

P. Joul

15.03.2018

## Protect the Baltic Harbour Porpoise

Date/Project Code: 21.07.2017/015S16

Applicant	Coalition Clean Baltic
Legal Status	
Project region	Sweden
Project duration	01.01.2017 – 31.12.2018
Total project/grant	Project costs: 274 330 € / Grant: 210 230 €
Project status	ongoing

Sachbericht is ok, stellt Verlauf sehr gut dar, auf Verzögerungen im Ausweisungsprozess wird hingewiesen und daher eine Verlängerung des Projektes um 1 Jahr beantragt.

Mit Schreiben vom 15.03.18 bewilligt.

Finanzreport allgemein ok, es erfolgt aber keine Auszahlung wegen erheblicher Minderausgaben.

Aktualisierung von Budget und Finanzplan für 3 Berichtsperioden, zu dem auch aktualisierte Finanzberichte erneut vorgelegt werden.

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## Progress report No. 2

01.07.2017 – 31.12.2017

Total expenditures reported:	83 894 € / 40% of total project costs
Expenditures reported in reporting period:	40 979 € / 19 % of total project costs
Baltcf funding received in total:	103 266 € / 49 % of total grant



## 1. Project summary

The main goal of this project is to secure a well-managed MPA covering the main breeding area for harbor porpoises in the Baltic Sea, in the Swedish EEZ, to improve the conservation status of the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise population. To achieve this, we are cooperating with the responsible authorities in Sweden, mapping relevant stakeholders, facilitating the crucial stakeholder dialogue, and will assist in the drafting of the management plan including fisheries regulations as well as facilitate the international consultation process on these documents. We are also working to reach Swedish MPs to secure and extend the political support for the process through personal meetings with MPs and through a campaign in social media and in cooperation with Kolmården Wildlife Park (Kolmården), asking the general public to show their support for porpoise protection.

Key achievements during this reporting period is the continuation of the stakeholder dialogue and the social media campaign, the success of the harbour porpoise information and models at Kolmården during the first visitors season in summer 2017, and in general how the project is contributing to increasing the awareness of the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise in the general public, stakeholders and authorities staff.

Unfortunately, the project suffers from a delay in the entire national process in Sweden. This stems from the delay at the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) in making the harbour porpoise species action programme available for public consultation, as well as from difficulties in contacting fishermen and finding suitable dates for meetings. The delays in some sub-activities are not expected to impact the quality of final project results, however, due to the delays, we would like to ask for a prolongation of the project period with one full year, with no changes to the project budget. If this prolongation is granted, a new project time plan will be made, as well as a new financial plan.

## 2. Progress in project implementation

### a) What has been planned for the given reporting period

For reference, the project time plan, with the end of the reporting period marked, is shown below.

Objectives/Activities	2017				2018			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. to Ensure stakeholder involvement and buy-in	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
1.1. Establishing CCB as a facilitator of the stakeholder dialogue	█	█						
1.2. Mapping of Swedish and Baltic Sea Region stakeholders	█	█						
1.3. Stakeholder dialogue		█	█	█	█	█	█	█
2. to Facilitate the process	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
2.1. Bringing in legal and scientific expertise	█	█	█	█				
2.2. Preparing draft proposals for management plan and fisheries regulations					█	█	█	█
2.3. Organizing a reference group					█	█	█	█
3. to Support and extend the political interest in the protection of harbour porpoises and the new MPA	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
3.1. Lobbying directed at politicians and ministry and agency staff			█	█	█	█	█	█
3.2. Social media campaign	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
3.3. Targeted communication efforts								
3.4. Dialogue with national representatives in other countries	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
4. to Evaluate the process and the project	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
4.1. Project management and monitoring	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
4.2. Evaluation								

In this reporting period, i.e. Q3 and Q4 of 2017, project activities are ongoing but none were due to be completely finished, nor were any new activities due to be started. However, unfortunately, a few project milestones due to be completed within the reporting period have been delayed.

