

Agenda Item 9.1

Draft Resolutions not Covered Above

Activities of the ASCOBANS Advisory  
Committee and Work Plan

Document 9.1

**Draft Resolution:  
Activities of the ASCOBANS  
Advisory Committee and Work Plan**

**Action Requested**

- Review the draft resolution
- Propose amendments and complete the table
- Endorse the draft resolution for submission to MOP8

Submitted by

Secretariat



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

## **Secretariat's Note**

This draft resolution is based on [Resolution 7.2](#), which contains the work plan for the current period. The table contained in the Annex combines activities contained in Resolution 7.2 and issues included in the outline for a new reporting format for ASCOBANS. The structure is based on that of the Agreement's Conservation and Management Plan as far as applicable.

## Draft Resolution

### Activities of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee and Work Plan

*Reaffirming* the importance of cooperating with and complementing the work of other international bodies and the desirability of drawing upon their expertise;

*Recognizing* that much progress is achieved by the commissioning of work by specialists, whether members of the Advisory Committee or otherwise;

*Recalling* Resolution 11.2 “Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023”, Resolution 11.11 “Enhancing the Relationship between the CMS Family and Civil Society”, Resolution 11.22 “Live Captures of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes”, Resolution 11.23 “Conservation Implications of Cetacean Culture”, Resolution 11.26 “Programme of Work on Climate Change and Migratory Species”, Resolution 11.27 “Renewable Energy and Migratory Species”, Resolution 11.29 “Sustainable Boat-Based Marine Wildlife Watching” and Resolution 11.30 “Management of Marine Debris” adopted by the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in November 2014;

*Further recalling* CMS Resolution 10.14 “Bycatch of CMS-listed Species in Gillnet Fisheries”, Resolution 10.15 “Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans” and Resolution 10.24 on “Further Steps to Abate Underwater Noise Pollution for the Protection of Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species” adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in November 2011 and still extant;

*Reaffirming* that the Advisory Committee, as a body with the task to provide advice on scientific, policy-related and administrative matters, needs a balance of scientists, policy-makers and administrators to cover its role adequately;

*Stressing* that the successful work of the Advisory Committee depends on the ability of its members to allocate sufficient time to the work of the Committee and its working groups;

#### *The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS*

1. *Decides* that, subject to sufficient resources being provided, the Advisory Committee and Secretariat should carry out the Work Plan attached as Annex 1;
2. *Instructs* the Secretariat to provide reports on its progress with the implementation of relevant parts of the Work Plan to each meeting of the Advisory Committee;
3. *Decides* that the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat, with respect to the implementation of the activities requested of the Parties, should:
  - (a) [Focus a substantial part of available resources on two priority issues: bycatch and disturbance by noise;]
  - (b) Monitor general developments with respect to other issues at stake, and report if new urgencies arise;
  - (c) Strengthen the co-operation and interaction with the European Commission (DG Mare and DG Environment), other international organizations (e.g. ACCOBAMS,

CBD, CMS, HELCOM, ICES, IWC and OSPAR), fishery and other economic sectors and non-governmental organizations;

(d) Encourage co-operation and interaction with non-Party Range States;

4. *Reiterates* its request that Parties:

(a) Ensure that all nominated Advisory Committee members and their advisors can allocate time to attend Advisory Committee meetings, to intersessional work, and to participate in intersessional Advisory Committee working groups;

(b) Continue to ensure where possible suitable expertise within delegations to the Advisory Committee;

5. *Encourages* Parties to support the activities outlined in Annex 1 by means of financial and in-kind contributions;

6. *Urges* Parties to implement the relevant actions agreed in other extant Resolutions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS as well as the Conference of the Parties to CMS.

**Draft ASCOBANS Work Plan 2017-2020**

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING
<b>Habitat Conservation and Management</b>		
<b>Fisheries-related Threats</b>		
1. Review new information on <b>bycatch</b> and associated strandings, bycatch mitigation and monitoring measures, including local initiatives, and fisheries effort. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
2. Review new information on <b>resource depletion</b> and its impacts on small cetacean populations. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)</b>		
3. Review new information on <b>underwater noise</b> , its impacts on small cetaceans and their prey species, mitigation measures, technological developments, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
4. Review new information on the <b>cetacean watching industry</b> , impacts on small cetaceans, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
5. Review new information on <b>recreational sea use</b> , impacts on small cetaceans, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
6. Review new information on <b>other sources of disturbance</b> , impacts on small cetaceans, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)</b>		
7. Review new information on <b>pollution</b> and hazardous substances including microplastics, and its impacts on small cetaceans and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING
8. Review new information on <b>marine debris</b> (ingestion and entanglement) and its impacts on small cetaceans. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
9. Review new information on <b>ship strikes</b> and its impacts on small cetaceans. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
10. Review new information on <b>unexploded ordnance</b> , its impacts on small cetaceans and their habitat, and methods for its environmentally-friendly removal. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
11. Review new information on <b>climate change</b> , including ocean acidification, and its impacts on small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
12. Review new information on <b>physical habitat change</b> , e.g. from construction, and its impacts on small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
13. Review new information on <b>any other issues</b> , including emerging issues posing a potential threat, and their impact on small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas</b>		
14. Review best practice approaches to management of marine protected areas for small cetaceans. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Regional Initiatives</b>		
15. Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan), establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan	Jastarnia Group	At each annual meeting
16. Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea, establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan	North Sea Group	At each annual meeting

