

Draft Annotated Agenda

1. Introduction

The Chairman will open the meeting at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 27 April 2004. Opening statements by a representative of the Polish Ministry of Environment and the Rector of the University of Gdansk.

2. Adoption of Rules of Procedure (DDoc. 5)

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Triennium 2004 – 2006

4. Adoption of the Agenda (Ddoc. 1)

5. Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial Workplan (2004 – 2006)

5.1. ASCOBANS Baltic Recovery Plan (“Jastarnia Plan”) – Implementation

*Chair’s update. All to consider next steps including establishment of steering group
Germany will present a paper on opportunistic sightings of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea (Doc. 7).*

5.2. Elaboration of a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea

Chair’s update; Germany will present a first draft of the recovery plan (Doc. 9). All to consider next steps including timetable, establishment of steering/scientific groups, involvement of stakeholders.

5.3. Preparation and implementation of the new abundance survey (“SCANS-II”)

Update by Simon Northridge (UK) and by Parties on actions taken in support of the survey.

5.4. Bycatch issues

5.4.1. EU Council Regulation on Incidental Catches of Cetaceans in Fisheries

The Chair will introduce this item.

WWF will introduce two documents concerning this issue (Doc. 12).

5.4.2. Other bycatch-related issues

Germany will introduce a paper on harbour porpoise bycatch by German part-time fishermen in the Baltic Sea (Doc. 10).

The Netherlands will introduce ongoing activities on assessment of bycatch in Dutch coastal waters.

Sweden will introduce its Harbour Porpoise Action Plan (Doc. 15).

Simon Northridge (UK) will give a presentation on research and other issues related to bycatch.

5.5. Disturbance to small cetaceans due to seismic surveys

Germany will present a paper on seismic activities (Doc. 6).

5.6. Population distribution, sizes and structures (review of new information)

Germany will present papers on harbour porpoise summer abundance and distribution in the German North and Baltic Seas (Doc. 8), and on seasonal and geographical variation of harbour porpoise habitat use in the German Baltic Sea, as monitored by PODs (Doc. 13).

The Netherlands will introduce ongoing research in Dutch coastal waters.

The Secretariat will introduce a paper on recent bycatch of harbour porpoises in Latvian waters (Doc. 20).

5.7. Needs of ASCOBANS in extended Agreement area

The Chair will introduce this item and will suggest establishment of an ad hoc working group to develop ideas for consideration at the meeting.

6. Ongoing Issues

6.1. Effects of pollution, noise pollution and disturbance

6.1.1. High Speed Ferries

Secretariat's update on information submitted by Parties (Doc. 18).

6.1.2. Military Activities

6.1.3. Report by the Pollutants Working Group

Presentation of new information on pollution and disturbance issues by PWG.

6.2. Post-mortem and stranding schemes

Consideration of data submitted by Parties (Doc. 19).

6.3. Publicity/PR Issues

6.3.1. Parties/Range States

Parties' reports on any relevant activities and developments since AC 11.

6.3.2. Secretariat (Report on PR activities in 2003/2004)

The Secretariat will present its first biannual report on PR activities (Doc. 16).

6.4. Accession of new Parties

Secretariat's update.

6.5. Cooperation with international organizations

Secretariat's update.

7. Other Issues

Closed session for Parties only.

7.1. Budgetary Issues

7.1.1. Report on budget for 2003

Secretariat's report (Doc. 21).

7.2. Administrative Issues

7.2.1. Report on operation of CMS Agreement Unit

Secretariat's report.

7.2.2. Meetings to be attended during 2004

Consideration of meetings list developed by the Secretariat (DDoc. 14).

8. Date and venue of next meeting

9. Agreement on draft report

10. Close of meeting

Note:

In order to save time, opening statements are not included. Any state or observer wishing to make a statement is kindly requested to provide this in writing only.