Interactive database for Baltic Sea porpoises

Sharing Data Across Borders

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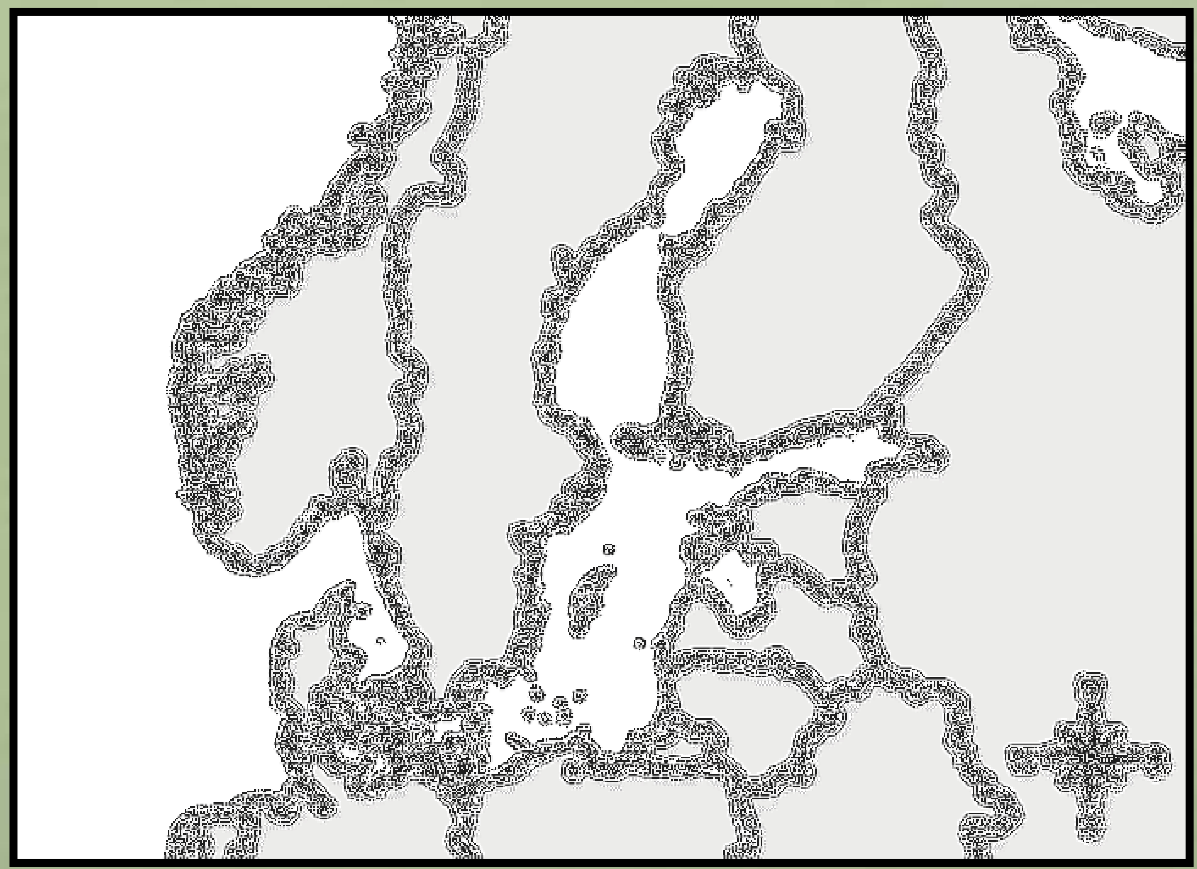


FORSCHUNGS- UND TECHNOLOGIEZENTRUM WESTKÜSTE BÜSUM

C A U Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

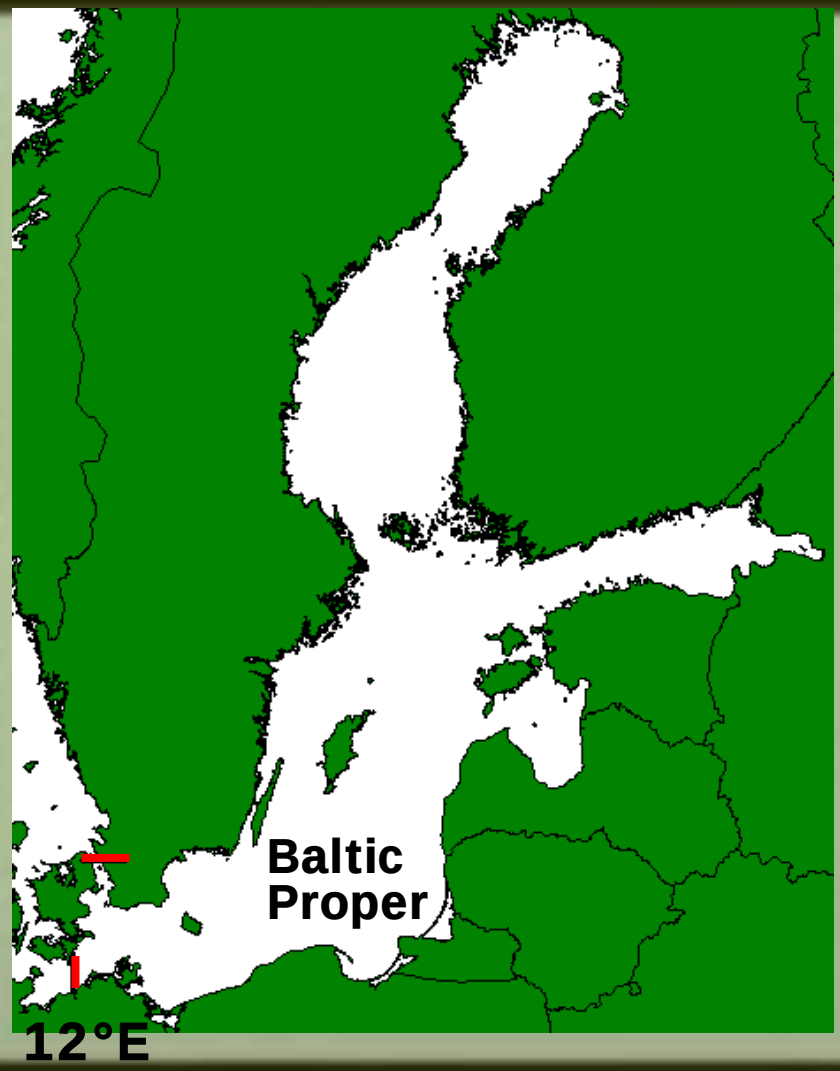
BACKGROUND

Aims of project

- ✓ Overview of porpoise occurrence in the Baltic Proper
- ✓ Increase and simplify cooperation between countries
- ✓ Increase public awareness of porpoises

Background
Method

- ✓Create database, including information from all countries surrounding the area



Background
Method

- ✓ Create database, including information from all countries surrounding the area
- ✓ Information accessible for scientists and politicians for management decisions on special request
- ✓ Present database and make data partly accessible via an interactive map on the web

STATUS
Database

Constitutes of six categories:

- ✓ Incidental sightings
- ✓ Effort sightings
- ✓ Strandings
- ✓ Bycatch
- ✓ Hunted/Killed
- ✓ T-POD data

STATUS
Database

Common in all categories (if available):

- ✓ ID-Number in the database
- ✓ Origin of data (country, institute, ID of original database)
- ✓ Date and possibly time of the registration
- ✓ Location of the registration

STATUS
Database

Additional information on **incidental and effort sightings**:

- ✓Sighting platform
- ✓Weather and sea condition
- ✓Pod size
- ✓Calf present, number of calves

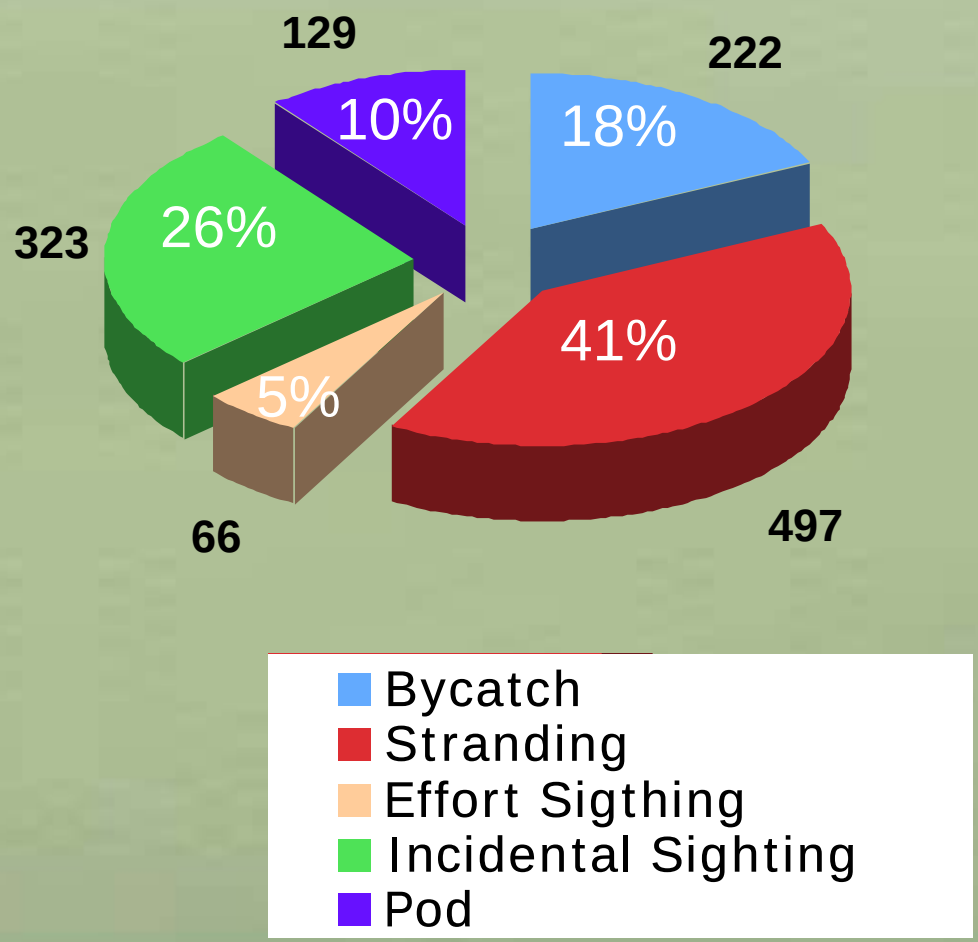
STATUS
Database

Additional information on **Strandings / By-catches / Hunted**

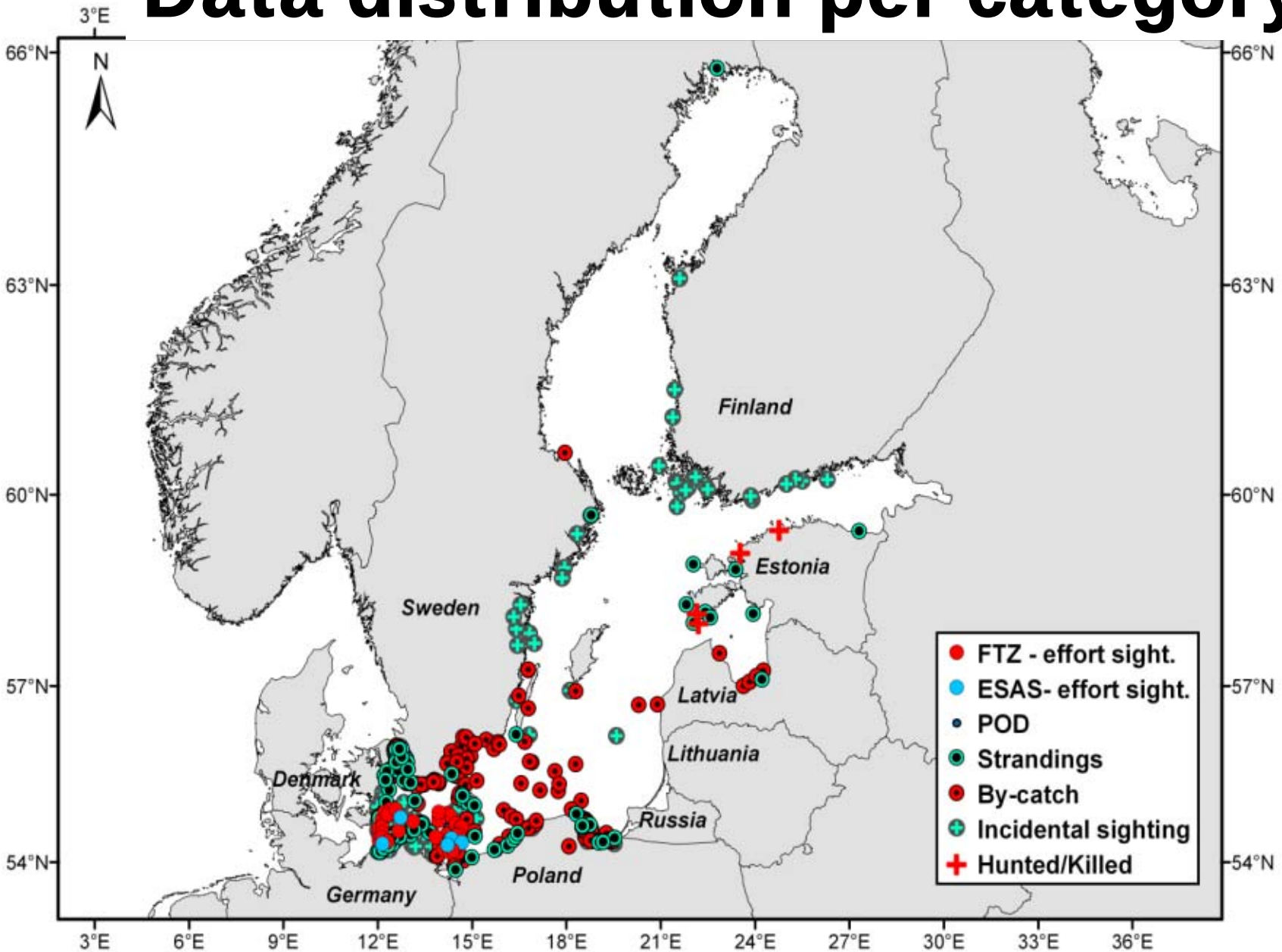
- ✓ Finder
- ✓ Sex, age, length, weight
- ✓ Data on reproduction
- ✓ Data on health status
- ✓ Genetic information
- ✓ Net type