***b) Which activities have been conducted, what has been achieved during the given reporting period (please refer to planned activities as described under a.)***

*Sub-activity 1.1* was finished in accordance with the time plan during the first reporting period. Another project meeting was held with representatives from all involved authorities, i.e. the County Administrative Boards in Kalmar and Gotland, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, as well as Swedish CCB MOs WWF Sweden and the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, on 15 Sept 2017. In the future such meetings will be reported under 4.1 Project management and monitoring

*Sub-activity 1.2* has been finished during the first reporting period and lists of stakeholders in Sweden and the Baltic Region have been compiled. Stakeholder lists are continuously updated as needed.

*Sub-activity 1.3* is ongoing. In addition to the stakeholder meetings held with fishermen in Karlskrona and on Öland during the first reporting period, a meeting with fishermen was arranged in Visby on Gotland on 20 Nov 2017. During the meeting, we explained the situation with the harbour porpoise to fishermen, listened to their experiences and asked questions about how and where they have been and are currently fishing. In summary, it seems very few gillnet fishermen go to the protected area these days, but a few of the younger fishermen from Gotland is doing trials in the area, testing if fishing there is "worth it". The area used to be rather popular for cod and flatfish gillnet fisheries, however, due to problems with grey seal depredation as well as low fish stocks, fishermen are finding it difficult to sustain themselves and their families on fishing with gillnets, and the number of gillnet fishermen is steadily decreasing in the Swedish Baltic Sea. Some move on to use trawls or other alternative gear such as cages or traps (none of which have harbour porpoise bycatch). During the meetings, we have also discussed with fishermen what areas may be of interest if fish stocks go up and/or seal numbers decrease, and there are such areas within the MPA, which will have to be taken into account in the management plan and fisheries regulation. However, at this time there are no indications of such a scenario in the near future. The use of alternative gear has also been discussed, and many fishermen are trying alternative gear due to the problems with seal.

A meeting was also arranged with fisheries experts from the County Administrative Boards (CABs) in Gotland, Kalmar and Karlskrona, on 29 Aug 2017. These fisheries experts are key persons to involve, since they often have good contact and trust with fishermen in their respective county. At this meeting, the fisheries issues in the N2000-area was discussed from the point of view of the fisheries administration. Results from the study (SAMBAH) on which the N2000-area was based were explained and discussed, and options for fisheries regulations were brought up. It was evident that the SAMBAH results needed to be brought up and explained to ensure buy-in from fisheries experts. Following this meeting, Ida Carlén also attended a conference for all fisheries experts from all Swedish CABS, on 7 Nov 2017, where she presented general information about harbour porpoises, as well as the results from SAMBAH, so that the CAB fisheries experts would all have the same information on this. Possibilities for fisheries regulations in the area were also presented and questions were asked.

Within this sub-activity, CCB has responded to a public consultation on a request for permit to build an offshore windfarm on the Southern Midsea bank. This offshore bank was initially included in the proposed new Natura 2000 area for harbour porpoises, but was cut out once the Swedish Government took the decision in December 2016, very likely due to the application for permit submitted by E.ON already in 2012. In 2017, after E.ON had been adding new information to their application, a new round of public consultations came out, and both CCB and WWF Sweden submitted responses. Given that the offshore bank, according to scientific results, should have been included in the Natura 2000 area, and that construction of an offshore windfarm is likely to impact the population within the area, both CCB and WWF Sweden advised against construction in this particular location. The legal expertise brought in was able to assist with correctly formulating the concerns in this matter. Additionally, the Baltic Sea population is so small, that the precautionary principle should be applied. Also, in principal we believe that designating a protected area only to immediately allow

extensive construction in the area, is wrong. This also applies to the proposed gas pipeline NordStream 2, where CCB has continued to be engaged in dialogue with the Nord Stream 2 team as well as relevant authorities in Baltic Sea states.

