

17.1. Report back from the Intersessional WG on National Reporting

- development of the current National reporting form.
- Parties will be requested to provide comments on the reporting form, which is due to be used again in 2020.

WPA67 (Develop the sections of the reporting format one by one, starting with those to be considered in each report and at the first Advisory Committee Meeting after MOP8.)

WPA68 (In developing the detail of each section, consult experts on the subjects in order to ensure that essential information is gathered in a form that standardizes responses and lends itself to statistical analysis as far as possible, and decide which topics should be reported on by region.)

WPA70 (Tailor the agenda for each of the meetings of the Advisory Committee to reflect the topics selected for the previous year's national reports.)

The National Reporting Working Group:

Catherine Bell, Farah Chaudry, Peter Evans, Sara
Königson, Kelly Macleod, Graham Pierce, Jenny Rennell,
Anne-Marie Svoboda, Meike Scheidat (chair)

Resolution No. 1:

National Reporting

Recalling Article 2.5 of the Agreement requesting Parties to submit to the Secretariat a brief report not later than 31 March each year, covering progress made and difficulties experienced during the past calendar year in implementing the Agreement;

Conscious that an **assessment of the progress in implementing the Agreement is possible only through meaningful national reporting;**

Mindful that in national reporting, **the right balance needs to be struck with respect to the information desired and the use to which the data will be put, so as not to burden the Parties unnecessarily;**

Grateful for the work undertaken by the Advisory Committee in developing a new reporting format that reflects the range of issues relevant to small cetacean conservation in the Agreement Area, and for its advice on the periodicity;

The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

1. *Decides* that Parties will be required to **submit one comprehensive national report within each MOP-cycle**;
2. *Further decides* that in order to meet the requirements of Article 2.5 of the Agreement the obligation **to submit brief annual reports is retained, covering basic information as well as in-depth considerations on specific topics**, as outlined below;
3. *Adopts* the outline for national reports presented in Annex 1;
4. *Directs* that **each topic should be considered at least once per intersessional period**, and that the report submitted **in the year of the Meeting of the Parties should provide up-to-date information on all these topics**, as follows:
 - (a) **all reports (annually): Section I, Section VII**
 - (b) **2016 Report (for AC23 in 2017) and 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020): Section II B3, B4, C8 and D15**

**(c)2017 Report (for AC24 in 2018) and 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020):
Section II A1, A2 and C9, Section III, Section IV**

**(d)2018 Report (for AC25 in 2019) and 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020):
Section II B5, B6, B7, C10, C11, C12, C13, C14, E16 and E17, Section VI**

(e)only 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020): Section V

1. *Requests the Advisory Committee:*

(a)to develop the sections of the reporting format one by one, starting with those to be considered in each report and at the first Advisory Committee Meeting after this Meeting of the Parties;

(b)in developing the detail of each section, to **consult experts** on the subjects in order to ensure that essential information is gathered in a form that **standardizes responses** and **lends itself to statistical analysis** as far as possible, and **to decide which topics should be reported on by region**;

(c)to make **full use** of the information submitted in **order to assess progress in the implementation of the Agreement** and **make recommendations** to Parties;

(d) to tailor the agenda for each of its meetings to reflect the topics selected for the previous year's national reports;

1. *Urges* Parties to submit their national reports by the deadline of 31 March of each year, indicated in Article 2.5 of the Agreement, **making use of the online reporting system developed for the CMS Family**;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to remind Parties of the date for submission of their national reports;
3. *Recognizes* that in order to meet its obligation to present Parties with a summary of the Party reports by 30 June of each year, as required in Article 4.2 of the Agreement, the Secretariat requires the submission of all national reports sufficiently in advance of this date;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to inform the Common Information Management, Communication and Outreach Team of the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats of the comments made by ASCOBANS Parties regarding the **functionalities of the online reporting system, which would be useful when working to improve it**; and
5. *Repeals* Resolution No. 1 of MOP1 (1994) on National Reports.

