

the ICES Special Request Advice regarding the emergency measures to prevent bycatch of harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea and the follow-up

1st Meeting of the Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Bycatch Working Group

Online, 10-12 February 2021

Kate Kaminska in cooperation with Julia Carlström

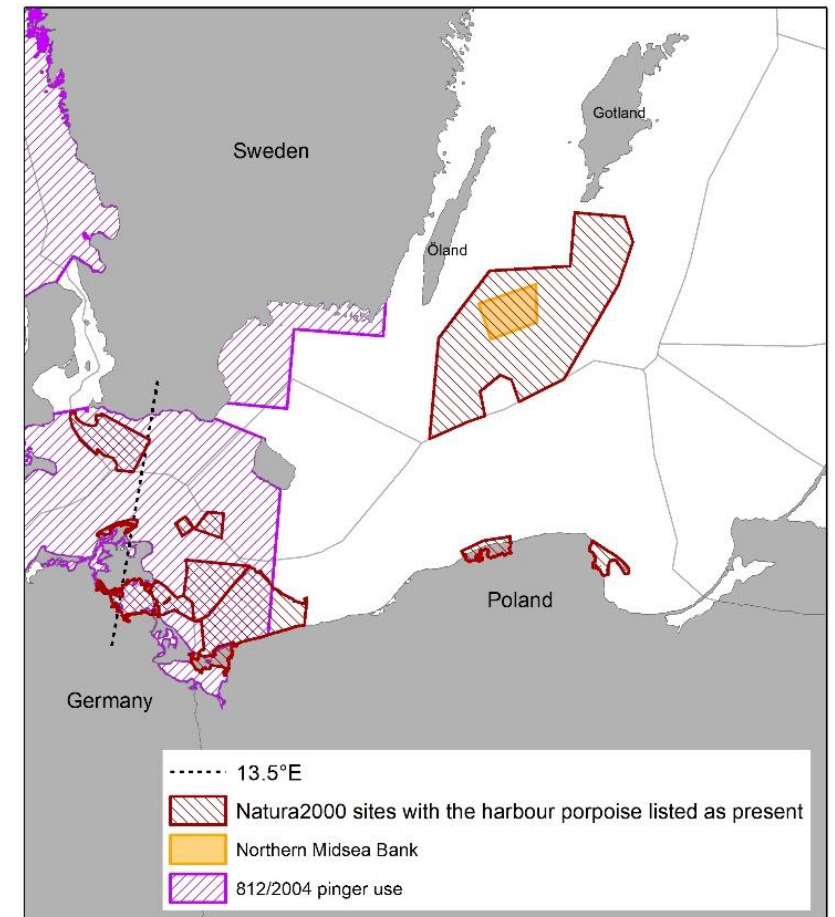


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NGO proposal to EC: bycatch reduction

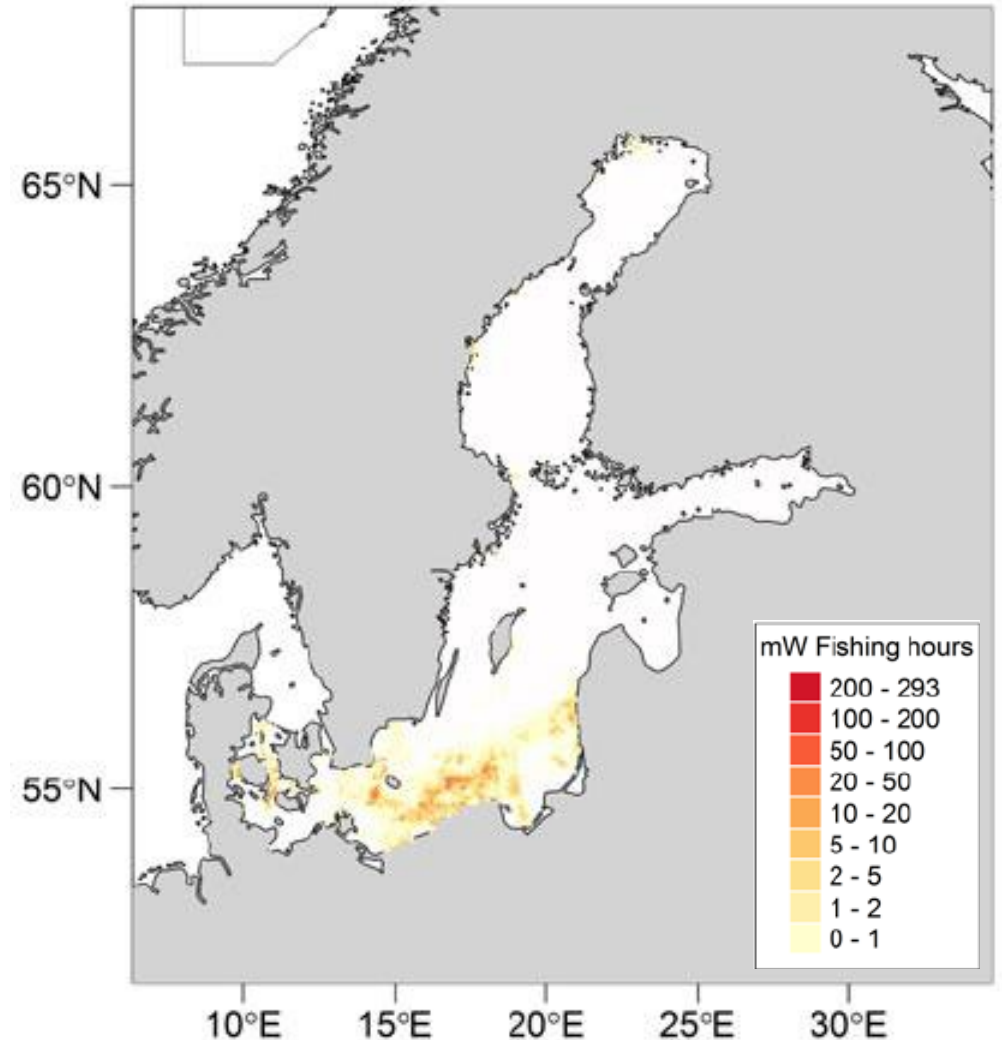
for critically endangered Baltic Proper harbour porpoise

