

MINUTES

EC Technical Subgroup (TSG) Noise – Sixth Meeting

23 and 24 October 2013

ISPRA, Rome, ITALY

Participants: Mark Tasker, René Dekeling, Michael Ainslie, Michel André, Fabrizio Borsani, John Dalen, Thomas Folegot, Jukka Pajala, Stephen Robinson, Russell Leaper, Paula Redman, Peter Sigray, John Young, Dietrich Wittekind, Donal Cronin, Karsten Brensing, Leo De Vrees (2nd meeting day), Guissepe Marsico, Francesca Sacchetti, Cristina Farchi, Maria Ferreira and Roelant Snoek.

Apologies from: Sandra van der Graaf, Albert Willemsen, Mathias Andersson, Maria Boethling, Alexander Liebschner, Mary Meacle, Stefanie Werner, Albert Willemsen, Manuel Castellote.

Wednesday 23 October 2013

1. Welcome

Fabrizio Borsani welcomed the group on behalf of ISPRA. This was followed by round-table introduction of participants.

2. Agenda and aim of the meeting

Chairs: **Mark Tasker** and **René Dekeling**

René D. presented the agenda and aims of the meeting. The overall aim of this meeting was to discuss priority issues related to the finalization of the guidance report and to agree on the approach for 2014.

An overview of the current status of the **monitoring guidance** was presented: the interim report was delivered in May 2013 (this version didn't include all desired information); outline of main improvements required were identified prior to the meeting; DG Environment requires final guidance to be delivered by 1 November for the next MSCG (12-13 November).

Priority should be given to the work on the report and final drafts should be made readily available for delivery end of next week, so it was important to work on text at the meeting.

The Chairs proposed to split into 5 groups to deal with required improvements of the guidance, as follows (full overview of actions on the guidance see tables in following pages):

Working group sessions - Focus on the strengthening the Noise Monitoring Guidance (A) as outlined in the Work Plan 2013/14

Chapter 2 – Impulsive Underwater Noise

a. Proposal for the establishment of a common Noise Register on impulsive noise (experience UK, possibly of the OSPAR ICG Noise, consider offer ICES)

- A group led by Mark T., and including Paula R., René D., Donal C., and Roelant S. worked on the finalization of the concept of the register, based on UK example and recent comments.

Chapter 2 – Impulsive Underwater Noise (2.4)

b. Guidance for interpreting results, describing GES and future target setting (B) How to assess? Assessment scales? Aggregation?

- Comments received from Stefanie Werner were considered by a group led by Russell L., that included Karsten B., René D., Donal C., Leo de Vrees and Mark T.

Chapter 3 Ambient Noise (3.4) – Monitoring programme

c. Further instructions for placement of monitoring devices for ambient noise (based on experience in BIAS, possibly the OSPAR ICG Noise)

d. Lessons learned / Experiences with Noise monitoring and sound mapping (BIAS, etc): Part III

- Fabrizio B. suggested inclusion of some of the information from the Part III lessons learned in Part I Executive summary
- A group led by Peter S., including Thomas F., Fabrizio B., Michael A., and Michel A. worked on the finalization of the instructions for placement of monitoring devices, based on BIAS experience.

Chapter 3 Ambient Noise (3.3) – Measurements and modelling

e. Review consistency of section of measurement and modelling

- Jukka P., Stephen R., and Dietrich W. worked on the finalization of this chapter.

Chapter 3 Ambient Noise (3.5) – Averaging Sections

f. Review of averaging sections and considerations about biological relevance

- John Y., Russell L., John D., and Karsten B. worked on the finalization of this chapter.

3. Update from TSG Members on ongoing initiatives

All presentations are annexed (pdf) to these minutes:

- *EC Contract “Noise Propagation and Impact” & findings from DEFRA ME5210E project on ambient noise monitoring*, by Fabrizio Borsani CEFAS

Brief presentation of the

- *BIAS project*, by Peter Sigray

- *Update on latest work developments*, by Dietrich Wittekind

- *MSFD applications of deep water sound recordings*”, by Michael Ainslie (and Jennifer Miksis-Olds)

4. Working group sessions - Focus on the strengthening the Noise Monitoring Guidance (A) as outlined in the Work Plan 2013/14

Summary on decisions and deadlines: See tables on page 5 and following as prepared and agreed by the TSG NOISE during the meeting.

All contributions have been received in due time.

