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## Agenda

1. **Introduction**  
The Chairman will open the meeting at 10 a.m. on Monday 12 April.
2. **Adoption of Rules of Procedure**
3. **Adoption of the Agenda**
4. **Opening statements by Parties and Observers**  
Opening statements should be submitted as documents. Oral presentations should be minimised as far as possible.
5. **Matters related to research**
  - 5.1 **Research options for the Baltic**  
Progress report of the Baltic Discussion Group
  - 5.2 **Pollutants issues**  
Reporting of the Working Group on Pollutants and recommendations for dealing with marine pollution. Possible co-operation with HELCOM regarding hazardous substances. Possible co-operation with OSPAR to assist in implementing the OSPAR Strategy with Regard to Hazardous Substances adopted by the Ministers of Environment in Sintra, Portugal, July 1998 – with particular attention to endocrine disrupting chemicals.
  - 5.3 **By-catch issues**  
Report on the results of the IWC/ASCOBANS workshop on harbour porpoise by-catch; development of conservation objectives.  
New Danish Action Plan concerning the reduction of harbour porpoise by-catch.  
Danish Society for the Conservation of Nature's complaint to the EU regarding Danish bycatch situation (Håkansson).  
Bjørge and Berggren will present data on bycatch in the Skagerrak.  
WWF to comment on the concept of No-take-zones  
Showing of video documentary "Small Whale in Big Trouble" (Deimer/Schütte)
  - 5.4 **Disturbance by seismic surveys**  
Tasker will present a document on the extent of seismic surveys in the ASCOBANS area, potential disturbance to cetaceans and possible mitigation measures.
  - 5.5 **Disturbance by high-speed ferries**  
The Secretary will present a report on high-speed ferry connections in the ASCOBANS area and their potential impact on small cetaceans.
  - 5.6 **Post-mortem research & stranding schemes**  
The Secretary will present a compilation of institutions involved in post-mortem research on stranded cetaceans and the kind of data collected.
  - 5.7 **Whale-watching**  
Guidelines, effect assessment (will be discussed during the excursion on Sunday)
6. **Matters related to Parties and Range States**
  - 6.1 **Meeting with the Swedish Co-ordinating Authority**
  - 6.2 **Meeting with the European Commission**
  - 6.3 **Progress in the accession of Range States (Jersey, France and Ireland)**
  - 6.4 **Applications for observer status**
  - 6.5 **National legislation**  
Bjørge will present a document identifying possible conflicts between the ASCOBANS Agreement and national legislation

7. **Co-operation with IWC, OSPAR, HELCOM and other international organisations**  
Report on the co-operation between IWC and ASCOBANS. The Secretariat will present a paper describing the structures of OSPAR and HELCOM and providing recommendations for future work with these organisations. Actions arising out of the HELCOM EC 9/98 meeting.  
Investigations on the potential benefit of protected areas for small cetaceans in the NE Atlantic (based on the new Annex and Strategy to the OSPAR Convention on the Protection and Conservation of Ecosystems and Biological Diversity signed by the Environmental Ministers in 1998 and the Sintra Statement, i.e. the commitment to establish a network of marine protected areas in the NE Atlantic.
8. **Web page**  
The Secretariat will present the newly designed ASCOBANS web page.
9. **Business session** (Observers will be excluded from this session).
  - 9.1 **Budgetary issues**  
Germany will report on the voluntary contribution for projects. The Secretary will report on the financial situation and will present a list of meetings to be attended.
  - 9.2 **Future status of the ASCOBANS Secretariat**
10. **Agreement on the draft report**
11. **Date and venue of the next meeting**
12. **Any other business**
13. **Close of meeting**