

Agenda Item 2

Review of New Information on Threats and  
Other Issues Relevant to Small Cetaceans

**Document NR 7/Rev.1**

**2020 Annual National Report:  
The Netherlands**

**Action Requested**

- Take note
- Comment

Submitted by

The Netherlands



## ASCOBANS

# 2020 ASCOBANS National Report

The deadline for the submission of National Reports is **31 March 2021**.

As outlined in ASCOBANS Resolution 8.1 (Rev.MOP9) National Reporting, this form will cover the year 2020 (Year 1), and the following topics included in the Annex to the Resolution, in addition to the standard Sections I (General Information) and VII (Other Matters):

- Noise (impulsive i.e. piling and continuous/ambient i.e. shipping) (Section II B3)
- Ocean Energy (Section II B4)
- Unexploded Ordnance (Section II C8)
- Marine Spatial Planning (Section II D15)

The national reports submitted will inform discussions at the 26th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (8-12 November 2021).

- All questions apply to the reporting period of 1 January - 31 December 2020.
- 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 list provided, based on ASCOBANS species list, see **Annex B**.
- Throughout the form, please include relevant web links 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: [ascobans.secretariat@ascobans.org](mailto:ascobans.secretariat@ascobans.org).

## High-level Summary of Key Messages

**In your country, for 2020 (Year 1), what does this report reveal about:**

**The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement?(List up to five items)**

- >>> • Development of the updated Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise in The Netherlands
- Continuation and formalisation (e.g. WOT - statutory research tasks) of monitoring tasks
  - More holistic analyses of different national and international data sets at both national and international levels (for example from strandings as well as survey databases)

**The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement? (List up to five items)**

- >>> • Long-term funding of monitoring or new research projects
- Acquiring offshore animals (e.g. through bycatches) for post mortem exams
  - Methods for assessing cumulative impacts
  - Understanding the ecological role of the Harbour Porpoise in Dutch waters (and beyond).

**The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement? (List up to five items)**

- >>> • International cooperation with all stakeholders/parties involved on assessing bycatch for the North Sea harbour porpoise
- Development of alternative methodologies to make monitoring cost-effective and multi-targeted (e.g. High Definition aerial surveys, fishery monitoring, PAM, tagging)

# I. General Information

## A. Country Information

### Name of Party / Non-Party Range State:

>>> The Netherlands

### Details of the Report Compiler

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Function:

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

Yes

### Details of contributor(s)

Please provide the following details per contributor:

Topic(s) contributed to, Name, Function, Organization, Postal Address, Telephone, and Email.

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TNO. Postbus 96864, 2509 JG Den Haag Dr. F.P.A. (Frans-Peter) Lam, Senior Scientist. frans-peter.lam@tno.nl contributed to:

Ocean Energy (Section II B4)

Unexploded Ordnance (Section II C8)

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contributed and reviewed all sections

## II. Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

### 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: 9.2, 9.1, 8.11 (Rev.MOP9), 8.9, 8.6, 8.4 (Rev.MOP9), 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.

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

ICES Impulsive Noise Register (for HELCOM and OSPAR Parties)

Yes

National Registry

Yes, please specify (e.g. JNCC noise registry):

>>> Data on Unexploded Ordnance are collected by the Dutch Navy and shared with the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI)

Other

No

#### 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.

If you selected 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

Yes. Please provide details in the table.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Sec-II B 3.2 0 NL.xlsx](#)

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

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

>>> JOMOPANS: The aim of this international project is the development of a framework for an operational monitoring program for underwater sound in the North Sea. With measurements and models the underwater soundscape is mapped. The tools made in this project help policy makers, marine managers and other stakeholders to better assess where sound in the North Sea might have negative effects on marine life. The work is subsidized by Interreg for the North Sea Region. <https://northsearegion.eu/jomopans>

In 2015, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Rijkswaterstaat initiated an integrated monitoring and research programme to study gaps in our knowledge relating to the impact of offshore wind farms on the ecosystem of the North Sea. This so-called WoZEP Offshore wind energy ecological programme 2016-2023 envisages research on more fundamental and overarching topics related to effects of wind farms on indicator species, including the harbour porpoise. <https://www.noordzeeloket.nl/en/functions-and-use/offshore-wind-energy/ecology/offshore-wind-ecological-programme-wozep/>