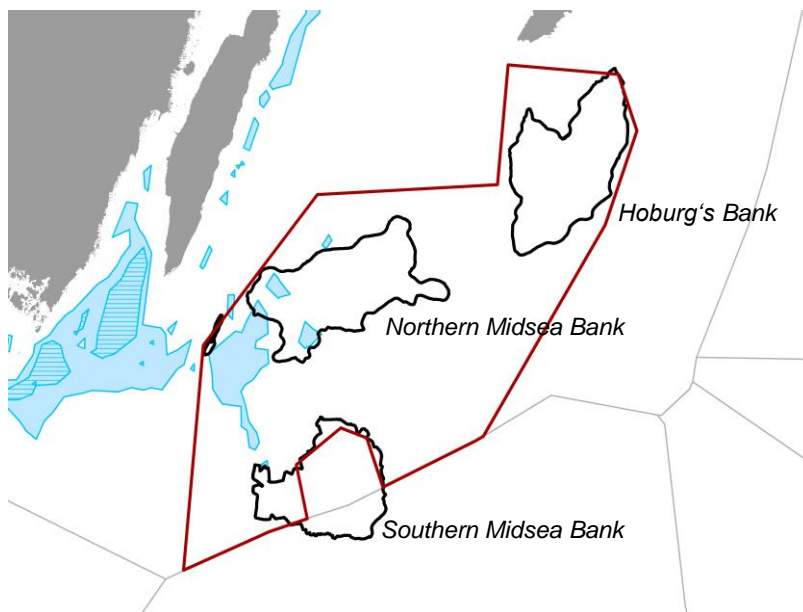


Figure 1. The protected area in red and the offshore banks in black. Note that the Southern Midsea Bank has largely been cut out of the Natura 2000 area.

*Sub-activity 2.1* has been initiated and is progressing. Legal expertise has been helpful both in formulating a response to a public consultation on building a windfarm on the Southern Midsea bank (see sub-activity 1.3) and in compiling a short report on the legal status of management plans and action plans relating to the Habitats and Birds Directives (Annex 2). Since the report is mainly targeted to the situation in Sweden, the report is written in Swedish.

A brief summary of the WWF report on bycatch mitigation measures has been translated to Swedish, creating a short brief on bycatch mitigation methods suitable for presenting to stakeholders and serving as a basis for discussions. This leaflet is printed using digital print, to avoid high costs and unnecessary bulk of material, and was distributed to fishermen at the meeting on Gotland, and to fisheries experts at the CAB fisheries experts conference.

CCB has also gained access to the bycatch risk maps created by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and their Department of Aquatic Resources (SLU Aqua). These maps are of great interest to the project, and CCB are using them to look at the bycatch risk in the area, looking into possible zoning of fisheries regulations within the area.

*Sub-activity 3.1* has been initiated. Project officer Ida Carlén has met with an advisor to the minister of environment, and participated in a seminar on Marine protected areas arranged by the Baltic Centre at Stockholm University, where relevant agency and ministry staff were present. In November 2017, Ida Carlén was invited as a speaker to present facts about harbour porpoises and how they are affected by underwater noise at a seminar arranged by the Swedish Transport Agency, the Swedish Defense Research Agency, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (member of CCB), the Swedish Boating Union (Svenska Båtunionen) and the Swedish Anglers Association. The seminar was attended by authorities' staff as well as relevant stakeholders.

On the international arena, the project has been presented to HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION in May and October 2017, to the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group in June 2017, and to HELCOM SEAL EG in October 2017. Project officer Ida Carlén, as the chair of the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group, has a key role as the liaison between HELCOM and ASCOBANS.



Sub-activity 3.2 has been initiated. The main channel is a Facebook page which at the time of submission of this report has **391** followers, the number steadily increasing. This page can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/Raddatumlaren/>. Several posts of the page have been marketed on Facebook to reach a wider audience, and the post with the widest spread within the reporting period reached 20 622 persons. Other posts normally reach up to 1000 persons organically. The project website has been set up as part of the CCB website, at <http://www.ccb.se/tumlare/>.

Sub-activity 3.3 is in progress. Harbour porpoise models have been produced and set up in the Lagoon in the dolphinarium at Kolmården during the first reporting period. The models are made to be touched and climbed on, and are very popular with the children. The information material consists of large printed images with some informative text on the walls, as well as an informative short film shown on a monitor nearby.





