

# Fourth Annual Compilation of National Reports

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July 2000



ASCOBANS

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## Preface

In the preface to the Third Annual Compilation of National Reports, the Secretariat expressed concern at the fact that for a number of reasons that compilation did not meet the requirements set out in Article 2.5 and 4.1 of the Agreement<sup>1</sup>. While these problems have not been eliminated entirely, the situation has improved substantially compared to previous years. Thus, the Fourth Annual Compilation of National Reports, contained in the present volume, is the first that very nearly corresponds to the standards laid down in the Articles cited above. This concerns both the date of publication and the content of the reports. This enhances the usefulness of the last Annual Compilation of this Triennium, which the Secretariat is very pleased to present.

Rüdiger Stempel  
Executive Secretary to ASCOBANS

Bonn, July 2000

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<sup>1</sup> “A brief report shall be submitted by each Party to the Secretariat ... each year. The report shall cover progress made and difficulties experienced during the past calendar year in implementing the agreement” ... “The Secretariat shall ... present to the Coordinating Authorities, each year no later than 30 June, a summary of the Party reports submitted in accordance with Article 2.5.”



## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

### 1. Summary of Party Details

<b>Party</b>	<b>Period Covered</b>	<b>Report Compiler</b>	<b>Coordinating Authority</b>
Belgium	1 April 1999 - 31 March 2000	Dr. T. G. Jacques / J. Haelters	Dr Thierry Jacques, MUMM* Ministère de la santé publique et de l'Environnement, Gulledulle 110 1200 Bruxelles
Denmark	1999	Palle Uhd Jepsen in cooperation with the Danish Institute for Fisheries Research	Mr Palle Uhd Jepsen National Forest and Nature Agency, Nature and Wildlife Section, Ålholtvej 1 6840 Oksbøl
Finland	1999	Penina Blankett	Penina Blankett Ministry of the Environment P.O. Box 380 00131 Helsinki Finland
Federal Republic of Germany	1999	Peter Boye with contri- butions by Dr. K.-H. Kock and R. Czeck	Dr Tilman Pommeranz Federal Ministry for the Environment, Na- ture Conservation and Nuclear Safety Postfach 120629 53048 Bonn
Netherlands*			Dr Jan-Willem Sneep Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Manage- ment and Fisheries Dept. for Nature, Forests, Landscape and Wildlife P. O. Box 20401 2500 EK The Hague The Netherlands
Poland	1999	K. E. Skóra and I. Kuklik	Dr Zygmunt Krzeminski Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources and Forestry, Department for Nature Conservation Ul Wawelska 52/54 00-922 Warsaw
Sweden	1999	Peter Funegård	Mr Lars Thorell Swedish Environmental Protection Agency 116 48 Stockholm
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ire- land	1999	Angela Finch	Mr John Clorley Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Species Conservation Branch, Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol BS2 9DJ

\* The Kingdom of the Netherlands did not submit a national report for 1999. The Dutch Triennial Report (1998 - 2000) is attached as Annex I.

## 2. Institutions and Organisations mentioned in national reports

<i>Country</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Pages</i>
<b>Denmark</b>	Danish Institute for Fisheries Research	15, 22
	Danish Outdoor Council	26
	Fisheries and Maritime Museum, Esbjerg	26
	Fjord & Belt Center, Kerteminde	15, 22
	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fishery	11, 12
	National Forest and Nature Agency	22, 26
	University of Odense	22
	Zoological Museum, Copenhagen	26
<b>France</b>	Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins, La Rochelle	19
<b>Germany</b>	Institut für Haustierkunde, University of Kiel	22
	National Park Authority	26
<b>Irish Republic</b>	Irish South and West Fishermen's Organisation	11
	Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG)	27
	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations	11
	University College Cork, Ireland	11
<b>Netherlands</b>	Alterra	29, 30
	Harderwijk Marine Animal Park (HMAP)	30 -32, 34
	Leiden Center for Environmental Sciences (CML)	30
	Netherlands Institute for Sea Research/Camphuysen Sea Research Consultancy (NIOZ/CSR)	30
	Naturalis (National Museum of Natural History)	30, 33, 34
	Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research (RIVO-DLO)	30
	North Sea Directorate	31
	Technical University Delft (TUD)	30
<b>Norway</b>	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	16
	"Friends of Hel"	26
<b>Poland</b>	Hel Marine Station, University of Gdańsk	11, 22, 26
	Ministry of the Environment	26
<b>Sweden</b>	Stockholm University, Department of Zoology	22
	Swedish University of Agricultural Science	16
<b>UK</b>	Centre for Environmental Data and Records (CEDaR)	21
	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)	18, 21, 23, 25
	Ceredigion County Council	16
	Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)	16, 18, 21, 23
	DANI Veterinary Research Laboratory	21
	Environment and Heritage Service (N. Ireland)	21, 27
	Institute of Zoology	11, 20, 21, 25
	Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	15, 17, 18, 23
	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF)	11, 14, 18, 23
	National Assembly for Wales	21
	National Museums of Scotland	21
	Natural History Museum, London (NHM)	21
	Oxford University	16
	SeaWatch Foundation	19, 23
	Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) Veterinary Science Division	11, 21
	Scottish Fishery Protection Agency	11
	Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department (SERAD) Marine Laboratory	11, 25
	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	23
	Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU)	11, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 23, 24
	Ulster Museum	21, 27
	University of Aberdeen	23
	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	20, 25
	<b>USA</b>	Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

**B. NEW MEASURES/ACTION TOWARDS MEETING THE RESOLUTIONS OF  
THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF PARTIES**

**1. Direct interaction of small cetaceans with fisheries**

a. Investigations of methods to reduce bycatch

*Belgium*

No information provided.

*Denmark*

A Joint Task Group has assessed the interaction between fisheries and harbour porpoises.

*Finland*

No action.

*Federal Republic of Germany*

Funding of the research project “Understanding the Echolocation Behaviour of Harbour Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*)” in order to reduce bycatch by clarifying the behavioural background of bycatch in fishery nets.

*Poland*

Pilot study on the relations between fishery strategy and by-catch of small cetaceans (project carried out by Hel Marine Station, University of Gdańsk).

*Sweden*

No action. The final report from the BY-CARE project finalised in December 1998 includes the last investigations carried out in the Swedish part of Skagerrak, and Kattegat.

*United Kingdom*

The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) in collaboration with University College Cork, the National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations and the Irish South and West Fishermen’s Organisation have been attempting to demonstrate the efficacy of pingers in reducing porpoise bycatch in set gillnets on the Celtic Shelf. Technical problems have been overcome with the deployment of a new batch of pingers, which seem to be performing adequately.

