

85 lat badań rybackich (1921-2006)

MORSKI INSTYTUT RYBACKI w Gdyni
Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia - Poland



Report
of Realisation
Monitoring Schemes for Incidental Catches of Cetaceans
in 2006 r.

Gdynia 2007

INTRODUCTION

The program for monitoring incidental catches of cetaceans in 2006 was realized in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No. 812/2004 of 26.4.2004 laying down measures concerning incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries and amending Regulation (EC) No 88/98.

Article 4 of Regulation 812/2004 requires member states to develop and implement at-sea observer schemes for monitoring incidental catches of cetaceans using observers on board the vessels flying their flag overall length of 15 m or over, for the fisheries, and under the conditions set forth in the Regulation. Poland was required to realize the observer program as of 1.1.2006.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which is responsible for fisheries, delegated the realization of the program to the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia (Morski Instytut Rybacki w Gdyni) and an agreement to this effect was signed on 14.11.2006.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Since the agreement was signed so late, 179 days were planned to be monitored by the end of 2006. This was supposed to corresponded to 5% of the fishing effort from 15.9.2006 until the end of the year.

Nineteen applicants (mainly students and graduates of biology, fisheries, and oceanography) were recruited and trained. The materials and equipment purchased and the instructions for observers that were developed can all be used in subsequent years of the program. Guidelines for cooperation and hosting the observers on vessels were negotiated with representatives of fishery organizations. It should be emphasized that cooperation between the fisheries organizations, vessel skippers in the fishing grounds, and SFI was excellent.

The observers had spent 83 days aboard fishing cutters by 31.12.2006 and monitored 81 fishing days (understood as a day in which the vessel owner reported fish catches).

Additionally, this report contains the results from observations of incidental cetacean catches performed by Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia staff within the framework of the Polish Program for Collecting Fisheries Data on vessels exceeding 15m in length. Since the beginning of 2006, SFI staff have been required to record this type of by-catch during cruises. Seventy-eight fishing days were monitored during a total of 17 cruises.

The actual driftnet fishing effort was analyzed based on observer reports. The duration of driftnet fishing was calculated from the end of gear deployment until the gear was hauled in (rounded to the nearest 0.5h). The results for driftnets were calculated from data collected on 22 days.

RESULTS

By 31.12.2006, observers and SFI in Gdynia staff participated in 47 cruises on 19 different cutters sailing from 7 ports. In total, they spent 183 days at sea and monitored 159 catch days, understood as a day with reported catch, which included:

- bottom trawl catches – 107 days;
- pelagic trawl catches – 19 days;
- driftnet catches – 26 days,
- set gillnet catches – 6 days;
- bottom pair trawl catches – 1 day.

The number of monitoring days and the choice of fishing gear depended on the prevailing weather conditions during the realization of the project (the wind usually blew above 4 on the Beaufort scale). During the cruises, no live harbor porpoises were observed

nor were any seen to be entangled in the fishing gear. Detailed reports from each cruise are deposited in the archives of the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia.

Monitoring driftnets by ICES Sub-division

(fishing effort includes information collected up to 25.1.2007)

Sub-divisions 23 and 24

A total of 1,699 days with reported catches were noted in 2006 in sub-divisions 23 and 24. Of this figure, 63 days were in Sub-division 23, while the rest were in Sub-division 24. The most frequently deployed gear was pelagic (759 days) and bottom (612 days) trawls.

No driftnet fishing was conducted in either sub-division in 2006.

No incidental catches of cetaceans were observed in either sub-division in 2006.

Sub-division 25

A total of 12,723 fishing days were conducted in Sub-division 25. A total of 228 driftnet fishing days were reported in this sub-division in 2006, but only 19 days were reported in November and December. None of the driftnet catches were monitored in Sub-division 25.

Table 1 presents the total number of days monitored and the gear used in Sub-division 25. Table 2 presents the percentage of days monitored in 2006.

No cetaceans were observed in the fishing gear or near the cutters during the cruises in Sub-division 25.

Table 1. Total number of days monitored during various cutter cruises in Sub-division 25

cutter	number of days	gear type
DAR-309	22	bottom trawl
KOŁ-186	5	pelagic trawl
UST-44	4	bottom trawl
UST-117	2	gillnet
UST-121	4	gillnet
TOTAL	37	

Table 2. Fishing effort and number of observation days in Sub-division 25

gear type	number of days		percentage monitored
	monitored	with catches	
bottom trawl	26	5577	0,47%
pelagic trawl	5	711	0,70%
gillnet	6	2866	0,21%
driftnet	0	228	0,00%
lines and tackle	0	783	0,00%
pair trawls	0	14	0,00%
TOTAL	37	10179	0,36%

Sub-division 26

A total of 14,829 catch days were realized in Sub-division 26. A total of 1,201 driftnet catch days were reported in Sub-division 26 in 2006, but only 122 days in November and 20 in December. Monitoring incidental cetacean catch was conducted for 16 and 7 days in these two months accordingly, which corresponds to 13% and 35% of the respective fishing effort.

Tab. 3 presents the total number of days monitored in Sub-division 26 and the gear used. Table 4 presents the percentage of days monitored in 2006.

No cetaceans were observed in the fishing gear or near the cutters during the cruises in Sub-division 26.

