

GERMANY, PROGRESS REPORT ON CETACEAN RESEARCH,

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compiled by

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This report summarizes information on various fields of cetacean research, historical aspects of whaling and effects of whale watching operations on cetaceans.

1. Species and Stocks Studied

Common name	Scientific name	Area/stock	Items referred to
Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Baltic Sea	2., 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5., 7.1, 8., 9.
Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	North Sea	2., 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5., 7., 8., 9.
Various species		worldwide	9.

2. Sightings data

Sighting surveys (from shore) on harbour porpoise are being conducted on the island of Sylt (German Wadden Sea) at regular time intervals throughout the year.

3. Marking data

3.1 Field Work

3. 1.1 + 2 NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL MARKING DATA

No marking using artificial marks was conducted. As a result, no photographs of whales of one of the IWC management area/stocks are currently held which can be utilized in photo ID studies.

3. 1. 3 TELEMETRY DATA

No new developments were available

4. Tissue/biological samples collected

4.1 Biopsy samples

No biopsy samples were collected

4.2 Samples from by-catches

Species	Area/stock	2001: total no. of individuals	Archived	Tissue Types(s)	Contact person
Harbour porpoise	Baltic Sea Schleswig-Holstein	5	5	all organs, central nervous system, skeletal system	U. Siebert
Harbour porpoise	Baltic Sea Meckl.-Prepom.	3	3	All organs, central nervous system, skeletal system?	H. Benke

4.3 Samples from stranded animals

Species	Area/stock	2001: total no. of individuals	Archived	Tissue Type(s)	Contact person
Harbour porpoise	North Sea Schleswig-Holstein	102	22	Different tissues for histopathology, toxicology, genetics	U. Siebert
	Lower Saxony	9	9	Lung, liver, different tissues	M. Stede
	Baltic Sea Schleswig-Holstein	14	7	Different tissues for histopathology, toxicology, genetics	U. Siebert
	Baltic Sea Meckl.-Prepom.	8	8	Skeleton, various tissues	H. Benke

4.4 Analyses carried out

Revealed heavy parasite loads of the respiratory tract with associated pneumonia in some cases and multiple abscesses in lung, vertebral column and articulations in single individuals.

Examinations conducted on harbour porpoise stranded along the North Sea coast of Lower Saxony showed similar results as in previous years. Severe pathological changes of the lung caused by heavy loads of parasites were evident.

5. Pollution studies

An analysis of organo-chlorine compounds (chlorinated biphenyls, 51 congeners, and chlorinated pesticides, p,p'-DDT, p,p'-DDE, p,p'-DDD, HCB, α -HCH and γ -HCH) in various tissues and organs of stranded and by-caught harbour porpoise started in 1998 was continued. Germany is contributing to the IWC initiated and sponsored study 'Pollution 2000+'.

Post-mortem examinations on harbour porpoises which were washed ashore at the North Sea and the Baltic coasts or were incidentally taken in fisheries along the Baltic coast, in the Norwegian Sea and around Iceland were analyzed with respect to PCB's, DDT and metabolites, toxyphene and polybrominated diphenylethers.

6. Statistics for large cetaceans

6.1 Direct catches

Germany was not engaged in any whaling activity neither commercial, nor aboriginal nor on scientific permits

6.2 Other non-natural mortality for the year 2001/2002

None

6.3 Earlier years' statistics (historical)

All information on historical catch data available to us have already been reviewed and have been provided to the International Whaling Commission in previous years. No further data are stored to our knowledge in Germany.

7. Statistics for small cetaceans

7.1 For the calendar year 2001

No small cetaceans were taken in a directed fishery in Germany. The few removals were incidental takes in gill net fisheries in the Baltic.

Species	Area/stock	Incidental Mortality			Live capture
		Reported	Estim. total	Source	
Harbour porpoise	North Sea	0	unknown		none
Harbour porpoise	Baltic Sea Schleswig-Holstein	5	5	gill net	none
Harbour porpoise	Baltic Sea	3	3	gill net	1 doubtful

	Mecklenburg- Prepommern				
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7.2 Earlier years' statistics

There were no corrections to statistics presented in earlier years

8. Strandings in 2001

Species	Total	North Sea Lower Saxony	North Sea Schl.-Holstein	Baltic Schl.- Holstein	Baltic Mec.-Prepomm.
Harbour porpoise	163	23	102	15	23
Fin whale	1	0	1	0	0
Pilot whale	1	0	1	0	0
White-beaked dolphin	2	2	0	0	0
Common dolphin	1	0	0	0	1
Minke whale	1	1	0	0	1

9. Other studies and analyses

Species	Area/stock	Type of investigation	Contact address ^{*)}
Harbour porpoise	North Sea/Baltic Sea/North Atlantic	Stock structure, genetics	R. Tiedemann
Harbour porpoise	North Sea, Belts, Baltic Sea	stock discrimination, skull morphometrics	H. Benke
Harbour porpoise	North Sea/Baltic	Pathology, life history, age determination	U. Siebert
Harbour porpoise	North Sea	Histological, anatomical investigation of the nasal diverticula	S. Prah
Harbour porpoise	North Sea/Baltic	Impact of sounds	K. Lucke
Harbour porpoise	North Sea	Acoustic surveys, porpoise detectors (PODs)	U. Verfuss
Cetaceans general	worldwide	Morphology, Histology	M. Haas-Rioth
Narwhale	Arctic	Morphology, sonar communication	P. Comtesse
Dolphins	worldwide	Structure cervical region	N. Kappesser
Toothed whales	worldwide	Sound emission	S. Huggenberger
Marine mammals general	worldwide	Brain, embryonal development	H. Oelschläger
Cetaceans general	worldwide	Ear	L.S. Kossatz
Toothed whales	worldwide	neocortex	O. Güntürkün, M. Haas – Rioth, H. Oelschläger

^{*)} contact addresses see section 12

History of Whaling

Studies on the history of whaling were continued under the auspices of the 'Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum' and associated researchers and groups and dealt primarily with medieval whaling in northern Europe.

Contact address: U. Schnall, K. Barthelmess, Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum. Hans Scharoun Platz 1, D-27568 Bremerhaven.

10. Literature cited

none

11. Publications (excluding IWC volumes)

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12. Contact addresses

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