

# CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS

## A. PROPOSAL

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

## B. PROPONENT

Kingdom of The Netherlands

## C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

### 1. Taxon

1.1 Classis	Mammalia
1.2 Ordo	Cetacea
1.3 Familia	Delphinidae
1.4 Genus and species	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i> (Gray 1846)
1.5 Common names	
English	White-beaked dolphin
French	Dolphin à rostre blanc
Spanish	
Dutch	Witsnuitdolfijn

### 2. Biological data

2.1 Distribution (current and historical) - see also 5

*Lagenorhynchus albirostris* is found in temperate and subpolar waters of the North Atlantic from Greenland and the southern Barents Sea south to Newfoundland, Cape Cod and Southwest Ireland. It is common in the North Sea and penetrates into the Baltic (Evans 1987).

2.2 Population (estimates and trends) (North Sea, Baltic)

Population size unknown, but probably in tens to low hundreds of thousands (Evans 1987). The number of strandings on the Dutch coast has increased since 1960 (Bakker & Smeenk 1987).

2.3 Habitat (short description and trend)

Van Bree (1977) relates changes in stranding frequency and in areas of sighting reports for *L. albirostris* to changes in water temperatures in the areas caused by temporary influxes of Gulf Stream water. The species may have moved its range more to the south in recent years. He expresses concern that this shift will expose *L. albirostris* to more of the pollution of the southern North Sea. Bakker & Smeenk (1987) conclude that the increase in stranding frequency cannot be explained by temperature. Food species for *L. albirostris* are a wide range of fish and cephalopods.

Sergeant & Fisher (1957) consider that L. albirostris takes herring primarily.

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

An inshore movement may occur in summer, but in general very little is known about migrations (Evans 1987).

### 3. Threat data

#### 3.1 Direct threat of the population (factors, intensity)

The species is reported to be involved in some by-catching in fisheries (Mitchell 1975).

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

The overfishing, particularly in the North Sea, may be affecting the population (Van Bree 1977). Also disturbance, such as by ships and mineral surveys and pollution, change the North Sea habitat (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

No products from this species are in demand.

### 4. Protection status

#### 4.1 National protection status (Baltic, North Sea)

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

Further information is needed on the biology, populations and distribution. The possible changes in distribution and impact of industrial activity on the North Sea populations should be investigated as should be the impact of overfishing in the area. Information on strandings and incidental taking is particularly important.

#### 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

- Bakker, J. & C. Smeenk 1987. Time-series analysis of *Tursiops truncatus*, *Delphinus delphis*, and *Lagenorhynchus albirostris* strandings on the Dutch coast. In: J.W. Broekema & C. Smeenk (eds.). The European Cetacean Society. Report of the 1987 meeting, Hirtshals, Denmark: p. 14-19.
- Bree, P.J.H. van. 1977. On former and recent strandings of cetaceans on the coast of the Netherlands. *Z. f. Saugetierkunde* Bd. 42. H. 2. p. 101-107.
- Evans, P.G.H. 1987. The natural history of whales and dolphins. Christopher Helm, London, 343 p.
- Mitchell, E.D. (Ed) 1975. 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.
- Sergeant, D.E. & H.D. Fisher 1957. The smaller cetacean of Eastern Canadian waters. *J. Fish. Res. Board Can.* 14 p. 83-115.