Much has been learned about the practical implications of attempting to use this technology to reduce porpoise bycatch throughout the ASCOBANS area. A final report is due in 2000. See also (Harwood, J. 1999.), (Northridge *et al*, 1999), (Tregenza & Northridge, 1999.). Other technical methods of bycatch reduction are also being considered.

SMRU coordinated the BYCARE project, the final report of which has been submitted to the European Commission. Work included a successful pinger trial in Denmark and the development of a management framework for bycatch reduction in the North Sea (Harwood, 1999.)

SMRU modelling of fishery impacts on harbour porpoise populations was funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) for the financial year 1999/2000, to assist with the formulation of fishery management policies which address the conservation objectives regarding harbour porpoises in the North Sea and adjacent waters. (Northridge & Hammond, 1999.)

The Scottish Agricultural College Veterinary Science Division carried out necropsies on porpoise carcasses that were recovered from the MAFF-funded project operated by SMRU in Scotland. In addition, a number of bycaught animals were examined as part of the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department (SERAD) voluntary reporting scheme. The Institute of Zoology (IoZ) carried out necropsies on 4 harbour porpoise carcasses that were recovered from the BYCARE project operated by SMRU in England. Bycatch was also identified as the cause of death of 9 (25% of all) stranded harbour porpoises and 4 (36% of all) common dolphins examined at post-mortem in England and Wales in 1999.

For 1995, 1996, and 1997, quayside questionnaires were completed by local Fishery Officers of the Scottish Fishery Protection Agency in every port around Scotland where there is either gill- or tangle-net activity. Comparison of this information with landings data revealed discrepancies with the quayside survey apparently over-estimating effort. It was recognised that more data was required before any firm conclusions could be reached. It was therefore decided to continue with the survey in 1998 and 1999 and to compare the findings with the landings data. The results are due to be reported in February 2000.

b. Implementation of methods to reduce bycatch

***Belgium***

Bottom set gill nets deployed from the beach are still not banned, but some local regulations controlling the extent and time-period are already in force. Efforts to reduce the illegal recreational use of bottom set nets at sea are being continued.

***Denmark***

The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fishery is the implementing authority. The ministry is prepared to take the necessary measures to reduce the incidental bycatches of harbour por-

poises. The following measures are considered by the Task Group: 1) development and use of acoustic alarms; 2) modifications to fishing equipment; and 3) regulation of certain types of fishery.

The Danish Action Plan for mitigating incidental by-catch of harbour porpoises is now under implementation. The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fishery is planning to issue a ministerial order in 2000 on the application of “pingers” in certain types of gill-net fishery for cod in the North Sea.

***Finland***

No action

***Federal Republic of Germany***

None.

***Poland***

No information provided.

***Sweden***

No action.

***United Kingdom***

The work being undertaken in Cornwall by SMRU (described above) is an implementation trial that is intended to assess the suitability of pingers as a bycatch reduction method in the hake gillnet fishery. The assessment will also inform policy-makers on the suitability of this method in other similar fisheries in the ASCOBANS area. Under the UK’s Biodiversity Action Plan for the harbour porpoise the UK is developing a conservation strategy, involving all stakeholders, to address the issue of harbour porpoise bycatch. Implementation of bycatch reduction methods will likely depend on EU-level action.

c. Estimates of bycatch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries

***Belgium***

<b>Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries</b>			
<b>Species</b>	<b>Estimated number of by-caught animals</b>	<b>Area (ICES area or more detailed)</b>	<b>Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations etc.)</b>
Harbour porpoise	1	inshore (ICES area IVc)	Not known, but probably bottom gill net (the animal washed ashore)

## Denmark

<b>Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries:</b>			
<b>Species</b>	<b>Estimated number of by-caught animals</b>	<b>Area (ICES area or more detailed)</b>	<b>Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations etc.)</b>
Harbour porpoise	7,000 per year (1995 estimate). The information will be updated as part of an ongoing monitoring programme on by-catch.	<u>IV b</u> (mainly in coastal and off-shore waters along the West Coast of Jutland <u>III a, b and c</u> The monitoring programme on by-catch includes the Inner Danish Waters. The by-catch of harbour porpoise in the Inner Waters seems to be lower than expected.	Set-net fishery for cod and turbot mainly in late summer and fall. Turbot fishery has declined within the last years.
Other species	few, but the exact number and species involved unknown.		

## Finland

In 1986-1999, during a period of organised by-catch monitoring, only two harbour porpoises were caught in fishing nets (ICES Areas 29 and 30).

## Federal Republic of Germany

11-20 per year in the Baltic Sea, mainly in Kiel Bight.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Estimated number of by-caught animals</b>	<b>Area (ICES area or more detailed)</b>	<b>Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations etc.)</b>
harbour porpoise	16	Western Baltic Sea	set nets

## Poland

Numbers are given in the table below. No estimation of by-catch has been made due to insufficient data on fishing efforts in Poland.

Striped dolphin stranded on April 4th 1999, as a stenothermal species, most likely could not resist low temperature of water in the Baltic during the winter time (by-catch as the cause of death could not be excluded).

<b>Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries</b>			
<b>Species</b>	<b>Estimated number of by-caught animals</b>	<b>Area (ICES area or more detailed)</b>	<b>Notes (type of fishery etc.)</b>
<i>Harbour porpoise</i>	2 (counted)	III d, 26	Coastal fishery (set nets)

## *Sweden*

Estimates of by-catch in set net and pelagic trawl fisheries:

The BY-CARE report address by-catch in bottom set gillnets for cod but no new estimates have been made for 1999. New information regarding the reported level of by-catches during 1999 in the Swedish coastal fisheries will be compiled later this year. There are indications that additional by-catch exists in other fishing gear in the same areas exists but no independent observer data or by-catch estimates are available for these fisheries.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Estimated number of by-caught animals</b>	<b>Area (ICES area or more detailed)</b>	<b>Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations etc.)</b>
Harbour porpoise	About 110 per year.	IIIa, in the Swedish part of Skagerrak	Cod and pollock bottom set gillnets.
Harbour porpoise	About 50 per year	IIIa, Swedish Kattegat Sea.	Cod and pollock bottom set gillnets.

## *United Kingdom*

The SMRU were funded by MAFF to extend their bycatch monitoring coverage from the English North Sea to the gill net and tangle net fisheries in the northern North Sea and West fisheries in Scottish and Channel waters. No cetacean bycatches have yet been observed in the pelagic trawl fishery, though only about 40 days at sea have been sampled so far. In the gillnet fisheries over 4200 net hauls have been observed between March 1996 and December 1999. Estimates of porpoise bycatch have been made for 8 metiers within the UK setnet fleet.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Estimated number of by-caught animals</b>	<b>Area (ICES area or more detailed)</b>	<b>Notes (type of fishery, effort, seasonal variations etc.)</b>
Harbour porpoise	600-800 for 1995-7 (Annual rate varies with annual effort levels)	IVa-c	Mainly cod nets, with less effort in turbot, skate & sole nets
Harbour porpoise	150-200 for 1995-7; 52 for 1998	VIa	Crayfish, dogfish, skate. The crayfish fishery collapsed in 1998.

