/5.aa JG7/p.3/5.aa ANR2008/p.15-16 ANR2011/p.12	ANR2011/p.12	
	JG10/AP02	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.	Parties	High	n/a	without delay							
	JG7/AP01	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.	Parties		n/a								

Implementation of Recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG11/AP 03	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.	Parties	High	??		JG9/p.8/5.1.2.2 "Natura 2000 stakeholder forum"		ANR 2013 p.3 "voluntary agreement" (reduction of gillnet length)					
JG10/AP 03	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.	Parties	High	n/a									
JG8/AP0 1	In order to achieve favourable conservation status for harbour porpoises as required under the Habitats Directive, Parties should make concerted efforts to reduce bycatch especially in Natura 2000 sites (SACs) where harbour porpoises form part of the selection criteria. This could be achieved by reducing gillnet fishing effort and implementing alternative fishing gear both inside and outside protected areas, as well as pingers outside protected areas.	Parties		n/a									
JG10/AP 04	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.	JG Chair, Secretariat	Medium	done (awaiting response)								JG10/p.2/4.1.1	
JG9/AP0 9	The Secretariat and the Chair of the Jastarnia Group should write to ICES requesting statistics on IUU fisheries in the Baltic Sea, broken down by ICES areas. An intersessional working group should be established to evaluate the data received prior to the next meeting of the Jastarnia Group.	Secretariat, JG Chair		n/a									
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Involve Stakeholders in the Work of Reducing Bycatch of Harbour Porpoises (#2)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP 04	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.	Drafting Group	Medium	??							JG10/p.3/4.1.2	

Implementation of Recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG10/AP05	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.	Drafting Group	Medium	??								JG10/p.3/4.1.2	
JG9/AP10	A small drafting group comprising Sofia Brockmark, Rüdiger Stempel, Penina Blankett and Geneviève Desportes 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 this 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.	Drafting Group		n/a									
JG8/AP02	A small drafting group should develop briefing notes on ASCOBANS positions regarding bycatch, if possible based on any drafts that the North Sea Coordinator may prepare for fora in this 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.	Drafting Group		n/a									
JG7/AP02	Briefing notes on ASCOBANS positions regarding bycatch should be developed for 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, as foreseen for the entire ASCOBANS Area in the terms of reference for the Bycatch Working Group. A Baltic Coordinator, if appointed, could take on this task.			n/a									
JG11/AP05	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 agreed by JG10 (see Annex 5).	Secretariat / Consultant	Medium	Funding identified, consultancy to be advertised								JG9/p.8/5.1.2.2 JG10/p.3/4.1.2	

Implementation of Recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG10/AP06	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).	Secretariat / Consultant	Medium	n/a									
JG9/AP11	The ASCOBANS 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. The ASCOBANS Secretariat, with the support of the ASCOBANS Coordinators should also investigate what incentives are offered to those delivering carcasses, irrespective of whether such incentives are laid down in national legislation.	Secretariat		n/a									
JG7/AP03	The ASCOBANS 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. The ASCOBANS Secretariat, with the support of the ASCOBANS Coordinators should also investigate what incentives are offered to those delivering carcasses, irrespective of whether such incentives are laid down in national legislation.	Secretariat		n/a									
JG6/AP24	The Secretariat should produce a synopsis of bycatch-related national regulations of relevance to individual fishermen, especially with regard to fines for bycatch and incentives for those delivering carcasses.	Secretariat		n/a									
JG7/AP04	Parties should establish national processes to develop guidelines and methods for reducing and monitoring bycatch in the relevant fisheries, as called for in Jastarnia Plan Recommendation 2, and to report on progress in achieving this.	Parties		Ongoing within HELCOM and Denmark			ANR2008/p.15						
JG7/AP05	Parties should enact national legislation obliging fishermen to report bycatch of cetaceans in their log books and to deliver carcasses to the competent authorities. A lump sum reimbursement should be provided to fishermen to cover parts of the cost of delivering the carcasses.	Parties		n/a			JG8/p.7/5. bb				JG8/p.8/5. bb		

Implementation of Recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG7/AP06	Noting the recent promising new methods of monitoring and mitigating bycatch across the Baltic Sea region, the Jastarnia Group recommends that this information be made available to those not or not fully aware of it, especially fishermen. An overview of studies related to this issue and practical examples from around the Baltic Sea should be compiled by the Secretariat with input from the Jastarnia Group.	Secretariat, JG		no progress		JG7/p.6/5.a.bb.bbb.					JG7/p.6/5.a.bb.bbb.		
JG6/AP10	The Group notes the recent promising new methods of monitoring and mitigating bycatch across the greater Baltic region and recommends that options of compiling this information and making it available to those not or not fully aware of it be explored. The Jastarnia Group and the ASCOBANS Secretariat should take the lead in this process.	JG, Secretariat		n/a									
JG6/AP11	A targeted approach to involving stakeholders such as fishermen should be adopted. With respect to fishermen, this should involve working primarily with those who have been receptive in the past.			??					ANR2012/p.8 "lectures"	JG8/p.7./5.bb.			
JG5/AP02	Parties should involve stakeholders, including fishermen, and urge them to accept responsibility for eliminating the potential risk of bycatch in gillnets and to take the necessary actions to obtain this goal. One way of making this into a positive market force is to develop a green policy for the fisheries, promoting a "porpoise free fish" label. In such a process it is recommended to seek advice from similar label initiatives on the market and to integrate this green policy into the public relations and awareness campaigns discussed below.	Parties		??				ANR2009/p.16-17					
JG4/AP07	Parties should develop a collaborative approach to engaging fishers in reporting bycatch. Parties should involve stakeholders, including fishermen, in the work of reducing bycatch and in collaboration with them develop necessary mitigation measures.	Parties		Ongoing		JG10/p.4/4 .1.3 JG9/p.21/7 .1.1 "conservation meetings for fishermen"		JG9/p.8/5.1.2 "fishermen and conservationists workshops"		JG10/p.4/4 .1.3 JG9/p.14/5 .3.1.2 "Harbour Porpoise Conservation Programme"	JG5/p.2/4.a.		
JG3/AP02	Parties should involve the stakeholders and develop a collaborative approach to engaging fishers in reporting bycatch.	Parties		n/a									

