



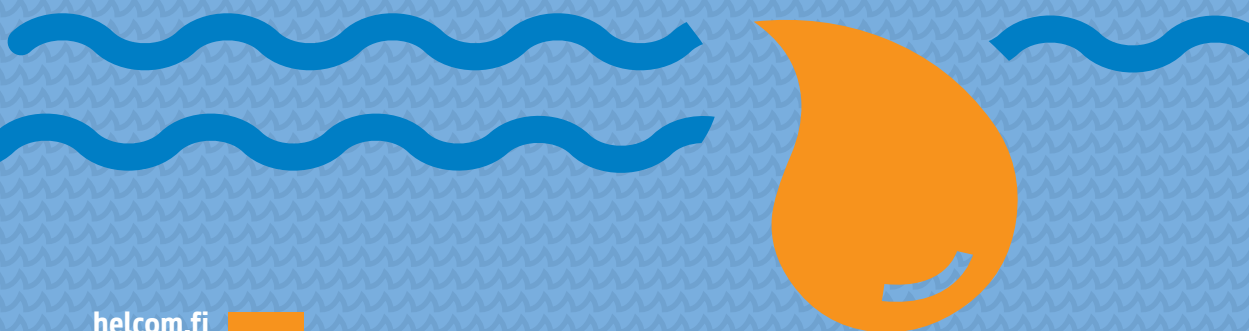
Report on wildlife response activities and preparedness by the HELCOM Expert Group on Wildlife Response (EG Wildlife) 2023–2024


Baltic Marine Environment
Protection Commission

Response to spills



2025





Published by:

Helsinki Commission – HELCOM
Katajanokanlaituri 6 B
00160 Helsinki, Finland

www.helcom.fi

Information and views expressed in this publication are the authors' own and might vary from those of the Helsinki Commission or its members.

For bibliographic purposes this document should be cited as:
“Report on wildlife response activities and preparedness by the HELCOM Expert Group on Wildlife Response (EG Wildlife) 2023-2024. HELCOM (2025).”

© Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – Helsinki Commission (2025)

All rights reserved. Information included in this publication or extracts thereof, with the exception of images and graphic elements that are not HELCOM's own and identified as such, may be reproduced without prior consent on the condition that the complete reference of the publication is given as stated above.

Authors: Contacts of the HELCOM Expert Group on Wildlife Response, Saskia Sessions-Puplett, Sea Alarm Foundation, Laura Meski (HELCOM Secretariat).

Layout: Laura Ramos Tirado

Table of Contents

1	<i>Introduction</i>	<i>4</i>
2	<i>OWR activities and current level of preparedness</i>	<i>5</i>
2.1	Country: Denmark.....	6
2.2	Country: Estonia.....	11
2.3	Country: Finland.....	16
2.4	Country: Germany.....	21
2.5	Country: Latvia	27
2.6	Country: Lithuania.....	31
2.7	Country: Poland	36
2.8	Country: Russia	41
2.9	Country: Sweden.....	42
3	<i>Other activity updates 2023-2024.....</i>	<i>46</i>
3.1	Webinar on the Future of Oiled Wildlife response in Europe	46
4	<i>Conclusions</i>	<i>47</i>
4.1	Progress in Oiled Wildlife Preparedness - Self-Assessment Tool and Country Reports	47
4.2	Authority responsibilities	49
4.3	NGO-Authority relationships	49
4.4	Equipment.....	50
4.5	BALEX exercises.....	50
4.6	General statement	50
	<i>Annex 1 – Authority responsibilities (latest version).....</i>	<i>51</i>
	<i>Annex 2 – NGO-authority relationships</i>	<i>56</i>
	<i>Annex 3 – Equipment stockpiles template.....</i>	<i>59</i>

1 Introduction

The HELCOM Expert Group on Wildlife Response (EG Wildlife) works to strengthen the cooperation between HELCOM Contracting Parties in the field of oiled wildlife response. It acts as a forum for the exchange of information on progress and best practices, and facilitates the creation of joint standards and cross-border cooperation in oiled wildlife response. Where possible, it also facilitates the training of national experts and exchange of training materials.

Since January 2022, EG Wildlife has incorporated all functions of the former HELCOM Expert Working Group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG OWR).

The EWG OWR was set up in 2014 with the aim to facilitate the implementation of [HELCOM Recommendation 31/E/6](#) on integrated wildlife response planning in the Baltic Sea Area, and the objectives on wildlife response preparedness of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

Meetings of the EG Wildlife are organised online one-two times per year and HELCOM Contracting Parties are actively taking part and contributing to the discussions. The Terms of Reference 2024-2027 for EG Wildlife can be found [here](#).

This report summarises the results of EG Wildlife consultations in 2023-2024. It also includes updates on the national state of Wildlife Response Preparedness as provided by several countries according to templates agreed by the Group. A webinar was also organised in March 2024 on the Future of Oiled wildlife response in Europe.

2 OWR activities and current level of preparedness

This report contains an overview of the latest OWR activities 2023-2024 by the Contracting Parties (CPs) and an overview of the level of oiled wildlife response preparedness using the online [Self-Assessment Tool \(SAT\)](#). The SAT was approved by RESPONSE 25-2018 as a reporting tool for OWR. It was converted to an online format in 2021, using the same questions and criteria as the previous excel version 2.0.

In addition, this report incorporates three documents that describe and summarise preparedness arrangements for OWR in the HELCOM Contracting Parties (CPs). At EWG OWR 16-2020 in September 2020, it was agreed that these three documents, along with the SAT, would be kept up to date and used as reporting tools for CPs to routinely report on their OWR preparedness progress. The three documents are as follows:

- 1) *Authority responsibilities* – summarises jurisdiction in each country of authorities leading oil spill response, shoreline response, wildlife response, nature/species conservation and animal welfare (rehabilitation/euthanasia). Information has been prepared for a number of regions identified in the Baltic Sea where an oiled wildlife incident could have cross-border implications. The document therefore provides a basis for countries to initiate communication and discussions between them in case of an incident which affects more than one country. The latest version is included in Annex 1.
- 2) *Authority-NGO partnerships* – HELCOM Recommendation 31/E/6 on Integrated Wildlife Response Planning in the Baltic Sea Area states that oiled wildlife response plans should include arrangements for “coordinated involvement of multiple stakeholders, including NGOs and volunteers”. NGOs are crucial to the effectiveness of an oiled wildlife response operation in most HELCOM countries, therefore a document listing the existence and nature of partnerships and arrangements between authorities and NGOs used by the EG Wildlife, of which the latest version can be seen in Annex 2.
- 3) *Equipment* – lists stockpiles of oiled wildlife response equipment (mobile or otherwise) in each country, with an indication of type of equipment, capacity (number of units) and whether the stockpile is purely for national use or can be mobilised internationally. The template is included in Annex 3.

7 out of 9 CPs provided the required information in due time for preparation of this report. Updated information (or a statement that no updates are required) are lacking from *Lithuania and Russia*. Therefore, the report may be missing some of the latest data. The report has been compiled with information provided by CPs by the end of 2024/early 2025 or if this was not provided, with information previously provided for the last report. Results are summarised with some observations on general level of preparedness in the conclusions section.

2.1 Country: Denmark

Report submitted in 2025 by: Agency of Green Transition and Aquatic Environment, Ministry of Green Transition

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

The Royal Danish Navy is responsible for national contingency arrangements. Maritime Assistance Service holds the responsibility for managing pollution incidents. Danish Defence Operational Staff is responsible for aerial surveillance while aerial surveillance missions have been outsourced to Norwegian company Sundt Air. The Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and regional or local councils are responsible for shoreline clean-up. Local councils manage pollution response in harbours and share responsibility with the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for restoration.

The Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment has responsibility for planning and strategy of the oiled wildlife response. The Danish Nature Agency has the responsibility for oiled wildlife response and field management. The primary oiled wildlife response strategy is field euthanasia of birds that beach due to oil contamination. Birdlife Denmark can rehabilitate Species of special concern (e.g. IUCN or HELCOM Red List). If Wildlife rehabilitators are allowed to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife; this will be a local, ad hoc decision.

The contingency plan is under revision.

2. Training

Field euthanasia will be carried out by experienced employees or hunters. Activities will be coordinated by The Nature Agency. Dedicated training is not included in the contingency plan.

3. Exercises

Wildlife aspects are exercised as part of the national contingency plan for managing oil spill or pollution incidents. The exercises are organised by the local police districts.

4. Equipment and facilities

Field euthanasia is carried out with standard hunting equipment. If volunteers are involved, ammunition for guns is provided. There is a network of wildlife rehabilitation centres affiliated with the Dyrenes Beskyttelse (Animal Welfare Denmark), all of which work on a voluntary basis. Present level of experience and capacity to care for oiled wildlife is not known.

5. Partnering and funding

Tier-3 resources are not described in the Danish oiled wildlife plan.

The following authorities and organizations are partners or stakeholders in the plan:

- The Royal Danish Navy
- Aarhus University, DCE – Danish Centre for Environment and Energy
- University of Copenhagen – National Veterinary Institute
- Dansk Ornitologisk Forening (Danish Birdlife Partner)

- The Danish Nature Agency
- Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment.

Stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR.

All main stakeholders are aware of the formal policy guidelines recommending the euthanasia of oiled animals. During an oiled wildlife response, stakeholders can be expected to effectively cooperate on the beach and apply predefined guidelines as appropriate.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

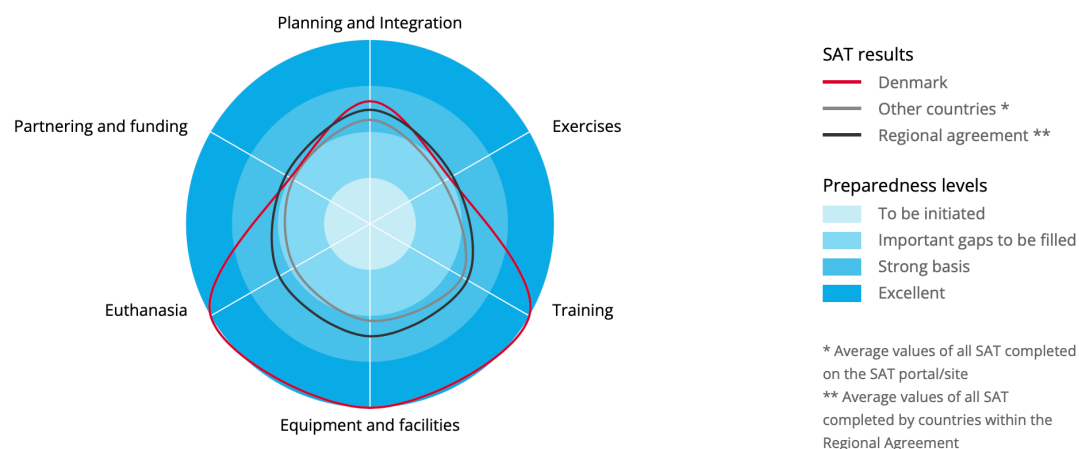
In February 2023 a freighter ran aground near Fynshoved in the Great Strait. 200 birds had to be euthanised due to an oil spill. Local hunters and employees of The Danish Nature Agency conducted the euthanasia.