SEANSE - Strategic Environmental Assessment North Sea Energy as an aid for Maritime Spatial Planning

(SEANSE). In the framework of the implementation of the Political Declaration on energy cooperation between the North Seas Countries a common environmental assessment framework (CEAF) for assessing ecological cumulative effects of offshore renewable energy development is being developed. One of the proposed framework approaches is a modelling tool to quantitatively assess cumulative impacts of piling for offshore wind farm construction on the harbour porpoise population (more information available via TNO).

TNO participates in the 3S-project, together with main partners FFI (Norway), SMRU (UK) and Cerema (Fra) and several associate partners; it is sponsored by the defense organizations or navies of US, UK, FR, UK and NL. In the 3rd phase of the project (3S3, 2016-2021) additional baseline and behavioural response data was gathered in from 2016 to 2019. This project has resulted in multiple peer-reviewed publications (currently more than 50) addressing different aspects of the response of animals to sonar sound and compare this to other types of responses. Three full Behavioural Response Studies (BRS) of 2, 3 and 4 weeks were conducted in 2016, 2017 and 2019. In 2019 the exposure experiments were supported by the operational frigate of the Royal Norwegian Navy, the KNM Otto Sverdrup. The cruise reports of 2016 and 2017 are available online. References (2019 and 2020):

Berges BJP, Geelhoed SCV, Scheidat M & Tougaard J (2019) Quantifying harbour porpoise foraging behaviour in CPOD data: identification, automatic detection and potential application. Wageningen, Wageningen Marine Research (University & Research centre), Wageningen Marine Research report C039/19 Quantifying harbour porpoise foraging behaviour in CPOD data: identification, automatic detection and potential application, pp. 41

de Jong CAF, Heinis F, von Benda-Beckmann AM & Binnerts B (2019) Testing CEAF in SEANSE case studies - Impact of piling for wind farms on North Sea harbour porpoise population. TNO report R11563.

de Jong K, Forland TN, Amorim MCP et al. (2020) Predicting the effects of anthropogenic noise on fish reproduction. *Rev Fish Biol Fisheries* 30, 245-268. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11160-020-09598-9>

Isojunno S, Wensveen PJ, Lam FPA, Kvadsheim PH, von Benda-Beckmann AM, Martín López LM, Kleivane L, Siegal EM, Miller PJO (2020) When the noise goes on: received sound energy predicts sperm whale responses to both intermittent and continuous navy sonar. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 223 (7) available at: <https://jeb.biologists.org/content/223/7/jeb219741>

Kastelein RA, von Benda-Beckmann AM, Lam, F-PA, Jansen E & de Jong CAF (2019) Effect of a Bubble Screen on the Behavioral Responses of Captive Harbor Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) Exposed to Airgun Sounds. *Aquatic mammals* 284: 706-716. DOI:10.1578/AM.45.6.2019.706

Kastelein RA, Helder-Hoek L, Cornelisse SA, von Benda-Beckmann AM, et al. (2020) Lack of reproducibility of temporary hearing threshold shifts in a harbor porpoise after exposure to repeated airgun sounds. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 148 (2), 556-565 available at <https://asa.scitation.org/doi/10.1121/10.0001668>

Kok ACM (2020) The noise of the hunt: Effects of noise on predator-prey relationships in a marine ecosystem (PhD Dissertation. Institute of Biology (IBL), Faculty of Science, Leiden University). Promotor(en) en Copromotor(en): Cate, C.J. ten, Slabbekoorn, H.W.; Visser, F. available at: <https://scholarlypublications.universiteitleiden.nl/handle/1887/138192>

Kok ACM, van Kolfshoten L, Campbell JA, von Benda-Beckmann AM, Patrick JO Miller PJO, Slabbekoorn H & Visser F (2020) Diving apart together: call propagation in diving long-finned pilot whales. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 223 (10)

