

**Agenda Item 4.1: ASCOBANS Baltic Recovery Plan (“Jastarnia Plan”)**

**Letter from the Executive Secretary of HELCOM to  
ASCOBANS regarding a joint HELCOM/ASCOBANS/ICES  
project (inventory of genetic information on the Baltic harbour  
porpoise)**

**Submitted by: Secretariat**



***NOTE:***  
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING  
THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

## **Secretariat's Note**

The Secretariat would like to bring the attached letter from the Executive Secretary of HELCOM to the attention of the Advisory Committee. Cooperation of ASCOBANS in the proposed joint HELCOM/ASCOBANS/ICES project could promote the achievement of aims defined within the framework of the Jastarnia Plan and further enhance cooperation between regional international instruments competent for the conservation of the Baltic marine environment in general and for the conservation of harbour porpoises in particular.

The AC is requested to provide guidance concerning the possible role of ASCOBANS in this endeavour.



14 February 2006

ASCOBANS Secretariat  
Martin-Luther-King-Str. 8  
53175 Bonn  
Germany

Dear Colleagues,

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Nature Protection and Biodiversity Group (HELCOM HABITAT 7/2005) discussed the scientific findings concerning the genetic origin and population size of the Baltic harbour porpoise. The Meeting suggested that it might be feasible to establish a joint HELCOM/ASCOBANS/ICES project to make an inventory of the genetic information of the harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea and to assess the need for further research on the origin of the harbour porpoise.

The next HELCOM HABITAT Meeting will be held in Germany on 15-19 May 2006. To be able to give some information for the further planning of the project to the Meeting, I would therefore like to have your tentative standpoint about the project as soon as convenient for you. I could expect that the project can be partly financed by the Contracting Parties to HELCOM and possibly partly by other parties to the project. Also some external financing can be applied. ICES could act as a scientific co-ordinator and HELCOM could give its "political support". Especially I am interested to know what could be the role of ASCOBANS in the project. In case all parties are positive, we should develop a more detailed project description later.

For additional information, please contact HELCOM Secretariat Mr Juha-Markku Leppänen at +358 9 6220 2227 or [juha-markku.leppanen@helcom.fi](mailto:juha-markku.leppanen@helcom.fi) or Ms Hanna Paulomäki at +358 9 6220 2240 or [hanna.paulomaki@helcom.fi](mailto:hanna.paulomaki@helcom.fi).

Looking forward to here from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Christine Brusendorff  
Executive Secretary