

Agenda Item 4.3

Reports

National Reports of ASCOBANS Parties

National Report 9

2016 - 2019 National Report: Poland

Action Requested

Take note

Submitted by

Poland



Note:

Delegates are kindly reminded to bring their own document copies to the meeting, if needed.

ASCOBANS National Reporting Form

1 January 2016 – 31 December 2019

As outlined in [ASCOBANS Resolution 8.1](#) on National Reporting, this form will cover the years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, and all Sections of the Annex to the Resolution:

- Section I: General Information
- Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)
- Section III: Surveys and Research
- Section IV: Use of Bycatches and Strandings
- Section V: Legislation
- Section VI: Information and Education
- Section VII: Other Matters

The national reports submitted will inform discussions at the 9th Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS (8-10 September 2020).

- All questions apply to the reporting period 2016-2019.
- Region in the tables refers to the sub-regions as defined by the HELCOM and OSPAR, and Areas refers to the sub-areas as defined by ICES. An overview and maps of these can be found in Annex A. Species can be chosen from the drop-down list provided, based on ASCOBANS species list, see Annex B.
- Throughout the form, please include relevant web links and add rows where applicable.

Where possible, National Coordinators should consult with, or delegate to, experts for particular topics so as to ease the reporting burden. The Secretariat has provided a list of potential country contacts as a starting point. Once the baseline information is in place, it should become easier to update in the future.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

High-level Summary of Key Messages

In your country, for the reporting period from 2016 to 2019, what does this report reveal about:

1. The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement?

A series of long-term educational campaigns carried out by the Maritime Station of Prof. Krzysztof Skora of the Institute of Oceanography of the University of Gdańsk. Particularly noteworthy is the creation of a museum dedicated to the porpoise known as the House of the porpoise.

Establishing a porpoise monitoring program as part of the State Environmental Monitoring, as an element of the monitoring program of marine waters (in accordance with RDSM) and of marine species and habitats (in accordance with DS). Harmonizing the monitoring program at the level of the Baltic Sea Region with the HELCOM States Parties (complying with RDSM provisions).

Ongoing work on the preparation of protection plans for marine Natura 2000 sites, including those where porpoise is a subject of protection.

Constant dialogue with the fishing community in the field of the protection of the Baltic ecosystem, including the porpoise.

Commencement in 2012 and continuation to date of the project to remove lost fishing nets, dissemination of the problem of lost nets on a regional and global scale

(list up to five items)

2. The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement?

Deterioration of the condition of the Baltic Sea, both in terms of the species structure and the growing dead, anaerobic areas on its bottom.

Increase in the intensity of human pressure in maritime areas, including the development of maritime transport, recreation, etc. (list up to five items)

3. The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement?

Restoration of the Baltic porpoise populations by improving their protection in the most important areas of their occurrence, monitoring incidental catches and reducing the pressure on the Baltic porpoises, including by installing whale deterrent devices - pingers on fishing nets.

Continuation of the activities carried out so far, along with the promotion of pro-ecological practices throughout the country, which affects the quality of the waters supplying the Baltic Sea. (list up to five items)

Section I: General Information

A. Country Information

1. Name of Party / Non-Party Range State:

2. Details of the Report Compiler

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Does the Report Compiler act as ASCOBANS National Coordinator (i.e. focal point)?

☐ No ☒ Yes

3. Details of contributor(s)

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Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

A. Fisheries-related Threats

1. Bycatch

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating bycatch of small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 8.5, 8.4, 8.3, 7.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.8, 5.7, **5.5, 3.3**

Bycatch, the entanglement of an animal in fishing gear, is identified as a major cause of mortality in small cetaceans. Every effort should be made to reduce bycatch towards zero as quickly as possible. Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed on a number of resolutions that highlight the importance of mitigating bycatch of small cetaceans in the Agreement Area, as available data indicates that levels of bycatch pose a considerable threat to their conservation status. Parties have agreed that modifications of fishing gear and relevant practices shall be applied in order to reduce negative impacts where data indicates unacceptable interaction. The Agreement Area requires improved monitoring, collation of data, and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures, while also taking into account similar work in other areas.

To better understand the extent of the impact of bycatch on small cetaceans, monitoring and mitigation measures in place, and ongoing work in the Agreement Area, countries are requested to provide relevant information.

Note: This section includes bycatch in recreational fisheries.

Questions:

1.1. How is bycatch assessed/monitored in your country?

| Year | Method | Used | Percentage (% by monitoring method, of total bycaught animals, by gear type if applicable) |
|------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2016 | Dedicated observer schemes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OTM- below 1%, GNS –around 3%, no bycatch |
| | Fisheries observes | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Remote Electronic Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Self-reporting by fisherman | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Pathological investigation | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Assessment at stranding site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2017 | Dedicated observer schemes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OTM- below 1%, GNS-below 1%, no bycatch |
| | Fisheries observes | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Remote Electronic Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Self-reporting by fisherman | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Pathological investigation | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Assessment at stranding site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2018 | Dedicated observer schemes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OTM- below 1%, GNS-below 1%, no bycatch |
| | Fisheries observes | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Remote Electronic Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Self-reporting by fisherman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Pathological investigation | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Assessment at stranding site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2019 | Dedicated observer schemes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | OTM- below 1%, GNS-below 1%, no bycatch |
| | Fisheries observes | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Remote Electronic Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Self-reporting by fisherman | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Pathological investigation | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Assessment at stranding site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |

Comments:

26 kwietnia 2018 roku rybak z Rowów zgłosił przyłów morświna. Ten dobrowolny raport zarejestrowano poza i niezależnie od monitoringu przyłowu walenii prowadzonego zgodnie z Rozporządzeniem Rady UE numer 812/2004. Morświn został przekazany Stacji Morskiej UG do analiz.

1.2. Which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch by commercial fishing in the reporting period?

Overview of bycaught small cetaceans per region. Provide information where available.

| Species | Number of bycaught animals observed | Year (incl. season if available) | Gear type | Area | Overall sampling effort | Monitoring method used |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|--|
| HP Harbour porpoise | 1 | 2018 | gillnets | 27.3.d.25 | | voluntary declaration of the fisherman |

1.3. Which species of small cetaceans were recorded as bycatch by recreational fishing in the reporting period?

Overview of bycaught small cetaceans per region. Provide information where available.

| Species | Number of bycaught animals observed | Year (incl. season if available) | Gear type | Area | Overall sampling effort | Monitoring method used |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. | | |
| Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. | | |

1.4. Has there been any notable incidents/issues related to bycatch during the reporting period in your country?

☒ No.

☐ Yes. Please provide details:

(mass bycatch incidents, unusual species bycatch etc.)

1.5. Are there any mitigation measures in place?

☐ No.

☒ Yes. Please provide details: What mitigation measures (including alternative gear) are being used and where? (acoustic deterrent devices, seasonal closures, gear modifications etc.)

| Mitigation approach | Region | Year implemented | Has the mitigation measure been effective? |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| acoustic deterrent devices | Choose an item. | | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: Due to the small population of the Baltic porpoises, and hence the minimal scale of by-catch, it is not possible to determine in Polish sea waters the influence of acoustic deterrents on the amount of accidental catch of porpoises in fishing nets. |
| | Choose an item. | | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: |
| | Choose an item. | | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: |

1.6. Have there been changes in fishing effort (for fisheries known to have an impact) in the reporting period?

☐ No.

☐ Unknown/not applicable. Comments:

☒ Yes. Please provide details:

Considering the deteriorating condition of the eastern cod stock, in July 2019 an EC implementing regulation was issued, which introduced, with certain exceptions, a ban on fishing for this species. Since the beginning of 2020, there has been a ban on direct fishing for cod from the eastern stock, and the agreed TAC has only been allocated to its possible by-catch, which has a negative impact on

fishing effort, especially for gillnets. The ban also covers recreational cod fishing, which does not, however, result in a by-catch of cetaceans.
In addition, in 2016, with some exceptions, a ban on trawling in the area of 6 NM from the shoreline was introduced, all in order to improve the conditions in the Baltic Sea and to improve the condition of fish species living in it.

1.7. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on bycatch in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

1.8. Is the perceived level of pressure from bycatch in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence (e.g. strandings, observer schemes) |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| HP Harbour porpoise | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Too little data to determine the trend |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☒ **Not applicable.** Comments: Skala przyłwu jest zbyt mała żeby na podstawie istniejących danych wyciągać jakiegokolwiek wnioski.

A. Fisheries-related Threats

2. Resource Depletion

AIM: to determine areas where, and to what extent, depletion of fish stocks have occurred during the reporting period. In addition; identify ongoing mitigation efforts regarding detrimental implications for small cetaceans.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 8.3, 7.1, 6.1

Depletion in fish stocks due to overfishing and other factors generates pressure on the favourable conservation status of small cetaceans (through possible food shortage). More integrated management and reductions in fishing effort (also prompted by concern about fish stock depletion or other ecosystem considerations) have been encouraged, especially in areas of known risk. Further research, effective fishery regulations and innovation within certain fishing methods are considered to be helpful steps towards mitigating this pressure.

Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed on a number of resolutions that (1) determine the impact of the depletion of fish stocks on small cetaceans, (2) encourage fishing effort reductions and (3) review new information on these depletions to make recommendations. Resource depletion in the Agreement Area requires improved monitoring, collation of data, and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures, while also taking into account similar work in other areas.

It is of particular interest to ASCOBANS to understand the extent of prey depletions, any related ongoing work, monitoring and mitigation measures in the Agreement Area. Countries are requested to provide relevant information.

Questions:

2.1. Based on the latest stock assessments, are there any notable depletions of fish species which would be a concern for small cetaceans?

☐ **No.**

☒ **Yes.** Please provide details.

For several years, Polish fishermen and scientific circles such as the Sea Fisheries Institute have been reporting the problem of declining cod stocks (western stock, ICES sub-area 22-24 and eastern, ICES sub-area 24-32), as well as note that cod individuals living in the Baltic Sea are becoming smaller and

smaller and leaner (eastern stock, ICES sub-area 24-32). Scientific research emphasizes in particular, in the case of eastern cod, the decrease in the size of individuals and their parasitism with nematodes. The stocks of sprat and herring (the staple food of porpoises) in the Central Baltic are in good conservation status, however, recruitment has been lower or average in the last four years

2.2. Where are these depletions in national waters occurring?

Sub-areas/regions as defined by ICES/OSPAR & HELCOM.

| Area | Region |
|-----------|------------------|
| 27.3.d.26 | H Gdansk Basin |
| 27.3.d.25 | H Bornholm Basin |
| 27.3.d.24 | H Arkona Basin |

2.3. What measures are being taken to manage pressures on depleted fish stocks, including relevant regulations/guidelines (current / planned / year of implementation)?

| Measure | Timeframe information | Relevant driver |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Poland has applied to the European Council, Baltfish and the European Commission to reduce industrial catches of sprat and herring.</p> <p>Moreover, in accordance with Polish regulations, targeted fishing for sprat is carried out from September 11 to June 9. They are possible as by-catches during the rest of the period.</p> <p>Recreational fishing for cod in Subarea 24 beyond six nautical miles measured from the baselines and in Subdivisions 25 and 26 is prohibited.</p> <p>Within subarea 24, no more than five cod per fisherman may be retained up to six nautical miles measured from the baselines. In Sub-areas 22 and 23 and Sub-area 24 within six nautical miles measured from the baselines during the period 1 February to 31 March 2020, no more than two cod may be retained per day per fisherman.</p> | <p>2016- 2019</p> <p>Scheduled for 2020</p> | <p>As a result of a significant decline in the Baltic cod stock, especially in the eastern stock (Subdivisions 24+ 25-32), the aim of these proposals and regulations was to ensure an adequate food source for cod and to increase cod recruitment and survival.</p> |

2.4. Is there any evidence within your country's national waters that resource depletion may be impacting small cetaceans (e.g. evidence of starvation)?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide details.

2.5. Are there any national efforts to (e.g. surveys) evaluate cetacean body condition at sea?

☐ **No.**

☒ **Yes.** Please provide details.

Porpoise bodies are examined for nutritional status and health. The data is used to develop population status indicators for the HELCOM convention. In the years 2016-2019, 41 porpoises were found dead on the shore, whose advanced state of decay made it impossible to examine their health condition. Only 1 individual reported as by-catch in 2018 was tested.