McQueen AD, Suedel BC, de Jong C & Thomsen F (2020) Ecological Risk Assessment of Underwater Sounds from Dredging Operations. *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management* · March 2020 DOI: 10.1002/ieam.4261

Müller RAJ, von Benda-Beckmann AM, Halvorsen MB & Ainslie MA (2020) Application of kurtosis to underwater sound. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* 148 (2), 780-792

Sertlek HO, Slabbekoorn H & Ainslie MA (2019) The contribution of shipping sound to the Dutch underwater soundscape: Past, present, future. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics* 5ENAF 37 (1), 070010

Sertlek HÖ, Slabbekoorn H, ten Cate C & Ainslie MA (2019) Source specific sound mapping: spatial, temporal and spectral distribution of sound in the Dutch North Sea, *Environmental Pollution* 247: 1143-1157.

Soudijn FH, Van Kooten T, Slabbekoorn H & De Roos AM (2020) Population-level effects of acoustic disturbance in Atlantic cod: a size-structured analysis based on energy budgets. *Proc. R. Soc. B.*, 287, Article 20200490, 10.1098/rspb.2020.0490

Tsouvalas A. Underwater Noise Emission Due to Offshore Pile Installation: A Review. *Energies*. 2020; 13(12):3037. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en13123037>

von Benda-Beckmann AM, Wensveen PJ, Prior M, Ainslie MA, Hansen RR, Isojunno S, Lam FPA, Kvadsheim PH & Miller PJO (2019). Predicting acoustic dose associated with marine mammal behavioural responses to sound as detected with fixed acoustic recorders and satellite tags. *J. Acoust. Soc. Am.* 145(3):1401-1416. <https://doi.org/10.1121/1.5093543>

von Benda-Beckmann S, Geelhoed SCV, Kinneging N, van Kuijk B, Scheidat M & Versteeg S (2020) Assessment methodology for impulse noise: A case study on three species in the North Sea. *Arcadis*. <https://edepot.wur.nl/531594>

Wensveen P, Isojunno S, Hansen R, von Benda-Beckmann A, Kleivane L, van Ijsselmuide S, Lam FP, Kvadsheim PH, DeRuiter S, Curé C, Narazaki T, Tyack P & Miller P (2019) Northern bottlenose whales in a pristine environment respond strongly to close and distant navy sonar signals. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 286:20182592. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2018.2592>

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

>>> The Framework for Assessing Ecological and Cumulative Effects (KEC) focuses on effects of offshore wind farms, including the noise during construction. available documents on this are available here:

<https://www.noordzeeloket.nl/en/functions-and-use/offshore-wind-energy/ecology/accumulation-ecological-effects/framework-assessing-ecological-cumulative-effects/>

More information can also be found in the chapter "noise" of the updated conservation plan for the harbour porpoise, available at:

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/binaries/rijksoverheid/documenten/rapporten/2020/11/16/updated-conservation-plan-for-the-harbour-porpoise-phocoena-phocoenain-the-netherlands/bijlage-updated-conservation-plan-for-the-harbour-porpoise-phocoena-phocoenain-the-netherlands.pdf>

publications:

Booth C, Heinis F & Harwood J (2019) Updating the Interim PCoD Model: Workshop Report New transfer functions for the effects of disturbance on vital rates in marine mammal species, Report Code SMRUC-BEI-2018-011, submitted to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), February 2019.

Heinis F, de Jong CAF, von Benda-Beckmann S & Binnerts B (2019) Framework for Assessing Ecological and Cumulative Effects – 2018, Cumulative effects of offshore wind farm construction on harbour porpoises HWE: 18.153RWS\_KEC2018

von Benda-Beckmann S, Geelhoed SCV, Kinneking N, van Kuijk B, Scheidat M & Versteeg S (2020) Assessment methodology for impulse noise: A case study on three species in the North Sea. Arcadis.

<https://edepot.wur.nl/531594>

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

Staying the same

Please provide the nature of the evidence and describe per species (Annex B) where applicable:

>>> Underwater sound in the North Sea is likely to increase in the future. Wind park construction includes the removal (by explosion) of unexploded ordnance from the area. This as well as the piling activities will introduce impulsive sound. Wind farm operation is linked to an increase in local shipping for servicing of the parks.