Expected outcome by Working Group:

Must have:

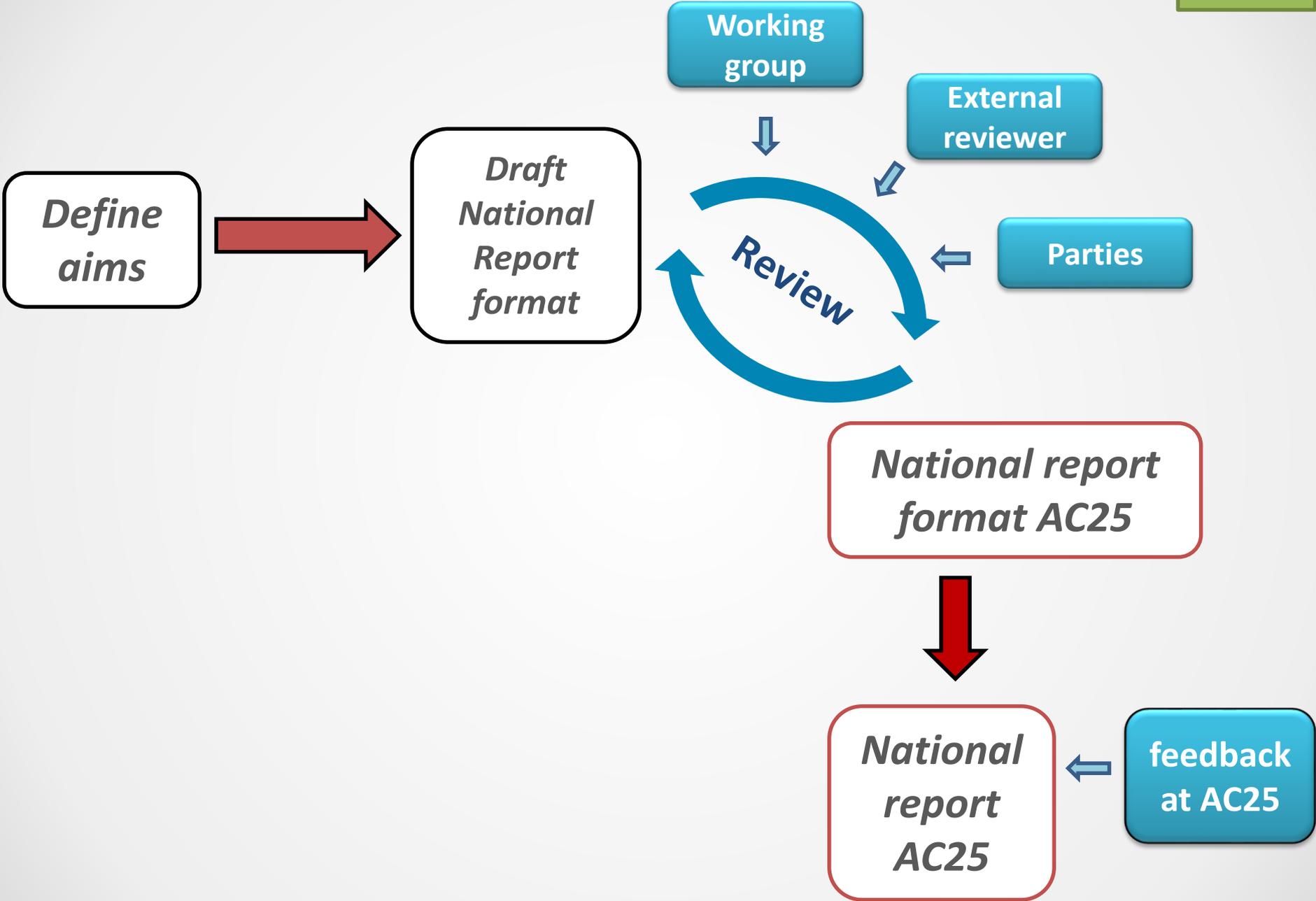
New national report questions for sections of **AC25** by March 2019.

Should have:

New/revised national report questions for sections of **AC23**, **AC24** and **MoP** by March 2019.

Would like to have:

New/revised national report questions for all sections in an online data entry format ready for data entry by March 2019.



Actions taken	date
1. First online formation of working group	Oct 18
2. Jenny starts as secretary, official work starts	Jan 19
3. Meeting of working group in Bonn to draft the AC25 questions	7/8 Feb 19
Draft AC25 report	
4. Draft report sections for AC25	22 Feb 19
5. Begin to compile a list of national experts that Parties can contact for information	22 Feb 19
6. introductory text to the report (explain the years covered) and/or covering email the expectation that Parties should delegate to national experts	22 Feb 19
7. Compile first draft version.1	1 Mar 19
Review AC25 report	
8. Review of draft report within working group, finalize draft version.2	25 Mar 19
9. Review of final draf version.3 by Maria Clara Jiminez and Penina Blankett	Apr 19
10. Incorporate comments and send draft version.4 to Parties with request for feedback	May 19
11. Incorporation of comments of Parties and finalizing of report	June 19
Report finalized	
12. Issue final version to Parties	June 19
13. Submitting report to ASCOBANS	1 Aug 19

Main outcomes

- New format aimed to facilitate use for online entry

10.7 Does your country determine microplastics in cetaceans?

No. Go to **Question 10.9.**

Yes. Please provide information in the table below:

There is currently no agreed protocol between Parties. Best practice needs to be established to make sure that all results obtained are comparable between research institutes. In particular, it is essential to avoid contamination of samples during processing, e.g. with airborne microplastic fibres.

Do you have a specific protocol to monitor microplastic in small cetaceans?

No

Yes

If yes, please provide details and weblinks or upload document.

Main outcomes

- New format aimed to facilitate use for online entry
- Provides pre-selection for species and regions.
Consistent regions (sub-regions of OSPAR and Helcom)

Drop-down menu sub-regions OSPAR and HELCOM

Choose an item.

OSPAR Region I Arctic Waters

Norwegian Sea

OSPAR Region II Greater North Sea

Dogger Bank

Southern North Sea

Northern North Sea

Channel

Norwegian Trench

Skagerrak

OSPAR Region III Celtic Sea

Celtic Sea

Irish Sea

Irish & Scottish W. Coast

OSPAR Region IV Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast

N. Bay of Biscay

Iberian Sea

Gulf of Cadiz

OSPAR Region V Wider Atlantic

subregions?

HELCOM

Bothnian Bay

Bothnian Sea

Archipelago Sea

Åland Sea

HELCOM cont.

Gulf of Finland

Northern Baltic Proper

Western Gotland Basin

Eastern Gotland Basin

Gulf of Riga

Gdansk Basin

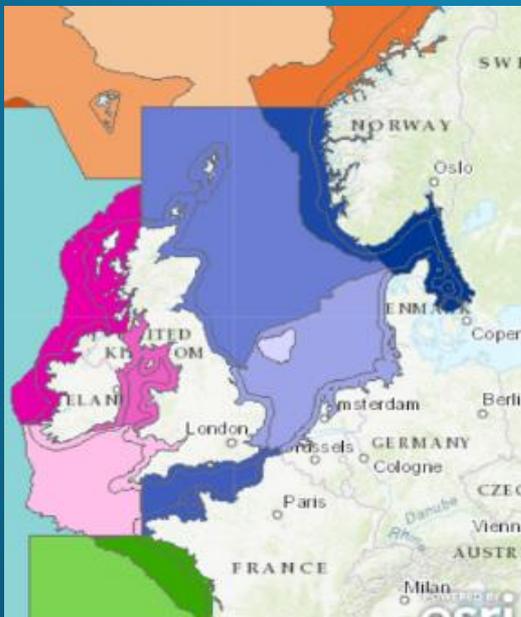
Bornholm Basin

Arkona Basin

Kattegat

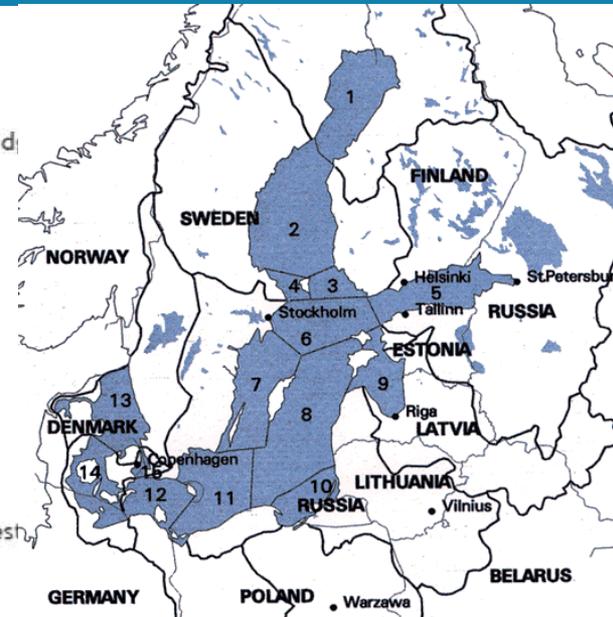
Belt Sea

The Sound



OSPAR Regions, Subregions

- Region I, Barents Sea
- Region I, East of Iceland
- Region I, Greenland-Scotland ridge
- Region I, Norwegian Sea
- Region I, West of Iceland
- Region II, Dogger Bank
- Region II, Southern North Sea
- Region II, Northern North Sea
- Region II, Channel
- Region II, Norwegian Trench
- Region II, Skagerrak
- Region III, Celtic Sea
- Region III, Irish Sea
- Region III, Irish and Scottish West Coast
- Region IV, Gulf of Cadiz
- Region IV, Iberian Sea



1. Bothnian Bay
2. Bothnian Sea
3. Archipelago Sea
4. Åland Sea
5. Gulf of Finland
6. Northern Baltic Proper
7. Western Gotland Basin
8. Eastern Gotland Basin
9. Gulf of Riga
10. Gdansk Basin
11. Bornholm Basin
12. Arkona Basin
13. Kattegat
14. Belt Sea

Main outcomes

- New format aimed to facilitate use for online entry
- Provides pre-selection for species and regions.
Consistent regions (sub-regions of OSPAR and Helcom)
- New format considers easy compilation for presentation at AC of results from all Parties

National reporting on Ship Strikes

BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PO	SE	UK
Are there reports available in your country of ship strikes with small cetaceans from visual observations?									
no		no	no	no		no	no		no
Are there reports in your country of vessel strikes from necropsies of stranded animals for 2016- 2018?									
no	no	no	yes	no		yes	no		yes
Does your country have a protocol in use to determine that a cause of death in post mortem examination is due to a vessel strike?									
yes	?	no	yes	yes	?	yes	no	?	yes
Is there evidence in your country from existing photo-identification catalogues of small cetaceans of any non-lethal ship strike for the 2016-2018?									
no	no	no	no	no		yes	no		yes

Main outcomes

- New format aimed to facilitate use for online entry
- Provides pre-selection for species and regions.
Consistent regions (sub-regions of OSPAR and Helcom)
- New format considers easy compilation for presentation at AC of results from all Parties
- New format already considering MoP report to have the potential to communicate the agreement work, progress or issues in implementation, in a way that is accessible for the MoP audience

MoP 2009 assessment of implementation success

EVALUATION INDEX (as listed in the Triennial Work Plan 2007-2009)

Incidental take

Review new information on bycatch of cetaceans	++
Provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	+
Provide a format for information on static gillnet and tangle net effort	+

Pollution

Review new information on pollution and its effects on small cetaceans	++
Provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	—

Disturbance

Review the extent of negative effects of sound, vessels and other forms of disturbance	+
Review technological developments and recommend ways to mitigate negative effects	+

Population structures & sites of importance

Organise a workshop to establish guidelines for sites of importance	++
Organise a workshop on population structure of the harbour porpoise	++
Review information on population size, distribution, structure, and causes of mortality	+
Provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	—

Awareness raising & promotion

Raise awareness of issues related to cetacean conservation in the Agreement Area	+
Translate ASCOBANS information material and undertake promotional activities	+
Develop ASCOBANS web site and include educational material	+
Produce information material in languages of the Baltic Sea region	+
Promote the Agreement and its aims in Parties, Range States etc.	+
Promote accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement	+

5.1 Number of Necropsies Carried out in Reporting Period:

Species	Recorded cause of death
BELGIUM	
50+ Phocoena phocoena	The total number of washed ashore (dead) harbour porpoises in 2012 was 97. Detailed data are not available yet, but at least 15 harbour porpoises had died due to bycatch in fishing gear. A large proportion of the stranded animals was in a condition not allowing to draw conclusions about the cause of death. Recreational set net fisheries on the beach were the source of part of the bycatch.
1 Physeter macrocephalus	Stranding
DENMARK	
4 Phocoena phocoena	1 bycaught, 3 not yet determined
2 Lagenorhynchus albirostris	Not yet determined
FINLAND	
	None
FRANCE	
10 Phocoena phocoena	
15 Tursiops truncatus	
76 Delphinus delphis	
15 Stenella coeruleoalba	
3 Globicephala melas	
2 Globicephala macrorhynchus	
2 Balaenoptera physalus	
1 Physeter macrocephalus	
1 Kogia breviceps	
1 ziphius cavirostris	
1 Megaptera novaengliae	
GERMANY	
MV:11 / SH:48 / NI: 4 Phocoena phocoena	MV: 2 bycatch

Action Requested

Take note

Submitted by

Secretariat

OBANS
October 2012

8th Meeting
Helsinki
MOP7/Doc 5-03 (S)
Dist. 19 September 2012

Review Triennial
Implementation of the ASCOBANS
(2010-2012)
ASCORBANS

2.2 Ship Strike Incidents

Date	Species	Type of injury	Fatal injury (Yes / No)	Type of vessel (length, tonnage and speed)	Location (coordinates)	More information: (Name / Email)
BELGIUM						
None						
DENMARK						
None						
FINLAND						
None						
FRANCE						
None						
GERMANY						
03/04/2013	Phocoena phocoena	Internal injuries, bleeding; salivated blood	Yes	Unknown	Elbe river, Hamburg Ovelgönne	Wenger@delphinenschutz.org
09/05/2013	Phocoena phocoena	Internal, death rattle	Yes	Unknown	Elbe river, opposite of Airbus (Elbchausse)	Wenger@delphinenschutz.org
22/05/2013	Phocoena phocoena	Head injury	Yes	Unknown	Elbe river, Otterndorf	Wenger@delphinenschutz.org
31/05/2013	Phocoena phocoena	Head injury caused by ship propeller	Yes	Unknown	Elbe river, Hamburg harbour	Wenger@delphinenschutz.org
11/06/2013	Phocoena phocoena	Head injury, potentially caused by ship propeller	Yes	Unknown	Elbe river, Wedel	Wenger@delphinenschutz.org
LITHUANIA						
None						
NETHERLANDS						
Submitted by						