2.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on resource depletion in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

Yes, details are available on MIR-PIB

2.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from resource depletion in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| HP Harbour porpoise | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☐ **Not applicable.** Comments:

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

3. Noise (impulsive i.e. piling and continuous/ambient i.e. shipping)

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating negative effects on small cetaceans from underwater noise during the reporting period.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.11, 8.9, 8.6, 8.4, 8.3, 7.1, 6.2, 6.1

Small cetaceans are especially susceptible to underwater noise due to their high responsiveness to sound and wide hearing range. Good environmental status, as defined by the European Union, suggests that the introduction of energy, including underwater noise, is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment. Anthropogenic noise pollution has generally increased in recent times and generates a broad range of frequencies due to a wide variety of human activities. Impulsive and continuous noise present different impacts on small cetaceans, which include communicative masking, behavioural response and physiological injury. Noise in marine environments potentially impedes communication, affects distribution and hence feeding and reproduction of small cetaceans. Studies show that not only cetaceans but also fish and other marine life may be negatively impacted by anthropogenic noise.

Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed on implementation of measures through a number of resolutions that (1) highlight the potential impact that noise pollution may have on small cetaceans in the Agreement Area and (2) commit to reduce the pressure presented by underwater noise. The Agreement Area requires improved monitoring, collation of data, and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures.

To better understand the extent to which noise negatively impacts the health of small cetaceans, and to learn about new work relevant to the topic, countries are requested to provide related information.

Questions:
3.1. To which noise registers/databases has your country contributed to date?

| ICES Impulsive Noise Register (for HELCOM and OSPAR Parties) | National registry | Other |
|---|--|--|
| <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable </p> <p> In 2016, in connection with the preparation of the "Baltic Sea State Report" by experts of the states-parties HELCOM (the second holistic assessment of the state of the Baltic Sea environment - HELCOM HOLAS II), Poland, as part of the HELCOM data call, reported data on impulse noise for 2011-2016 that were obtained for the purposes of preparing the national report and updated the preliminary assessment of the state of the environment of marine waters. </p> | <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable </p> <p> Specify (e.g. JNCC noise registry): As part of the project of the National Sea Water Protection Program, it is planned to develop noise maps on the basis of existing information and ship traffic forecasts with the use of GIS environmental tools. It is also planned to create a register of sources of impulse noise on the basis of data from existing EIA reports and information from relevant institutions. The establishment of the noise register will be coordinated at the regional level through Poland's participation in the group of EU experts ("TG noise"). The register may also be coordinated by HELCOM. Noise mapping should be coordinated at local level, but taking into account the advice of the TG noise group and the project methodology </p> | <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p> <p> Specify: Participation in LIFE BIAS project (Baltic Sea Information on an Acoustic Soundscape) which produced the map of ship noise in the Baltic Sea and collection of data on sound pressure level for 63 and 125 Hz. The project has established regional standards and methodologies that allow for cross-border handling of data and results and finally to implement regional tools for handling of underwater sound.. </p> <p> Published data: Mustonen, M., Klauson, A., Andersson, M., Clorennec, D., Folegot, T., Koza, R., Pajala, J., Persson, L., Tegowski, J., Tougaard, J., Wahlberg, J. & Sigra, P. 2019. Spatial and Temporal Variability of Ambient Underwater Sound in the Baltic Sea. Scientific Reports volume 9, Article number: 13237 </p> |

3.2. Any instances/issues in the reporting period including information on planned or completed significant developments/activities, including the details of monitoring in place before, during and after the project:

| Development/ Individual Activity of impulsive noise (e.g. construction, seismic, sonar) | Status | Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) | Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) | Information on noise management and monitoring | | | Region |
|--|-----------------|---|---|--|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | Regulations/ guidelines exist | Monitoring conducted | Mitigation in place | |
| | Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
| | Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |
| | Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks: | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |

3.3. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on underwater noise in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

The sounds generated by porpoises are the basis for obtaining information on abundance and distribution as well as population migrations. As part of the project entitled "Pilot implementation of the monitoring of marine species and habitats in 2015-2018" in the period from March 2016 to April 2018, the monitoring of the common porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) was carried out as part of the State Environmental Monitoring. As part of the work, field research was carried out with the use of devices for passive recording of porpoise clicks, the so-called C-POD. Recording devices were exposed in two areas, which during the implementation of the SAMBAH project were identified as areas with the highest abundance of porpoises. In each of the areas, ie Zatoka Pomorska and Ławica Stilo, 5 devices recording clicks have been displayed. In each of the areas, four of the five devices were placed in the locations where the devices were installed during the SAMBAH project. The fifth of the devices is planned to be placed in the center of the rectangle defined by the C-POD locations from the SAMBAH project. This is how the C-POD devices were placed in the Pomeranian Bay. Due to the lack of consent for the installation of the device on a military training ground (S-6 reservoir, temporarily closed for shipping and fishing), it was decided to install the fifth device to the east of Stilo Bank in the SAMBAH location. Placing the C-POD in the same places where the data have already been collected will contribute to the comparability of the obtained data in the context of the analysis of changes in time (trends or trends) in the occurrence of the Baltic harbor porpoise.

Two algorithms were used to analyze the records, i.e. KERNO and HEL1. The second algorithm (HEL1) was developed specifically for the detection of porpoises in the Baltic Sea on the basis of works carried out in Poland at the Marine Station of the Institute of Oceanography of the University of Gdańsk (SMIOUG) in 2010. The use of the second algorithm is recommended for areas low abundance of porpoises in the Baltic Sea.

3.4. Report on noise management for cumulative impacts, including relevant regulations and guidelines, seismic shot point densities and level of impact deemed acceptable.

3.5. Is the perceived level of pressure from underwater noise in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

To be done per species basis where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☐ **Not applicable.** Comments:

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

4. Ocean Energy

AIM: to understand the extent and development of current and planned ocean energy projects, and progress in monitoring and mitigation of their negative effects on small cetaceans during the reporting period.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.11, 8.9, **8.6**, 8.3, 6.2

Renewable energy is a necessary component of the efforts to supply the energy needs of human populations while combatting climate change. Efforts to harness renewable energy sources, however, should be conducted in a way that does not have a harmful impact on biological diversity and the marine environment. There are potential adverse effects of ocean energy on small cetaceans from such energy projects. In regard to small cetaceans, this can include potential lethal interactions or injury, negative behavioural impacts from displacement and changes in fecundity, calf survival and juvenile and adult mortality. There remains uncertainty regarding quantifying the (magnitude of the) pressure from ocean energy production on small cetaceans.

Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed to introduce precautionary measures and procedures for activities surrounding the development of renewable energy in marine environments in order to minimise and mitigate possible effects on small cetaceans, by following best practices. Parties have committed to investigating such pressures and robustly monitoring and mitigating them through environmental impact assessments. Addressing all aspects relevant to the conservation of protected species in regard to ocean energy and collaboration with other organizations working on or potentially interested in the issue is to the benefit of small cetaceans in the Agreement Area.

It is of particular interest to ASCOBANS to understand current and ongoing renewable energy projects in the Agreement Area, mitigation measures and procedures in use and other work relevant to the topic. Countries are requested to provide information relevant to their activities.

Questions:
4.1. Please enter wind energy farm data into the table below.

Currently, there are no offshore wind farms in the Polish exclusive economic zone, but there are plans to build them. According to Polish regulations, offshore wind farms may only be located in the area of the exclusive economic zone. It is estimated that the first offshore wind farm will be included in the power grid in 2025.

| Name of wind farm | Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date) | Area | Output (megawatts per turbine) | Number of turbines | How were the individual wind turbines installed in the seabed? | Was scour protection used? | Noise mitigation during construction used? (multiple ticks possible) | If the wind farm is floating, how was it anchored? | Other mitigation used in pre-/post-construction | Additional information |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------------|---|--|---|------------------------|
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: | | | |
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: | | | |

4.2. Please enter wave power installation data into the table below. Nie ma takich instalacji w polskich obszarach morskich i ich budowa nie jest planowana w najbliższym czasie.

| Name of installation | Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date) | Area | Output (megawatts per turbine) | Number of turbines | How is the installation anchored? | Was scour protection used? | Mitigation used in pre-/during/post-construction | Additional information |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. | | |
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. | | |

4.3. Please enter tidal energy installation data into the table below. Nie ma takich instalacji w polskich obszarach morskich i ich budowa nie jest planowana w najbliższym czasie.

| Name of installation | Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date) | Area | Output (megawatts per turbine) | Number of turbines | Type | Collision mitigation | Other mitigation used in pre-/during/post-construction | Additional information |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | |
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | |

4.4. Please enter tidal lagoon/barrage installation data into the table below. Nie ma takich instalacji w polskich obszarach morskich i ich budowa nie jest planowana w najbliższym czasie.

4.5.

| Name of installation | Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date) | Area | Output (megawatts per turbine) | Number of turbines | Type | Collision mitigation | Other mitigation used in pre-/during/post-construction | Additional information |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | |
| | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | |

4.6. Has there been any other instances/issues related to ocean energy during the reporting period in your country?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide details:

4.7. How is the pressure managed, incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)?

Due to the lack of installations, there are also no studies allowing to estimate the scale of the pressure from the installation on the environment. The environmental impact as well as mitigation and repair measures for the only installations planned in Polish waters - offshore wind farms, will be determined as part of the environmental impact assessment procedure.

4.8. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ocean energy in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

4.9. Mark the perceived level of pressure from ocean energy in your country to the table below.

For example, active construction of new developments could increase the pressure, while decommissioning or addition of mitigation measures to pre-existing projects could decrease the pressure.

| Energy type | Status 2019 relative to previous years | Nature of the evidence |
|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| Wind energy | Choose an item. | |
| Wave power | Choose an item. | |
| Tidal energy | Choose an item. | |
| Tidal lagoon/barrage | Choose an item. | |

Comments: Due to the lack of installations, there are also no studies allowing to estimate the scale of the pressure from the installation on the environment.

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

5. Cetacean Watching Industry

AIM: to determine if the developing cetacean watching industry poses a threat to small cetaceans.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 6.1, 5.4

Whale and dolphin watching is a global industry that can provide socio-economic benefits to local communities by attracting tourism, as well as strengthening public awareness of conservation needs. However, it also has the potential of being harmful when it interferes with the behaviour of animals in their natural environment and may even lead to injury or death. As the cetacean watching industry is still scarcely developed in some countries, collecting this data now allows tracking the development of the industry.

It is of particular importance to ASCOBANS to obtain an overview of the current scale of the activities and to monitor the development of the industry in the future. This is done by quantifying the number and locations of operators, reporting negative interactions and providing information on the development and implementation of any guidelines regarding cetacean watching.

Filling out this section accurately and completely will help to detect any indications of potential threats, allow timely mitigation action and enable Parties and Non-Party Range States to work towards a coordinated approach regarding the development of cetacean watching guidelines in the Agreement Area.

Note: We are here only addressing commercial cetacean watching activities which take place from vessels and include viewing of small cetacean species. Operators are defined as those offering trips with a primary focus: they advertise specifically with the aim to see small cetaceans, or a secondary focus: they advertise either for other taxa, such as birds or seals, or large cetaceans, or more general for wildlife, but mention the opportunity to see small cetaceans.

Questions:

5.1. Do you have any commercial small cetacean watching industry operating in your country?

☒ **No.** Go to **Question 5.3.**

☐ **Yes.**

5.2. In the table below, provide the sub-regions from which commercial cetacean watching takes place. Please tick the boxes if small cetacean watching is a primary and/or secondary focus of the operators and, in the first case what the target species are.

Overview of commercial small cetacean watching activities per sub-region. If necessary, add rows.

| Region | Small cetacean watching | | | Link to website or contact details (include information on ports and operators if available) |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| | Primary focus / target species | | Secondary focus | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Choose a species Choose a species Choose a species Choose a species | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Choose a species Choose a species Choose a species Choose a species | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Choose a species Choose a species Choose a species Choose a species | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

5.3. Does your country have a definition of the term 'harassment' in general and/or as it relates to the Cetacean Watching Industry? ¹

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Provide definition below:

5.4. Have there been any incidents of harassment towards small cetaceans in the context of commercial cetacean watching reported to authorities during the reporting period?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Provide information on table below. If necessary, copy table.

| Date dd/mm/yy | Context of incidence | Outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) |
|--|----------------------|--|
| Legal procedures / court proceedings / convictions that took place | | Responsible authority for such reports |
| Link to websites or documentation of this report | | |

5.5. Does your country have any operators that offer swimming with dolphins (or other small cetaceans)?

In some parts of the world this has become an important tourism industry with potential impacts for both small cetaceans and swimmers. Although scarcely developed, it has occurred within the ASCOBANS Agreement Area, and requires at least background monitoring. Sometimes incidents occur and can lead to harm for small cetaceans and/or swimmers.