- Close the Northern Midsea Bank for all fisheries
- Between 13.5°E and 60°N:
 - Close all N2000 sites with HP listed as present for gillnet fisheries
 - Mandatory pinger use on all gillnets outside N2000 sites



NGO proposal: monitoring

- Accurate recording of fishing effort and gear type used
- Dedicated electronic monitoring of all gillnet vessels in the region
- Monitoring and adaptive management/mitigation measures of gillnet fisheries



DGMARE Special Request to ICES *on HP*

Concerning **harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea**, ICES is requested, on the basis of material provided by NGOs and any other available relevant information, to:

- Step 1:
 - **review the current conservation status and threats to the population**, including the threat due to commercial fisheries by-catches, taking account of any further relevant information, including the material provided by NGO.
 - **evaluate whether the measures described by NGO are necessary and appropriate**, in the context of EU law, in particular CPF (EU Reg 1380/2013), Technical measures (EU Reg 1241/2019) and HD (Council Directive 92/43/EEC).
- Step 2: **if evaluated measures are deemed inappropriate, to advise on any alternative measure that could be used to ensure a satisfactory conservation status of this stock**, in the context of EU law as above.

ICES WG Marine Mammal Ecology: conclusions

- To reach PBR mortality limit, bycatches must be reduced to <1 animal/year
- Pinger reduce but do not eliminate bycatches
- To reach the PBR limit, all fisheries with static nets within the seasonal distribution ranges of the Baltic Proper HP must be closed



KKaminska

WGMME: further recommendations

- Baltic-wide optimized national acoustic monitoring
- Repeated large-scale population surveys
- Collection, necropsy and sampling of stranded animals for studies of health, reproductive parameters, environmental pollutants, and spatio-temporal distribution pattern (genetic analyses)



ICES WG Bycatch of Protected Species - main conclusions

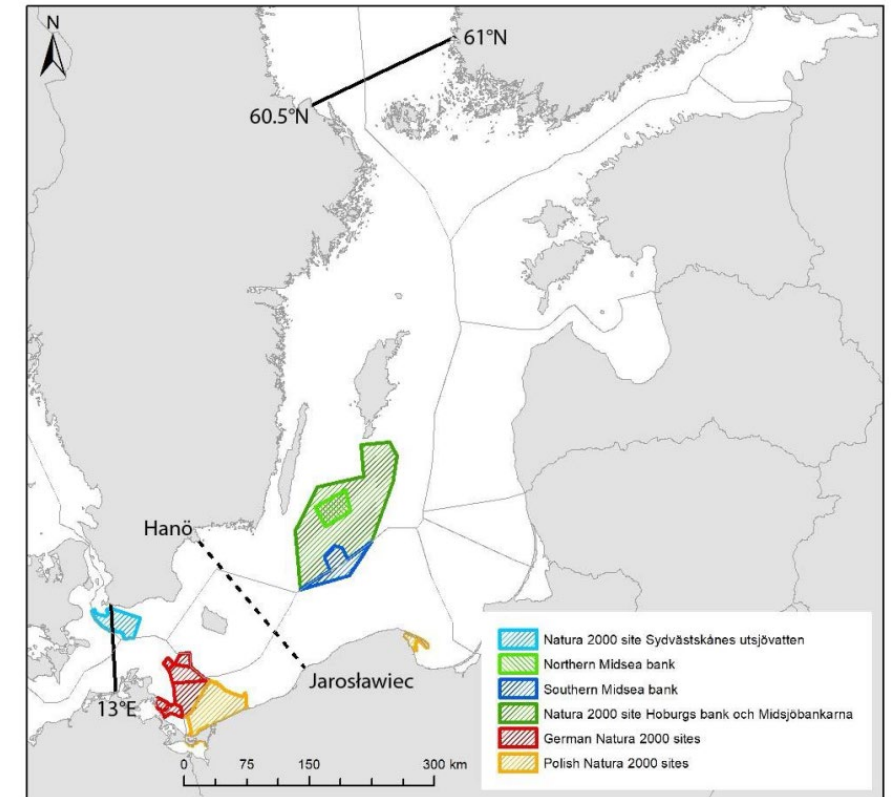
1. **The most important Natura 2000 sites for harbour porpoise** : *Hoburgs Bank och midsjöbankarna; Pommersche Bucht-Rönnebank; Wolin i Uznam and Ostoja na Zatoce Pomorskiej and Zatoka Pucka i Półwysep Helski*;
2. **Closure of fisheries in these areas would reduce bycatch risk** but it may not contribute to a significant improvement of the population status due to low fishing effort in most of these sites;
3. **Other high porpoise density areas, out with Natura2000 sites** that coincide with higher gillnet fishing effort **were identified** (SAMBAH);
4. **Pingers have been shown to reduce bycatch rates in gillnets by 50-80%** but not eliminate it;
5. **Cluster of closed protected areas should be established.** Interconnected of small Natura 2000 areas in German waters with an area in between (not designated for harbour porpoise) would form a rather large area within which measures could be taken that will likely have a positive effect on the population.