Tab. 3. Total number of days monitored during cruises of various cutters in Sub-division 26

cutter	number of days	gear type
DAR-19	4	driftnet
DAR-25	3	driftnet
GDY-6	18	bottom trawl
GDY-9	9	driftnet
GDY-25	8	bottom trawl
GDY-33	17	bottom trawl
GDY-33	12	pelagic trawl
GDY-35	9	bottom trawl
GDY-35	7	driftnet
GDY-45	17	bottom trawl
HEL-150	10	bottom trawl
HEL-150	2	pelagic trawl
HEL-152	1	bottom trawl
JAS-12	2	driftnet
JAS-74	1	driftnet
WŁA-11	1	bottom pair trawl
WŁA-71	1	bottom trawl
TOTAL	122	

Table 4. Fishing effort and number of observation days in Sub-division 26

gear type	number of days		percentage monitored
	monitored	with catches	
bottom trawl	81	8494	0,95%
pelagic trawl	14	3037	0,46%
gillnet	0	1126	0,00%
driftnet	26	1201	2,16%
longlines and tackle	0	339	0,00%
pair trawls	1	632	0,16%
TOTAL	122	14829	0,82%

Actual fishing effort during the observations

Driftnet catches

Fishing effort was recorded in detail during 22 fishing days. The data that describe the daily fishing effort are presented in Table 5. Driftnet fishing time in the water was an average of 12h 40'. Figure 1 presents locations where driftnet fishing was monitored.

Table 5. Daily drift net fishing effort

gear element	size			unit
	min.	max.	mean	
height	4	8	5,6	m
length	9	19,2	13,9	km
net surface area	0,042	0,104	0,076	km²
deployment time	7,5	16	12,6	h

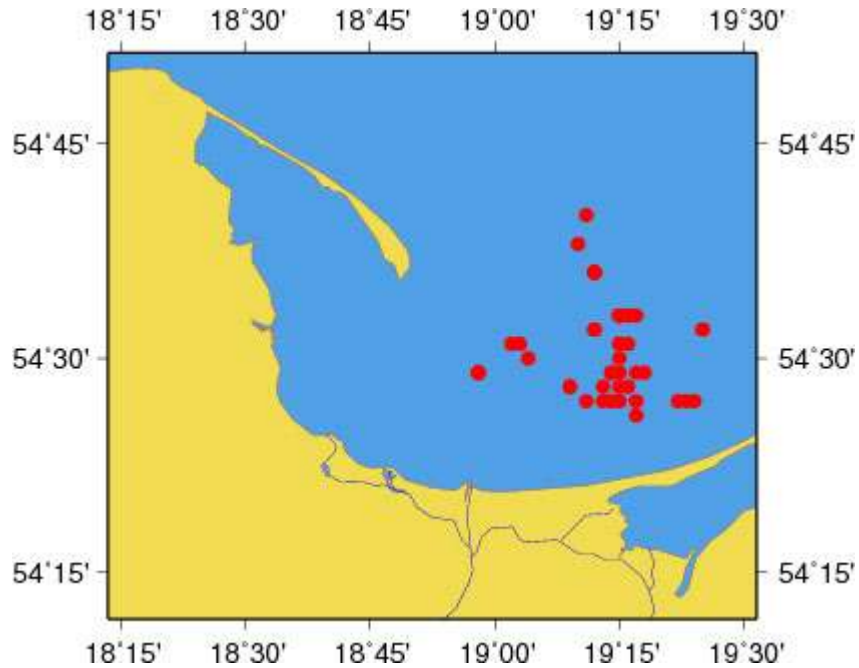


Figure 1. Locations of driftnet monitoring in 2006.

Conclusions

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 812/2004 in 2006 a program was implemented to observe incidental catches of small cetaceans. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development delegated the realization of the program to the Sea Fisheries Institute in Gdynia. The institute recruited and trained 19 observers, mostly students and graduates in biology, fisheries, and oceanography, and determined the terms of hosting the observers and defining their duties aboard vessels with fisheries organizations and vessel owners.

A total of 159 fishing days were observed in 2006 during which no catches of harbor porpoises nor the presence of any of these animals in the vicinity of the vessels were noted.

According to the information obtained by the Fisheries Monitoring Center of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, no harbor porpoise catches were noted in the catch log books of vessels permitted to deploy driftnets.

Report written by
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Attachment 1.

List of observers trained for the Program to Monitor Incidental Cetacean Catches

name	education
Dębski Jarosław	M.S. Oceanography (marine biology)
Gabiński Andrzej	M.S. Biology (zoology)
Grochowski Adam	M.S. Biology (vertebrate ecology and zoology)
Grzesiak Wojciech	M.S. Biology (zoology)
Huzarski Seweryn	M.S. Biology (vertebrate ecology and zoology)
Janczyszyn Adam	Student - Biology
Kajzer Zbigniew	M.S. Oceanography (marine geography)
Koss Mikołaj	Student - Biology
Kośmicki Andrzej	Student - Biology
Krzyżański Marcin	M.S. Political Science
Łużecki Grzegorz	M.S. Environmental Protection
Mielnik Maciej	Student - Fisheries Oceanography
Niemczyk Artur	Student - Biology
Raczyński Tomasz	M.S. Fisheries (inland fisheries)
Rydzkowski Piotr	Student - Biology, Environmental Protection Engineer
Ściborski Mateusz	M.S. Biology (vertebrate ecology and zoology)
Trębiński Rafał	M.S. Fisheries (inland fisheries)
Udolf Jacek	M.S. Biology (zoology)
Zięcik Piotr	M.S. Biology (vertebrate ecology and zoology)