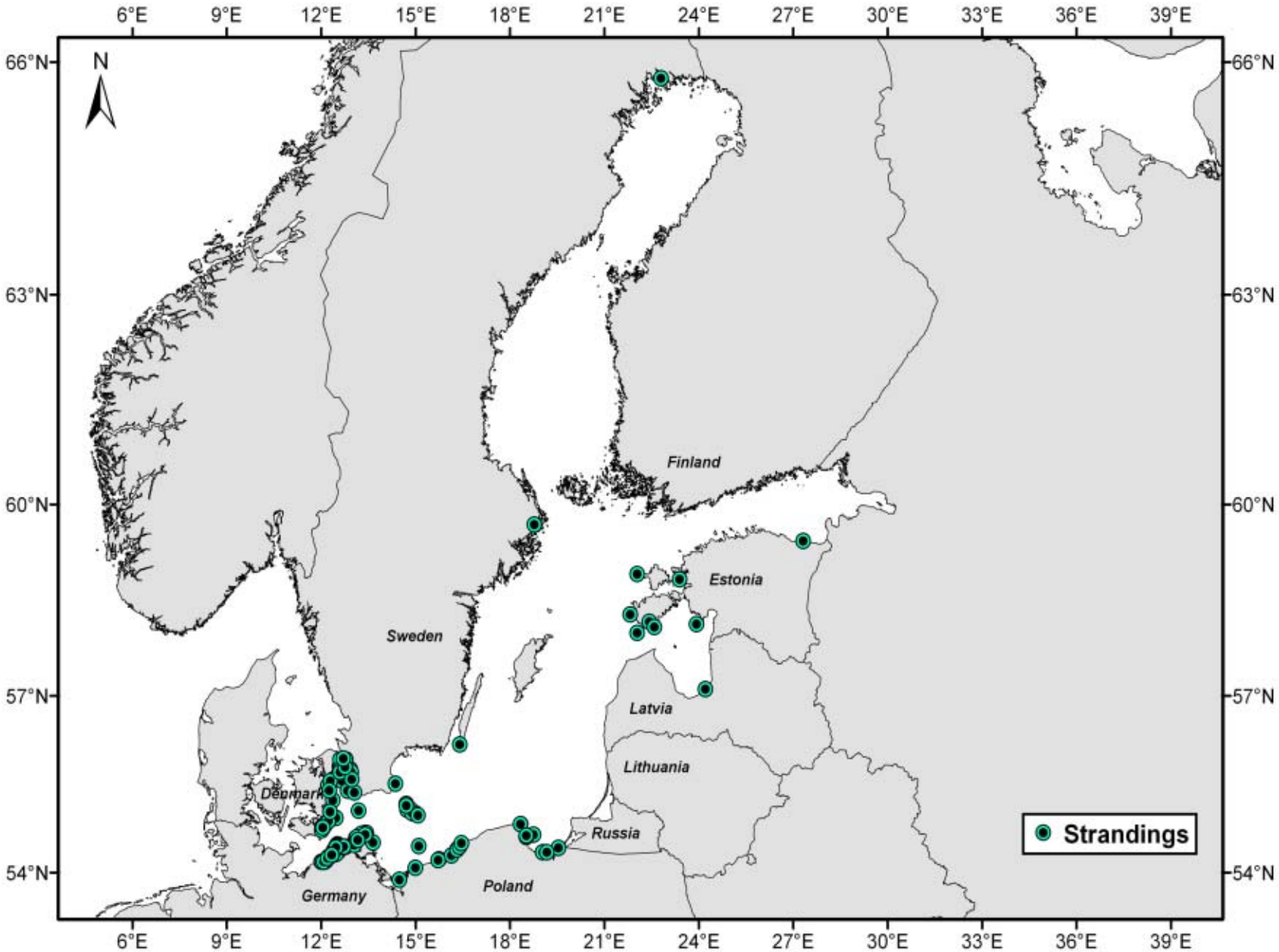
STATUS
Data

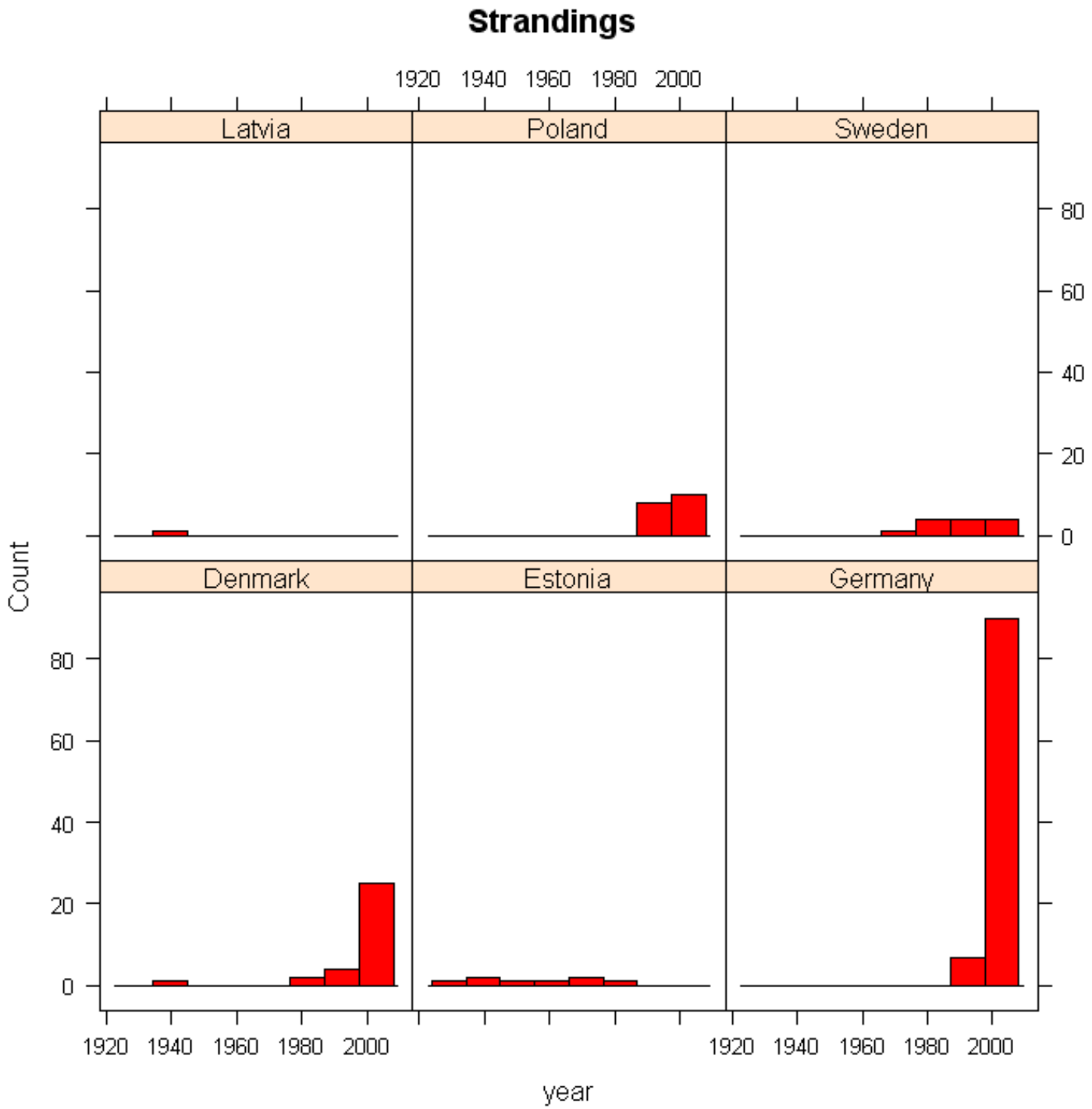
- ✓ **1,237 records** from 1905 to 2007
- ✓ Contributed by Germany, Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, Estonia & Finland
- ✓ ESAS