In September 2023 an oil spill in Aabenraa Harbour occurred. 5 birds were euthanised.

In January 2017 an oil spill happened in Aabenraa, no birds were affected.

Table 1. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Denmark (April 2025)

Denmark



Completed by: Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment (National Authority)

Regional Agreement: HELCOM

Date: April 23, 2025

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
<p>Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR</p> <p>It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet</p> <p>A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet</p> <p>OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget</p>	<p>No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness</p> <p>One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet</p> <p>All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision</p> <p>Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate</p>	<p>There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.</p> <p>A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what</p> <p>All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks</p> <p>Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed</p>	<p>No OWR exercises take place</p> <p>Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme</p> <p>Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response</p> <p>Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan</p>	<p>There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together</p> <p>Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles</p>	<p>The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon</p> <p>Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises</p> <p>Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date</p> <p>There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme</p>

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders	There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses	There are parties interested in being trained	The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested	Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent
Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions	The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level	Training is provided, but not to international standards	It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios	Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made
Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations	Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers	Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified	The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed	Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers
Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios	A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions	Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad	The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated	Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed	No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia	No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development	It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions	There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described
Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place	Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analysis has not been carried out	Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available	Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions	Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described
A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted	Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level	Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR	The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme
The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios	All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all-encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme	A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking	The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested
		<div> <div></div> Selected answers </div>		

2.2 Country: Estonia

Report submitted in 2025 by: Environmental Board of Estonia

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

Oiled wildlife response is integrated into the National Oil Pollution Response plan. The Estonian Defence Forces (Estonian Navy) is responsible for contingency arrangements at sea. Shoreline response is carried out by the Estonian Rescue Board and wildlife response by the Environmental Board. The latter is also responsible for environmental recovery arrangements.

An updated version of the oiled wildlife response plan was adopted by the Environmental Board in February 2025.

2. Training

A 4-days training/exercise on oiled wildlife response for the Estonian Fund for Nature volunteers was carried out by the MoE in September 2021.

Trainings (both practical and via web) for the Environmental Board staff and Fund for Nature volunteers (ca 30 persons altogether) on the oiled wildlife response plan and exploitation of the oiled wildlife response equipment were carried out by the Environmental Board in 2022.

In 2023, Estonian Fund for Nature volunteers took part in EUROWA's Advanced Responder training course in Ireland. In 2024, Estonian Fund for Nature's volunteers (ca 20 people) together with a few staff members from the Environmental Board participated in EUROWA's Advanced Responder training course that took place in Estonia. Wildlife response coordinator from the Estonian Environmental Board participated in EUROWA's Specialist Pre-wash Responder training in Finland. In April 2025, EUROWA's basic course will take place.

3. Exercises

Exercises were an element of the trainings mentioned in point 2 (training). Wildlife response is also ordinarily included in rescue exercises conducted by the Rescue Board.

In May 2024, a table-top exercise was carried out by the Estonian Environmental Board to assess response readiness. The wildlife response coordinator from the Estonian Environmental Board participated in BALEX DELTA 2024 as an observer. In May 2025, the Environmental Board will carry out two-day exercise consisting of a table-top exercise on crisis management and a field exercise to set up a mobile bird hospital. During this exercise, volunteers from the Environmental Board will receive basic training on wildlife response.

4. Equipment and facilities

There currently are no permanent facilities available for wildlife rehabilitation in Estonia. Instead, a temporary wildlife rehabilitation facility will be set up. Standard set of wildlife response equipment consisting of tents, net-bottom cages, washing bowls, hoses, PPE etc. is kept at the premises of the Environmental Board in Tallinn. An agreement between the Estonian Environmental Board and Rescue Board is in place regarding the transportation of the equipment.

5. Partnering and funding

The national oil response plan prepared by the Estonian Defence Forces (Estonian Navy) regulates cooperation between different authorities. Estonian Navy is responsible to respond to pollution at sea, the Rescue Board on shore and the Environmental Board main task is wildlife response. Wildlife response is carried out in collaboration with the Estonian Food and Agriculture Board (animal welfare) and Estonian Fund for Nature (volunteers).

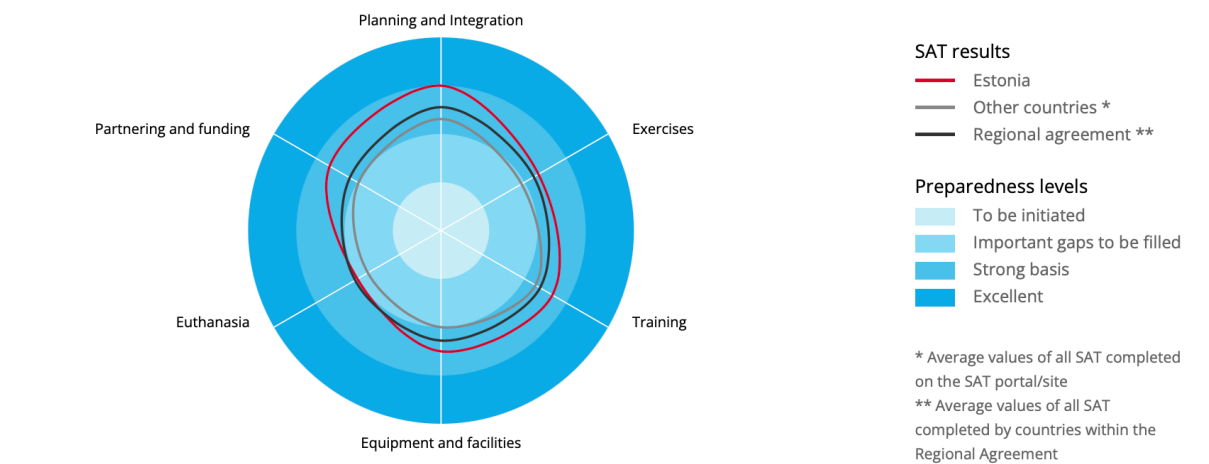
6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

A widespread ca 50 km seashore oil pollution in West-Estonian archipelago took place in May 2022. Ca 8 tons of polluted surface was eliminated by the local authorities, the Rescue Board and volunteers. No wildlife casualties were detected as a result. Lessons learned from the case is a major issue in discussions between the responsible authorities.

Several minor pollutions at sea were registered in the period, but no wildlife casualties as a result were detected. In 2024, oil pollution was discovered on a shoreline with no threats to wildlife. In February 2025, a white substance (solid vegetable oil) was discovered on shore (more than 20 km of shoreline affected). Similar substance was also found in Finland but in much higher quantities. No impacts on wildlife have been determined so far.

Table 2. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Estonia (Nov 2024)

Estonia



Completed by: Estonian Environmental Board (National Authority)
Regional Agreement: HELCOM
Date: November 20, 2024

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR	No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness	There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	No OWR exercises take place	There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises	The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon
It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet	One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet	A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme	Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together	Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises
A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet	All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision	All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response	Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training	Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date
OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget	Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate	Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed	Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan	Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles	There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme
Training			Equipment and facilities		
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability	
Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders	There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses	There are parties interested in being trained	The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested	Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent	
Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions	The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level	Training is provided, but not to international standards	It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios	Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made	
Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations	Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers	Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified	The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed	Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers	
Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios	A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions	Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad	The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated	Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme	

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed	No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia	No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development	It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions	There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described
Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place	Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analyses has not been carried out	Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available	Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions	Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described
A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted	Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level	Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR	The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme
The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios	All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all-encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme	A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking	The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

Selected answers

2.3 Country: Finland

Report submitted in 2025 by: Pekka Rusanen (Finnish Environment Institute SYKE) and Vanessa Ryan (WWF Finland)

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

The Finnish Environment Institute is officially responsible for leading OWR efforts.

The Finnish oiled wildlife response plan was finalised and adopted in 2023. The plan considers the principles set by the EUROWA network, and EUROWA manuals are referred to as the standard animal care manuals.

The purpose of the plan is to:

- Enable and streamline collaboration between different stakeholders
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Minimise the harmful effects of oil on animal populations (with a focus on birds)
- Ensure that animals receive professional and adequate care
- Ensure that oil-affected wildlife is considered in other oil spill response plans
- Define how volunteers can participate in the work
- Develop preparedness, training and resources.

The plan is now being implemented and has been introduced to relevant authorities and stakeholders at national oil spill response meetings.

2. Training

WWF Finland is responsible for organising training events for volunteers and experts. In 2023 and 2024, the following oiled wildlife response related trainings were conducted (numbers of participants are included):

EUROWA BASIC 15.4.2023	19
EUROWA ADVANCED 7.-10.11.2023	15
EUROWA SPECIALIST VETERINARIAN 29. - 30.11.2023	10
EUROWA BASIC 6.4.2024	14
EUROWA BASIC 5.10.2024	21

3. Exercises

OWR elements were exercised in two large-scale field exercises, both on the southwest coast of Finland. The exercises took place in Syndalen, Hanko from the 1st to the 3rd of September 2023 and in Upinniemi and Porkkala, Kirkkonummi from the 30th of August to the 1st of September 2024. The emphasis was on field activities (shoreline and archipelago field reconnaissance from land, with drones and using aircraft, search and collection of oiled animals and setting up beachhead collection points) as well as communication, information extraction and sharing (communication with field teams, using the Finnish online Marine Environment Response Tool).

4. Equipment and facilities

No changes in the amount of permanent or mobile rehabilitation resources (Korkeasaari Zoo, Heinola bird sanctuary and the mobile Bird Cleaning Unit as well as one light unit). In 2024, the mobile Bird Cleaning Unit (BCU) has undergone a full renovation based on EUROWA concepts and recommendations made in a thesis prepared in 2022, which focused on updating/optimising the containers to suit the requirements of a large-scale spill, where a temporary facility would be built around the BCU. The containers have not been tested in exercises since the renovation, which was completed in November 2024. Basic oiled wildlife response equipment has been purchased and used equipment replaced, most notably 75 foldable net-bottom cages to be used in spill situations.