☒ **No.** Go to **Question 5.9.**

☐ **Yes.** Provide information in the table below.

¹ For example, the US Marine Mammal Protection Act uses the term harassment, and defines two levels: Level A harassment means any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance that has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild. Level B harassment refers to acts that have the potential to disturb (but not injure) a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by disrupting behavioural patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering. NB. The UK uses the term 'disturbance' in its legislation.

| Location | Species | Operator | Any reported incidents between small cetaceans or swimmers. |
|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| | Choose an item. | (include link to website) | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please describe: |
| | Choose an item. | (include link to website) | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please describe: |
| | Choose an item. | (include link to website) | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please describe: |

5.6. List any incidents of harassment to small cetaceans during the reporting period in your country in the context of swimming with small cetaceans reported to authorities – and the outcome if known (behavioural response, injury, death, any court proceedings).

| Date | Context of incidence | Outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | Legal procedures/ court proceedings/ convictions that took place | Responsible authority for such reports | Link to websites or documentation of this report |
|----------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| dd/mm/yy | | | | | |
| dd/mm/yy | | | | | |
| dd/mm/yy | | | | | |

5.7. Are there any solitary sociable dolphin interactions in your country?

Occasionally, individual solitary dolphins may associate with humans, resulting in increased interactions between the two which may lead to impacts upon either. Sometimes incidents occur and can lead to harm for small cetaceans and/or swimmers.

☐ **No.** Go to **Question 5.12.**

☐ **Yes.** Provide information in the table below.

| Region | Date | Species | Link to websites | Reported incidents between small cetaceans and swimmers |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Choose an item. | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | |
| Choose an item. | dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | | |

5.8. Does your country have any mitigation measures (codes of conduct/guidelines) in place in the event of disturbance or harassment in the context of commercial cetacean watching, swimming with cetaceans, and interactions with solitary sociable dolphins?

☐ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please add below the type of measures and relevant information:

| | |
|--|---|
| Measure: (may include regional measures) | |
| Date of implementation: | Region: Choose an item. |
| Has the measure been effective? | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: |
| Other information: | |

Copy table if needed.

5.9. List any incidents of harassments to small cetaceans during the reporting period in the context of interactions with solitary sociable dolphins reported to authorities – and the outcome if known (behavioural response, injury, death, any court proceedings).

| Date | Context of incidence | Outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | Legal procedures/ court proceedings/ convictions that took place | Responsible authority for such reports | Link to websites or documentation of this report |
|----------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| dd/mm/yy | | | | | |
| dd/mm/yy | | | | | |

5.10. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on the cetacean watching industry, “swim with small cetacean” operations, solitary sociable dolphin interactions and their possible effects on small cetaceans in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

5.11. Have there been any other instances/issues related to cetacean watching industry during the reporting period in your country?

☐ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide details:

<http://scienceinpoland.pap.pl/en/news/news%2C401331%2Cwhales-seen-again-in-the-waters-of-the-baltic-sea.html>

5.12. Is the perceived level of pressure from commercial small cetacean watching in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☒ **Not applicable.** Comments:

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

6. Recreational Sea Use

AIM: to determine whether recreational sea use is detrimental to small cetaceans and, if so, to identify types of activity and areas of concern.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 8.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.4

Recreational use of the sea by humans includes a wide variety of activities, some of which are known to have a potential negative impact on small cetaceans. This includes the use of RIBs (rigid-hulled inflatable boats), hard-hulled boats exceeding 10 knots in speed, yachts and personal watercrafts such as jet skis, kayaks and surfboards; and excludes recreational fishing and sea-angling.

Interactions can cause animals to change behaviour and move away, but can also have more serious impacts, such as injury or even death due to collision. ASCOBANS has agreed on a number of resolutions that highlight the importance to review all available information on recreational use of the sea. Obtaining an overview of best practices and guidelines will enable comparisons to be made across the Agreement Area, and ultimately may lead to the provision of overall, consistent guidelines that might be developed at a regional or national level. In this section we strive to obtain an overview of potential risk areas and national sources that have data on incidents with small cetaceans related to recreational sea use.

Questions:

6.1. Are data on recreational sea use available for your country?

☐ **No.** Go to **Question 6.3.**

☒ **Yes.** Provide information in the table below:

Type of information: (e.g. number of licenced recreational vessels per region, tourist number per region, other)

Tourists using tourist accommodation facilities in coastal areas

Web link or other relevant link to data: (where can this information be found) **Statistical Yearbook of Maritime Economy GUS. <https://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/roczniki-statystyczne/roczniki-statystyczne/rocznik-statystyczny-gospodarki-morskiej-2019,11,12.html>**

6.2. Is information on main areas of recreational sea use available for your country?

Many Range States are mapping human activities to fulfil obligations under the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, MSFD, OSPAR, and HELCOM; this information is relevant (though often not readily accessible) to ASCOBANS in understanding the extent and trends of human activities potentially impacting small cetaceans.

☐ **No.**

☐ **Not applicable.** Comments:

☒ **Yes.** Provide information in the table below.

| Region | Type of information | Is the data available online? | Provide link to data, or comment on unavailability |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|--------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| H Bornholm Basin | (e.g. maps, GIS, reports)maps | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | (weblinks) http://maps.helcom.fi/website/mapservice/ |
| H Gdansk Basin | (e.g. maps, GIS, reports)maps | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | (weblinks) http://maps.helcom.fi/website/mapservice/ |
| H Eastern Gotland Basin | (e.g. maps, GIS, reports)maps | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | (weblinks) http://maps.helcom.fi/website/mapservice/ |

6.3. Were there any incidents of disturbance or harassment to small cetaceans in relation to recreational sea use in your country?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Unknown.**

☐ **Yes.** Provide information in the table below.

| Date | Area | Context of incidence | Outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human | Legal procedures/ court proceedings/ convictions | Link to websites or documentation of the incident |
|----------|-----------------|---|--|--|---|
| dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | (e.g. what kind of recreational activity) | (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | | |
| dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | (e.g. what kind of recreational activity) | (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | | |
| dd/mm/yy | Choose an item. | (e.g. what kind of recreational activity) | (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | | |

6.4. Does your country have any mitigation measures (codes of conducts/guidelines/laws/rules) in place in the event of disturbance or harassment of small cetaceans through recreational sea use?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Provide information in table below:

| | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Measure: | | |
| Date of implementation: | | Region: Choose an item. |
| Has the measure been effective? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: | |
| Other information: | | |

Copy table if needed.

6.5. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on disturbance or harassment of small cetaceans through recreational sea use in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

6.6. Have there been any other instances / issues related to recreational sea use in your country during the reporting period?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide details:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

6.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from recreational sea use in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☒ **Not applicable.** Comments:

B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

7. Other Sources of Disturbance

AIM: to identify new sources of disturbance that could be a threat to small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 6.1

Overlap of small cetacean and human habitat use is not covered by the questions above, while human activities in the seas are increasing, particularly in the coastal zone. Human activities can, for example, cause a small cetacean to change behaviour, or it can cause physical harm or death. This section aims to identify new sources of disturbance that could be a threat to small cetaceans. The issue of noise is covered under section B3.

7.1. Have there been any incidents of disturbance to small cetaceans in your country during the reporting period, not covered in the items above?

- ☒ **No.**
☐ **Unknown.**
☐ **Yes.** Please provide information in the table below.

Any incidents of disturbance to small cetaceans not covered in Sections B5 or B6 by the report.

| Description of event: | | Date: dd/mm/yy | Area: Choose an item. |
|---|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Outcome for (a) the animal or (b) human | (e.g. behavioural response, injury, death) | | |
| Describe mitigation measures: | | | |
| Legal procedures/ court proceedings/ convictions: | | | |
| Links to relevant information: | (websites, etc.) | | |

7.2. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on other sources of disturbance in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

8. Unexploded Ordnance

AIM: to provide information on the mitigation, management and potential negative impacts of unexploded ordnance on small cetaceans during the reporting period.
Relevant Resolutions: 8.11, 8.9, 8.8, 8.3

Unexploded chemical and conventional munitions present a threat to small cetaceans. Hazards exist from unexploded munitions, which release chronic contaminants, and upon detonation, which is physically hazardous from extreme underwater noise and a sudden release of toxic substances. Unexploded ordnance is a notable threat in many areas, such as the Baltic Sea, where the quantity is unknown, though estimates are high. Information on disposal, state of corrosion and quantities of dumped munition is limited, as are meaningful data on the measured environmental impacts. The significance of this pressure's impact on small cetaceans requires further quantification. However, it is clear that mitigation measures are necessary to support alternatives to detonations, and when no alternative is feasible, to reduce negative impacts on small cetaceans.

In the ASCOBANS Area, millions of tons of unexploded ordnance are present in the marine environment and thousands of sea users, such as fishermen, encounter such munitions every year. Parties have agreed on resolutions to support (1) research investigating the pressure on marine animals and habitat and (2) mitigation measures regarding effects of disintegrating submerged munitions on the marine environment. Parties are to strive towards providing relevant information to required bodies and supporting efforts to address the negative implications from this pressure in other regional and international organizations and waters.

Questions:

8.1. To which registers/databases covering conventional and chemical munitions has your country contributed to date?

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> OSPAR | <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HELCOM | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please state: | |

8.2. Please fill in Table 8.2 below on unexploded ordnance. For explanation of terms, see [AC22/Inf.4.6.c](#).

8.3. Have there been any instances/issues (not listed in Table 8.2) related to the issue of unexploded ordnance during the reporting period in your country?

☐ No.

☐ Yes. Please provide details:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

8.4. How is the issue of unexploded ordnances being managed?

(incl. mitigation measures, relevant regulations/guidelines, year of implementation; may include planned management)

8.5. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on the issue of unexploded ordnance in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

Decision support in the field of dumped ammunition Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences Interreg Baltic Sea Region Program 2014-2020,

Support for the decision-making process regarding the handling of ammunition dumped on the bottom of the Baltic Sea Institute of Maritime Affairs in Gdańsk Interreg Baltic Sea Region Program 2014-2020,

Decision support in the field of dumped ammunition Wojskowa Akademia Techniczna im. Jarosław Dąbrowski Interreg Baltic Sea Region Program 2014-2020,

Decision support in the field of dumped ammunition Akademia Marynarki Wojennej im. Bohaterów Westerplatte Interreg Baltic Sea Region Program 2014-2020,

Characteristics of the interactions between the poisonous warfare agents dumped in the Baltic Sea and water by means of experimental research and calculations based on the first principles - University of Białystok,

Toxicity and biodegradation of chemical weapons dumped in the marine environment PRELUDIUM Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

In order to minimize the harmful effects of underwater detonations, a Polish proposal on the need for HELCOM and NATO cooperation and on the need to create a joint, international guide on the issue of detonation and removal of residual ammunition was adopted at the HELCOM Convection forum.

8.6. Is the perceived level of pressure from unexploded ordnance in your country:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing | <input type="checkbox"/> Decreasing | <input type="checkbox"/> Staying the same | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| Nature of evidence: | | | |

☐ Not applicable. Comments:

Table 8.2 on Unexploded Ordnance (adapted from the OSPAR reporting format)

| OSPAR Ref. No | First located (Area) | Nature of encounter | Date | Type of munition | Action taken | State of munition (corrosion) | Release, Destruction (Area) | Remarks | Depth of Explosion | Estimated net weight of explosive material of demolished UXO | Demolition charge: net weight of explosive material added | Observations during explosion |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|
| If available, otherwise leave blank | Please select | Please select | dd/mm/yy | Please select | Please select | Please select | Please select | (incl. mitigation measures taken, if any) | Meters on seafloor / raised | TNT equivalent in kg | TNT equivalent in kg | Please select |
| | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | | Choose an item. |
| | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | | Choose an item. |
| | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | | Choose an item. |
| | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | | Choose an item. |
| | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | | Choose an item. |

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

9. Marine Debris (ingestion and entanglement)

AIM: to illustrate progress, during the reporting period, on understanding, monitoring and mitigating impacts of marine debris on small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 8.8, 8.3, 6.1

Marine debris, such as macroplastics and discarded fishing gear, poses a threat to small cetaceans due to the potential for these materials to be ingested or to cause entanglement. Commercial fishing operations, recreational fishing and cargo shipping are notable sources of this material, of which the majority is plastic and ghost nets. However, it is assumed that most of the marine litter worldwide comes from land, although this differs per region. Even small amounts of macroplastics that have been ingested may present serious effects on small cetaceans, such as detrimental influence on the gastrointestinal tract or leaching pollutants into the body, potentially leading to mortality or reduced body condition. Entanglement is well-established as a threat to small cetaceans as plastic debris continues to accumulate in aquatic environments, and may cause physical injuries, reduced survival or drowning.