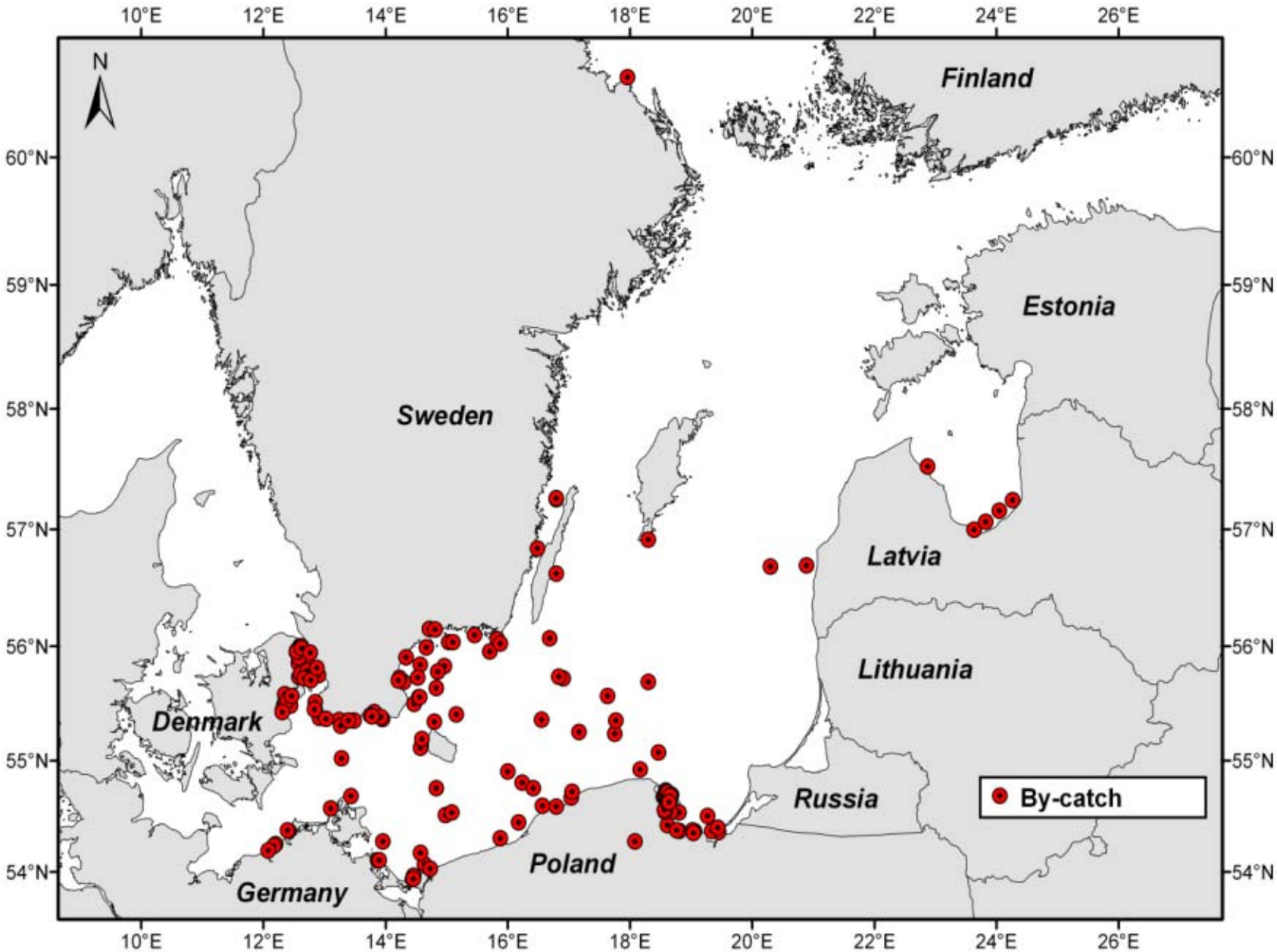


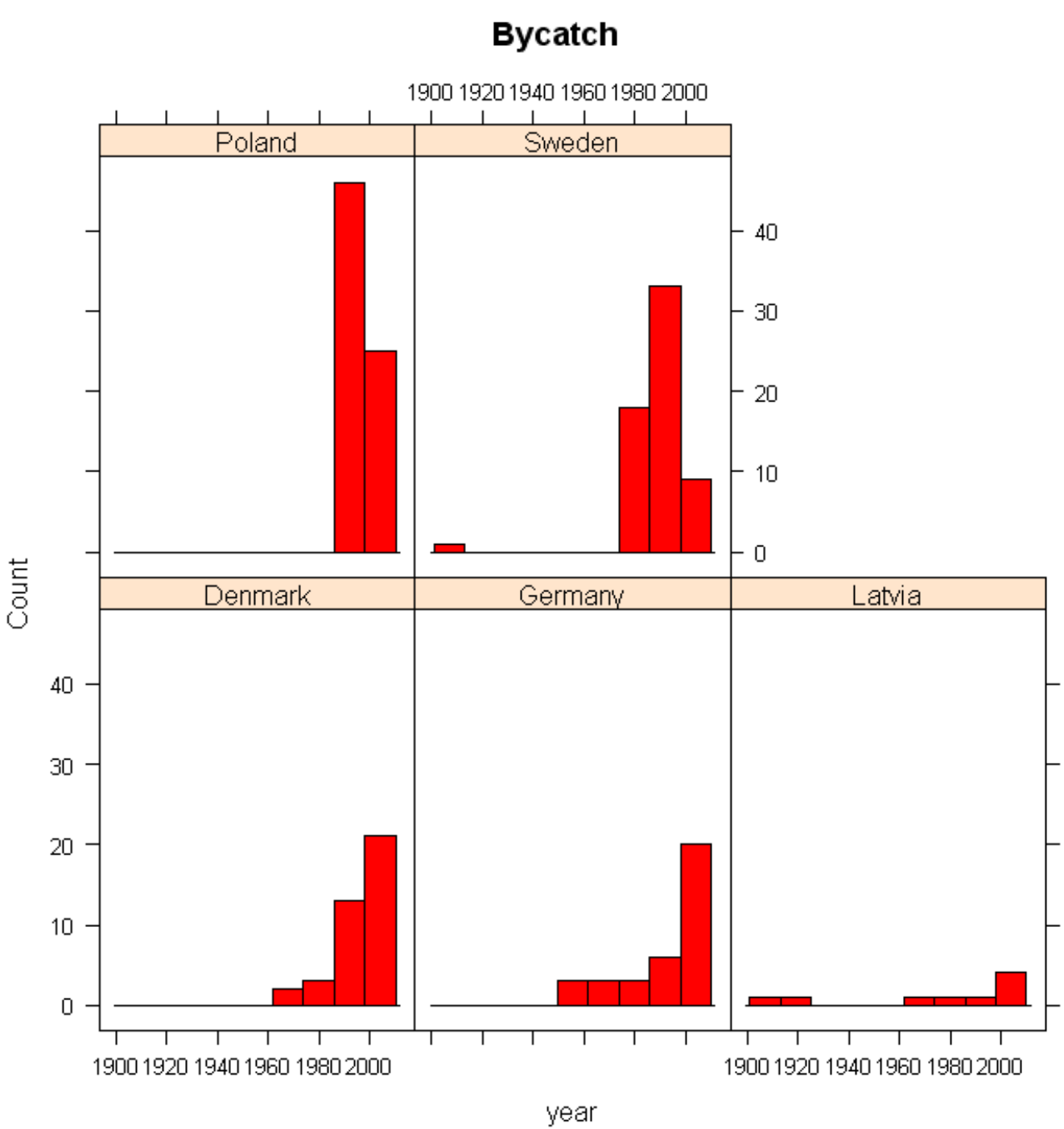
Data distribution per category

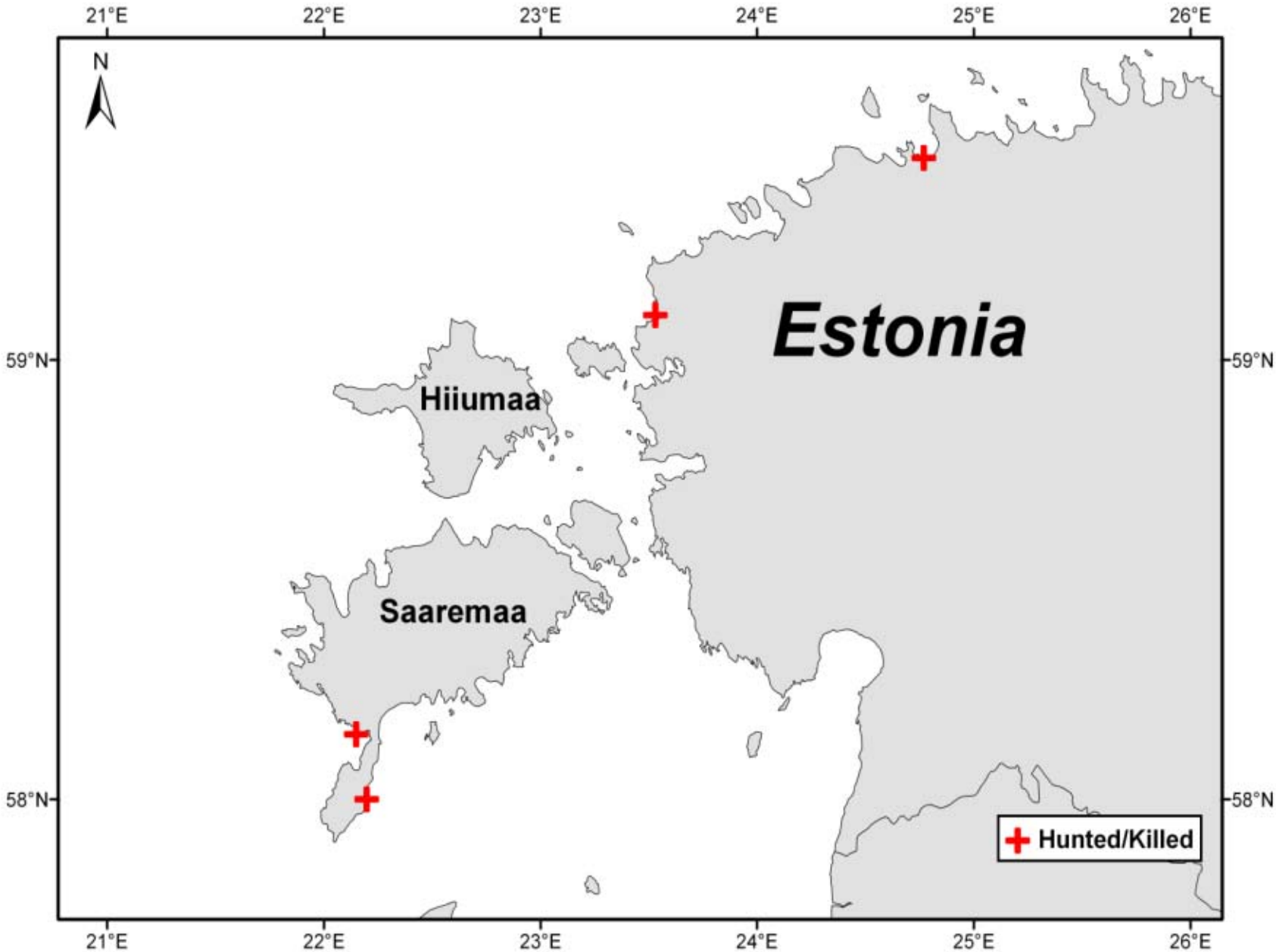


