



SAMBAH NEWS

December 2011

SAMBAH is an international LIFE+ funded project involving all EU countries around the Baltic Sea, with the ultimate goal to secure the conservation of the Baltic Sea Harbour porpoise.

SAMBAH current status

All SAMBAH positions are now out and running. The deployment started in April 2011 and the last C-POD to be deployed was out in the water on 23 June 2011. Since then, all positions have been visited at least once. The second servicing was delayed due to foul weather in some areas, but is ongoing. So far a few C-PODs have been lost but each involved partner are doing what they can to limit future losses by informing locals, fishermen and other relevant stakeholders to retrieve found C-PODs and avoid our positions. Some adjustments to anchoring systems may also be done.



Deployment in Finland

C-POD workshop in Hel, Poland

In June 2011 seven people from the SAMBAH group, including Nick Tregenza from Chelonia Ltd, met in Hel, Poland, for a workshop on how to interpret the C-POD data files. An algorithm, called the *Hel1-algorithm*, was created to limit the false positives in the data using the custom-made analysis software *cpod.exe*. The *Hel1-algorithm* will be expanded on to better represent the acoustic conditions within the entire SAMBAH area. A dedicated working group has been created to continue this work.

SAMBAH progress meetings

Two progress meetings have been held in 2011: One in March in connection with the ECS conference in Cadiz, Spain, and one in September, hosted by Fjord and Baelt Centre in Kerteminde, Denmark. At the meetings national updates were given and the anchoring systems were discussed. Further, the practicalities around playback system and the playback methodology were planned. The playback, which will be carried out in connection with servicing the C-PODs, will show how sound propagation properties vary among C-POD locations and over the year.



Field trip to Fyns hoved during the progress meeting in Kerteminde, Denmark

In Kerteminde, each country presented brief results from the first servicing. In general, approximately 5% of the C-PODs were lost, due to trawling and shipping, and a bit more data were lost due to technical problems with the C-PODs, some of which already have been fixed. The first data set shows porpoise detections in several areas, proving that the technique works.

Finally, a first meeting on habitat modeling was held in Kerteminde, where the methods and environmental variables were discussed.

The SAMBAH exhibition

The SAMBAH exhibition has been created and installed at one or more locations in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Poland. The exhibition contains five roll-ups, and in several locations it is complemented with a C-POD dummy, a full-scale model of a harbour porpoise, and porpoise sounds and videos. The feedback from the exhibition hosts tells us that visitors appreciate the exhibition.

In summary, all SAMBAH positions are out and the second servicing is currently ongoing. There have been a few delays, mostly due to foul weather conditions, but things are over all on track and going well. Finally, and the most importantly, we can conclude that we have detected porpoises in our data.