Implementation of Recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Replace Fishing Methods Known to be Associated with High Porpoise Bycatch (i.e. Set Nets) and Introduce Alternative Gear Considered Less Harmful (#3)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP06	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.	Parties	High	Ongoing				JG10/p.4/4 .1.3 JG9/p.9/5. 3.1.3 "long-line fishing" "traps given to fishermen" ANR 2013 "Testing of alternative fishing gear"			JG10/p.4/4 .1.3 ANR2011/p.12, ANR2010/p.13 ANR2009/p.14/Cod pots ANR2008/p.14/cod traps JG6/p.7/5. a.cc.	
	JG10/AP08	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.	Parties	High	n/a								
	JG9/AP12	Noting the successful application of cod pots in Sweden, Parties should undertake or continue efforts to test and implement pots, traps and other porpoise-friendly gear.	Parties		n/a								
	JG8/AP04	Noting the successful application of cod pots in Sweden, Parties should undertake or continue efforts to test and implement pots, traps and other porpoise-friendly gear.	Parties		n/a								
	JG7/AP23	The possibility of using cod traps, as successfully applied in Sweden, or other gear as an alternative to pingers elsewhere in the Baltic and the greater Baltic region, as well as the possibility of reflecting their use in a porpoise-friendly label should be investigated.			n/a								
	JG6/AP15	The possibility of using cod traps, as successfully applied in Sweden, or other gear as an alternative to pingers elsewhere in the Baltic and the greater Baltic region, as well as the possibility of reflecting their use in a porpoise-friendly label should be investigated.			n/a			JG7/p.9/5. a.cc.bb	JG7/p.9/5. a.cc.bb			JG7/p.9/5. a.cc.bb	

Implementation of Recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG7/AP08	The Jastarnia Group recommends that the Secretariat approach the Marine Stewardship Council and other similar certification organizations to urge them to prioritize bycatch of cetaceans in the evaluation criteria applied for certifying fisheries and to promote porpoise-friendly fishing gear and other mitigation measures as described in the Jastarnia Plan.	Secretariat	High	Ongoing								JG8/p.6/5.a.bb	
JG6/AP03	Parties should promote research on the development of new porpoise-safe fishing gear. Included in the responsibility of the stakeholders for mitigating bycatch is the active participation in this research and development. The implementation of resulting new fishing gear can be considerably facilitated by including the new gear in a green label, e.g. as outlined above, since it will increase acceptance of a higher value of the catch, which in turn would serve as an incitement for the fishermen to adopt the new gear.	Parties	High	??									
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Implement a Pinger Programme on a Short-term Basis (#4)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG5/AP04	Parties are reminded to implement urgently the pinger use recommended in the Jastarnia Plan, which calls for pingers to be made mandatory in probable high-risk areas and fisheries associated with bycatch of harbour porpoises on a short-term basis (no more than 3 years) irrespective of vessel size. In the meantime, Parties must develop long-term measures to mitigate bycatch, such as alternative fishing gear.	Parties	High	??		ANR2006/p.11/pinger experiment, alerting pingers; JG3/p.4/4.a.		ANR2012/p.3 "pingers in vessels" ANR2012/p.3 "Porpoise Alarm (PAL)" ongoing 2013/2014 (ANR2013) ANR2012/p.5f. "seal scarer"		JG8/p.9/4.dd JG6/p.7/5.a.dd ANR2006/p.14/Puck Bay Pingers	ANR2008/p.16 JG2/p.4/3.b. ANR2006/p.17/free pingers; JG4/p.5-6/5.a.	JG9/p.10/5.1.4
	JG4/AP01	Bearing in mind the limited measures of EC Regulation 812/2004, Parties are reminded to urgently introduce pingers on fishing gear associated with harbour porpoise bycatch and then phase them out within three years. In the meantime, Parties must develop long-term measures to mitigate bycatch such as alternative fishing gear.	Parties		n/a								

Implementation of Recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG2/AP0 2	Interim research on pingers and the implementation of a pinger programme should be stepped up. This means inter alia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of pinger trials and extension to areas not covered by EU regulation 812/2004;</li> <li>• Continuation of trials on alternative gear and methods.</li> </ul> The reduction in fishing effort called for in the Jastarnia Plan should nonetheless remain the top priority.			n/a									
JG2/AP0 3	More enforcement of pinger use and the monitoring of its efficiency should be ensured.		High	??		ANR2007/ p.13		ANR2011/ p.16 JG9/p.10/5 .1.4 "new pinger design"		ANR2008/ p.13; JG8/p.9/4. dd JG9/p.10/5 .1.4 "pingers reduced porpoise numbers (Puck Bay)"	ANR2011/ p.14 JG3/p.4/4. a.		
JG2/AP0 4	At the latest in 2009 pinger use should be re-evaluated in light of current findings (Art.7 of EC Regulation 812/2004).			n/a									
JG1/AP1 5	A re-evaluation of the use of pingers should be undertaken in 2006, as provided for in the Jastarnia Plan.			n/a									
JG1/AP1 6	ASCOBANS should write to the EU Commission suggesting that it re-evaluate the permanent use of pingers in particular in the light of the documented decrease in effectiveness of pingers.			done									

## Research and Monitoring

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair
<b>Jastarnia Plan Objective</b>	<b>Research and Monitoring</b>												
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Analyze Stock Affinities of Harbour Porpoises in the "Transition Zone" of the South-Western Baltic (#5)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG8/AP13	Denmark, Germany and Sweden are strongly encouraged to collaborate in order to survey the Western Baltic (gap area) harbour porpoise population and evaluate trends in population density and abundance.	Denmark, Sweden, Germany		done		JG9/p.27/para.7.4.1.1 "successful funding for survey"		ANR2012/p.10 "COSAMM project" JG9/p.13/para.5.2.8. "small German study"				
	JG7/AP10	A survey of the Belt Sea harbour porpoise population should be undertaken as soon as possible. The survey should be carried out in such a way as to be comparable to the SCANS surveys.			n/a		JG9/p.11/para.5.2.1 "Secretariat confirmed unsuccessful application"		ANR2012 p.10 GAP area Survey July 2012				JG9/p.11/para.5.2.1
	JG7/AP22	The project proposed by Dr Andrew Foote ("Innovative conservation genetic analyses of Baltic Sea Harbour porpoise: analyzing sub-fossil samples to understand past change; development of genetic monitoring methods") should be accepted by the Advisory Committee for funding through ASCOBANS.	AC		Done (failed)								
	JG6/AP13	A summary of current and historic morphological data should be included in Anders Galatius' and Jonas Teilmann's study and presented to the 2011 Jastarnia Group.			Done (JG6 Report, Annex 5)								
	JG5/AP05	The Secretariat should work to ensure that the final report of the Workshop on Genetics and Population Structure of the Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic Sea, held in October 2007, be made available in time for the 16th meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC). The AC should initiate any necessary follow-up, which should also include the catalogue if available samples and results of ongoing research when they become available.	Secretariat, AC		done								