To better understand the impact of marine debris on small cetaceans and measures in place to mitigate these effects, countries are requested to provide relevant information.

Note: Includes macroplastics and discarded fishing gear. Microplastics are covered under Section C 10 Pollution and Hazardous Substances.

Questions:

9.1. Does your country have monitoring in place to assess levels of marine debris?

☐ **No.** Go to **Question 9.3.**

☒ **Yes.** Provide information in the table below:

(e.g. type of litter (size, shape, material), amount, impacts on species, geographical location, etc.; include parameters provided through monitoring) **Monitoring of waste in the marine environment - waste in the water column including waste on the sea surface in 4-6 locations and in the foreground of the mouth of the Vistula River and in the foreground of the mouth of the Świna River.**

9.2. Are these data publicly available?

☐ **No.**

☒ **Yes.** Please provide a link: (Główny Inspektorat Ochrony Środowiska. **Contact person** m.kaminska@gios.gov.pl;

The data is shared after the request is submitted.

9.3. What species of small cetaceans were found to have been impacted by marine debris?

| Species | # of impacted individuals | Year | Region | Description of the impact |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | |
| Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | |
| Choose an item. | | | Choose an item. | |

9.4. Are there any mitigation measures in place?

☐ **No.**

☒ **Yes.** Provide information in the table below.

(Mitigation measures might include e.g. changes in gear to prevent loss, entanglement response, adoption of measures to reduce land-based/boat-based sources of marine debris)

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Measure: | <p>Since 2011 the project of removing lost networks, the so-called "Ghost nets" has been continuously ongoing since 2011.</p> <p>In 2016, WWF Poland joined the international initiative entitled MARELITT BALTIC. Its aim is to develop simple, cost-effective and environmentally safe methods of retrieving ghost nets from the bottom of the Baltic Sea and finding a</p> |
|-----------------|---|

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| | systemic solution to the environmental problem related to lost fishing gear - marking and identification of nets. Additionally, in 2017, Polish fishermen with the MARE foundation actively joined the action of removing nobody's nets from the Baltic Sea. A total of 147 tons of nets were removed. Estimates commissioned by WWF have shown that only in the Polish zone of the Baltic Sea there may be as much as 800 tons of ghost nets. So far, WWF and its partners have fished 300 tons of nets in their activities. | |
| Date of implementation: | 2011 – up to now | Region: Choose an item. |
| Has the measure been effective? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: | |
| Other information: | | |

Copy table if needed.

9.5. How is marine debris managed? (incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation, current and planned)

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

9.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine debris in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information e.g. link to OSPAR reports)

9.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from marine debris in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☐ **Not applicable.** Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

10. Pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics)

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating impacts of important current and emerging pollution-related hazards on small cetaceans. during the reporting period
 Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 8.8, 8.7, 8.4, 8.3, 7.4, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7

Marine environments have been subject to a wide range of different types of pollution over the last decades. Top predators, such as small cetaceans that feed on higher trophic prey, tend to accumulate many of these potentially hazardous substances. There are a number of contaminants and pathogens that are known, or suspected, to have impacts on small cetacean health, immune status or reproduction. These include, for example: polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other persistent organic pollutants (POPs), oil pollution (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), toxins from harmful algal blooms (HABs), sewage, radionuclides, toxic elements, tri-butyl tin (TBT), morbillivirus, and Brucella. In addition, micro- and nano-plastics are also present in marine environment and their impacts are presently poorly understood.

Monitoring can be done using body tissue from small cetaceans obtained from live animals through biopsies, or from dead animals that are generally found on the shore. Necropsies allow the sampling of different types of tissue such as blubber, muscle, kidney or liver and these can be analyzed subsequently.

To better understand the impact of contaminants on small cetacean health, to detect new emerging hazards and to work towards a common protocol for analyzing samples, countries are asked to provide information on their programs.

Note: Includes microplastics. Macroplastics and discarded fishing gear are covered under Section C 9 Marine Debris.

Questions:

10.1. Does your country conduct monitoring of pollutants in small cetaceans?

Several pollutants have serious effects on individual small cetaceans and can threaten populations. The aim is to capture the nature of existing monitoring and identify gaps in terms of which pollutants are monitored, the extend of this monitoring and the establishment of securely funded long-term data series.

☒ **No.** Go to **Question 10.7.**

☐ **Yes.**

Comments:

The degree of decomposition of the bodies of 41 porpoises found on the shore in 2016-2019 did not allow sampling.

10.2. Who is carrying out the pollutant monitoring program? Please provide information on the institution(s)/agencies that collect the samples and carry out the analyses. Copy table if needed.

Name:

Role in monitoring: (e.g. sample collection, analyses, other)

Postal Address:

Contact Person:

Telephone:

Email:

Weblink:

10.3. Select the small cetacean species that were covered by your monitoring program during the reporting period. Mark the year in which the species was sampled with an x.

| 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Species | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Species |
|------|------|------|------|------------------|------|------|------|------|------------------|
| | | | | Choose a species | | | | | Choose a species |
| | | | | Choose a species | | | | | Choose a species |
| | | | | Choose a species | | | | | Choose a species |

Comments:

10.4. Select the source of your samples (multiple answers possible)

- ☐ Necropsy from stranding
- ☐ Necropsy from bycatch
- ☐ Sample from live stranding
- ☐ Biopsy from live animal
- ☐ Other (specify in comments)

Comments:

The degree of decomposition of the bodies of 41 porpoises found on the shore in 2016-2019 did not allow sampling.

10.5. Select the geographical coverage of your monitoring program (several answers are possible)

A map of the OSPAR and HELCOM regions and sub-regions can be found in the Annex A.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| OSPAR Region I Arctic Waters <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Sea OSPAR Region II Greater North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Dogger Bank <input type="checkbox"/> Southern North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Northern North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Channel <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Trench <input type="checkbox"/> Skagerrak OSPAR Region III Celtic Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Celtic Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Irish Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Irish & Scottish W. Coast | OSPAR Region IV Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast <input type="checkbox"/> N. Bay of Biscay <input type="checkbox"/> Iberian Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Cadiz OSPAR Region V Wider Atlantic <input type="checkbox"/> HELCOM <input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Bay <input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Archipelago Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Åland Sea | HELCOM cont. <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Finland <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Baltic Proper <input type="checkbox"/> Western Gotland Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Gotland Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Riga <input type="checkbox"/> Gdansk Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Bornholm Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Arkona Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Kattegat <input type="checkbox"/> Belt Sea <input type="checkbox"/> The Sound |
|---|--|--|

10.6. Select the contaminant / pathogen analyses you have conducted for small cetaceans.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> POPs (e.g. PCBs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Radionuclides | <input type="checkbox"/> Brucella | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oil (e.g. PAHs) | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic elements | <input type="checkbox"/> Microplastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HAB toxins | <input type="checkbox"/> TBT | <input type="checkbox"/> Nanoplastics | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage | <input type="checkbox"/> Morbillivirus | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: | <input type="checkbox"/> Others: |

Comments:

10.7. Does your country determine microplastics in small cetaceans?

☒ **No.** Go to **Question 10.9.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide information in the table below:

Do you have a specific protocol to monitor microplastic in small cetaceans? ☐ No ☐ Yes (If yes, please provide details and weblinks or upload document.)

The degree of decomposition of the bodies of 41 porpoises found on the shore in 2016-2019 did not allow sampling.

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.

10.8. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on impact of pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics) on small cetaceans in your country.

We need to capture information on new knowledge arising from monitoring schemes or other research projects, especially results which enhance our understanding of impacts of hazardous pollutants and/or assess their known or likely effects on small cetacean population status (e.g. considering PCB concentrations in blubber in relation to threshold for inhibition of reproduction). Where relevant, please report separately per pollutant, species and area.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

10.9. If applicable, list any additional evidence/data of reduced impacts of pollutants on small cetaceans following implementation of national mitigation measures (e.g. decline of contaminant levels in blubber over time).

10.10. Have there been any instances/issues related to pollution and hazardous substances in your country during the reporting period?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide details:

10.11. Is the perceived level of pressure from pollution and hazardous substances in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☐ **Not applicable.** Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

11. Ship Strikes

AIM: understanding the potential risk of ship strike as a cause of injury/death in small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 8.2, 8.1, 6.1, 5.4

Ship strikes are collisions between vessels and cetaceans. In the last decades, evidence has emerged that ship strikes might occur more often than previously thought and can have a significant impact on small resident cetacean populations. Most research so far has focused on large cetaceans as those animals are often carried visibly into port at the bow of a vessel. For small cetaceans, ship strike events are not well documented.

Ship strike occurrence is directly linked to the frequency of shipping activity, including such directed at cetaceans, i.e. cetacean watching. To quantify this pressure, it is important to know what kind of vessels are involved in the strike, as well as the type, size and speed of the vessel. But it is also important to have information on the small cetaceans involved, in particular if the animals were engaged in certain behaviour such as feeding.

Ship strike can cause direct death or injury in cetaceans. Even collisions that are non-fatal might leave individuals with a reduction in their chance of survival. To determine the occurrence of ship-strikes, different sources are used. For small cetaceans, direct observations are the rarest. Necropsies of stranded animals can find evidence of characteristic trauma and photographs of animals that survived ship strikes can show typical injuries, such as marks left by propellers. One way to quantify how many animals in a population are impacted by ship strike is to assess the percentage of animals in a photo-identification catalogue that bear ship strike marks.

As this is still a not well documented threat, this section aims to obtain an overview of what kind of data and research is available and ongoing in the countries.

Questions:

11.1. Are there reports available in your country of ship strikes with small cetaceans from visual observations?

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) has a global database for ship strike incidents with small cetaceans. Whether or not your country is Party to the IWC, it is encouraged for countries to provide all ship strike incident information to the IWC database.

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide information from the reporting period in the table below.

| Has the ship strike been submitted to the IWC Ship Strike Database? | Region | Species (if known) | Date of incident (dd/mm/yy) | Contact (if available contact details of the observer) | Description of the observed incidence (Group size if other cetaceans present, dead/alive after collision, animal retrieval, animal being dead before collision, other information, vessel type/name, speed, damage to vessel or injuries to people) | Is there a necropsy report? | Websites, other information, photographs or publications: (provide links) |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. Link: | |
| Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. Link: | |
| Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | Choose an item. Link: | |

11.2. Are there reports in your country of vessel strikes from necropsies of stranded animals for the reporting period?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide information in the table below.

| General Information | | | Necropsied animals | | Comments |
|--|-----------------|------------------|---|---------|----------|
| Year | Region | Species | Number of animals with cause of death ship strike (e.g. animals showing ship strike markings ²) | | |
| | | | possible | certain | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | |
| Provide source of information and database link if applicable: | | | | | |

² These can be sub-acute (animal dies not immediately after the ship-strike) or chronic lesions (scar forming starts, but there is likely infection/inflammation) or healed lesions that are unrelated to the cause of death (although they could have affected an animals health status in the longer term).

11.3. 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?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide information below:

11.4. Is there evidence in your country from existing photo-identification catalogues of small cetaceans of any non-lethal ship strike during the reporting period?

For populations of small cetaceans, such as bottlenose dolphins, one can identify those animals in photo-identification catalogues of animals that show ship-strike evidence (e.g. scars). Monitoring the % of animals that show ship strike evidence can be a useful tool to monitor the development of this threat.

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide information in the table below.

Overview of ship strike evidence in photo-identification catalogues

| General Information | | | Photo-identified animals in the catalogue | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|---|---------|---------|
| Year | Region | Species | # individual animals in the photo-identification catalogue | # animals showing ship strike markings (e.g. scars) | | |
| | | | | possible | certain | Unknown |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose a species | | | | |

11.5. Do you have any other photographs or evidence of ship strikes outside of photo-identification catalogue?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide details:

11.6. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ship strike and its possible effects on small cetaceans in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

11.7. List any management/policy actions/relevant regulations/guidelines related to mitigating ship strike for small cetaceans (re-routing, tracking animals, ship speed limits) in your country and the year of implementation (current and planned).

