



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Working Group on the State of the Environment and Nature
Conservation

STATE & CONSERVATION
15-2021

Online, 4-8 October 2021

Document title	Draft Reporting form HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 Protection of harbor porpoise in the Baltic Sea
Code	3N-1
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	3N - Development and implementation of Recommendations
Submission date	23.9.2021
Submitted by	Poland
Reference	Outcome from the HELCOM S&C meeting 13/2020 (par. 3N.6)

Note that this document was submitted after the established deadline. It will be decided by the Meeting whether the document can be discussed or is postponed to the next meeting.

Background

The amended version of the HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 on protection of the harbour porpoise, has been finally adopted during the HELCOM Annual meeting (HELCOM 41/2020). The next step should be to prepare the reporting form in order for the HELCOM parties to be able to report every four years on the progress with the implementation of the Recommendation.

The first draft proposal for the reporting form of the HELCOM Recommendation 17/2, has been prepared on a basis of the ASCOBANS National Reporting Form done in order for the ASCOBANS parties to report full information on the implementation of the ASCOBANS Agreement for the ASCOBANS 9 Meeting of Parties (ASCOBANS MoP 9) which took place online on 7th-11th of September 2020.

Full version of the ASCOBANS reporting format can be found here:

https://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/ascobans_mop9_inf5.1b_nr-form-2020.pdf

The proposal for the reporting form for the HELCOM Recommendation 17/2, has been further submitted to the STATE&CONSERVATION 13/2020 group meeting, online 5-9 of October 2020.

The meeting highlighted that information reported to ASCOBANS can be used in this form as well to avoid double-reporting, and further the meeting suggested that EG MAMA will consider the draft reporting form in further detail after which it will be submitted to STATE & CONSERVATION 15-2021 for approval.

EG MAMA 15-2021 considered the draft reporting format for recommendation 17/2 (document 4-5 rev.1) and invited any further comments to be sent to Katarzyna Kaminska (Katarzyna.Kaminska@minrol.gov.pl) by 8 October 2021.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the reporting form and agree on an intersessional approval process after comments have been received from the EG MAMA contacts (8 October).

Draft Reporting form for HELCOM Recommendation 17/2 Protection of harbor porpoise in the Baltic Sea



Fjord&Baelt

Section I: General Information

A. Country Information

1. Name of Party:
2. Details of the Report Compiler:

Name: Function: Organization: Postal Address: Telephone: Email:
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3. Details of contributor(s):

Topic(s) contributed to: Name: Function: Organization: Postal Address: Telephone: Email:

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

B. Fisheries-related Threats

4. Bycatch

a) give highest priority to avoiding by-catches of harbour porpoises, particularly following the recommendations of ASCOBANS and the Jastarnia Plan, in order to achieve the ecological objective of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. By-catch of harbour porpoise, shall be significantly reduced with the aim to reach by-catch rates close to zero, recognizing that the Baltic Proper population of harbour porpoise is more threatened than the WBBK population;

Note: This section includes also bycatch in recreational fisheries.

Questions:

4.1 How is bycatch assessed/monitored in your country?

Year	Method	Used	Percentage (% by monitoring method, of total bycaught animals, by gear type if applicable)
2021	Dedicated observer schemes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Fisheries observes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Remote Electronic Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Self-reporting by fisherman	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Pathological investigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2022	Assessment at stranding site	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Dedicated observer schemes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Fisheries observes	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Remote Electronic Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Self-reporting by fisherman	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Pathological investigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Assessment at stranding site	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2023	Dedicated observer schemes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Fisheries observes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Remote Electronic Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Self-reporting by fisherman	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Pathological investigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2024	Assessment at stranding site	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Dedicated observer schemes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Fisheries observes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Remote Electronic Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Self-reporting by fisherman	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments:

4.2 Are there any mitigation measures in place?

No.

Yes. Please provide details: What mitigation measures (including alternative gear) are being used and where? (acoustic deterrent devices, seasonal closures, gear modifications etc.)

Mitigation approach	Region	Year implemented	Has the mitigation measure been effective?
acoustic deterrent devices			<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments:
			<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments:
			<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments:

4.3 Have there been changes in fishing effort (for fisheries known to have an impact) in the reporting period?

No.

