

5th MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ASCOBANS

The Netherlands, 18 - 20 September and 12 December 2006

Resolution No. 8

Educational and Promotional Activities

Recalling Resolution No. 2 of the 4th Meeting of the Parties and related resolutions of previous Meetings of the Parties;

Reiterating that public support of the aims of ASCOBANS continues to be critical to its success;

Acknowledging the continuous successful efforts of the ASCOBANS Secretariat to initiate and implement promotional and educational activities, such as the increasingly successful International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise and the ASCOBANS Award;

Noting, however, that despite the ongoing activities, public awareness of ASCOBANS and the issues of cetacean conservation still needs to be increased in the original ASCOBANS area;

Mindful of the extension of the ASCOBANS Agreement area as decided by the Fourth Meeting of the Parties, and the need to launch promotional activities specifically geared to the needs of the regions covered by the newly extended Agreement area;

Reiterating that a particular emphasis of future promotional work will need to be on new Parties and non-Party Range States, on the implementation of the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan), on the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea and on the regions covered by the extended Agreement area;

Noting the importance of joint or synergistic initiatives with its sister agreement ACCOBAMS, such as the Year of the Dolphin 2007 initiative;

Acknowledging the valuable contribution made by NGOs to ASCOBANS to date;

The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

Recommends that the Secretariat continue and step up its activities to raise awareness of issues related to cetacean conservation in the Agreement area and to promote the Agreement itself especially with non-Party Range States, *inter alia* by continuing to translate ASCOBANS information material and to undertake promotional activities in both Party and non-Party Range States;

Recommends that the Secretariat continue to develop the ASCOBANS website, aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of target audiences and including educational material;

Recommends that host Parties of Meetings of the Parties and of the Advisory Committee, in co-operation with the Secretariat, continue to consider ways by which the Agreement and its aims might be best promoted using the opportunity afforded by these meetings;

Encourages Parties and non-Party Range States to continue to co-operate with the Secretariat in these endeavours and to support this work through voluntary contributions throughout the triennium;

Encourages the Secretariat to clearly define its own role in working together with the EU, CMS, OSPAR, HELCOM and ACCOBAMS in order to synchronize joint actions in Educational and Promotional activities, and create synergy to provide added value while avoiding duplication of effort;

Recommends that the Secretariat, taking appropriate advice, produces targeted information material on conservation issues facing small cetaceans in the region. In particular, it is recommended that the Secretariat, in consultation with appropriate fishermen's organisations, RACs and others develop material to distribute to fishermen, especially with respect to bycatch issues;

Encourages NGOs to support the educational and promotional activities of the Secretariat and the Parties if and when possible;

Encourages institutions or individuals to share the use of their intellectual property free of charge for use in non-profit information and education campaigns in support of ASCOBANS objectives;

Encourages Parties, non-Party range States and NGOs to nominate candidates for the ASCOBANS Award for 2007 and 2009.

Repeals Resolution No. 2 of the 4th Meeting of the Parties.