



Document title	Proposal for a reporting format for HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 on Protection of Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic Sea Area for countries which are non-parties to ASCOBANS
Code	7-2
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	Agenda Item 7 – Work on Baltic Sea harbour porpoise
Submission date	19.11.2015
Submitted by	Poland
Reference	STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015, Paragraphs 3J.6-3J.8

Background

During the third meeting of the State and Conservation group which took place in Helsinki on 9-13 November 2015, the Contracting Parties discussed the reporting format for implementation of the HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 on *Protection of Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic Sea Area*. The discussion took place based on the meeting document 3J-6 (ASCOBANS¹ Annual National Reports on the protection of small cetaceans and in particular harbor porpoise – par. 3J-6 of the outcome of the STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015). It was stated, that Baltic countries which are parties to ASCOBANS should not be requested to report on protection of harbor porpoise twice for ASCOBANS and HELCOM separately, however taking into account that the ASCOBANS report requires much more information compared to what is required under the Recommendation 17/2, it may still be necessary to develop a HELCOM reporting format into which specific components of the reporting to ASCOBANS could be inserted.

It was further discussed that ASCOBANS is currently revising national reporting formats on harbour porpoise and suggested that ASCOBANS would consider taking HELCOM requirements into account in the revision. The Meeting agreed to finalize the discussion on the reporting for the Recommendation at State and Conservation 4-2016 (par.3J -8 of the outcome of the STATE & CONSERVATION 3/2015 meeting).

However, for the Baltic countries which are non-members to ASCOBANS (Estonia, Latvia, Russia) separate reporting procedure should be organized, as they are not able to provide such detailed information on protection of harbor porpoise in their countries as parties which are members to ASCOBANS. Thus, the proposal for preparation of a separate, simplified, reporting format for non-parties to ASCOBANS should be discussed, as well as the reporting procedure.

According to the paragraph 3J-7 from the Outcome of STATE & CONSERVATION 3-2015, The Meeting invited SEAL 9-2015 to discuss how to organize reporting for the countries that are non- parties to ASCOBANS and welcomed the offer from Poland to develop a draft HELCOM reporting format and submit it to SEAL 9-2015 for their consideration.

The proposal of a draft simplified reporting format for HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 prepared by Poland, is included in the attachment to this document.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to:

- discuss the attached proposal for a simplified reporting format for non-parties to ASCOBANS in order to report on their activities aiming at implementation of HELCOM Recommendation 17/2.
- discuss how to organise reporting of the above mentioned recommendation for the countries which are non-parties to ASCOBANS.

¹ ASCOBANS - Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas

**Draft National Report on implementation of HELCOM
Recommendation 17/2 on protection of harbour porpoise
in the Baltic Sea Area**

A. General information

Name of party	Period covered
Name of report compiler	Date of report

B. Information on new activities concerning minimization of threats on porpoises and measures for their protection**1. Reduction of by-catch**

Investigations of methods to reduce by-catch
Implementation of methods to reduce by-catch

Estimates of by-catch in set net fisheries			
Species	Estimated number of by-caught animals	Area (ICES area or more detailed)	Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations, etc.)

2. Reduction of disturbance to harbour porpoises

<p>Information on levels of disturbance</p> <p>(e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on porpoises, marine installations and construction etc.)</p>
<p>Implementation of guidelines, new legislation, etc. to reduce disturbance</p>

3. Protected areas for small cetaceans

<p>Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas</p>

4. Further research on small cetaceans

Research on distribution, abundance and population structure of harbor porpoises
Collection of information on stranded porpoises.
Research on impacts of pollutant levels