

BYCATCH MITIGATION FOR THE BALTIC PROPER HARBOUR PORPOISE

What To Do If Pingers Are Not
An Option?

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Bycatch Workshop Hel, Poland, November 2025





Deutsche Umwelthilfe



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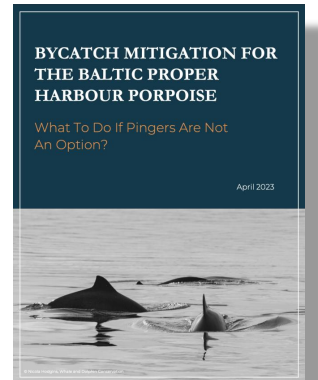
 **SEAS AT RISK**

SHARKPROJECT

Suomen  Luonnonsuojeluliitto

HISTORY OF THE DOCUMENT

- **NGOs call for emergency measures – 2019**
- **ICES gives advice to EU COM – May 2020**
- **EU calls for Joint Recommendation – 2020**
- **Member States prepare JR 1 (BALTFISH)**
- **Rejected by the EU, Member States prepare JR 2**
- **EU prepares Delegated Act**
- **Navies chip in...**
- **Delegated Act comes into force – Feb 2022**

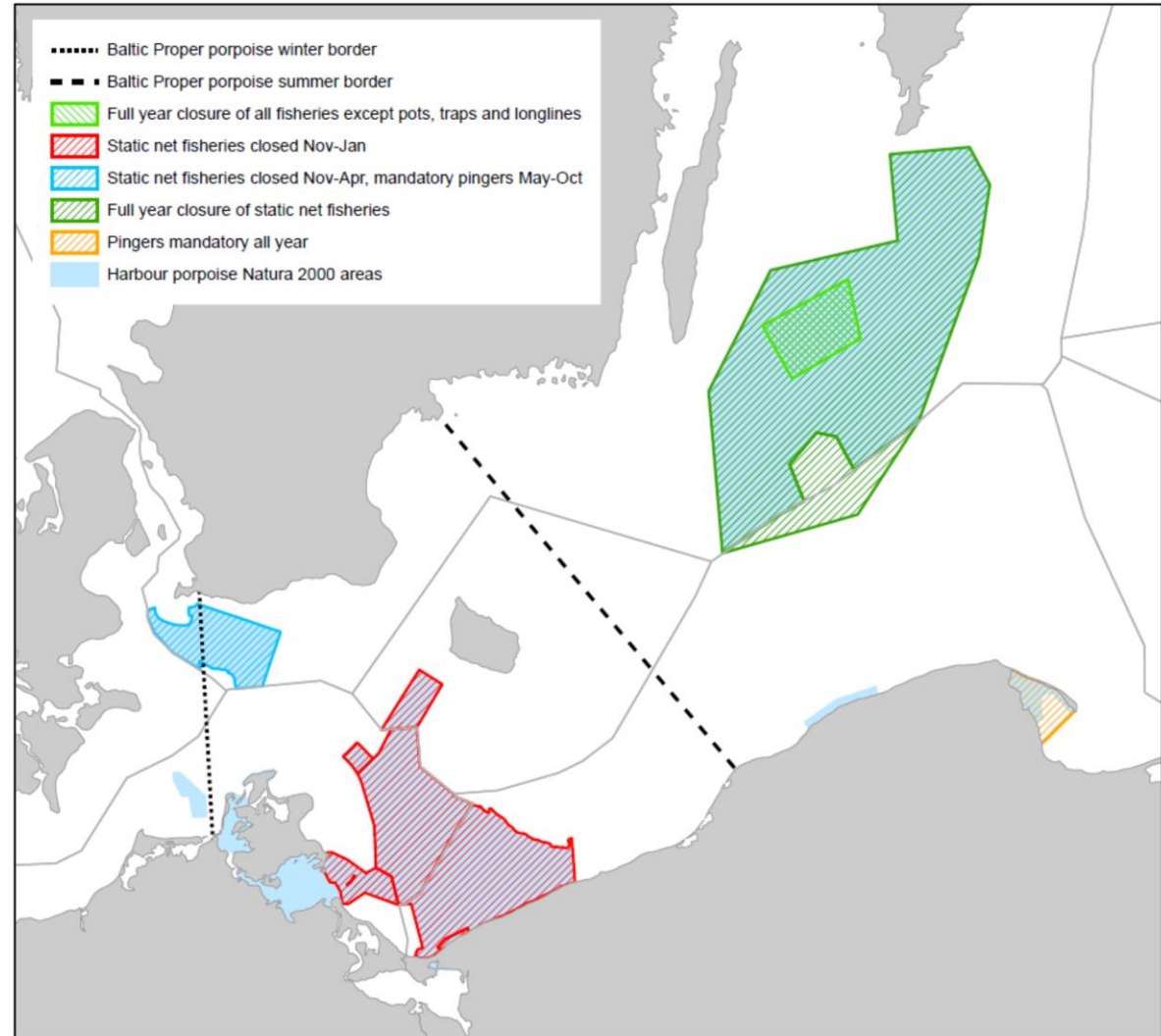


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Measures (Delegated Act)

- Closure to gillnet fisheries in some SACs
