

ASCOBANS JASTARNIA GROUP 18

Implementation Review
- Germany -

1. INCREASE INVOLVEMENT, AWARENESS AND COOPERATION

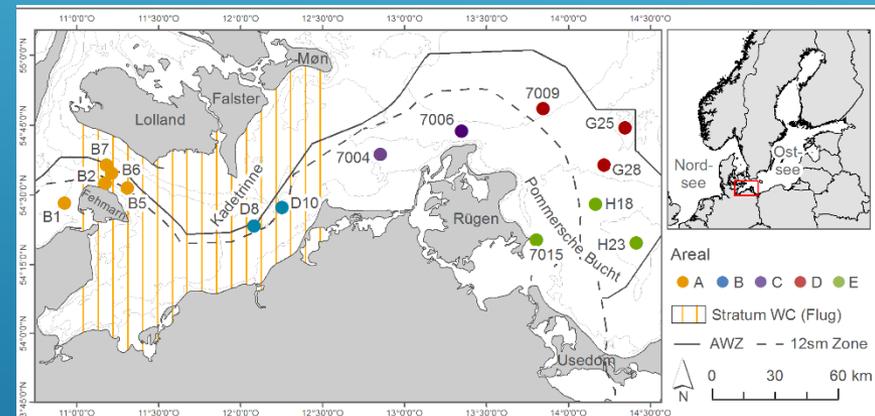
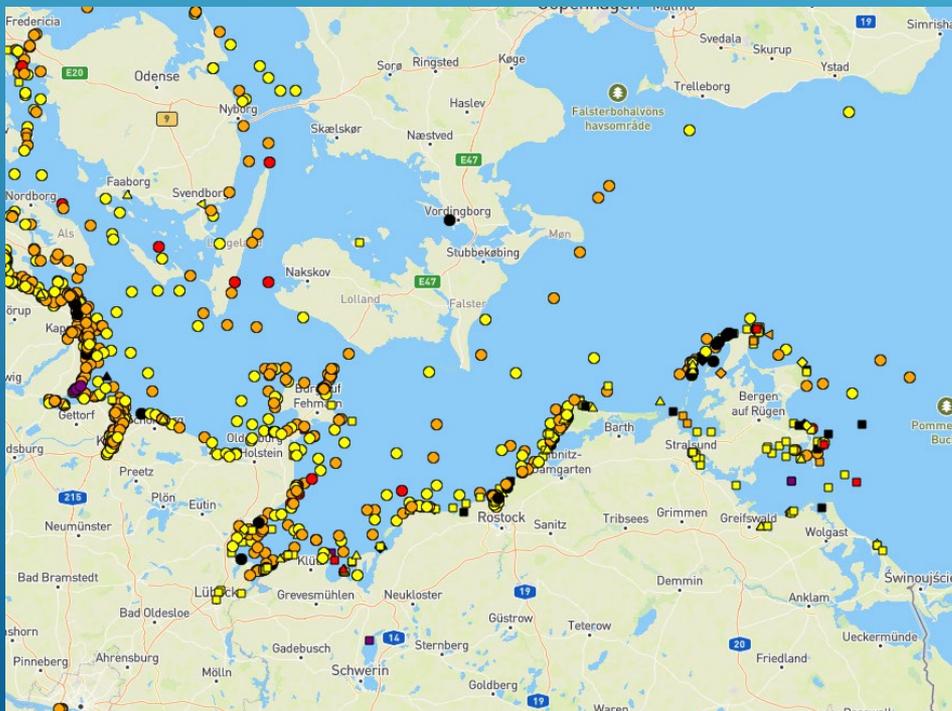
- ▶ 2 Projects started in end of 2021 with fishermen directly involved in the work
 - ▶ Stella 2
 - ▶ Implementation of a dialogue forum
 - ▶ PAL Monitoring
 - ▶ stakeholder meetings
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2. MONITOR AND ESTIMATE ABUNDANCE AND DISTRIBUTION

