

Agenda Item 3, 16

Adoption of the Agenda of the Science and
Conservation Session

Adoption of the Agenda of the Administrative
Session

Document 02

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Action Requested

- Review the provisional agenda
- Make proposals for amendment if desired
- Adopt the Agenda

Submitted by

Secretariat



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

Provisional Annotated Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting

Opening Statements may be submitted in writing only in order to save time. They will be circulated and compiled for inclusion in the report of the meeting.

2. Adoption of Rules of Procedure

The meeting is invited to adopt the same Rules of Procedure that applied to the 15th AC Meeting (Doc.05).

3. Adoption of the Agenda of the **Science and Conservation Session**

The meeting is invited to review the draft provisional agenda (Doc.01) and schedule and to make any proposals for amendment prior to their adoption. Late items may be suggested.

4. Annual National Reports 2008

Parties will be invited to present highlights of their reports (five minutes maximum for each Party). The meeting is invited to take note and comment. Non-Party Range States that have submitted a voluntary report are also invited to present highlights.

5. Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial Work Plan (2007-2009)

5.1 ASCOBANS Baltic Recovery Plan (Jastarnia Plan)

5.1.1 Implementation

The meeting will consider implementation measures carried out by Parties since AC 15.

5.1.2 Outcome of 5th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group

The Chair of the Jastarnia Group will present an oral summary of the outcomes of the 5th meeting of the Jastarnia Group and its recommendations. The meeting is invited to take note and comment.

5.1.3 Revision of the Jastarnia Plan, Final Draft

The Chair of the Jastarnia Group will present the revised draft of the Jastarnia Plan (Doc.20). The meeting is invited to take note, comment and endorse the Plan.

5.1.4 Terms of Reference for the Jastarnia Group

The meeting is invited to consider which terms of reference should apply to the work of the Jastarnia Group, defining its role and the tasks it is expected to carry out to contribute to the implementation of the Jastarnia Plan and the work of the AC itself. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

5.2 ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea

5.2.1 Progress Report

The Chair of the North Sea Working Group will present an oral summary of the activities since AC 15, including the final draft of the Conservation Plan. The meeting is invited to take note and comment.

5.2.2 Final Draft Conservation Plan

The meeting is invited to endorse the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea (Doc.21).

5.2.3 Terms of Reference for the Plan's Coordinator/Steering Group

The meeting is invited to identify how the implementation of the Plan should be facilitated and define what the role and tasks the Coordinator or Steering Group are to carry out to contribute to the work of the AC itself. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

5.3 Review of New Information on Bycatch and Other Causes of Mortality

Parties are requested to present new information on the subject, including reports on effort in fisheries with high risk of bycatch, implementation of EU Regulation 812/2004 and post-mortem/stranding schemes. The meeting is invited to take note and comment.

5.3.1 Recommendations to Parties for further Action

The meeting is invited to develop recommendations to be forwarded to the MOP. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

5.4 Review of New Information on Population Distribution, Sizes and Structures

Parties are requested to present new information on the subject. The meeting is invited to take note and comment. The co-organiser of the joint ASCOBANS/HELCOM Workshops on Genetics and Population Structure (8-10 October 2007) will introduce the reports and recommendations. The meeting will be invited to take note, comment and make recommendations to be forwarded to the MOP. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

5.5 Review of New Information on Pollution, Underwater Sound and Disturbance

Parties are requested to present new information on the subject, including reports on high speed ferries and other shipping operations, military activities, destruction of unexploded ordnance, offshore energy production, extractive activities and pollutants. The Pollutants Working Group will present its report to the meeting. The meeting will be invited to take note, comment and make recommendations to be forwarded to the MOP. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

5.5.1 Anthropogenic Noise

The Noise Working Group will report on its activities and present its recommendations. The meeting will be invited to take note of the statement of the European Cetacean Society on the need to regulate sonar mitigation and will hear a short presentation by Peter Evans on relevant research conducted in the US and in the framework of the Oil & Gas Producers Joint Industry Program on Sound & Marine Life. The Secretariat will report on activities of the IMO MEPC Noise Correspondence Group. The meeting will be invited to take note, comment, instruct the Noise Working Group on further activities and make recommendations to be forwarded to the MOP.

