





Passive acoustic observations of harbour porpoise

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Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena)













Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoe

- Smallest & most abundant cetacean in the Southern North Sea, distributed in northern shallow seas
- Protected under national and international law
- Highly mobile
- Seasonal distribution
- Stranding: proxy for population size







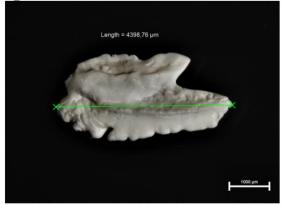


Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena)

- Top of food web
- Low fat levels: continuous feeding necessary
- Use echolocation for foraging, navigation,...
- Based on stomach content analysis
- Limited changes over time (1997-2018)
- Important seasonal differences
- Most likely to starve in summer
- (15% of stomachs empty)









Harbour porpoise: field observations





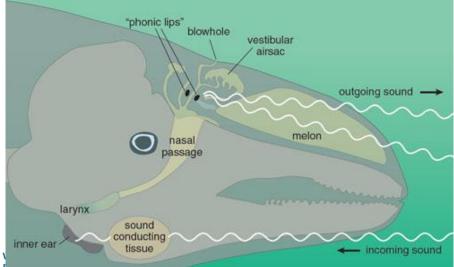


Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena): Field

observation

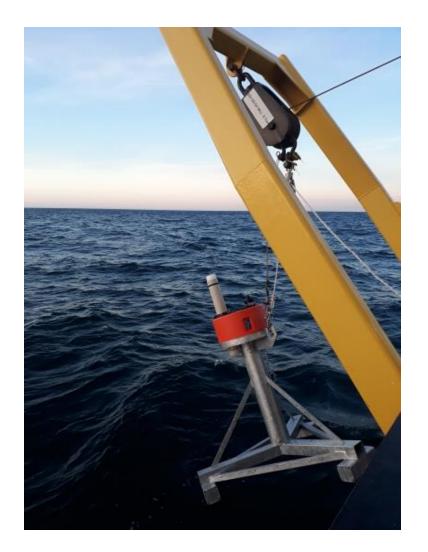
Passive acoustic monitoring

Echolocation: seeing by sound



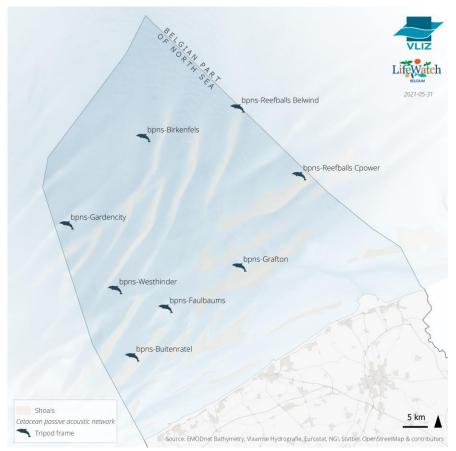


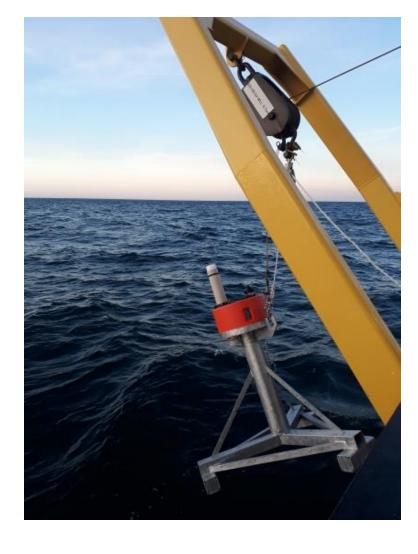






Passive acoustic monitoring





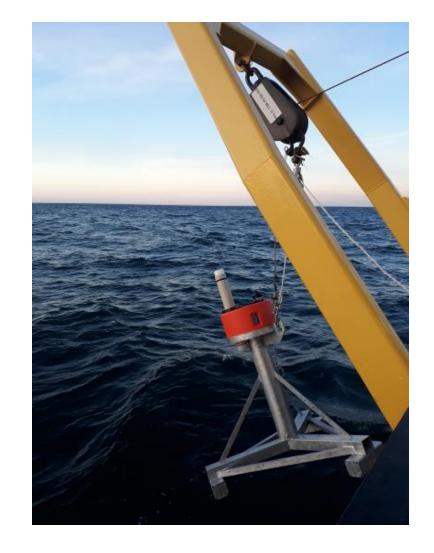






Passive acoustic monitoring

- click detector:
 - 4 months continuously logging
 - Parameters stored
- Output:
 - porpoise presence, dolphins, sonar
 - Feeding buzz ratio
- acoustic release = receiver for tagged fish
- Complete recovery of the mooring