- Some permanent, others seasonal
- Some concerning all fisheries, others affecting static nets only
- Pinger use only mandatory in Puck Bay
- Moving-on procedure

→ *Status Quo?*



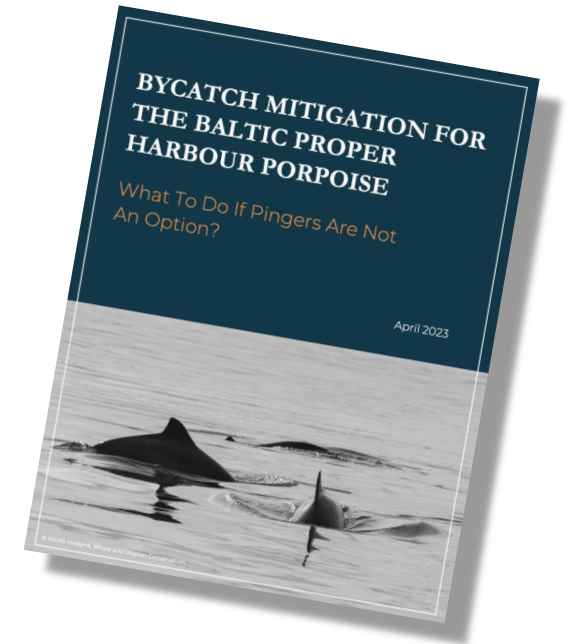
POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

General reduction in fishing effort

- **Alternative fishing gear (e.g. pots, traps, longlines)**
- **Research, development & testing**

Additional time/area closures

- **Allow alternative gear within certain zones**
- **Reduction of soak time, e.g. in turbot nets**
- **Additional closures...**



Measures by country

GERMANY

- **Expand closure in German MPAs: November–April, preferably year-round**
- **Additional closures:**
 - Western Pommeranian Bight**
 - Steilküste & Blockgründe**
 - Near SACs Rönnebank & Adlergrund**
 - Arkona**
- **Navies to investigate potential use of pingers**