Unknown/not applicable. Comments:

Yes. Please provide details:

4.4. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on bycatch in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

5. Resource Depletion

b)take action for collection and analysis of data on pressures such as (...) changes in food base and prey quality,

Questions: 5.1 Based on the latest stock assessments, are there any notable depletions of fish species which would be a concern for small cetaceans?

- No.
- No information.
- Yes. Please provide details.

5.2 Relevant new research/work/collaboration on resource depletion in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

C(B). Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

b) take action for collection and analysis of data on pressures such as (...), disturbance, including underwater noise, (...) climate change, and human activities associated with the listed pressures,

6. Noise (impulsive i.e. piling and continuous/ambient i.e. shipping)

Questions:

6.1 To which noise registers/databases has your country contributed to date?

ICES Impulsive Noise Register	National registry	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable Specify (e.g. JNCC noise registry):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Specify:

6.2 Any instances/issues in the reporting period including information on planned or completed significant developments/activities, including the details of monitoring in place before, during and after the project:

Development/ Individual Activity of impulsive noise (e.g. construction, seismic, sonar)	Status	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Information on noise management and monitoring			Region
				Regulations/ guidelines exist	Monitoring conducted	Mitigation in place	
	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Weblinks:	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

6.3 Relevant new research/work/collaboration on underwater noise in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

7. Ocean Energy- Wind

Questions:

7.1 Please enter wind energy farm data into the table below.

Name of wind farm	Operational date (or foreseen grid connection date)	Area	Output (megawatts per turbine)	Number of turbines	How were the individual wind turbines installed in the seabed?	Was scour protection used?	Noise mitigation during construction used? (multiple ticks possible)	If the wind farm is floating, how was it anchored?	Other mitigation used in pre-/post-construction	Additional information
	dd/mm/yy				Choose an item.	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/> Single bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Double bubble curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Acoustic deterrent devices <input type="checkbox"/> Time/area closures <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:			

7.2 How is the pressure managed, incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)?

7.3 Relevant new research/work/collaboration on wind energy in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

7.4 Other forms of energy except for wind, that are in use or planned.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

8. Climate change

Questions:

8.1 Does your country undertake monitoring that has potential to contribute to knowledge and identification of climate impacts on small cetaceans?¹

Climate change will have a multiplicity of possible direct and indirect effects on small cetaceans. Attempting to quantify this is challenging, these questions are aimed to provide an overview of the type of monitoring programmes that are conducted that may provide indirect evidence of climate change on small cetaceans.

¹ This refers to direct and indirect effects.

No.

Yes. Continue to **Question 8.2.**

8.2 Which effects has your country been monitoring during the reporting period?

Overview of monitoring activities related to climate change effects on small cetaceans. Please add additional direct or indirect effects if applicable.

Monitoring activity	Comments (if possible, provide contact / link to project)
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean abundance	
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean distribution	
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean migration or movement range	
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean migration or movement timing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in small cetacean community structure	
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in reproductive success and timing in small cetaceans	
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in prey (fish) abundance and distribution	
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in timing of prey (fish) spawning and migration	
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in fishing effort	
<input type="checkbox"/> Changes in the occurrence of pathogens (from sampled individuals)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Incidences of algal blooms (if yes, where; specify year)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):	

8.3 Relevant new research/work/collaborations which provide evidence/data about climate change, including its emerging potential issues and effects, on small cetaceans in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information); include the species concerned, the climate change effect observed, who did the work)

D. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

b) take action for collection and analysis of data on pressures such as (...) pollutants (...), habitat deterioration,

9. Unexploded Ordnance

Questions:

9.1 Have there been any instances/issues related to the issue of unexploded ordnance during the reporting period in your country?

No.

Yes. Please provide details:

9.2 How is the issue of unexploded ordnances being managed?

(incl. mitigation measures, relevant regulations/guidelines, year of implementation; may include planned management)

9.3 Relevant new research/work/collaboration on the issue of unexploded ordnance in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

10. Pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics)

Questions:

10.1 Does your country conduct monitoring of pollutants in small cetaceans?

Several pollutants have serious effects on individual small cetaceans and can threaten populations. The aim is to capture the nature of existing monitoring and identify gaps in terms of which pollutants are monitored, the extend of this monitoring and the establishment of securely funded long-term data series.

- No.
 Yes.

Comments:

10.2 Who is carrying out the pollutant monitoring program? Please provide information on the institution(s)/agencies that collect the samples and carry out the analyses. Copy table if needed.

