



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Ad hoc Seal Expert Group

SEAL 11-2017

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Document title	Registered mortality of marine mammals 2008-2016
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Background

This document contains registered mortality numbers for Baltic marine mammals from years 2008 to 2016 (tables 1 to 9). The data are also available in as an [Excel file attachment](#) via the [Meeting document Library](#).

Action requested

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 2016 (table 9). Updated information may be submitted to the Secretariat (minna.pyhala@helcom.fi) prior to the meeting of SEAL 11-2017.

Registered mortality of seals 2008-2016

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 begin showing 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'.

The total number of registered mortality of marine mammals in years 2008-2016 is presented in Figure 1 below.

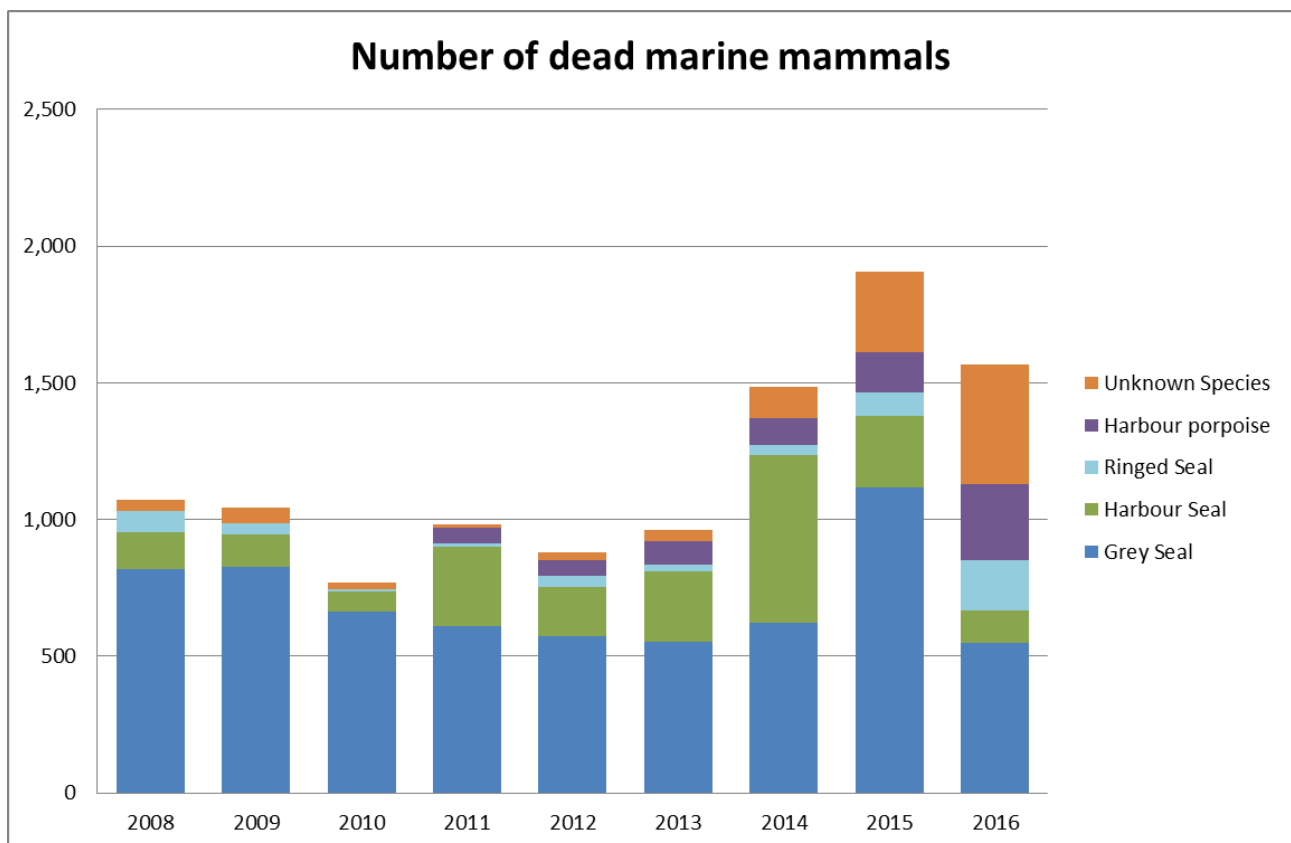


Figure 1. Total amount of registered mortality by marine mammal species from years 2008-2016 as reported by the HELCOM Seal expert group.

