

**GERMANY, PROGRESS REPORT ON CETACEAN RESEARCH,
MAY 2000 TO JUNE 2001**

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		Elephant Island – South Shetland Islands	9.
Various species		North Atlantic	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. A ship-borne sighting survey was conducted from board RV 'Polarstern' around Elephant Island – King George Island (Southern Ocean, 'Elephant Island Box') in January - February 2001

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	2000: total no. of individuals	Archived	Tissue Types(s)	Contact person
Harbour porpoise	Baltic Sea Schleswig-Holstein	3	3	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	2000: total no. of individuals	Archived	Tissue Type(s)	Contact person
Harbour porpoise	North Sea Schleswig-Holstein	90	30	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
White-beaked dolphin	Lower Saxony	3	3	Skeleton, lung, liver Different tissues	M. Stede

4.4 Analyses carried out

Post-mortem examinations on harbour porpoises which were washed ashore at the North Sea and the Baltic coasts of Schleswig-Holstein (northernmost state of Germany) or were incidentally taken in fisheries (Baltic Sea) 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+'.

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 2000/2001

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 2000

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

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

7.2 Earlier years' statistics

There were no corrections to statistics presented in earlier years

8. Strandings in 2000

Species	Total	North Sea Niedersachsen	North Sea Schl.-Holstein	Baltic Mec.-Prepomm.
Harbour porpoise	107	9	90	8
White-beaked dolphin	3	3	0	0

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, Island of Sylt	Analysis of sighting surveys, group size etc.	S. Anders, I. Garbe, L. Koch,
Harbour porpoise	North Sea/Baltic	Pathology, life history, age determination	U. Siebert, B. Bandomir,
Harbour porpoise	North Sea	Histological, anatomical of the nasal diverticula	S. Prah
Harbour porpoise	Captive	Analysis of echolocation behav. to reduce by-catch	U. Verfuss
Various whale species	Southern Ocean	Sighting survey	H. Pankow
Various whale species	North Atlantic	Morphology of the head and brain of cetaceans	H. Oelschläger
Humpback whales	Ecuador, Tropical East Pacific	Population size, interaction with whale-watching	M. Scheidat

*) 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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Siebert, U., Wünschmann, A., Weiss, R., Frank, H., Benke, H., Frese, K. (2001). Post mortem findings in harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) originating from German North and Baltic Sea. Journal of Comparative Pathology 124: 102 - 114

Tiedemann, R., Hardy, O., Vekemans, X., Milinkovitch, M.C. 2000. Higher impact of female than male migration on population structure in large mammals: Molecular Ecology 9: 1159 – 1163

Troisi, G.M., Haraguchi, K., Kaydoo, D.S., Nyman, M., Aguilar, A., Borell, A., Siebert, U., Mason, C.F. 2001. Bioaccumulation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dichlorodiphenylethane (DDE) methyl sulfones in tissues of seal and morbillivirus epizootic victims. Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health Part A 62: 1 - 8

12. Contact addresses

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