In addition to the work at Kolmården, Ida Carlén has been in contact with Stockholm University Baltic Sea Centre and Skansen ([www.skansen.se](http://www.skansen.se)), where building of a new exhibition on the Baltic Sea, the Baltic Sea Science Center, is in progress, and harbour porpoises will be presented in the exhibition.

*Sub-activity 3.4* has been initiated and is ongoing. CCB Member Organisations are continuously informed about the project through the CCB Working Group for Biodiversity and Nature Conservation. Currently it seems this mainly concerns mainly Poland and possibly Lithuania and Latvia, other countries have no fisheries at all within the MPA.

*Sub-activity 4.1* has been initiated and is progressing as planned.

***c) Has there been any deviation in project activities, please describe and justify main deviation in project activities. Will these deviations impact the project outcomes? Are there any threats or problems that can impact the future project implementation?***

Overall, the project suffers from a delay in the entire national process in Sweden. This mainly stems from SwAM's delay in making the harbour porpoise species action programme available for public consultation, hence delaying the CABs' drafting of the management plan, but also from difficulties in contacting fishermen and finding suitable dates for meetings. The delays in some sub-activities are not expected to impact the quality of final project results, however, due to this delay, we would like to ask for a prolongation of the project period with one full year, with no changes to the project budget.

We have experienced deviations or delays in the following sub-activities:

*Sub-activity 1.3* has been initiated and progress has been made, however, not as many stakeholder dialogue meetings as expected have been held. This is partly due to difficulties in getting in contact with fishermen, but also due to the fact that the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has not finished the new Swedish national action program for harbour porpoises. This is a key document for the CABs when compiling the management plan for the protected area, and hence, the drafting of the management plan has been delayed at the CAB level.

Efforts will be continued and we do not expect these difficulties to impact the implementation of the project, although the stakeholder dialogue may take slightly longer than originally anticipated.

*Sub-activity 2.1* was not started as foreseen, but has now been initiated and is progressing. Legal expertise has been helpful both in formulating a response to a public consultation on building a windfarm on the Southern Midsea bank (see sub-activity 1.3) and in compiling a short report on the legal status of management plans and action plans relating to the Habitats and Birds Directives (Annex 2)

When it comes to fisheries taking place in the area we are discussing with the stakeholders actually involved in this activity, and it seems that combined with the SLU Aqua maps of bycatch risk (see b, above), this will be enough to get the information needed. Although at this point the need for expert advice does not currently seem as big as expected, we would like to be able to use expert help if needed during the project life-time, and hence let this budget post be left as is until further notice.

*Sub-activity 2.2* should be initiated during the first quarter of 2018, i.e. after the current reporting period. Here, the project plan includes CCB to write draft texts for the management plan, but we would like to notify you already that the CAB are being quite strict in this respect. CCB will be able to respond to public consultations on the management plan, at a later stage, but will likely not be able to give input on the actual text before the plan is available for public consultation. To, as much as possible, alleviate this, we will increase our efforts to keep the responsible staff at the CABs informed about the outcomes of stakeholder dialogue meetings, ensuring that the results of these meetings are included in the first draft of the plan as far as possible.

*Sub-activity 2.3* should have set up a reference group in the end of this reporting period. However, given that the process is slightly delayed, the reference group will be initiated when stakeholder meetings have been more or less completed.

*Sub-activity 3.1* has been started but is not as far advanced as planned. Personal meetings with MPs and the seminar for Swedish MPs will be arranged during spring 2018, partly due to the delay in the Swedish national species action plan for harbour porpoises, which is an important document to reference in such meetings. For the same reason, the idea to submit a motion for action to the Parliament has been postponed. The delay is not expected to impact project final results.

*Sub-activity 3.2* has been started and is progressing as planned, but the petition will be delayed until the issue is more “hot”, for example when a decision is imminent at some governmental level. In such a case a petition may have a more obvious goal and hence a more immediate effect.

*Sub-activity 3.4* has been initiated, although slightly behind schedule. Given that the national process in Sweden has been delayed (due to the delay of the species action plan for harbour porpoises), the international process will also start later. New volunteers from CCB MOs were briefed at the CCB summer course “Our Common Baltic” arranged in Hel, Poland in July 2017, and the CCB Board was briefed on progress at the CCB Board meeting in Riga, Latvia in October 2017.