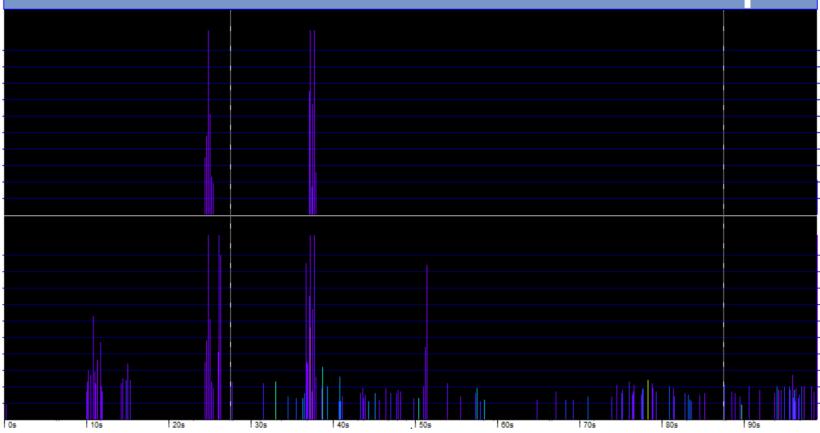


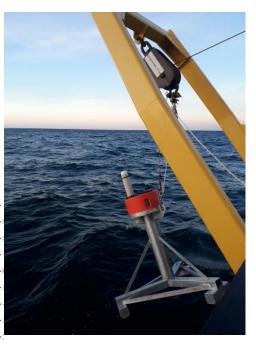






Passive acoustic monitoring



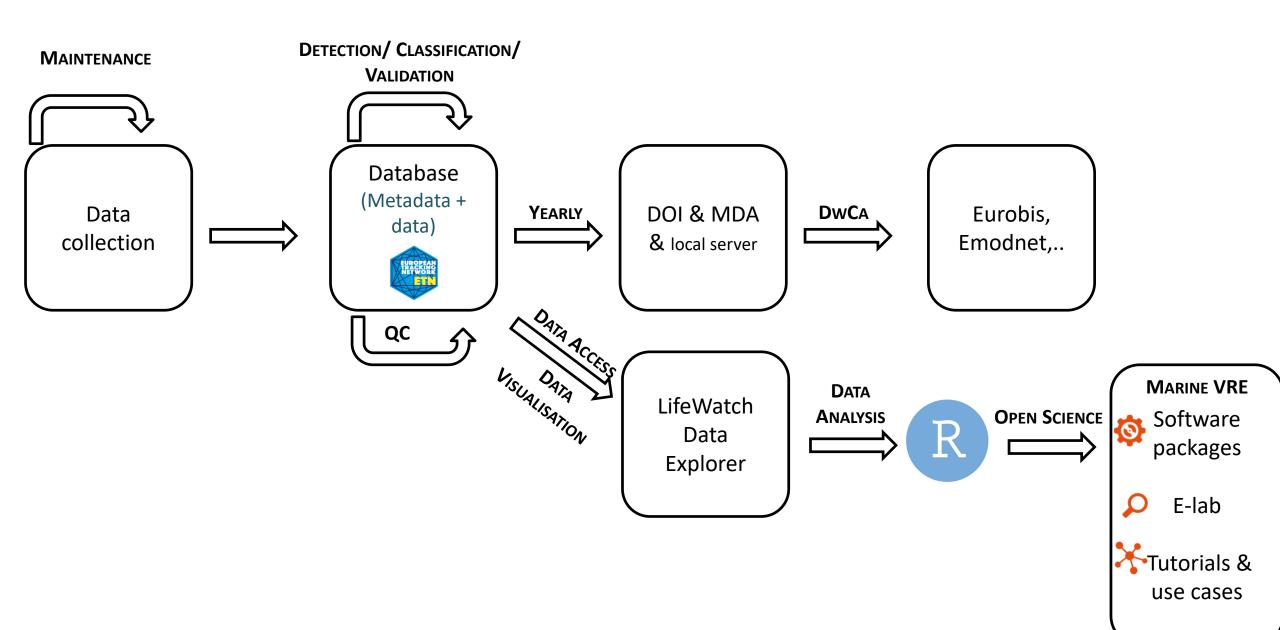




