



---

<b>Document title</b>	Registered mortality of marine mammals
<b>Code</b>	2-2
<b>Category</b>	CMNT
<b>Agenda Item</b>	2 – Information by the Chair, Secretariat and Contracting Parties
<b>Submission date</b>	17.8.2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat

---

### Background

SEAL 3-2009 decided to construct a table containing information on deliberate killings and numbers of hunted, by-caught and stranded seals and agreed that the table should be further developed and updated during future meetings of the expert group (Outcome of the Meeting, paragraph 4.2).

SEAL 6-2012 pointed out that it is important to include methods that have been used to collect the data to increase comparability of the data to the tables. SEAL 7-2013 stated that the figures on by-catch included in the human induced mortality tables are far smaller than the actual numbers and expressed doubt as to the usefulness of compiling information on by-catch in the way it is currently done. SEAL 8-2014 changed the name of the tables from 'human induced mortality' to 'registered mortality'.

SEAL 12-2018 agreed to change the content of the mortality category "stranding" to include information on both the total number of animals found stranded and the number of those animals which are suspected to have died as by-catch in fisheries.

The annual registered mortality numbers for Baltic marine mammals from years 2008 to 2018 are presented in the Excel file attachment to this document (2-2-Att.1), available via the [Meeting document Library](#).

### Action requested

The Contracting Parties are invited to provide updates to the tables on registered mortality numbers of marine mammals and especially to fill in the information for the year 2018 directly to the [excel template](#) and send it to the Secretariat ([petra.kaaria@helcom.fi](mailto:petra.kaaria@helcom.fi)).

## Registered mortality of seals 2008-2018

SEAL 3-2009 decided to construct a table containing information on deliberate killings and numbers of hunted, by-caught and stranded seals and agreed that the table should be further developed and updated during future meetings of the Seal expert group (Outcome of the Meeting, paragraph 4.2). The figures have been collected with the aim to show temporal trends as the data increases, while working towards presenting data for seals in a parallel way in a map service as for harbour porpoises (Outcome of SEAL 4-2010, paragraph 2.5).

SEAL 6-2012 pointed out that it is important to include methods that have been used to collect the data to increase comparability of the data to the tables. SEAL 7-2013 stated that the figures on by-catch included in the human induced mortality tables are far smaller than the actual numbers and expressed doubt as to the usefulness of compiling information on by-catch in the way it is currently done. SEAL 8-2014 changed the name of the tables from 'human induced mortality' to 'registered mortality'.

EG MAMA 13-2019 invited the Secretariat to differentiate cells representing no reporting from those representing 0 with the abbreviation NR (Not Reported).

The total number of reported, registered dead marine mammals in years 2008-2018 is presented in Figure 1 below.

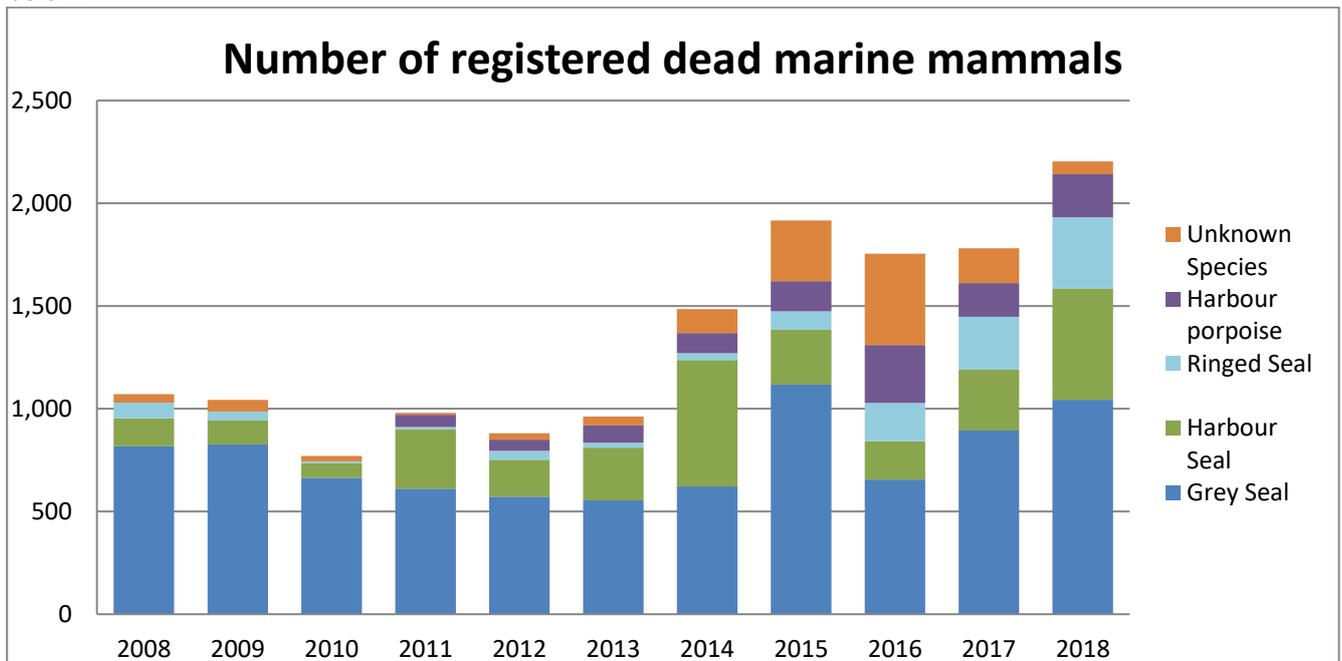


Figure 1. Total amount of registered dead marine mammals by species from years 2008-2018, as reported by the HELCOM Expert Group on marine mammals.

Annual mortality data are presented in Att. 1 to this document (available via the [Meeting document Library](#)).