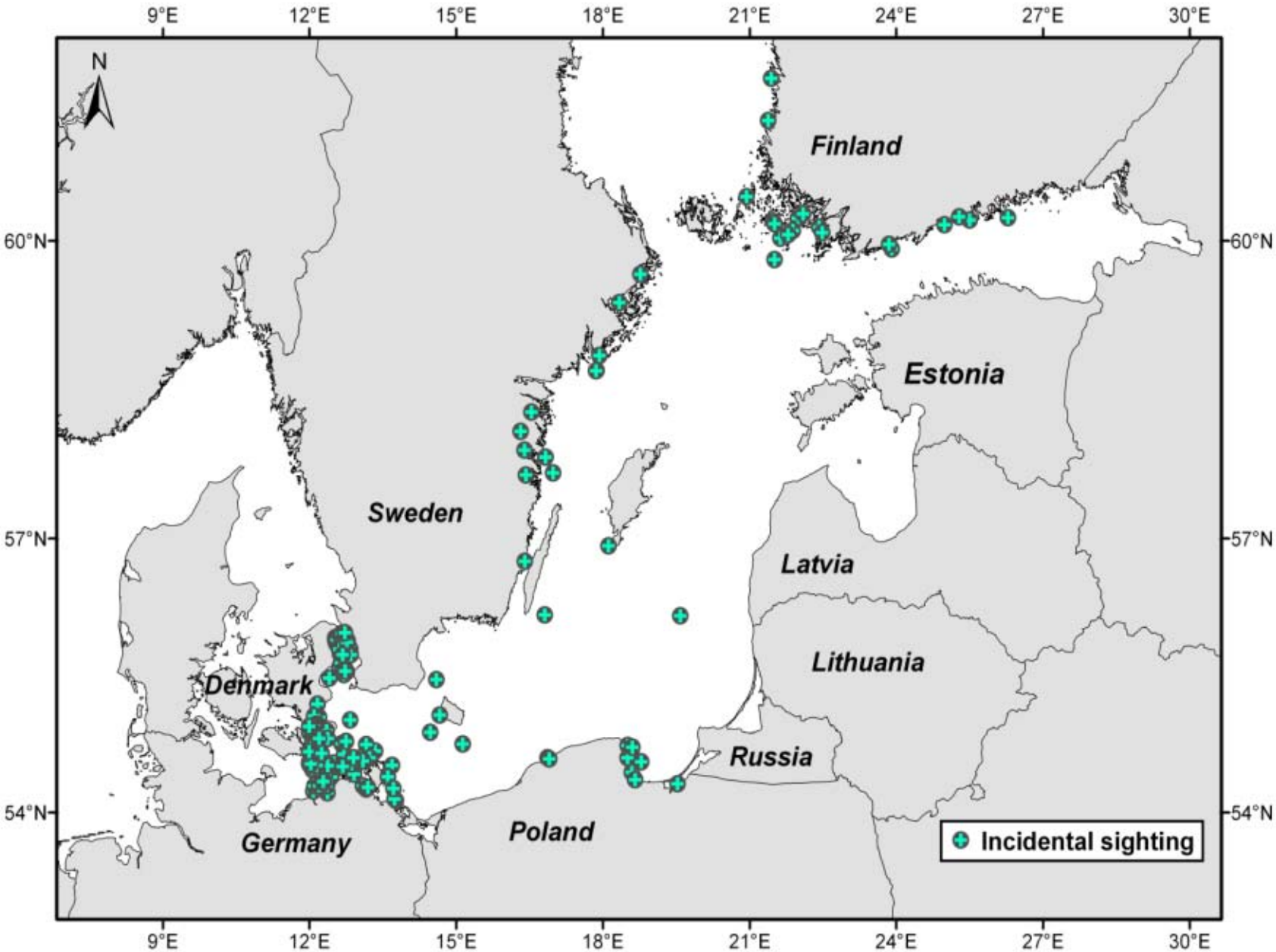

6°E
9°E
12°E
15°E
18°E
21°E
24°E
27°E
30°E
33°E
36°E
39°E
66°N
63°N
60°N
57°N
54°N
N
Finland
Estonia
Sweden
Latvia
Lithuania
Denmark
Russia