Name:
 Role in monitoring: (e.g. sample collection, analyses, other)
 Postal Address:
 Contact Person:
 Telephone:
 Email:
 Weblink:

11. Physical Habitat Change (e.g. from construction)

Questions:

11.1 Does your country have any reported cases of physical habitat change (e.g. dredging, marine construction, coastal construction) impacting small cetaceans during the reporting period?

- No.
 Yes. Please provide details:

Provide web links if available.

11.2 Does your country have any mitigation measures (regulations/guidelines) to prevent impacts on small cetaceans during physical habitat change activities (e.g. dredging, marine construction, coastal construction)?

- No.
 Yes. Please provide details below:
 Overview of mitigation measures related to small cetaceans and physical habitat change activities.

Measure:	
Industry:	
Activity type:	
Has the measure been effective?	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Comments:
Other information:	

Copy table if needed.

11.3 Relevant new initiatives/projects/publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) in your country during the reporting period on impacts from physical habitat change on small cetaceans (incl. title, organization, lead author).

Provide web links if available.

E. Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas

- f) consider the establishment of marine protected areas for harbour porpoises within the framework of the Baltic Sea Protected Areas (HELCOM MPAs) when documented information is available that an area is important to harbour porpoises
- g) implementing effective and adequate protection measures for the species both inside and outside HELCOM MPAs

12. Baltic Sea Protected Areas, Natura 2000 sites

Questions:

12.1 Does your country have MPAs (existing or proposed) where harbour porpoise is the primary reason for the (proposed) designation?

- No.**
- Yes.** Please provide details/updates in table below:

Please copy the table for each MPA.

Name (<i>full name of MPA</i>)		
Size (m^2)		
MPA status	<input type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
Date of designation (<i>if applicable</i>)		
Legislation / Directive		
Are there management measures in place?	<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Provide link:	
Link to shapefiles and/or online map		
Link to any other online information		

12.2 Does your country have MPAs (existing or proposed) with harbour porpoise are forming part of the selection criteria? No. Yes. Please provide details/updates in table below:

Name (full name of MPA)	Size (km ²)	MPA status	Date of designation (if applicable)	Legislation/ directive (e.g. Habitats Directive)	Is there a site-specific management plan in place?	Link to shapefile and/or online map	Link to any other online information
		<input type="checkbox"/> Designated <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted <input type="checkbox"/> Under consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	dd/mm/yy		<input type="checkbox"/> No. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Link:		

12.3 Provide information on management measures, including regulations/guidelines, particularly relevant to harbour porpoise in MPAs listed above. Including any temporal/spatial restriction of activities (i.e. seasonal fishery closures).

In order to monitor implementation of MPA management measures and make recommendations on best practice, we need to understand what management measures are being used and be aware of examples of what approaches are proving effective.

Site Name	Pressure (add pressures per site as applicable)	Measure (add measures per pressure per site as applicable)

12.4 Provide details of existing or proposed monitoring schemes related to the effectiveness of MPAs / management measures listed above for harbour porpoise.

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12.5 Relevant new research/work/collaboration relating to MPAs in your country.

In order to plan future approaches for MPA management and monitoring we need to be aware of current gaps and emerging issues.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information, who did the work)
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Section III: Surveys and Research**F. Biological Information**

- c) continue to carry out regular large-scale regional surveys, such as SAMBAH, SCANS and MiniSCANS, of abundance, density and distribution, as well as coordinated national monitoring programmes of harbour porpoise distribution, abundance and density where appropriate,
- d) take necessary action for collection and analysis of data on behavior, life history and health from by caught and stranded animals and sightings

13. Abundance estimates

Questions:

13.1 Please submit the relevant information on national dedicated surveys on abundance and distribution of harbour porpoise during the reporting period into the table below.

Region	Project	Time period	Method	Animal abundance (including confidence limits) if applicable	Link to project/ report/ publication
(Map of survey area)			(e.g. CPOD, etc.)		

