



## Comments of draft report

<b>Title</b>	MiniSCANS-II: Aerial survey for harbour porpoises in the western Baltic Sea, Belt Sea, the Sound and Kattegat in 2020		
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<b>Funding Agency</b>	Environmental Protection Agency, DK		
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<b>Deadline for comments</b>	<b>1-7-2021</b>	<b>Deadline for handling comments</b>	<b>1-8- 2021</b>

<b>Funding agency</b>					
	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Location (Page, paragraph)</b>	<b>Person for writing comment</b>	<b>Handeling of comment</b>	<b>Person for handeling comment</b>
<b>1</b>	Is the platform ship in 2005, 2012 and 2016. At p. 4 and 8 it is mentioned that survey 2020 used the same method as S II+III.	P. 17, table 4	AUP	SCANS II and III, in its entire study area, used both aerial and ship-based surveys. On p 4 &8, we are referring to those aerial surveys to make clear we are following international standardized methods and protocols in MiniSCANS-II where we used aerial surveys.	A. Gilles
<b>2</b>	Is there any explanation for the relatively narrow confidence intervals in 2020 compared with other survey years?	P. 16-17	AUP	In 2020, the effort (in linear km of flown transect) is roughly 4 times higher than the linear effort devolved to obtain the first estimate. All else being equal, the standard error of the 2020 estimate is thus expected to be halved as the	A. Gilles



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			<p>standard error is roughly a function of the inverse of square-root of effort in conventional distance sampling. This improved precision due to an increased effort is reflected in the narrower confidence intervals for the 2020 estimates. Thus, the explanation is a much higher effort in 2020 resulting in a precise estimate.</p> <p>We have now added a new row in table 4, showing effective survey effort (in km) for the different surveys.</p>		
<b>3</b>	Consider mentioning which years different survey methods are used.	P. 19, Methodological considerations	AUP	<p>It is not that different methods were used but the survey platform was different (the method used is line-transect distance sampling). Here, in this paragraph, we are referring to table 4 that outlines the choice of platform.</p>	A. Gilles
<b>4</b>	Leisure sailing had greater activity in 2020 probably due to corona. Statistic can be seen from rescues made at sea.	P. 20, 2. section	AUP	<p>It is uncertain how this will affect porpoise presence since this will rely on type of ships, speed and so on. Furthermore, there may have been fewer commercial ships in 2020, so we do not see how including this</p>	S. Sveegaard



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				information here will make the results more clear.	
<b>5</b>	If possible, a further description of the reasons for the decline in abundance in 2020, e.g. the shift from ship to aerial platform or other reasons e.g. occurrence of prey etc.	P. 17 - 19	LOTKN	We would rather stick to the report as is since anything else will be pure guessing.	S. Sveegaard
<b>6</b>					
	Add more lines if needed...				