



Ongoing projects aquatic

[Acoustic harbour porpoise monitoring 2019](#)

In this project the ITAW assumes the acoustic examinations for the NPV as part of the conjoint marine mammal monitoring within the framework of the BLMP. ([more information](#))

[Assessment and establishment of a long term monitoring scheme on the burden of the marine environment and marine biota caused by marine debris](#)

Information on the occurrence of microplastics in top predator species of German waters are lacking. ([more information](#))

[BfN database](#)

The ITAW as subcontractor, with its present expertise in the subarea of marine mammal monitoring shall establish and advance the system existing within the BfN for data keeping and utilisation. ([more information](#))

[BALTHEALTH; Baltic Sea multilevel health impacts on key species of anthropogenic hazardous substances](#)

The aim of the project is to develop novel indicators for animal health and good ecological status ([more information](#))

[Development of marine mammal health and ecology in different climate conditions](#)

Aim of this by Volkswagen Foundation supported cooperative project is to examine changes in the health of marine mammals that have taken place over the past decades ([more info](#))

[Development of Marine Mammal Health and Ecology in Different Climate Conditions, Volkswagen-Wissenschaftstransfer](#)

Actions for the different target groups shall be developed in the intended supplement project Volkswagen Science Transfer to communicate the results and strategies acquired within the Marine Mammals in a Changing Environment project to the public ([more information](#))

[Development, advancement and harmonisation of assessment approaches within the framework of MSFD and Habitats Directive as well as expert representation at BLANO, OSPAR, HELCOM and ICES](#)

The implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EG, MSFD) aims to achieve a good environmental status (GES) of the European oceans until 2020. ([more information](#))

[Distribution, habitat use, health status and conservation of harbour porpoises \(*Phocoena phocoena*\) in the Elbe and Weser rivers](#)

Parts of the project are already done and data show the recent regular seasonally occurrence of harbour porpoises in the north German rivers Elbe and Weser during spring time when anadromous fish schools migrate *upstream* to their spawning grounds. ([more information](#))

[Effects of underwater noise on grey seals and fish](#)

The potential impacts of underwater noise on grey seals and fish are to be investigated with cooperation partners in several work packages. ([further information](#))

[Establishment of routine methods for the examination of the immune system of harbour seals \(*Phoca vitulina*\)\(flow cytometry / health assessment\)](#)

The flow cytometer used in the present project is a FACS Calibur by Becton Dickinson Biosciences (San José, CA, USA). ([more information](#))

[EU-research project: Marine Mammals](#)

To further increase young people's interest in natural science and to prevent shortage of specialists in the STEM area nine scientific educational and research institutes joined forces in the Horizon 2020-project Marine Mammals. ([more information](#))

[Evaluation of bycatch and health condition of harbour porpoises](#)

The project's aim is to obtain an exact survey of the number of harbour porpoises found dead or bycaught. ([more info](#))

[Influence of vibroseismic sound waves on the behaviour of large cetaceans](#)

Aim of the project is to study the impact of synthetic generated marine vibrator (MV) signals on baleen whales. ([more information](#))

[Health investigation of harbour seals and schooling of seal rangers in 2019](#)

Infectious diseases and other illnesses of harbour seals in Schleswig-Holstein will be investigated in this research project. ([more information](#))

[Heligoland grey seal evaluation and subsequent investigation of existing data for the support of planned management actions](#)

The native grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) population developed increasingly positive. However, the positive population development also creates challenges from the management point of view. ([more information](#))

[Investigation in grey seal development](#)

Grey seal and harbor seal populations in the Wadden Sea reached peak size in 2013.

The project aims to investigate how these populations continue to develop and whether their growth influences health status of the seals. ([more information](#))

[Microplastics in marine mammals from German waters and improvement of sample storage](#)

The pollution of the marine environment by marine debris is still increasing. ([more information](#))

[Monitoring of marine mammal carcass recovery through report forms](#)

Within the scope of this project not yet recorded registration forms from the seal hunters shall be digitalised and transferred into a database in order to link them with standardly recorded data from dead animal monitoring. ([more information](#))

[Monitoring of living pinnipeds](#)

Several sensitive parameters for the assessment of the status of the seal population in the National Park can only be determined on the living animal. ([more information](#))

[Post-mortem monitoring of harbour seals](#)

The seal population was substantially reduced in 1988/89 and 2002 by two seal epidemics caused by the Phocine distemper virus. Subsequent to the first seal die-off, a monitoring program was initiated. ([more information](#))

[Post mortem monitoring of small cetaceans](#)

As part of this monitoring program causes of diseases and death in small cetaceans are investigated and changes over time are documented. ([more information](#))

[Prevalence and molecular characterisation of lung nematodes of harbour porpoises \(*Phocoena phocoena*\) and harbour seals \(*Phoca vitulina*\) \(Parasite genetics\)](#)

Harbour porpoises and harbour seals from German waters show mixed infections with different species of lung nematodes belonging to the superfamily Metastrongyloidea, which often induce secondary bacterial infections and bronchopneumonia. ([more info](#))

[TopMarine: Recording of marine top predators in the North and Baltic Seas as basis for trends, indicators and assessments](#)

Marine top predators like sea birds and marine mammals are exposed to increasing stress due to anthropogenic activities. Monitoring and assessments of the current status of marine vertebrates are required for their effective protection. ([more information](#))

[Tracking and investigations of harbour seals in the tidal Elbe](#)

The aim of the project is to obtain information about the movements, habitat use and diving behavior of seals in the tidal Elbe from Hamburg to the estuary by means of telemetry. ([more information](#))

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