

Annex 7.3.6

Report from the marine biogeographical seminar and the Green Week



YM Action D1 (Dissemination of the project (e.g. Green week): Reports Marine biogeographic seminar Natura 2000 (5.—7. May 2015 St. Malo, France) and the Green Week (3-5. June 2015 Brussels, Belgium)

Marine biogeographic seminar Natura 2000 – presentation at the knowledge market

On Wednesday (6.5) evening there was a three hours knowledge market. At the occasion we had two roll-ups (picture 1 and 2), one presenting the aims and main outcomes of the SAMBAH Life+ project and the other roll-up with information of harbor porpoises. Additionally we had a ppt- presentation (Attachment 2) on SAMBAH Life + project.

Green Week stand

The SAMBAH Life+ stand at the Green Week (3-5 June 2015) offered the visitors different kinds of information on Baltic Sea harbour porpoises.

There were **two roll-ups** : one with information of harbour porpoises (picture 1) and the other presenting the aims of the SAMBAH Life + project (Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise), with the main outcomes (picture 2). The roll-ups can be used also in other Baltic Sea harbour porpoise related occasions.

The **inflatable life-sized harbour porpoise** loaned by ASCOBANS demonstrated well the size and how do they look (picture 3).

Additionally, we had **an interactive survey on harbour porpoises in general to measure the visitor's knowledge** (picture 4 + questions as attachment 1). These questions were not too difficult for an ordinary visitor to answer, with some funny aspects included in the quiz. The quiz ended with examples of real harbour porpoise sounds recorded by the click detectors used in the SAMBAH project. After answering, visitors got a **small cloth bag** with harbour porpoise name in all Baltic Sea country languages (German, Danish, Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian, Russian, Estonian, Swedish and Finnish) (picture 5). This cloth bag as well as the print picture can be used also in other Baltic Sea harbour porpoise related occasions.

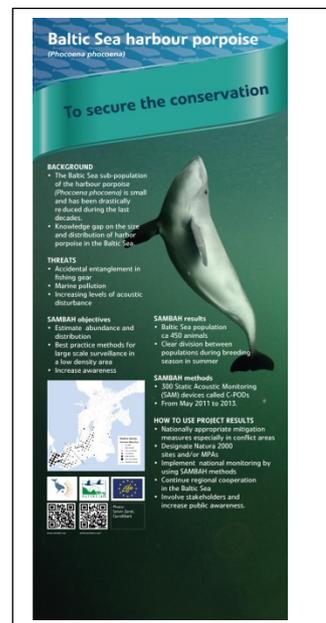
Quiz was completed by 100 visitors and 57 visitors had 100 % correct answers. At total there was 664 correct answers (90%) and 74 incorrect answers (10%).

The deviation of answers concerning each question:

	Correct	Incorrect	
Question 1	102	10	-> 91% correct
Question 2	105	2	-> 99% correct
Question 3	85	22	-> 75% correct
Question 4	94	11	-> 89% correct
Question 5	87	17	-> 81% correct
Question 6	99	4	-> 96% correct
Question 7	92	8	-> 91% correct

In general visitors had a good picture of cetaceans and on harbour porpoises and their situation in Baltic Sea, but still there a people who knowledge is not so good yet. This was a good opportunity to raise awareness among people who are environmentally oriented, but are not so familiar with these issues.

As ASCOBANS has supported the preparatory work for the SAMBAH Life + project and has followed the progress of the project, we distributed [ASCOBANS leaflets \(Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas\)](#). As well as [CCB leaflets](#) on harbour porpoise protection in the Balti Sea. Through the leaflets, visitors could get information on cetaceans, on the threats in general and especially on efforts to save them. Additionally we had UNEP/CMS/ASCOBANS/ leaflet on [marine debris](#) and SAMBAH Life + stickers (picture 6). At the stand we had also 12 slide ppt. presentation on SAMBHA Life+ project (attachment 2).

