

Caspeco plan for special protected areas for seals (SSPAs)



SELECTION OF PILOT SITES AND DEVELOPMENT OF TORs

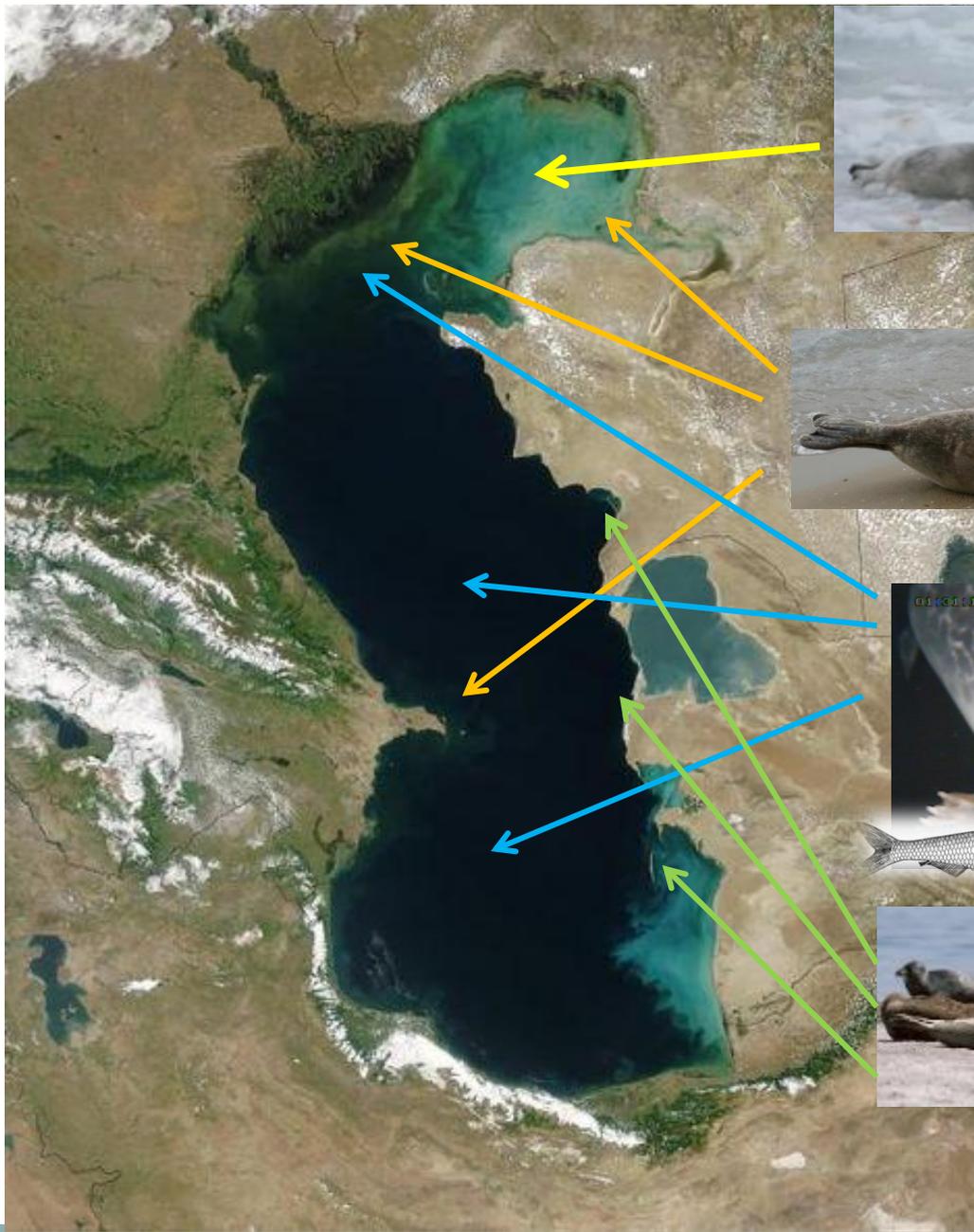




CSCAP (2007)