Aerial Surveys (Digital) June 2021: Abundance: 2.209 (95%CI: 773-3653) (unpublished)

Acoustic Monitoring:

Incidental Sighting Program: 785 sightings



3. MONITOR, ESTIMATE AND REDUCE BYCATCH

1. Project “STELLA 2”:

Development and testing of fishing techniques to minimize the conflicts between gillnet fishery and marine nature conservation in the German Baltic Sea EEZ, with focus on mitigation of by-catches of marine mammals and seabirds. (Nov. 2021 – Oct. 2024)

▶ 2 parts:

- ▶ **main project:** further development of approaches from STELLA 1 pearl-gillnet, fish pots and pontoon trap.
- ▶ **accompanying scientific study:** assessment of the (further) developed fishing gears on the behaviour and capture of target species and on by-catch reduction of marine mammals and diving seabirds.

Stella 2:

WP 1: *further development of the gillnet modification ('pearl net'), developing and evaluation of methods for producing the pearl nets, test of behaviour of the modified nets under water.*

WP 2: *further development and testing of fish pots*

WP 3: *further development and testing of the pontoon-trap*

WP 4: *“Communication WP” (fishers, researchers, other stakeholders) during the development and testing work.*

- *Workshop: "Technical and operational best practice in bycatch mitigation"*
- *Workshop on the topic "Marketing incentives for gear switching"*
- *Implementation of a dialogue forum*

2. Monitoring of PALs

Project: „PAL use in German waters - Current efficiency and mode of operation“ PAL-CE

(Cooperation: DMM, TI, Aarhus University, Swedish Museum of Natural History, OIC; funding by BfN) (Dec. 2021 – Nov. 2024)

5 Work Packages:

- ▶ WP1: Effectiveness of PALs in previously exposed and naive harbour porpoises (BACI)
 - ▶ echolocation behaviour of porpoises in areas where PALs have been used intensively (Schleswig-Holstein)
 - ▶ echolocation behaviour of porpoises in areas where PALs have not been used (Denmark)
 - ▶ Different scenarios: no PAL | PAL | PAL and net | net only
 - **Evaluation of PALs long-term efficiency (habituation)**

- ▶ WP2: Comparison of echolocation rates around nets in Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark
 - ▶ Determination of whether porpoises show significant differences in their echolocation behavior around nets (with, without PALs)
- ▶ WP3: Echolocation click variations between porpoise populations
 - ▶ aims to estimate population level differences in echolocation click parameters (Belt Sea; Baltic proper and North Sea)
 - ▶ aims at estimating whether PALs can be a tool in other areas, e.g. North Sea, Baltic Proper area.
- ▶ WP4: Current use of PAL in fisheries
 - ▶ to determine in which areas PALs are used and if they may impact porpoise distribution in general
- ▶ WP5: Stakeholder process, knowledge transfer and public relations
 - ▶ Different stakeholder events to work on bycatch mitigation and fisheries regulations
 - ▶ Evaluation of voluntary agreement (Schleswig-Holstein)

4. MONITOR AND MITIGATE IMPACT OF UNDERWATER NOISE

► **Project: Underwater noise effects-2 (UWE-2) (Sept. 2021 – Aug. 2024)**

ITAW / Aarhus University funded by BfN

- Investigations of thresholds of individual behavioural reactions of harbour porpoises (and seals) to vessel noise and other significant noise events
- Investigation of additional energetic demands in porpoises due to vessel noise
- Recommendations for noise mitigation measures for harbour porpoises, (and seals) for the North- and the Baltic Sea.
- Evaluation of noise mitigation measures for anthropogenic noise sources based on current knowledge