Mitigation measures are in place to reduce input of (impulsive) noise. To what degree these measure will contribute to a reduction in underwater sound in Dutch waters can be assessed in the future.

The most relevant small cetaceans (as they are residents) for the NL North Sea are the harbour porpoise and white beaked dolphin. For the porpoise avoidance to impulsive noise has been shown.

## **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 (Rev.MOP9), 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.

### **4.1. Were there any new wind energy farms in development/construction during the reporting period?**

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue link button below.

Yes. Please provide details in the table.

#### 4.2. Were there any new wave power installations in development/construction during the reporting period?

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

No

#### 4.3. Were there any new tidal energy installations in development/construction during the reporting period?

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

No

#### 4.4. Were there any new tidal lagoon/barrage installations in development/construction during the reporting period?

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

No

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

No

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

>>> Windpark development is regulated by Dutch law (<https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0036752/2017-01-01> in Dutch). General information at: <https://english.rvo.nl/topics/sustainability/offshore-wind-energy>

To manage the pressure, specific sound level criteria need to be met during construction. These are regularly reviewed. For the construction of Borssele measures to limit or monitor the introduction of impulsive sound included a maximum sound level during piling of SEL @ 750m: 160-172 dB re  $\mu\text{Pa}^2\text{s}$ . Noise was to be monitored continuously and mitigated if the criteria were exceeded.

The Netherlands has developed the 'Framework for Assessing Ecological and Cumulative effects' (KEC). Sound Exposure Level (SEL) threshold value at 750 metre from the source for piling has been set for the construction of all offshore wind farms on the Dutch Continental Shelf. This threshold will remain subject to review as new information becomes available. In addition to the noise threshold, mitigation measures (Acoustic Deterrent Device (ADD), soft start) have to be used to encourage harbour porpoises to move away in order to reduce the risk

of hearing damage (Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS)). More information can be found in the Updated Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* in the Netherlands. available at:

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/binaries/rijksoverheid/documenten/rapporten/2020/11/16/updated-conservation-plan-for-the-harbour-porpoise-phocoena-phocoenain-the-netherlands/bijlage-updated-conservation-plan-for-the-harbour-porpoise-phocoena-phocoenain-the-netherlands.pdf>

#### 4.7. 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 information.

>>> Projects:

WOZEP Offshore wind energy ecological programme initiated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Rijkswaterstaat is ongoing to study gaps in our knowledge relating to the impact of offshore wind farms on the ecosystem of the North Sea.

Passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) was conducted during construction of the Borssele wind parks.

Publications:

Scheidat M & Porter L (2019) Chapter 2: Monitoring marine mammals. In: Wildlife and Wind Farms – Conflicts and Solutions edited by Martin Perrow. Volume 4 - Offshore: Monitoring & Mitigation. Pelagic Publishing. 330 pp.

Vrooman J, Schild G, Rodriguez AG & van Hest F (2019) North Sea wind farms: ecological risks and opportunities. North Sea Foundation, Utrecht, the Netherlands.

#### 4.8. Mark the perceived level of pressure from ocean energy in your country in 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.

	1. Status relative to previous years [Increasing, Decreasing, Staying the same, Unknown, Not Applicable]	2. Nature of the evidence
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Tidal lagoon/barrage	unknown	
Tidal energy	not applicable	
Wave power	not applicable	
Wind energy	increasing	planned wind park projects

Comments:

>>> The primary industry using ocean power in the NL North Sea is wind energy.

**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 (Rev.MOP9), 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.

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

Respondents may select multiple options.

OSPAR

**8.3. Have there been any other instances/issues related to the issue of unexploded ordnance during the reporting period in your country?**

No

**8.6. Is the perceived level of pressure from unexploded ordnance in your country increasing, decreasing, staying the same, or unknown?**

Staying the same

**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 9.1, 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.

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

No

**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.

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

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

No

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

If you select 'Yes', please provide details in **this table** - download and then attach it using the blue 'link' button below.

Yes