Germany
Poland
Strandings

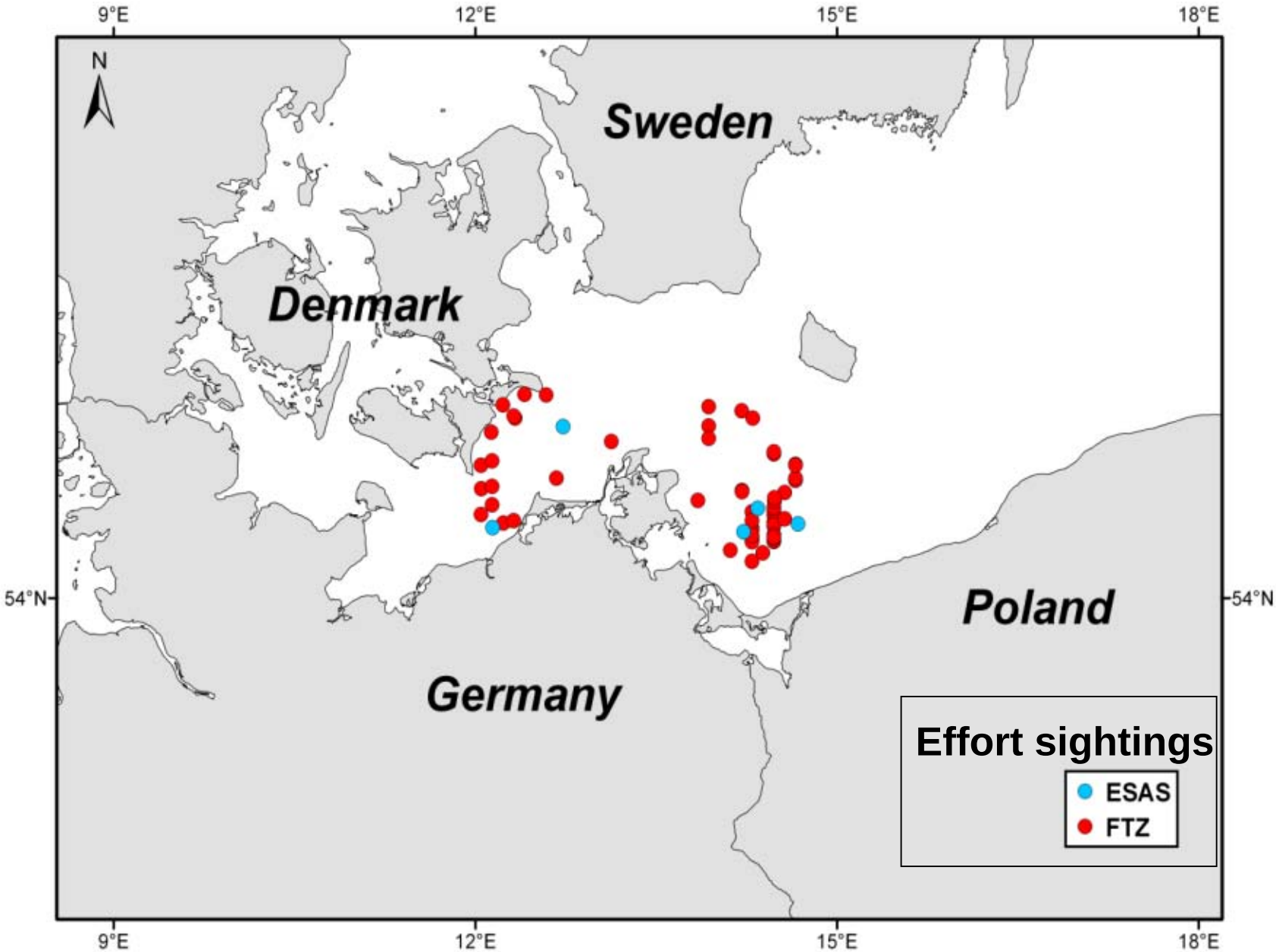

Strandings
Latvia
Poland
Sweden
Denmark
Estonia
Germany
Count
year
0
20
40
60
80
1920
1940
1960
1980
2000