5. Partnering and funding

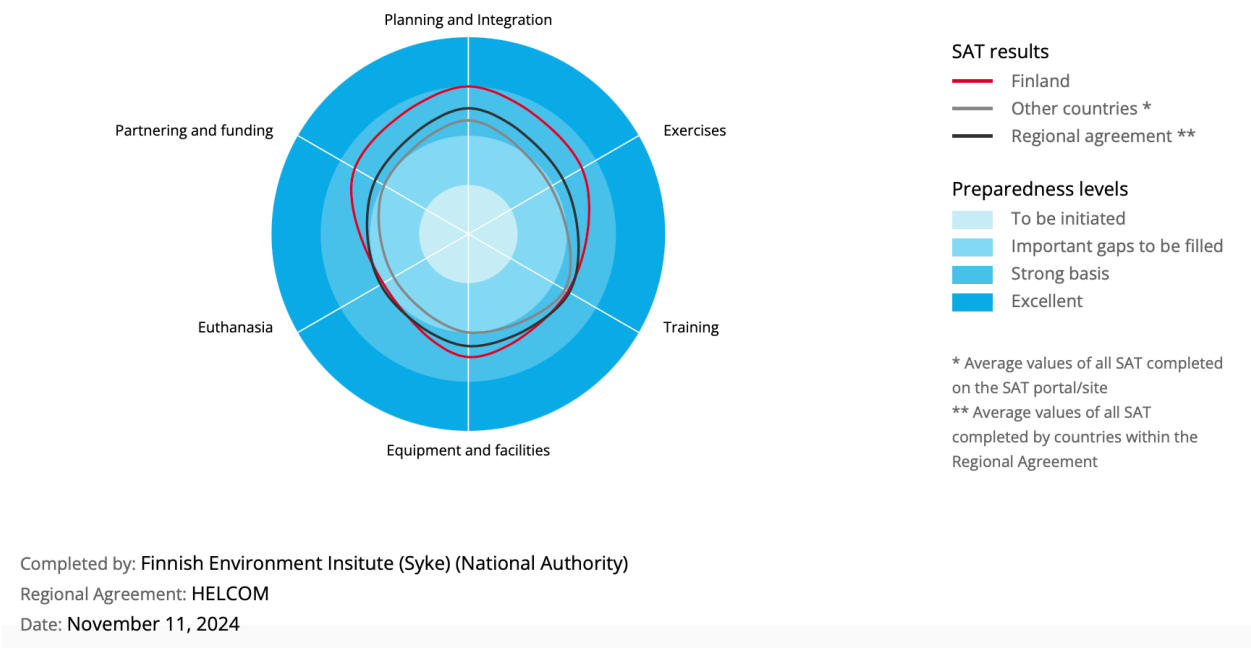
Syke and WWF Finland have a cooperation agreement in place, as do Syke and the Eastern Uusimaa Emergency Services. The national funding that WWF has received from the Finnish oil pollution fund to keep up voluntary oil spill response activities ended in 2020, but a new funding agreement has been in place since 2022 with Syke, which covers essential costs like basic training and exercises as well as development work carried out by WWF staff. This funding will be continued in 2025.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

No accidents concerning activities in OWR.

Table 3. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Finland (Nov 2024)

Finland



Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR	No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness	There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	No OWR exercises take place	There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises	The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon
It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet	One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet	A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme	Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together	Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises
A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet	All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision	All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response	Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training	Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date
OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget	Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate	Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed	Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan	Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles	There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders	There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses	There are parties interested in being trained	The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested	Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent
Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions	The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level	Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified	It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios	Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers
Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations	Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers	Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad	The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed	Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made
Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios	A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions		The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated	Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed	No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia	No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development	It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions	There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described
Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place	Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analysis has not been carried out	Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available	Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions	Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described
A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted	Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level	Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR	The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme
The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios	All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all-encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme	A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking	The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

2.4 Country: Germany

Report submitted in 2025 by: Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME)

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

Response: Role of the authorities

The Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME) is a joint institution of the German Federal Government and the Federal Coastal States and has the overall management in predefined complex maritime emergency situations of all response operations including PR work in Germany. It was established to set up and carry out a mutual maritime emergency management in the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea. It is based in Cuxhaven (Northwest Germany). During daily work routine the CCME is working in five different sections and form a "centre of competence", which deals with all questions related to maritime emergencies. The five sections are: Maritime Emergencies Reporting and Assessment Centre (MERAC), Marine Pollution Control / High Sea and Salvage Section, Marine Pollution Control / Coastal Section, Fire Fighting, Rescue and Medical Response Section and a Public Relations Section.

In case of a Complex Emergency Situation, the staff is being alerted and called for to coordinate immediate action of all necessary forces under the auspices of the Federal Government and the Coastal States. The arrangements under a centralised command structure allow rapid and comprehensive control of all necessary operations in major maritime emergencies. The CCME hereby utilises personal, equipment and know-how of all authorities and institutions of the federal government, the coastal states and private organisations responsible for the sea and the coastal area. For the five Coastal States the section of Marine Pollution response Inshore organises the marine pollution response at the coasts, the estuaries and the ports as well as on shores and beaches. The contingency plan is established for marine pollution response and further response strategies and techniques are developed. The section purchases all technical equipment needed, such as oil recovery vessels for near shore operations or shoreline clean-up equipment, and co-ordinate their service. Knowing the importance of constant training, exercises for the On-Scene-Coordinators are running and national and international exercises as well as trials are continuously planned. If pollutants get into the sea during a maritime emergency the section advises the response measures in the coastal areas. In case of smaller incidents the local authorities are consulted.

Onshore oil spill response, including oiled wildlife, is the responsibility of the five coastal states. Only the coastal states Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern are located at the Baltic Sea.

In Schleswig-Holstein the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas is the responsible authority for wildlife response. In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern the competent authority is the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection.

So far, a further to be developed response plan exists for Schleswig-Holstein, the coastal state in the western part of the Baltic Sea. The plan includes guidelines and a manual for the technical and logistical implementation of the guidelines, which describe how the competent authorities will carry out Oiled Wildlife Response in cooperation with a regional animal welfare institution.

For major incidents in Germany an implementation of the theoretical and legal framework plan of the five coastal states is planned within 2025 after official comment procedure of responsible authorities. The current project of CCME with EUROWA ((EUROpean Oiled Wildlife Assistance; members SEA ALARM and PRO BIRD) aims to develop tactical oiled wildlife response plan together with the regulatory working group of the five coastal states in oiled wildlife response to support the coastal states in their contingency plans.

2. Training

The different tasks of oiled wildlife response are planned to be trained in courses for responsible authorities of oil response, animal welfare and nature conservation etc. to get prepared for their tasks during oiled wildlife response on the basis of the developed framework plan and tactical operational plan to be developed. Veterinarian authorities and other responsible authorities will be qualified in collaboration with SEA ALARM and PRO BIRD from the beginning of an initial project phase 2025. Training elements are e.g. principles in oiled wildlife, collection and transport of birds, species knowledge, triage of birds, euthanasia and rehabilitation methods, handling of equipment, health and safety aspects, communication and media (CCME coordinates PR work).

At present, oiled wildlife response (OWR) in Schleswig-Holstein is conducted by the Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation, Department for Hazard Control and Harbour Office (LKN.SH). Volunteers of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief are regularly trained in specialized wildlife response teams in several aspects of OWR (laws for animal welfare, personal protective equipment, distribution of birds etc.).

A one-day authority event was organised in Hamburg in November 2024 by CCME as a kick-off in the project with EUROWA (SEA ALARM / PRO BIRD). The representatives were mainly from authorities of oil response, animal welfare and nature conservation out of the regularly working group of the five coastal states of Germany concerning oiled wild life response. Lectures about birds on coastal areas were held by national park administration and introductions to operations dealing with oiled wild life were presented by SEA ALARM and PRO BIRD. The serious game WildX was used to demonstrate challenging management aspects.

Members of the German Non-governmental organisation PRO BIRD are continuously skilled in special courses of the network EUROWA (EUROpean Oiled Wildlife Assistance). In EU-funded EUROWA projects numerous courses were developed in different qualification levels. Courses are in a modular format, combining lectures, hands-on training, skill labs, exercises (including some WildX exercises) and evaluation of individual skills.

3. Exercises

Exercises for oil response already include special elements of OWR in the coastal state Schleswig-Holstein. OWR in this coastal state is conducted by the Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation, Department for Hazard Control and Harbour Office (LKN.SH). In cooperation with the Federal Agency for Technical Relief, two specialized wildlife response teams were created in Schleswig-Holstein and are regularly trained as part of annual major oil response exercises. Currently, the project of CCME with EUROWA aims that exercises for all five coastal states can take place according to a pre-defined schedule directly relating to the agreed OWR plan in the future.

4. Equipment and facilities

Personal protection equipment, to ensure health and safety requirements, is available regionally until now. Cooperation between NGO's and authorities is still under development. Regional wildlife rehabilitation centres hold equipment and capabilities for limited response.

The competent authority for oil response in Schleswig-Holstein (Agency for Coastal Defence, National Park and Marine Conservation, Department for Hazard Control and Harbour Office (LKN.SH)) established equipped containers for the two specialised wildlife response teams consisting equipment for first response to OWR. These equipment stockpiles were not analysed of their completeness

according to international standards up to now. In the course of the implementation process of the joint theoretical and legal framework plan it is planned that the other coastal state at the Baltic Sea, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, will be also equipped according to the status of specialised wildlife response teams of Schleswig-Holstein on the basis of the federal and coastal state agreement.

5. Partnering and funding

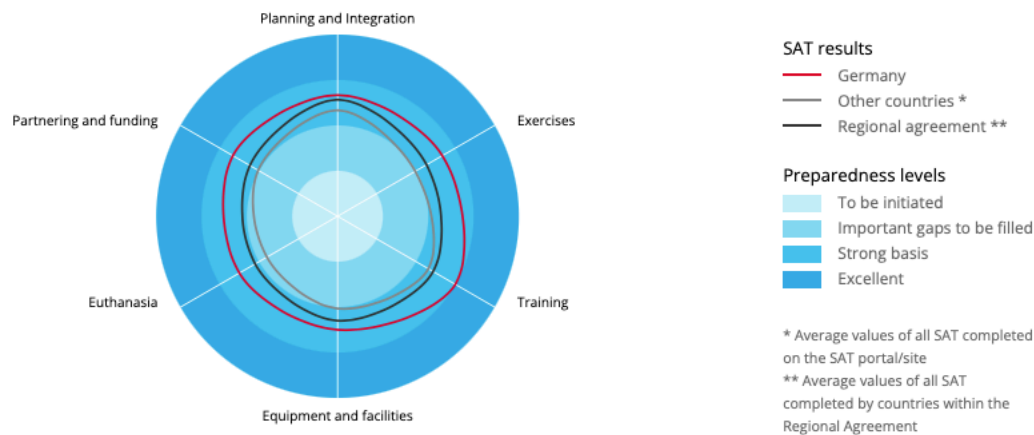
Germany is a signatory to the Bonn Agreement, Helsinki Convention, DenGerNeth (Denmark Germany Netherlands) Agreement for response in the Wadden Sea and part of the North Sea, SweDenGer (Sweden Denmark Germany) for response in the southwestern Baltic and a bilateral agreement with Poland for response in the Pomeranian Bight. Via the Baltic Sea Action Plan adopted in 2007 the Contracting Parties agreed to integrate the subject of oiled wildlife response into oil pollution contingency plans either on a national or sub-national/local level.