Provide web links if available.

11.8. Have there been any other instances / issues of ship strike on small cetaceans in your country in the reporting period?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide details:

11.9. Is the perceived level of pressure from ship strikes on small cetaceans in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

To be done per species where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☐ **Not applicable.** Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. Potential physical impacts)

12. Climate change (incl. ocean acidification)

AIM: to illustrate progress on understanding, monitoring and mitigating negative effects of important and emerging climate change related impacts on small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions: 8.9, 8.4, 8.3, 7.4, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7

It is certain that climate change is altering the habitat of cetaceans. However, our understanding of how the predicted changes will impact different species and populations can be further developed by identifying issues and trends through reporting. CMS³ highlights the importance of addressing potential issues through the engagement of (1) researchers to better understand the underlying processes, as well as (2) conservation managers and policy makers to monitor changes and to mitigate negative impacts. Focus should be given to understanding tangible climate change effects relevant to cetaceans, such as changing ocean temperatures, prey depletion / prey range shifts, ocean acidification, increased frequency and intensity of ocean storms, changes in sea ice and weakening of the North Atlantic Drift. Such occurrences require that we gather evidence on the existence and nature of climate change effects on small cetaceans and evaluate current monitoring programmes and mitigation measures.

This section aims to provide an overview of what kind of activities are already ongoing in the member states to address climate change. The focus is on those actions specifically regarding cetaceans as well as the most likely impacts on their habitat and prey. Climate change possibly represents one of the most important future threat to the status of cetaceans in the ASCOBANS region. Direct effects may arise due to ocean warming, resulting in distribution shifts (generally northward) so that the animals continue to occupy waters with temperature regimes compatible with their thermal niches. Key indirect effects will result from changes in prey distribution and abundance due to ocean warming, ocean acidification and changes in ocean current systems.

Questions:

12.1. Does your country undertake monitoring that has potential to contribute to knowledge and identification of climate impacts on small cetaceans?⁴

Climate change will have a multiplicity of possible direct and indirect effects on small cetaceans. Attempting to quantify this is challenging, these questions are aimed to provide an overview of the type of monitoring programmes that are conducted that may provide indirect evidence of climate change on small cetaceans.

☒ **No.** Go to **Question 12.3.**

☐ **Yes.** Continue to **Question 12.2.**

12.2. Which effects has your country been monitoring during the reporting period?

Overview of monitoring activities related to climate change effects on small cetaceans. Please add additional direct or indirect effects if applicable.

| Monitoring activity | Comments (if possible, provide contact / link to project) |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean abundance | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean distribution | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean migration or movement range | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean migration or movement timing | |

³ [CMS Resolution 12.21](#) on Climate Change and Migratory Species.

⁴ This refers to direct and indirect effects.

| Monitoring activity | Comments (if possible, provide contact / link to project) |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean community structure | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in reproductive success and timing in small cetaceans | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in prey (fish) abundance and distribution | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in timing of prey (fish) spawning and migration | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in fishing effort | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in the occurrence of pathogens (from sampled individuals) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Incidences of algal blooms (if yes, where; specify year) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): | |

12.3. Relevant new research/work/collaborations which provide evidence/data about climate change, including its emerging potential issues and effects, on small cetaceans in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information); include the species concerned, the climate change effect observed, who did the work)

12.6. Have there been any instances / issues related to identified trends in small cetacean populations as a result of climate change in your country during the reporting period?

☒ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide details:

12.7. Is the perceived level of pressure from climate change to small cetaceans in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

To be done per species. basis where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☐ **Not applicable.** Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

13. Physical Habitat Change (e.g. from construction)

AIM: human activities in the Agreement Area have the potential to impact upon small cetaceans. Tracking those activities that cause physical habitat change and improving our understanding of their relative impacts will help shape any necessary mitigation action required.
Relevant Resolutions: 8.11, 8.9, 8.6, 8.4, 8.3, 7.1, 6.2, 6.1, 5.7

This section aims to review new information on physical habitat change, e.g. from construction, and its impacts on small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat, and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.

The collation of this information will contribute to the development of risk maps showing the spatial and temporal (by season) distribution of activities that have an impact on small cetaceans, including information provided in National Reports, taking into account the work done by other organizations.

Note: In the term “physical habitat change”, we include a) coastal/marine construction – artificial islands, harbours, bridges, oil/gas platforms, wind turbines, tidal turbines; and b) seabed damage – dredging, bottom trawling.

Questions:

13.1. Provide spatial information on locations (in form of maps and/or links) of physical habitat change in your country by activity type (dredging, marine construction, coastal construction) for the reporting period.

Many range states are mapping human activities to fulfil obligations under the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, MSFD, OSPAR, and HELCOM; this information is relevant (though often not readily accessible) to ASCOBANS in understanding the extent and trends of human activities potentially impacting small cetaceans.

| Region | Type of information (e.g. maps, GIS, reports) | Is the data available online? | Provide web link to data, or comment on unavailability |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|
| H Bornholm Basin | map | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | http://maps.helcom.fi/website/mapservice/ |
| H Eastern Gotland Basin | map | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | http://maps.helcom.fi/website/mapservice/ |
| H Gdansk Basin | map | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | http://maps.helcom.fi/website/mapservice/ |

13.2. Does your country have any reported cases of physical habitat change (e.g. dredging, marine construction, coastal construction) impacting small cetaceans during the reporting period?

☐ No.

☐ Yes. Please provide details:

| |
|---------------------------------|
| Provide web links if available. |
|---------------------------------|

13.3. Does your country have any mitigation measures (regulations/guidelines) to prevent impacts on small cetaceans during physical habitat change activities (e.g. dredging, marine construction, coastal construction)?

☐ No.

☐ Yes. Please provide details below:

Overview of mitigation measures related to small cetaceans and physical habitat change activities.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Measure: | |
| Industry: | |
| Activity type: | |
| Has the measure been effective? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments: |
| Other information: | |

Copy table if needed.

13.4. Relevant new initiatives/projects/publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) in your country during the reporting period on impacts from physical habitat change on small cetaceans (incl. title, organization, lead author).

| |
|---|
| Provide web links if available. |
| Pilot implementation of monitoring of marine species and habitats in years 2015-2018 |
| http://morskiesiedliska.gios.gov.pl/en/ |

13.5. Have there been any other instances/issues in your country regarding physical habitat change during the reporting period?

☐ No.

☐ Yes. Please provide details:

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

13.6. Is the perceived level of pressure from physical habitat change in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown?

To be done per species basis where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☐ **Not applicable.** Comments:

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

14. Other issues

14.1. List any other issues related to habitat change and degradation not mentioned above.

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

D. Management of Cumulative Impacts

15. Marine Spatial Planning

AIM: to provide information on existing and proposed marine spatial plans and processes during the reporting period that may impact small cetaceans.
Relevant Resolutions 8.9, 8.6, 8.3

A growing demand for use of maritime space increases pressure on ecosystems and marine resources. Marine ecosystems with good environmental status provide notable benefits to a number of economic outputs. Implementation of an integrated spatial planning and management approach can better mitigate negative impacts from maritime activities on marine environments. Spatial planning can support sustainable marine development through coordinated, coherent and transparent decision-making and the encouragement and identification of multi-purpose uses in relevant projects. Marine spatial planning is essential when selecting the most appropriate siting for marine-based projects. Particular attention should be given to critical habitat and relevant species, such as small cetaceans, in order to achieve good environmental status.

ASCOBANS Parties have agreed on a number of resolutions that support the integration of marine spatial planning into development processes. Small cetaceans benefit from good marine spatial planning and this is highlighted in the resolutions. Countries are requested to provide information relevant to their country in this regard.

Questions:

15.1. Please provide information in regard to current and foreseen marine spatial planning.

| | |
|--|---|
| National plans(s) and processes in force: | |
| National plan(s) and processes in preparation: | Maritime Spatial Plan of Polish Sea Areas in scale 1:200 000 |
| Further information, including links to online resources and maps where available: | https://www.umgdy.gov.pl/?page_id=2161 |
| Transboundary plans(s) and processes in force: | |
| Transboundary plan(s) and processes in preparation: | |
| Further information, including links to online resources and maps where available: | |

15.2. Have there been any other instances/issues in your country regarding marine spatial planning during the reporting period?

☐ No.

☐ **Yes.** Please provide details:

15.3. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine spatial planning in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

E. Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas

16. Protected areas, e.g. Natura 2000 sites

AIM: to provide information on existing and proposed marine protected areas with small cetaceans as part of the selection criteria.

Relevant Resolutions: 5.7

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are considered under numerous agreements (including the Convention on Biological Diversity, Habitats Directive, Bern Convention, Ramsar Convention, OSPAR Convention, HELCOM, ACCOBAMS, MSFD) as a tool to achieve conservation goals. Part of ASCOBANS remit is to provide expert advice on the conservation and management of small cetaceans. This includes inviting Parties and Range States to continue or initiate research aimed at locating areas of special importance to the survival (in particular breeding and feeding) of small cetaceans as suitable sites for the establishment of protected areas. This also includes advising on appropriate management measures in these areas, on their own or in the context of other intergovernmental bodies to ensure the protection of small cetaceans.

To monitor the progress of such work to fulfil the obligations of Resolution 5.7 and actions in the workplan, ASCOBANS requires information (e.g. location, species, status, spatial data, management plans and monitoring) on existing and proposed marine protected areas with small cetaceans as part of the selection criteria.

It is of particular interest to ASCOBANS to obtain an overview of the current scale of marine protected areas and to review best practice approaches to management of marine protected areas, in order to make recommendations to Parties.

Questions:

16.1. Does your country have MPAs (existing or proposed) where small cetaceans are the primary reason for the (proposed) designation?

☐ **No.**

☒ **Yes.** Please provide details/updates in table below:

Please copy the table for each MPA.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Name (full name of MPA) | Wolin i Uznam PLH320019 | |
| ASCOBANS Action Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jastarnia Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Sea Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> WBBK Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| <i>OSPAR / HELCOM sub-area</i> | Choose a region | |
| Size (m²) | 30791.95 ha | |
| Cetacean species forming part of selection criteria | Phocoena phocoena | |
| MPA status | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: |
| Date of designation (if applicable) | 2004-04 | |
| Legislation / Directive | <i>Habitats Directive)</i> | |
| Are there management measures in place? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Provide link: | |
| Link to shapefiles and/or or online map | http://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/wyszukiwarka-n2k | |
| Link to any other online information | http://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/wyszukiwarka-n2k | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Name (full name of MPA) | Ostoja Słowińska PLH220023 | |
| ASCOBANS Action Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jastarnia Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Sea Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> WBBK Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| <i>OSPAR / HELCOM sub-area</i> | Choose a region | |
| Size (m²) | 32955.3 ha | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Cetacean species forming part of selection criteria | Phocoena phocoena | |
| MPA status | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: |
| Date of designation (if applicable) | 2004-04 | |
| Legislation / Directive | Habitats Directive) | |
| Are there management measures in place? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Provide link: | |
| Link to shapefiles and/or or online map | http://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/wyszukiwarka-n2k | |
| Link to any other online information | http://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/wyszukiwarka-n2k | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name (full name of MPA) | Zatoka Pucka i Półwysep Helski PLH220032 | |
| ASCOBANS Action Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jastarnia Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Sea Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> WBBK Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| OSPAR / HELCOM sub-area | Choose a region | |
| Size (m ²) | 26566.43 ha | |
| Cetacean species forming part of selection criteria | Phocoena phocoena | |
| MPA status | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: |
| Date of designation (if applicable) | 2004-04 | |
| Legislation / Directive | Habitats Directive) | |
| Are there management measures in place? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Provide link: | |
| Link to shapefiles and/or or online map | http://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/wyszukiwarka-n2k | |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Link to any other online information | http://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/wyszukiwarka-n2k |
|--------------------------------------|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Name (full name of MPA) | Ostoja na Zatoce Pomorskiej PLH990002 | | |
| ASCOBANS Action Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jastarnia Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Sea Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> WBBK Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | |
| OSPAR / HELCOM sub-area | Choose a region | | |
| Size (m ²) | 243058.55 ha | | |
| Cetacean species forming part of selection criteria | Phocoena phocoena | | |
| MPA status | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: | |
| Date of designation (if applicable) | 2006-09 | | |
| Legislation / Directive | Habitats Directive) | | |
| Are there management measures in place? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Provide link: | | |
| Link to shapefiles and/or or online map | http://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/wyszukiwarka-n2k | | |

16.2. Does your country have MPAs (existing or proposed) with small cetaceans are forming part of the selection criteria?

