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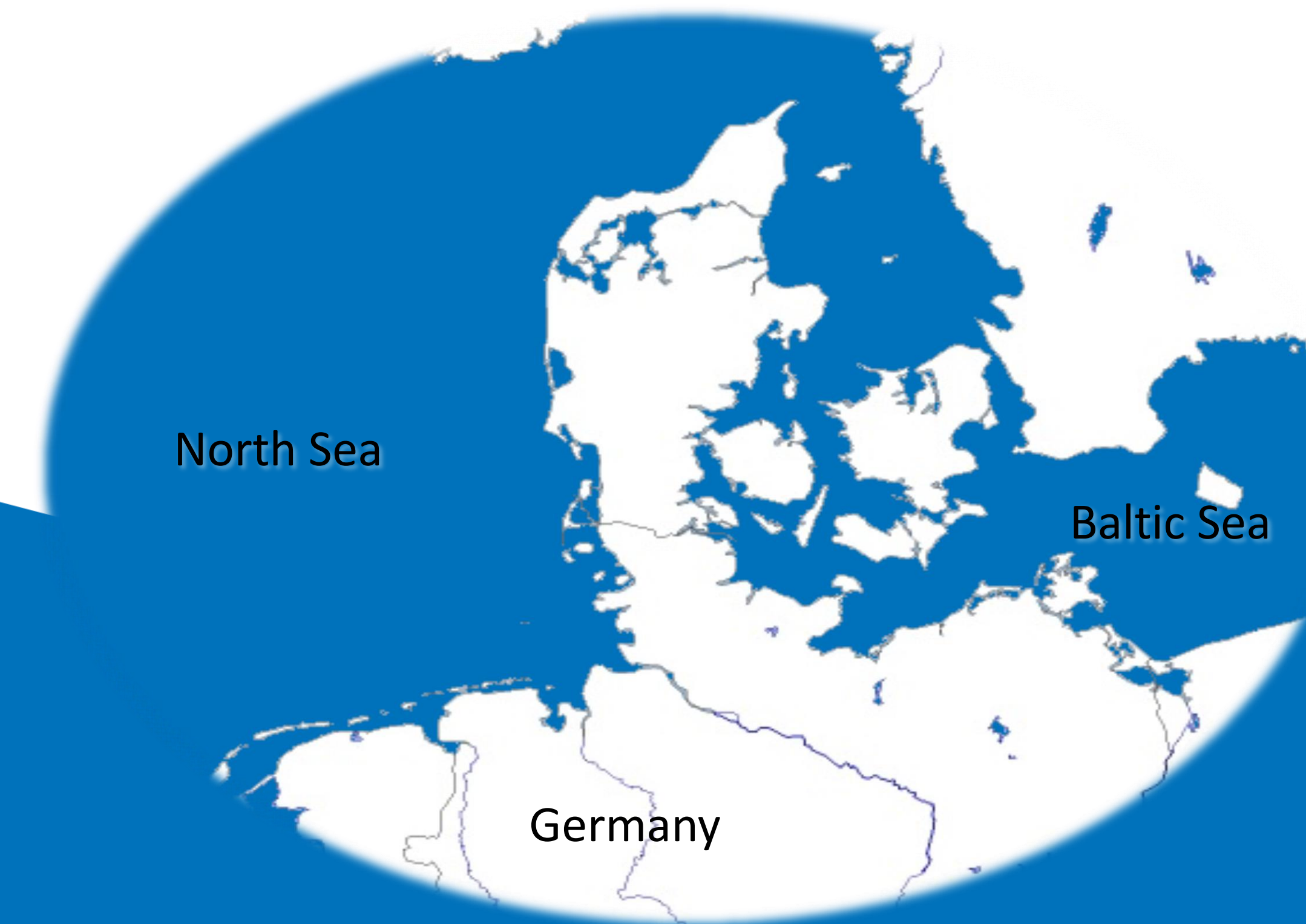
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