

Agenda Item 15.1

National Reporting

Reports from Parties

Document Inf.15.1.f

**2014 Annual National Report:
Lithuania**

Action Requested

- Take note

Submitted by

Lithuania



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

2014 ASCOBANS Annual National Reports

This questionnaire has been pre-filled with answers given in 2013 National Report - please update!

This format for the ASCOBANS Annual National Reports was endorsed by the 6th Meeting of the Parties in 2009. Reports are due to be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 March of each year.

Parties are requested to use this report to provide NEW information on measures taken or actions towards meeting the objectives of the Conservation and Management Plan and the Resolutions of the Meeting of the Parties.

The 7th Meeting of the Parties in 2012 agreed to move to online reporting with immediate effect. In order to benefit fully from the opportunities for synergies among CMS Family treaties afforded by this tool, Parties decided that a revised national report format be developed by a small working group assisted by the Secretariat for consideration by the Advisory Committee in preparation for the 8th Meeting of the Parties. While retaining the questions related only to ASCOBANS, it should align more closely to the format used in CMS, AEWA and EUROBATS.

General Information

Name of Party

> Lithuania

Report prepared by

This should indicate the name and affiliation of the lead person for filling in the report.

Name	Miglė Rimkevičiūtė
Function	Chief Desk Officer of Nature Protection Division
Organization	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
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Coordinating Authority and National Coordinator

Please confirm the Coordinating Authority responsible for the national implementation of the Agreement, and give the name and contact details of the officially appointed National Coordinator (Focal Point).

> National Coordinator:

Miglė Rimkevičiūtė

Chief Desk Officer of Nature Protection Division

Phone number: +370 7066 3493

E-mail: migle.rimkeviciute@am.lt

List of National Institutions

List of national authorities, organizations, research centres and rescue centres active in the field of study and conservation of cetaceans, including contact details

> Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Address: A. Jakšto g. 4/9, LT-01105 Vilnius, Lithuania

Telephone: +370 5 2663661

Fax.: +370 5 2663663

Email: info@am.lt

www.am.lt

> Lithuanian Sea Museum

Address: Smiltynės g. 3, LT- 9310 Klaipėda, Lithuania

Tel.: + 370 46 492250, +370 46 490751

Fax.: +370 46 490750

Email: ljm@muziejus.lt

www.muziejus.lt

> Marine Research Department of Environmental Protection Agency
Address: Taikos pr. 26, LT-91149 Klaipėda, Lithuania
Telephone: +370 46 410450
Fax.: +370 46 410460
Email: jtd@aaa.am.lt
www.gamta.lt

> Coastal Research and Planning Institute of Klaipeda University
Address: H. Manto g. 84, LT-92294 Klaipėda, Lithuania
Telephone: +370 46 398846
Fax.: +370 46 398845
www.corpi.ku.lt

Habitat Conservation and Management

Fisheries Interactions

Direct Interaction with Fisheries

1.1 Investigations of methods to reduce bycatch

> There was no investigation of methods to reduce bycatch.

1.2 Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

> There was no implementation of methods to reduce bycatch.

1.3 Other relevant information

Other relevant information, including bycatch information from opportunistic sources

> None

1.4 Report under EC Regulation 812/2004

Please provide the link to your country's report under EC Regulation 812/2004.

> Report is attached

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[2014 LTreport.doc](#)

Reduction of Disturbance

2.1 Anthropogenic Noise

Please reference and briefly summarise any studies undertaken

> There are no studies of anthropogenic noise done or ongoing.

2.2 Ship Strike Incidents

Please list all known incidents and provide information separately for each

	Date	Species	Type of Injury	Fatal Injury (Yes/No)	Type of Vessel (length, tonnage, speed)	Location (coordinates)	More Information (name, email)
Incident	None						
Incident							
Incident							
Incident							
Incident							

Incident							
Incident							
Incident							
Incident							
Incident							

2.3 Major Incidents

Major Incidents Affecting Significant Numbers of Cetaceans (two or more animals)

	Date	Location	Type of Incident	Further Information
Incident	None			
Incident				

2.4 Pollution and Hazardous Substances

Please report on main types of pollution and hazardous substances (including source, location and observed effects on cetaceans). Please provide information on any new measures taken to reduce pollution likely to have an impact.

> No new measurements were taken.

