

## **5th Meeting of the 'Steering Group for the Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise in the North Sea' (HP NSSG) - ASCOBANS**

Date: Monday, 28 September 2015, 9:00 AM – (max) 6:30 PM  
Place: Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bezuidenhoutseweg 73, 2594 AC, The Hague

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### **DRAFT AGENDA**

- 1 Welcome and announcements
  - 1.1 Adoption of agenda
  - 1.2 Appointment of rapporteur
- 2 Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> NSSG meeting, 28 September 2014, Gothenburg, Sweden
- 3 Implementation Review: Bycatch estimation (Actions 3 and 4)
  - 3.1 New information on bycatch estimates (as reported to ICES WGBYC)
  - 3.2 Monitoring projects
    - 3.2.1 Remote Electronic Monitoring projects
      - 3.2.1.1 Update on Danish REM projects
      - 3.2.1.2 Update on Dutch REM project
      - 3.2.1.3 Update on any other REM projects
    - 3.2.2 Other monitoring projects
      - 3.2.2.1 Update on the Danish monitoring project in recreational fisheries
    - 3.2.3 Synthesis of bycatch information from French set nets between 2008-2013, with focus upon the North Sea – any new information?
  - 3.3 Voluntary reporting
  - 3.4 Assessment of bycatch in the North Sea – knowledge gaps
    - 3.6.1 Missing fisheries
      - 3.5.1.1 Update on bycatch situation in the southern North Sea and Channel (ICES Areas IVc, VIIId, VIIe)
    - 3.6.2 Other matters
  - 3.5 Identification of bycatch – conclusions of necropsy protocols workshop
  - 3.6 Recommendations
- 4 Implementation review: Development of alternative mitigation methods (Action 5)
  - 4.1 Update on the German PAL project and the alternative and ecosystem-friendly fishing gear project
  - 4.2 Update on Dutch projects (Banana pinger+)
  - 4.3 Update on UK projects
  - 4.4 Update on changes in fishing procedures (France, the Netherlands, any others?)
- 5 Other activities contributing to the conservation of the harbour porpoise in the North Sea:
  - 5.1 EU Habitats Directive:
    - 5.1.1 Review of North Sea SCIs/SACs concerning harbour porpoises
    - 5.1.2 Progress in designing conservation objectives, management plans and conservation measures for harbour porpoises in Natura 2000 areas
  - 5.2 New Surveys – monitoring trends in distribution & abundance (Action 7)
  - 5.3 Update on MSFD and marine mammal indicators
  - 5.4 Update on Workshops relating to safe bycatch limits for harbour porpoises
  - 5.5 Certification schemes – Marine Stewardship Council
  - 5.6 Others

- 6 Overall progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan
- 7 Calendar of Actions 2015-2016
  - 7.1 Priorities of action points of the North Sea Plan
  - 7.2 Priorities of the Work Plan for the NSSG
  - 7.3 Terms of Reference for a short-term Consultant
- 8 Communication
  - 8.1 Relationship with the ICES WGs
- 9 Miscellaneous
- 10 Next SG meeting
- 11 Close