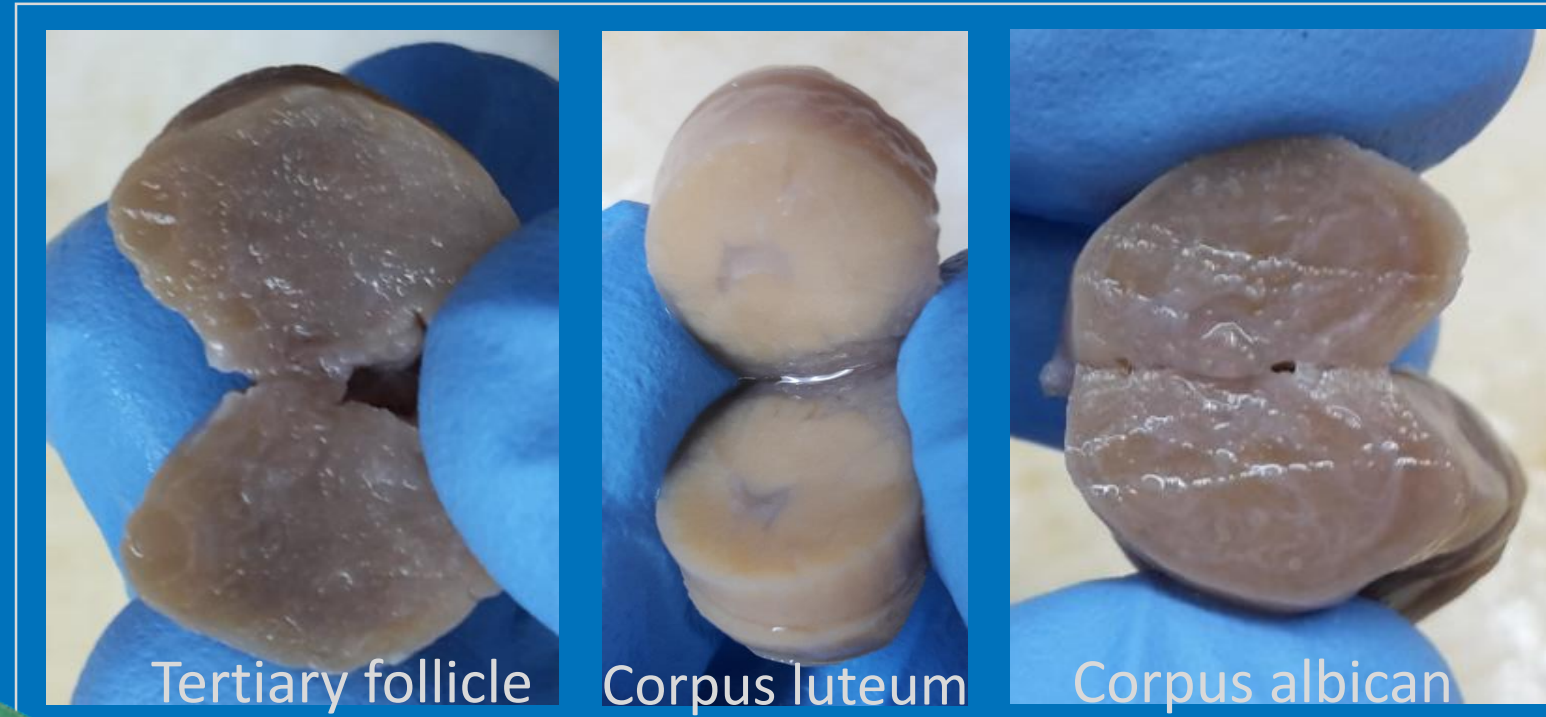
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Introduction