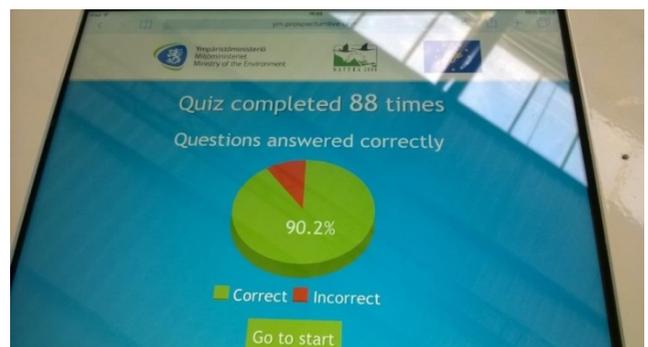
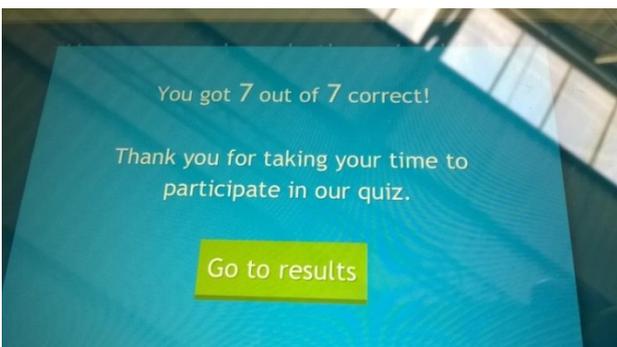
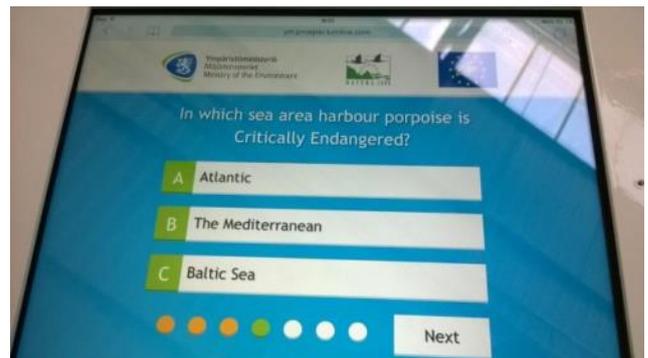


1) General information on harbour porpoises and on ASCOBANS

2) Information on SAMBAH Life+ project and its results



3) inflatable life-sized harbour porpoise



4) Harbour porpoise quiz, examples of questions and result pages.



5) The harbour porpoise cloth bag

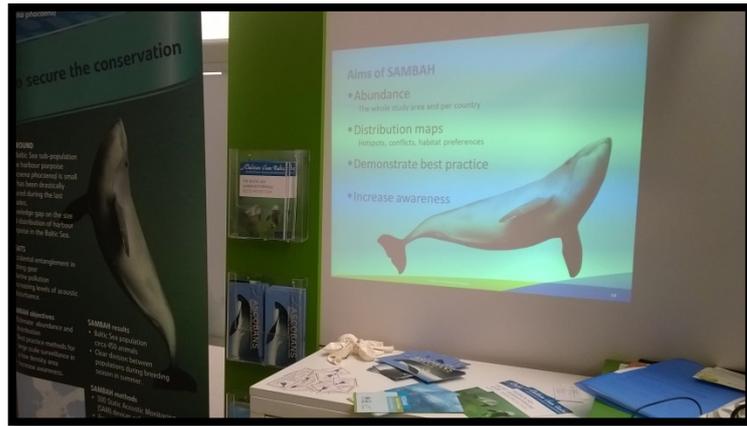


6) Leaflets

Attachment 1.