2.5 Other Forms of Disturbance

Please provide any other relevant information, e.g. relating to recreational activities affecting cetaceans.

> None

Marine Protected Areas

Marine Protected Areas for Small Cetaceans

3.1 Relevant Information

Please provide any relevant information on measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas for cetaceans, including MPAs designated under the Habitats Directive and MPAs planned or established within the framework of OSPAR or HELCOM.

> There are no protected areas for cetaceans established in Lithuania. No measures were taken to identify such areas because of lack of data on cetaceans in Lithuanian sea zone.

3.2 GIS Data

Please indicate where GIS data of the boundaries (and zoning, if applicable) can be obtained (contact email / website).

> None

Surveys and Research

4.1 Abundance, Distribution, Population Structure

Overview of Research on Abundance, Distribution and Population Structure

> An implementation of the Management plan and the Action plan for the Baltic Harbour porpoise in Lithuanian Baltic Sea area which were prepared and adopted by order of Minister of Environment on 29 February 2012, covers the target to collect data of harbour porpoise registrations in Lithuanian Baltic Sea coastal waters. Survey was carried out from 12 December, 2012 till 31 December, 2014. Fishermen were asked to submit information about the Baltic Harbour porpoise captured or observed in fishing nets. Interviewed more than 40 fishermen, but the collected data showed that fishermen have never seen harbour porpoises in the waters of the Republic of Lithuania.

4.2 Technological Developments

New Technological Developments

> None.

4.3 Other Relevant Research

> None.

Use of Bycatches and Strandings

Post-Mortem Research Schemes

5.1 Contact Details

Contact details of research institutions and focal point
> No post-mortem researches were performed.

5.2 Methodology

Methodology used (reference, e.g. publication, protocol)
> None.

5.3 Samples

Collection of samples (type, preservation method)
> None.

5.4 Database

Database (number of data sets by species, years covered, software used, online access)
> None.

5.5 Additional Information

Additional information (e.g. website addresses, intellectual property rights, possibility of a central database)
> None.

Activities and Results

5.7 Other Relevant Information

Please provide any other relevant information on post-mortem / stranding schemes
> None

Relevant New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

6.1 New Legislation, Regulations and Guidelines

Please provide any relevant information

> The Management plan and the Action plan for the Baltic Harbour porpoise in Lithuanian Baltic Sea area were prepared and adopted by order of Minister of Environment on 29 February 2012. The implementation of the plan started at the beginning of 2013 and concluded at the end of 2014. The main aim of the plan was to improve the knowledge on a state of the Baltic Harbour porpoise in Lithuanian Baltic Sea area by implementation of information actions, e.g. installation of information boards in the coastal area, publishing booklets and creation of a video film about the species, inquiry of fishermen about bycatch, arrangement of lectures for fishermen.

Public Awareness and Education

7.1 Public Awareness and Education

Please report on any public awareness and education activities to implement or promote the Agreement to the general public and to fishermen.

> Various implementation activities of the Management plan and the Action plan for the Baltic Harbour porpoise in Lithuanian Baltic Sea had made until the end of 2014. Short movie about the Baltic Harbour porpoise was created. For the first time it was demonstrated in Lithuanian Sea Museum during the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise. Moreover it was introduced to the public through regional televisions and various public information portals in 2014. On a website of Lithuanian Ministry of Environment everyone can find active hyperlink to watch the film about the Baltic Harbour porpoise (<http://youtu.be/WQYP5T0SCbs>). At the same website it is possible to find information about harbour porpoise biology, ecology, history of observations in Lithuania, international status of protection and threats (in Lithuanian language: <http://www.am.lt/Vl/index.php#a/12443>). Two different types of brochures have been made. Attractive design brochure in shape of harbour porpoise contain short information, interesting and important facts for the public. Brochures distributed free of charge in Palanga, Šventoji, Nida tourist information centres (3000 pcs). Another brochure with more specific information and practical design (brochure is waterproof and with a useful string designed to hang on board) dedicated to fishermen (200 pcs). In order to inform the wider public, have been prepared and periodically published information about the Baltic Harbour porpoise in popular public information web pages. An educative lecture was presented in non-governmental environmental organization - the Baltic Environmental Forum. Three information boards about the Baltic Harbour porpoise were installed in the coastal area of Šventoji, Palanga and Nida.