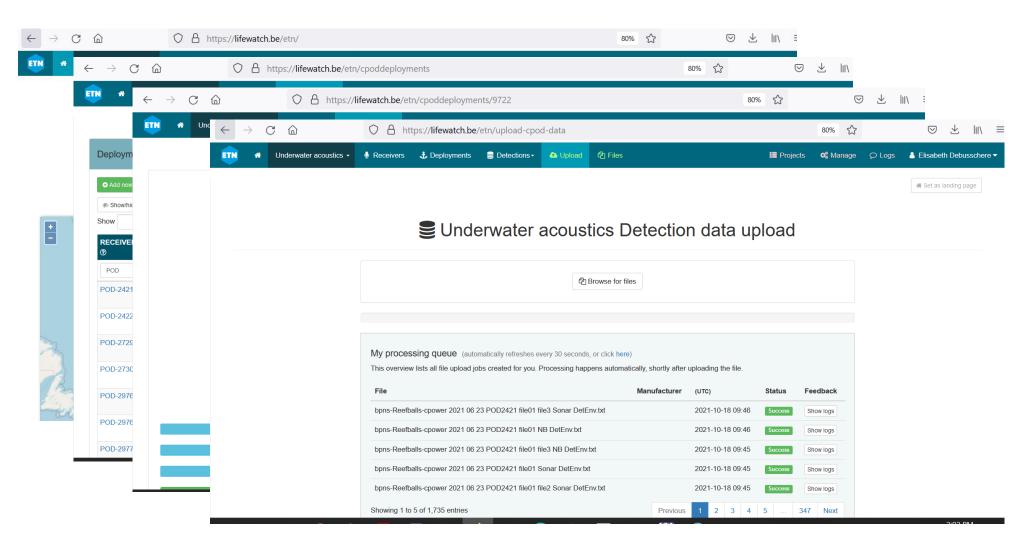


Cetacean passive acoustic sensor network: dataflow

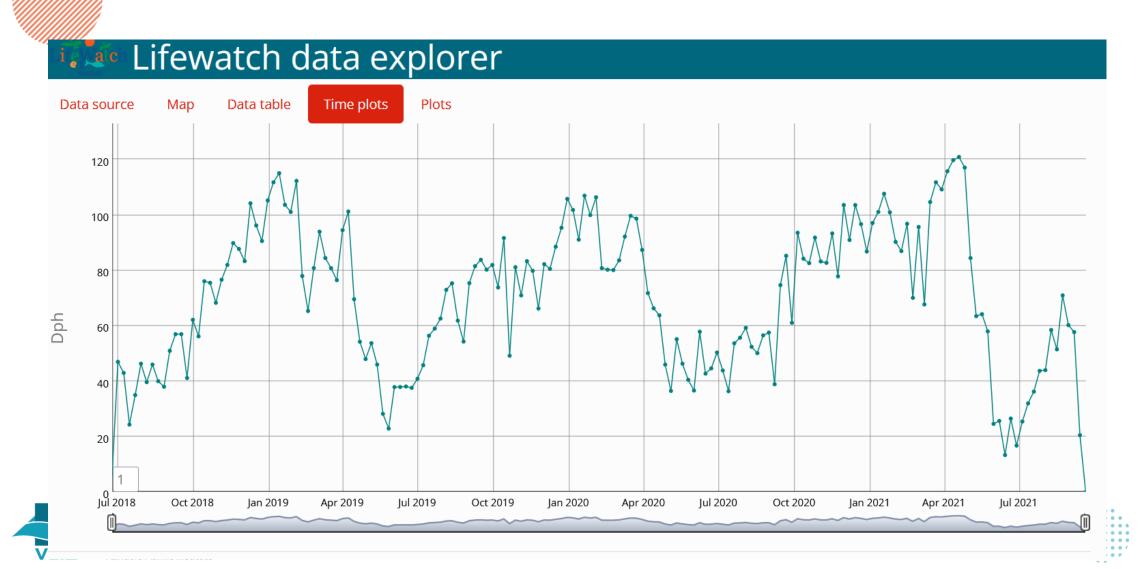
Cetacean passive acoustic sensor network: dataflow