☐ No.

☐ Yes. Please provide details/updates in table below:

| Name (full name of MPA) | ASCOBANS Action Plan | Region | Size (km ²) | Species forming part of selection criteria | MPA status | Date of designation (if applicable) | Legislation/ directive (e.g. Habitats Directive) | Is there a site- specific management plan in place? | Link to shapefile and/or online map | Link to any other online information |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Jastarnia Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Sea Plan <input type="checkbox"/> WBBK Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Common Dolphin SAP | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. (Copy drop-down to add more species) | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | dd/mm/yy | | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Link: | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|--|---|---|----------|--|---|--|--|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Jastarnia Plan <input type="checkbox"/> North Sea Plan <input type="checkbox"/> WBBK Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Common Dolphin <input type="checkbox"/> SAP <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | Choose an item. | | Choose an item. (Copy drop-down to add more species) | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable | dd/mm/yy | | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Link: | | |
|--|---|-----------------|--|---|---|----------|--|---|--|--|

16.3. Provide information on management measures, including regulations/guidelines, particularly relevant to small cetaceans in MPAs listed above. Including any temporal/spatial restriction of activities (i.e. seasonal fishery closures).

In order to monitor implementation of MPA management measures and make recommendations on best practice, we need to understand what management measures are being used and be aware of examples of what approaches are proving effective.

| Site Name | Pressure (add pressures per site as applicable) | Measure (add measures per pressure per site as applicable) |
|-----------|--|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

16.4. Provide details of existing or proposed monitoring schemes related to the effectiveness of MPAs / management measures listed above for small cetaceans.

Harbor porpoise monitoring is included in the protective tasks of the coastal Wolin National Park.

16.5. Relevant new research/work/collaboration relating to MPAs in your country.

In order to plan future approaches for MPA management and monitoring we need to be aware of current gaps and emerging issues.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information; include the species concerned, who did the work)

Representatives of the Maritime Offices, authorities responsible for the supervision of marine Natura 2000 sites, take part in the meetings of the HELCOM MPA MANET group which brings together people from the Baltic Sea region directly involved in the management of marine protected areas. The group's work is aimed at exchanging experiences, solving common problems and promoting good practices in the management of MPAs in the region.

Section III: Surveys and Research

A. Biological Information (per species)

1. Abundance estimates

AIM: to provide new information on abundance and life history parameters of small cetaceans during the reporting period.
Relevant Resolutions: 8.5, 8.4, 8.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7, 5.5, 4.7, 3.5, 3.3

Abundance estimates and information on life history are of critical importance for the determination of broader species attributes such as populations levels, health and overall status. These parameters can contribute towards determination of GES and provide a reference for mortality events. Abundance and life history parameters are typically assessed from monitoring programmes. Fluctuations in these parameters can provide insight into trends in populations. Information on abundance and life history parameters can inform the need for mitigation measures, and regional assessment of these parameters allows for a more spatially targeted and concentrated response to support national assessments.

In the ASCOBANS Area, small cetacean abundance and life history should be monitored in response to a number of ASCOBANS resolutions. Continued monitoring of these parameters is essential to understanding current status and trends.

Questions:

1.1. Please submit the relevant information on national dedicated surveys on abundance and distribution during the reporting period into the table below.

If additional space is required, please submit the information in an excel table. Attach maps separately, clearly marking which survey they apply to. **Note:** Information relevant to SCANS-III is to be provided in question 1.2.

| Region | Project | Time period | Method | Species | Animal abundance (including confidence) | Link to project/ report/ publication |
|--------|---------|-------------|--------|---------|--|--------------------------------------|
|--------|---------|-------------|--------|---------|--|--------------------------------------|

| | | | | | limits) if applicable | |
|---|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Choose an item. (Map of survey area) Puck Bay | Study of distribution and seasonality of porpoises in the Puck Bay. | 2017 - 2018 | (e.g. line transect, Photo ID, etc.) CPOD passive acoustic CPOD | HP Harbour porpoise | Nie dotyczy | Project POIS.02.04.00-00-0021 / 16 The report on the project will be published in 2020/21, by the Sea Station of the University of Gdańsk in Hel |
| Choose an item. (Map of survey area) Baltic Sea | Pilot project for the monitoring of marine habitats and species | | (e.g. line transect, Photo ID, etc.) CPOD, linia, transekt, | HP Harbour porpoise | GIOS | |
| Choose an item. (Map of survey area) Baltic Sea: Pomeranian Bay, Stilo Bank | Pilot project for the implementation of monitoring of marine habitats and species 2015-2018 | 03.2016-04.2018 | (e.g. line transect, Photo ID, etc.) | HP Harbour porpoise | GIOS | http://morskiesiedliska.gios.gov.pl/pl/ http://morskiesiedliska.gios.gov.pl/en/ |

Relevant information on distribution during the reporting period:

(Include species, method, time period, weblinks, and other relevant information)

1.2. Other relevant new research/work/collaboration on abundance estimates in regard to small cetaceans in your country during the reporting period.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study and information relevant to SCANS-III; web links to other relevant information)

1.3. Is the abundance of species in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown? To be done per species basis where applicable.

| Species | Increasing | Decreasing | Staying the same | Unknown | Nature of the evidence |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Choose an item. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

☐ Not applicable. Comments:

A. Biological Information (per species)
2. New information on life history parameters
2.1. Is there new information on the following life history parameters in the reporting period?

| | |
|---|--|
| Age of sexual and physical maturity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Inter-birth intervals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Calf and adult mortality rates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Potential reproductive span/capacity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Longevity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Diet | <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Only fragmentary data, not at the population level. Species: HP Harbour porpoise |
| Age and sex structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |
| Other relevant factors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe: Species: Choose an item. |

For each life history parameter, provide web links and details where applicable and add more species if necessary.

B. Monitoring Programmes

3. Overview of current monitoring and survey schemes

AIM: to provide information on the progress of monitoring programmes, relevant methodologies and aims thereof, and status of small cetaceans during the reporting period.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.11, 8.9, 8.8, 8.5, 8.4, 8.3, 7.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7

Monitoring programmes provide important data on biological and environmental attributes, such as population status, abundance and spatial-temporal distribution. They create opportunities for new research and development, including potential improvements to methodology for monitoring in terms of accuracy, practicality and cost efficiency.

In the ASCOBANS Area, application of coherent monitoring programmes focused on small cetaceans, which collect and provide objective, robust and comparable data, is a key component in understanding and improving the conservation status of small cetaceans through appropriate management. Parties have agreed to design, implement and support relevant monitoring programmes through a number of resolutions. Such efforts are also supported by legislation from a number of bodies which identify monitoring as a requirement in management systems. Additionally, Parties have been encouraged to coordinate their monitoring programmes, which promotes international cooperation and synergies. Parties have also been encouraged to review such monitoring programmes and propose improvements for the betterment of conservation efforts.

It is the interest of ASCOBANS to understand the current monitoring programmes utilised, their outputs, and future activities in the Agreement Area. Countries are requested to provide information relevant to their activities as well as potential improvements to such programmes and efforts.

Questions:

3.1. Are there national monitoring programmes that enable assessment of the Conservation Status of small cetaceans in your waters (i.e. provides abundance estimates and/or life history parameters and information on pressures)?

☐ **No.**

☐ **Yes.** Please provide an overview in the table below.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Within MPAs | Approach: <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Strandings <input type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: |
| | Target Species: (Copy drop-down to add more species) Choose an item. |
| | Institution(s): (Name, website, etc) |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Wider Seas | Approach: <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Strandings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: |
| | Target Species: (Copy drop-down to add more species) HP Harbour porpoise |
| | Institution(s): (Name, website, etc) Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection |

3.2. Please provide the relevant information with regards to aerial surveying activities.

| Number of surveys | Area covered | Species | Timeframe of survey |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 3 | Baltic Sea, Pomeranian Bay | HP Harbour porpoise | 05.-08.2017 |
| 3 | Baltic Sea, Stilo Bank | HP Harbour porpoise | 05.-08.2017 |
| | | Choose an item. | |

3.3. Please provide the relevant information with regards to Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM).

| Location of moored instruments | Timeframe of survey | Species | Make and model of instruments used |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| Baltic Sea, Pomeranian Bay | 03.2016-04.2018 | HP Harbour porpoise | Continuous Porpoise Detectors, Chelonia Ltd |
| Baltic Sea, Stilo Bank | 03.2016-04.2018 | HP Harbour porpoise | Continuous Porpoise Detectors, Chelonia Ltd |
| | | Choose an item. | |

3.4. Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other countries?

☒ No.

☐ Yes. Describe below:

| Programme | Collaborators | Links |
|-----------|---------------|-------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

3.5. Please provide details on any planned activities relevant to monitoring programmes.

Provide web links if available. Continuation of monitoring in two locations on the Baltic Sea: Pomeranian Bay and Stilo Bank. Planned start of monitoring in one location, the Baltic Sea: Gdansk Bay / Puck Bay.

3.6. Relevant outputs/findings from monitoring programmes to note.

| Species | Relevant outputs |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| HP Harbour porpoise | (Provide web links if available) |
| Choose an item. | (Provide web links if available) |
| Choose an item. | (Provide web links if available) |

B. Monitoring Programmes

4. Other research (not mentioned elsewhere in Section II, III or IV)

4.1. Please provide relevant information in regard to other research (not mentioned elsewhere in Sections II, III, IV).

| Project name | Institution | Duration | Aim(s)/Objective(s) | Method |
|--------------|-------------|----------|---------------------|--------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Section IV: Use of Strandings Records

A. Stranding Network and Strandings

AIM: to provide information on stranding events and demonstrate progress of stranding networks in understanding, monitoring and mitigating strandings of small cetaceans.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.10, 8.7, 8.4, 8.3, 7.4, 7.3, 7.1, 6.1, 5.7

Stranding of cetaceans is an ever-present occurrence and analysis through necropsy and sampling can provide indications of reason for injury and death. Stranding numbers also provide information on population status, abundance and distribution. Effective response to strandings contributes to the maintenance of favourable conservation status of small cetaceans and also has implications for animal welfare. Comprehensive stranding networks are a critical asset in managing small cetacean strandings and have resulted in large numbers of animals rescued and returned to sea. These networks also have the capacity to guide the public on animal welfare, human health and safety considerations during stranding events.

In the effort to mitigate the anthropogenic causes of these occurrences, Parties have agreed to measures through a number of resolutions. Continued monitoring of stranding causation and further developing guidance for best practices in stranding response and necropsies was identified by Parties as important tasks to pursue, as was setting up stranding response networks. This information is to align with appropriate sampling practices and countries should ensure that the data is available for researchers. Additionally, development and support of international strandings databases and regular reporting is conducted through relevant research institutes and stranding schemes. ASCOBANS Secretariat encourages the ongoing funding and support of engagement with organizations for further development of guidelines, best practices and maintaining dataflow for capacity building across stranding networks.

To better understand the extent to which stranding events occur and how these events are managed, it is the interest of ASCOBANS for countries to provide the relevant information on these occurrences within the Agreement Area, procedures undertaken in response to stranding events, necropsies and information on stranding networks.

Questions:

1.1. Is there a national stranding network in place?

- ☐ **No.** Go to **Question 1.4.**
☒ **Yes.** Please provide details:

Constant, long-term monitoring of beaches by the WWF Blue Patrol. Dead bodies of porpoises are collected by the Marine Station and the University of Gdańsk and subjected to further research as part of the statutory activities of the facility and external projects.

1.2. Does the national stranding network cover the whole, or part of the reporting country's coastline?

- ☒ **Whole coastline.**
☐ **Part of the coastline.** Please provide details:

A group of 200 volunteers monitor the coast for the presence of mammals and sea birds at least once a week. If necessary, volunteers keep an eye on the seals on the beach until specialists from the Sea Station arrive or secure the corpse (seals and porpoises) for examination or disposal.

1.3. Are necropsies carried out to determine cause of death?

- ☒ **No.**
☐ **Yes.** Please provide details:

The state of decomposition of the bodies of dead animals found on the beach usually does not allow to determine the cause of their death.

1.4. Is there a database of strandings?

- ☐ **No.** Go to question 1.6.
☒ **Yes.** Continue to question 1.5.

