

Draft Annotated Agenda

1. Introduction

The Chairman will open the meeting at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, 19 April 2007. Representatives of the host country and of the host organization will welcome the participants. The Secretariat will make some introductory remarks. As for previous meetings of the Advisory Committee, no oral opening statements are expected from participants. Opening statements can be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, and will be distributed to the delegations in the course of the meeting.

2. Adoption of Rules of Procedure

A proposal for a revision of the Rules of Procedure of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee will be before the meeting for consideration (Doc. 5)

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting is invited to review the provisional agenda and schedule and to make any proposals for amendment prior to their adoption (Doc.1 Rev.1). Late items may be suggested.

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Election for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be held. Both the chair and vice-chair for the past triennium have expressed their intention not to stand for a new mandate in their current position. However the chair has agreed – subject to confirmation by the members - to preside over the present meeting in order to allow the new chair and vice-chair to familiarize with the task before taking up their duties.

5. Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat will provide an oral report of its activities since the 5th Meeting of the Parties (MOP5), focussing on activities not covered under other agenda items.

6. Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial Workplan (2007-2009)

The Secretariat will introduce a document on progress made and proposed further action for the implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan for 2007-2009. The meeting will be invited to (i) review the document, give input to it and make recommendation for the further implementation of the Triennium Work Plan; and (ii) consider options for the identification of financial resources necessary to undertake existing or new un(der)funded activities.

6.1. ASCOBANS Baltic Recovery Plan (Jastarnia Plan)

6.1.1. Implementation

The Chair of the Jastarnia Group will introduce the item. The meeting will consider implementation measures carried out by Parties.

6.1.2. Outcome of 3rd Meeting of the Jastarnia Group

The Chair of the Jastarnia Group will present the results of the Group's third Meeting. The meeting will be invited to consider the recommendations of the Jastarnia Group.

6.2. ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea

6.2.1. Progress report

The Chair of the Steering Group will present an oral progress report.

6.3. Review of new information on bycatch

6.3.1. Format for reporting effort in relevant fisheries

The meeting will review information on bycatch submitted by Parties in their Annual National Reports and on implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 812/2004 (Doc.9 Rev.1, Doc.14, Doc.19). A paper on fishery statistics submitted by Sweden will also be before the meeting (Doc.17). The chair will introduce a paper on possible synergies with other organizations in the reporting on bycatch of small cetaceans and fishing efforts in the ASCOBANS area. The meeting will be invited to consider the suggestions given (Doc.18).

6.4. Review of new information on population distribution, sizes and structures

The meeting will review relevant information submitted by Parties in their Annual National Reports (Doc.9 Rev.1, Doc.19).

6.5. Review of new information on pollution, underwater sound and disturbance

6.5.1. High speed ferries

The meeting will review information submitted by the Parties on high-speed ferries (Doc.16). A report of the Ship Strike Working Group established within the IWC Conservation Committee will also be before the meeting (Doc.12). The meeting will consider how to further address this issue within the Advisory Committee.

6.5.2. Military, including munitions

Parties will be invited to report on their activities aiming at assessing and mitigating the impact of military activities on small cetaceans in the Agreement area.

6.5.3. Offshore energy production and extractive activities

Parties will be invited to report on their activities aiming at assessing and mitigating the impact of offshore energy production (notably wind farms) and extractive activities on small cetaceans in the Agreement area.

6.5.4. Report by Pollutants Working Group

The Working Group will present its report to the Committee.

7. Westward extension of Agreement Area

The Secretariat will report orally on progress in the ratification by Parties of the extension of the Agreement Area.

7.1. Report from Spain on ASCOBANS-related activities

The representative of the Government of Spain will be invited to report on activities and considerations relevant to ASCOBANS.

7.2. Report from other potential new Parties on their cetacean activities

8. Standing items

8.1. Annual National Reports 2005 and 2006

Consideration of annual national reports for 2006 (as far as available, Doc 9 Rev.1).

8.1.1. Post-mortem and stranding schemes

The Meeting will consider data submitted by Parties (Doc. 15).

8.1.2. National legislation/protected areas

Parties will be invited to present relevant developments since AC 13.

8.2. Publicity/PR Issues

8.2.1. Parties/Range States

Parties will report on relevant activities and developments since AC 13.

8.2.2. Secretariat

The Secretariat will present its report on PR activities as part of the "Year of the Dolphin" campaign (Doc. 8).

8.2.3. Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise, 20 May 2007

The Secretariat will present activities undertaken so far (Doc. 20).

8.3. Accession of Range States

The Secretariat will report on progress in gaining new Parties.

8.4. Meetings to be attended in 2007/2008

Consideration of draft list presented by Secretariat (Doc. 11).

9. ASCOBANS and CMS

9.1. CMS COP8 Resolution 8.22 ("Adverse Human-induced Impacts on Cetaceans")

The Secretariat will present initiatives undertaken within CMS to respond to the requests of Res. 8.22 and make proposals on ASCOBANS involvement (Doc.21).

9.2. Year of the Dolphin 2007

The Secretariat will present a report on the worldwide campaign (Doc. 8).

10. Relations with other bodies

Oral update on relevant communication with other organisations and bodies.

10.1. IWC and ICES

10.2. Regional Seas Agreements

10.3. ACCOBAMS

10.4. Others

11. Any other business

12. Date and venue of next meeting

13. Close of scientific/conservation section of meeting

14. Administrative Session

14.1. Budgetary issues

The Secretariat will present its report on ASCOBANS Resources (Doc. 6).

14.1.1. Report of the Secretariat on finance and administrative issues

14.1.2. Report on accounts for 2006

14.1.3. Outline of budget for 2007

14.1.4. Other issues in budget for 2007-2009

14.2. Any other administrative issues

15. Close of meeting