Annual mortality data are presented in tables 1-9 and in the [Attachment 1](#) (Excel file available via the [Meeting document Library](#)).

Table 1. Registered mortality of seals in 2008.

Species	Country	Geographical area	Intentionally killed ^{i*}	Stranded	By-caught ^{**}	Gear type	Data provider	Comments	
Grey seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Vorpommerns		11			DMM		
	DK	South-western area		3	0	trawl	NERI	Of the 3 stranded animals 2 were euthanized due to bad health condition	
	EE			97			EEB	80 ad 17 juveniles, adults are probably by-caught	
	FI		503				RKTL	Hunted 484, scientific sampling 19. The figure includes 221 seals hunted on Åland Islands.	
	RU	Gulf of Finland		9			BFN		
	SE			132				SEPA	Protective hunting 128, scientific sampling 4
		Gulf of Bothnia			3	12	Push-up trap (4), trawl (7)	SMNH	
		Baltic Proper			5	17	whitefish net (1), float net (1), cod net (1), turbot net (2), eel net (11)	SMNH	
	PL				24	1		HMS	
Harbour seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Vorpommerns		4			DMM		
	DK	South-western area	10-15	108	0	trawl	NERI	Of the 108 stranded animals 27 were euthanized due to bad health condition	
	SE	South-western area	8				SEPA	Protective hunting close to fishing gear	
		Southern area			3		SMNH		
PL				1		HMS			
Ringed seal	EE	Southern area		11			EEB	Probably bycatch	
	FI	Northern area	17				RKTL	Scientific sampling 12, protective hunting 5	
	RU			1			BFN		
	SE	Northern area	46				SEPA	Scientific sampling 46	
	PL				1		HMS		
Unknown	PL	PL		2			HMS		
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia		12			SMNH		
Baltic Proper				27			SMNH		
Total			716-721	322	30				

Table 2. Registered mortality of seals in 2009.

Species	Country	Geographical area	Intentionally killed ⁱⁱⁱⁱ	Stranded	By-caught**	Gear type	Data provider	Comments	
Grey seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Vorpommerns		8			DMM		
	DK	Southwestern area	0	0	0		DFNA		
	FI		632				HCO	44 scientific sampling, 588 hunted	
	PL	PL		10	1	Cod gillnet	HMS		
	SE			129				SEPA	Quota 242
			Gulf of Bothnia		2	19		SMNH	
		Baltic proper		8	17				
Harbour seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Vorpommerns		6			DMM		
	DK	Southwestern area	?	86			Danish Forest and Nature Agency	Protective hunting close to fishing gear. Of the 86 stranded animals 21 were euthanized due to bad health condition.	
	PL	PL		0			HMS		
	SE		SW Baltic	20				SEPA	Quota 20
			Baltic proper		3	4			
Ringed seal	FI		35				HCO	Scientific sampling	
	PL	PL		0			HMS		
	SE		Gulf of Bothnia			3		SMNH	
			Gulf of Bothnia	3				SMNH	Scientific sampling
Unknown	DE	Mecklenburg-Vorpommerns		3			DMM		
	PL	PL		1			HMS		
	SE		Gulf of Bothnia		22			SMNH	
			Baltic proper		22			SMNH	
			West coast		9			SMNH	
Total			819	180	44				

Table 3. Registered mortality of seals in 2010.

Species	Country	Geographical area	Intentionally killed (lost) *	Stranded	By-caught**	Gear type	Data provider	Comments	
Grey seal	DE	German Baltic Coast	0	15	1		DMM, ITAW		
	DK	South west	0	2					
	FI	Åland Islands	145						
		Archipelago Sea	71						
		Gulf of Bothnia	223			6*		FGRI	*Only the ones from which FGRI has received samples
		Gulf of Finland	56			2*		FGRI	*Only the ones from which FGRI has received samples
	PL								
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	75 (5)	4	14			SEPA, SMNH	
		Baltic proper	28 (7)	3	39			SEPA, SMNH	
		West coast			1			SMNH	
RU	Gulf of Finland		3				BFN		
Harbour seal	DE		0	22	0		DMM, ITAW		
	DK	South west	5	7				2 of the stranded seals were euthanized	
	PL								
	SE	Baltic proper		1	8			SMNH	
West coast		48 (3)	2				SEPA, SMNH		
Ringed seal	FI	Gulf of Bothnia	1**		1		FGRI	**Bothnian Bay	
		Gulf of Finland			1		FGRI		
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia			5			SMNH	
		Baltic proper			1			SMNH	
Unknown	DE								
	PL								
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia		2				SMNH	
		Baltic proper		20				SMNH	
West coast			4				SMNH		
Total			652 (15)	48	78				

Table 4. Registered mortality of marine mammals in 2011.