WKEMBYC: proposed appropriate emergency measures

(reports from WGMME and WG BYC used)

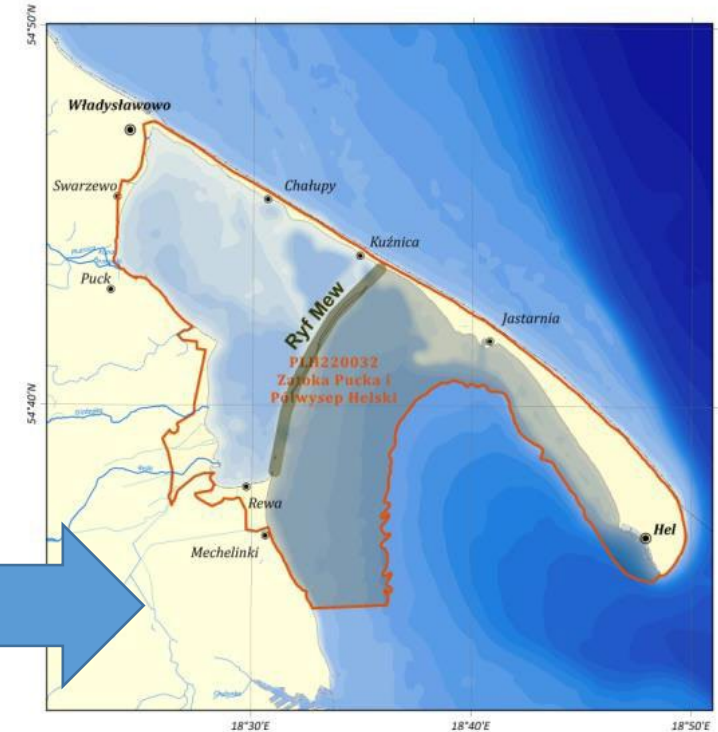
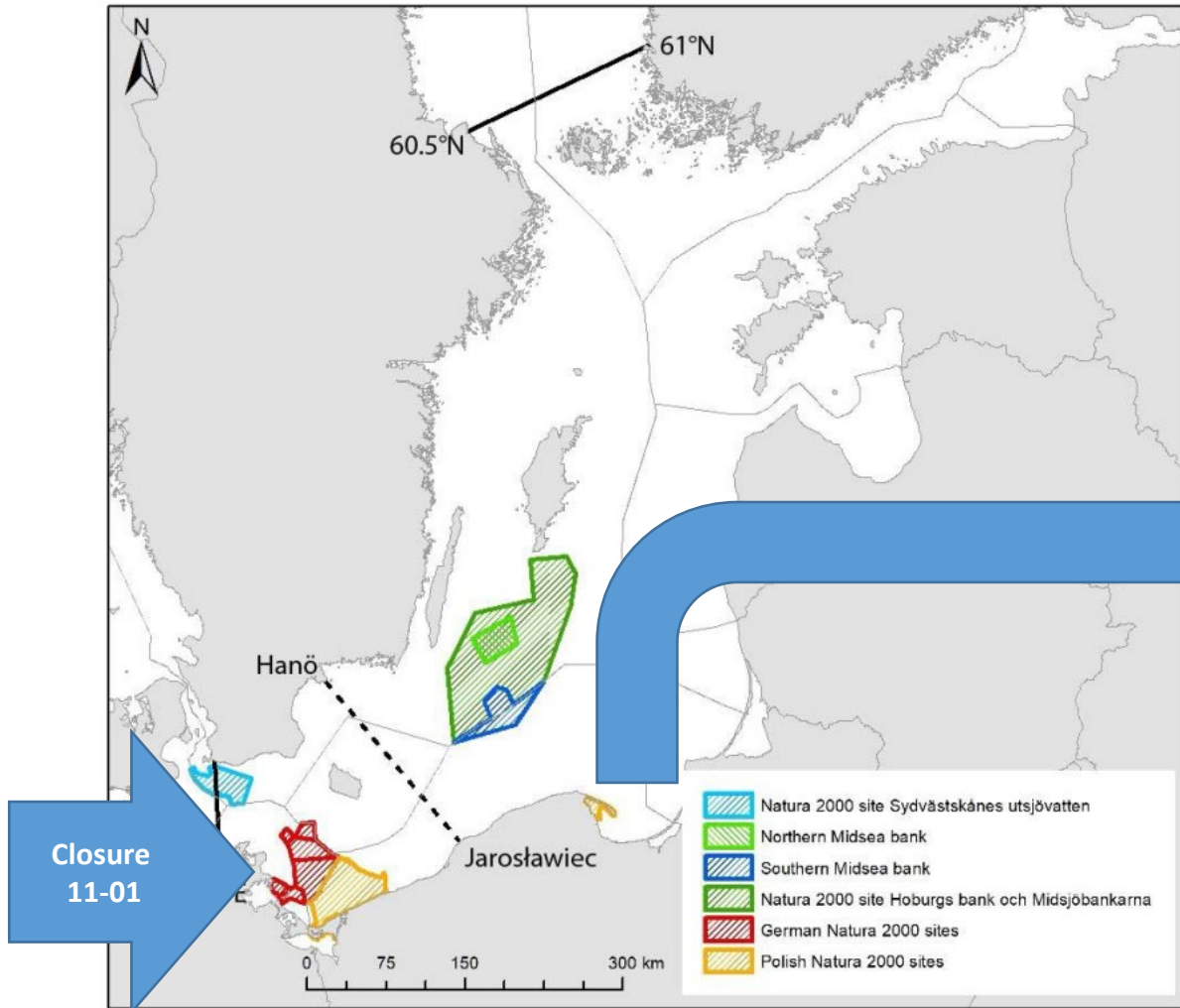
Major changes to NGO proposal:

- Adopted the seasonal ranges proposed by WGMME (for both pingers and closures)
- Opened for use of pots, traps etc at Northern Midsea Bank
- Added closure of Southern Midsea Bank
- Added closure of German N2000 site under Birds Directive to form a big cluster
- No closure of one small coastal Polish N2000 site (Ostoja Słowińska, PLH220023)
- Opened for pinger use in inner part of Puck Bay N2000 site
- Added several monitoring recommendations



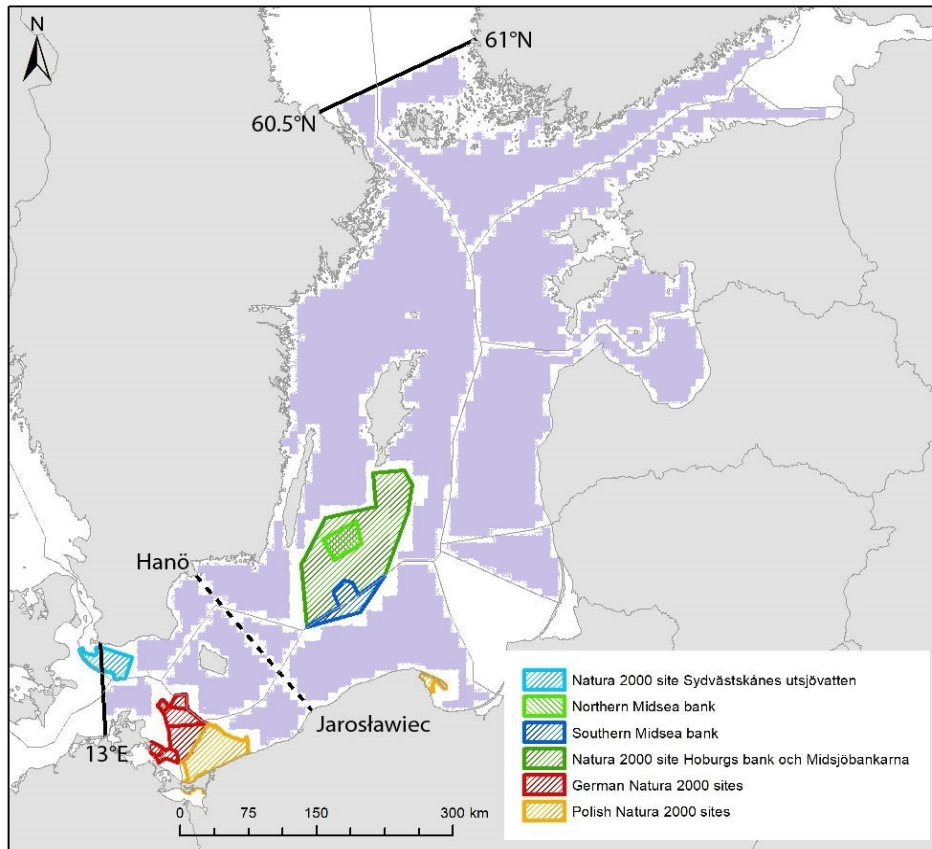
Next steps in formulation of the final advice: ADGBYC and ACOM decision

The final ICES special request advice on bycatch mitigation measures for the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise – closed areas for the use of static nets