5. Work Programme 2014 – Update

Leo de Vrees summarised TSG Noise’s progress against the Terms of Reference (ToR)

3. How to use the indicators in deriving consequences to biota? Risk-assessment approach (C8, C9, C10)

- Thresholds (C8)
- Acoustic mapping / species-specific impact areas (C9)
- Further information on impacts (C10)

The Group working on this consists of **Karsten Brensing**, Stefanie Werner, Michel André, Russell Leaper, Jukka Pajala, Maria Boethling, John Dalen, René Dekeling, Mathias Andersson, Alexander Liebschner, Thomas Folegot, Peter Sigray

4. Develop a set of criteria to select additional indicators for noise and other sources of energy (C7)

- The first task should be, once knowledge is gathered about the impacts and pressures: how is pressure developing? This may not be a problem now but can we predict it in the future?
- The Chairs, with support of key TSG Noise members will prepare a paper that presents the rationale for the criteria for additional indicators by early 2014

René Dekeling will coordinate this task (the first work-item is the paper, that will be done with Sandra van der Graaf)

5. Develop recommendations on noise reduction and mitigation measures (C11)

- The group is requested to take note of ongoing work on inventory of measures in OSPAR, as well as national experiences, such as the German recently reports and BOEM February 2013 workshop (mitigation techniques) findings.
- The TSG Noise currently does not intend to initiate new actions.

Stefanie Werner will continue to be the liaison with OSPAR ICG-Noise.

5.1 Other tasks in 2014

7) Follow the work of Framework contract ENV.D2/FRA/2012/0025. Under this Framework contract the European Commission has commissioned a study on impacts of noise and use of propagation models to predict the recipient side of noise. As presented by Fabrizio (see minutes point 3) there are 4 members of TSG Noise involved in this contract. It has been agreed that TG Noise should review the results of the final product of the contractor (CEFAS). This review will take place during Spring 2014. In advance, CEFAS will prepare a roadmap towards target setting for impacts for discussion at the workshop (to identify knowledge gaps and to collect contributions to fill these gaps). The group (or at least some members) will also take part in the impacts workshop planned for 10-11 April in Brussels. More information to follow.

Meeting 7

- No date fixed. This depends of the continuation of the group work in 2014, the ToR list of items for 2014 was drafted after the meeting.
- Place: Slovenia or Portugal? *Contacts to be checked by Leo de Vrees*

At some point the following items may be needed from TG Noise

- Final advice for review of Commission Decision
- Reformulation present indicators
- New criteria and associated indicators (if necessary)
- Final report

An 8th meeting may also be required.

Any other business: René D. announced that the ESOMM-conference is planned for 8-12 September 2014 in Amsterdam. This event mainly addresses the effects of sonar systems on marine mammals, but will also address other sounds and other species groups; and will take place at the same premises. The group members will be invited.

The meeting was closed at 15.00h. by René and Mark, thanking all participants for the positive and hard work during 2 days in Rome. The chairs were pleased with the progress done regarding the finalization of the Monitoring Guidance and look forward to working in the future.

Monitoring Guidance - General Timeline:

- **Version draft: 25 October, including revised versions done in ROME**
- **Delivery separate parts: 28th Monday!**
- **Version for chairs: 29th October**
- **Final version: 1st NOVEMBER – Done in time!**

| Monitoring Guidance for Underwater Noise in European Seas – Final Report Part II and Part III | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| | WHAT? | Group | ACTION | DEADLINE |
| | General Comments & Revisions | | | ACTIONS |
| 1 | Review of the document, verification of inconsistencies, language, etc. | Maria Ferreira, René Dekeling, All TSG Members | <i>Ongoing</i> | 29 October for Chairs and submission to EC 1st November |
| 2 | Set-up revision process; split chapters for contributions & revisions | Maria Ferreira, René Dekeling | <i>ongoing</i> | Ongoing |
| 2.1 | Provide update of the document structure, based on general review | Maria Ferreira, René Dekeling | Collection of revisions and new structure preparation | 21 st october DONE |
| 3 | Insert HELCOM declaration in Summary part and OSPAR (June 2013 Minutes) - | Email information Leo de Vrees | EUCC to integrate decisions of last Ministerial Meeting | 23 rd October (to agree during TSG meeting) |
| 4 | Update “TSG-NOISE acknowledges...” | Maria Ferreira | Chairs to check if needs update - EUCC will do it if required | 29 October |
| Chapter 2 – Impulsive Underwater Noise | | | | |
| 5 | Proposal for the establishment of a common Noise Register on impulsive noise (experience UK, possibly of the OSPAR ICG Noise, consider offer ICES) | Mark Tasker, René Dekeling, Frank Thomsen, Peter Sigray, Paula Redman | Chapters to be revised/ checked: PART III – chapter 2.2. PART II – chapter 2.2 and 2.3 | Group Work in Rome (MLT; PR; RS; DC;RD) New text DONE Comments latest Monday! |
| Chapter 2 – Impulsive Underwater Noise (2.4) | | | | |
| 6 | Guidance for interpreting results, describing GES and future target setting (B) How to assess? Assessment scales? Aggregation? | Russell Leaper, René | Chapters to be revised/ checked: | Group Work in Rome (RL, |