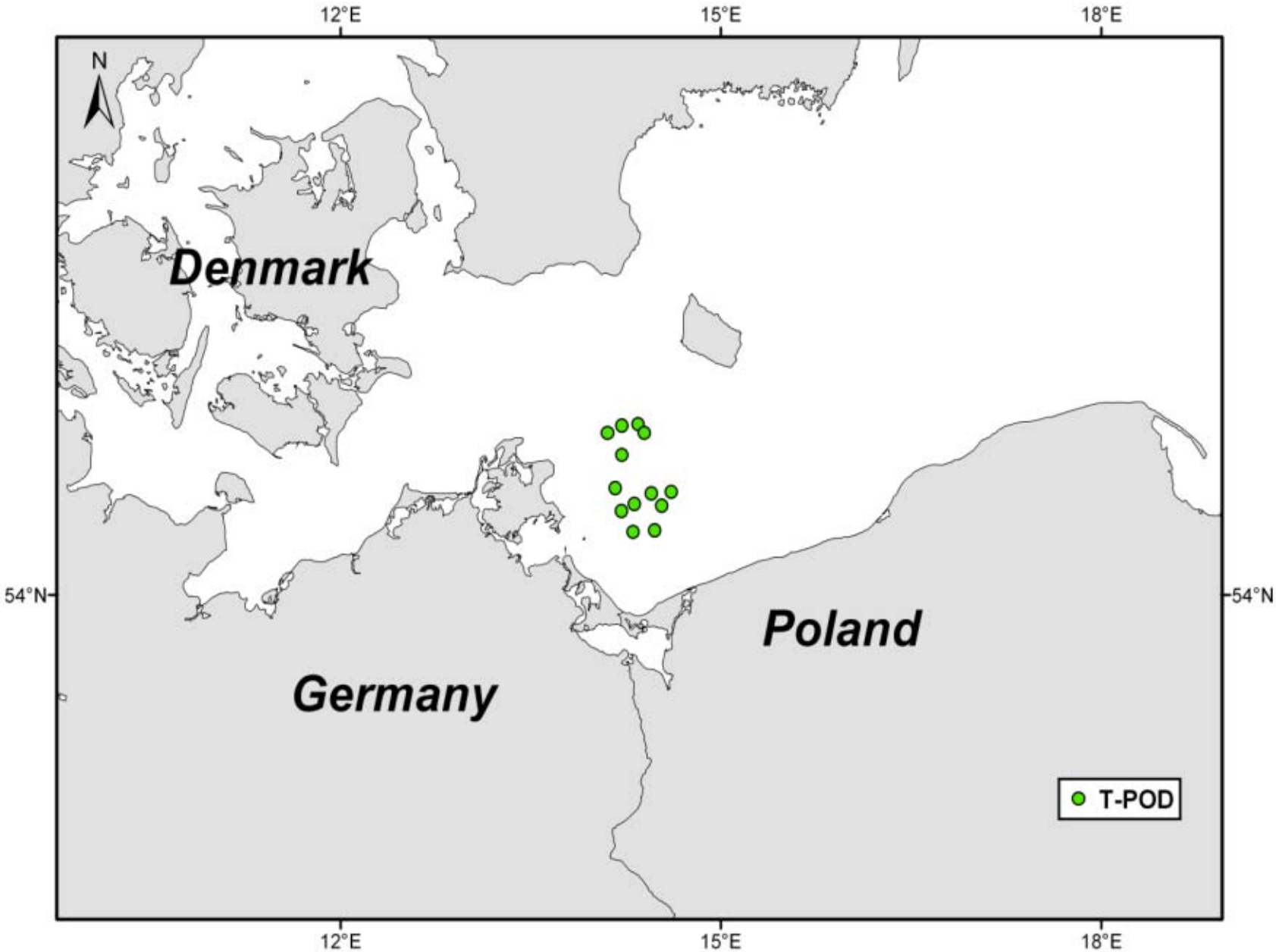

10°E
12°E
14°E
16°E
18°E
20°E
22°E
24°E
26°E
N
60°N
59°N
58°N
57°N
56°N
55°N
54°N
Finland
Estonia
Sweden
Latvia
Lithuania
Denmark
Russia
Poland
Germany
By-catch


Bycatch
Poland
Sweden
Denmark
Germany
Latvia
Count
year
0
10
20
30
40
1900 1920 1940 1960 1980 2000


21°E
22°E
23°E
24°E
25°E
26°E
N
59°N
58°N
Estonia
Hiiumaa
Saaremaa
Hunted/Killed


9°E
12°E
15°E
18°E
21°E
24°E
27°E
30°E
N
60°N
57°N
54°N
Finland
Estonia
Sweden
Latvia
Lithuania
Denmark
Russia
Germany
Poland
Incidental sighting

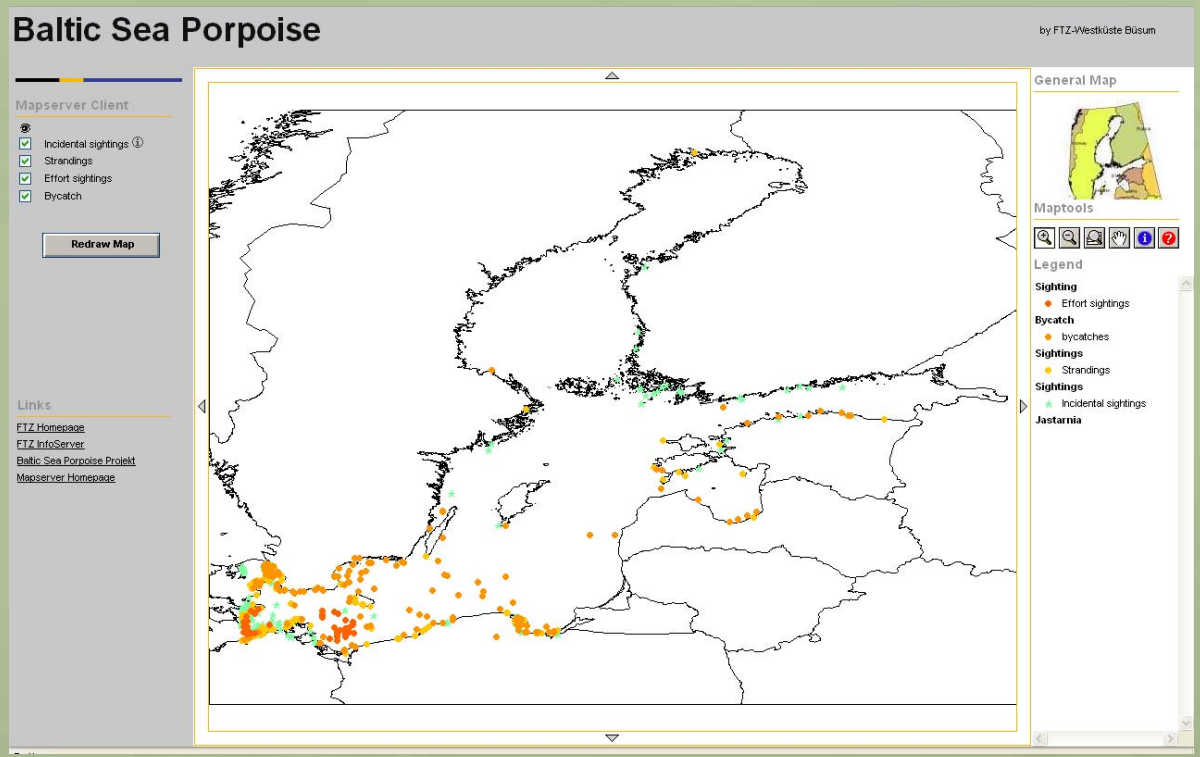

9°E
12°E
15°E
18°E
N
Sweden
Denmark
54°N
Poland
Germany
Effort sightings
ESAS
FTZ