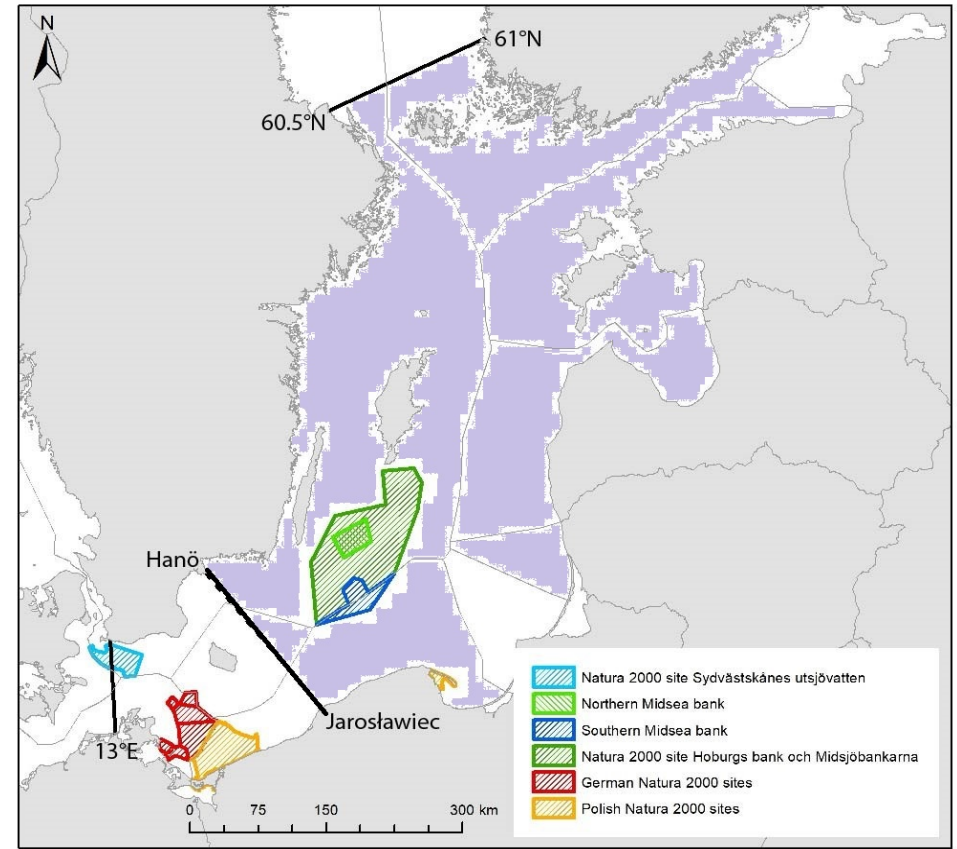


The ICES advice from 26 of May 2020: *EU request on emergency measures to prevent bycatch of common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) and Baltic Proper harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Northeast Atlantic.*
<http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2020/2020/byc.eu.pdf>

The ICES advice on bycatch mitigation measures for the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise –obligatory use of ADDs on static nets.



Winter – Nov-April



Summer May-Oct

Monitoring requirements

Measure	Rationale
Accurate spatio-temporal recording of fishing effort (in appropriate metrics on métiers used by all vessels)	Detailed information on fishing effort to estimate bycatch, evaluate the temporal and spatial distribution risk of bycatch for different métiers, and to evaluate the effectiveness of implemented bycatch mitigation measures.
Increased dedicated monitoring of bycatch of PETS	Ensure representative recording of bycatch events.
Monitoring of harbour porpoise occurrence	Ensure operational data availability on detection rates of harbour porpoise in key habitats in response to the implementation of pinger use.
Compliance control of mitigation measures (pinger use)	Ensure the use and functionality of acoustic deterrence devices.

EU Emergency measures proposal – July 2020

In accordance with ICES advice, except for the closure for the use of static nets in the PL-DE cluster from **Nov to April** instead of **Nov to Jan**.

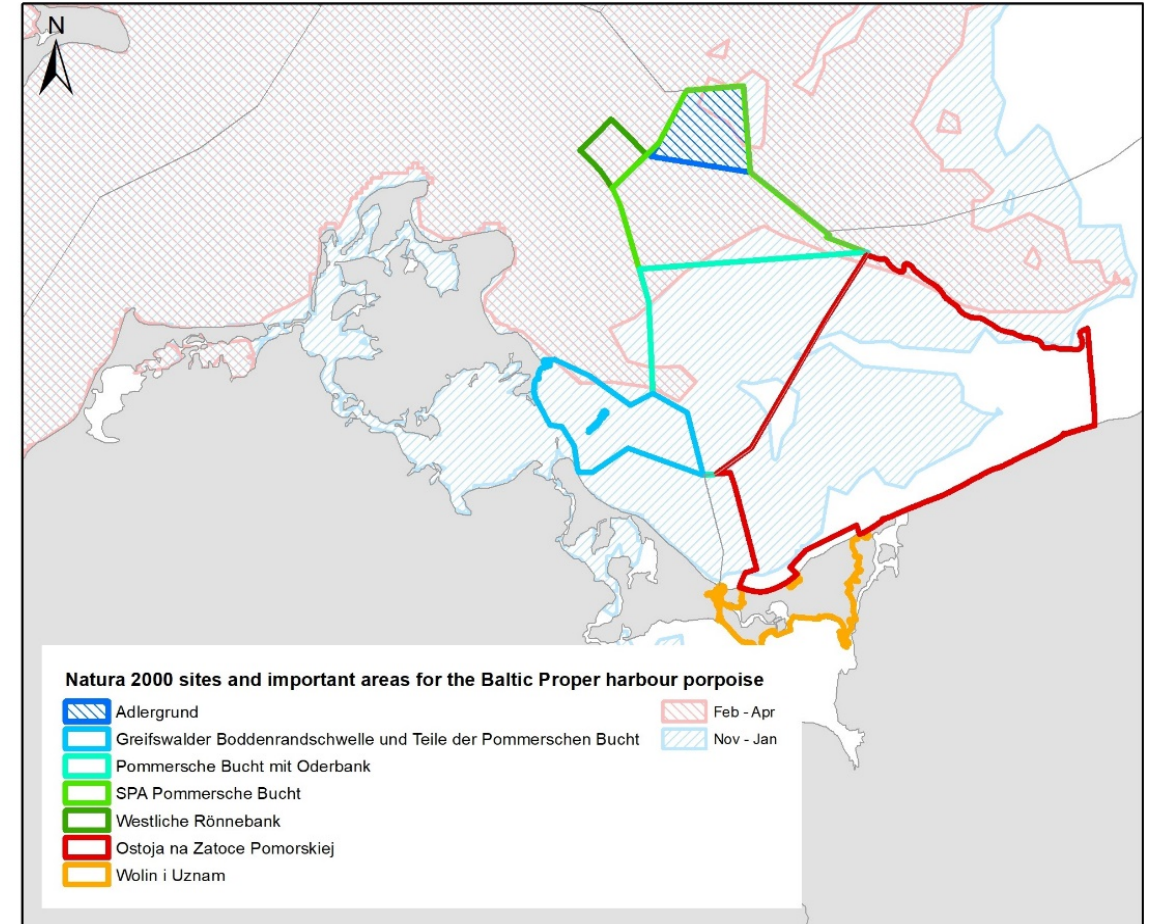
(ASCOBANS advice).