SSPA NETWORK AIMS:

to ensure that the protected areas cover the main birth, nursery, resting and foraging areas of seals and ensure that the protected areas cover a sufficient proportion of seals in all seasons in all parts of the Caspian



breeding



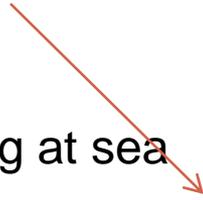
moulting



Foraging at sea



Resting on shore



An aerial photograph of a seal habitat. The image shows a large expanse of greyish water with numerous irregular, brownish patches scattered throughout. These patches appear to be areas of submerged vegetation or mudflats. The overall scene is a natural, somewhat desolate landscape.

Category 1.

An established area of seal habitat currently used fully by seals.

Aims of SSPAs: to maintain the integrity of the habitat and to identify and eliminate threats either to the habitat itself or to the seals within it.



Protect areas within the winter ice-field with high breeding seal densities

Category 2.

An established area of seal habitat no longer used fully or regularly by seals, or used only by a few animals.

Aims of SSPAs: to identify past and current threats to the habitat or seals within it, identify the reasons why seal use of the area is reduced and take all necessary steps to improve the status of the habitat by eliminating current threats and thereby increase the use of the habitat by seals.



Category 3.

A known area of historical seal habitat
not currently used at all by seals.



Aims of SSPAs: Identify the reasons why seals no longer use the area and take all necessary steps to restore the habitat by eliminating known threats and demonstrate the return of seals to the protected area.

1. Baseline monitoring of seals in the designated SSPA.

Monitoring includes regular seal counts (with photographs) and indicators of fishing effort (type, number, location of nets; onshore and offshore disturbance