Species	Country	Geographical area	Intentionally killed*	Stranded	By-caught**	Gear type	Data provider	Comments	
Grey seal	DE	German Baltic Coast	0	9	1		DMM, ITAW		
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		2	0				
	DK	South west		6					
	FI	Gulf of Finland	56						
		Gulf of Bothnia and the Quark	83						
		Bothnian Bay	113						
		South West Archipelago	38						
		Åland	90						
	PL			42				includes by-catch	
	SE		74					SEPA, SMNH	
		Gulf of Bothnia		10	11			SMNH	Stranded: 8 only reported
		Baltic proper		22	51			SEPA, SMNH	Stranded: 12 only reported
West coast			0	0			SMNH		
RU	Gulf of Finland			3		BFN			
Harbour seal	DE		0	13	0		DMM, ITAW		
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		7	0				
	DK	South west		156	?		NST	14 euthanised	
	PL								
	SE		88						
		Baltic proper		11	4			SMNH	Stranded: 7 only reported
	West coast		11	0			SEPA, SMNH	Stranded: 11 only reported	
Ringed seal	FI	Bothnian Bay	5					hunting with special permits	
	PL								
	SE		2						
		Gulf of Bothnia		(2)	3			SMNH	Stranded: 1 only reported
	Baltic proper		0	0			SMNH		
Harbour porpoise	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		55	5(14)			bycatch 5 suspected bycatch 14	
Unknown	DE								
	PL			9					
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia		(4)				SMNH	Stranded: 4 only reported
		Baltic proper		(18)				SMNH	Stranded: 18 only reported
	West coast						SMNH	Stranded: 15 only reported	
Total			549	298 (24)	78 (14)				

Table 5. Registered mortality of marine mammals in 2012.

Species	Country	Geographical area	Intentionally killed*	Stranded	Reported by-catches**	Gear type	Data provider	Comments	
Grey seal	EE	German Baltic coast						To be confirmed by the end of October 2013	
	DE		0	13	0		DMM, ITAW		
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		2	0				
	DK			5				1 euthanized on beach	
	FI	Gulf of Finland	48		9		FWA		
		Gulf of Bothnia	88		7		FWA	GoB: 80: Bothnian Bay: 8	
		South West Archipelago	41		2		FWA		
		Åland	114				FWA		
				15-20				To be confirmed by end of October 2013	
	PL			45					
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	65	4	14		SEPA, SMNH	Stranded: 3 only reported	
		Baltic proper	29	27	44		SEPA, SMNH	Stranded: 20 only reported	
		Kattegat and the Sound	0	0	0		SMNH		
RU	Gulf of Finland					BFN			
Harbour seal	DE	German Baltic coast	0	8	0		DMM, ITAW		
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		7	0				
	DK		16	107	>3	Gillnet	NST	25 euthanized on beach	
	PL			1					
	SE	Baltic proper	1	6	6		SMNH	Stranded: 3 only reported	
Kattegat and the Sound		13	11	1		SEPA, SMNH	Stranded: 11 only reported		
Ringed seal	DK								
	FI	Bothnian Bay and the Quark	12				FWA	Hunted with special permits	
	PL			0					
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	4	1	22		SMNH		
Baltic proper		0	1	2		SMNH			
Harbour porpoise	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		53	2(1)		Bycatch: 2 Suspected bycatch: 3		
Unknown	DE								
	PL								
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia		6			SMNH	Stranded: 6 only reported	
		Baltic proper		13			SMNH	Stranded: 13 only	
West coast			12			SMNH	Stranded: 12 only reported		
Total		431	338-342	>112(1)					

Table 6. Registered mortality of marine mammals in 2013.

