

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

A. PROPOSAL

To include *Lagenorhynchus acutus* in Appendix II of the Convention; only the populations of the Baltic Sea and the North Sea.

B. PROPONENT

Kingdom of The Netherland

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxon

1.1 Classis	Mammalia
1.2 Ordo	Cetacea
1.3 Familia	Delphinidae
1.4 Genus and species	<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i> (Gray 1828)
1.5 Common names	
English	White-sided dolphin
French	Dauphin d'Eschricht
Spanish	
Dutch	Witzijdolfijn

2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution (current and historical) - see also 5

Lagenorhynchus acutus has a rather similar distribution to *L. albirostris* although it is more rarely reported from the Baltic (Aguayo 1978; Sergeant and Fisher 1957). It occurs in temperate and subpolar waters of the North Atlantic from central West Greenland, Iceland and southern Barents Sea south to Cape Cod and Southwest Ireland.

2.2 Population (estimates and trends)

Population size unknown but probably in tens to low hundreds of thousands (Evans 1987). The overfishing, particularly in the North Sea, may be affecting the populations.

2.3 Habitat (short description and trend)

Van Bree (1977) relates changes in stranding frequency and in areas of sighting reports to changes in water temperatures caused by temporary influxes of Gulf Stream water into the North Sea. The species may have moved its range more to the South in recent years. Food species are a wide range of fish and cephalopods.

2.2 Population (estimates and trends)

The only population estimates located were for the Newfoundland fishery. An average of 4,280 whales were taken each year between 1951 and 1961, about 30 000 of which were taken between 1953 and 1957. Catches declined in the 60's to a few hundreds. Mitchell (1975b) used the cumulative catch data of 47 078 in 1951 to 1961 to estimate an initial population of about 50 000. Mercer (1975), in a comparative study of the whale and squid relationships, estimated the initial population of the Newfoundland stock at less than 60 000 which agrees well with Mitchell's estimate.

In the Faroes, where catch records go back to 1584, annual catches average 393 a year, with a range from about 300 to 1700. There was no sign of a decline in catch when the Canadian fishery crashed in the 1960's, so that not only does it seem that the Faroese are not overexploiting their stocks but also that the Newfoundland and Faroes stocks may be separate (Mitchell 1975b).

2.3 Habitat

Sergeant (1962) found squid (Illex illecebrosus) to be the preferred food inshore in Newfoundland with Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) taken when squid was not available. Mercer found Greenland turbot taken by an overwintering herd. In north European waters a different squid (Ommastrephes sagittatus), horse mackerel and flatfish are taken (Mitchell 1975a).

2.4 Migrations (kinds of movement, distance, proportion of the population migrating)

The long-finned pilot whale shows marked seasonal variation in distribution, coming inshore during the summer in pursuit of the squid. The wintering grounds, however, appear to be not too far offshore (Sergeant 1962).

3. Threat data

3.1 Direct threat of the population (factors, intensity)

The main fishery today is in the Faroes for meat for human consumption. This is still organized on traditional lines (Evans 1987). None have been caught recently in Iceland or Norway and the Newfoundland fishery ended in 1970. The Greenland catch is for human consumption. While a few more live specimens may be taken, they are so large that few places will be able to afford suitable facilities.

3.2 Habitat destruction (quality of changes; quantity of loss)

No particular habitat problems are noted for this species in general, although its North Sea habitat changes through disturbances, such as by ships and mineral surveys, pollution and possibly food limitation through overfishing (Evans 1987).

3.3 Indirect threat (e.g. reduction of breeding success by pesticide contamination)

No information.

3.4 Threat connected especially with migrations

None known.

3.5 National and international utilization

There appears to be no longer a market for the body oil or for the jaw oil mainly because of the availability of cheaper substitutes. The meat was only ever used by local people (Far oer).

4. Protection status

4.1 National protection status

Belgium:	
Denmark:	Protected
Federal Republic of Germany:	
Finland:	
France:	Protected
German Democratic Republic:	
Norway:	
Poland:	
Sweden:	Protected
The Netherlands:	Not Protected
Union of Socialist Soviet Republics:	
United Kingdom:	Protected

4.2 International protection status

CITES Appendix II

4.3 Additional protection needs

At present, at least in the North Atlantic, the situation on this species seems satisfactory. At some stage it would be interesting to solve the problem of stock identity and a study of the Faroes material similar to that for Newfoundland ought to be conducted. The Faroes fishery may end under pressure from a more industrialised way of life.

5. Range states (North Sea, Baltic)

Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, international waters.

6. Comments from Range States

None received.

7. Additional remarks

None.

8. References

- Bree, P.J.H. van. 1971. On Globicephala seiboldii Gray, 1846 and other species of pilot whales (Notes on Cetacea. Delphinoidea III). Beaufortia Vol. 19. No. 249. p. 79-87.
- Evans, P.G.H. 1987. The natural history of whales and dolphins. Christopher Helm, London. 1987.
- Mitchell, E.D. (Ed.) 1975a. Review of the biology and fisheries for smaller cetaceans. Report of the meeting on smaller cetaceans. International Whaling Commission. J. Fish. Res. Board Can. Vol. 32. No. 7. p. 875-1240.
- Mitchell, E.D. 1975b. Porpoise, dolphin and small whale fisheries of the world. IUCN Monograph No. 3. Morges, Switzerland.
- Sergeant, D.E. 1962. The biology of the pilot or pothead whale Globicephala melaena (Trail) in Newfoundland waters. Bull. Fish. Res. Board Can. No. 132. 84pp.
- Vallon, D., Guigo, C. and Duguy, R. 1976. Le Globicephala melaena Trail, 1809) en Mediterranee occidentale. XXVe Congres Assemblee pleniere de Split, 22-30 October 1976.