Cooperation between Federal Coastal States in Germany has improved during the last decade. Frequently meetings of the regulatory working group of the five coastal states take place between competent authorities and CCME. The frame work plan was developed as a result of the working group to create a theoretical basis in order to be prepared for Oiled Wildlife Response. Currently, a joint tactical operational plan will be developed as part of the project as described above.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

Table 4. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Germany (Feb 2025)

Germany



Completed by: Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME) - Department Marine Pollution Response - Coastal Section (National Authority)
Regional Agreement: HELCOM
Date: February 7, 2025

Remarks

Exercises: Currently, a project aims that excercises can take place according to a pre-defined schedule directly relating to the agreed OWR plan in the future.
Training: Veterinarian authorities and other responsible authorities will be qualified in collaboration with SEA ALARM and PRO BIRD from the beginning of an initial project phase 2025.
Equipment and facilities: Equipment stockpiles are available, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made until now according to international standards.

General: Implementation of theoretical and legal framework plan is planned within 2025. Current project with SEA ALARM and PRO BIRD aims to define tactical oiled wildlife response plan and to develop and conduct trainings for authorities in charge i. e. veterinarians, nature conservation etc.
A workshop for authorities, mainly out of the working group of the five coastal states of Germany concerning oiled wild life response, has taken place as a kick-off with SEA ALARM / PRO BIRD presentations and playing the EUROWA serious game WILD-X in Hamburg in November 2024.

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR	No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness	There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	No OWR exercises take place	There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises	The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon
It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet	One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet	A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme	Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together	Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises
A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet	All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision	All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response	Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training	Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date
OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget	Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate	Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed	Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan	Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles	There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders	There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses	There are parties interested in being trained	The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested	Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent
Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions	The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level	Training is provided, but not to international standards	It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios	Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made
Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations	Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers	Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified	The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed	Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers
Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios	A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions	Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad	The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated	Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed	No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia	No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development	It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions	There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described
Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place	Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analysis has not been carried out	Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available	Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions	Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described
A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted	Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level	Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR	The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme
The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios	All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all-encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme	A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking	The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

2.5 Country: Latvia

Report submitted in 2025 by: State Environmental Service

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

National action plan for rescue of animals in case of oil pollution at sea and on shore (Action Plan) is developed and adopted by Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. Work on implementation of the plan is in progress. State Environmental Service is responsible for coordination of the oiled wildlife response in national level.

2. Training

There have not been trainings regarding Oiled wildlife response in Latvia in 2023-2024. Although the need for training at different levels is recognized and included in the National Plan.

3. Exercises

Part of the BALEX DELTA exercise in 2023 was oiled wildlife response with the objective to test the national oiled wildlife response plan and involvement of volunteers and municipalities. During the exercise volunteers from WWF Latvia, ornithologists and veterinarians participated in collection and sorting of birds on shore.

4. Equipment and facilities

No specialised permanent oiled wildlife rescue/rehabilitation facilities exist in Latvia.

5. Partnering and funding

There is no rescue/rehabilitation equipment and facilities of oiled wildlife. Latvia relies on possibility to seek for help from abroad.

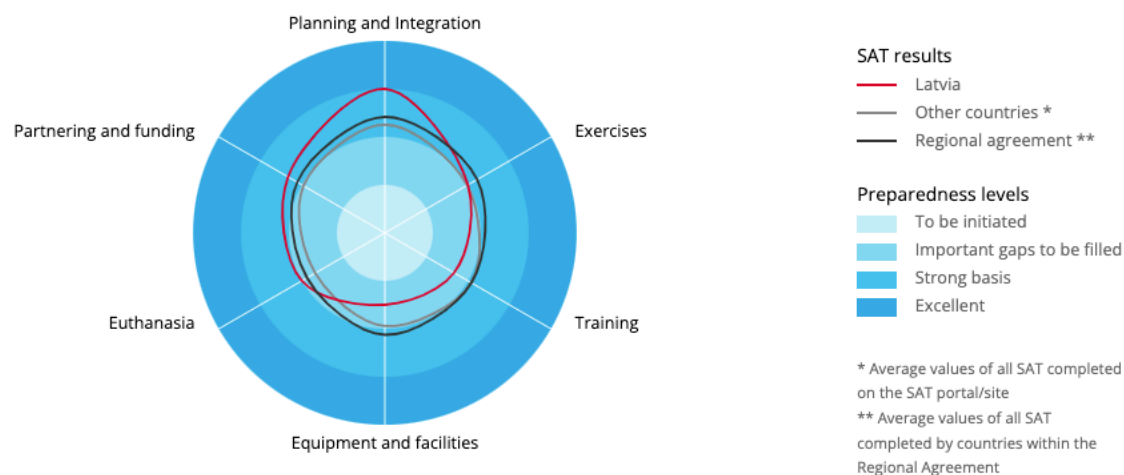
Possible funding to obtain personal protection equipment is being assessed.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

There were no accidents resulting oiled wildlife in Latvia in 2023-2024.

Table 5. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Latvia (Feb 2025)

Latvia



Completed by: State Environmental Service (National Authority)

Regional Agreement: HELCOM

Date: December 21, 2022

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR	No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness	There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	No OWR exercises take place	There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises	The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon
It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet	One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet	A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme	Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together	Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises
A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet	All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision	All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response	Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training	Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date
OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget	Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate	Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed	Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan	Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles	There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
<p>Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders</p> <p>Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations</p> <p>Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios</p>	<p>There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses</p> <p>The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level</p> <p>Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers</p> <p>A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions</p>	<p>There are parties interested in being trained</p> <p>Training is provided, but not to international standards</p> <p>Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified</p> <p>Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad</p>	<p>The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested</p> <p>It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios</p> <p>The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed</p> <p>The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated</p>	<p>Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers</p> <p>Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme</p>

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
<p>Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed</p> <p>Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place</p> <p>A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted</p> <p>The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia</p> <p>Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analyses has not been carried out</p> <p>Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios</p> <p>All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development</p> <p>Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available</p> <p>A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level</p> <p>A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all-encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme</p>	<p>It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR</p> <p>A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking</p>	<p>There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described</p> <p>Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described</p> <p>The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme</p> <p>The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested</p>

Selected answers

2.6 Country: Lithuania

Report submitted in 2023 by: Lithuanian NAVY

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

According to the Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Incidents at Sea, the Lithuanian Sea Museum provides assistance to marine mammals contaminated by oil during pollution incidents. The Lithuanian Sea Museum also possesses capabilities of providing assistance to birds.

The Lithuanian Sea Museum intends to prepare a plan for receiving animals (birds) with initial capability by May 2023. In addition, the Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Incidents at Sea will be reviewed and updated in 2023-2024, especially the parts concerning oiled wildlife and shoreline response.

2. Training

There have been no trainings regarding oiled wildlife response in Lithuania in 2021-2022. Dedicated training is not included in the Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Incidents at Sea.

3. Exercises

There have been no dedicated exercises for Oiled wildlife response in Lithuania in 2021-2022.

The Fire and Rescue Department of Lithuania organized KOPOS2021 oil spill response exercise together with the various partners on 26–27 May 2021. The aim was to improve collaboration between different responsible organizations to collect spilled oil in the Baltic Sea and coastal areas.

The exercise simulated an oil spill disaster at the Lithuanian coastal line. It focused on the coordination of all actors involved in the management of such disaster. Overall, there were 17 actors participating in the exercise, representing multiple institutions, municipalities and non-governmental organizations.

One of the scenarios of the KOPOS2021 exercise was a wildlife response. Birds affected by oil products were collected on the coastal line and transported to the Lithuanian Sea Museum for further cleaning, care and rehabilitation.

A seminar was also held during the 2021 KOPOS exercise. One of the topics of the seminar was “Help for water birds”, which was presented by a representative of the Lithuanian Sea Museum.

4. Equipment and facilities

According to the Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Incidents at Sea, the Lithuanian Sea Museum provides assistance to marine mammals contaminated by oil during pollution incidents. The Lithuanian Sea Museum possesses capabilities of provide assistance to birds.

In 2019-2022, the Baltic Sea Animal Rehabilitation Centre was built. The centre was completed at the end of 2022 and is operational. The Baltic Sea Rehabilitation Centre will become an integral part of the Lithuanian Sea Museum.

The centre has indoor and outdoor pools for birds and seals. Facilities and equipment for animal examination, washing and treatment are also equipped accordingly. Currently, the centre is looking to purchase disposable boxes for the transportation of birds, as well as appropriate chemicals for washing animals and birds from oil products.

Resources and capabilities regarding wildlife response are not described in the plan yet.

5. Partnering and funding

In cooperation with the project partners, the Lithuanian Sea Museum completed an ambitious project, the implementation of which is bound to result in more opportunities for contribution to the well-being of the Baltic Sea animals and its entire ecosystem.

The Baltic Sea Animal Rehabilitation Centre is important not only for Lithuania, but also for other countries which have access to the Baltic Sea. The goal of the Centre is to nurse and treat seals and birds that suffered from human's activities. The centre aims to create a system for investigation and rescue of marine animals while meeting modern scientific and practical standards, to carry out biological investigations of animals and to promote education for common society.

A hospital of seals, other animals of the Baltic Sea, the Baltic Sea Rehabilitation Centre will become an integral part of the Lithuanian Sea Museum .

The project was funded by the financial means of the European Union Cohesion Fund and the Lithuanian Sea Museum. The funding was allocated in compliance with the Ministers of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania order No. D1-1007 issued on 29 November 2018, "On Allocating Funding for the Project No. 05.3.1-APVA-V-011-01-0003".

The main objectives of the project:

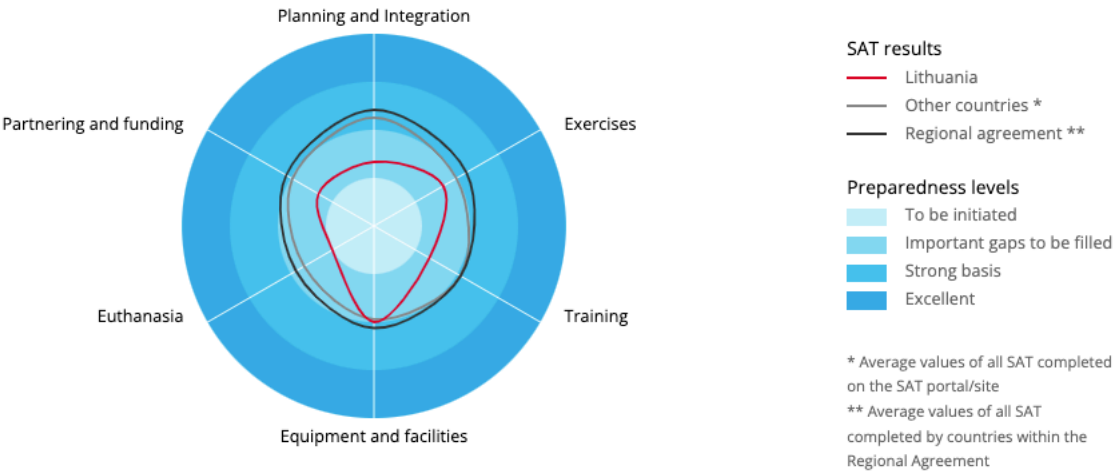
- Construction of the object included: reception area, operating and procedure rooms, medical room, dissection room, refrigerator for the remains of animals, room for primary clinical examination, intensive therapy and quarantine enclosures with small pools, pools for baby seals gaining weight, adaptation pool, outdoor pool for seabirds, deep indoor diving pool for birds.
- Purchase of veterinary equipment and specialised furniture for treatment purposes. Overall area of the building is 955 sq. m, area of water pools is 320 sq. m.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

There were no accidents resulting in oiled wildlife in Lithuania during the period of 2021-2022.