Monitoring by

Fixed wing



Helicopter



Small boat



Beach surveys for seal carcasses



Decide on frequency and seasonality of site monitoring

Dr Tariel Eybatov
Caspian seal project, Azerbaijan

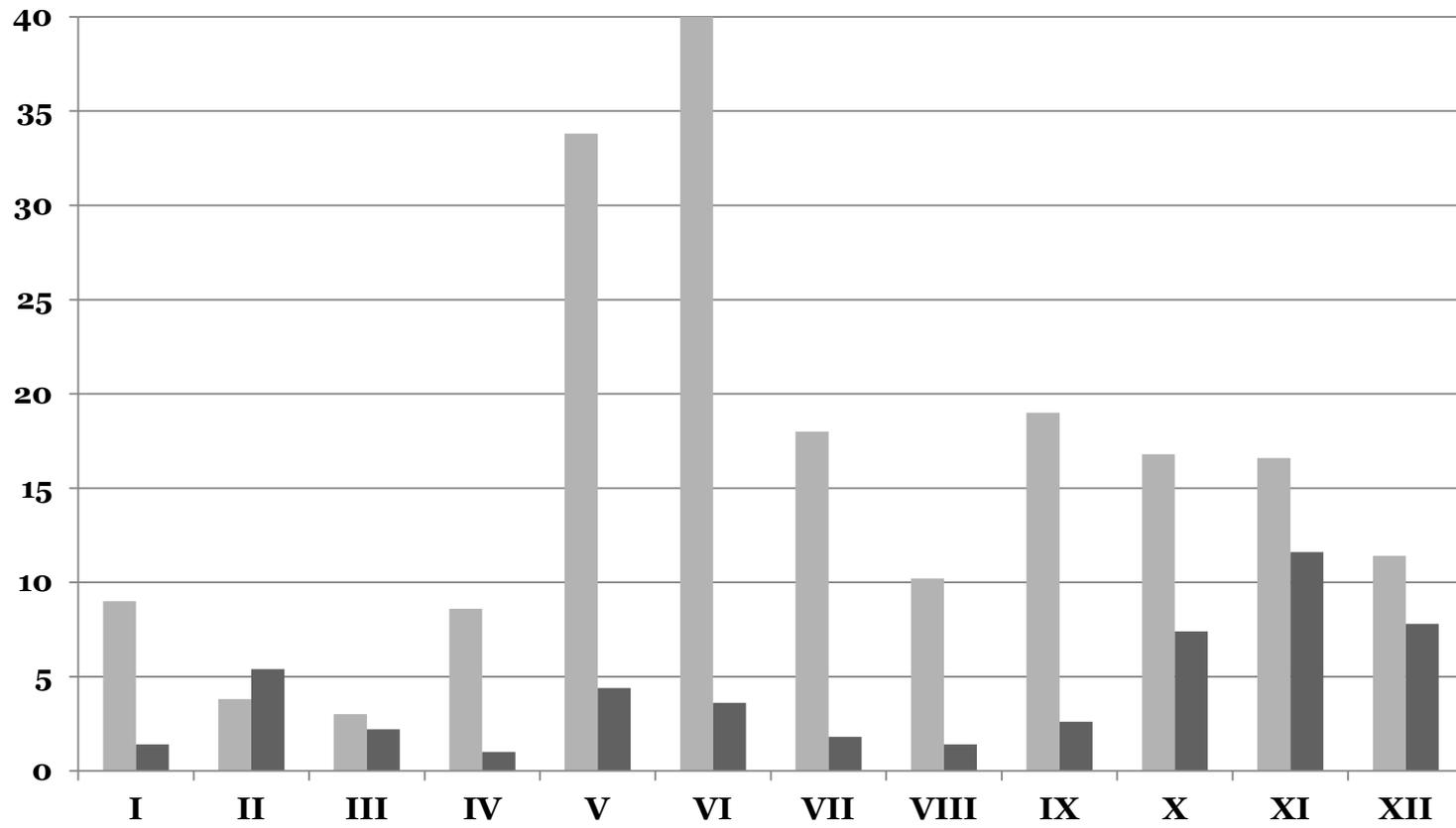
Beach monitoring

mother



unborn
pup

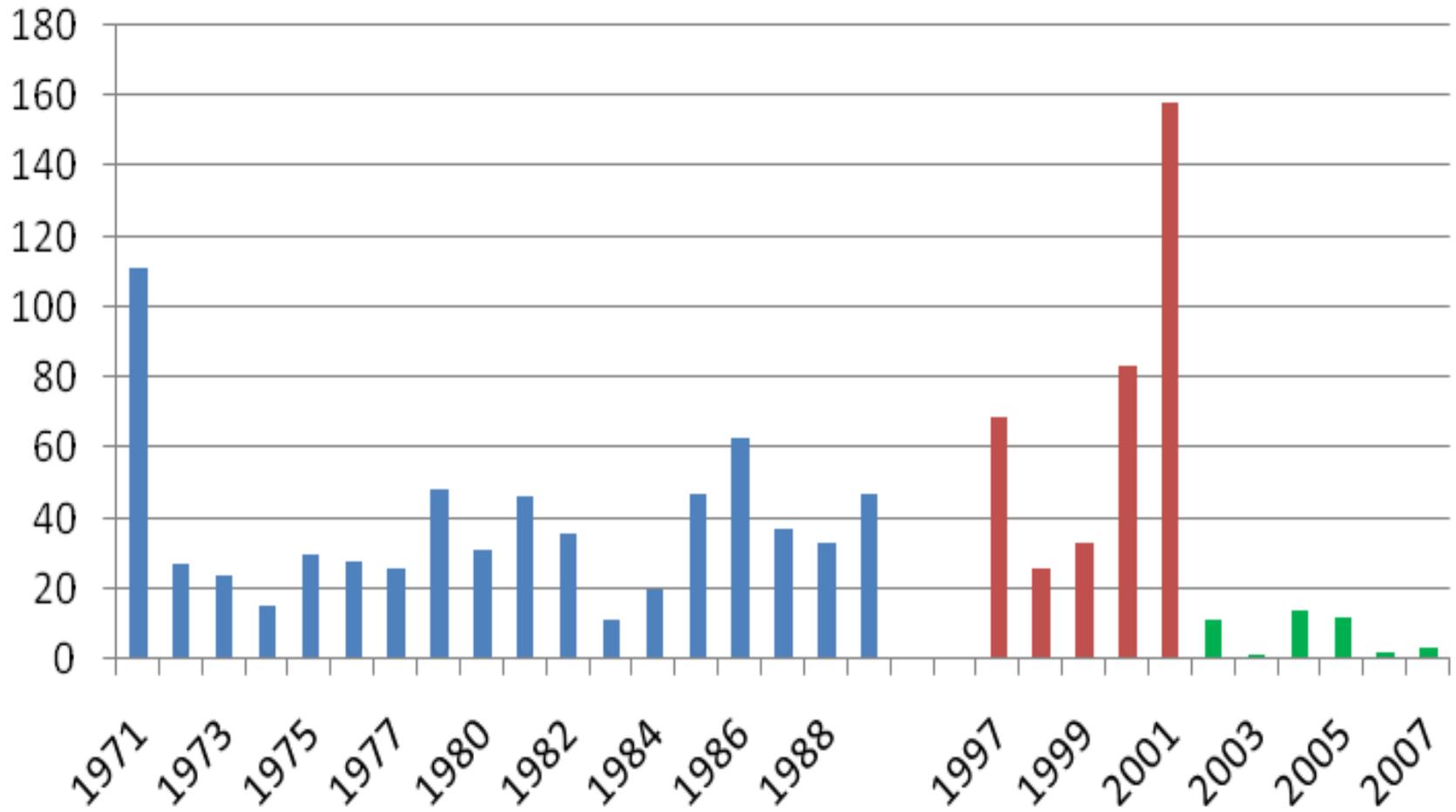




1997-2001 (pale)

2002-07 (dark)