Species	Country	Geographical area	Intentionally killed*	Stranded***	By-caught**	Gear type	Data provider	Comments
Grey seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania		15	2		DMM, ITAW	
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		3	0			
	DK	South west		10			Nature Agency	
	FI	Gulf of Finland	25				FGFRI	
		Bothnian Bay	14		7		FGFRI	
		Quark and Gulf of Bothnia	59				FGFRI	
		South West Archipelago	37		1		FGFRI	
	Åland	104						
	PL	Baltic Proper		96	9		Hel Marine Station	
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	75	9	7		SEPA, SMNH	Stranded cases: 1+8 reports
		Baltic proper	28	30	23		SEPA, SMNH	Stranded cases: 7 necropsied+23 additional reports
West coast						SMNH		
RU	Gulf of Finland					BFN		
Harbour seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania		19	2		DMM, ITAW	
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		11	0			
	DK	South west	3	89			Nature Agency	
	PL	Baltic Proper						
	SE	Baltic proper		8	5		SMNH	Stranded cases: 4 necropsied+4reports
West coast		90	29	1		SEPA, SMNH		
Ringed seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania		1	1		DMM, ITAW	
	FI	Bothnian Bay	5		5		FGFRI	
	PL	Baltic Proper		2			Hel Marine Station	
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	2		5		SMNH	
		Baltic proper	1		2		SMNH	
Harbour porpoise	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		83	1(4)		Bycatch: 1, Suspected bycatch: 4	
Unknown	DE							
	PL	Baltic Proper		9	1		Hel Marine Station	
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia		4			SMNH	
		Baltic proper		18			SMNH	
	West coast		11			SMNH		
Total			443	447	72(4)			

Table 7. Registered mortality of marine mammals in 2014.

Species	Country	Geographical area	Intentionally killed*	Stranded***	By-caught**	Gear type	Data provider	Comments	
Grey seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania							
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		2	0				
	DK	South west	0	cf cmnt	cf cmnt			15 in total (stranded or bycaught)	
	FI	Gulf of Finland	43						
		Bothnian Bay	97						
		Bothnian Sea and Quark	28						
		Quark and Gulf of Bothnia							
		South West Archipelago	41						
		Åland	115						
		All				32			
	PL	Baltic Proper	0	52	6		HEL marine station		
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	65	7	12		SMNH	Stranded: 2 necropsied, 5 only reported (altogether 7)	
Baltic proper		45	50	22		SMNH	Stranded: 43 only reported		
West coast		0	0	0		SMNH			
RU	Gulf of Finland								
Harbour seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania			1		HEL marine station		
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		10					
	DK	South west		cf cmnt	cf cmnt			38 (s or bycaught, including euthanized seals)	
	PL	Baltic Proper		1					
	SE	Baltic proper	0	23	9		SMNH	Stranded: 2 only reported	
		West coast	139	394	0		SMNH	Stranded: 386 only reported	
Ringed seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania							
	FI	Bothnian Bay	9						
	PL	Baltic Proper			1		HEL marine station		
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	2	3	17		SMNH	Stranded: 1 only reported	
		Baltic proper	0	1	1		SMNH	Stranded: 1 only reported	
Harbour porpoise	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		98	(7)		Suspected bycatch: 7 Bycatch: 0		
Unknown	DE								
	PL	Baltic Proper		7			HEL marine station		
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia		0			SMNH		
		Baltic proper		49			SMNH	Stranded: all only reported	
	West coast		60			SMNH	Stranded: all only reported		
Total			584	757	94(7)			53 stranded or bycaught	

Table 8. Registered mortality of marine mammals in 2015.

Species	Country	Geographical area	Intentionally killed*	Stranded***	By-caught**	Poaching	Gear type	Data provider	Comments	
Grey seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania		7(8)	(3)				Stranded: reported: 15, verified: 7, Bycaught: 3 suspected	
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		2	0					
	DK	South west								
	EE	Baltic proper	11							
	FI	Gulf of Finland	76							
		Bothnian Bay	30							
		Bothnian Sea and Quark	16							
		Quark and Gulf of Bothnia								
		South West Archipelago	35							
		Åland	123							
		All	280							
		LT	Baltic proper		13	3	4			
	PL	Baltic Proper		66	2				Stranded: 64 not verified	
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	145	5	5			SMNH		
		Baltic proper	138	48	25			SMNH	Stranded: 40 only reported Bycaught: 13 only reported	
West coast		0	0	0			SMNH			
RU	Gulf of Finland		51	33						
Harbour seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania		9					Stranded: reported: 9, verified: 5	
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		13	1					
	DK	South west								
	PL	Baltic Proper								
	SE	Baltic proper	2	12	7			SMNH	Stranded: 2 only reported Bycaught: 1 only reported	
West coast		167	48	0			SMNH			
Ringed seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania								
	FI	Bothnian Bay	14							
	PL	Baltic Proper								
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	56	3	12			SMNH	Bycaught: 1 only reported Intentionally killed: min number	
		Baltic proper	0	0	1			SMNH		
RU			3							
Harbour porpoise	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		84	16				Bycatch: 8 Suspected bycatch:8	

