

Agenda Item 2

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

**Document NR 6/Rev.1**

**2020 Annual National Report:  
France**

**Action Requested**

- Take note
- Comment

Submitted by

France

## 2020 ASCOBANS National Report

1 January – 31 December 2020

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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 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:

[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:

1. The most successful aspects of implementation of the Agreement? (list up to five items)
  - The launch of joint ASCOBANS-ACCOBAMS WG
2. The greatest challenges in implementing the Agreement? (list up to five items)
  - Reduce cetacean bycatch in the bay of Biscay
3. The main priorities for future implementation of the Agreement? (list up to five items)
  - SCANS 4 campaign, that we hope to implement in 2022

## Section I: General Information

### A. Country Information

1. Name of Party / Non-Party Range State:
2. Details of the Report Compiler

Name: Florian Expert  
 Function: Chargé de mission espèces marines protégées, focal point ASCOBANS  
 Organization: Ministère de la transition écologique  
 Postal Address: tour Séquoïa 92055 la Défense cedex  
 Telephone: 0140813209  
 Email: florian.expert@developpement-durable.gouv.fr  
 Does the Report Compiler act as ASCOBANS National Coordinator (i.e. focal point)?  
 No  Yes

3. Details of contributor(s)

Topic(s) contributed to: marine spatial planning  
 Name: Ilinca Mathieu  
 Functions: adjointe au chef du bureau  
 Organization: Ministère de la transition écologique, Sous-direction de la protection et de la restauration des écosystèmes littoraux et marins, bureau de la politique des écosystèmes marins  
 Postal Address: tour Séquoïa 92055 la Défense cedex  
 Telephone: 0  
 Email: ilinca.mathieu@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Topic(s) contributed to: marine energy  
 Name: Adeline Morlière,  
 Function: chargée de mission  
 Organization: Ministère de la transition écologique, Direction générale de l'énergie et du climat / bureau de la production électrique  
 Postal Address: tour Séquoïa 92055 la Défense cedex  
 Telephone:  
 Email: adeline.morliere@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

**Topic(s) contributed to:** underwater ordnances

**Name:** Benjamin Potié

**Function:** Chargé de mission gouvernance de la mer – gestion de l'espace maritime – environnement marin

**Organization:** Etat-major de la Marine, Bureau Action de l'Etat en mer

**Postal Address:** État-major de la Marine, 60 boulevard du général Martial Valin – CS21623 – 75509 Paris Cedex 15

**Telephone:**09 88 68 28 42

**Email:**benjamin.potie@intradef.gouv.fr

**Topic(s) contributed to:** noise

**Name:** Laura Ceyrac

**Function:** Chargée de mission en acoustique sous-marine

**Assistante responsable thématique D11 pollution sonore**

**DOPS/STM/ASM**

**Organization:** SHOM (Service hydrographique et océanographique de la marine)

**Postal Address:** 13 rue du Chatellier - CS 92803 - 29228 Brest CEDEX 2

**Telephone:**+33 (0) 2 56 31 21 86

**Email:**laura.ceyrac@shom.fr

**Topic(s) contributed to:**

**Name:**

**Function:**

**Organization:**

**Postal Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

Copy box if needed.

---

## Section 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.

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

<a href="#">ICES Impulsive Noise Register</a> (for HELCOM and OSPAR Parties)	National registry	Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable Specify : SIRENE (Sons Impulsifs : REgistre National des Emissions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Specify:quietMED

**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	
<b>TG Noise monitoring</b>	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.****Shom:**

**TG Noise: Assessment framework for threshold values for continuous sound and setting of threshold values: document to promote harmonized methodology to define threshold values for continuous noise at European Level**

**Acoustic monitoring of French EEZ (MAMBO): continuation of the monitoring program started in 2019 to estimate noise levels for MSFD. Several locations in the Bay of Biscay and Celtic Sea have been monitored for several weeks (at least).**

Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire (2020) : "Préconisations pour limiter les impacts des émissions acoustiques en mer d'origine anthropique sur la faune marine"  
<https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/guide-lutte-contre-bruit-sous-marin>

France (Ministry of Ecological Transition) wishes to propose a guide of Recommendations to limit the impacts of manmade underwater acoustic emissions on marine wildlife, and provide it to central and decentralized State services. This methodological guide should constitute a reference document able to provide knowledge and guidelines on the devices, tools and good practices that would ultimately avoid or reduce the impact of noise on marine fauna, especially on the most sensitive species, namely marine mammals (cetaceans and pinnipeds). This guide will be fully translated in English very soon. English version will be available later in 2021.