5.6 National Legislation and Protected Areas

Parties will be invited to present relevant developments since AC 15. The meeting is invited to take note and comment.

5.7 Publicity and Outreach

The Secretariat will inform the meeting of nominations received for the ASCOBANS Award in 2009. A jury will be formed to meet in the margins of the meeting and will be requested to report its conclusion before the closure of the meeting.

5.7.1 Reports of Parties/Range States

Parties will be invited to report on activities since AC 15 and highlight any plans they might have for upcoming events, including the 7th International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise (17 May 2009). The meeting is invited to take note and comment.

5.7.2 Report of the Secretariat

The Secretariat will report on activities since AC 15 and will introduce the draft Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan (Doc.23) produced for ASCOBANS. The meeting is invited to take note and comment.

5.7.3 Reports from Partners

Partner organisations will be invited to highlight key activities. Peter Evans will present on the outreach and education programme of the Sea Watch Foundation.

5.8 Review of the Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial Work Plan (2007-2009)

The Secretariat will introduce an update of the progress overview of the Triennial Work Plan (Doc.24). The meeting will be invited to review the document, make recommendations for further implementation and assign funding priorities for un(der)funded activities.

5.9 Revised Format for the Annual National Reports

The Secretariat will introduce the draft Revised Annual National Report Format commissioned by AC15 (Doc.25). The meeting will be invited to review the document, comment and decide how its further development should be organised with a view to presenting an acceptable new format to the MOP. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

6. List of Projects for Funding through ASCOBANS

6.1 Progress of Projects already supported

The Secretariat will report on steps taken since AC 15. Project leaders, insofar as present at the meeting, will be invited to report briefly on progress.

6.2 Selection and Prioritisation of projects to be supported

The meeting is invited to review and update the draft project list (Doc.13) and give guidance on the use of any funds to be made available for conservation projects by the Administrative Session.

7. Relations with other Bodies

Representatives of IGOs, Scientific and Advisory Bodies and NGOs are invited to report on their activities relevant to ASCOBANS. The Secretariat will report on cooperation efforts. The meeting is invited to take note of the reports and information submitted on representation of ASCOBANS at meetings (Doc.27) and comment.

8. Meetings to be attended in 2009/2010

The meeting is invited to consider the draft list of Dates of Interest (Doc.26) and decide on representation at relevant meetings.

9. Accession and Agreement Amendments

The Secretariat and Parties will be invited to report on recruitment efforts since AC 15. The meeting is invited to take note and comment.

9.1 Extension of the Work of the Agreement into the new Agreement Area
Parties who have not yet accepted the amendment will be invited to report on progress in the procedure. The meeting is invited to take note and comment. As instructed in Resolution 6 of MOP5, the meeting is invited to "consider how the work of ASCOBANS should be extended to take account of the new Agreement Area, which includes areas beyond national jurisdiction". A Working Group will be formed if needed.

9.2 Possible Amendment of the Agreement to include all Cetacean Species in the Agreement Area (scientific and technical aspects)
The meeting is requested to take note of Doc.36, evaluate its implications for the Agreement and decide on the way forward. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

10. "Future of the ASCOBANS Agreement"

The meeting is invited to consider a review of the formal processes and structures of the Agreement (Doc.28), prepared by the AC Chair upon request from the Evaluation Working Group. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

11. Preparation of MOP 6

11.1 Draft Resolutions on Conservation Actions and Research

The meeting is requested to consider any draft resolutions that have been submitted by Parties. Working Groups will be formed if needed.

11.2 Activities of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee 2010-2012

The meeting is requested to develop a draft resolution on the subject. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

11.3 Draft Triennial Work Plan (2010-2012)

The meeting is requested to develop a draft triennial work plan for 2010-2012. The meeting is invited to take note of Doc.30 on tasks suggested for the Secretariat. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

12. Any other Business

13. Adoption of the Report of the Science and Conservation Session

The meeting is requested to provide comments on and adopt the report of the Science and Conservation Session of the 16th AC Meeting.

14. Close of the Session

15. Opening of the **Administrative Session**

Opening Statements may be submitted in writing only in order to save time. They will be circulated and compiled for inclusion in the report of the meeting.