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG11/AP09	Baltic Parties are urged to continue to submit, as they become available, all results on genetic, morphological and other biological research dealing with the stock identity of Baltic porpoises, including results from ongoing relevant studies.	Parties, AC	High	??		JG6/p.9/para.5.b.aa.		JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b.					
JG5/AP06	Baltic parties are urged to submit all available results on genetic, morphological and other biological research, dealing with the stock identity of Baltic porpoises, to an expert group that should be established by the AC. Also results from ongoing relevant studies should be included. Based on these data, the working group should assess the current status of Baltic porpoise stock identity, and recommend what further research might be required to resolve this issue. This work should be reported at the 2010 Advisory Committee meeting. Parties are encouraged to provide funding for such future research.	Parties, AC	High	n/a	AC17								
JG4/AP03	The Advisory Committee should establish a small expert working group to evaluate the genetic, morphological and other biological research which has been undertaken so far. Based on this, the working group should assess what further research is required and possible for the conservation of the Baltic Sea sub-population(s). Parties are encouraged to provide funding for such future research.	AC, Parties		n/a									
JG2/AP07	A joint Baltic genetic study should be undertaken to bring together information from the whole Baltic; Parties should be asked to provide funding for this.	Parties		n/a									
JG1/AP09	A joint Baltic genetic study should be undertaken to bring together information from the whole Baltic; Parties should be asked to provide funding for this.	Parties		n/a									
JG2/AP08	A sub-group of 5-10 people should meet for a one-day workshop to discuss and agree on the methods to be used in the above study. The Secretariat should explore the possibility of funding the workshop, which should be organized jointly by Jonas Teilmann and the Secretariat in 2006.	Secretariat		Done (2007)		JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	
JG1/AP10	A sub-group of 5 – 10 people should meet for a one-day workshop to discuss and agree on the methods to be used in the above study. The Secretariat should explore the possibility of funding the workshop, which should be organized jointly by Jonas Teilmann and the Secretariat, probably in May or June 2005.	Secretariat		Done (2007)		JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	JG3/p.6./p ara.4.b	
JG1/AP11	The genetics group should be asked to consider the question of including the transition zone, the Baltic proper and Danish waters in its study.			done									

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Develop and Apply New Techniques (e.g. Acoustic Monitoring) for Assessing Trends in Abundance (#6)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG9/AP0 2	If required, Parties are asked to consider providing additional funding for the SAMBAH and RUMBAH projects.	Parties		n/a								JG10/p.6-8/4.2.4
	JG11/AP 10	ASCOBANS and the Parties should explore the possibility of co-funding and/or otherwise supporting dedicated follow-up studies for SAMBAH, among other things with a view to assessing trends.	AC, Parties	High	Ongoing								JG10/p.6-8/4.2.4
	JG9/AP0 4	ASCOBANS and the Parties should explore the possibility of co-funding and/or otherwise supporting dedicated follow-up studies for SAMBAH, for instance in connection with other studies such as BIAS starting in December 2013.	AC, Parties	High	n/a								JG10/p.6-8/4.2.4
	JG5/AP0 7	The Jastarnia Group recommends further support for systematic large-scale passive acoustic monitoring to collect population density data. These data should then be correlated to GIS modelling already carried out to ascertain the distribution of harbour porpoises' prey fish and various habitat factors. The Jastarnia Group is grateful for the support given by ASCOBANS to the application of the proposed LIFE+ SAMBAH project.			n/a		ANR2011/p.42; ANR2012/p.4		ANR2011/p.37,p.42 / ANR2012 / ANR2013		ANR2011/p.40, p.43	ANR2011/p.40	
	JG1/AP0 3	The monitoring of population developments should be considered an ongoing project that should continue for many years to come.		High	Ongoing		ANR2011/p.35/acoustic survey ANR2009/p.38/genetic analysis ANR2008/p.35/satellite tags	ANR2011/p.36/SAMBAH ANR2010/p.36/SAMBAH ANR2009/p.38/SAMBAH ANR2008/p.35/SAMBAH ANR2007/p.33/SAMBAH	ANR2013 / ANR2012 p.10 / ANR2011/p.37/visual survey ANR2010/p.37/data ANR2009/p.39/data integration ANR2008/p.35/aerial survey ANR2007/p.34/aerial survey	ANR2009/p.39/LIFE ANR2008/p.36/LIFE	ANR2011/p.40/SAMBAH ANR2010/p.40/SAMBAH ANR2009/p.40/SAMBAH	ANR2011/p.40/SAMBAH ANR2010/p.40/study by Per Palsböll ANR2009/p.41/SAMBAH	

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Develop Interactive Pingers or Pingers Using Frequencies Not Audible to Seals (#7)												
	JG5/AP08	Parties should promote studies on alternative fishing gear, the development of interactive pingers and pingers not audible to seals.	Parties	High	Ongoing		JG9/p.11/para.5.2.3 "project - silence and activity" JG5/p.2/para4.a.		(ASCOBANS) JG9/p.11/para.5.2.3. "University of Aarhus" ANR2010/p.12 / ANR2013			JG6/p.10/para.5.b.cc . JG4/p.6/para.5.a. ANR2008/p.14 JG6/p.7/para.5.a.cc.	
	JG1/AP05	Pilot experiments with pingers should be conducted in areas with conditions similar to those in the Baltic and with a clear halocline.			n/a								
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Investigate Possible Detrimental Effects of Various Types of Sound and Disturbance (Including Pinger Signals, Noise from Vessels, Wind Parks or Construction and Seabed Exploration for Oil and Gas) on Harbour Porpoises (#8)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG8/AP11	Germany recently issued recommendations on the reduction of sound emissions associated with construction of offshore wind farms and set an upper limit for pile driving operations. This good example and the results of current studies should be reflected both in the national legislation of Parties and in the relevant indicators for Good Environmental Status to be developed for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.	Parties	High	??				ANR2012/p.6f. "bubble curtain" / ANR2013			ANR2011/p.26	
	JG8/AP10	Parties are invited to commission research on whether pingers cause habitat exclusion and habituation.	Parties	Medium	Ongoing				JG4/p.8/para.b.				
	JG5/AP09	Parties and the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Noise Working Group are asked to give special consideration to the particular requirements in the Baltic Sea when mitigating the impact of anthropogenic noise on porpoises, such as the destruction through explosion of old ammunition or during the construction of sea bed pipelines as well as pile-driving for wind turbines. Furthermore, additional ship noise is of concern during offshore construction as well as the use of depth sounders (e.g. fish finders) with frequencies of less than 150kHz in particular by an increasing number of leisure boats.	Parties, AC	High	??		JG6/p.10/para.5.b.d d		ANR2013 ANR2012/p.5 "pipeline project" ANR2011 /p.45 ANR2009/p.23 ANR2006/p.21 JG6/p.10/para.5.b.d d		ANR2009/p.25-26	ANR2009/p.27 JG6/p.11/para.5.b.d d	
	JG5/AP10	Parties are asked to undertake baseline studies of underwater noise in their respective waters as a reference point for future impact assessments.	Parties	Medium	??								