**IFREMER: Protection protocol for marine fauna during seismic campaigns (2019).**

<https://archimer.ifremer.fr/doc/00623/73519/73003.pdf>

**JONAS: Shom provided noise maps for the area**

**RAGES: <http://msfd.eu/rages/>**

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

MSFD GES assessment 2018: Assessment of the descriptor 11 (noise disturbance) in France. Scientific report for 2018 assessment into MSFD.  
[https://www.ifremer.fr/sextant\\_doc/dcsmm/documents/Evaluation\\_2018/Rapport\\_Evaluation\\_DCSMM\\_2018\\_D11\\_Shom.pdf](https://www.ifremer.fr/sextant_doc/dcsmm/documents/Evaluation_2018/Rapport_Evaluation_DCSMM_2018_D11_Shom.pdf)

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Choose an item.	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**Not applicable.** Comments:

---

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

### 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 (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.

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

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
<b><u>Projet éolien en mer posé de Saint Nazaire (Pays de la Loire) Eolien Maritime France</u></b>	end 2022	Choose an item.	<b>6 MW</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>Pile-driving</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:		<b>Soft start and Efficiency of the measure is checked with acoustic device networks to detect the presence of marine mammals</b>	
<b><u>Projet éolien en mer posé Fécamp (Normandie) Eolien Maritime France</u></b>	end 2023	Choose an item.	<b>6 MW</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>Gravity foundation</b>	<b>YesYes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:		<b>Soft start and Efficiency of the measure is checked with acoustic device networks to detect the presence of marine mammals</b>	
<b><u>Projet éolien en mer posé Courseulles-Sur-Mer (Normandie) Eolien Maritime France</u></b>	Middle 2024	Choose an item.	6 MW	<b>75</b>	<b>Pile-drivingPile-driving</b>	<b>YesYes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:		<b>Soft start and Efficiency of the measure is checked with acoustic device networks to detect the presence of marine mammals</b>	

<b><u>Projet éolien posé de Yeun- Noirmoutier</u></b> Eoliennes en mer Yeun- Noirmoutier (Pays de la Loire)	2026	Choose an item.	<b>8MW</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Tripod foundation</b> Tripod foundation	<b>Yes</b> Yes	<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:		<b>checked with acoustic device networks to detect the presence of marine mammals</b>	
<b><u>Projet éolien posé de Dieppe Le Tréport</u></b> (Normandie) Eoliennes en mer Dieppe Le Tréport	2026	Choose an item.	<b>8 MW</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Tripod foundation</b> Tripod foundation	<b>No</b> No	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: system to reduce of 7 db the acoustic emission		<b>Soft-start and ramp-up and Efficiency of the measure is checked with acoustic device networks to detect the presence of marine mammals</b>	
<b><u>Projet éolien posé de Saint-Brieuc</u></b> (Bretagne) Ailes Marines	End 2023	Choose an item.	<b>8 MW</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>Tripod foundation</b> Tripod foundation	<b>Yes</b> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:		<b>Soft-start and Efficiency of the measure is checked with acoustic device networks to detect the presence of marine mammals</b>	
<b><u>Projet éolien en mer posé de Dunkerque</u></b> (Hauts de France)	2027	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:			<b><u>Licensing ongoing</u></b>

<b><u>Projet éolien en mer flottant pilote Belle-Ile Groix EOLFI (Bretagne)</u></b>	2022	Choose an item.	<b>9,5 MW</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Other, please specify:ANCHOR</b> <b>Other, please specify:ANCHOR</b>	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:	<b>Yes</b>		
---	------	-----------------	---------------	----------	--	-----------------	---	------------	--	--

4.2. Please enter wave power installation data into the table below.

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.

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.

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
<b>Usine marémotrice de la Rance</b>	1966	Choose an item.	<b>10 MW</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Other, please specify:</b>	Choose an item.		<b>Tidal power plant using bulb turbines</b>
	dd/mm/yy	Choose an item.			Choose an item.	Choose an item.		

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

No.

Yes.