| Monitoring Guidance for Underwater Noise in European Seas – Final Report Part II and Part III | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| | WHAT? | Group | ACTION | DEADLINE |
| | | Dekeling, Stefanie Werner, Mark Tasker, Manuel Castellote, Paula Redman | PART II – chapter 2.4 and chapter 3.4 (sections 3.4.2 and 3.4.3) | KB, RD, MLT,LdV) Text proposal RL send to group |
| | Chapter 3 Ambient Noise (3.4) – Monitoring programme | | | |
| 7 | Further instructions for placement of monitoring devices for ambient noise (based on experience in BIAS, possibly the OSPAR ICG Noise) Lessons learned / Experiences with Noise monitoring and sound mapping (BIAS, etc) | Peter Sigray, Mathias Andersson, Thomas Folegot, Fabrizio Borsani, Gerry Sutton, Stefanie W., Michael Ainslie | Chapters to be revised/ checked: PART III – chapter 2.3 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.9 PART II – chapter 3.4 (sections 3.4 and 3.4.1) | Group Work in Rome – Part II (PS, TF, FB, Mains, Mand) Part III (lessons learned) to be done after Rome New Text SENT TO GROUP |
| | Chapter 3 Ambient Noise (3.3) – Measurements and modelling | | | |
| 8 | Review consistency of section of measurement and modelling | Jukka Pajala, Michel André, Stephen Robinson, René Dekeling | Chapters to be revised/ checked: PART II – chapter 3.3 | Group Work in Rome (JP, SR, DW) New text |
| | Chapter 3 Ambient Noise (3.5) – Averaging Sections | | | |
| 9 | Review of averaging sections and considerations about biological relevance Chapter 3.5 Ambient - Technical Specifications - section 3.52 PART II – chapter 3.5.2 – to be reviewed PART III – chapter 2.8 - to check if needs update | Manuel Castelotte, Frank Thomsen, Thomas Folegot, Russel Leaper, Michel André | Chapters to be revised/chec ked: PART II – chapter 3.5.2 PART III – chapter 2.8 | Group Work in Rome (JY, JD, RL, KB) New text – needs check RL today |
| | PART III Annex 2.1 | | | |
| 10 | Review of annex about ‘2.1 Guidance on underwater sound sources to be included in the Register of Low and Medium Frequency Sources of Impulsive | John Dalen, Michael Ainslie, René Dekeling | Chapters to be revised/chec ked: PART III – | Finalization after Rome (edition RD and Michael A.) |

| Monitoring Guidance for Underwater Noise in European Seas – Final Report Part II and Part III | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| | WHAT? | Group | ACTION | DEADLINE |
| | | | chapter 2.1 | |
| PART III - Chapter 2.10 | | | | |
| 11 | Issues with the performance of noise recording systems | Stephen Robinson | To check if the chapter needs revision and update for final guidance PART III – chapter 2.10 | 25th October Send to group |
| DEFINITIONS | | | | |
| 12 | Review of impulsive definitions of the first TSG report and additional explanation about terminology used in EU and US. Reviewed description “what is impulsive noise” will be added to the TSG monitoring report (based on) | John Young, Michael Ainslie | Review text box: <i>What is impulsive noise...</i> Extract from pages 17/18 1 st TSG report | Finalization after Rome (bilateral discussions JY, RD, Mains) New text M.A DONE |

Other work items:

| Task | Group | Deadline |
|--|---|------------------------|
| Progress report to WG GES | <u>Maria Ferreira</u> , Mark Tasker, René Dekeling, | 10 October - SUBMITTED |
| Migrate Basecamp project to Classic (or other platform) and manual how to use it | <u>Maria Ferreira</u> | Early 2014 |