12°E
15°E
18°E
N
Denmark
54°N
Poland
Germany
T-POD

STATUS

Interactive Map

- ✓ Located on project website
- ✓ Shows different categories
- ✓ Click on record and receive specific information



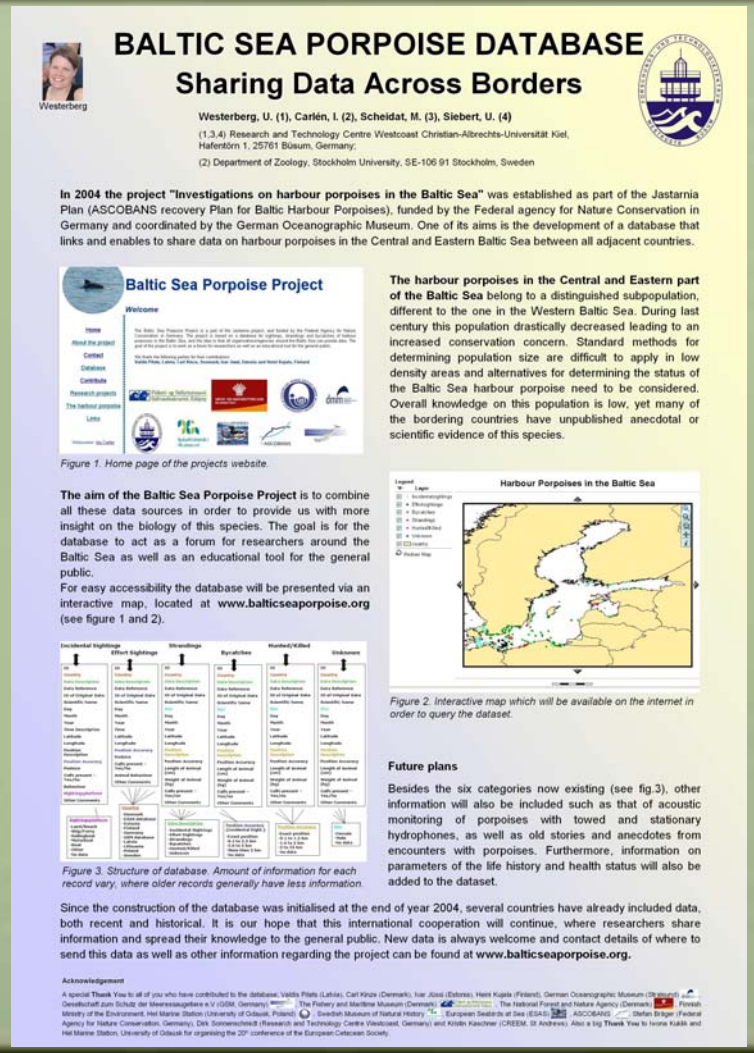
STATUS

Website

www.balticseaporpoise.org

STATUS
Information

- ✓ ASCOBANS working paper for the 12th Advisory Committee Meeting, April 2005
- ✓ Poster presentation at 2006 ECS conference, Gdynia, Poland



BALTIC SEA PORPOISE DATABASE
Sharing Data Across Borders

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In 2004 the project "Investigations on harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea" was established as part of the Jastarnia Plan (ASCOBANS recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises), funded by the Federal agency for Nature Conservation in Germany and coordinated by the German Oceanographic Museum. One of its aims is the development of a database that links and enables to share data on harbour porpoises in the Central and Eastern Baltic Sea between all adjacent countries.

Figure 1. Home page of the projects website.

The harbour porpoises in the Central and Eastern part of the Baltic Sea belong to a distinguished subpopulation, different to the one in the Western Baltic Sea. During last century this population drastically decreased leading to an increased conservation concern. Standard methods for determining population size are difficult to apply in low density areas and alternatives for determining the status of the Baltic Sea harbour porpoise need to be considered. Overall knowledge on this population is low, yet many of the bordering countries have unpublished anecdotal or scientific evidence of this species.

The aim of the Baltic Sea Porpoise Project is to combine all these data sources in order to provide us with more insight on the biology of this species. The goal is for the database to act as a forum for researchers around the Baltic Sea as well as an educational tool for the general public.
For easy accessibility the database will be presented via an interactive map, located at **www.balticseaporpoise.org** (see figure 1 and 2).

Figure 2. Interactive map which will be available on the internet in order to query the dataset.

Figure 3. Structure of database. Amount of information for each record vary, where older records generally have less information.

Future plans

Besides the six categories now existing (see fig.3), other information will also be included such as that of acoustic monitoring of porpoises with towed and stationary hydrophones, as well as old stories and anecdotes from encounters with porpoises. Furthermore, information on parameters of the life history and health status will also be added to the dataset.

Since the construction of the database was initialised at the end of year 2004, several countries have already included data, both recent and historical. It is our hope that this international cooperation will continue, where researchers share information and spread their knowledge to the general public. New data is always welcome and contact details of where to send this data as well as other information regarding the project can be found at **www.balticseaporpoise.org.**

Acknowledgement

A special **Thank You** to all of you who have contributed to the database; Valdis Pilats (Latvia), Carl Kinze (Denmark), Ivar Jüssi (Estonia), Henri Kujala (Finland), German Oceanographic Museum (Stralsund), Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Meeressäugetiere e.V (GSM, Germany); , The Fishery and Maritime Museum (Denmark); , The National Forest and Nature Agency (Denmark); , Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Hel Marine Station (University of Gdansk, Poland); , Swedish Museum of Natural History ; , European Seabirds at Sea (EASS); , ASCOBANS; , Stefan Bräger (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany), Dirk Sonnenschmidt (Research and Technology Centre Westcoast, Germany) and Kristin Kaschner (CREEM, St Andrews). Also a big **Thank You** to Ivona Kuklik and Hel Marine Station, University of Gdansk for organising the 20th conference of the European Cetacean Society.

FUTURE

Data/ Interactive Map

- ✓Update database with current data
- ✓Advance the structure if needed
- ✓Search for international funding

Thanks to all contributors!

Naturhistoriska riksmuseet

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FORSCHUNGS- UND TECHNOLOGIEZENTRUM WESTKÜSTE HUSUM

ASCOBANS

dmm deutsches meeresmuseum stralsund

Fiskeri- og Søfartsmuseet
Saltvandsakvariet. Esbjerg

SKOV- OG NATURSTYRELSEN
MILJØMINISTERIET

BfN Bundesamt für Naturschutz

Valdis Pilats, Latvia; Carl Kinze, Denmark; Ivar Jüssi, Estonia; Heini Kujala, Finland and Ida Carlén, Sweden

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