> The International Harbour Porpoise Day was celebrated on 16th May 2014 at the Lithuanian Sea Museum. Celebration of the International Harbour Porpoise Day started with educational games in old vessel with the presence of experienced ship captain. The creative workshop was held in ethnographic homestead. The Museum demonstrated a film about the Baltic Harbour porpoise for a first time and after that educative lectures about how important to maintain a good ecological condition of Baltic Sea were held.

Possible difficulties encountered in implementing the Agreement

Difficulties in Implementing the Agreement

Please provide any relevant information

> The main difficulties originate that there is no data on presence of cetaceans in the marine waters of Lithuania.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) was recorded two times - one dead individual was found in 1998 and two animals were observed in 2007. According to the information of The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species it may be the best way to consider the Common Bottlenose Dolphin as extralimital in all Baltic Sea.

The last records of two harbour porpoise findings (as bycatch) were in 2001 and 2003. No harbour porpoises were detected during the marine mammals inventory in 2007-2009, which was a part of the LIFE project "Marine Protected Areas in the Eastern Baltic Sea".

Survey was carried out from 12 December, 2012 till 31 December, 2014. Fishermen were asked to submit information about the Baltic Harbour porpoise captured or observed in fishing nets. Interviewed more than 40 fishermen, but the collected data showed that fishermen have never seen harbour porpoises in the waters of the Republic of Lithuania.

Annual report on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 812/2004 – (2013)

Member State: Lithuania

Reference Period: 2013

Date: 28/05/2014

Author: Tomas Zolubas, e-mail: TomasZolubas@zuv.lt

Summary

By implementing Council Regulation of 26.4.2004 No 812/2004 laying down measures concerning incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries and amending Regulation (EC) No 88/98 Lithuania run in to difficulties due to two problems: Observer schemes can't be financed or co-financed under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1078/2008 of 3 November 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 as regards the expenditure incurred by Member States for the collection and management of the basic fisheries data (*OJ L 295, 4.11.2008, p. 24–33*) and by another EU financial programs. Part of Lithuanian fleet which operates with pelagic trawls and gillnets is relatively small. 1 gill-netter and 24 OTM trawlers are not suitable to take an observer on board on the basis of lack of space on the vessel and for safety reasons. Execution of the Lithuanian obligations on observer schemes fully depends on cooperation with one fishing company, which has 3 vessels that are operating with pelagic pair trawls (PTM). No incidental catches of cetaceans were fixed by observer in the 2013.

ACOUSTIC DETERRENT DEVICES

1. General Information.

Regarding articles 2 and 3. **There were no fishing operations** by Lithuanian vessels in areas where the use of acoustic deterrent devices is mandatory as described in ANNEX 1 of Regulation 812/2004 in 2013.

2. Acoustic Deterrent Devices (Article 2 and 3).

2.1 Description of the fleet.

Metier	Fishing area	Total fishing effort						
		No. of vessels	% vessels using pingers	No. of trips	Days at sea	Months of operation	Total length of nets	Total soak time
GNS (demersal)	27.III d.25-26	1	0	20	56	January-June, September-December	8900	1853

2.2 Mitigation measures -

2.3 Additional information -

3. Monitoring and assessment. Not relevant (see General information).

OBSERVER SCHEMES

4. General information on implementation of Articles 4 and 5.

1 gill-netter and 16 OTM trawlers are not suitable to take an observer on board on the basis of lack of space on the vessel and for safety reasons. To fulfil the Lithuanian obligations on observer schemes are to cooperate with only fishing company, which has 3 vessels that are operating with pelagic pair trawls (PTM). In 2013 Lithuania has made observations of cetacean family animal's bycatch by having observer on vessel "Gilija" from 26th of November to 5th of December. Pelagic pair trawlings took place in fishing area 27.III d.26, according table below:

Trawling No.	Latitude	Longitude
No.1.	55°56' N start	19°28' E start

	55°51' N end	19°26' E end
No.2.	55°51' N start 55°52' N end	19°30' E start 19°27' E end
No.3.	55°50' N start 55°47' N end	19°31' E start 19°36' E end
No.4.	55°47' N start 55°45' N end	19°41' E start 19°45' E end

4.1 Provide information on legislative or administrative measures following provisions of Art.4 or 5. (See report ANNEX 1 – Warrant of captain of vessel “Gilija”).