Please provide details:

At the moment for each farm, the government representatives lead two committees, one for general issues and one to support this group with scientific information, if necessary. Reflexions are ongoing to create 4 Committees, one for each of the 4 French maritime sea basin. Each committee will be supported by a scientific council of the sea basins The reference for monitoring offshore wind farms becomes the seafront instead of the farm. However, the sea basin committee could refer particular commission related to each farm to answer specific local questions. In addition, one national Committee should also be created. The aim is to be more efficient and treat subject at the right level. Impact on marine mammals is a good example of a subject which is broader than one project.

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

The French legislation on the environment requires mandatory impact assessment studies, ERC measures and the measure to follow the impact of offshore wind farms (OWF). In 2017, the Ministry of Environment revised the guideline to realise the impact assessment studies for OWF (Guide d'évaluation des impacts sur l'environnement des parcs éoliens en mer, Édition 2017) In addition, the Ministry of environment chairs a working group about cumulative effects with the aim to elaborate new guidelines in 2021. The pressures on marine mammals are identified as a priority in this working group.

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

The France Energie Marine Institute for the energetic transition is very active in the field of innovation for renewable marine energy and environment, their website is : <https://en.france-energies-marines.org/>

**4.8. 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 in 2020 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:**

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

### 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.

#### Questions:

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

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

**8.2. How many UXOs were detonated / released at sea?**

- 1-9  
 10-49  
 50-99  
 100+

Provide link to database if available:

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

- No.  
 Yes.

Please provide details:

The instability of seabed hardens the mine sweeping because an UXO can be release or disappear in a short period of time. Besides, it is safer to eliminate the UXO directly underwater because of potential instability due to corrosion state. This can lead many technical obstacles, such as depth intervention or UXO treatment within protected areas. It can be hazardous to pull up a submerge unexploded ordnance because of the danger of pulling up unexploded ordnances to the open air without the knowledge of their state of preservation. Based on our current knowledge, it seems safer to let unexploded ordnances submerged where their condition remain stable whereas to bring the open air, which could quicken their deterioration and hazardousness.

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

In French territorial seas, French navy is in charge of localization and treatment of unexploded ordnance. Specialised units are employed to lead operations to detect and neutralize unexploded ordnance at sea or on shore, with priority purpose to insure safety of life.

Moreover, special procedures in case of discovery of unexploded ordnance by sea users have been established. When countermining is not avoidable (it remains the privileged solution in case of threat for human life and when the unexploded ordnance cannot be moved due to its instability), operations are examined on a case-by-case basis according to an environmental and safety risk assessment. Moreover, measures to prevent environmental damages are taken such as wildlife dispersal and mitigation measures before and during explosion.

When countermining is avoidable or is not an acceptable option, the State representative at sea (Maritime Prefet) can decide an alternative way to handle unexploded ordnances such as gathering in a referenced munition warehouse or regulating the activities in the zone.

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

(  
**An ongoing interministerial working group is dedicated to unexploded ordnance issue in order to increase our knowledge of localisation and nature of unexploded ordnances, to collect scientific informations about conservation state and to strengthen the efficiency of our national environmental monitoring.**

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Increasing	<input type="checkbox"/> Decreasing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staying the same	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Please provide the nature of the evidence where applicable:			

Not applicable. Comments:

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

### 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.

#### Questions:

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

<p><b>National plans(s) and processes in force:</b></p>	<p>The strategic documents of the facade taken in application of the Maritime Spatial Planning Framework Directive are being prepared. Their strategic part (environmental objectives in particular) was adopted in 2019 and the operational part (action plans, monitoring program) will be adopted in 2022.</p> <p>France implements the MFSD along with the MSPD, within one single planning document for each marine region. It includes targets dedicated to the creation and/or development of marine protected areas, in accordance with France's new national strategy for protected areas.</p> <p>The new National Strategy for protected areas (2020-2030) also supports ambitious objectives to develop our national network, including strongly protected areas (10% of national lands and seas by 2030)</p>
<p><b>National plan(s) and processes in preparation:</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">/</p>
<p><b>Further information, including links to online resources and maps where available:</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/DP_Biotope_Ministere_strat-aires-protegees_210111_5_GSA.pdf">https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/DP_Biotope_Ministere_strat-aires-protegees_210111_5_GSA.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Transboundary plans(s) and processes in force:</b></p>	<p>France is currently involved in CetAMBICion project: shared by France, Spain and Portugal and financed by the European Union, it aims to facilitate regional cooperation in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, and to propose a coordinated strategy for the assessment, monitoring and management of cetacean by-catches in the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian coast sub-region. It involves 14 partners from the 3 States: ministries, public research and conservation organizations, professionals and NGOs. The project will last 2 years (2021-2022). The kick-off meeting was organized on March 9th 2021. This project has several components: sharing of knowledge between States, harmonized approach for the evaluation of the good ecological status, evaluation of devices in</p>