It is relevant to note here that the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management has been given a task by the Swedish Government to look into marine spatial protection and regulation of fisheries. In this task is included to identify further measures to reach conservation goals in all MPAs before 2020, with focus on fisheries. Hopefully, when this task has been reported to the Government in May/June 2018, efforts will be increased to set fisheries regulations through the CFP.

### 3. Achievements during the reporting period

The most important achievements during this reporting period has been the continuation of the stakeholder dialogue, the increase in coverage of the social media campaign and the well-received information wall hangings and harbour porpoise models at Kolmården. Also, project manager Ida Carlén has been actively promoting the harbour porpoise issue in international forums such as ASCOBANS and HELCOM, increasing awareness among managers in HELCOM countries and acting as a link between HELCOM and ASCOBANS, which has been missing in previous years. Ida Carlén has also been invited to present on relevant subjects at a seminar on underwater noise and to the CAB fisheries experts.



The partnership and cooperation with the responsible authorities is going very well, and CABs are very positive to the cooperation of CCB. The stakeholder dialogue meetings have been very productive, with attitudes from most individual fishermen being quite cooperative, although they are often initially hesitant. Fishermen seem to appreciate CCBs honest will to talk and to understand their situation.

The Facebook page has reached 391 followers and is steadily increasing, especially when posts are promoted. The posts are increasing in reach, over 20 000 people were reached through paid advertising of a post, and organic reach has been up to 2000 people for one post.

The communication efforts at Kolmården are going well. Kolmården funded the installation of models as well as information wall hangings which are displayed together with the harbour porpoise models in a well-visited part of the park where visitors can watch the dolphins through underwater windows. The hashtag #RäddaTumlaren is visible in the exhibition, and it is our hope that visitors will take pictures with the models, post them on social media and tag them with this hashtag. In addition, Kolmården has produced a video which runs on a screen in the exhibition, presenting the SAMBAH project and the plight of the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise.

Most project milestones (table 3 in project application) for this reporting period have been reached, with the exception of a few, which are explained above under 2c.

#### 4. Partnership and cooperation

The most important cooperations for this project are those with the CABs responsible for the MPA, SwAM (as the national authority responsible for MPAs), Kolmården and the Swedish CCB MOs (WWF Sweden and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation). There are also contacts with people and organisations outside of the project that are very relevant, such as communication with the Swedish Anglers' Association, the Swedish Defense Research Agency (carries out a lot of work with underwater noise in Swedish waters) and the Swedish Museum of Natural History (conducting harbour porpoise research and managing the national monitoring programme for harbour porpoise in Sweden).

The cooperation with authorities and Swedish MOs has been working very well, and a second project meeting was arranged through Skype on 15 September 2017. Further contacts between CCB and authorities has been through email and phone, mainly updates on progress within the project as well as related issues.

Reactions to the project from external organisations are often very positive, especially since the lack of resources for CABs to engage in stakeholder dialogue is quite well-known and considered a problem.