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG5/AP1 1	The Jastarnia Group requests that the working group on noise should also consider guidelines on the safe disposal of abandoned ammunition to minimise the detrimental effects on harbour porpoises, for example through the use of bubble curtains.	Noise WG	Medium	??									
JG4/AP0 8	Parties should investigate possible detrimental effects of various types of sound and disturbance on harbour porpoises (including pinger signals, noise from vessels, wind parks or construction). Parties should initiate and support studies on the effect of anthropogenic noise on the harbour porpoise.	Parties	Medium	Ongoing		ANR2012/ p.2 "shipping lanes"		ANR2013 / ANR2012/ p.3f. "German Navy/sonar systems"; "PoMM Protection"; "auditory study"; "underwater noise project/tagging" ANR2010/ p.21 ANR2009/ p.23 ANR2008/ p.12 ANR2008/ p.36		JG9/p.14/ para.5.3.1. 2 "Harbour Porpoise Conservation Programme"	ANR2008/ p.24 JG5/p.6/para.4.b.		
JG1/AP0 2	More research should be conducted on the behaviour of harbour porpoises near pingers.		Medium	??		ANR2006/ p.12/Teilmann et al. (2006) JG2/p.4./para.3.b.							
JG1/AP1 2	A study on noise emitted by vessels should be undertaken; North Sea countries should be asked to contribute to this as the findings were relevant to both recovery plans.		Medium	??									

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken							
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Monitor Bycatch in Fisheries Known to Be Harmful to Harbour Porpoises to Be Able to Estimate Bycatch Levels (#9)													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG9/AP13	Given the positive experiences in the Danish fishery, Parties should implement video surveillance widely in order to document bycatch of porpoises and identify and implement effective mitigation measures, and at the same time reduce discards of fish. Currently video surveillance is the most accurate measure for bycatch estimates and total documentation of the fishery, applicable also to small vessels, and meets the requirements of Article 12 of the Habitats Directive.	Parties	High	??		JG10/p.8/4.25 ANR2010/p.11 ANR2009/p.12 JG9/p.12/para.5.2.5.1 "positive in southern Kattegat" JG9/p.26/para.7.3 "10 vessels"		JG10/p.8/4.25 ANR2011/p.11				JG8/p.8/para.5.cc. JG9/p.26/para.7.3 "discouraging experience"	
	JG8/AP03	Given the positive experiences in the Danish fishery, Parties should implement video surveillance widely in order to document bycatch of porpoises and identify and implement effective mitigation measures, and at the same time reduce discards of fish. Currently video surveillance is the most accurate measure for bycatch estimates and total documentation of the fishery, applicable also to small vessels, and meets the requirements of Article 12 of the Habitats Directive.	Parties		n/a									
	JG5/AP13	The Jastarnia Group notes the success of the Swedish pilot project regarding installation of video cameras on board small fishing vessels for monitoring bycatch and encourages Parties to take similar measures.	Parties		n/a									
	JG4/AP02	Bearing in mind the Parties' commitments under the Habitats Directive and EC Regulation 812/2004, Parties are required to establish a system to monitor bycatch on all vessels regardless of size.	Parties	High	??		ANR2008/p.17/observer program		ANR2012/p.3 "observers for bycatch in commercial fisheries"			ANR2008/p.18 JG5/p.6/para.4.b.		
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Further Develop Sustainable Alternative Fishing Gear With No Bycatch of Harbour Porpoises (#10)													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG10/AP12	The Jastarnia Group welcomes the project Baltic Smart Gear and recommends that WWF cooperate with other related projects going on around the Baltic Sea.	WWF		Ongoing							JG10/p.9/4.2.6		

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG4/AP09	Parties should promote studies on alternative fishing gear and interactive pingers.	Parties	High	??		JG9/p.9/para.5.3.1.3 "new gear not working"		ANR2006/p.12/sound traps ANR2007/p.14		ANR2012/p.2 "cod pots"	ANR2012/p.2 "cod pots" ANR2008/p.14 ANR2007/p.15 ANR2006/p.14/push-up traps JG5/p.6/para.b. JG9/p.9/para.5.3.1.3 "new designs progressing"		
JG3/AP04	Parties should support studies on alternative fishing gear and interactive pingers.	Parties		n/a									
JG1/AP01	In light of the still limited number of trials with alternative fishing gear, research on this subject should be stepped up.			n/a									
JG2/AP05	The Secretariat should contact Finn Larsen and request a copy of his final report on experiments with alternative fishing gear and fishing practices.	Secretariat		done								JG3/p.4/para.4.a	
JG1/AP07	Finn Larsen should be contacted to inquire as to the need for additional funding for the finalization of his review of all experiments to date with alternative gear and fishing practices.			done								JG2/p.3/para.3.a	
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Compile Data on Fishing Effort (#11)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP13	The Secretariat should ask Parties 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.	Parties	Low	??	JG12					JG10/p.9/4.2.7		
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG10/AP25	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.	Parties	Low	n/a	JG11							

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG9/AP0 6	Parties should supply VMS data and coastal gillnet and trammel net fisheries data to the Secretariat for use in connection with the SAMBAH project and other follow-up projects.	Parties		n/a									
JG9/AP0 8	ASCOBANS should explore the possibility of commissioning a desk study examining what definitions of the term 'fishermen' exist in the various Baltic Sea states.	AC?, Secretariat?		n/a									
JG7/AP1 2	The Parties are urged to compile data on fisheries effort as required in Recommendation 11 of the Jastarnia Plan, based on a revised version of the form contained in Appendix 2a of the Jastarnia Plan. The updated form will be submitted to the 18th Meeting of the Advisory Committee.	Parties	Medium	Partly done	AC18					JG9/p.13/ para.5.2.7 "poster from ECS workshop			
JG7/AP2 3	Parties are urged to undertake studies of fisheries effort as contained in recommendation 11 of the Jastarnia Plan.	Parties		n/a									
JG6/AP1 6	Parties are urged to undertake studies of fisheries effort as contained in recommendation 11 of the Jastarnia Plan.	Parties		n/a									
JG2/AP0 6	Collation of data on fishing effort following the terms of reference and example sheet in the Jastarnia Plan is still outstanding. Therefore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC13 should send a clear signal to Parties to provide the needed funding;</li> <li>• Terms of reference for a project request should be formulated;</li> <li>• Suggestions as to who should carry out the project should be made to the Secretariat;</li> <li>• Once funding is in place and possible candidates have been identified, the Secretariat should coordinate the further steps.</li> </ul>			n/a									
JG1/AP0 4	Collation of data on fishing effort following the terms of reference and example sheet in the Recovery Plan was still outstanding. Therefore: AC12 should send a clear signal to Parties to provide the needed funding; Terms of reference for a project request should be formulated; Suggestions as to who should carry out the project should be made to the Secretariat; Once funding is in place and possible candidates have been identified, the Secretariat should coordinate the further steps.			n/a									
JG3/AP0 3	ICES should be commissioned to clarify what data is available and for which areas or types of net, size of vessels etc. and to identify what relevant information is available in EU databases.			n/a								JG4/p.6/para.5.a	