	connection with the professionals for the reduction of by-catches, communication and awareness.
Transboundary plan(s) and processes in preparation:	no transboundary project falling within the geographical scope (i.e. with UK and BE) or thematic (i.e. impacting cetaceans) of ASCOBANS is to be reported. If the exact meaning of "transboundary" includes national projects likely to have an impact on a neighbouring State (and not only projects carried out jointly), only wind projects are already the subject of a specific part of the questionnaire.
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:

Ministry of Seas recently created
-----------------------------------

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

EU project SIMNORAT (Supporting the Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the North Atlantic Region): <a href="http://www.msp-platform.eu/projects/supporting-implementation-maritime-spatial-planning-north-atlantic-region">www.msp-platform.eu/projects/supporting-implementation-maritime-spatial-planning-north-atlantic-region</a>
---

## Section VII: Other Matters

A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement:<sup>1</sup>

--

B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement:

See "key messages" above mentioned
------------------------------------

C. Burning issues:

--

<sup>1</sup> Opportunity to include other information relevant to the topics covered in this form but which are missing.

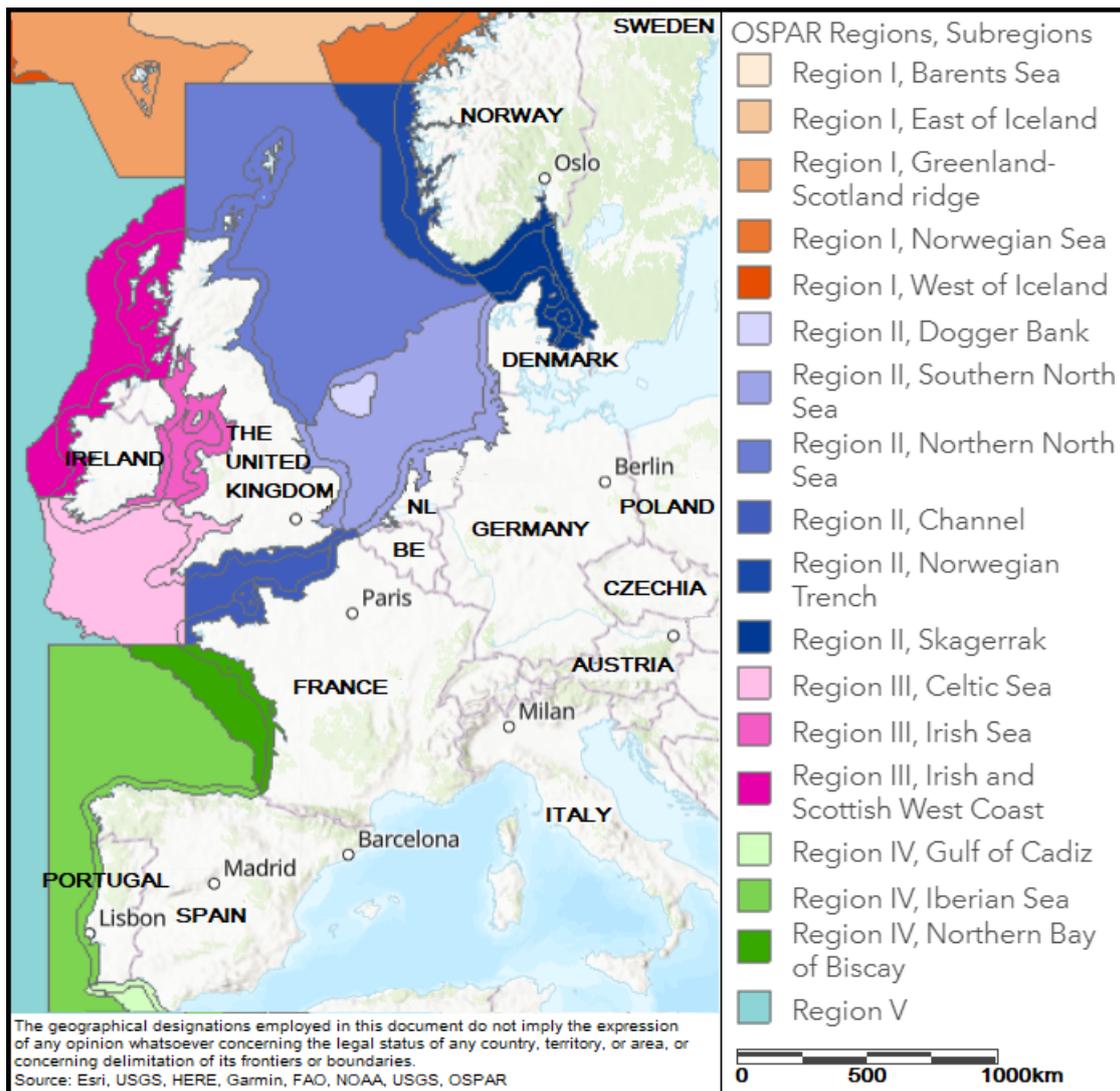


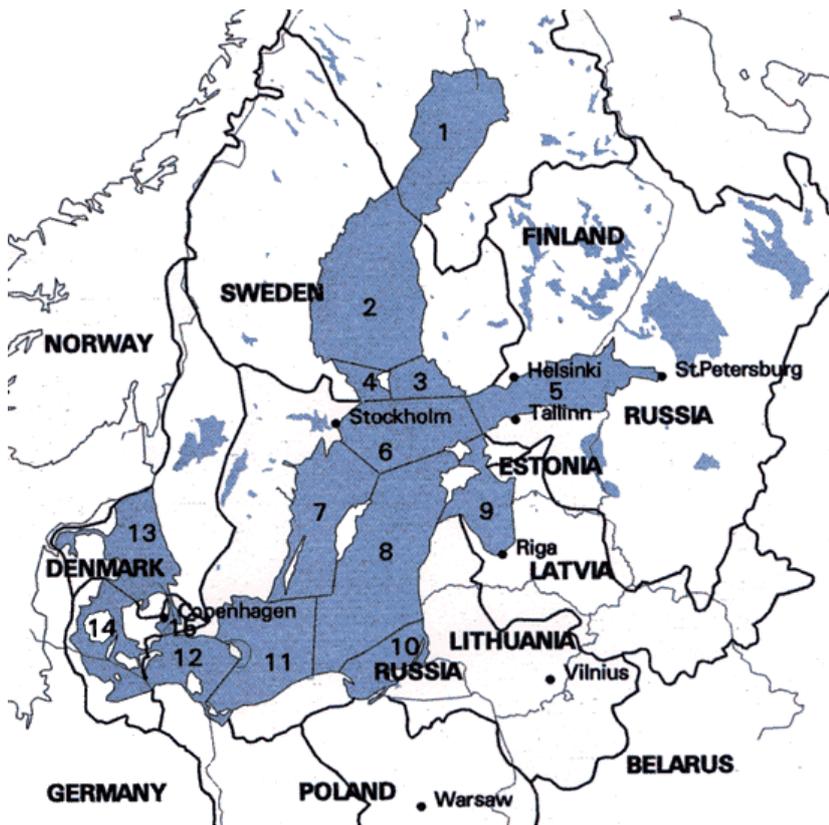
**Annex A: Overview of the sub-regions as defined by OSPAR and HELCOM, and areas as defined by ICES.**

**Drop-down menu sub-regions OSPAR and HELCOM**

Choose an item.

<p><b>OSPAR Region I Arctic Waters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Sea</li> </ul> <p><b>OSPAR Region II Greater North Sea</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dogger Bank</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Southern North Sea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Northern North Sea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Channel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Norwegian Trench</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Skagerrak</li> </ul> <p><b>OSPAR Region III Celtic Sea</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Celtic Sea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Irish Sea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Irish &amp; Scottish W. Coast</li> </ul>	<p><b>OSPAR Region IV Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> N. Bay of Biscay</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Iberian Sea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Cadiz</li> </ul> <p><b>OSPAR Region V Wider Atlantic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul> <p><b>HELCOM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Bay</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bothnian Sea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Archipelago Sea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Åland Sea</li> </ul>	<p><b>HELCOM cont.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Finland</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Northern Baltic Proper</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Western Gotland Basin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Gotland Basin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gulf of Riga</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gdansk Basin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bornholm Basin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Arkona Basin</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Kattegat</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Belt Sea</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The Sound</li> </ul>
---	--	--