1.5. Is the data available online or downloadable on request?
☐ No.

☒ Yes. Please provide details:

The Maritime Station of the University of Gdańsk has been keeping a database on sighting, by-catch and finding marine mammals on the beach since 1990.

Since 2009, the WWF Polska database on the observation of sea mammals and birds has been in operation, with information obtained thanks to the WWF Blue Patrol.

Both databases constitute a complementary repository of reports on observations of live or dead mammals (seals, porpoises and whales) and seabirds.

The observations are made by WWF volunteers, employees of the Marine Station, ornithologists, fishermen, anglers, forest services, national park services, employees of maritime offices, tourists and walkers. http://link.wwf.pl/baza_ssaki/public/

Data on the results of the analysis of dead bodies of porpoises found on the beach are the property of the Maritime Station. Professor Krzysztof Skora of the Institute of Oceanography of the University of Gdańsk, in partnership with experienced European expert teams and are not widely available. The results are presented at the HELCOM SEAL (now MAMA) meetings as part of the work of the Baltic Sea Mammal Health Team.

The results of the analyzes have been submitted for publication along with the results of porpoise surveys from the area of occurrence of the Baltic population from other Baltic countries.

1.6. Provide details for the institution(s) responsible for a stranding database, responding to live-strandings, collection of carcasses, and for conducting necropsies.

| Responsible Institution | Responsibility | Phone number | Email | Website |
|--|---|--------------|-------|---------|
| The Maritime Station of the University of Gdańsk. | <input type="checkbox"/> Responding to live-strandings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collection of carcasses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necropsies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stranding database | | | |
| WWF Poland in cooperation with the Maritime Station of the University of Gdańsk. | <input type="checkbox"/> Responding to live-strandings <input type="checkbox"/> Collection of carcasses <input type="checkbox"/> Necropsies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stranding database | | | |

1.7. Are any cases photographed, measured or sampled even if not collected for necropsy?
☒ No.

☐ Yes. Please provide details:

1.8. Provide details relevant for recorded stranding events during the reporting period.

| Reporting year | Species | Region | Total animals stranded | Number of dead animals | Number of animals stranding alive | Response to live stranding (describe # of successful cases and methods used) |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | |
| | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | | | | |

1.9. Provide details relevant to necropsies.

| Protocol used for dissection methodologies, collection of samples etc. | Number of carcasses necropsied | What causes of death were identified? (add percentage if available) | Comment |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

1.10. Other relevant new research/work/collaboration on strandings and stranding networks in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

Section V: Legislation

A. Overview of Legislative Framework

AIM: to provide information on national, regional and international legislation and guidelines relevant to small cetaceans during the reporting period.

Relevant Resolutions: 8.10, 8.9, 8.8, 8.6, 8.5, 8.4, 8.3, 7.1, 6.2, 6.1, 5.7, 5.4

Legislation and guidelines are a key component of efforts to support favourable conservation status of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS Area. A number of existing legislation and guidelines bear relevance to conservation efforts for small cetaceans on national, regional and international scales. Regular updating and adaptation of guidelines and legislation (where applicable) can ensure ongoing prevention, minimization and reduction of negative impacts of marine activities on small cetaceans. In addition, these actions support transparent and reliable management.

Parties to ASCOBANS have agreed to support the requisition, development and the implementation of legislation and guidelines to assess, minimize and mitigate pressures on favourable conservation status of small cetaceans in the Agreement Area. Parties have committed to these actions through a number of resolutions regarding pressures known to be detrimental to small cetaceans. It is in the interest of ASCOBANS for countries to provide information on current and foreseen national, regional and international legislation and guidelines relevant to small cetaceans in the Agreement Area.

Questions:

1.1. Please provide the applicable information regarding legislation and guidelines relevant to small cetaceans in the table below.

| | |
|---|--|
| Are national guidelines relevant for small cetaceans currently in place in your country? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please identify the guidelines concerned: National program of Harbor porpoise protection http://www.gdos.gov.pl/programy-ochrony-gatunkow-zagrozonych-wyginieciem |
| Is national legislation relevant for small cetaceans currently in place in your country? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please identify the legal statutes concerned: All cetaceans are strictly protected. |
| Are regional and/or international guidelines relevant for small cetaceans currently in place in your country? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please identify the guidelines concerned: |
| Is regional and/or international legislation relevant for small cetaceans currently in place in your country? | <input type="checkbox"/> No. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Please identify the legal statutes concerned: The harbor porpoise is protected by EU legislation and international conventions - the Bern Convention, the Bonn Convention, and the Washington Convention. Poland is a member of these conventions. Close cooperation, inter alia, in the field of porpoise protection takes place especially in the case of the HELCOM convention and the ASCOBANS agreement. |

1.2. Have there been any instances/issues related to national, regional and/or international legislation during the reporting period in your country?

☒ **No.**
☐ **Yes.** Please provide details:

Section VI: Information and Education

A. Education and outreach

AIM: to determine if there are gaps in the outreach and education activities and if additional material should be produced in your country or by the Secretariat (e.g. on certain themes, species, regions, languages, for certain target audiences).

Relevant Resolutions: 8.13, 8.3, 8.2, 5.8,

ASCOBANS Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan⁵ was presented at the 17th Meeting of the Advisory Committee. The purpose of the CEPA Plan was to identify actions and activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat, Parties and relevant partners. In addition, the Advisory Committee recommended the following overarching principles: (i) Carefully identifying the audience – e.g. children, students, policy makers, fishers – and making materials appropriate to each particular audience; (ii) Noting that different localities, communities and cultures may require different approaches; (iii) Preparing outreach and education materials in relevant languages (including on the website); and (iv) Building joint initiatives with ‘partner’ organizations and others. The CEPA aimed for more effective engagement with audiences, greater impact upon audiences, closer relationship with key conservation issues; more effective connection with educational, fundraising and promotional initiatives; and more effective and easily understood communication of relevant areas of science. In this spirit, the purpose of this section is to highlight successes and to identify potential gaps in outreach and education activities and related materials.

Questions:

1.1. List education/outreach activities in the reporting period in your country, which are of relevance to conservation of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS Area (e.g. activities during the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise in May)

| 1.2. Organiser | Name of activity (incl. translation to English, where applicable) | Date(s) | Location | Target audience (general public, scientists, children, fishers; other – please state) | Links (for further information) |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|----------|--|---|
| Marine Station prof. Krzysztof Skora | Porpoise day | 15 V 2016 | Gdynia | Public | http://morswin.pl/2016/05/17/xiv-miedzynarodowa-morswina/ |
| Marine Station prof. Krzysztof Skora | Porpoise day | 21 V 2017 | Gdynia | Public | http://morswin.pl/2017/05/31/obchody-xv-miedzynarodowych-baltyckich-morswinow-ascobans/ |
| Marine Station prof. | Porpoise day | 19 V 2019 | Gdynia | Public | http://www.hel.ug.edu.pl/aktu/lastminut/MDBM |

⁵ See [AC17 Report](#), Annex 10 (starting on page 65).

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Krzysztof Skora | | | | | |
| Marine Station prof. Krzysztof Skora | Christmas card competition December 2016. | December 2016 r. | Hel | Kids | http://morswin.pl/2016/12/13/zaprojektuj-swiatekartke-pocztowa/ |
| Marine Station prof. Krzysztof Skora | Marine mammals symposium science and education under the 3rd project. | 29 III 2019 | Gdańsk | 203 teachers | http://hel.univ.gda.pl/aktu/lastminut/sympozjum |
| Marine Station prof. Krzysztof Skora | Marine Mammal Training | 19 VI 2017 | Hel | Policemen | http://www.hel.ug.edu.pl/aktu/2017/szkolenie_p |
| Marine Station prof. Krzysztof Skora | Outgoing classes for schools on marine ecology, including Baltic mammals | Annual program finished in 2016 | Polish costal zone | 56 schools, 4094 pupils | http://www.hel.ug.edu.pl/aktu/2016/blekitna_sz |

If necessary, add rows.

1.3. List current information/outreach materials produced in your country, which are of relevance to ASCOBANS Area and species.

| Name of publication (incl. translation into English, where applicable) | Author(s) | Publisher | Year | Links (to download publication) | Can ASCOBANS distribute the link to publication for outreach purposes? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|--|
| Our harbour porpoises | Marine Station prof. Krzysztof Skora | Marine Station prof. Krzysztof skora | 2018 | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| Baltic animals and others | Marine Station prof. Krzysztof Skora | Marine Station prof. Krzysztof Skora | 2019 | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

1.4. List other organizations engaged in outreach relevant to the ASCOBANS Area, incl. web links.

| |
|------------|
| WWF Poland |
|------------|

1.5. List other initiatives/work/collaboration relevant to the ASCOBANS Area that are not included above.

| |
|---|
| facebook.com/dommorswina (Marine Station prof. Krzysztof Skora) |
|---|

1.6. List any gaps in your country's outreach relevant to the ASCOBANS Area. What would be needed to fill these gaps?

1.7. Resources permitting, are there any materials that you think the ASCOBANS Secretariat should produce?

☐ **No.**

☒ **Yes.** Please describe what, and why:

Distribution of ASCOBANS information leaflets

Section VII: Other Matters

A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement:⁶

B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement:

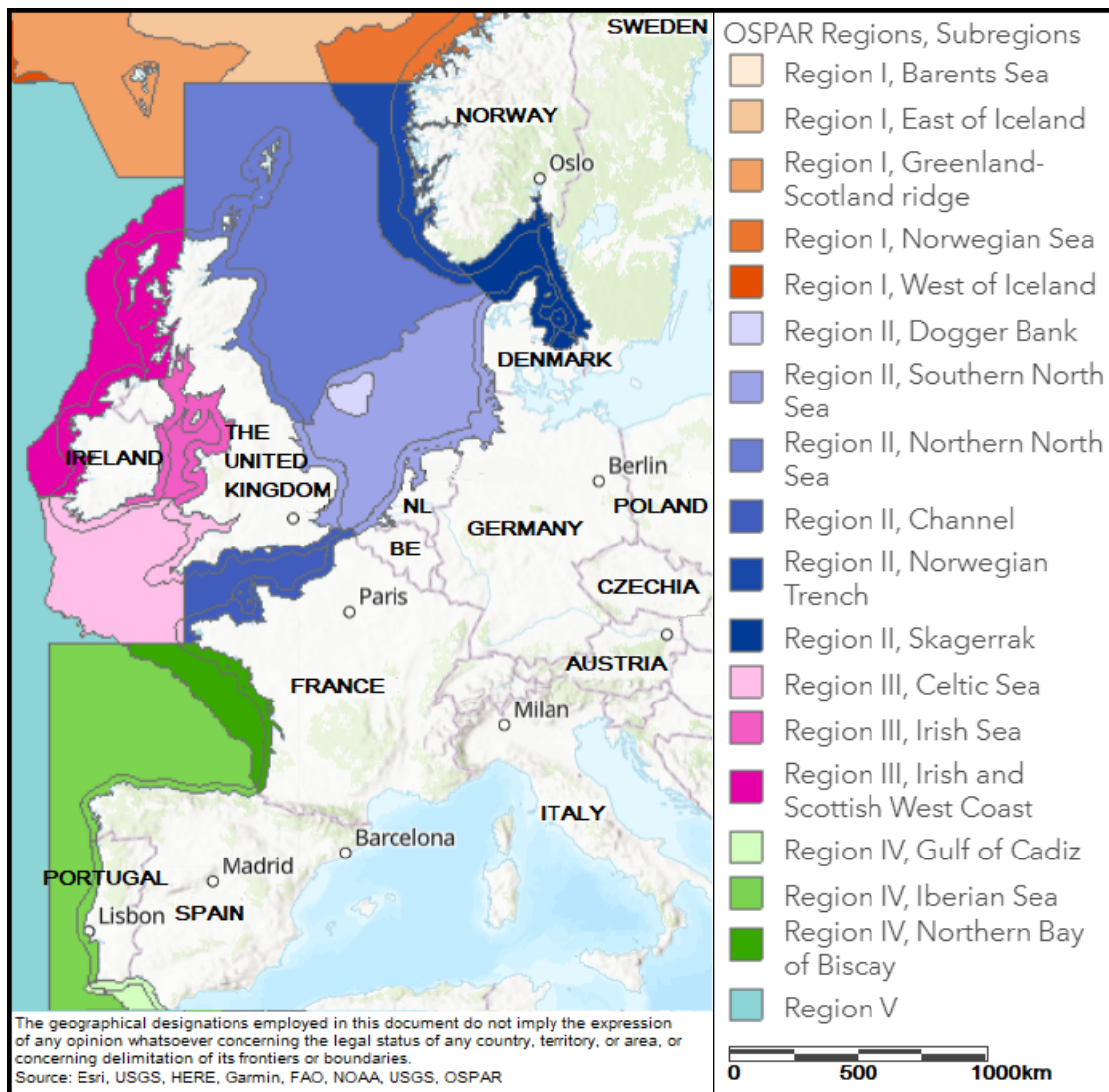
⁶ Opportunity to include other information relevant to the topics covered in this form but which are missing.

