

# Progress report, Finland Jastarnia-meeting, Gothenburg 28.-30.3.2022

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Ympäristöministeriö  
Miljöministeriet  
Ministry of the Environment



# 1. Increase involvement, awareness and cooperation

- Annual press release for public awareness and opportunistic sightings collection
- Cooperation between MoE, Åland government and TUAS
- Cooperation with other actors will further increase in LIFE IP BIODIVERSEA (including e.g. holistic assesment on marine protection status and protected areas network)

## **2. Monitor and estimate abundance and distribution**

- Acoustic monitoring (Northern Baltic Proper offshore) and opportunistic sightings collection ongoing
- Data gaps in acoustic monitoring due to pandemic-weather conditions combination
- Harmonization of acoustic data: process and discussions ongoing
- Some F-PODs deployed
- Harbour porpoise distribution & (relative) abundance in national MSFD monitoring programme and programme of measures
- Large scale surveys and future improvements: SAMBAH II

## **3. Monitor, estimate and reduce bycatch**

- No bycatch or strandings during the period
- ICES advice/Delegated act: process ongoing, future measures and approaches relate to this

## 4. Monitor and mitigate impact of underwater noise

- Not directly for harbour porpoise
- Underwater noise level monitoring (“BIAS-based”) is part of the MSFD programmes and ongoing
- Research on noise in archipelago conditions will be conducted in LIFE IP BIODIVERSEA (mapping, modelling, identifying noisy/silent areas, recommendations for mitigation, experimental studies on selected species)

## **5. Monitor and assess population health status**

-Not applicable (no data or samples), same applies to habitat use

## **6. Investigate habitat use and protect important areas**

-Currently no MPAs for harbour porpoise

-In LIFE IP BIODIVERSEA, the needs for HP will be evaluated. One of the main focus areas for biogeochemical inventories and future MPAs is the offshore areas south of Åland (where HP is regularly present)