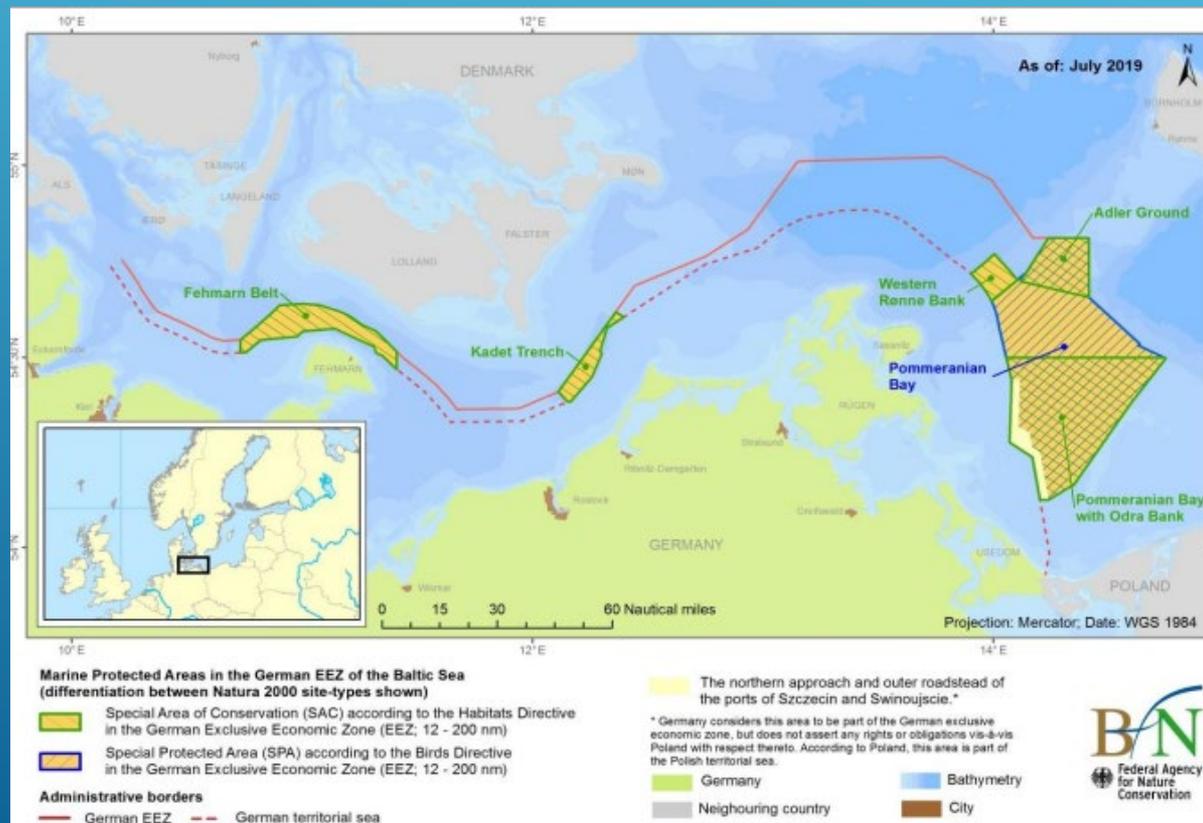
5. MONITOR AND ASSESS POPULATION HEALTH STATUS

► **Projects:**

1. Investigation of the health, nutritional status and diet of harbour porpoises
2. Development of a monitoring and assessment concept for the pollution load of marine mammals of the North Sea and Baltic Sea for the implementation of the MSFD (01.10.2021 - 31.03.2024) (ITAW, UFZ)
3. CREATE: Development of indicator pathogens in marine mammals to advance assessment of anthropogenic impacts (Dez. 2021 – Nov. 2024) (ITAW + Concoortium)

6. INVESTIGATE HABITAT USE AND PROTECT IMPORTANT AREAS

Management plans for Natura 2000 sites in the German EEZ (entered into force February 2022)



FISHERY REGULATIONS

(excluding recreational fisheries)

- ▶ 2 step approach:

- 1. Regulations for mobile bottom-contacting gears

- Currently: international negotiation process (Joint Recommendation)

- 2. Regulations for passive gears (gillnets and entangling nets):

- ▶ Measures are under development

- ▶ Delegated Act (Pomeranian bay and Ronne bank)