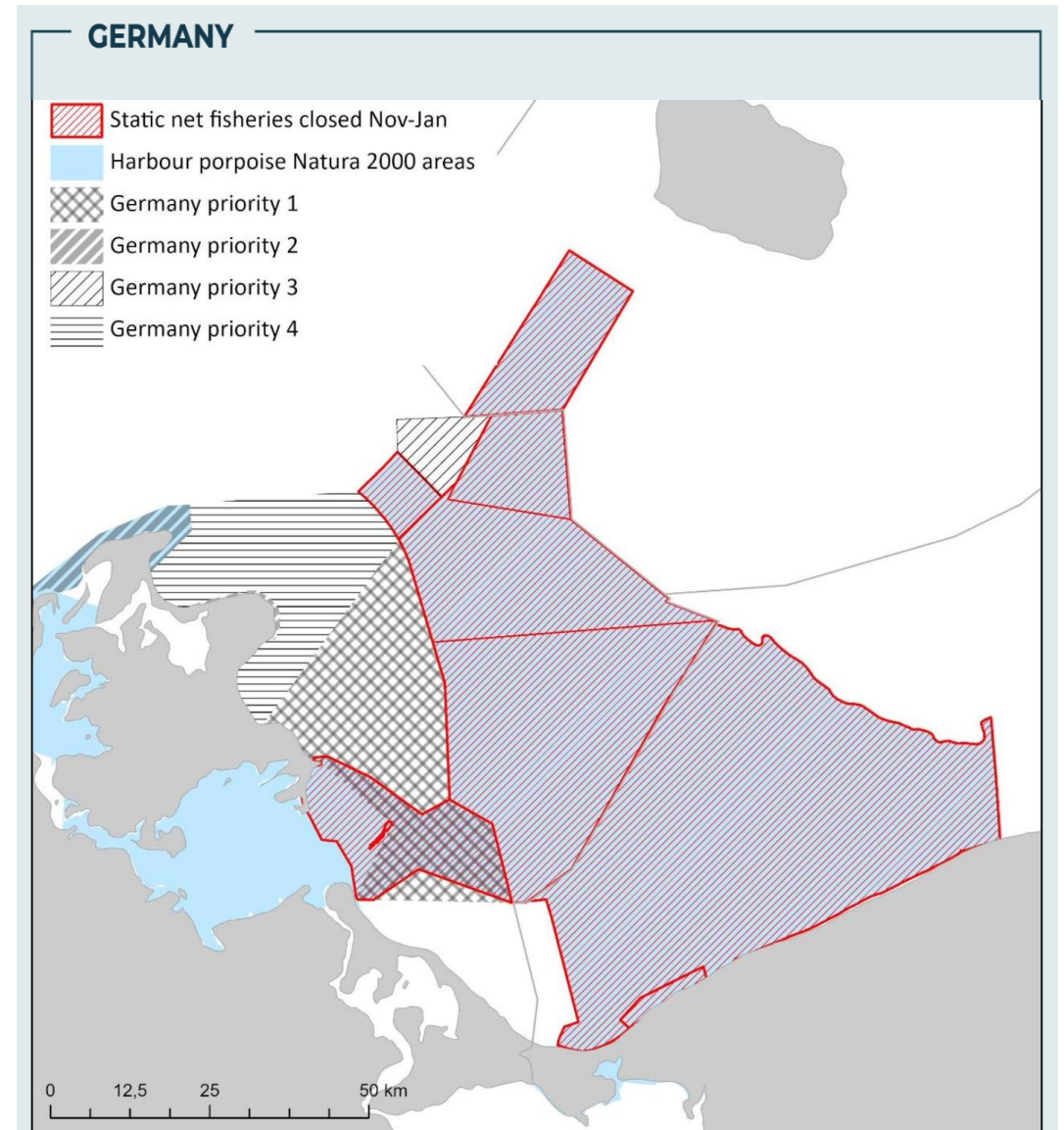
