

5th MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ASCOBANS

The Netherlands, 18 - 20 September and 12 December 2006

Resolution No. 3

Extension of the ASCOBANS Agreement Area

Recalling Resolution No. 4 adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Parties;

Noting the unforeseen delays in ratification of the extended Agreement;

Noting, moreover, that these delays were beyond the control of ASCOBANS Parties and of the ASCOBANS Secretariat;

Recalling the obligation of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to cooperate through the appropriate international organizations for the conservation and management of marine mammals (Articles 65 and 120);

Reiterating that the conservation of small cetaceans in the current ASCOBANS Agreement Area and in European waters as a whole will benefit from the extension of the ASCOBANS Agreement Area to the parts of the North Eastern Atlantic covered by the aforementioned Resolution and from the establishment of the direct geographical link between the Agreement Areas of ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS implicit therein;

Guided by a common will to further strengthen the Agreement and the conservation of small cetaceans in European waters as a whole;

The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

Urges Parties to the Agreement that have not yet done so to ratify the amendment contained in MOP 4 Resolution No 4 as soon as possible;

Instructs the Executive Secretary to ASCOBANS, Parties to the Agreement and the Secretariat of the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to continue to encourage non-Party Range States to accede to the Agreement.