Plus control and monitoring requirements (e.g. VMS on small vessels).

Limitations: Emergency measures can be implemented for **6+6 months only**

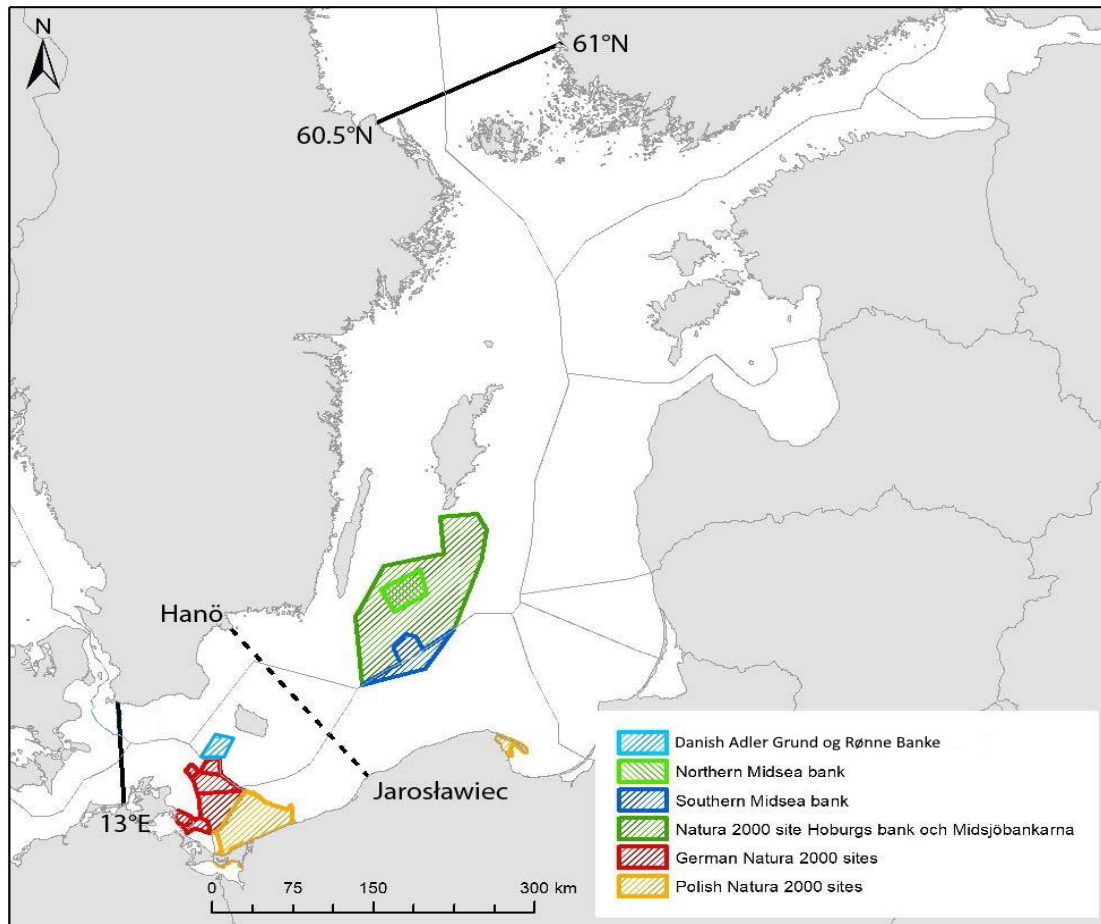
More long-term measures needed **via BALTFISH**

Joint Recommendation.



Follow-up: the Joint Recommendation of BALTFISH

Mitigation measures to prevent bycatch of Baltic Proper harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Baltic Sea fisheries

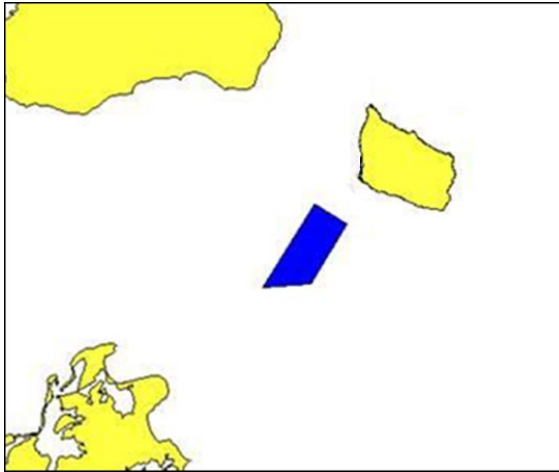


Milestones

- **8.09.2020** BALTFISH HLG First version of the JR of BALTFISH on harbour porpoise discussed;
 - **21-22.09.20** BSAC discussed first BALTFISH proposal;
- EC & NGO first version not ambitious enough!**
- **18.10.20** BALTFISH HLG Possible second version has been discussed;
 - **9.12.20** extraordinary BALTFISH HLG meeting, third version discussed;
 - **22.12. 2020** JR of BALTFISH on harbour porpoise has been sent to the European Commission.