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken							
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Examine Habitat Preference for Harbour Porpoises (#12)													
	JG11/AP 08	The Advisory Committee should encourage Parties to explore the possibility of a joint monitoring effort and to promote the collection of data at the sub-regional and local levels based on the methods adopted by SAMBAH. Progress should be reviewed in 2016.	AC & Parties	High		JG12	JG10/p.9/4 .2.8 SAMBAH	JG10/p.9/4 .2.8 SAMBAH	JG10/p.9/4 .2.8 SAMBAH	JG10/p.9/4 4.2.8 SAMBAH	JG10/p.9/4 .2.8 SAMBAH	JG10/p.9/4 .2.8 SAMBAH		
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Investigate the Prevalence of Derelict ("Ghost") Gear and the Feasibility of its Removal (#13)													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP 14	Parties should continue to 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.	Parties	Medium	??							JG10/p.10/4.2.9 ANR2011/p.14 JG9/p.13.p ara.5.2.9.1 "interactive online map"	JG8/p.13/para.5b.ii	
	JG10/AP 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.	Parties	Medium	n/a									
	JG9/AP1 4	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.	Parties		n/a									
	JG8/AP1 4	Parties are encouraged to analyse available data on the occurrence of derelict fishing gear in order to quantify the problem. They should report their findings to the next meeting.	Parties		n/a	JG9								
	JG11/AP 15	Taking into consideration the future requirements under the MSFD, Parties should continue to 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 JG12.	Parties	High	??	JG12						JG10/p.10/4.2.9 JG9/p.13/para.5.2.9.1 "cooperative project - recovery of ghost nets"	JG9/p.13/para.5.2.9.1 "'clean coast' projects"	

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG10/AP14	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.	Parties	High	n/a	JG11								
JG9/AP15	Taking into consideration the future requirements under the MSFD, Parties should implement 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 JG10.	Parties		n/a									
JG5/AP14	Parties should recognise the magnitude of the problem regarding derelict fishing gear and encourage fisheries organisations to remove it. There may be major benefits for the stakeholders in terms of public relations.	Parties	Medium	??						JG10/p.10/4.2.9			

## Marine Protected Areas

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
<b>Jastarnia Plan Objective</b>	<b>Marine Protected Areas</b>												
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Expand the Network of Protected Areas in the Baltic Sea and Improve its Connectivity to Ensure the Development of Appropriate Harbour Porpoise Management Plans for these Areas (#14)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG10/AP15	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.	Stakeholders in Poland		??					JG10/p.10-11/4.3.1			

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG9/AP1 7	Noting the ongoing process of elaborating 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.	Stakeholders in Poland		n/a									
JG10/AP 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.	Parties, Range States, NGOs	Low	??		JG10/p.10-11/4.3.1 ANR2006/ p.25 ANR2011/ p.32; ANR2012/ p.3		JG10/p.10-11/4.3.1 ANR2006/ p.25 ANR2011/ p.32 ANR2012 / ANR2013 ongoing		JG10/p.10-11/4.3.1 ANR2006/ p.26 ANR2008/ p.28-29	ANR2006/ p.26 ANR2011/ p.33		
JG9/AP1 6	Parties, Range States and NGOs seeking to develop management plans for SACs and MPAs designated for the harbour porpoise are encouraged to make use of the expertise available within the Jastarnia Group.	Parties, Range States, NGOs		n/a									
JG8/AP1 5	Parties, Range States and NGOs seeking to develop management plans for SACs and MPAs designated for the harbour porpoise are encouraged to make use of the expertise available within the Jastarnia Group.	Parties, Range States, NGOs		n/a									
JG7/AP1 3	Parties, Range States and NGOs seeking to develop management plans for SACs and MPAs designated for the harbour porpoise are encouraged to make use of the expertise available within the Jastarnia Group.	Parties, Range States, NGOs		n/a									
JG7/AP2 3	The Jastarnia Group should make its expertise available to governments seeking to develop management plans for SACs/MPAs designated for the Harbour porpoise.	JG		n/a									
JG6/AP1 7	The Jastarnia Group should make its expertise available to governments seeking to develop management plans for SACs/MPAs designated for the Harbour porpoise.	JG		n/a									
JG9/AP0 3	Parties are strongly encouraged to use the data provided by SAMBAH once these become available, in particular in connection with the establishment of management plans for harbour porpoises, as well as with regard to mitigation measures.	Parties	High	??		JG10/p.10-11/4.3.1		JG10/p.10-11/4.3.1		JG10/p.10-11/4.3.1			
JG5/AP1 5	ASCOBANS should organise a workshop, e.g. at the 2010 annual conference of the ECS, that considers criteria and best practice of management measures to be implemented in Marine Protected Areas for harbour porpoises. Parties are encouraged to provide funding for this workshop.			Done (2007 & 2013)									

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG4/AP06	A working group should be established to evaluate how the selection guidelines for MPAs set out during the joint ECS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS workshop (selection criteria for marine protected areas for cetaceans) in San Sebastian also can be adapted for use in the Baltic Sea.	JG	Medium	??									
JG3/AP07	Guidance should be provided on how to identify sites suitable for harbour porpoise conservation.		Medium	??									
JG2/AP11	A one-day workshop to establish guidelines for the identification of sites of importance for the harbour porpoise should be held in Bonn on 4 September 2006.			Done (2007)								JG3/p.8/para.4.c	

## Public Awareness

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
<b>Jastarnia Plan Objective</b>	<b>Public Awareness</b>												
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Develop a Comprehensive Public Awareness Campaign (#15)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP16	Each country is encouraged to designate one website for reporting of sightings and strandings by the public. The URLs should be made available for use on the ASCOBANS website. There should be an exchange of information between these databases as appropriate. GIS referenced data should be submitted to HELCOM regularly.	Parties	High	??								
	JG10/AP17	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.	Parties	High	??		JG9/p.15/para.5.4.1.1 "sightings app developed"	JG10/p.11/4.4	JG10/p.11/4.4		JG10/p.11/4.4		
	JG9/AP18	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.	Parties		n/a								