	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania		43	1				Stranded harbour porpoise: 43 reported, 27 verified
	PL			3					
Unknown	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania		5					
	PL	Baltic Proper		2					not verified
	LV	Gulf of Riga		208					
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	0	4	0			SMNH	
		Baltic proper	0	32	1			SMNH	Bycaught: 1 only reported
	West coast	0	43	0			SMNH		
Total			1093	704(8)	107(3)	4			

Table 9. Registered mortality of marine mammals in 2016.

Species	Country	Geographical area	Intentionally killed*	Stranded***	By-caught**	Poaching	Gear type	Data provider	Comments	
Grey seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania		21				DMM	4 of the stranded animals showed signs of by-catch (cut open etc.)	
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		7				ITAW		
	DK	South west								
	EE	Baltic proper								
	FI	Gulf of Finland		82	5	1		gillnet	Luke, Finnish wildlife Agency (FWA)	
			Bothnian Bay	40	5				Luke, FWA	
			Bothnian Sea	4	1				Luke, FWA	
			Quark and Gulf of Bothnia	4					FWA	
			South West Archipelago	32	1				Luke, FWA	
			Åland	73					FWA	http://www.regeringen.ax/sites/www.regeringen.ax/files/attachments/page/resultat_skyddsjakt_2016.pdf
			All							
	LT	Baltic Proper								
	PL	Baltic Proper								
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia		115	10	9				
			Baltic Proper	87	35	15				
West coast			0	1	0					
RU	Gulf of Finland									
Harbour seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania								
	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		4				ITAW		
	DK	South west								
	PL	Baltic Proper								
	SE	Baltic proper		0	8	2				
			West coast	64	43	0				
RU	Gulf of Finland									
Ringed seal	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania								

	FI	Bothnian Bay	87	4				Luke	
	PL	Baltic Proper							
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	89	3	1				
		Baltic proper							
	RU								
Harbour porpoise	DE	Schleswig-Holstein		169	10			ITAW	
	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania		29	4			DMM	2 of the stranded animals showed signs of bycatch
	PL								
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia	0	0	0	0	-	NRM/Sweden	-
Baltic proper		0	11	0	0	-	NRM/Sweden	10 strandings reported to NRM, 1 to the Swedish Species Observation System. All dead porpoises washed ashore are reported as strandings, even if the cause of death later has been determined to bycatch.	
West coast		0	53	1	0	Bottom set gillnet	NRM/Sweden	47 strandings reported to NRM, 6 to the Swedish Species Observation System. All dead porpoises washed ashore are reported as strandings, even if the cause of death later has been determined to bycatch.	
Unknown	FI	Gulf of Finland		10				Luke	Most of unknown observations are without photo and therefore its is not possible to verify species.
		Bothnian Bay		16				Luke	
		Quark		1				Luke	
		South West Archipelago		7	5		gill net	Luke	Found from shoreline, all 5 seals were tangled into same net.
	DE	Mecklenburg-Pomerania		1					Minke whale most probably a ship collision
	LV	Baltic Proper		37	5			Institute of Food safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR" & Nature Conservation Agency	
		Gulf of Riga		240	50			BIOR	
	SE	Gulf of Bothnia		5					
		Baltic proper		31					
West coast			30						

Total			677	788	103				
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* All intentional killing included in the table is legal and licensed. In Denmark and Sweden, all of that killing is protective hunting to protect fisheries and in Finland hunting is differently licenced for grey seal and ringed seal. All seal hunting in Finland has protective meaning and conflict with the fisheries is the most important basis in the consideration process of issuing licences (Paragraph 3.6 in the Minutes of HELCOM SEAL 6/2012).

** The data on by-catch is opportunistic and represents only minimum numbers (Paragraph 3.5 in the Minutes of HELCOM SEAL 6/2012).

*** Monitoring of stranded seals is carried out in Germany and Sweden and Finland since 1.6.2016 by <https://lomakkeet.luke.fi/hylje> .