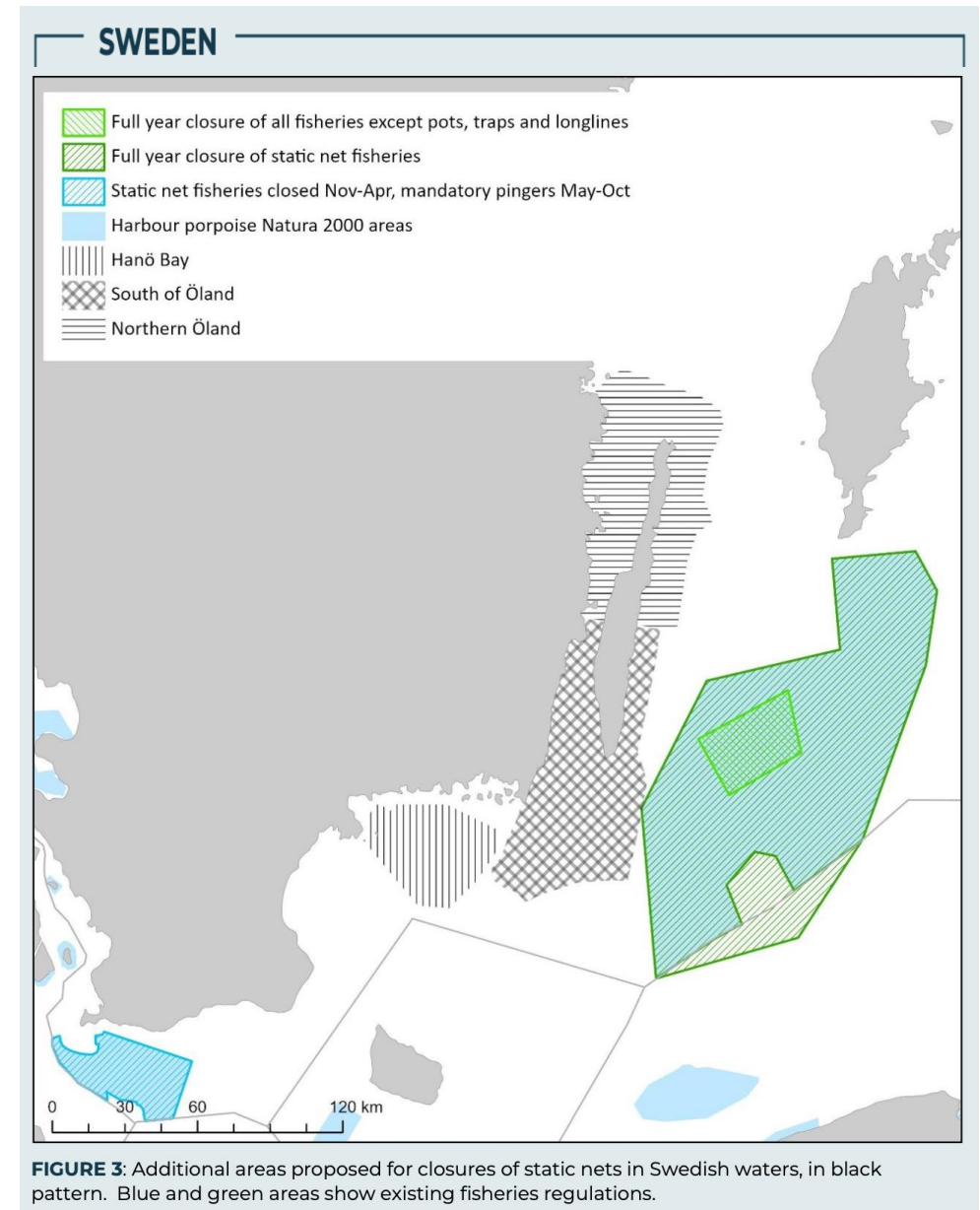


