

3rd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bristol, United Kingdom

26 – 28 July 2000

**Resolution No. 5
Monitoring, Status and Population Studies**

The Meeting of Parties:

NOTING that lack of information on abundance, spatial and seasonal distribution and population structure are important limitations on determining the impact of by-catch and other anthropogenic impacts on harbour porpoises and in designing effective mitigation measures;

NOTING that the last comprehensive abundance estimates for small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS area were made in 1994 and 1995 and that no estimate has been made in adjacent waters to the west of the Agreement area which are likely to be used by small cetaceans from within that area;

NOTING that the structure of small cetacean populations in the ASCOBANS area may be complex and is not well understood at present;

NOTING that Council Directive 92/43 EEC requires knowledge of the status of small cetaceans in the waters of Member States of the EU and that because small cetaceans move freely through the area it is important to conduct wide area surveys;

RECOMMENDS that Parties and Range States support further work to elucidate temporal and spatial aspects of distribution of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS area, as a prerequisite to any abundance estimates;

REQUESTS that the Advisory Committee ensures planning for an abundance survey of the Agreement area is completed by the Fourth Meeting of Parties;

RECOMMENDS that relevant Parties and Range States plan and conduct an abundance survey in waters to the west of the ASCOBANS area before the Fourth Meeting of Parties;

RECOMMENDS that Parties and Range States ensure that further work to elucidate the genetic population structure of small cetaceans is undertaken in the ASCOBANS area.