## **2. Reduction of disturbance to small cetaceans**

- a. Information on levels of disturbance (e.g. seismic surveys, new high-speed ferry routes, studies about acoustic impacts on cetaceans etc.)

## *Belgium*

The assessment of the use of the routes followed by high-speed ferries operating between Ostend and Dover is continued.

## *Denmark*

Very limited information is available on disturbance from various sources. The EU-funded EPIC (Elimination of Porpoise Incidental Catch) project, carried out by the Danish Institute for Fisheries Research in cooperation with the Fjord & Belt Center in Kerteminde and partner institutions, has as one of the main objectives, to investigate the behaviour of harbor porpoises in terms of reactions to acoustic stimuli and potential deterrent devices.

The impacts on harbour porpoises and other small cetaceans from high-speed ferries are not known. However, the operations with that type of vessels are strictly regulated as new routes cannot be established without a proper EIA procedure including considerations on the disturbance to waterbirds and marine mammals.

### ***Finland***

Information on new high-speed ferry routes is available, but there have been no studies on specific acoustic impact on cetaceans in Finland. Information on new high-speed ferry routes will be submitted at a later date.

### ***Federal Republic of Germany***

There were no civilian activities in German waters which induced high levels of disturbance (e.g. seismic surveys).

### ***Poland***

New seasonal high-speed ferry route was open in 1999 between Gdynia and Hel at the entrance of Puck Bay.

### ***Sweden***

No action.

### ***United Kingdom***

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee's (JNCC) "Guidelines for minimising acoustic disturbance to marine mammals, including small cetaceans" continued in use through the year. Effort was focused throughout the year on improving adherence to the guidelines. The greatest problems appear to have been caused by breakdowns in communications between observers and bridge crews on seismic vessels. Analysis of sightings and findings was conducted during the year, with the report published just after the year end (Stone, 2000).

At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee asked the Secretariat to continue monitoring information on high speed ferries operating in ASCOBANS waters. The DETR has supplied updated information for UK waters in 1999.

Ceredigion County Council, supported by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), conducted a study on cetacean site use and boat traffic along the Marine Heritage Coast and Cardigan Bay cSAC, analysing data collected between 1994 and 1999. A report is due in 2000.

SMRU, in collaboration with Oxford University, the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research and the Swedish University of Agricultural Science has examined the reaction of porpoises to low power air-guns of the type used for seismic exploration. Porpoise echolocation clicks were monitored before and after firing the air-gun, but no differences were found (Thompson, *et al.*, Subm.).

b. Implementation of guidelines, new legislation etc. to reduce disturbance

***Belgium***

While the legislation on the use of jetskis was unclear in the past, it is now clear that starting with a jetski from the beach is illegal. Enforcement has however proved difficult. The larger jetscooters can, when registered, start from within harbours. An increase in the number of jetskis and jetscooters in the near future remains likely and this could interfere with the efforts made to promote the re-establishment of marine mammal populations in the coastal zone.

***Denmark***

Within some nature and wildlife reserves, e.g. the Wadden Sea, general measures (speed limits) are taken to reduce disturbance to marine mammals. Special guidelines and legislation are not implemented.

***Finland***

None.

***Federal Republic of Germany***

None.

***Poland***

No new legislation.

***Sweden***

No action.

### ***United Kingdom***

The DETR, with the assistance of the JNCC, published two sets of guidelines aimed at minimising disturbance to cetaceans from whale watching operations and from recreational activities. The whale watching guidelines are aimed primarily at whale watching tour operators and are designed to be adapted to local conditions wherever there is a whale-watching operation.. The recreational guidelines are aimed primarily at members of the public who may encounter cetaceans whilst involved in recreational activities in coastal waters. Both guidelines set out the basic principles which should be followed to minimise disturbance to cetaceans when in their vicinity. A review of the guidelines will be conducted in 2000.

### **3. Protected areas for small cetaceans**

#### a. Measures taken to identify, implement and manage protected areas

### ***Belgium***

A proposal for a number of marine protected areas (not with cetaceans in mind), to be established in execution of the European Habitats Directive, has been delayed, due to resistance by local groups and interests. Rounds of information and consultation with all stakeholders started in spring 1999 and continue. The intention to establish marine protected areas is included in the draft of the Federal Plan for Sustainable Development (2000-2003).

### ***Denmark***

The Danish implementation of the EU Habitat Directive includes the designation of several sites which are considered important for harbour porpoises. In the Danish annual. A list of Danish designated Habitat Directive sites important for harbour porpoises was included in the National Report 1998.

### ***Finland***

None.

### ***Federal Republic of Germany***

Data collection of harbour porpoise sightings in the North Sea to identify areas with high abundance.

### ***Poland***

Ongoing observations of the occurrence of small cetaceans in the Puck Bay area, planned to be included in the HELCOM BSPA in its inner part.

### ***Sweden***

The Swedish NATURA 2000 sites which will be reported to EU during May 2000 will include identified areas around Kosteröarna and Väderöarna proposed by the county administration in Västra Götalands län. The objectives of these marine protected areas includes improved protection of harbour porpoises.

### ***United Kingdom***

SMRU, together with the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and the JNCC, have been contracted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) to determine whether spatial and temporal trends can be discerned in a statistically sound manner from platform of opportunity sightings data. It is clear from the analysis that such data can contain enough information to be confident about differences in the relative density of cetaceans at some spatial scales. The statistical tools that have been developed may therefore be useful in determining potential protected areas based on a sound assessment of cetacean relative density. A report was submitted to MAFF in March 1999.

The UK government, following advice from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, did not consider that there was sufficient evidence to meet the requirements of Article 4 of the EU Habitats Directive with respect to harbour porpoises. This view is presently being reviewed, alongside views from other EU states, by the European Commission, in order to provide further guidance.

The Moray Firth Partnership has established a management group to take forward the development of a management scheme for the bottlenose dolphin Special Area of Conservation. Priority management issues and ways of dealing with them positively have been identified. To assist with this work the Partnership has obtained EU LIFE Programme funding to contribute to the employment of a Project Officer.

The Cardigan Bay bottlenose dolphin candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) management is being progressed with relevant authorities and interested groups in Wales and consultation on the draft management scheme is underway.