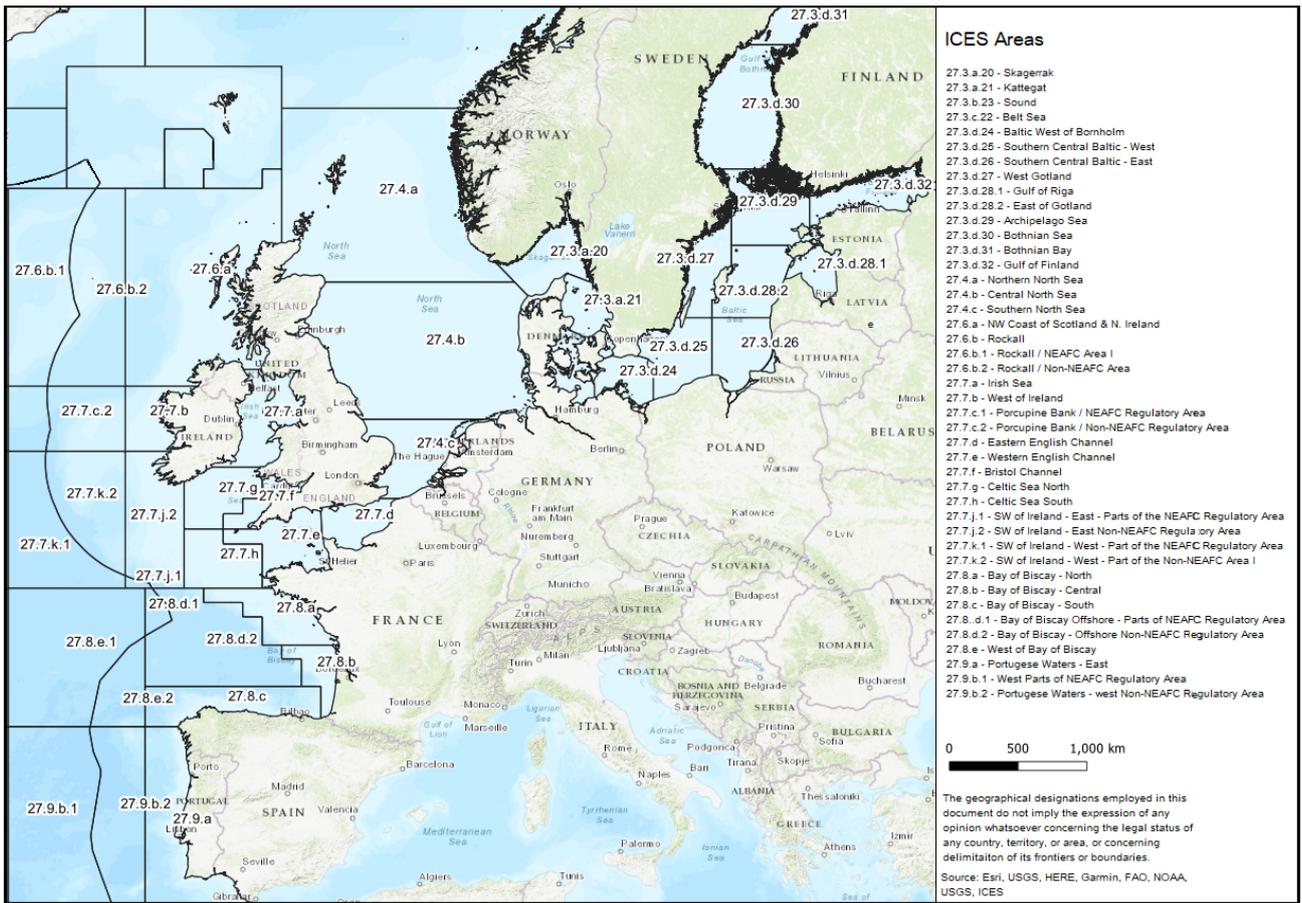
A map of the Baltic Sea drainage basins (catchment area), and marine subdivisions, including basins.

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	Wet 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.