

Jastarnia and WBBK harbour porpoise plan progress report



Implementation and progress of the JP and WBBKP – Summary

- Finnish bycatch released alive!
- HP “not assessed” in Finnish redlist
- CMS appendix I listing of the Baltic Sea HP
- HELCOM ACTION producing bycatch risk maps
- Reg 812/2004 repealed, data collection now entirely under DCF and EU-MAP → need for communication with RCGs
- Definition of driftnets, question to EC, reply that the definition is up to the regional process

SAMBAH II

- Concept note submitted to LIFE in June 2019
- Expected response in October
- Full proposal deadline
- earliest possible start date summer 2020



SAMBAH II

- Abundance estimates
- Monthly maps of density
- GES thresholds and FRVs
- Estimate fishing intensity
- seasonal bycatch risk maps
- Prey quantity and quality and effects on porpoises
- Impact of vessel and seismic survey noise
- Acoustic identification of calves?
- Possibly identifying when calving takes place





Action
points



Monitor and estimate abundance and distribution

- National monitoring should be established or further improved, coordinating between countries
- Support SAMBAH II to start in 2020, noting that management authorities are required to be partners
- Continue to cooperate on inter-SCANS surveys of the WBBK population



Monitor, estimate and reduce bycatch

- Establish system to monitor bycatch covering all sizes of fishing vessels.
- Spatio-temporal risk assessment of bycatch
- Continue to develop, conduct research on and implement use of alternative fishing gear and pingers not audible to seals
- Assess uncertainty in bycatch rates and estimate the effort needed for bycatch monitoring



Increase involvement, awareness and cooperation

- Coordinating reporting programmes and national databases and protocols for opportunistic sightings, bycatches, strandings and necropsies

Investigate habitat use and protect important areas

- Promote research on consequences of impacts on prey communities (WBBK)



Monitor and mitigate impact of underwater noise

- Baseline studies of underwater noise as a reference point for future impact assessments
- Investigate detrimental effects of various types of sounds
- Adopt regulations on reduction of sounds emissions from construction of offshore windfarms



Other - important

- Parties should ensure that the Belt Sea and Baltic Sea populations of harbour porpoises are assessed and managed as separate populations, e.g. in management plans and national redlists.