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) have supported three studies aimed at identifying waters which could qualify as marine protected areas for the harbour porpoise:

1. Analysis of sightings data for indications of harbour porpoise breeding off the Welsh coast. This study compared data on the proportion of adults with calves to adults without calves from the Welsh Sighting database. The contractors conclude that the data suggests

the presence of a calving ground off Ramsey and Skomer Islands and to a slightly lesser extent south Cardigan Bay. In June and July off Ramsey and Skomer Islands over 18% of the adults had calves (Baines & Earl, 1999).

2. The use of Welsh coastal habitats as calving grounds for the harbour porpoise. The aim of this report was to investigate strandings data for evidence that harbour porpoises breed and calve in Welsh coastal waters. The overall proportion of animals that had died within one week of birth compared with adult strandings was higher on the Welsh coast (20%) than in England (12%), Scotland (12%), or Ireland (8%). The proportion of calves aged less than one year was not as high in Wales however, as that reported for a calving/nursery ground in the North Sea (Penrose & Pierpoint, 1999).
3. Investigating the population decline of the harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* in the Celtic Sea using a drift model EUROSPILL, an oil and chemical spill model was adapted to trace the drift of carcasses from the shore to the location of death. There were found to be two different patterns of drift, one from porpoises that had died within territorial limits and the other from EEZ waters, the former dying from non-bycatch causes whilst bycatch was the cause of death for half of those drifting from EEZ waters. There were three main areas where the deaths occurred: St George's Channel, the Bristol Channel and Cardigan Bay. Most of the porpoise deaths within 12 miles were in the summer months and were females and calves (Menhinick, 1999).

The UK continues to play a full role in the process of implementing Annex V to the OSPAR convention. Under Annex V consideration is being given to identifying Marine Protected Areas, which could include sites for cetaceans. Criteria to select suitable species for protection were discussed at a meeting in Brest, and a first test draft of these criteria for cetaceans has been carried out by SeaWatch Foundation.

#### **4. Further research on small cetaceans**

- a. Implementation of schemes to use and gain information from stranded cetaceans

##### ***Belgium***

The 'intervention network' handled 14 out of 15 harbour porpoises stranded in Belgium or found at sea in Belgian waters between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2000. Also, one carcass of a white-beaked dolphin was found at sea. The remarkable number of porpoises during 1999 is described in ASCOBANS AC7/Doc. 12. Additionally, some small cetaceans and one baleen whale stranded or bycaught in the North of France were necropsied by Belgian scientists in agreement and co-operation with the French local authorities and local collaborators of the Centre de Recherche sur les Mammifères Marins of La Rochelle (France). Because of the larger numbers of marine mammals stranding, a more intense research for possible viral infections is done.

### ***Denmark***

A Danish contingency plan concerning marine mammals includes guidelines for handling stranded cetaceans. As many stranded harbour porpoises as possible are collected for analyses in order to improve the knowledge on population structure, age and sex ratio, nutritional status, general health and the levels of contaminants in tissues and organs.

The plan is also dealing with handling of other specimens of stranded marine mammals.

The following observations of stranded cetaceans were recorded in 1999 (NB: will be updated as soon as possible when all data are received from the network. The numbers are from the 1998 report):

White-beaked Dolphin: 4

White-sided Dolphin: 1

Minke Whale: 2

Harbour Porpoise: about 112 (some are probably discard of bycaught animals)

### ***Finland***

A central collecting system for all data on cetaceans occurring in Finnish waters is in preparation.

### ***Federal Republic of Germany***

1. Monitoring of stranded cetaceans along German coasts.
2. Pathological investigations.

### ***Poland***

Information campaign (cf. field report sheets, envelope, attached as Annex IV)

### ***Sweden***

No action. Information has been collected by the public and delivered to the responsible institutions but the information has not yet been compiled.

### ***United Kingdom***

During 1999 a total of 362 cetacean strandings were reported in England, Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man (see Annex 2).

The Institute of Zoology (IoZ) continues to investigate diseases, causes of death and potential links between health status and chronic exposure to environmentally persistent contaminants (particularly organochlorines and heavy metals) in cetaceans (mainly harbour porpoises) stranded in England and Wales. In 1999 the IoZ was also awarded a grant funded by WWF to

study the effects of potential endocrine disrupting chemicals on testicular development in harbour porpoises. Contaminant analyses are conducted in collaboration with CEFAS. Samples collected and archived from necropsied animals facilitate ongoing parallel research projects including genetic and morphometric studies investigating population structure, dietary analyses, and exposure to other contaminants (e.g. TBTs). Pathological and other data from strandings investigations conducted in England and Wales, together with strandings data from parallel DETR-funded research in Scotland, continue to be archived centrally in the Poseidon database held at the Institute of Zoology. Bycatch was identified as the cause of death of 9 (25% of all) stranded harbour porpoises and 4 (36% of all) common dolphins examined at post-mortem in England and Wales in 1999.

The Natural History Museum (NHM) in London continues to gather information on all cetacean strandings (and also bycaught cetaceans and those seen floating dead at sea) in England and Wales. Suitable carcasses are conveyed to the IoZ for post-mortem examination by a qualified veterinary surgeon. The resultant information on species, sex, length, place and date of stranding is combined with that from Scotland provided by the Scottish Agricultural College and recorded in a computer database. Samples of teeth, parasites and stomach contents from cetaceans are studied at the NHM to provide information on the ages and biology of dead stranded cetaceans. Data is collated as appropriate for scientific publications (e.g. Davis & Muir, in press).

Strandings data from Northern Ireland is collated by Environment and Heritage Service and the Ulster Museum and recorded on the Centre for Environmental Data and Records (CEDaR) database. It is then passed to the Natural History Museum and the Irish Naturalists Journal. In 1999 two Minke whales and three harbour porpoises were reported stranded in Northern Ireland. One of the harbour porpoises was examined by DANI Veterinary Research Laboratory to establish cause of death.

Strandings in Scotland are coordinated by the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) under contract to the DETR. The Strandings Coordinator is based in the SAC Veterinary Science Division in Inverness and receives reports of stranded marine mammals from members of the public and many organisations. All records are kept in a database in Inverness and also added to the UK records at the Natural History Museum in London, and to the Poseidon database. Suitable carcasses are examined to establish cause of death and to provide material for research into the biology and ecology of marine mammals. Skeletal material, including skulls from all carcasses, is supplied to National Museums of Scotland who hold a research and reference collection and, where rarer animals have stranded, entire skeletons have been donated to the museum on behalf of DETR. In 1999 a mother and calf pygmy sperm whale were live-stranded in the Solway Firth. This is the first record of pygmy sperm whale in Scottish waters and a report will be prepared for publication in the near future. SAC have contributed towards the following publications using strandings data in 1999: (Santos *et al*); (Watson *et al*), (Patterson) and (Foster *et al*).