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG8/AP17	All Parties and Range States should establish sighting campaigns and related databases similar to those established by GSM in Germany, the Finnish Ministry of the Environment and the Swedish Museum of Natural History. The websites should be interlinked. The data should be submitted to HELCOM regularly.	Parties, Range States	High	Done in some countries??			JG10/p.11/4.4 ANR2012/S.9 "sightings campaign"	JG10/p.11/4.4 ANR2012/p.15 "sailors on the lookout" ongoing ANR2013		JG10/p.11/4.4 JG9/p.15/para.5.4.1.1 "150-200 volunteers"			
JG7/AP14	All Parties and Range States should establish sighting campaigns and related databases similar to those established by GSM in Germany, the Finnish Ministry of the Environment and the Swedish Museum of Natural History. The websites should be interlinked. The data should be submitted to HELCOM regularly.	Parties, Range States											
JG10/AP18	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.	Parties	Low	not successful						JG10/p.12/4.4		JG10/p.12/4.4	
JG9/AP19	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.	Parties		n/a									
JG8/AP16	Information on the impacts of anthropogenic pressures (bycatch, noise, pollution, disturbance etc.) on cetaceans, specifically geared to relevant professional groups, should be made available on the ASCOBANS website. The information should be compiled and updated by the Secretariat with continuous input from the relevant Working Groups.	Secretariat, Working Groups	Medium	No progress								JG9/p.15/5.4.1.1	
JG7/AP11	Information on the impacts of anthropogenic pressures (e.g. bycatch, noise, pollution, disturbance) on cetaceans, specifically geared to relevant professional groups, should be made available on the ASCOBANS website. The information should be compiled and updated by the Secretariat with continuous input from the relevant Working Groups.	Secretariat, Working Groups		n/a									

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG7/AP2 3	The Jastarnia Group noted the draft of the fishermen's leaflet prepared for the Advisory Committee. The Group feels the draft needs substantial rewording or may even need to be totally rewritten. The Jastarnia Group suggests a new draft be prepared for the AC. The Baltic RAC should be contacted for the Baltic version. If necessary, Parties and the Secretariat should seek funding to enlist a Baltic expert to help with the Baltic version.			Done (project cancelled)									
JG6/AP1 9	The Jastarnia Group noted the draft of the fishermen's leaflet prepared for the Advisory Committee. The Group feels the draft needs substantial rewording or may even need to be totally rewritten. The Jastarnia Group suggests a new draft be prepared for the AC. The Baltic RAC should be contacted for the Baltic version. If necessary, Parties and the Secretariat should seek funding to enlist a Baltic expert to help with the Baltic version.			Done (project cancelled)									
JG6/AP2 1	The Secretariat should contact EAZA suggesting that they participate in the 2010 IDBHP as part of the 2009-10 carnivore campaign.			done									
JG4/AP1 1	Funding should be provided for translation of information material for the general public and fishers into all Baltic languages.		Medium	Partly done									
JG3/AP0 8	Funding should be provided for translation of information material for the general public and fishers into all Baltic languages.			n/a									
JG2/AP1 2	More funds should be made available for the production of information material in the languages of the Baltic Sea region.			n/a									
JG11/AP 17	National focal points for public awareness should be established.	Parties	Medium	??									
JG1/AP1 4	National focal points for public awareness should be established.	Parties	Medium	??									

## Cooperation

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair
<b>Jastarnia Plan Objective</b>	<b>Cooperation with Other Bodies</b>												
<b>Jastarnia Plan Recommendation</b>	Strive for Close Consultation and Cooperation Between ASCOBANS and Other Relevant Regional and International Bodies (#16)												
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG3/AP09	These recommendations of the Jastarnia Group should be forwarded to all relevant organisations active in the Baltic.		Medium	??								
European Commission / ICES													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG10/AP19	Parties are strongly encouraged to fulfil their obligations under the current Regulation 812/2004 and the Habitats Directive.	Parties	High	??								
	JG9/AP20	Parties are strongly encouraged to fulfil their obligations under the current EC Regulation 812/2004 and the Habitat Directive.	Parties										
	JG10/AP20	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.	AC Chair, Secretariat	High	done				JG7/p.16/para.5.e.a a.ccc.				JG10/p.13/4.5.1
	JG9/AP21	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.	AC Chair, Secretariat		n/a								
	JG8/AP09	The AC Chair and the Secretariat should continue approaching the European Commission to draw attention to the need to address the bycatch problem in the Baltic.	AC Chair, Secretariat		n/a								
	JG7/AP23	The AC Chair and the Secretariat should approach the European Commission to draw attention to the need to address the bycatch problem in the Baltic.	AC Chair, Secretariat		n/a								
	JG6/AP20	The AC Chair and the Secretariat should approach the European Commission to draw attention to the need to address the bycatch problem in the Baltic.	AC Chair, Secretariat		n/a								

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG10/AP07	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.	Secretariat	High	Ongoing . AC decided on Worksh op. Held 01/2015								JG10/p.3/4.1.2	
JG8/AP07	Given that the Jastarnia Group has the most specific expertise related to harbour porpoise conservation in the area and in light of the specific problems and situation in the Baltic Sea, the Secretariat should address the European Commission to urge it to seek the Group's advice when the technical measures framework (TMF) and data collection framework (DCF) of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) are being drafted. Parties should also convey the same message to appropriate fora.	Secretariat	High	Ongoing								JG9/p.17/p ara.5.5.1.1	
JG2/AP13	Parties should remind the European Commission that clear definitions of fishing gear used in the Baltic were needed but missing in the relevant legislative acts, and ask the Commission to rectify the situation. ASCOBANS would be willing to assist in drafting definitions.	Parties		n/a									
JG5/AP12	Parties should use their right to comment during the process for the review of the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Commission to ensure marine mammal bycatch reporting. For example, bycatch reporting should be included in the fishing logbooks as additional columns without requiring any separate forms.	Parties		??									
JG8/AP08	Since the preparation of measures to be taken under the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) will take time, the Secretariat will also include in the communication to the European Commission the Jastarnia Group's strong call for an urgent amendment of Regulation 812/2004 to address the specific problems in the Baltic Sea.	Secretariat		done						JG9/p.10/ para.5.1.4 "consulted on amendments"		JG9/p.17/p ara.5.5.1.1	
JG8/AP12	By 1 March 2012 Parties should inform the HELCOM Secretariat that ASCOBANS is to be nominated to participate in the reference group for the BALTFIMPA project. The 19th Advisory Committee Meeting should nominate the ASCOBANS representative.	Parties, AC		done									
JG8/AP21	The Secretariat should collaborate with HELCOM SEAL to obtain data on harbour porpoise strandings in the Russian territories of the Baltic Sea.	Secretariat	Medium	No progress								JG9/p.18/p ara.5.5.1.1	