FIGURE 2: Additional areas proposed for closures of static nets in German waters, in black pattern. Red striated areas show existing fisheries regulations in German and Polish waters.

Measures by country

SWEDEN

- **Phasing out of recreational static nets**
- **Additional closures:**
 - Hanö Bay**
 - South of Öland**
 - North of Öland**



Measures by country

FINLAND

- **Phasing out of recreational static nets**
- **Additional closures:**

Designating an MPA South of Åland

No static gear Nov–Apr, ideally year–round

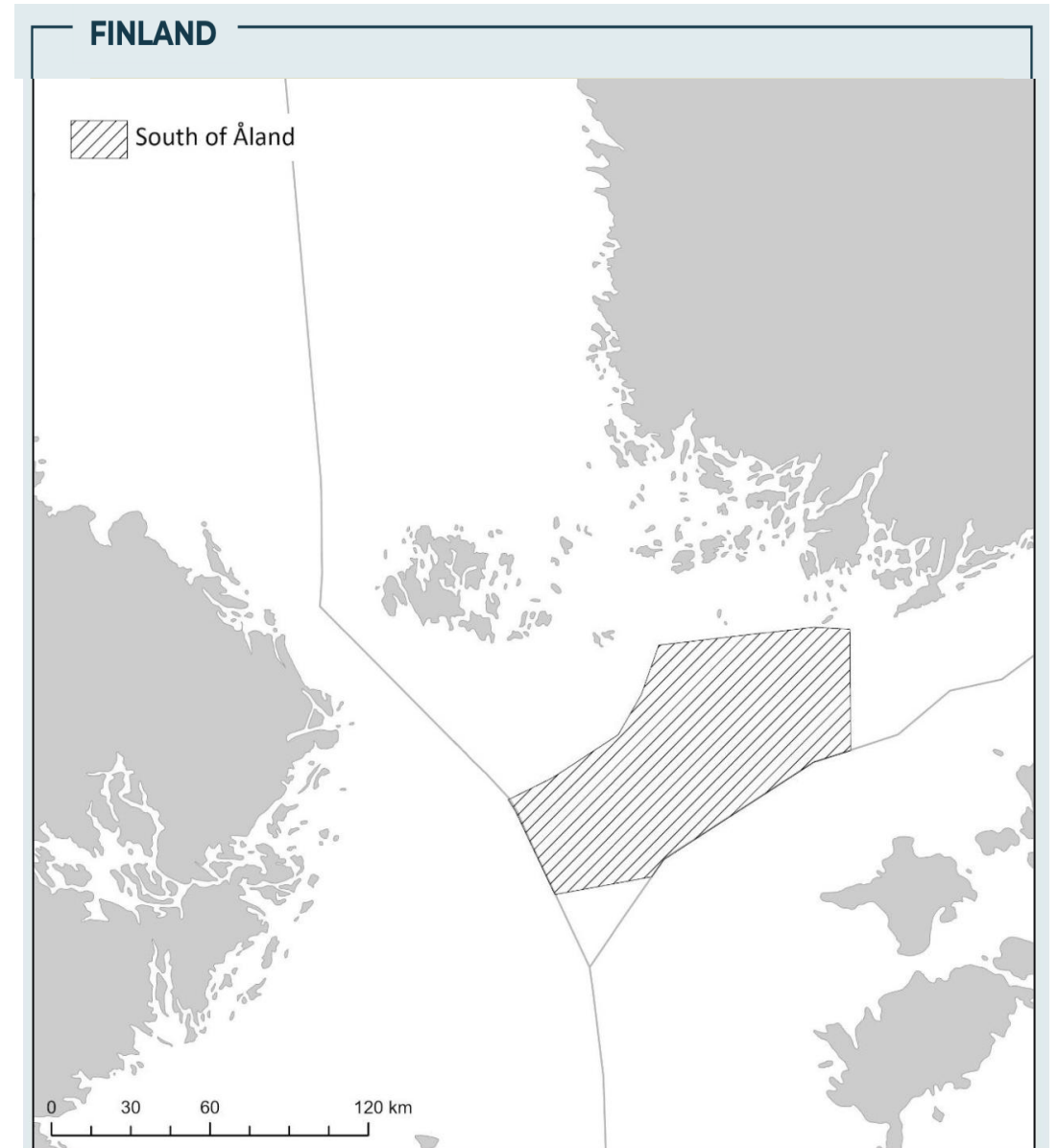
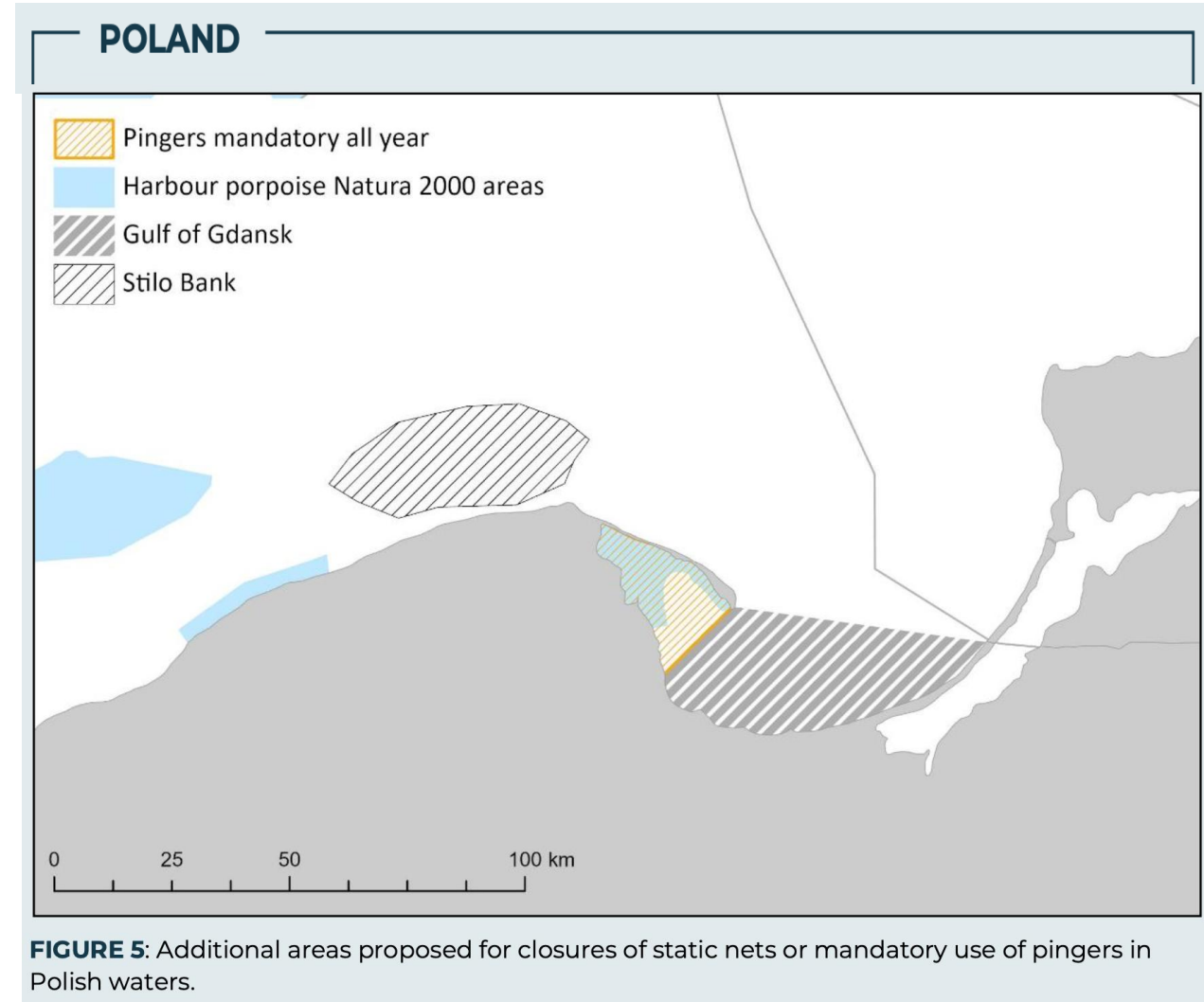