In addition to the strandings coordinators funded by DETR there is a strandings coordinator in Wales who is partly supported by the National Assembly for Wales and CCW.

- b. Research on abundance, population structure etc.

***Belgium***

An unusually high number of strandings of harbour porpoises occurred in 1999: 18. Most of these animals were in their first or second year of life. Most animals were emaciated, had lung problems and parasites. Most of the animals washed ashore or stranded between February and April and in November.

***Denmark***

A project on satellite tracking of tagged harbour porpoises is under implementation by the Danish Fisheries Research Institute in cooperation with the Fjord & Belt Center, Odense University and the National Forest and Nature Agency.

Genetic research using DNA micro-satellites, and tooth ultrastructure studies, undertaken by the Danish Fisheries Research Institute as part of the EU-funded BYCARE project, have been used to differentiate population structure of harbour porpoises in the North and Baltic seas. The project will be reported in 2000.

***Finland***

None.

***Federal Republic of Germany***

Funding of the research project "Genetic Investigations on the Population Structure of the harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the Baltic Sea and Adjacent Waters".

***Poland***

Research project carried on by Hel Marine Station, University of Gdańsk, "Biology and ecology of sea mammals occurring in Polish Baltic Zone"

***Sweden***

A research programme covering most aspects of harbour porpoise biology, ecology and conservation is ongoing at Stockholm University.

Genetic research on population structure of harbour porpoises in the North and Baltic Seas. Stockholm University collaborating with the Institut für Haustierkunde, Kiel, Germany.

## *United Kingdom*

CCW are funding a number of projects examining population abundance and structure including trials on monitoring methods:

1. Cetacean sightings database for Wales: a Welsh sub-set of the 'SeaWatch Foundation' cetacean sightings database was compiled in response to the 'Sea Empress' oil spill in 1996. This contains over 9,000 effort-related scan samples recorded during 460 observation periods over a period of more than 1,000 hours. The database is updated annually and a newsletter is produced. This means that for Wales, sightings data is effort related and therefore comparable between sites.
2. Contribution to Risso's dolphin survey, Friends of Cardigan Bay. Only two separate sightings were made during standard watch hours, one group of two and the other of six individuals. No calves were observed.
3. Cardigan Bay cSAC collation and analysis of bottlenose dolphin survey data as part of the LIFE project. A review of the current status of knowledge for the Cardigan Bay dolphin population has been made including a bibliographic database and 200 assessments of the potential usefulness of described workings and findings for monitoring and management purposes.
4. Comparative trialling of acoustic and visual monitoring methods for the bottlenose dolphins of Cardigan Bay. Progress has been made with development of hardware and software for acoustic data loggers (PODS) to differentiate the sonar pulses of bottlenose dolphin from other cetacean species. This project will be reporting in summer 2000.
5. Bottlenose dolphin prey and habitat sampling trials in Cardigan Bay. Broadscale maps produced from recent remote survey using RoxAnn are being used to determine sampling stations and the trawling gear has been trialled. This project will be reporting in summer 2000.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) commissioned a report from Aberdeen University and the SMRU (St Andrews University) to develop a population model for the bottlenose dolphins in the Moray Firth. This report is providing invaluable information to assist in the development of the management scheme for the SAC.

SNH have commissioned a further study from Aberdeen University to evaluate the various techniques for monitoring the abundance and behaviour of bottlenose dolphins in the Kessock Channel, an area of high dolphin activity in the Moray Firth SAC. The draft report has been received and the final report is expected soon. (Aberdeen University & SMRU.) See also (Rosel, Tiedemann & Walton, 1999), (Tolley, Rozel & Walton, 1999), and (Wilson, Hammond & Thompson, 1999).

JNCC, SeaWatch Foundation and SMRU continued to work towards a combined UK (and NW European) database and atlas of cetacean distribution (based on effort-related information) has continued through the year. Problems with data quality have inhibited progress. Using a subset of these data, CEFAS, SMRU and JNCC under contract from MAFF have devel-

oped a suite of statistical tools for determining spatial and temporal trends in cetacean abundance from platform of opportunity sightings data (Bravington, Northridge & Reid, 1999).

The SMRU, as part of the EU-funded BYCARE programme has examined the population structure of porpoises around the UK. Mitochondrial DNA analysis suggests that there are significant differences among porpoises found in the north of Britain and those found south of 56°N.

c. Research on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health

***Belgium***

The research project on 'North Sea seabirds and marine mammals: pathology and ecotoxicology' is continuing.

***Denmark***

No specific research programme is accomplished or under implementation.

***Finland***

None.

***Federal Republic of Germany***

Funding of the research project "Investigations of the Influence of Pollutants on the Endocrine and Immune Systems of Harbour Porpoises from the German Baltic and North Seas".

***Poland***

No research on the effects of pollutants on cetaceans health has been carried out. Comparison study on the level of heavy metals intoxication in harbour porpoises from Polish, Danish and Greenlandic waters has been made.

***Sweden***

Berggren, P., Ishaq, R., Zebühr, Y., Näf, C., Bandh, C. and Broman, D. 1999. Patterns and levels of Organochlorine Contaminants (DDTs, PCBs, non-ortho PCBs and PCDD/Fs) in Male Harbour Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) From the Baltic Sea, the Kattegat-Skagerrak Seas and the West Coast of Norway. Mar. Poll. Bull, 12: 1170-1184.

## ***United Kingdom***

The Institute of Zoology, in collaboration with the CEFAS laboratory, has conducted analyses of potential relationships between health status (based on cause of death) and chronic exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals in harbour porpoises stranded in England and Wales. The PCBs study comprised 67 individuals in total and 86 were included within the metals study. Statistical associations were identified linking elevated tissue concentrations of PCBs and mercury in individuals dying of infectious diseases when compared to healthy animals that died of acute physical trauma (mainly by-catch). These findings are consistent with the hypothesis that mercury and PCB-related immunosuppression may predispose individuals to infectious disease mortality, although greater samples sizes are needed to test these associations more rigorously. The results of the PCB analysis was published in the scientific literature during the period of this report (see below). The results of the heavy metal analyses will be published shortly. In 1999 the Institute of Zoology was also awarded a grant funded by WWF to study the effects of potential endocrine disrupting chemicals on testicular development in harbour porpoises. Research projects investigating potential links between lung parasite burdens in harbour porpoises and exposure to organochlorines and heavy metals initiated in 1998 were ongoing during 1999.

Chemists at the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department (SERAD) Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen have been analysing tissue samples from cetaceans stranded in Scotland for organochlorine compounds and heavy metals so that these contaminants may be related to levels of disease.