Table 6. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Lithuania (Jan 2020)

Lithuania



Completed by: Sea alarm on behalf of Lithuania (National Authority)
Regional Agreement: HELCOM
Date: January 1, 2020

Remarks

General: Sea Alarm has completed this SAT with data provided in 2020 in previous versions of the SAT (excel or pdf version). It was not completed by the Country itself. Those statements that were not completed in previous version of the SAT , Sea Alarm has decided to mark them with the first statement of the category which are the statement that shows the lowest level of preparedness.

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
<p>Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR</p> <p>It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet</p> <p>A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet</p> <p>OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget</p>	<p>No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness</p> <p>One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet</p> <p>All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision</p> <p>Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate</p>	<p>There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.</p> <p>A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what</p> <p>All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks</p> <p>Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed</p>	<p>No OWR exercises take place</p> <p>Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme</p> <p>Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response</p> <p>Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan</p>	<p>There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together</p> <p>Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles</p>	<p>The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon</p> <p>Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises</p> <p>Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date</p> <p>There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme</p>

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
<p>Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders</p> <p>Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations</p> <p>Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios</p>	<p>There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses</p> <p>The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level</p> <p>Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers</p> <p>A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions</p>	<p>There are parties interested in being trained</p> <p>Training is provided, but not to international standards</p> <p>Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified</p> <p>Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad</p>	<p>The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested</p> <p>It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios</p> <p>The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed</p> <p>The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated</p>	<p>Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers</p> <p>Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme</p>

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
<p>Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed</p> <p>Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place</p> <p>A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted</p> <p>The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia</p> <p>Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analysis has not been carried out</p> <p>Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios</p> <p>All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development</p> <p>Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available</p> <p>A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level</p> <p>A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all-encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme</p>	<p>It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR</p> <p>A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking</p>	<p>There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described</p> <p>Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described</p> <p>The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme</p> <p>The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested</p>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Selected answers		

2.7 Country: Poland

Report submitted by: The Self-assessment Tool and the Report have been prepared by the Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Gdańsk and West-Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin.

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

The Ministry of Climate and Environment has organised preliminary meetings with potential stakeholders concerning establishing the national OWR plan (legal basis, scientific analysis, preventive system, provide for the risk of oil spills in Crisis Management plans, trainings, financing system, appointment of the coordinator).

All relevant authorities have been identified and a Working Group for rescue of oiled wildlife has been established. The group consists of the representatives of Polish government institutions (Ministry of Climate and Environment, Ministry of the Interior and Administration, General Directorate for Environmental Protection, National Water Management Authority), municipal authorities (Voivodeship Offices), Maritime Offices, Maritime Search And Rescue Service, Veterinary Inspection, Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja', WWF Poland and LOTOS Petrobaltic S.A.

A draft of a national OWR plan has been prepared, but it has not been formally endorsed. Nonetheless it should be noted, that there is no need for a formal (legal) acceptance of the document, because a legal basis for OWR has been established by an act of law by the Council of Ministers that makes it mandatory to include OWR in regional (voivodeship) crisis management and civil protection contingency plans. Pomeranian Voivodeship has an OWR Plan and is currently proceeding to update it and make it more detailed.

2. Training

In the beginning of the 2020, 3 people from the WWF Poland took part in the Advanced Responder workshops within the EUROWA network, which took place in the Rehabilitation Centre for Wild Birds in Ostend, Belgium.

In 2020 WWF Poland signed the EUROWA Memorandum of Understanding and EUROWA Charter, thus becoming a member of the EUROWA network.

WWF Poland also translated the manual: *Oiled Wildlife Response Protocols in the Central Baltic Sea* into Polish. The translated document was published on the website as a teaching aid and distributed among participants of exercises.

During COVID-19 pandemic there were no trainings including OWR Plan in Pomeranian or West-Pomeranian Voivodeship.

3. Exercises

The stakeholders have been identified and most of them have assumed their roles in OWR. The key personnel has received diversified training, but there are no clear job descriptions written down. There are new parties interested in being trained (ornithologists, bird ringers), and parties that have already undergone some training are willing to continue broadening their knowledge and experience, i.a. WWF Blue Patrol volunteers, veterinarians from rehabilitation centres, national and landscape parks employees, nature protection authorities, Maritime Search and Rescue Service, etc.

The need for continuous training at different levels, from volunteers to managers is recognised. Several persons from various fields (nature protection authorities, veterinarians, volunteers) have received training sufficient to train other local responders should the need arise, and assist abroad if called upon.

4. Equipment and facilities

Due to a general improvement of maritime regulations and traffic, the number of recorded accidental oiled wildlife cases (usually bird carcasses) found on the shoreline has significantly declined. Therefore, it was deemed a better use of the very limited resources to dedicate them to training personnel and focusing on tightening cooperation between different parties engaged in OWR.

Some small equipment is located in Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja' - pools, medicines, protective clothing, containers for drying birds, etc.

It was decided that there will be no purchases of small equipment and storage in case of an oil spill. Both due to the recommendations arising from the circular economy concept and the principles of avoiding waste generation. A fast financing path for the purchase of small equipment from oil exploration and production company Grupa LOTOS S.A. was established and a list of necessary purchases in case of an oil spill was created.

5. Partnering and funding

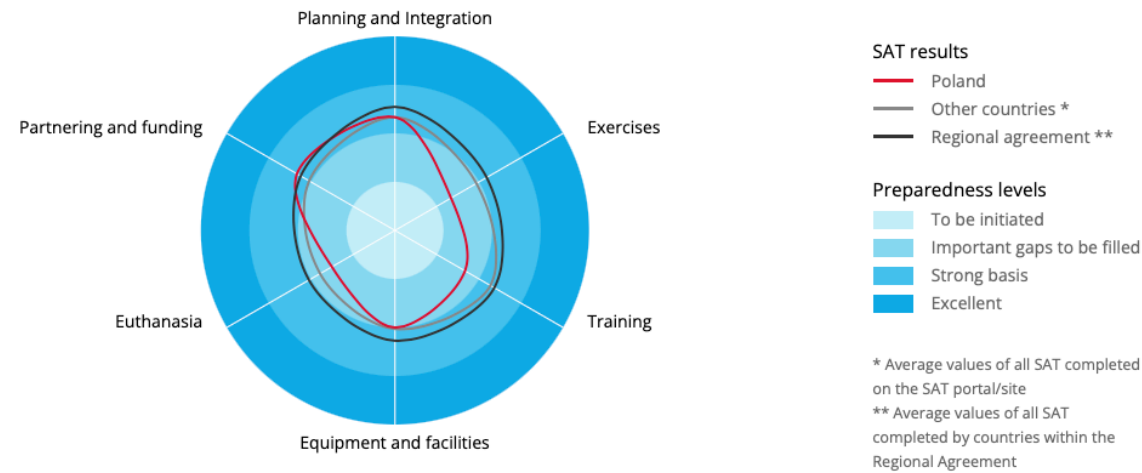
Oil exploration and production company LOTOS and the Ministry of Climate and Environment have agreed to establish a fund for some ad hoc activities (e.g. OWR actions during relatively small oil spill incidents). Thanks to participation in international meetings and exercises, quality tier-3 resources for response assistance have been identified and discussions on mobilisation procedures took place. Procedure for mobilisation of Tier-3 response has been written down and incorporated to the draft of national oiled wildlife response plan.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

There were no known incidents.

Table 7. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Poland (Mar 2025)

Poland



Completed by: Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Gdańsk (Regional Authority)
Regional Agreement: HELCOM
Date: March 3, 2025

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR	No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness	There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.	No OWR exercises take place	There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises	The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon
It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet	One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet	A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what	Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme	Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together	Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises
A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet	All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision	All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks	Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response	Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training	Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date
OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget	Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate	Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed	Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan	Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles	There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders	There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses	There are parties interested in being trained	The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested	Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent
Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions	The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level	Training is provided, but not to international standards	It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios	Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made
Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations	Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers	Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified	The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed	Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers
Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios	A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions	Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad	The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated	Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed	No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia	No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development	It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions	There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described
Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place	Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analysis has not been carried out	Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available	Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions	Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described
A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted	Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level	Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR	The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme
The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios	All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios	A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all-encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme	A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking	The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested

2.8 Country: Russia

Note: no updates received from Russia, Self-Assessment Tool not completed.

Report submitted by:

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

(Please report progress in plan development and implementation)

2. Training

(Please report wildlife dedicated training events)

3. Exercises

(Please report wildlife dedicated exercises (table top, field exercise))

4. Equipment and facilities

(Please report activities that have enhanced the status of wildlife dedicated equipment and facilities)

5. Partnering and funding

(Please report activities that have enhanced partnerships and cooperation on wildlife response preparedness, and report on enhanced funding schemes if appropriate)

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

2.9 Country: Sweden

Report submitted in 2025 by: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Report on self-assessment categories:

1. Planning and integration

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has decided to draw up a national guideline on oiled wildlife response. The work is currently ongoing and can hopefully be finished in 2025.

2. Training

Training may have been carried out at national, regional and local level but there is no compiled list of training carried out.

3. Exercises

Exercises may have been carried out at international (for example BALEX DELTA), national, regional and local level but there is no compiled list of exercises carried out.

4. Equipment and facilities

No exact data available at this point.