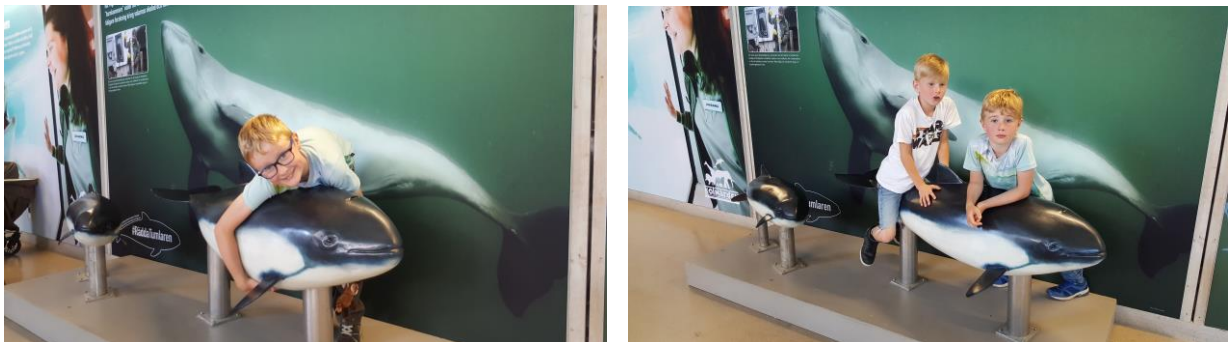
#### 5. Communication

The main communication activities carried out during the reporting period has been the continuation of the social media campaign and presence of the harbour porpoise models at the dolphinarium in Kolmården. As mentioned above, the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Raddatumlaren/>) is steadily increasing its reach, and is expected to reach an even larger audience with the help of continued paid advertising on Facebook. The information leaflet about bycatch mitigation measures that was produced during this reporting period will be used in stakeholder meetings and for other information purposes during the rest of the project time.

The harbour porpoise models are getting quite a bit of attention in Kolmården, with kids climbing on them etc, and we hope that this will lead to more people reading the information and seeing the video being shown, and hence to increased awareness and support for the conservation of the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise. We also hope that this will lead to increased use of the hashtag #RäddaTumlaren.



All project communication activities will very likely benefit from the fact that CCB is employing a communications officer during spring 2018, who will work partly with communication for the harbour porpoise project. Also, since some funds are available from the previous reporting periods, an information consultant might be involved to create some information materials for the campaign.



## 6. Next steps

The main activities and milestones for the next reporting period (Q1-Q2 2018) is the continuation of the Swedish stakeholder dialogue and an agreed list of potential mitigation measures for fisheries, increased contacts with Swedish MPs and the increase in reach of the social media campaign.

In *sub-activity 1.1* HELCOM and ASCOBANS will be kept informed on project progress, for example through meetings in the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group and HELCOM STATE & CONSERVATION.

In *sub-activity 1.3* the breadth in stakeholder contacts will increase, including both more fisheries representatives as well as representatives for the wind farm industry. The aim is also to agree with fishermen on a list of potential mitigation measures, to be used as input to the management plan and fisheries regulations for the MPA. One important tool in this will be the leaflet on bycatch mitigation measures.

In *sub-activity 2.1* further legal work will be done, looking at the need for permits for fisheries acting in Natura 2000 areas. Additionally, an investigation on how pinger use may impact the Baltic Sea

harbour porpoise population will be initiated in a different project, which will be of great interest to this project.

In *sub-activity 2.2*, as mentioned above, CCB will not be allowed to draft texts for the management plan as originally anticipated, but will continue to ensure that CABs have all necessary information from stakeholder meetings and relevant expert advice from sub-activity 2.1, to be able to incorporate this into the plan. Once the plan is out for public consultation, CCB will obviously be very active in responding to this consultation, basing the response on stakeholder meetings and available scientific results.

In *sub-activity 3.1*, personal contact will be made with Swedish MPs, and a short seminar will be arranged to introduce the plight of the Baltic Sea porpoise and the need for effective management of the new MPA. Additionally, if we manage to find one or more willing MPs, we will work together with them to submit a motion for action to the Swedish Parliament during the open motion period in fall 2018.

In *sub-activity 3.2*, the social media campaign will be expanded to include Instagram, and the Facebook page should increase its reach, partly through paid advertising. This also connects to *sub-activity 3.3* where the visitors at Kolmården will hopefully continue to show their support for harbour porpoise conservation by tagging their photos of the models with #RäddaTumlaren. The campaign will also spread the message to tag photos of the sea with #RäddaTumlaren, to not limit the audience to visitors at Kolmården.

In *sub-activity 3.4* CCB MOs in Poland, Latvia and Lithuania will be engaged in contacting relevant stakeholders in their respective countries, and will at a slightly later stage be supported to contact relevant ministry and agency staff in their respective countries to inform about the process to create a management plan and fisheries regulations for the MPA. This process will likely be delayed until SwAM has concluded the task on Marine Protected areas and fisheries regulations.

## ANNEX

1. Financial progress report
2. Report on the legal status of management plans and action plans relating to the Habitats and Birds Directives (in Swedish)
3. Leaflet on bycatch mitigation measures