

Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule

Time	Agenda Item	Documents / Comments
Sunday, 15 September 2019		
9:00–10:30	1. Opening of the Meeting	
	1.1. Welcome and announcements The Chair, Peter Evans, will deliver welcoming remarks and any announcements, with the Secretariat.	Venue: Ozeaneum, Hafenstraße 11, Stralsund. The meeting room will be signposted from the lobby.
	1.2. Adoption of the Agenda The Chair will invite the Meeting to review the Provisional Agenda, and the Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule, and to make any proposals for amendment prior to their adoption.	Doc.1.2 (Provisional Agenda) Doc.1.2b (Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule)
	2. Approval of the report of the 7th Meeting of the North Sea Group The draft report has been circulated to the participants of the previous North Sea Group meeting (NSG7) in advance for feedback. The Chair will seek confirmation of the approval of the report.	NSG7/Report
	3. Implementation Review: Bycatch estimations (Actions 3 and 4)	
	3.1. New information on bycatch estimates The Chair will present bycatch information (up to 2017) for the North Sea, as reported to the ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC). North Sea Parties will then be invited to present summaries of any new information on fishing effort and bycatch estimates.	
3.2. Monitoring projects Updates will be invited on Danish and Dutch REM projects, plus any other REM projects.		

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	<p>3.3. Voluntary reporting</p> <p>Sinéad Murphy will present an overview of the stock assessment report section relating to the North Sea that was produced as an output from the IMR/NAMMCO Workshop on the Status of Harbour Porpoises in the North Atlantic, held in Tromsø, Norway in December 2018.</p> <p>Sinéad Murphy will present her recent paper on spatio-temporal variability of harbour porpoise life history parameters in English and Welsh waters.</p> <p>The meeting will be invited to present any additional relevant reports.</p>	
Coffee/Tea Break (10:30–11:00)		
11:00–12:30	<p>3.4. Assessment of bycatch in the North Sea – knowledge gaps</p> <p>The meeting will be invited to discuss and develop proposals for actions to fill in knowledge gaps in the North Sea.</p> <p>Eunice Pinn (Seafish, UK) will present an overview on how best to incorporate the fishing industry in tackling bycatch issues, including examples of the type of collaborative projects being undertaken in the UK in relation to bycatch and entanglement.</p>	
	<p>3.5. Common Fisheries Policy – status in relation to cetacean bycatch</p> <p>The Chair will briefly report on the European Commission’s STECF (Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries) Expert Group workshop held in Italy (June 2019).</p> <p>The meeting will be invited to discuss how best to action NSG7 Recommendation 7, that all Parties be encouraged to send a Fisheries expert (ideally one who also deals with EU matters) to future North Sea Group meetings.</p>	
	4. Implementation Review: Development of alternative mitigation methods (Action 5)	
	<p>4.1. Updates on national bycatch mitigation projects</p> <p>Meike Scheidat (The Netherlands) will present a short update on the activities of the Netherlands regarding the plans to update their national conservation plan specific for the Harbor Porpoise in the North Sea.</p> <p>Updates will be invited also from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden and UK.</p>	

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Lunch Break (12:30–13:30)		
13:30–15:00	<p>5. Noise budgets for the North Sea Nathan Merchant, Invited Expert (UK), will present his work on noise budgets for the North Sea and their potential impact on Harbour Porpoises. This work is also aligned with the work being developed within the OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Underwater Noise (ICG-NOISE).</p>	
	6. Other activities contributing to the Conservation of the Harbour Porpoise in the North Sea	
	<p>6.1. EU Habitats Directive Vedran Nikolic (DG Environment, European Commission) will present an update on the implementation of the Habitats Directive and activities of the European Commission relevant for the Harbour Porpoise conservation plan. Parties will be invited to report on progress in developing Special Area of Conservation (SAC) management plans.</p>	
	<p>6.2. New Surveys Parties will be invited to report on any monitoring or surveys undertaken to determine trends in distribution and abundance within their North Sea Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) since NSG7.</p>	
Coffee/Tea Break (15:00–15:30)		
15:30–18:30	<p>6.3. Update on MSFD and marine mammal indicators Anita Gilles (Germany) will present on the outcome of the OSPAR meeting on marine mammal abundance indicators held in Büsum, Germany in February 2019. The Chair will summarise outcomes of the OSPAR-HELCOM ‘workshop to examine possibilities for developing indicators for incidental bycatch of birds and marine mammals’, held on 3-5 September 2019 in Copenhagen, Denmark.</p>	
	<p>6.4. Marine Stewardship Council: certification schemes Ida Carlén, Coordinator of the ASCOBANS Harbour Porpoise Action Plans, will present an update on liaising with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).</p>	

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(15:30-18:30)	<p>7. Overall progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan Ida Carlén will give a presentation reflecting the progress under the North Sea Plan. Country representatives will be invited to comment and fill any gaps in the relevant parts of the overview report.</p>	<p>AC25/Doc.4.3 (Progress report - North Sea Plan)</p>
	<p>8. Review of Actions 2019-2020 The Chair will present Actions from the North Sea Plan and how they are currently prioritised. The meeting will be invited to discuss and provide guidance on whether or not the prioritization should be changed.</p>	<p>North Sea Plan</p>
	<p>9. Communication The Chair will give an update on the liaison with ICES Working Groups. The meeting will be invited to discuss other areas of interaction needed, for example Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs) and North Sea Regional Advisory Council (RAC).</p>	
	<p>10. Review of Recommendations The Chair will briefly go through the recommendations from the previous NSG meeting (2018). Then the meeting will be invited to finalise the recommendations from NSG8, to be presented at the 25th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee.</p>	
	<p>11. Next Meeting of the North Sea Group Members will be invited to discuss the timing of the next North Sea Group meeting in 2020. There will be no Advisory Committee meeting in 2020, since the Meeting of Parties is scheduled to take place the same year. The ASCOBANS Secretariat welcomes offers to host the next meeting of the North Sea Group, to be held back-to-back with the Jastarnia Group. Potential dates to be discussed.</p>	<p>AC25/Doc.7.2</p>
	<p>12. Close of the Meeting The meeting is expected to close by 18:30.</p>	