5. Partnering and funding

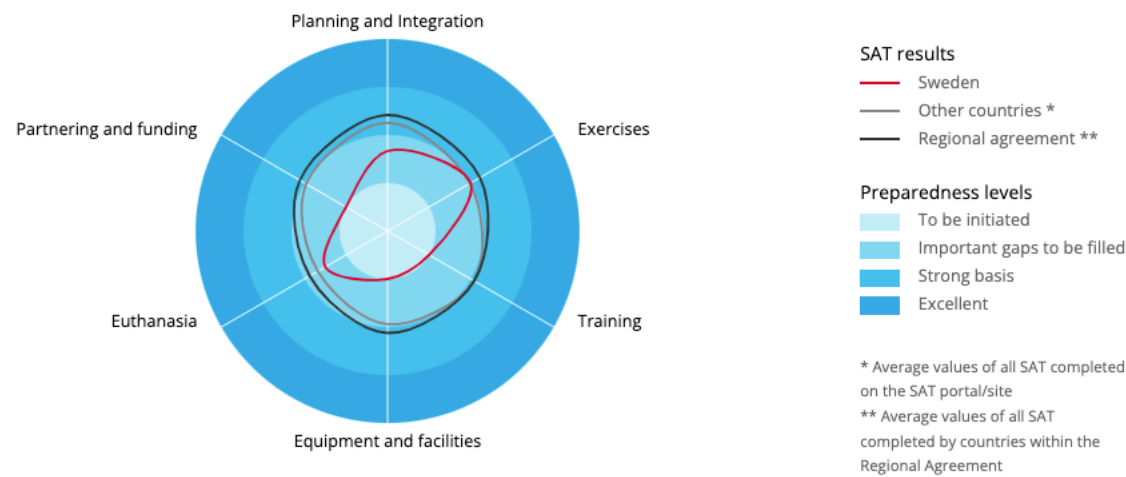
No data available at this point.

6. Report on incident response to wildlife and experiences/lessons learned from them

No data available at this point.

Table 8. Self-assessment Tool (SAT) 2.0 by Sweden (Jan 2020)

Sweden



Completed by: Sea alarm on behalf of Sweden (National Authority)
Regional Agreement: HELCOM
Date: January 1, 2020

Remarks

General: Sea Alarm has completed this SAT with data provided in 2020 in previous versions of the SAT (excel or pdf version). It was not completed by the Country itself. Those statements that were not completed in previous version of the SAT , Sea Alarm has decided to mark them with the first statement of the category which are the statement that shows the lowest level of preparedness.

Planning and integration			Exercises		
OWR Plan	Authority engagement	Risk Management	Programming and design	Multi-stakeholder involvement	Types and levels
<p>Only an oil spill response plan exists; it may or may not have reference to OWR</p> <p>It is recognised that OWR needs a plan; meetings have taken place, but no draft document written as yet</p> <p>A mature plan has been developed on the basis of scenario analysis, but not (fully) formalised or integrated as yet</p> <p>OWR plan formalised and fully integrated with all relevant oil spill plans (at sea response, coastal response, regional plans), and implemented via a multi-year programme and budget</p>	<p>No authority so far has taken responsibility to oversee (the quality of) wildlife response and preparedness</p> <p>One authority has taken responsibility to take a lead on plan development, but other relevant authorities are not engaging as yet</p> <p>All relevant authorities are engaged with the OWR plan, by formal decision</p> <p>Annual activities demonstrate full commitment with all signatories of the plan and significant preparedness improvements thanks to training and exercises in which all signatories participate</p>	<p>There is no common rationale for (the development of) an integrated OWR plan.</p> <p>A scenario/risk analysis has resulted in a clear picture of what is needed and who needs to do what</p> <p>All relevant parties (Authority-NGO-Private) have been brought around the table and have divided and agreed roles, responsibilities and development tasks</p> <p>Progressively the preparedness is increasing according to plan and agreed budget; Risks are managed</p>	<p>No OWR exercises take place</p> <p>Exercises have had an ad hoc character and were not related to a plan or training programme</p> <p>Exercises take place coherently every year and look at different aspects of a response</p> <p>Exercises take place according to a pre-defined schedule that directly relates to the agreed plan</p>	<p>There is no actor who is interested to organise OWR exercises</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by one or more parties but not by everyone together</p> <p>Exercises are attended by all stakeholders together but there is no clear relation with training</p> <p>Wildlife aspects are exercised by all stakeholders together and aiming at letting trained officers working their assigned roles</p>	<p>The importance of exercises such as table tops, field exercises and facility exercises is acknowledged but not acted upon</p> <p>Ad hoc exercises were limited to table tops and/or simple field exercises</p> <p>Exercises are structural, but a large mobilisation exercise testing the build-up and operations of a facility has not been held to date</p> <p>There is a full diversity of scheduled exercises (table top, field, facility) as part of a formal plan-related exercise programme</p>

Training			Equipment and facilities	
Roles and responsibilities	Hands-on vs manager	International standards usage	Facility types	Equipment evaluation and availability
<p>Roles and responsibilities in a wildlife response are not clarified and not discussed between stakeholders</p> <p>Some but not all stakeholders have assumed their roles in a wildlife response and train their key personnel to be able to take responsibilities according to clear job descriptions</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities are defined as job descriptions as part of an agreed plan and a training programme has been agreed and is centrally coordinated, delivering key personnel from different organisations</p> <p>Trained personnel from different stakeholder organisations are offered regular opportunities to exercise together, to practice their skills in realistic scenarios</p>	<p>There is no in-country expertise available to provide training courses</p> <p>The need for training at different levels (hands-on or managers) is recognised, but actual training is limited to basic hands-on (e.g. volunteers) only level</p> <p>Training is recognised and taking place for both hands-on personnel and managers</p> <p>A centrally coordinated training programme aims to deliver responders at all levels and ensure various individuals can take key roles in the higher management positions</p>	<p>There are parties interested in being trained</p> <p>Training is provided, but not to international standards</p> <p>Training packages aim at international standards, and an increasing number of staff is already qualified</p> <p>Trained staff are fully qualified according to international standards and have reached levels where they can assist with training other responders or a response abroad</p>	<p>The role of facilities in OWR is recognised, but plans to realise them have not been developed or tested</p> <p>It is clear what facilities are needed for different purposes in a wildlife response. At this stage, only small size facilities can be used or developed, equipped and staffed, serving only for relatively small incident scenarios</p> <p>The use and development of facilities has been described in the plan and procedures and criteria are available for scaling up facility size to a desired maximum level that can be equipped and staffed</p> <p>The use and development of fit-for-purpose facilities is the subject of specific exercises in an exercise programme in which the performance of contractors and responsible organisations is regularly tested and evaluated</p>	<p>Equipment stockpiles are unknown or absent</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles are available in-country, but an analysis of their completeness has not been made</p> <p>Equipment stockpiles and lists of equipment and consumables have been drawn up as well as an updated list of manufacturers and providers</p> <p>Equipment mobilisation in relation to facility build up and field activities is regularly tested and evaluated as part of an exercise programme</p>

Euthanasia (incl. mass euthanasia)		Partnering and funding		
Euthanasia as a response option	Stakeholders and guidelines	Funds and budgets	Multi-stakeholder involvement	International OWR Resources
<p>Euthanasia has not been considered as an explicit response option, and resources not identified nor developed</p> <p>Euthanasia is considered as a response option but guaranteed/contracted providers with certified resources are not in place</p> <p>A plan includes species specific options for euthanasia, and certified resources for each have been identified and contracted</p> <p>The plan for euthanasia is structurally and regularly exercised and demonstrate that the identified resources can also deal with worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No stakeholder discussions have been held to define criteria for euthanasia</p> <p>Criteria (when and how) for euthanasia have been agreed between stakeholders but a risk-based gap-analyses has not been carried out</p> <p>Agreed guidelines for euthanasia have been developed and provide guidance for different regions and worst-case scenarios</p> <p>All stakeholders have agreed to the guidelines and well-developed communication strategies are in place for informing the public, not only in worst case scenarios</p>	<p>No dedicated central funds are explicitly available for wildlife preparedness development</p> <p>Funds are available to the extent that some ad hoc activities can be financed; there is no multi-year approach nor budget available</p> <p>A multi-year budget has been created to finance a number of activities, contracts and equipment investments. But it is still expected from various key stakeholders to contribute in-kind to the agreed preparedness level</p> <p>A multi-year budget has been created that allows one or more key stakeholders to coordinate an all-encompassing programme and overseeing investments, training and exercises, and provide professional staff to undertake key roles and responsibilities in the management of a response; a key authority oversees that targets are met by the programme</p>	<p>It is recognised that wildlife impacts or response can be controversial in terms of public reactions, but no multi-stakeholder activities have been organised to date to explore common ground and solutions</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder meetings have been discussing wildlife impacts and options for a response, and it is clear that different views and approaches are possible, but no actions have been taken to find solutions in bridging different opinions</p> <p>Multi-stakeholder processes have led to the agreed objectives and strategies for an OWR</p> <p>A response will involve a broad range of stakeholders in the response activities, ensuring different viewpoints are respected and publicly communicated as of one voice so that the public is likely to support the response and its decision taking</p>	<p>There is a high reliance on OWR resources from abroad, but the procedures to invite and integrate responders from abroad have not been discussed or described</p> <p>Oiled Wildlife Response resources from abroad that could assist, have been identified and discussions take place on mobilisation procedures, but no formal procedure has been agreed nor described</p> <p>The assistance from OWR resources from abroad have been described as part of the wildlife response plan. Tier-3 mobilisation however is not part of an exercise programme</p> <p>The assistance by OWR resources from abroad is described as part of the wildlife response plan and mobilisation procedures are regularly exercised and tested</p>
		<div> <div></div> Selected answers </div>		

3 Other activity updates 2023-2024

3.1 Webinar on the Future of Oiled Wildlife response in Europe

On 18 March 2024, Sea Alarm (EUROWA Secretariat) delivered a webinar on the Future of Professional Oiled Wildlife response in Europe. The webinar was first agreed on by EG Wildlife, but also opened up to European authorities from the Baltic, North and Mediterranean Sea Regions. The webinar was recorded (see recording on the EUROWA website [here](#)) and attended by 15 authority representatives and the HELCOM Secretariat.

The webinar was aimed at giving participants a view of the current landscape in Europe for oiled wildlife preparedness and response, including the role of EUROWA and current regional initiatives for wildlife response, including those under the Wildlife EG, and to present a new document launched under the EUROWA-2 project: the Future of Oiled Wildlife Response in Europe. The document provides a strategic path towards improving preparedness in Europe. It explains 12 reasons why wildlife response should be professional and provides an outline for a national wildlife response plan, and provides recommendations for authorities and other entities in Europe to build their capacity for dealing with oiled wildlife incidents. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session with authorities to discuss some of the challenges and solutions to improve their preparedness.

4 Conclusions

Observations on the level of CPs' oiled wildlife preparedness in this section are considered for each of the four elements that collectively make up the HELCOM monitoring tools, plus some remarks on BALEX exercises and general observations:

- i. Self-Assessment Tool and country reports
- ii. Authority responsibilities
- iii. NGO-authority partnerships
- iv. Equipment
- v. BALEX exercises
- vi. General statement

4.1 Progress in Oiled Wildlife Preparedness - Self-Assessment Tool and Country Reports

All countries have completed the online Self-Assessment Tool at least once except for Russia. Updates have been provided in late 2024/early 2025 from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia and Poland. For the remaining countries, Sea Alarm has used the results from their previous SATs.