The final report from the DETR project 'Potential pathways of entry and build up of organochlorines and metals in a UK coastal ecosystem' is due to be finalised in 2000. This project investigated the causes of elevated levels of organochlorines in bottlenose dolphins in Cardigan Bay, Wales.

Publications on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health include: (Jepson et al, 1999), (The Science of the Total Environment. 243/244, 339-348), (Bennett et al, 1999), (McKenzie at al, 1999), (McKenzie, C. 1999), (Harwood et al, 1999), (Wilson et al, 1999), (Geraci, Harwood & Lounsbury, 1999), and (Harwood, Hall & Grenfell, 1999).

## **5. Public awareness and education**

- a. Measures taken in the fields of public awareness and education to implement or promote the Agreement

## ***Belgium***

A group of students (Ceto-club) is participating in necropsies, additional research and distribution of results.

During several occasions the intervention network was promoted. The promotion included results of scientific research and an overview of the threats facing small marine mammals in the North Sea. This promotion was also done during public conferences and interviews on national television and press.

A leaflet on the occurrence and research on seals, including a description of the intervention network and the possibilities of protected areas at the Belgian coast was distributed at the coast in summer 1999. A brochure, prepared for a LIFE NATURE project, was printed in Dutch and French (each one 11.000 copies). It contains information concerning threats small marine mammals face in our waters and information on the proposed sites for the NATURA 2000 network.

### ***Denmark***

A new project entitled “Look out for whales, dolphins and porpoises in Denmark” is initiated in 1999 partly financed by the Danish Outdoor Council. The National Forest and Nature Agency is prepared to co-finance in 2000, 2001 and 2002. The project is developed and coordinated by the Fisheries and Maritime Museum, Esbjerg and the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen

The main objectives of the project are to raise public awareness on cetaceans in Denmark and to improve the Danish stranding network in close cooperation with the National Forest and Nature Agency, and to monitor the distribution of harbour porpoises in the Inner Danish Waters. A database and home-page will be developed.

### ***Finland***

A brochure on small cetaceans is at the planning stage.

### ***Federal Republic of Germany***

1. Promotion of public awareness by National Park Authority and non-governmental organisations.
2. Funding the ASCOBANS Secretariat to produce a new poster and the exhibition “Harbour Porpoise in Distress”

### ***Poland***

Information campaign undertaken by the Ministry of the Environment, Hel Marine Station and the local NGO “Friends of Hel”. Stamps, postcards, telephone cards (in preparation), TV programmes, press information (see Annex IV).

### *Sweden*

A public information pamphlet regarding the obligation to report stranded harbour porpoises has been distributed and interviews in the media promoting the conservation of harbour porpoises in Sweden have been carried out.

### *United Kingdom*

The NHM continues to provide information to local authorities, journalists and interested members of the public about the legal status of cetaceans and the biological and practical aspects of stranded marine mammals.

The Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland and the Ulster Museum collaborate with the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG) in raising public awareness through talks, broadcasts and the IWDG All Ireland Strandings and Sightings Scheme. A day of illustrated talks including “The Resident Bottlenosed Dolphins of the Shannon Estuary”, a debate and the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, was held at the Ulster Museum, Belfast on 27 February 1999.

ANNEX I

**NATIONAL REPORT  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF  
SMALL CETACEANS IN THE BALTIC AND NORTH  
SEAS  
(ASCOBANS)**

**1998 - 2000**

**THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS**

**Prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries  
Department of Nature Management  
June 2000**



**NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF SMALL CETACEANS OF  
THE BALTIC AND NORTH SEAS (ASCOBANS)**

**THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS**

**SECTION A - GENERAL INFORMATION**

Name of the Party:	The Kingdom of the Netherlands
Date of the report:	July 2000
Period Covered:	1 January 1998 to 1 June 2000
Date of entry:	29 December 1992
Reservations:	none
Co-ordinating Authority:	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries Department of Nature Management Division International Affairs Drs. Jan-Willem Sneep P.O. Box 20401 2500 EK The Hague, The Netherlands Tel.: ++31 (0) 70 - 3785255 Fax: ++31 (0) 70 - 3786146 E-mail: J.W.Sneep@N.AGRO.NL
Appointed member of the Advisory Committee:	Alterra-Coastal Zone Research Team Dr. Peter J.H. Reijnders P.O. Box 167 1790 AD Den Burg, The Netherlands Tel.: ++31 (0) 222 369700 Fax: ++31 (0) 222 319235 E-mail: p.j.h.reijnders@alterra.wag-ur.nl

**SECTION B - MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSERVATION AND  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

As a supplement to the first and second compilation of National Reports this report contains information on the implementation of ASCOBANS in the Netherlands for the period 1 January 1998 to 1 June 2000.

The Netherlands chaired the Fourth Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Texel (the Netherlands), 30 June - 2 July 1997, the Fifth Meeting of the Advisory Committee in Hel (Poland), 22-24 April 1998, and the Sixth Meeting of the Advisory Committee in Aberdeen (Scotland), 12-14 April 1999.

The research was carried out by the Harderwijk Marine Animal Park (HMAP), Alterra, the Leiden Center for Environmental Sciences (CML), the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research / Camphuysen Sea Research Consultancy (NIOZ/CSR), Naturalis (National Museum of Natural History), the Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research (RIVO-DLO), Technical University Delft / the Netherlands (TUD).

## **1. REDUCTION OF POLLUTION**

### **1.1. Collation / Information gathering / Assessments**

Under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR), agreed in September 1992, there is a requirement to provide Quality Status Reports (QSRs) for the entire Convention area. The Convention covers much of the waters of the ASCOBANS area (but excludes the Baltic Sea which is covered by the Helsinki Convention). In June 2000 a Quality Status Report will be published for the first time on the status of the entire North-East Atlantic ocean. The QSR describes the biological and chemical conditions of the area and the impact of human activity on it. The impact of fishing on the ecology is one of the most important areas of concern.

The QSR 2000 contains an evaluation of the effectiveness of existing measures and makes recommendations for further action. The QSR 2000 is based on five regional QSRs, including a North Sea QSR. The establishment of the regional report QSR North Sea was coordinated by the Netherlands.

The OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic wrote the QSR 2000. 15 countries, including the Netherlands and other EU member states, participate in this Commission.

### **1.2. Research**

The final editing of the Special Issue of the IWC *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* "Chemical Pollutants and Cetaceans" was completed and was published in December 1999. The coordination of the IWC Research Programme to Investigate Pollutant Cause-effect Relationships in Cetaceans- POLLUTION 2000+, has continued. The Programme has been further developed and the first field trials by project participants have started (Alterra).