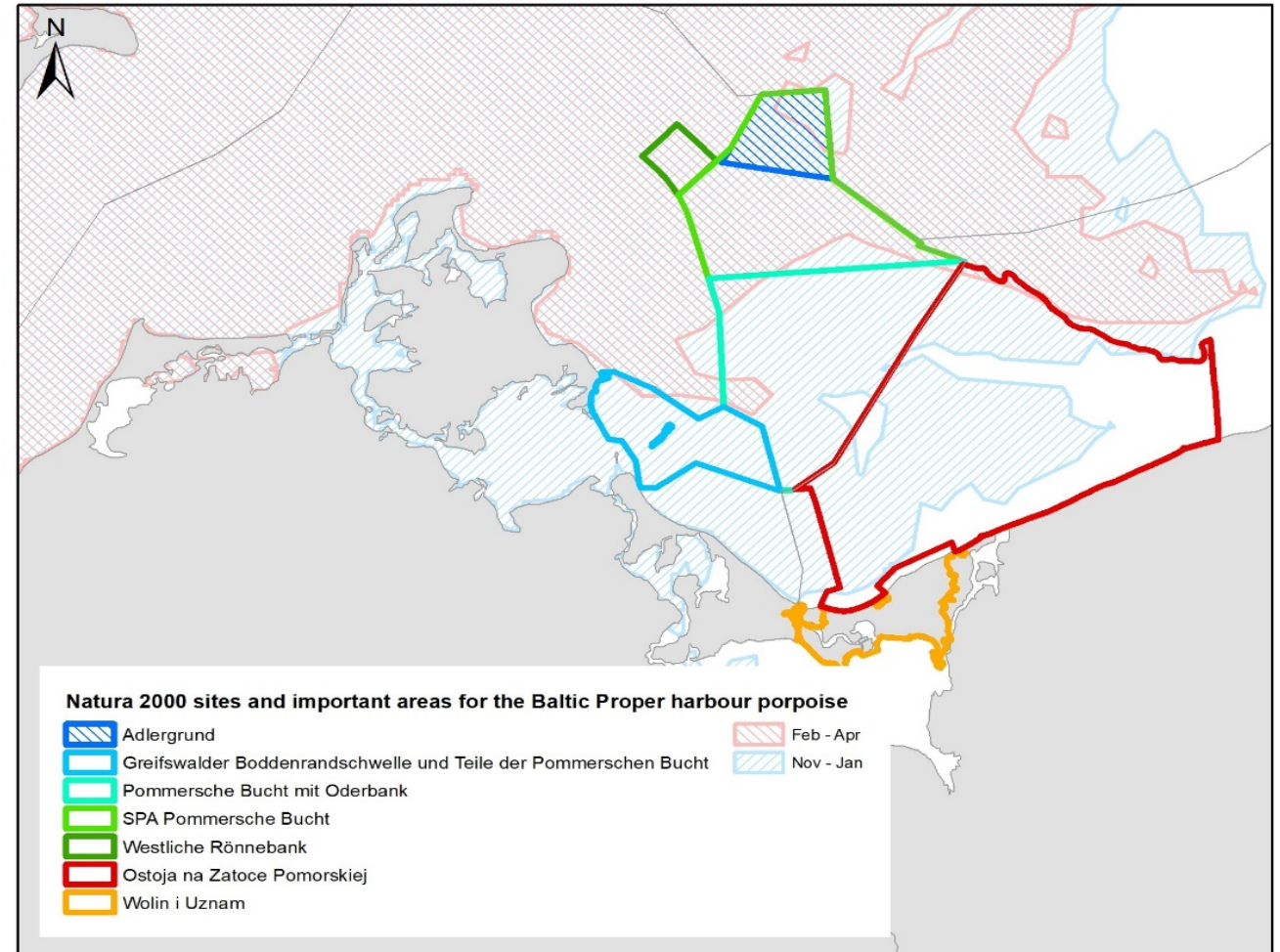
Cluser of protected areas

DK Danish NATURA site (DK00VA261) south-west of Bornholm – Adler Grund og Rønne Banke (not included into the ICES advice)

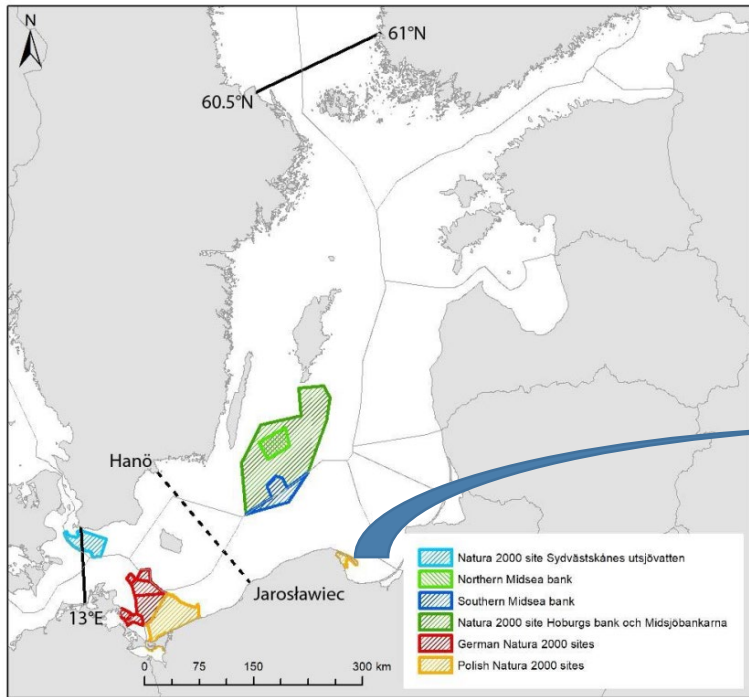


Closure of the areas for the use of static nets for the period from Nov- Jan.