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG7/AP1 6	The Jastarnia Group encourages Parties to take advantage of the financial resources available within the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by working towards launching two flagship projects under Priority Area 2 of the Strategy (To preserve natural zones and biodiversity, including fisheries) relating to a) monitoring bycatch in fisheries known to be harmful to harbour porpoises to be able to estimate bycatch levels; and b) developing and promoting the use of alternative fishing gear in collaboration with the fisheries sector.	Parties	High	??									
JG7/AP1 8	Baltic Sea Parties should ensure that ASCOBANS is duly involved in updating and further developing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.	Parties	High	??									
HELCOM													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG10/AP 21	Parties are urged to provide all relevant data to the HELCOM harbour porpoise database.	Parties	Medium	??								
	JG8/AP1 8	Parties should designate focal points dealing with the Baltic Harbour Porpoise Database operated by HELCOM. The Secretariat should remind Parties to provide the details of these focal points to the Secretariats of ASCOBANS and HELCOM.	Parties, Secretariat	High	No progress			JG7/p.14/para.5.d.a a.aaa. JG9/p.16/para.5.4.1.2 "not received much data"				JG8/p.15/p ara.5.e.aa	
	JG7/AP1 5	Parties should designate focal points dealing with the Baltic Harbour Porpoise Database operated by HELCOM. The Secretariat should remind Parties to provide the details of these focal points to the Secretariats of ASCOBANS and HELCOM.	Parties, Secretariat		n/a								
	JG6/AP1 8	Parties should designate Focal Points dealing with the Baltic Harbour Porpoise database and provide the details of these Focal Points to the Secretariats of ASCOBANS and HELCOM.	Parties		n/a								
	JG5/AP1 6	The Secretariat should liaise with the HELCOM Secretariat about starting a joint Baltic harbour porpoise database as part of HELCOM's online information system. If such a database is created, data from the Baltic Sea Porpoise Project, currently hosted by the FTZ in Germany, should be included in it.	Secretariat		Done through HELCOM			JG6/p.14/para.5.d.a a				JG6/p.14/p ara.5.d.aa	
	JG4/AP1 0	Funding should be provided for coordination and maintenance of the international Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise Database after 2008.			Done through HELCOM								

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG3/AP06	Funding should be provided for coordination and maintenance of the international Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise Database after 2007.			Done through HELCOM									
JG2/AP09	The ASCOBANS Secretariat and CCB should cooperate on the continuation of the web-based, international database on opportunistic sightings, strandings and bycatch (started by Germany) after 2007, and seek further assistance from Parties and outside sources.	Secretariat, CCB		Done through HELCOM									
JG10/AP24	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.	AC?, Secretariat?	Medium	No progress									
JG9/AP05	ASCOBANS should request HELCOM to provide updated and high resolution data on fisheries effort in gillnet and trammel net fisheries in their web-database.	AC?, Secretariat?		n/a									
JG9/AP22	ASCOBANS should request environment ministers to note the critical status of the harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea and to address decisive action to work towards a favourable conservation status by implementing the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Plan and in part by addressing the pressing problem of bycatch.	AC?, Secretariat?, Parties?		Done									
JG7/AP19	The Secretariat should write to HELCOM asking that HELCOM take full account of ASCOBANS work in the context of developing CORESET indicators.	Secretariat		done								JG8/p.15/p ara.5.e.aa	
JG5/AP17	The Jastarnia Group acknowledges the progress regarding the future cooperation between the Jastarnia Group and HELCOM. The Jastarnia Group promotes further cooperation with the HELCOM ad hoc Seal Group and will strive to cooperate with the HELCOM fish forum. Further, HELCOM should continue to be invited to take part in the Jastarnia Group meetings.		High	Ongoing				JG6/p.15/para.5.e.a a				JG6/p.15/p ara.5.e.aa	
JG4/AP05	The Secretariat should strive to strengthen links with HELCOM, particularly on outreach and with regard to the Baltic Sea Action Plan. Further, HELCOM should be invited to take part in the Jastarnia Plan.	Secretariat		n/a								JG5/p.10/p ara.5 JG8/p.15/p ara.5.e.aa	
JG5/AP18	In the ASCOBANS budget for the triennium 2010-12, Parties should ensure sufficient funds for the annual meetings of the Jastarnia Group and the participation of a representative of the Jastarnia Group in relevant meetings, such as the HELCOM Seal Expert Group, the fisheries/Environmental Forum for the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and the BSRAC.	Parties		done (largely failed)	2009								

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG2/AP10	The Advisory Committee should explore the possibility of commissioning a report on EU legislation relevant to harbour porpoise conservation and therefore to ASCOBANS. ASCOBANS should contact HELCOM on this question as HELCOM had already compiled a list of Natura 2000 sites for seals.	AC		done									
JG1/AP13	The Advisory Committee should explore the possibility of commissioning or having the Secretariat produce a report on EU legislation relevant to harbour porpoise conservation and therefore to ASCOBANS.	AC		n/a									
Fisheries Organizations													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG7/AP17	Parties should provide the financial resources required to enable ASCOBANS representatives to attend BALTFISH and RAC meetings and events. Once this funding is ensured, the Secretariat should write to BALTFISH and the Baltic RAC suggesting enhanced cooperation and the inclusion of ASCOBANS issues in the agenda of BALTFISH and RAC meetings	Parties, Secretariat	Medium	No progress			JG5/p.9/para.4.e.		JG7/p.16/para.5.e.a.a.ccc.		JG7/p.15/para.5.e.aaa	
	JG6/AP12	Bycatch mitigation activities of the Jastarnia Group should be coordinated with the related work of other regional bodies and organizations in order to avoid duplication of effort.		High	??								
	JG6/AP22	The Jastarnia Group should step up cooperation with the Baltic RAC.	JG	High	??								
	JG4/AP04	ASCOBANS should aim to attend the Baltic Sea RAC as an observer.			n/a								
	JG3/AP05	Membership or observer status should be requested for ASCOBANS at meetings of the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council (Baltic RAC).			done								
	JG1/AP06	The Secretariat should once again send the Jastarnia Plan to IBSFC, announcing that an ASCOBANS observer would attend the next meeting to present it again.	Secretariat		done								
	JG1/AP08	Fisheries organizations should be contacted to stress the importance of recovering bycaught animals.		High	??								