Studies of the pathology, virology, life history and stomach contents of stranded, and a few by-caught, white-beaked dolphins and harbour porpoise continued. The animals were dissected and sampled for future research.

### **1.3 Management measures**

The Netherlands is a signatory to the OSPAR Convention which sets a comprehensive framework to protect the marine environment of the North East Atlantic. This includes the aim of eliminating and preventing the dumping of industrial wastes and sewage sludges and the reduction of inputs to the sea via the atmosphere and land-based sources.

See Section B 1.1

## **2. REDUCTION OF DIRECT INTERACTIONS WITH FISHERIES**

### **2.1 Collation / Information gathering / Assessments**

The work done in the Netherlands (as referred to in section B 6.1) includes investigations of by-catch incidents. These incidents provide some information about direct interactions with fisheries.

### **2.2 Research**

#### *By-catch prevention*

Research on improving gillnet detectability by small cetaceans through their echolocation system has continued. It was found that for bottlenose dolphins (*Thursiops truncatus*), under high noise conditions and approaching the net head-on, the 90% detection range varied between 25 and 55m. For harbour porpoise, under low noise conditions and approaching the net head-on, the detection range varied between 3 and 6m, depending on the net type. At other angles of approach, the detection ranges are shorter (HMAP, RIVO).

Research projects to reduce by-catches of harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) and striped dolphins have continued. These studies are funded by the Harderwijk Marine Mammal Park and the North Sea Directorate:

Influence of sounds on harbour porpoises (to determine the sound spectrum of acoustic alarm signals). The study is carried out by Harderwijk Marine Mammal Park and RIVO-DLO.

Influence of sounds on a striped dolphin. The study is carried out by Harderwijk Marine Mammal Park and RIVO-DLO.

Hearing sensitivity of a harbour porpoise (to determine the sound pressure level of acoustic alarm signals). The study is carried out by Harderwijk marine Mammal Park, RIVO-DLO and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

Directional hearing of a harbour porpoise (to determine which frequency the porpoises can locate best). The study is carried out by Harderwijk Marine Mammal Park and RIVO-DLO.

Dolfinarium Harderwijk has received funding from the North Sea Directorate to carry out a hearing study on harbour porpoises in noise. This will allow prediction of their hearing capabilities under various sea conditions (wind forces).

### **2.3 Management Measures**

There are no direct measures in force to reduce the by-catch of small cetaceans in Dutch fisheries.

## **3. REDUCTION OF INDIRECT INTERACTION WITH FISHERIES**

### **3.1 Collation / Information gathering / Assessments**

There is no evidence that fishing activities have restricted food availability for harbour porpoises in Dutch waters.

Data from Member States is assessed by fisheries biologists in the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) on the basis of which recommendations are made for total allowable catches (TACs) of the main human consumption species.

### **3.2 Research**

No new information

### **3.3 Management Measures**

The EU has legal competence for the regulation of fisheries in EU waters.

## **4. REDUCTION OF DISTURBANCE**

### **4.1 Collation / Information gathering / Assessments**

#### *High Speed Ferries.*

The Stena HSS (High-Speed Sea Service) currently operates two sailings per day on the Hoek van Holland (the Netherlands) - Harwich (UK) route.

The Stena HSS sails at 75 km per hour (twice the speed of traditional ferries). It is also the largest High Speed Ferry in the world.

The Stena HSS is 124 metres long and 40 metres wide and can carry 1,500 passengers, 375 cars (or 50 lorries and 110 cars).

Tonnage 1,500 BRT. The Stena HSS has an aluminium hull, with two enormous floats which tilt the car and passenger decks eight metres above the waterline.

### **4.1 Research**

The study “Hearing sensitivity of a harbour porpoise (to determine the sound pressure level of acoustic alarm signals)” can also be used to determine the effects of man-made noise on harbour porpoises. This study is carried out by Harderwijk Marine Mammal Park, RIVO-DLO and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (See Section B 2.2)

## **5. PROTECTED AREAS**

### **5.1 Collation / Information gathering / Assessments**

The North Sea was designated in the 1990 Nature Policy Plan as a core area of the National Ecological Network (EHS). In implementing this plan, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries started work in 1999 on the North Sea Ecological Quality Objectives Project. This project is to clarify nature policy objectives and requirements for the protection of marine life in the North Sea within two years.

The method chosen to identify the requirements for marine life protection in the North Sea is identification, clear formulation and ultimate achievement of Ecological Quality Objectives (EQOs).

12 Ecological Quality Objectives have been formulated. One of these is the protection and, if necessary, regeneration of the habitats of populations of marine mammals, including the harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) and white-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*).

In the elaboration of the EQO for marine mammals, the current situation is described, any trends are observed and analysed, the role of the human activity in the recorded changes in

populations is indicated, and where possible an indication is given of more natural or ecologically ideal conditions for marine mammals in the North Sea.

Various research institutes are involved in the elaboration of this project.

On 14 July 1998 the Netherlands proposed to the European Commission that the "Voordelta" site (110,000 ha) be designated as a Site of Community Interest under the European Habitat Directive, inter alia for the harbour porpoise.

## 5.2 Research

In 2000, several rehabilitated porpoises will be released into the North Sea with radio transmitters. This will give insight into the geographical use of the North Sea by this species.

## 5.3 Management Measures

No new information

# 6. MONITORING - POPULATION STUDIES

## 6.1. Collation / Information gathering / Assessments

Within the framework of the Graadmeter Ontwikkeling Noordzee (GONZ: North Sea Development Indicator Project), carried out by the RIKZ, further progress has been made in the development of ecological indicators and ways of applying them. These indicators are used to evaluate the marine ecosystem and to discover the effects of exploitation on this development. The evaluation system consists of individual indicators which are based on biological data on species, groups of species and processes. The individual indicators are used to describe the development of the biosphere of the North Sea. The common seal and the harbour porpoise were chosen as the indicator for the population of marine mammals.

The marine mammal population indicator now shows that the number of marine mammals in the Dutch part of the North Sea has risen. More harbour porpoises were observed in the North Sea.

The monitoring programme of long-term quantitative trends and changes in the spatial distribution patterns of marine mammals and seabirds in the Dutch part of the North Sea has continued. Surveys are performed bimonthly by flying fixed routes over the area. A survey is performed on three successive days and covers about 300-500 km<sup>2</sup> (RIKZ).

The number of stranded harbour porpoises on the Dutch beaches is increasing.

In the seventies less than 18 harbour porpoises were stranded. In the last few years more than 50 harbour porpoises have been stranded. Most of the strandings take place from October to May.