V-VI



*2. Planning and
implementation of protection
measures.*

eg

No hunting licenses

Prohibition on deliberate killing with penalties

Fishing exclusion zone with patrol boats

Prevention of disturbance at haul-out sites

Consider also

Alternative livelihoods

Education and PR in fishing communities









Example of fishing exclusion area



Seal islands

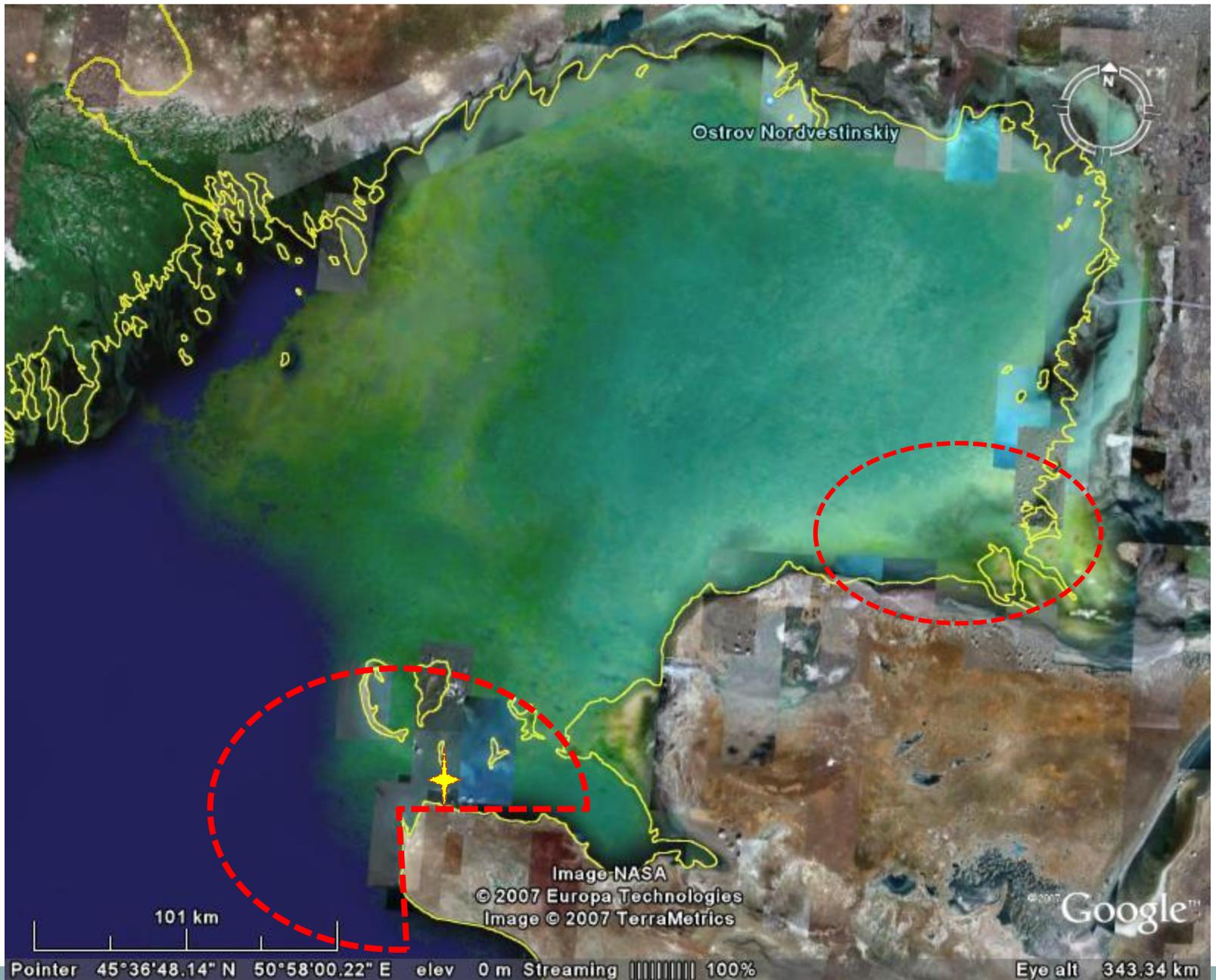


Example of fishing exclusion zone



Seal haul-out site





Working with fishing communities



Dr Hormoz Asadi



**Workshops with fishermen
and coastal wardens in Iran**



Workshops and meetings with fisheries cooperatives and game Wardens on the Iranian coast.,

3. Monitoring of seals in the operational SSPA.

Monitoring includes regular seal counts (with photographs) and indicators of fishing effort (type, number, location of nets; onshore and offshore disturbance

Monitoring by:

Fixed wing



Helicopter



Small boat



Beach surveys



Consistency between frequency and seasonality of site monitoring as in baseline study