FIGURE 4: The area proposed for closures of static nets in Finnish waters.

Measures by country

POLAND

- **Puck Bay: replace mandatory pingers with closure for static nets**
- **Additional closures:**
 - Southern Gdansk Bay**
 - Stilo Bank**



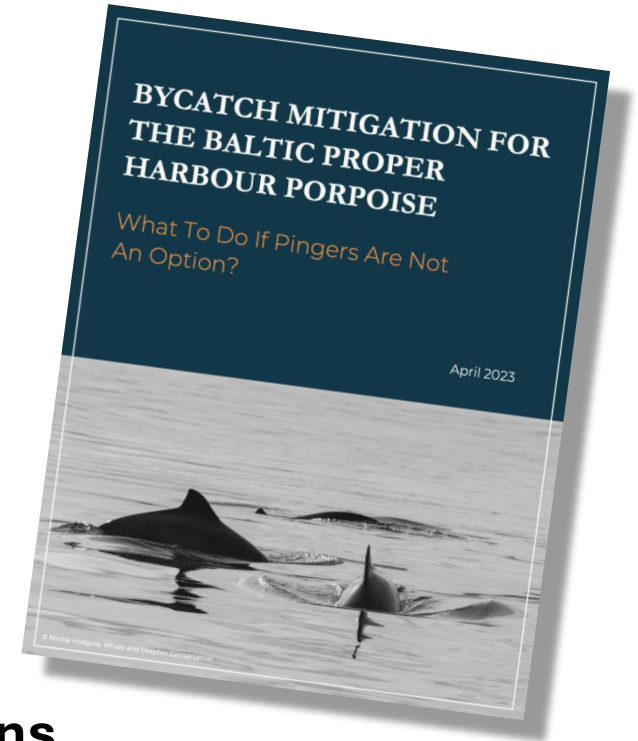
Pingers

- **Navies to investigate solutions.**

WHY DYNAMIC CLOSURES WON'T BE EFFECTIVE?

- **No proof available**
- **Porpoises are notoriously difficult to detect**
- **Current PAM methods not suitable for real-time detections**
- **Reporting system & public education currently missing**
- **How to encourage fisherman to report sightings?**
- **Temporal delay between sightings and closure**

- ***Similar conclusion by ICES Technical Service (29.08.2024).***



CONCLUSIONS

- **Urgent need to apply additional measures**
- **Consideration of cumulative effects**
- **Need for a deeper transformation of fisheries**

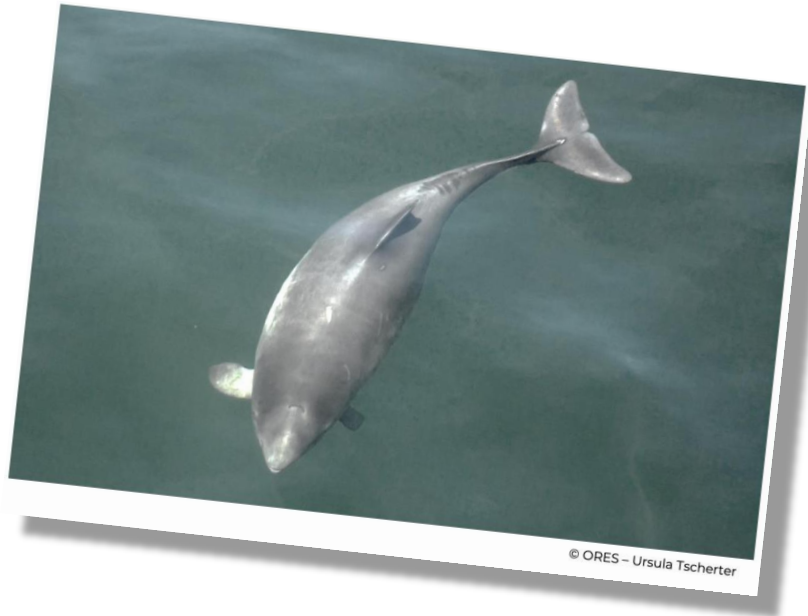
→ *Think more holistically*

ICES Special Request Advice Baltic Sea ecoregion

(published 18 March 2025)

„ICES recommends improvements in the monitoring of the population and fishing effort data, in the case of the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise.

However, a sustainable population could not be achieved without the implementation of the management measures previously advised (ICES, 2020a).



*Dziękuję !
Thank you !
Dankeschön !*