Naturalis (National Museum of Natural History) continued collecting stranded harbour porpoises *Phocoena phocoena* and other species, mainly white-beaked dolphins *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*. Post-mortems were carried out on suitable carcasses and samples were stored for further research. During the autopsies, special attention was paid to symptoms indicating by-catching in fishing gear. As external characteristics such as net-marks or wounds are not always visible, in many cases the "by-catch" diagnosis can only be made during a careful post-mortem. The percentage of by-caught harbour porpoises among the stranded animals seems to have

increased: of the specimens examined during 1997-98, an estimated 60% were diagnosed as "by-catch" or "probable by-catch".

## **6.2 Research**

The analysis of stranding data of harbour porpoises on the Dutch coast from 1920-1994 was completed and published (Addink & Smeenk, 1999). The data over the last few years show an increase in strandings. Unfortunately, however, reliable data and samples are no longer forthcoming from the northern part of the country, and nearly all scientific material from that area has been lost. Therefore the statistics for the Dutch coast as a whole have become unreliable.

Research into life history parameters (age, reproduction) of the harbour porpoise has continued. The Dutch sample shows a low reproductive rate compared to other European populations studied.

The focal institution in the Netherlands for live strandings is Harderwijk Marine Mammal Park, the focal institution for dead stranded animals is Naturalis (Leiden).

## **7. EDUCATION**

The Harderwijk Marine Mammal Park and Naturalis (Museum of National History) play an important role in informing the media and the public about marine mammals via research and education departments.

All ongoing projects can be seen by the 1,000,000 visitors to the Dolfinarium Harderwijk, and by the 400,000 visitors to Waterland Neeltje Jans. Before each research session begins, the visitors receive information about the aim of the project and the methodology used. In addition, almost all psychophysical research projects with harbour porpoises have appeared on national TV several times, thus reaching millions of viewers.

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES**

The Netherlands is a signatory to the majority of agreements and organizations mentioned in paragraph 6.2.1. of ASCOBANS

## **9. ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASES**

See Section B2 - B6

## **10. PUBLICATION**

A publication list is attached to this report as Annex A.

## **11. LIST OF ONGOING PROJECTS**

See section B2 - B6

## **12. NEW NATIONAL LEGISLATION**

In 1997 the new Flora and Fauna Act was adopted by Parliament. This Act provides a framework for the legal protection of wild plant and animal species. The Act aims to replace the 1936 Bird Act, the species paragraph in the Nature Conservation Act, the Netherlands Game Act and the Endangered Exotic Animal and Plant Species Act.

All cetaceans are protected by the Nature Conservation Act.

In 1998 the new Nature Conservation Act was adopted by Parliament. This Act will come into force in 2000. The Act is a very important instrument for the preservation of important nature areas, and covers the designation of areas based on international agreements (European Bird Directive, European Habitat Directive, Ramsar Convention, Bonn Convention and Bern Convention).

## **C. FUNCTIONING OF THE AGREEMENT**

### **1. Cooperation with other Range States.**

The Netherlands cooperates with other range states in several research projects and welcomes advice from other range states based on their experience.

## ANNEX A - PUBLICATIONS

### 1997

Addink, M., M. García Hartmann & B. Couperus, 1997. A note on life-history parameters of the Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*) from animals by-caught in the northeastern Atlantic. - Reports of the International Whaling Commission, 47: 637-639.

Bakker, M.A.G. de, Kastelein, R.A. and Dubbeldam, J.L. (1997) Histology of the grooved ventral pouch of the minke whale, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, with special reference to the occurrence of lamellated corpuscles. *Can. J. Zool.* 75, 563-

García Hartmann, M., 1997. Pathology of marine mammals: 117-149. In: T. Jauniaux, J.M. Bouqueneau & F. Coignoul (eds). *Marine mammals, seabirds and pollution of marine systems.* - Bulletin de la Société Royale des Sciences de Liège, 66.

Kastelein, R.A., Dubbeldam, J.L. and Bakker, M.A.G. de (1997) The anatomy of the walrus head (*Odobenus rosmarus*). Part 5: The tongue and its function in walrus ecology. *Aquatic Mammals* 23(1), 29-47.

Kinze, C.C., M. Addink, C. Smeenk, M. García Hartmann, H.W. Richards, R.P. Sonntag & H. Benke, 1997. The white-beaked dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*) and the white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*) in the North and Baltic Seas: review of available information. - Reports of the International Whaling Commission, 47: 675-681.

Smeenk, C., 1997. Sperm whale strandings around the North Sea: history and patterns: 167. In: P.G.H. Evans (ed.). *European Research on Cetaceans - 11. Proceedings of the tenth annual conference of the European Cetacean Society, Lisbon, Portugal 11-13 March 1996.*

Smeenk, C., 1997. Massale stranding op de kust: wat is er aan de hand? Het gaat goed met de potvis. - *Friesch Dagblad*, 5 december 1997: 5.

Smeenk, C., 1997. Strandings of sperm whales *Physeter macrocephalus* in the North Sea: history and patterns: 15-28. In: T.G. Jacques & R.H. Lambertsen (eds). *Sperm whale deaths in the North Sea. Science and management.* - Bulletin de l'Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Biologie, 67 supplément.

### 1998

Baptist, H.J.M., R.H. Witte & P.A. Wolf 1998. Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena* monitoring on the Dutch sector of the North Sea: 115-118. In P.G.H. Evans, E.C.M. Parsons & S.L. Clark (eds), *European Research on Cetaceans - 11. Proceedings of the eleventh annual conference of the European Cetacean Society, Stralsund, Germany 11-12 March 1997.*

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## ANNEX II

### Cetacean strandings in Great Britain during 1999

	ENGLAND, WALES AND ISLE OF MAN	SCOTLAND	TOTAL
SUBORDER MYSTICETI			
FAMILY BALAENOPTERIDAE			
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	7	9	16
SUBORDER DELPHINIDAE			
FAMILY DELPHINIDAE			
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	34	9	43
<i>D. delphis/S. coeruleoalba</i>	3	4	7
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	9	7	16
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	3	9	12
<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	-	5	5
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	3	3	6
<i>Lagenorhynchus sp. Indet.</i>	1	-	1
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	6	11	16
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	3	7	11
Unidentified dolphins	11	3	14
FAMILY PHOCOENIDAE			
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	124	53	177
SUPERFAMILY ZIPHIOIDEA			
FAMILY ZIPHIIDAE			
<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	-	1	1
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	1	1	2
SUPERFAMILY PHYSETEROIDEA			
FAMILY KOGIIDAE			
<i>Kogia breviceps</i>	-	2	2
FAMILY PHYSETERIDAE			
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	-	4	4
Unidentified toothed whales	16	-	16
Unidentified cetaceans	6	8	14
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>362</b>

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ANNEX IV

**Samples of Polish Information Material on Cetaceans**



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