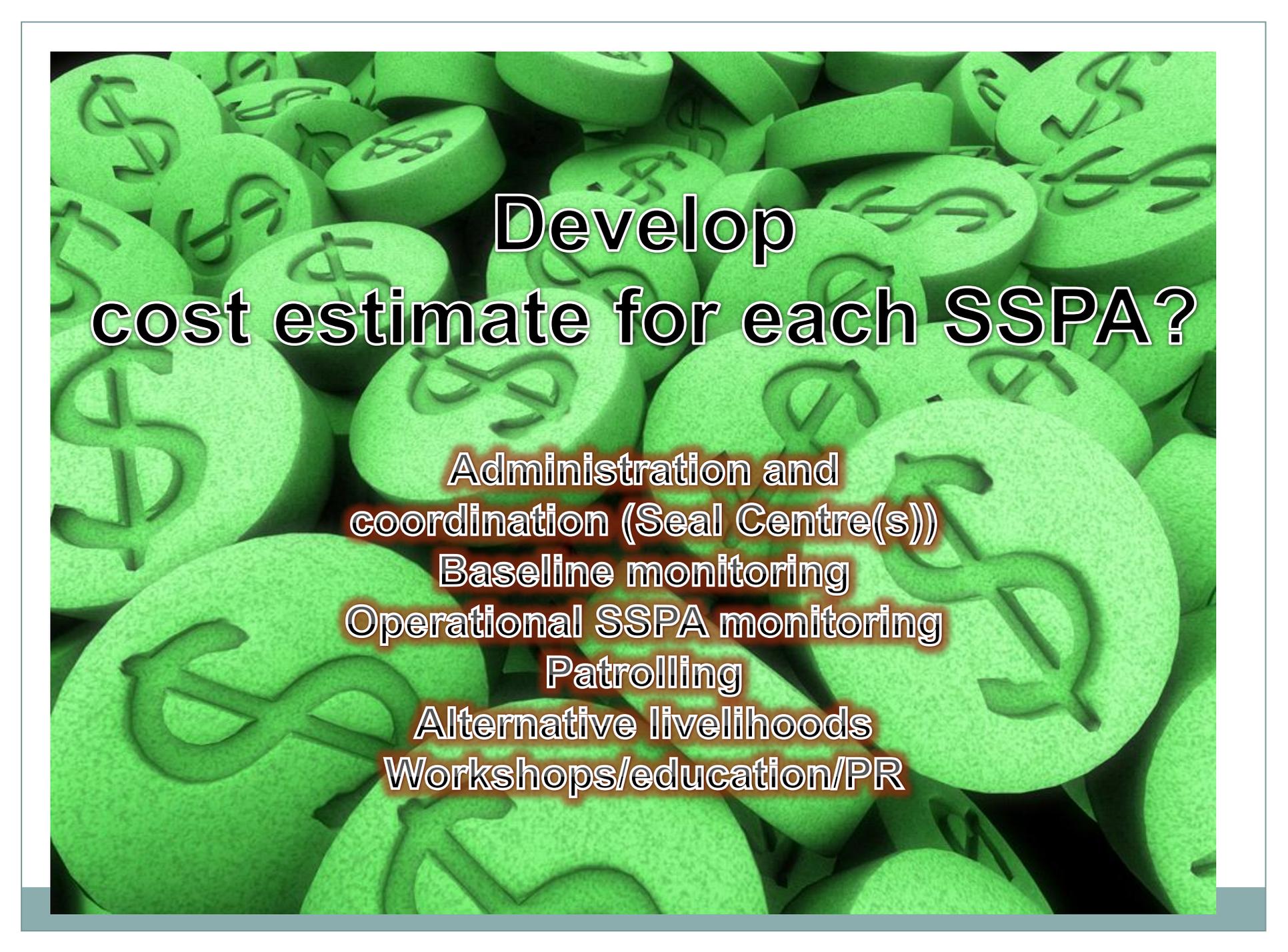
4. Assessment of SSPA effectiveness

Measures of success :

Continuing high number of seals at Category 1 sites

Increasing numbers of seals at Category 2 and 3 sites

Reduced seal mortality

The background of the slide is a dense field of green, three-dimensional coins. Each coin has a dollar sign (\$) embossed on its face. The coins are scattered and overlap, creating a textured, financial-themed background.

Develop cost estimate for each SSPA?

Administration and
coordination (Seal Centre(s))
Baseline monitoring
Operational SSPA monitoring
Patrolling
Alternative livelihoods
Workshops/education/PR

SSPA Road map

- Agree on constituents of network
- Countries choose site(s) to develop as a pilot SSPA
- For each country, decide (with CaspEco seal consultants) on objectives for site
- Site evaluation
- Consider and decide on means for achieving objectives
- Consider scientific personnel for carrying out baseline and operational monitoring
- Consider training needs
- Develop budget