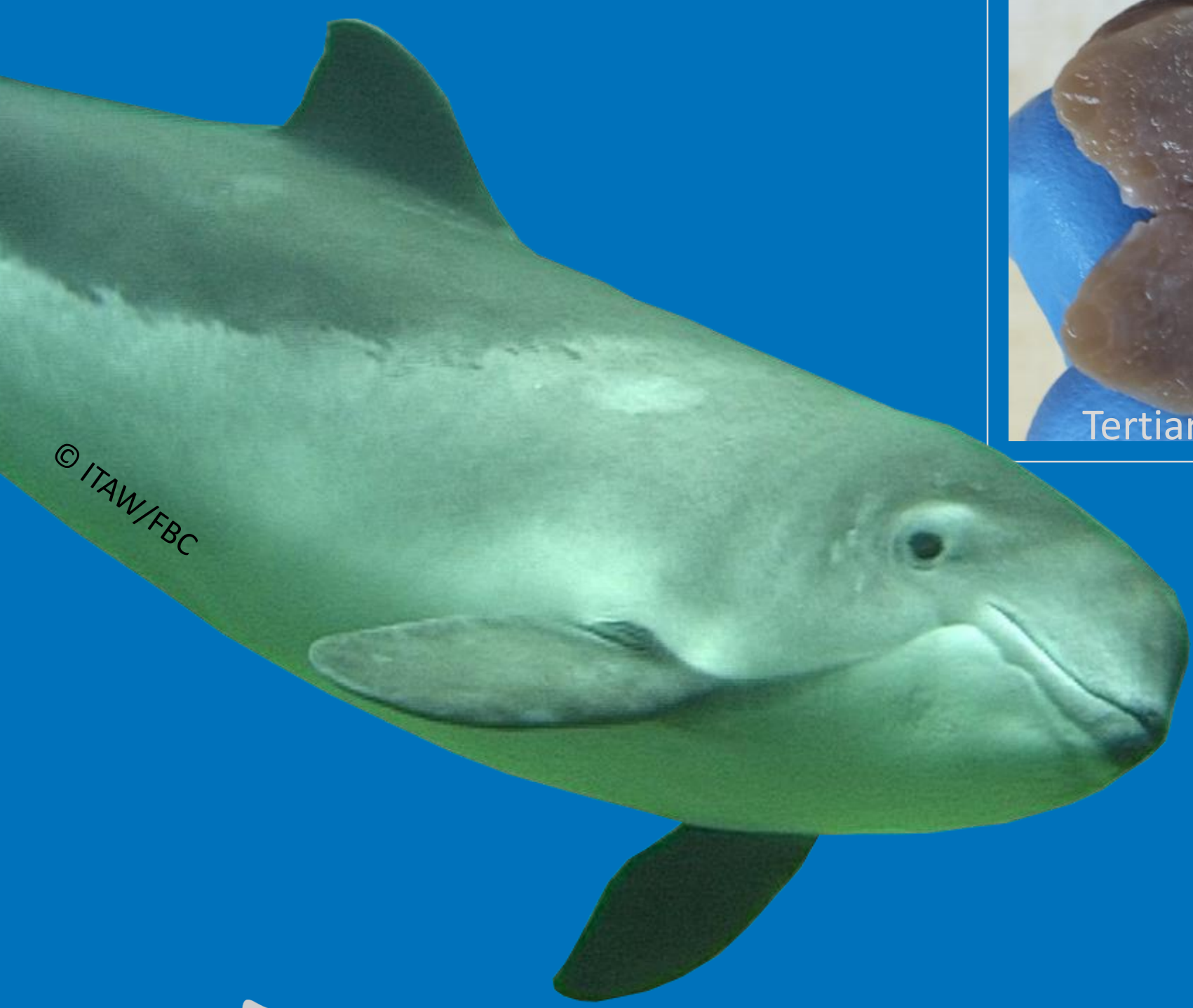
The harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) is one of the three top predators at the German coast. They are affected by different anthropogenic influences such as chemical pollutions, fisheries, shipping and offshore-constructions^{1,2,3}. Those effects can lead to depletion of populations due to changes in reproduction success. Like most other mammals, harbor porpoises undergo distinct phases towards sexual maturity, which makes them especially vulnerable to anthropogenic impacts. The present study gives an overview of the last three decades of reproductive capacity of stranded and by-caught harbor porpoises collected at the German coast.



Methods



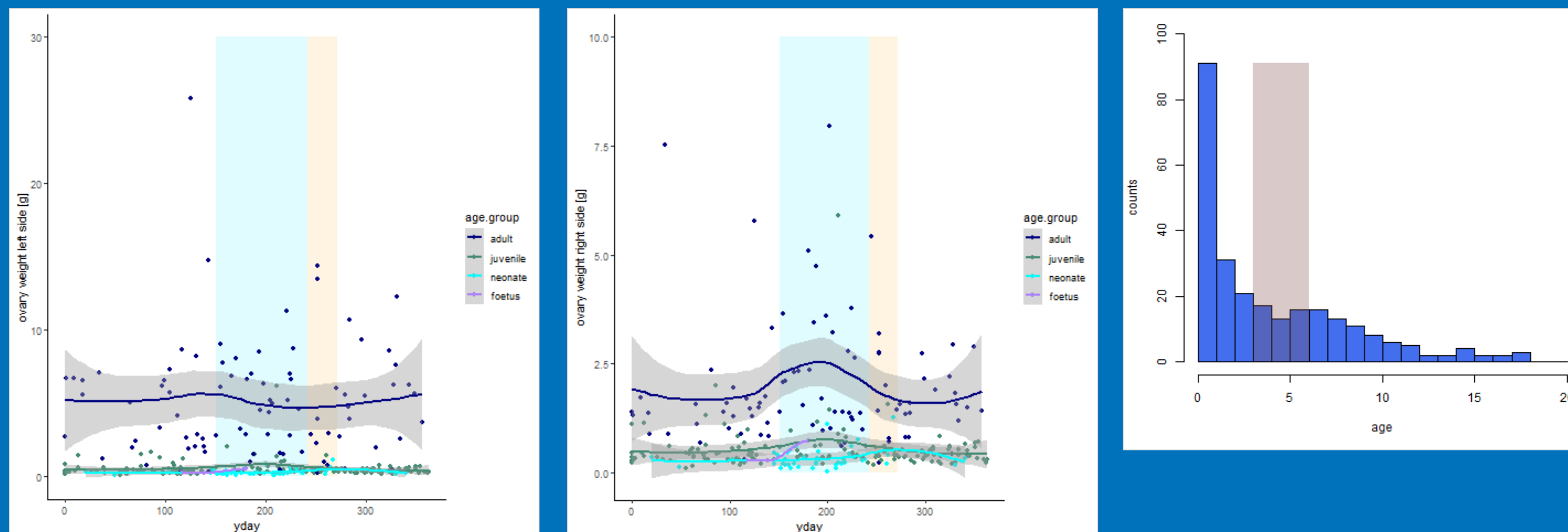
Fetus, neonate (Neo.), juvenile (Juv.) and adult (Ad.) female harbor porpoises were collected between 1992 and 2022. For the detection of different reproductive parameters the uteri and ovaries from 363 harbor porpoises were macroscopically investigated^{4,5}. Corpus luteum (CL), Corpus albicans (CA), tertiary follicle, scars and pregnancy were recorded.



Total	Age group					Water			Findings		
	Fetus	Neo.	Juv.	Ad.	n. d.	North Sea	Baltic Sea	n.d.	CA	CL	Scars
363	5	51	152	153	2	187	172	4	71	85	54

n.d.: not determined

Results



Conclusion

- **Negative effects on population**
- **Detection of mature individuals easier**
- **Long-term reproductive data can be used effectively to detect population changes**



Poster to go

¹Das, K., et al. (2006). "Interfollicular fibrosis in the thyroid of the harbour porpoise: an endocrine disruption to pile driving?" AECT 51: 720-729.

²Schaffeld, T., et al. (2020). "Effects of multiple exposures noise on harbor porpoise hearing during simulated flights—An evaluation tool." J Acoust Soc Am 147(2): 685-697.

³Siebert, U., et al. (2020). "Health assessment of harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) from Baltic area of Denmark, Germany, Poland and Latvia." Environ Int 143: 105904.

⁴Kauhala K. et al. 2014. Decline in the pregnancy rate of Baltic grey seal females during the 2000s, estimated with different methods. Ann Zool Fennici 51:313–324.

⁵Grygar I. et al. 1997. Volume of luteal tissue and concentration of serum progesterone in cows bearing homogeneous corpus luteum or corpus luteum with cavity. Anim Reprod Sci 49:77-82.