A visual comparison of the SAT results in 2022 and 2024 shows that there are small changes in the assessments in the two-year period covered by this report, mostly very slight decreases in preparedness, although some improvements have also been made, notably in Germany. Some countries have experienced some changes in their funding to be more of an ad-hoc nature, rather than multi-year structural funding, not all countries are holding OWR exercises every year and some training programmes have scaled back on what was achieved in previous years, although training is still taking place in several countries.

Nevertheless, progress has been made in preparedness – two countries (Finland and Poland) have agreed on formal procedures and arrangements for mobilising Tier 3 wildlife responders, an important step in facilitating the assistance of those hands-on experts in case of an incident. Germany is also making significant progress with the start of a new authority-led programme to implement the national framework plan for OWR through developing series of tactical plans for each of the coastal states, to be accompanied by a programme of training and exercises and equipment reinforcements where needed. Other notable developments include that Estonia has updated its OWR plan, firmed up arrangements for establishing its temporary rehabilitation facility and is continuing its programme of EUROWA training for wildlife responders. Regular EUROWA training also continues in Finland, who have also recently conducted a renovation of their mobile Bird Cleaning Unit. OWR was included in the most recent BALEX Delta exercise in Latvia in 2023, with ornithologists and volunteers participating in a bird capture exercise. Although not formally reported on by Lithuania, their 2024 BALEX Delta exercise also included an OWR element, with simulated capture of oiled birds and transport to the Lithuanian Sea Museum. Regular EUROWA training also continues in Estonia and Poland. Sweden (following the 2023 Marco Polo incident) is also developing national guidance on oiled wildlife response.

The SAT continues to be a useful tool to CPs to measure and benchmark their progress and allow for trends to be observed across the Baltic Region. A visual summary of the 2024 SAT results (and 2022 results or earlier where no 2024 update has been given) is given below in Figure 1.



Figure 1 : summary of 2024 SAT results as a graphical display

4.2 Authority responsibilities

No major changes have been reported since 2022, although Germany reports some changes to the entities responsible for shoreline response and wildlife response in some regions. Germany and Estonia have also made some changes to the names of the various Ministries/entities in charge. Based on the information submitted (see Table 9 below), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden (8 of 9 CPs) have defined jurisdiction for oil spill response, shoreline response and oiled wildlife response, meaning that it is clear which authority would take a lead in each cross-border area on each aspect and which authority entities would be involved in decision-making for oiled wildlife response. Although in Sweden, responsibilities are not always fully defined, notably for leading an oiled wildlife response and rehabilitation/euthanasia. No information was provided for Russia, so the division of authority responsibilities amongst the five subject areas there is unclear.

In most cases, as would be expected, the responsibilities for shoreline and wildlife response, conservation and animal welfare vary depending on the region involved, which suggests that regional authorities must also be actively involved in national planning processes when it comes to oiled wildlife and to clearly define responsibilities for managing an oiled wildlife response where it is lacking.

Table 9: summary of Authorities Responsibilities information provided

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES (See Annex 2)	Authority leading the overall oil spill response	Authority leading shoreline oil pollution response	Authority in charge of leading the wildlife response	Authority responsible for nature conservation and species conservation	Authority responsible for animal welfare and leading rehabilitation or euthanasia activities
Denmark	X	X	X	X	X
Estonia	X	X	X	X	X
Finland	X	X	X	X	X
Germany	X	X	X	X	X
Latvia	X	X	X	X	X
Lithuania	X	X	X	X	X
Poland	X	X	X	X	X
Russia					
Sweden	X	X		X	(X)

4.3 NGO-Authority relationships

No major updates have been indicated since 2022, although Germany is seeing some developments here. 5 of the 9 CPs (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany and Poland) have formal arrangements or contracts in place with NGOs or other stakeholders to provide oiled wildlife response support. In Denmark, the contract is with hunters who are deployed under contract to carry out euthanasia of oiled birds. Finland has benefitted for many years from a formal agreement between WWF Finland and the Finnish authorities. In Germany, an NGO contract is in place in the state of Schleswig-Holstein but through the new preparedness programme previously described, stronger cooperation between the authorities and the German EUROWA member Pro Bird will be established. In Estonia a formal agreement exists between the authorities and the Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF) but at present this is not supported with structural authority funding. In Latvia, there is informal cooperation between authorities and wildlife response NGOs. Lithuanian authorities cooperate with the Baltic Sea Animal

Rehabilitation Centre (part of the Lithuanian Sea Museum) for oiled wildlife response, as was the case during the 2024 BALEX Delta exercise. Russia and Sweden have not reported on any formal agreements or partnerships with their national NGOs.

The extent therefore to which the partnerships described are made structural by regular annual preparedness activities varies, although at least a regular information exchange appears to be conducted in each case. This is an area that CPs should aim to improve in the future, not only naming NGOs in the national wildlife response plans, but aiming to create formal partnerships with NGOs, supported with funding where needed (including members of the EUROWA network in countries where they exist), who provide the first line of response for dealing with oiled animals at a national level.

4.4 Equipment

No significant updates have been made since 2022. 3 of the 9 CPs have reported that they hold national stockpiles of oiled wildlife response equipment (Estonia, Finland and Germany). In Poland, a small stockpile is held within a wildlife rescue NGO and Lithuania has shared information on equipment available within a private wildlife rehabilitation centre. Of these five countries, only Finland reports that its equipment is available for an international mobilisation (although it could be considered for certain items from the German stockpile). A future focus area for the EG Wildlife could be to conduct risk assessments in each Baltic country, looking at oiled wildlife emergency scenarios to assess any gaps in existing equipment stockpiles and developing investment plans to supplement them where needed and appropriate. The possibility of stockpiles being made available for international use, to provide a better basis for oiled wildlife response mutual assistance in the spirit of the Helsinki Convention, should be explored further.

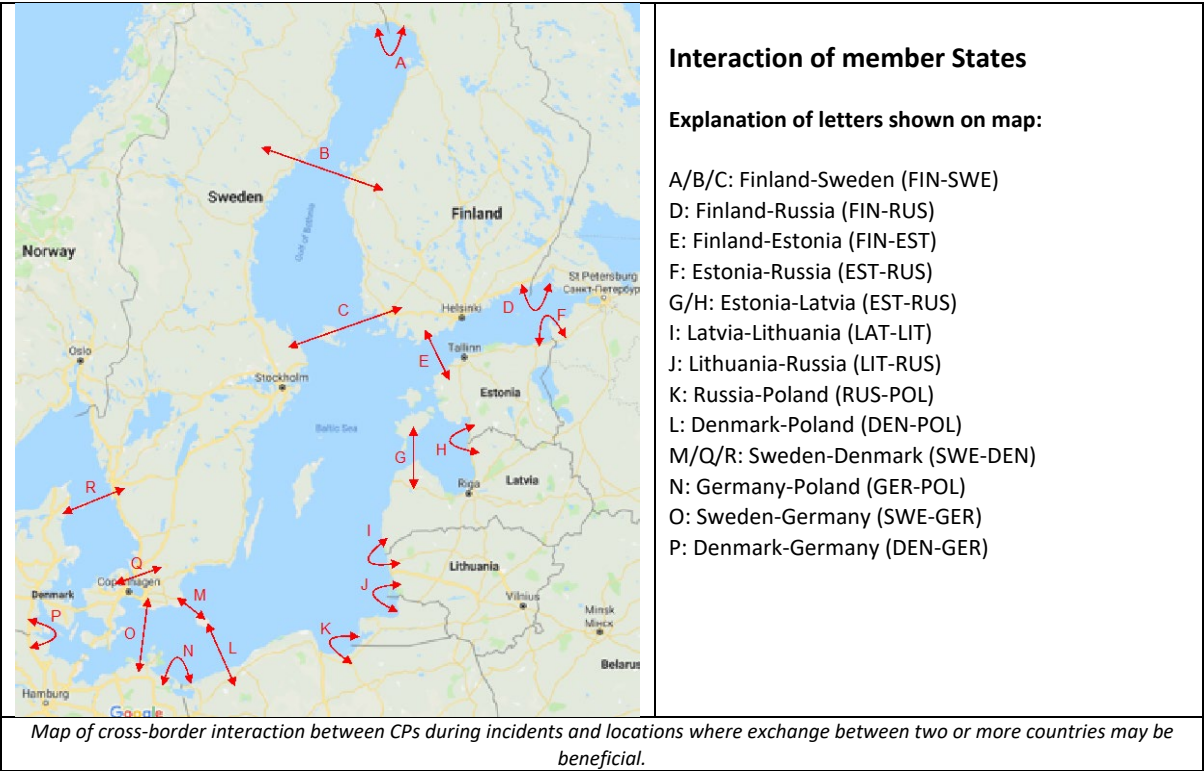
4.5 BALEX exercises

The annual HELCOM BALEX spill response exercises provide an important opportunity to practice and test elements of a national oiled wildlife response system. Wildlife continues to be included in recent exercises which is a positive development. In future, efforts should continue to define detailed objectives for the wildlife elements of an exercise as part of the planning process and to aim to use methods and equipment which matches reality as closely as possible, to maximise the learning opportunities for all involved. Exercise guidelines being discussed within EG Wildlife can be very useful in this regard.

4.6 General statement

Defining clear roles and responsibilities for oiled wildlife response, developing NGO/stakeholder partnerships and establishing detailed oiled wildlife response plans and capacity are all an integral part of both HELCOM Recommendation 31/E/6 on Oiled Wildlife Response Planning, and Chapter 7 of the HELCOM Response Manual on Cooperation in Oiled Wildlife Response. These documents are designed to assist Baltic authorities in being ready to face serious incidents which affect oiled wildlife in a professional way, to be able to deal with animal casualties in the way that the public would expect. HELCOM CPs should therefore continue to explore and invest into improving their national preparedness for oiled wildlife incidents and to develop and exchange ideas through the work of EG Wildlife.