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING
17. Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the Western Baltic, the Belt Seas and the Kattegat, establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan	Jastarnia Group	At each annual meeting
18. Review progress and actions in the “Extension Area” and establish collaboration, as appropriate	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Surveys and Research</b>		
<b>Biological Information</b>		
19. Review new information on small cetacean population size, distribution, structure, life-history parameters and causes of any changes in the ASCOBANS area. Make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Monitoring Programmes</b>		
20. Review new information on monitoring programmes relevant for small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Dedicated Surveys and Other Relevant Research</b>		
21. Review new information on dedicated surveys and other research relevant for small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Project Funding</b>		
22. Issue call for project proposals when instructed to do so by the Advisory Committee, and conduct consultation on prioritization to the next meeting	Secretariat	When instructed
23. Prepare for each meeting of the Advisory Committee an overview of approved activities requiring funding	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING
<b>Use of Bycatches and Strandings</b>		
<b>Stranding Networks</b>		
24. Review new information on the establishment and functionality of stranding networks, especially with a view to facilitating liaison and skill-sharing. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Strandings</b>		
25. Review new information provided through the national reports. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Cetaceans at Risk/Facing Hazards</b>		
26. Seek to develop improved liaison and skill-sharing across the ASCOBANS Area concerning responses to individual or groups of small cetaceans at risk in dangerous circumstances	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
27. Facilitate development of guidelines for responses to individual or groups of small cetaceans at risk in dangerous circumstances	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
<b>Information and Education</b>		
<b>Information, Outreach and Education</b>		
28. Make efforts to implement the existing (and possible future) CEPA Plan	Parties / Partners / Secretariat	
29. Review and revise, if necessary, the ASCOBANS Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan, in alignment with the Communication Strategy for Migratory Species (currently in draft)	AC / Secretariat	
30. Develop the ASCOBANS website, including the children's website and other information material as needed, aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of target audiences in the languages of the Agreement Area	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
31. Support annual celebration of the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in May	Parties / Partners / Secretariat	Every year

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING
32. Facilitate presentation of the ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award at MOP9	Secretariat / AC	AC Meeting before MOP9
33. Take advantage of attendance at other fora to give presentations or make information available on ASCOBANS related topics	Secretariat / Parties / Partners	Throughout the intersessional period
34. Report on outreach and communication issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting
<b>Stakeholder Involvement</b>		
35. Work towards strengthening or establishing positive relationships with stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and Advisory Councils	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
<b>Institutional Issues</b>		
<b>Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops</b>		
36. Ensure the cycle of Advisory Committee Meetings, with papers circulated one month in advance of the meetings	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting
37. Organize meetings of regional working groups (Jastarnia Group, North Sea Group) at intervals defined in each group's ToR	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
38. Organize workshops including at the annual conferences of the ECS on topics of priority interest to ASCOBANS, funding permitting	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting
39. Support intersessional correspondence working groups as needed	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
40. Seek to secure a host for the 9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties at least a year in advance of the meeting; otherwise arrange for it to be held in Bonn	Secretariat	One year before MOP9
<b>Budgetary and Administrative Matters</b>		
41. Report on budgetary and administrative issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting
42. Prepare draft budget options and resolutions on budgetary and administrative issues for consideration at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee prior to MOP9	Secretariat / AC	AC Meeting before MOP9

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING
43. Encourage Parties and partner organizations to provide voluntary contributions for projects prioritised by the AC or outreach initiatives	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
44. Develop funding arrangements for projects prioritized by the Advisory Committee and Meeting of Parties	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
<b>Cooperation with Other Organizations</b>		
45. Identify priorities and improve co-operation between ASCOBANS and the European Union institutions	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
46. Ensure close collaboration with the Secretariats and scientific advisory bodies of the CMS Family on all issues of mutual interest	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
47. Seek to implement the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (CMS Resolution 11.2) and consider the development of sub-targets	AC	
48. Seek to cooperate closely with CBD, ECS, HELCOM, ICES, IWC, NAMMCO, OSPAR, UNCLOS and other relevant organizations	Secretariat / AC	Throughout the intersessional period
49. Seek to strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations	AC / Partners / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
50. Compile a list of Dates of Interest and report back to each meeting of the Advisory Committee on attendance at such meetings	Secretariat / Parties / Partners	At each AC Meeting
51. Insofar as budgetary provisions and guidance by the Advisory Committee allow for it, ensure proper representation at meetings of other relevant organizations	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
<b>Other Matters</b>		
52. Consider output of informal working group on large cetaceans in the Agreement Area, which summarizes information on the species and addresses aspects of their conservation	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	As appropriate during the intersessional period
53. Promote accession of non-Party Range States and the European Commission to the Agreement	Secretariat / Parties	Throughout the intersessional period

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING
54. Present to the Meeting of Parties a summary of, <i>inter alia</i> , progress made and difficulties encountered since the last Meeting of Parties	Secretariat	At MOP8
55. Support Parties, Range States and Agreement bodies in implementing this Work Plan, in so far as primary responsibility does not lie with the Secretariat	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
56. Present to Parties, each year no later than 30 June, provided all reports have been received sufficiently in advance of that date, a compilation of Annual National Reports	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting