



STATIC ACOUSTIC MONITORING OF THE
BALTIC SEA HARBOUR PORPOISE
SAMBAH

SAMBAH NEWS

January 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 information material available

During 2010, a SAMBAH informational leaflet and SAMBAH stickers in two sizes, have been developed together with the ASCOBANS secretariat. The leaflet is available in all project languages (Swedish, Finnish, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, German and Danish) and in English. The printing of the leaflet and stickers were funded by ASCOBANS. If you would like copies of the leaflet or the stickers, please contact us at info@sambah.org. The leaflet is also available on the SAMBAH website.

SAMBAH progress meeting

In November 2010, a SAMBAH progress meeting was held in Kolmården, Sweden. Prominent in the agenda was the national updates, where national representatives presented the progress of SAMBAH in their respective country. In general, we are making great progress. Most permits for deployment are ready or will be very soon, and most equipment is ready. There were discussions on statistical methods and the anchoring set ups in all countries, and we will be continuing both of these discussions until the deployment of C-PODs. Also, a project dissemination working group was formed. This group will be producing the SAMBAH exhibition which will be showed at several locations in the project area.



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An early snowstorm arrived during the meeting, marking the start of winter in Sweden. This gave a nice setting for those who came along to watch the siberian tigers in the wildlife park after the meeting. Despite heavy snowing, all delegates arrived home safely, although some had to endure delays in train traffic.

SAM deployment postponed until spring

As shown by the snowstorm during the progress meeting, winter arrived early this year. This was the most important reason for the decision to postpone the deployment of C-PODs until spring 2011, as ice is a major obstacle in fieldwork, primarily in the northernmost countries such as Sweden, Finland and Estonia. It is important for the statistical analyses that all C-PODs are in the water at the same time for as long as possible, and the result of the discussion at the meeting was that all C-PODs will be in the water at the latest on 1 May 2011, and will stay submerged until 1 May 2013. The ice during the winters of 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 will not be a problem, as both C-PODs and anchoring equipment are designed to be left out at sea even during periods of ice.

In summary, all preparations for the deployment of porpoise click detectors in the Baltic Sea are on track, although deployment has been slightly delayed. Until our next newsletter, stay updated at

www.sambah.org