Annex 1 – Authority responsibilities (latest version)



Contracting Party	Location	Authority leading the overall oil spill response	Authority leading shoreline oil pollution response	Authority in charge of leading the wildlife response	Authority responsible for nature conservation and species conservation	Authority responsible for animal welfare and leading rehabilitation or euthanasia activities
Denmark (Apr 2025)	L	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
	M	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
	O	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
	P	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
	Q	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
	R	Central command for maritime emergency	Central command for maritime emergency	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency (Ministry of environment)	Nature Agency
Estonia (Nov 2024)	E	Estonian Defence Forces	Estonian Rescue Board	Estonian Environmental Board (coordinating wildlife response)	Estonian Environmental Board	Agriculture and Food Board
	F	Estonian Defence Forces	Estonian Rescue Board	Estonian Environmental Board (coordinating wildlife response)	Estonian Environmental Board	Agriculture and Food Board
	G	Estonian Defence Forces	Estonian Rescue Board	Estonian Environmental Board (coordinating wildlife response)	Estonian Environmental Board	Agriculture and Food Board
	H	Estonian Defence Forces	Estonian Rescue Board	Estonian Environmental Board (coordinating wildlife response)	Estonian Environmental Board	Agriculture and Food Board
Finland (Nov 2024)	A	The Finnish Border Guard	Regional Rescue Services, municipalities		Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (ELY), SYKE	Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI)

	B	The Finnish Border Guard	Regional Rescue Services, municipalities		Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (ELY), SYKE	Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI)
	C	The Finnish Border Guard, Åland Provincial Government	Regional Rescue Services, municipalities, Åland Provincial Government	Åland Provincial Government	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (ELY), SYKE, Åland Provincial Government	Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI), Åland Provincial Government
	D	The Finnish Border Guard	Regional Rescue Services, municipalities		Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment (ELY), SYKE	Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI)
	E	The Finnish Border Guard, Åland Provincial Government	Regional Rescue Services, municipalities, Åland Provincial Government	Åland Provincial Government	Centre for Economic Development, Transport and Environment, SYKE, Åland Provincial Government	Regional State Administrative Agencies (AVI), Åland Provincial Government
Germany (Feb 2025)	N	Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME), Cuxhaven, 0049-30 / 185420-1400	Affected Administrative County district of federal state Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Vorpommern-Greifswald, Vorpommern-Rügen, City of Rostock, County of Rostock, North-West-Mecklenburg)	Affected Administrative County district of federal state Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Vorpommern-Greifswald, Vorpommern-Rügen, City of Rostock, County of Rostock, North-West-Mecklenburg)	Admin. County district's Regulatory agency and environment agency (Reporting to: Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of The Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Dept. 450 - Water and marine environmental protection & Dept. 500 - Animal welfare)	Administrative County district of federal state Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Veterinarian authority (Vorpommern-Greifswald, Vorpommern-Rügen, City of Rostock, County of Rostock, North-West-Mecklenburg)
	O	CCME	see federal state Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	see above	see above	see above

	P	CCME	federal state Schleswig-Holstein -Agency for Coastal Defense, National Park and Marine Conservation, Department for Hazard Control and Harbour Office (LKN.SH), situation centre Husum, 0049-4841 / 8984-11	LKN.SH, federal state Schleswig-Holstein	Admin. County district's Regulatory agency and environment agency (Reporting to: Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization of the State of Schleswig Holstein Dept.43 & Dept.24)	Administrative County district -Veterinarian authority (Schleswig-Flensburg, City of Flensburg, Rendsburg-Eckernförde, City of Kiel, County of Plön, Eastern Holstein, City of Lübeck) Rehabilitation Centre: Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V., 24376 Kappeln
Latvia (Feb 2025)	G	Latvian Coast Guard	State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia	State Environmental Service (coordinating wildlife response)	Nature Conservation Agency	Food and Veterinary Service
	H	Latvian Coast Guard	State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia	State Environmental Service (coordinating wildlife response)	Nature Conservation Agency	Food and Veterinary Service
	I	Latvian Coast Guard	State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia	State Environmental Service (coordinating wildlife response)	Nature Conservation Agency	Food and Veterinary Service
Lithuania (Feb 2023)	I	The Lithuanian NAVY is under the Ministry of National Defence and is the head authority for the response at sea	Municipalities	Lithuanian Sea Museum	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania	Lithuanian Sea Museum
	J					
Poland (Feb 2023)	L	West Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin, Maritime Office in Szczecin	West Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin, Maritime Office in Szczecin, Vovoidship Inspectorate of Environmental Protection in Szczecin	Ministry of Climate and Environment	General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Szczecin	Voivodeship Veterinary Inspectorate in Szczecin
	K	Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Gdańsk, Maritime Office in Gdynia	Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Gdańsk, Maritime Office in Gdynia, Vovoidship Inspectorate of Environmental Protection in Gdańsk	Ministry of Climate and Environment	General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk	Voivodeship Veterinary Inspectorate in Gdańsk

	N	West Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin, Maritime Office in Szczecin	West Pomeranian Voivodeship Office in Szczecin, Maritime Office in Szczecin, Vovoidship Inspectorate of Environmental Protection in Szczecin	Ministry of Climate and Environment	General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection in Szczecin	Voivodeship Veterinary Inspectorate in Szczecin
Russia	D					
	F					
	J					
	K					
Sweden (Mar 2023)	A	The Swedish Coastguard and the municipal rescue service.	The Swedish Coastguard, the municipal rescue service and county administration boards. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency can be of aid.	No stated area of responsibility. Can be included as part of other rescue efforts.	The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management can be mentioned. Complex distribution of responsibilities with several actors involved.	Complex area of responsibilities. The Swedish Board of Agriculture and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency can be mentioned but they have no stated responsibility for rehabilitation or euthanasia.
	B					
	C					
	M					
	Q					
	R					

Annex 2 – NGO-authority relationships

Country	Authority-NGO arrangement(s)	Formal or informal?	Related to a plan?	Annual activities	Report by
Denmark (Apr 2025)	In Denmark we do not work together with NGOs when it comes to oiled birds. The Nature Agency is responding when oiled birds are seen and they have a list of hunters who volunteer helping the Nature Agency to put down the birds affected by oil. When an accident happens, The ministry of environment and food protection sends out a press release telling people to contact the Nature Agency if they see any oiled birds.	It is formal. The volunteers gets a contract with the Nature Agency and the police are informed that hunters will be in a specific area to look for oil birds and put them down.	The cooperation is related to the Management plan for marine mammals and oilbirds 2003. The plan is currently subject of review and updating.	There is no annual network meeting with the hunters.	Sea Alarm
Estonia (Nov 2024)	The primary NGO who cooperates both with the Estonian Environmental Board and Rescue Board is Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF). ELF's trained volunteers assist in shore-line clean-up and wildlife response. In previous years, there was a contract between ELF and the Estonian Ministry of Climate. Due to financial constraints, no contract was signed for 2024. However, ELF has acquired funding from the Environmental Investment Centre which provides funding for different environmental projects. ELF has received funding for different wildlife response related activities for 2024-2025.	Formal contractor.	Agreement is related to plan.	Trainings and keeping of volunteer's network are running, regular communication between parts of contract.	Estonian Environmental Board

Country	Authority-NGO arrangement(s)	Formal or informal?	Related to a plan?	Annual activities	Report by
Finland (Nov 2024)	There is cooperation between NGOs (namely WWF Finland) and the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke), the Finnish Border Guard and Regional Rescue Services. NGOs are called upon by authorities in wildlife incidents and are also invited to exercises in the field of shoreline and wildlife response.	Formal agreements between Syke and WWF Finland exists. A working group on OWR has been established under the Advisory Board for the oil and ship-based HNS response.	The agreement is related to a plan which has been adopted and is being rolled out.	Training and exercise events are run annually. An annual training and exercise plan will be made at the start of each calendar year and agreed upon by the working group on oiled wildlife response.	WWF FI
Germany (Feb 2025)	<p>National authorities of the coastal states are represented by CCME in complex incidents and aim at working together with NGOs under defined terms (regarding issues as health and safety, ensured management structure, aligned public relations, certified facilities, etc.). Within a one year project in collaboration with SEA ALARM and PRO BIRD a tactical response plan and training for veterinarian and other responsible authorities will be prepared together with the working group of the coastal states authorities in oiled wildlife response.</p> <p>By now, only one NGO as an operator for a rehab-centre in the federal state Schleswig-Holstein is essential part of the existing OWR-Plan of the state Schleswig-Holstein.</p>	<p>Formal contract of federal state Schleswig-Holstein.</p> <p>Formal contract of CCME with SEA ALARM and PRO BIRD regarding a project to elaborate tactical response plan and training for veterinarian and other responsible authorities.</p>	<p>The cooperation in the federal state Schleswig-Holstein is related to the existing OWR-Plan of Schleswig-Holstein.</p> <p>The agreement is related to the evolved plan.</p>	<p>In Schleswig-Holstein annual meetings and trainings as well as integration in bigger incident exercises with the NGO are scheduled and conducted on a regular basis.</p> <p>For the next years trainings and exercises will be regularly planned for authorities on the basis of the evolving tactical response plan.</p>	LKN.SH CCME

Country	Authority-NGO arrangement(s)	Formal or informal?	Related to a plan?	Annual activities	Report by
Latvia (Feb 2025)	National action plan for rescue of animals in case of oil pollution at sea and on shore (National Action Plan) is developed and adopted by Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia. National Action Plan includes involvement of NGO in response.	No formal contract has been signed, but involving of the WWF Latvia volunteers are described in National Action Plan.	The cooperation is related to the OWR-Plan	No annual activities have taken place.	State Environmental Service
Lithuania (Feb 2023)	If required, the role of the Lithuanian Red Cross volunteers could also be extended to, for instance, incorporate additional tasks such as collecting oil and cleaning birds.	Informal	No	There is no annual network meeting with the NGOs	
Poland (Jan 2023)	National and regional authorities together with NGOs (Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja' and WWF Poland) participate in the Working Group for rescue of oiled wildlife. NGOs are also involved in the regional OWR plan (Pomeranian Voivodeship).	Formal. A legal basis for OWR has been established by an act of law by the Council of Ministers that makes it mandatory to include OWR in regional (voivodeship) crisis management and civil protection contingency plans.	The cooperation is related to the Oiled Wildlife Response Plan of the Pomeranian Voivode.	Annual meetings to evaluate past year's activities and outlook to next year's planning. According to the national OWR plan exercises should take place biannually.	WWF Poland, Wildlife Rescue Centre 'Ostoja', representatives of the voivodship offices of the West Pomeranian and Pomeranian Voivodships.
Russia					
Sweden					

Annex 3 – Equipment stockpiles template

Country:

Filled by (name):

Delegation (CP or observer):

Date (date of submission):

Please answer this question: Is there a stockpile of wildlife equipment in your country? Answer: No / Yes*, namely:

Please tick if available	Equipment type	Contains e.g.	Capacity of equipment	Stockpiled in (location)	Description available? (please provide)	For national use	Can be mobilised for international use
	Hazing/deterrence	Visual techniques equipment Auditory techniques equipment, etc			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Capture of animals	Nets, boxes, ppe, etc			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Veterinary and husbandry care	Syringes, tubes, needles, necropsy kit, scales, blood centrifuge and testing kit, netting,			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Washing equipment	Tubs, hoses, pumps, nozzles, detergent			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Pools and water management	Pools, hoses, pumps			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Facility build-up	Tent (incl. heating, ventilation, etc.)			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Complete washing unit (container, plug and play)	Unit with various washing bays and warm water installation, ventilation etc.			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Complete veterinary unit (container, plug and play)	Container fully equipped with examination tables, consumables, medicines, etc.			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Complete drying unit (container, plug and play)	Unit with cages and hot air installation.			Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*
	Other (describe)				Y/N*	Y/N*	Y/N*