Relevant information on distribution during the reporting period:

(Include species, method, time period, weblinks, and other relevant information)

13.2 Other relevant new research/work/collaboration on abundance estimates in regard to small cetaceans in your country during the reporting period.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study and information relevant to SAMBAH, SCANS; MiniSCANS, web links to other relevant information)

14. New information on life history parameters

Questions:

14.1 Is there new information on the following life history parameters of harbour porpoise in the reporting period?

Age of sexual and physical maturity	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe:
Inter-birth intervals	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe:
Calf and adult mortality rates	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe:
Potential reproductive span/capacity	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe:
Longevity	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe:
Diet	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe:
Age and sex structure	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe:
Other relevant factors	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Please describe:

For each life history parameter, provide web links and details where applicable.

G. Monitoring Programmes

15. Overview of current monitoring and survey schemes

Questions:

15.1 Are there national monitoring programmes that enable assessment of the Conservation Status of small cetaceans in your waters (i.e. provides abundance estimates and/or life history parameters and information on pressures)?

- No.
 Yes. Please provide an overview in the table below.

Within MPAs	Approach: <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Strandings <input type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
	Institution(s): (Name, website, etc)
Baltic Sea outside MPAs	Approach: <input type="checkbox"/> Line transect surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-ID <input type="checkbox"/> Strandings <input type="checkbox"/> Passive Acoustic Monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
	Institution(s): (Name, website, etc)

15.2 Please provide the relevant information with regards to aerial surveying activities (where relevant).

Number of surveys	Area covered	Timeframe of survey

15.3 Please provide the relevant information with regards to Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM).

Location of moored instruments	Timeframe of survey	Make and model of instruments used

15.4 Are any of these programmes carried out in collaboration with other countries?

- No.
 Yes. Describe below:

Programme	Collaborators	Links

15.5 Please provide details on any planned activities relevant to monitoring programmes.

Provide web links if available.

15.6 Relevant outputs/findings from monitoring programmes to note.

Relevant outputs

(Provide web links if available)

H. Use of Bycatches and Strandings Records

16. Stranding Network and Strandings

Questions:

16.1 Is there a national stranding network in place?

- No. Go to Question 16.4
 Yes. Please provide details:

16.2 Does the national stranding network cover the whole, or part of the reporting country's coastline?

- Whole coastline.
 Part of the coastline. Please provide details:

16.3 Are necropsies carried out to determine cause of death?

- No.
 Yes. Please provide details:

16.4 Is there a database of strandings?

- No. Go to question 16.7.
 Yes. Continue to question 16.5

16.5 Is the data available online or downloadable on request?

- No.
 Yes. Please provide details:

16.6 Provide details for the institution(s) responsible for a stranding database, responding to live-strandings, collection of carcasses, and for conducting necropsies.

Responsible Institution	Responsibility	Phone number	Email	Website
	<input type="checkbox"/> Responding to live-strandings <input type="checkbox"/> Collection of carcasses <input type="checkbox"/> Necropsies			

<input type="checkbox"/> Stranding database			
<input type="checkbox"/> Responding to live-strandings			
<input type="checkbox"/> Collection of carcasses			
<input type="checkbox"/> Necropsies			
<input type="checkbox"/> Stranding database			

16.7 Are any cases photographed, measured or sampled even if not collected for necropsy?

- No.**
 Yes. Please provide details:

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16.8 Provide details relevant to necropsies.

Protocol used for dissection methodologies, collection of samples etc.	Number of carcasses necropsied	What causes of death were identified? (add percentage if available)	Comment

16.9 Other relevant new research/work/collaboration on strandings and stranding networks in your country.

(List initiatives/ projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information)

Section IV: Information and Education**I. (A). Education and outreach****Questions:**

17.1 List education/outreach activities in the reporting period in your country, which are of relevance to conservation of harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea (e.g. activities during the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise in May)

Organiser	Name of activity (incl. translation to English, where applicable)	Date(s)	Location	Target audience (general public, scientists, children, fishers; other – please state)	Links (for further information)

17.2 List current information/outreach materials produced in your country, which are of relevance to Baltic Sea harbour porpoise.

Name of publication (incl. translation into English, where applicable)	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	Links (to download publication)	Can ASCOBANS distribute the link to publication for outreach purposes?
					<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
					<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Commented [A1]: Not reflected in Rec. 17/2 but necessary

Section V: Other Matters, including cooperation with OSPAR, ASCOBANS and ICES

e) seek close co-operation inter alia with OSPAR, ASCOBANS and ICES

J. Other information or comments important for the implementation of the HELCOM Recommendation 17/2, especially on cooperation with OSPAR, ASCOBANS and ICES

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