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Agenda Item 6.3: **Resolutions for MOP 5**

Draft Resolution No. 7:
Further Implementation of ASCOBANS

Submitted by: **Secretariat**

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

5th MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ASCOBANS

Egmond aan Zee, Netherlands, 19 - 22 September 2006

Draft Resolution No. 7

Further Implementation of ASCOBANS

Recalling that the conservation, research and management measures listed in the Conservation and Management Plan in the Annex to the Agreement require an action plan for the full implementation of the Agreement;

Recalling and strongly *supporting* the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises and the Recovery plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea;

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),

Recognizing the commitments by the Parties in other international bodies and fora to cetacean conservation and other commitments that will aid cetaceans;

Reaffirming the importance of the need for Parties to cooperate and not to duplicate the work of other international bodies and the desirability of drawing upon their expertise;

Recognizing the requirements under EU legislation;

Recalling that ASCOBANS endorsed (MoP3, Res. No.7) the IWC programme of research that investigates the causative link between levels of pollutants and physiological responses in cetaceans, known as POLLUTION 2000+;

Recalling that OSPAR, HELCOM and the European Commission through its Chemicals Strategy are working towards reduction of emissions and sources of chemical pollutants and will develop their objectives and strategy with regard to hazardous substances further; and RECOGNIZING previous ASCOBANS action in drawing the attention of OSPAR and HELCOM to substances hazardous to small cetaceans;

Recalling the commitment of ASCOBANS to non-lethal research;

Noting that knowledge of the harbour porpoise is better developed than that of most small cetacean species;

Recalling the resolution agreed at the 4th Meeting of the Parties on the extension of the Agreement Area;

Noting the resolutions agreed at this Meeting on the effects of noise and of vessels, on incidental take [and on the extension of the scope of the Agreement to cover all cetacean species];

Commending existing efforts to identify and protect specific areas for small cetaceans;

The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

Invites Parties and Range States to

Continue or *Initiate* research aimed at identifying the location of any further suitable sites for the establishment of protected areas, and to implement appropriate management actions in these areas on their own or in the context of other intergovernmental bodies to ensure the protection of [small] cetaceans;

Continue or *Initiate* support for schemes that ensure that the bodies of [small] cetaceans are, where possible, subject to full and expert post-mortem analysis for cause of death and any other studies relevant to conservation; and take appropriate measures to reduce those impacts on small cetacean populations, recognised to increase mortality rates;

Continue to support the POLLUTION 2000+ research programme and to S*upport* research into the occurrence and potential effects of priority chemicals identified by OSPAR and HELCOM (including brominated flame retardants, organotin and other endocrine disrupting chemicals) with the aim of collecting information on the distribution and accumulation of these compounds and their effects, and to ensure that this information is bought to the attention of authorities responsible for the reduction of such pollution;

Encourage further research relevant to ASCOBANS objectives on abundance, life history parameters, migration patterns and population structure of small cetaceans as a basis for an improvement of conservation measures;

Recommends that Parties and Range States

Continue to support non-lethal research, with the emphasis on the less well-known cetacean species of the ASCOBANS area, in particular as regards life-history parameters and population structure.