**Other Matters**

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair
<b>Baltic Sea Coordinator</b>													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP 18	In light of the positive experience with the North Sea Coordinator, the Jastarnia Group recommends that the Advisory Committee ensure that the appointment of a Baltic Sea Coordinator, or a joint coordinator for both regions, possibly attached to the Secretariat, is considered by the next MOP.	Parties	High	call for funding by AC21 failed								
	JG10/AP 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.	Parties	Low	n/a								
	JG9/AP4 0	With a view to facilitating the implementation of the Plan, the Group reiterates its recommendation, as endorsed by AC17, to appoint as soon as possible a Baltic Sea Coordinator.	Parties		n/a								
	JG7/AP2 1	The terms of reference for the Baltic Sea Coordinator as developed by the Group should be adopted and a Baltic Sea Coordinator be appointed as soon as possible.	AC, Parties		Part A done; part B dependent on funding								
<b>CFP Expert</b>													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP 19	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. The Secretariat should recall this recommendation to the Coordinating Authority of the host country in good time before the meeting.	JG Hosts	High	Ongoing	JG12							
	JG10/AP 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.	JG Hosts	High	n/a								
	JG9/AP4 1	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.	JG Hosts										
<b>ToR / NGO Participation</b>													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG10/AP 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.	Parties	Medium	??								JG10/p.14-15/5
	JG9/AP2 4	The Secretariat should consult the Jastarnia Group by email on the revision of the Terms of Reference.	Secretariat, JG		Done								
<b>Projects</b>													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP 11	Parties should consider supporting any projects relevant for achieving the aims of the Jastarnia Plan.	Parties	High	Ongoing								

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG10/AP 10	Parties should consider supporting any projects relevant for achieving the aims of the Jastarnia Plan.	Parties	High	n/a									
JG11/AP 12	Parties and NGOs are requested to ensure that the results of all relevant projects are made available to ASCOBANS.	Parties, NGOs	High	??									
JG10/AP 11	Parties and NGOs are requested to ensure that the results of all relevant projects are made available to ASCOBANS.	Parties, NGOs	High	n/a									
SAMBAAH													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG11/AP 20	Parties are encouraged to use SAMBAH results for harbour porpoise conservation in the Baltic Sea.	Parties	High	Ongoing								
	JG10/AP 23	Parties are encouraged to use SAMBAH results for harbour porpoise conservation in the Baltic Sea.	Parties	High	n/a								
	JG9/AP0 1	ASCOBANS and Parties are encouraged to continue efforts to promote SAMBAH and its use for harbour porpoise conservation in the Baltic Sea.	AC?, Secretariat, Parties		n/a			ANR2012/p.5		ANR2012/p.5		JG9/p.2/3	
	JG9/AP0 7	The Secretariat and the Chair of the Jastarnia Group should write to the President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, encouraging them to provide the additional funding required to enable the German Oceanographic Museum to supply the expertise needed for the finalization of SAMBAH.	Secretariat, JG Chair		done								
	JG6/AP0 1	The SAMBAH project team should be represented at future Jastarnia Group meetings.	SAMBAAH Team		done								
	JG6/AP0 2	Jastarnia Group members should promote the Project including by providing data.	JG Members		done								
	JG6/AP0 3	The ASCOBANS Secretariat should promote the project internationally (including with the European Commission and with the Baltic RAC).	Secretariat		done								
	JG6/AP0 4	Parties and the Secretariat should try to involve Russia building on inter alia its involvement with harbour seals (and offer financial assistance for Russian participation).	Parties, Secretariat		done							JG7/p.8/para.5.b.bbb	
	JG6/AP0 5	National activities related to SAMBAH (including in non-SAMBAAH countries, in particular Germany) should be coordinated to avoid duplication and information should be shared.	Parties		done								
	JG6/AP0 6	The ASCOBANS Secretariat and Parties should promote SAMBAH in IDBHP (e.g. the Secretariat should promote SAMBAH on the ASCOBANS website).	Secretariat, Parties		done							JG9/p.2/para.3	
	JG6/AP0 7	Efforts should be made to ensure that devices are left in place or returned when dislodged. Possible means of achieving this might include marking devices with a contact address and offering rewards to people returning them. Such measures should address all sea users and not just fishermen.	SAMBAAH Team		done								

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair	
JG6/AP08	Supportive fishermen should be involved in outreach initiatives to inform the wider fisheries community about SAMBAH.			??									
JG6/AP09	Secretariat and Parties should lend support in obtaining permits to set devices by contacting the relevant authorities, and national representatives should assist the Secretariat in identifying the right contact persons to approach.	Secretariat, Parties		done								JG9/p.2/para.3	
JG4/AP12	The Jastarnia Group notes the progress made by the Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise (SAMBAH) project and encourages Parties and relevant institutions to give their full support to it.	Parties		done			ANR2008/p.35						
JG11/AP21	In view of the SAMBAH results and the requirement for regular reviews and updates of both the Jastarnia Plan and the Gap Area Plan, an urgent revision of both plans is needed with the aim of presenting drafts for adoption by MOP8 in 2016. Parties are urged to provide the necessary funding.	Parties, AC	High	Ongoing									
<b>Gap Area</b>													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG8/AP19	Parties should undertake national consultations with stakeholders, in particular the fishing sector, to give them the opportunity to provide comments before the draft Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the Western Baltic, Belt Seas and Kattegat is finalized.	Parties		done								
	JG8/AP20	The Advisory Committee should review and as appropriate amend the draft Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the Western Baltic, Belt Seas and Kattegat, with a view to the Plan being adopted at the 7th Meeting of the Parties.	AC		done								
	JG7/AP20	A consultant should be commissioned to develop with intersessional input from the Jastarnia Group a draft paper containing background information and proposed objectives and measures for the "gap area" currently not covered by the Jastarnia Plan. This paper should be reviewed and refined by the 8th meeting of the Jastarnia Group with a view to enabling formal adoption of such objectives and measures by the 7th Meeting of the Parties.	Secretariat / Consultant		done							JG8/p.15/para.6	
	JG6/AP23	Taking note of recent studies indicating that there is no clear-cut separation between the eastern and western populations of Baltic harbour porpoises, the Jastarnia Group recommends that the present Jastarnia Plan be extended to cover the Baltic as defined by HELCOM, without prejudice to the provisions of the Plan with respect to harbour porpoises in the area east of the Darss-Limhamn Ridge.			n/a								

Implementation of recommendations made by the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group							Actions taken						
	Number	Action Point	Actors	Priority	Status	Deadline	Denmark	Finland	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden	Secretariat / Chair
	JG2/AP0 1	The area covered by the Jastarnia Plan should be defined as coinciding with the HELCOM area, thus including several populations of harbour porpoises which may be endangered to varying degrees.			n/a								
Recommendations Overview													
<b>Action Requested</b>	JG10/AP09	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.	Secretariat		done	Dec-14							JG10/p.5-6
	JG9/AP23	Parties, the Secretariat and the Jastarnia Group are requested to review and update the overview of recommendations by 31 December 2013, providing guidance as to how to proceed with past recommendations.	Parties, Secretariat, JG		n/a								
	JG8/AP22	The Secretariat should prepare an overview of all recommendations of Jastarnia Group Meetings and the status of their implementation as reflected in available reports, based on the template drafted by the Group.	Secretariat		n/a								JG9/p.19/p ara.5.5.2