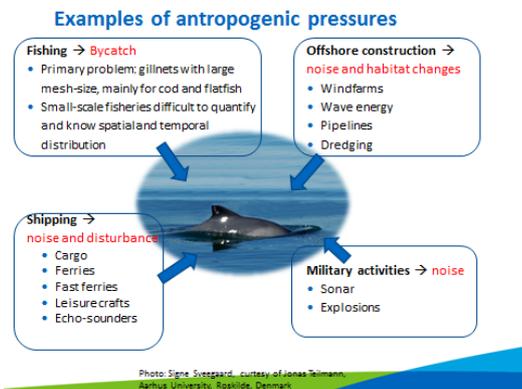
	Questionnaire:			
<p>1) Harbour porpoise is a</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fish 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mammal 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reptile 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2) Where does harbour porpoises live</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in land 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in lakes 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in sea 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3) How does the harbor porpoise breath</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by lungs 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by gills 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with both 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4) In which sea area harbour porpoise is Critically Endagered</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Mediterranean 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baltic Sea 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>5) Do harbor porpoises eat</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fish 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vegetables 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plankton 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>6) Which of these are the main threats (pick two)</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drowning in fishing gear (by-catch) 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • swimmers 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • underwater noise 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>7) How many calves do they give birth at the time</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 or more 				<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>THANK YOU!</p>				

Attachment 2.



Background

- Baltic Sea harbour porpoise population has been evaluated by IUCN as Critically Endangered as well as unfavourable at the article 17 assessment (2013)
- There has been a knowledge gap both in the distribution and abundance of Baltic Sea harbour porpoises
- The population started to decline in mid 1900's after the harsh winters in the Baltic Sea



Aims of SAMBAH

- Abundance**
The whole study area and per country
- Distribution maps**
Hotspots, conflicts, habitat preferences
- Demonstrate best practice**
- Increase awareness**

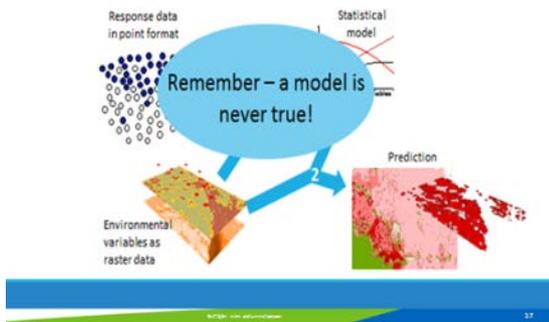
Methods

- Static Acoustic Monitoring (SAM) devices called C-PODs.
 - The C-PODs detect and log porpoise sonar clicks inside a radius of upto 400 m
- C-PODs were deployed at a total of 304 locations (the red dots on the map) between May 2011 and May 2013, at depths between 5 and 80 m

Detection of porpoises

- Accumulated detections over the whole study period
- Overall average per country or large area
- Relative 6-grade scale

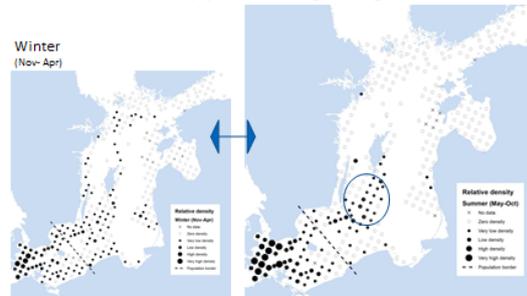
Species distribution modelling



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Relative density Summer (May – Oct)

- Baltic Sea population ca 450 animals
- Clear division between populations during breeding season in summer



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How to use the outcomes of SAMBAH

- Action to protect the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise needs to be taken **immediately !!**
- Use SAMBAH results to guide actions ->
 - Nationally appropriate **mitigation measures** (one size does not fit all) e.g. specific fisheries measures in conflict/risk areas
 - **Designate** for hot spot areas **Natura 2000 sites and/or MPAs** (where appropriate).

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Implement national/regional monitoring of porpoise distribution and relative abundance

- Using SAMBAH methods such as Static Acoustic Monitoring and species distribution modelling
- Continue using regional cooperation and networks e.g. in large scale surveys
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Involve stakeholders



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Increase public awareness



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Photo: Florian Gruner, Fjord&Bælt

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