16. Adoption of the Agenda of the Administrative Session

The meeting is invited to review the draft provisional agenda and schedule and to make any proposals for amendment prior to their adoption. Late items may be suggested. Parties will also decide which, if any, agenda items should be discussed in closed session.

17. Budgetary Issues

17.1 Report of the Secretariat on Finance and Administrative Issues

The Secretariat will present in detail the administrative and budgetary reports. The meeting is invited to take note and comment.

17.1.1 Administrative Issues

17.1.2 Report on Accounts for 2008

17.1.3 Certified Financial Reports

17.2 Outline of Budget for 2009

The Secretariat will present in detail the report on the subject. The meeting is invited to take note and comment. The meeting is also invited to decide on the allocation of savings from 2008.

17.3 List of Projects for Funding through ASCOBANS – Allocation of Funding

The meeting is invited to note the project prioritised for funding by the Science and Conservation Session and allocate available funds.

17.4 Any other Finance Issues

18. Evaluation of the New Arrangements for the ASCOBANS Secretariat (2007-2009)

18.1 Presentation of Report and Conclusions

The meeting will be invited to take note of the ASCOBANS Management Study (Doc.15) and the comments submitted by the Secretariat (Doc.16). The Evaluation Working Group will be asked to report on its activities. The meeting is invited to take note and comment.

18.2 Options for Future Arrangements

The meeting will consider Doc.17 on options for future Secretariat arrangements and take note of a review of environmental governance within the UN (Doc.14). The Evaluation Working Group will be asked to report on its activities. The meeting will be invited to take note, comment and make recommendations to be forwarded to the MOP. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

19. Review of Formal Structures and Processes of the Agreement

As instructed in Resolution 6 of MOP5, the meeting is invited to “review, before MOP6, the formal structures and processes of the Agreement to determine whether other mechanisms would be more effective in achieving the conservation objectives of ASCOBANS”. The conclusions reached under Agenda Item 10 and the draft resolution prepared by the Secretariat (Doc.11) will be considered. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

20. Possible Amendment of the Agreement to include all Cetacean Species in the Agreement Area (political, institutional and legal aspects)

The meeting is requested to take note of the relevant deliberations of the Science and Conservation Session as well as of Doc.37 and Doc.38, evaluate their implications for the Agreement and decide on the way forward. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

21. Adoption of Rules of Procedure for Working Groups under the Advisory Committee

The meeting is invited to consider and agree a policy as regards Rules of Procedure for working Groups, in particular whether one or more sets of rules should apply to regional working groups. Doc.18 is expected to be considered at this stage. A Working Group will be formed if needed.

21.1 Jastarnia Group

Parties are invited to consider the adoption of the draft rules of procedure for the working group contained in Doc.18 or an amended version of them.

21.2 North Sea Plan Coordinator/ Steering Group

In the event that a North Sea Plan Steering Group is established as a working group under the Advisory Committee, Parties will be invited to consider and adopt rules of procedure for the group.

22. Consideration and Preparation of Draft Resolutions for MOP 6

The meeting is invited to review draft resolutions to be forwarded to MOP6. Working Groups will be formed if needed.

22.1 Expenditures 2005-07

The meeting is invited to review the draft resolution contained in Doc.09.

22.2 Structure of ASCOBANS Advisory Bodies

The meeting is invited to review the draft resolution contained in Doc.11.

22.3 ASCOBANS Secretariat Provisions

The meeting is invited develop a draft resolution following the conclusions reached under Agenda Item 18.2.

22.4 Inclusion of All Cetacean Species (if applicable)

The meeting is invited develop a draft resolution following the conclusions reached under Agenda Items 9.2 and 20.

22.5 Financial, Budgetary and Administrative Matters 2010-12

The meeting is invited to review the draft resolution contained in Doc.10 and decide on the budgetary scenario/s to be forwarded to the MOP. The meeting will consider the budget proposal made in Doc.12.

23. Any other Administrative Issues

24. Date and Venue of the 6th Meeting of Parties in 2009 and the 17th Meeting of the Advisory Committee in 2010

Parties are invited to come forward with offers to host the ASCOBANS meetings in 2009 and 2010.

25. Adoption of the Report of the Administrative Session

The meeting is requested to provide comments on and adopt the report of the Administrative Session of the 16th AC Meeting.

26. Close of Meeting