4.2 Provide information on difficulties implementing articles 4 and 5 of Council Regulation (EC) No 812/2004.

Observer schemes can't be financed or co-financed under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1078/2008 of 3 November 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 as regards the expenditure incurred by Member States for the collection and management of the basic fisheries data (*OJ L 295, 4.11.2008, p. 24–33*) and by another EU financial programs.

Part of Lithuanian fleet which operates with pelagic trawls and gillnets is small. gill-netters and 24 OTM trawlers are not suitable to take an observer on board on the basis of lack of space on the vessel and for safety reasons. Execution of the Lithuanian obligations on observer schemes fully depends on cooperation with one fishing company, which has 3 vessels that are operating with pelagic pair trawls (PTM).

4.3 Indicate whether the observer programme is dedicated for the purpose of this Regulation only, or whether the on-board observers are used for other purposes also.

Observer on board made observations on cetacean family animal's bycatch and at the same time collected biological sprat and herring samples for Lithuanian national data collection purposes.

5. Monitoring

5.1 Description of fishing effort and observer effort in towed gear.

Metier	Fishing area	Total fishing effort						Total observer effort achieved*						Type of monitoring	Coverage
		No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	No. of hauls	Total towsing time	No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	No. of hauls	Total towsing time		
OTM (small pelagic fish)	27.III d.	24	275	732	January-December	473	3115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PTM (small pelagic fish)	27.III d.	3	28	122	February-May, December	74	743	1	1	9	November-December	4	32	Observation of trawling	5,5

*(See Chapter 4. General information on implementation of Articles 4 and 5.)

Additional information.

No fishing efforts with pelagic pair trawls (PTM) were made in 22-24 ICES Subdivisions. No fishing efforts with pelagic trawl (OTM) were made in 22-24 ICES Subdivision. All efforts took place in 25-32 ICES Subdivisions.

Fishing efforts made with 24 small fishing vessels (OTM fishing gear) = 78261 kw*fishing days.

Fishing efforts made with 3 big fishing vessels (PTM fishing gear) = 148052 kw*fishing days.

Fishing efforts at all: 213003 kw*fishing days.

5.2 Description of fishing effort and observer effort in static gear.

Metier	Fishing area	Total fishing effort						Total observer effort achieved*						Type of monitoring	Coverage
		No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	Total length of nets	Total soak time	No. of vessels	No. of trips	Days at sea	Season	Total length of nets	Total soak time		
GNS (demersal fish)	27.III d.25-26	1	26	56	January-June, September-December	958	1560	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*(See Chapter 4. General information on implementation of Articles 4 and 5.)

6. Estimation of incidental catches.

Fishing efforts made with 24 small fishing vessels (OTM fishing gear) = 78261 kw*fishing days.

Fishing efforts made with 3 big fishing vessels (PTM fishing gear) = 148052 kw*fishing days.

Fishing efforts at all: 213003 kw*fishing days. Observer was on board when efforts of 9852 kw*fishing days were made. 5 percent of kw*fishing days were observed.

No incidental catches of cetaceans were observed in the 2012.

7. Discussion.

Lithuania does not assent to characteristic of indicator "Coverage" in table 5.1. expressed like percentage of "days at sea observed" according to "days at sea". If one of the tasks of Regulation (EC) 812/2004 is to make evaluation of cetacean family animal bycatch, than the most important is to evaluate water volume filtered by trawls. Such water volume is not good reflected by number of trips and is not good reflected by number of fishing days. We propose to use characteristic - **kw*fishing days** for "Coverage" evaluation.

8. Conclusions.

No incidental catches of cetaceans were observed in the 2013.

PAŽYMA

WARRANT

Aš laivo „GILIJA“ kapitonas Petras Pantelejev patvirtinu, kad Tomas Zolubas (paso numeris 22054322) buvo laive „GILIJA“ nuo 2013 m. lapkričio 26 d. iki gruodžio 5 d. kaip biologinių žuvų duomenų surinkėjas ir stebėtojas.

I, captain of vessel „Gilija“ certify, that Tomas Zolubas (passport number 22054322) was on board “GILIJA” like observer and biological fish data collector from 26th of November till 5th of December in 2013.



SLITE

2013-12-05