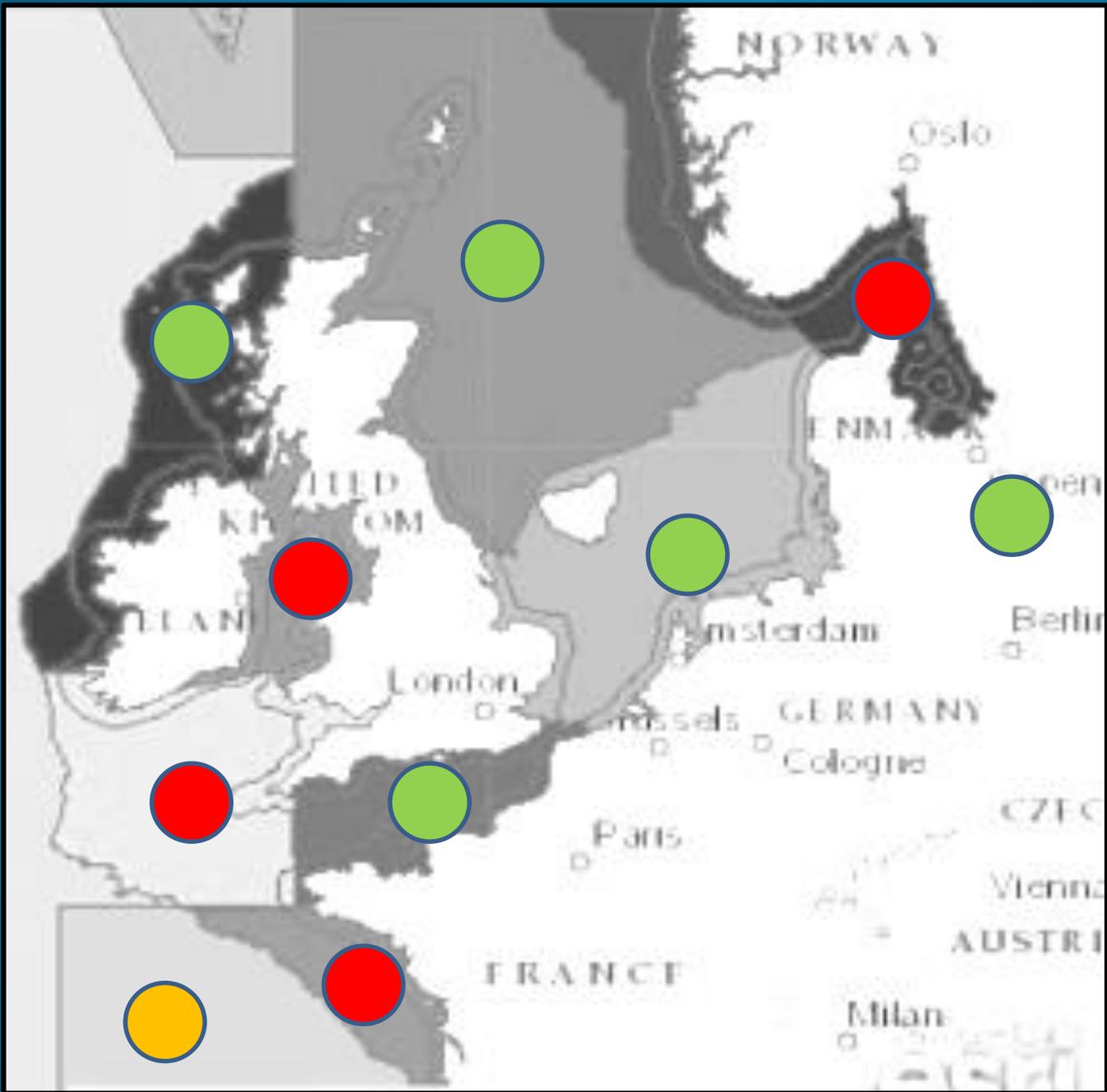
8th Meeting
Helsinki

Agent

Info

2016

MOP8/Inf.4.3.c
Dist. 5 July 2016



Coverage of necropsy programs



yes



no



unknown

Lessons learned

Expected outcome by Working Group:

Must have:

New national report questions for sections of **AC25** by March 2019.

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Would like to have:

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Limited time and resources.

Advisory Committee and MoP reporting schedule

AC23
2017

Rep.
period:
1 Jan 16 –
31 Dec 16

noise (Sect. II B3), ocean energy (B4), unexploded ordnance (C8), management of cumulative impacts, marine spatial planning (D15)

AC24
2018

Rep.
period:
1 Jan 17 –
31 Dec 17

bycatch (section II A1); resource depletion (section II A2); marine debris (section II C9); surveys and research (section III); use of bycatches and strandings (section IV).

AC25
2019

Rep.
period:
1 Jan 16 –
31 Dec 18

Disturbance, incl. pot. physical impacts (section II B5, B6, B7); habitat change and degradation (section II C10, C11, C12, C13, C14); area-based conservation / Marine Protected Areas (section II E16, E17); education and outreach (section VI A)

MoP
2020

Reporting
period:
1 Jan 16 –
31 Dec 19

Section V legislation

**Up-date all
sections**

*Define
aims*

Define aims

What can I use this data for?

Are we fulfilling our obligations?

Is the process efficient?

Is the information easily accessible

Is the data credible?

Is the information comparable in quality?

Is the data entered accurate?

Can we use this to identify emerging issues

Is there continuity in the information

Will it cost me to do this work?

Policy makers

Stakeholders and General Public

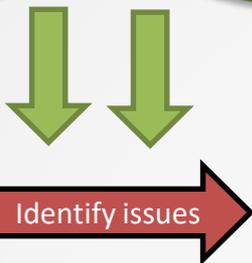
Researchers / Science

Analyses of
previous
reporting

Experience
of Parties
input

*Define
aims*

Identify issues



2019 and 2020

Analyses of previous reporting

Experience of Parties input

Working group

External reviewer

Define aims

Identify issues

Draft National Report format

Review

Parties

Report formats AC24 & AC23

National report format AC25

MoP report 2020

ASCOBANS online implementation of national reports for AC23, AC24 and AC25

AC ACTIONS NEEDED:

AC25 to agree on the process to develop 2020 format by end of January 2020.

- Dedicate funds to pay for a consultant
- Review past and current national reporting format, including an investigation/questionnaire for Parties, etc. in particular cover questions on
 - Measuring success of implementation
 - Quantifiable data
 - Storage of data / dissemination of data
 - Analyses of data
 - Regionally appropriate analyses of data
- Dedicate resources within CMS/ASCOBANS to ensure the online questionnaire is available in time