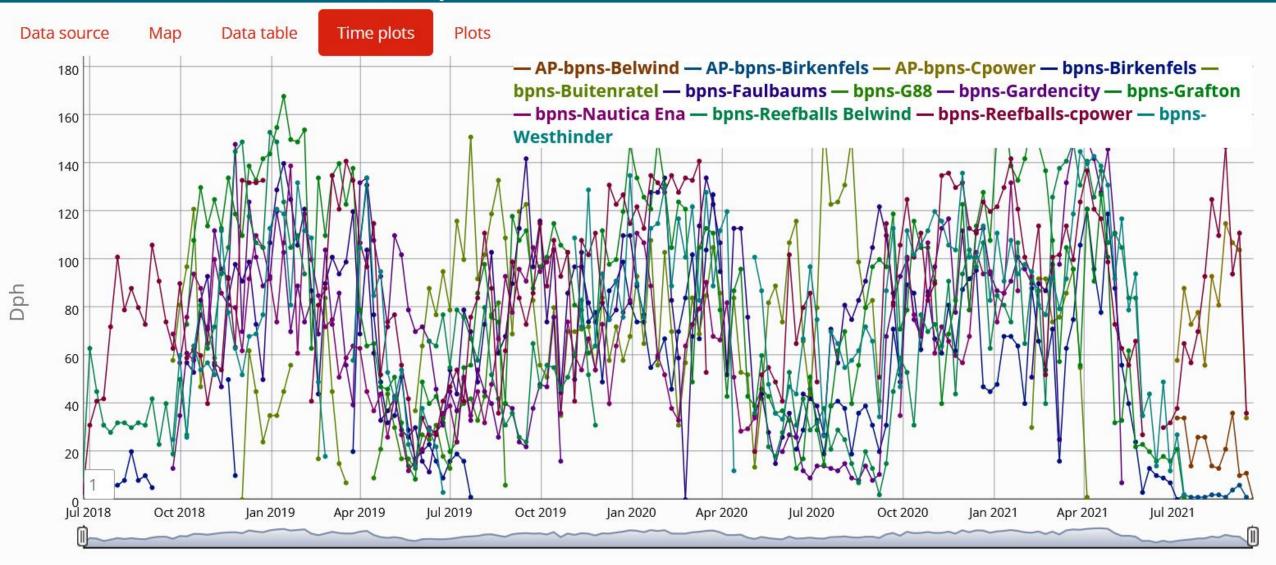
Online repository: ETN- Underwater acoustics



Data visualization



Lifewatch data explorer





Vliz subsea Observatory Node



Multi-purpose mooring with acoustic release system for full retrieval. Frame has perturbations to attach all sensors necessary (adcp, hydrophones, echosounder, c-

pod, soundtrap, gps,....)

Extra holes to attach other sensors Acoustic recorder

C-POD

Room for transducers/other sensors

Acoustic release + receiver

Rope

cannister

Protected hydrophone @1m above seabed

Battery case for acoustic recorder

Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee vzw **Flanders Marine Institute**

Room for echosounder tube





Ongoing and future perspectives

- International and national collaboration
- Feeding behaviour of porpoise across the bpns
- Prey-predator interaction
- •







Thank you for the attention