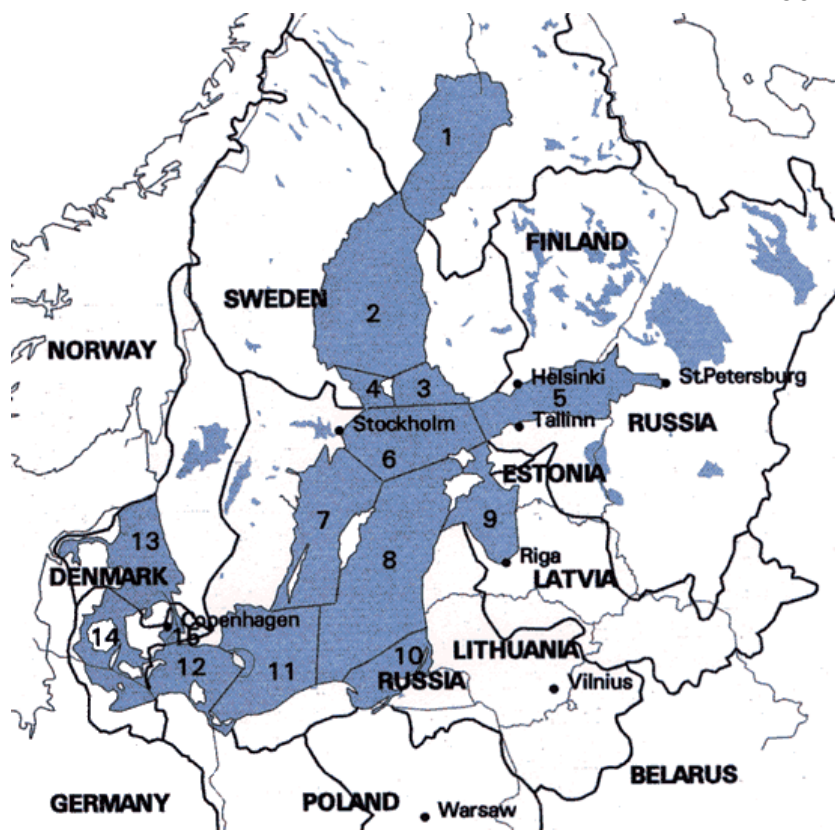
Annex A: Overview of the sub-regions as defined by OSPAR and HELCOM, and areas as defined by ICES.

Drop-down menu sub-regions OSPAR and HELCOM

Choose an item.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| OSPAR Region I Arctic Waters <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Sea OSPAR Region II Greater North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Dogger Bank <input type="checkbox"/> Southern North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Northern North Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Channel <input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Trench <input type="checkbox"/> Skagerrak OSPAR Region III Celtic Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Celtic Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Irish Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Irish & Scottish W. Coast | OSPAR Region IV Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast <input type="checkbox"/> N. Bay of Biscay <input type="checkbox"/> Iberian Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Cadiz OSPAR Region V Wider Atlantic <input type="checkbox"/> HELCOM <input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Bay <input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Archipelago Sea <input type="checkbox"/> Åland Sea | HELCOM cont. <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Finland <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Baltic Proper <input type="checkbox"/> Western Gotland Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Gotland Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Riga <input type="checkbox"/> Gdansk Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Bornholm Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Arkona Basin <input type="checkbox"/> Kattegat <input type="checkbox"/> Belt Sea <input type="checkbox"/> The Sound |
|---|--|--|





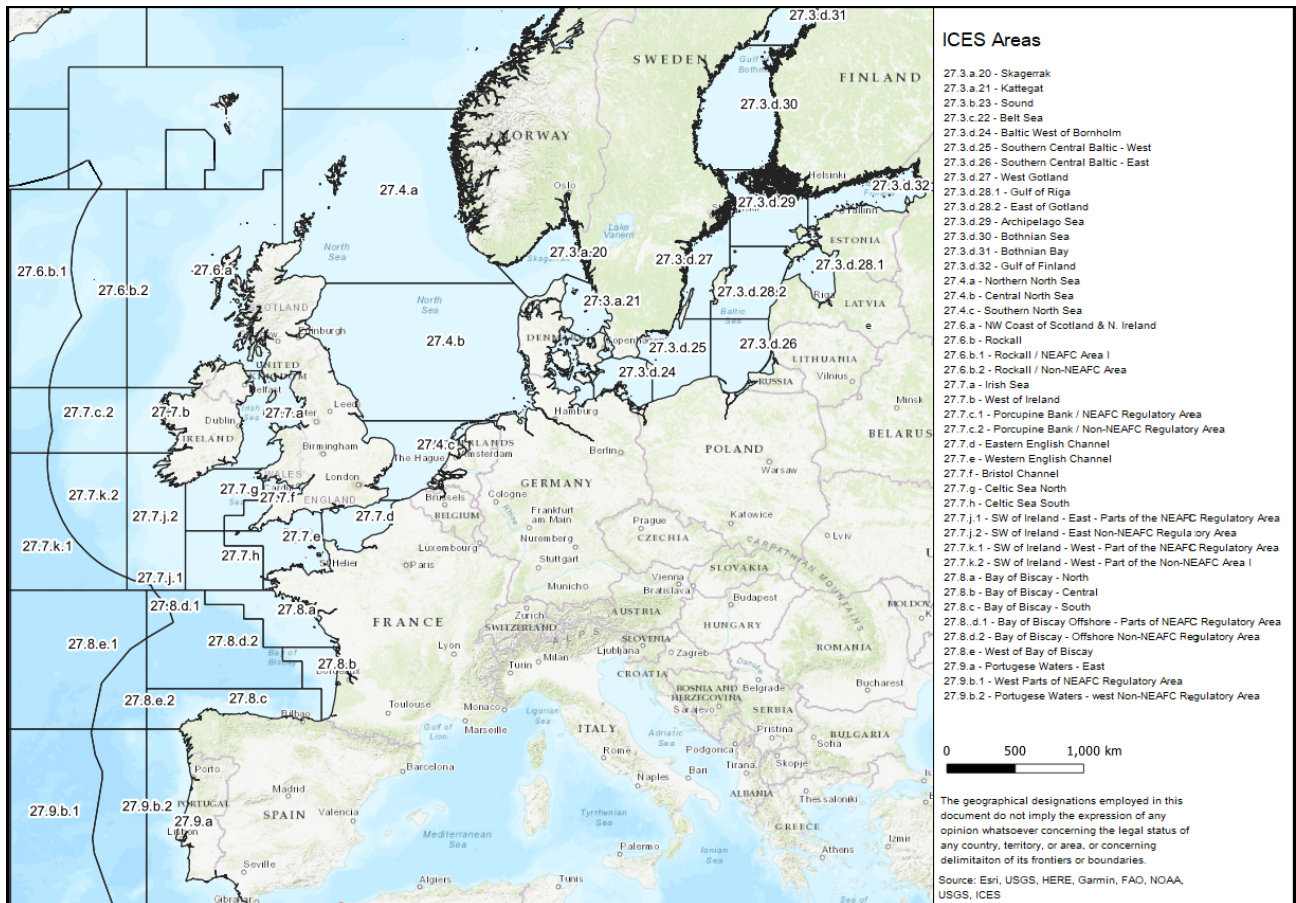
A map of the Baltic Sea drainage basins (catchment area), and marine subdivisions, including basins.

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
15. The Sound

Drop-down menu of ICES Areas

Choose an item.

| Area | Area Description | Area | Area Description |
|-------------|--|----------|--|
| 27.3 | Skagerrak, Kattegat, Sound, Belt and Baltic Seas | 27.7.b | West of Ireland |
| 27.3.a | Skagerrak and Kattegat | 27.7.c | Porcupine Bank |
| 27.3.a.20 | Skagerrak | 27.7.c.1 | Porcupine Bank / NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.3.a.21 | Kattegat | 27.7.c.2 | Porcupine Bank / Non-NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.3.b.c | Sound and Belt Sea | 27.7.d | Eastern English Channel |
| 27.3.b.23 | Sound | 27.7.e | Western English Channel |
| 27.3.c.22 | Belt Sea | 27.7.f | Bristol Channel |
| 27.3.d | Baltic Sea | 27.7.g | Celtic North Sea |
| 27.3.d.24 | Baltic West of Bornholm | 27.7.h | Celtic Sea South |
| 27.3.d.25 | Southern Central Baltic – West | 27.7.j | SW of Ireland – East |
| 27.3.d.26 | Southern Central Baltic – East | 27.7.j.1 | SW of Ireland – East – Parts of the NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.3.d.27 | West of Gotland | 27.7.j.2 | SW of Ireland – East – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.3.d.28.1 | Gulf of Riga | 27.7.k | SW of Ireland - West |
| 27.3.d.28.2 | East of Gotland | 27.7.k.1 | SW of Ireland – West – Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.3.d.29 | Archipelago Sea | 27.7.k.2 | SW of Ireland – West – Part of the Non-NEAFC Area I |
| 27.3.d.30 | Bothnian Sea | 27.8 | Bay of Biscay |
| 27.3.d.31 | Bothnian Bay | 27.8.a | Bay of Biscay North |
| 27.3.d.32 | Bay of Finland | 27.8.b | Bay of Biscay Central |
| 27.4 | North Sea | 27.8.c | Bay of Biscay South |
| 27.4.a | Northern North Sea | 27.8.d | Bay of Biscay Offshore |
| 27.4.b | Central North Sea | 27.8.d.1 | Bay of Biscay Offshore – Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.4.c | Southern North Sea | 27.8.d.2 | Bay of Biscay Offshore – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.6 | Rockall, NW Coast of Scotland and N. Ireland | 27.8.e | West of Bay of Biscay |
| 27.6.a | NW Coast of Scotland and N. Ireland | 27.9 | Portuguese Waters |
| 27.6.b | Rockall | 27.9.a | Portuguese Waters – East |
| 27.6.b.1 | Rockall / NEAFC Reg. Area I | 27.9.b | Portuguese Water - West |
| 27.6.b.2 | Rockall / Non-NEAFC Reg. Area | 27.9.b.1 | Portuguese waters – West Part of the NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.7 | Irish Sea, West of Ireland, Porcupine Bank, Eastern and Western English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North and South, and Southwest of Ireland – East and West | 27.9.b.2 | Portuguese waters – Non-NEAFC Reg. Area |
| 27.7.a | Irish Sea | | |



Annex B: Species covered by ASCOBANS

| Code | Common name | Scientific name |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| AWSD | Atlantic white-sided dolphin | <i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i> |
| BBW | Blainville's beaked whale | <i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i> |
| BD | Bottlenose dolphin | <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> |
| CBW | Cuvier's beaked whale | <i>Ziphius cavirostris</i> |
| CD | Short-beaked Common Dolphin | <i>Delphinus delphis</i> |
| FKW | False killer whale | <i>Pseudorca crassidens</i> |
| GBW | Gervais' beaked whale | <i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i> |
| HP | Harbour Porpoise | <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> |
| KW | Killer Whale | <i>Orcinus orca</i> |
| LFPW | Long-finned pilot whale | <i>Globicephala melas</i> |
| NBW | Northern bottlenose whale | <i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i> |
| PKW | Pygmy killer whale | <i>Feresa attenuata</i> |
| PSW | Pygmy sperm whale | <i>Kogia breviceps</i> |
| RD | Risso's dolphin | <i>Grampus griseus</i> |
| RTD | Rough-toothed dolphin | <i>Steno bredanensis</i> |
| SBW | Sowerby's beaked whale | <i>Mesoplodon bidens</i> |
| SD | Striped dolphin | <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> |
| SFPW | Short-finned pilot whale | <i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i> |
| TBW | True's beaked whale | <i>Mesoplodon mirus</i> |
| WBD | White-beaked dolphin | <i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> |

Drop down menu small cetacean species:

Choose an item.