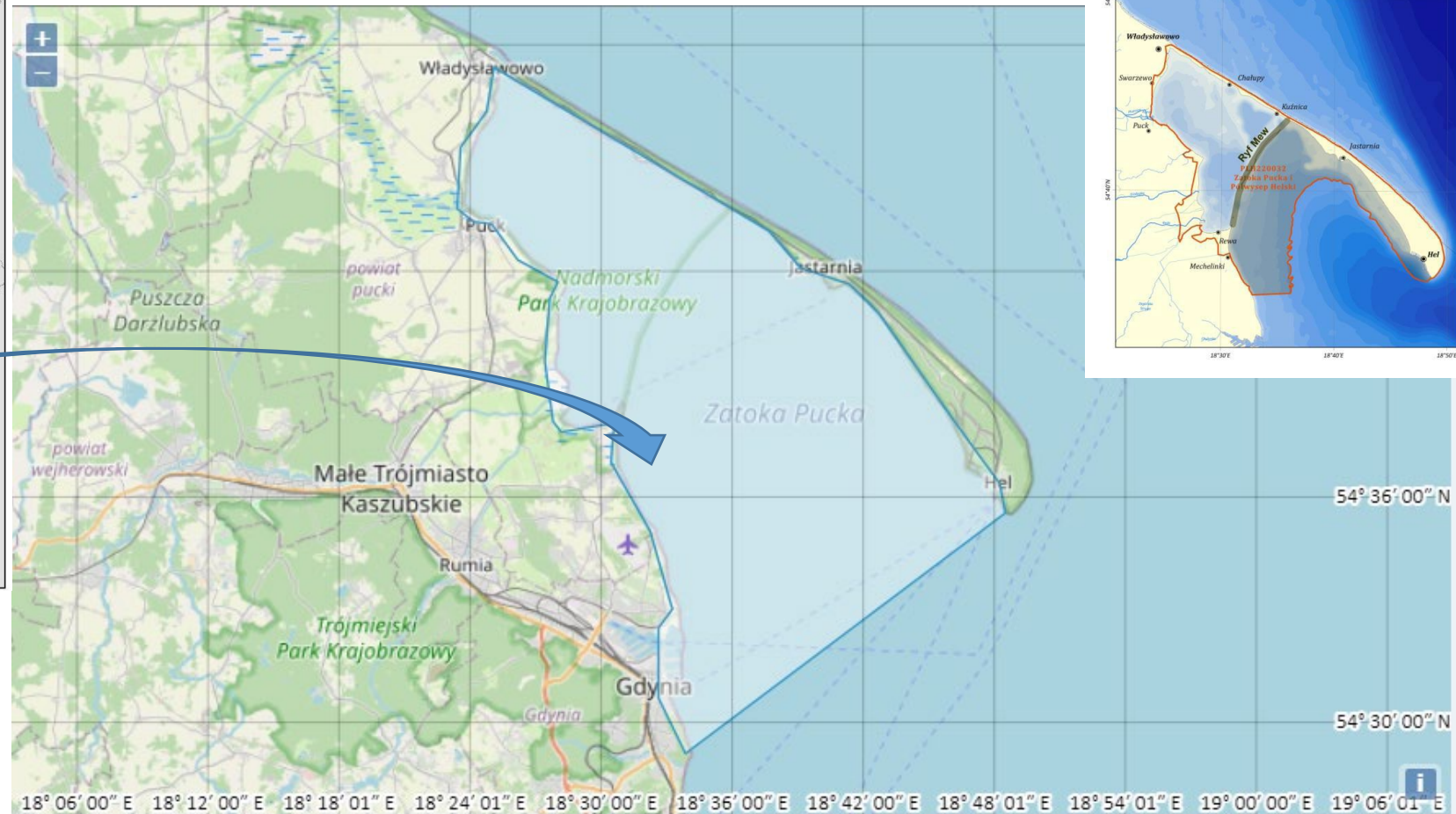
Cluster of PL-DE areas



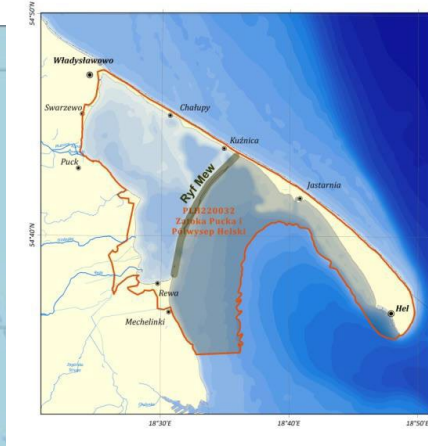
Proposals concerning obligatory use of ADDs on static nets for the whole year - PL Puck Bay



Final BALTFISH JR: ADDs



ICES advice: closure and ADDs



Next steps

The Joint Recommendation will be supplemented by a second Joint Recommendation regarding additional mitigation measures (including the use of ADD) outside MPAs.

Baltfish HLG will submit this second Joint Recommendation as soon as possible but not later than 1 June 2021

Baltfish HLG will endeavour to agree on more detailed control measures linked to the control of the mitigation measures

Thank you

