

Resolution No. 2:

Work Plan for the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee and Secretariat 2017-2020 and Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023

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 11th 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 10th 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;

Also recalling United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1 (2015) adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcoming the inclusion therein of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its commitment on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, while recognizing also the connections between healthy and productive oceans and other Sustainable Development Goals;

Reaffirming that the Advisory Committee, as a body with the task of providing 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;

Grateful to the chairs and members of the working groups supporting the Advisory Committee in its functions;

Acknowledging the important role that non-governmental organizations play in the work of the Advisory Committee and its working groups;

Noting also the other resolutions adopted at this meeting and having a bearing on this Work Plan, in particular Resolution No. 1 on National Reporting;

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, its working groups and the Secretariat, with respect to the implementation of the activities requested of the Parties, should:
 - (a) focus each year's agenda for the Advisory Committee meeting on the issues covered in the Annual National Reports on the previous year, according to the schedule outlined in Resolution No. 1 on National Reporting;
 - (b) monitor general developments with respect to other issues at stake, and report if new urgencies arise, including from topic areas considered by the working groups;
 - (c) identify for each relevant activity in the Work Plan related work streams of other fora, and strengthen the cooperation and interaction in particular with the European Commission (DG Mare and DG Environment), other international organizations (e.g. ACCOBAMS, CBD, CMS, HELCOM, ICES, IWC, NAMMCO and OSPAR), fishery and other economic sectors and non-governmental organizations;
 - (d) encourage co-operation and interaction with non-Party Range States;
4. *Calls upon* Parties to submit meaningful National Reports as outlined in Resolution No. 1 adopted at this meeting in order to enable the Advisory Committee to assess progress with the implementation of the Agreement and make recommendations accordingly;
5. *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;
6. *Encourages* Parties and relevant non-governmental organizations to support the activities outlined in Annex 1 by means of financial and in-kind contributions;
7. *Adopts* the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 as appended in Annex 1 to CMS Resolution 11.2;
8. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other States, relevant multilateral bodies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations working towards the conservation of migratory species to integrate the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan within relevant policy and planning instruments, and also to take action to raise awareness of the Plan; and
9. *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.

Annex 1 – ASCOBANS Work Plan 2017-2020

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
Habitat Conservation and Management			
Fisheries-related Threats			
<p>1. Review new information on bycatch and associated strandings, bycatch mitigation and monitoring measures, including remote electronic monitoring and any further new techniques as well as local initiatives, and fisheries effort. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.</p>	<p>8.3 Jastarnia Plan 8.4 Common Dolphins 8.5 Bycatch 8.9 Cumulative Impacts</p>	<p>AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)</p>	<p>2018</p>
<p>2. Develop a joint working group with ACCOBAMS on bycatch.</p>	<p>8.5 Bycatch</p>	<p>AC (incl. Bycatch Working Group) / Secretariat</p>	<p>As soon as possible</p>
<p>3. Review whether the following remain appropriate, bearing in mind the overall objective of the Agreement to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans, and to make recommendations to Parties as appropriate:</p> <p>(a) the current maximum annual removal rate of 1.7 per cent of the best available estimate of abundance</p> <p>(b) the current intermediate precautionary aim of reducing bycatch to less than 1 per cent of the best available estimate of abundance</p> <p>(c) the objective of restoring and/or maintaining management units or populations to 80 per cent or more of their carrying capacity</p> <p>(d) the assessment/management units that have been proposed for regularly occurring species.</p>	<p>8.5 Bycatch 5.7 Research 5.5 Incidental Take 3.3 Incidental Take</p>	<p>AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)</p>	<p>2018</p>

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
4. Make recommendations on appropriate triggers indicating when an environmental limit (an unacceptable interaction) is at risk of being reached or exceeded.	8.5 Bycatch	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
5. Review new information on resource depletion and its impacts on small cetacean populations. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)			
6. Review new information on underwater noise , 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.	8.6 Ocean Energy 8.8 Munitions 8.9 Cumulative Impacts 8.11 Noise EIA Guidelines 6.2 Offshore Construction 5.4 Adverse Effects	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2017
7. Review new information on ocean energy , its impacts on small cetaceans, mitigation measures, technological developments, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.6 Ocean Energy 8.9 Cumulative Impacts 6.2 Offshore Construction 5.4 Adverse Effects	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2017
8. Review new information on the cetacean watching industry , impacts on small cetaceans, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2019

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
9. Review new information on recreational sea use , impacts on small cetaceans, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2019
10. Review new information on other sources of disturbance , impacts on small cetaceans, best practices and guidelines. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts 5.4 Adverse Effects	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2019
Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)			
11. Review new information on underwater munitions , their impacts on small cetaceans and cetacean habitat, and methods for their environmentally-friendly removal. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.8 Munitions 8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2017
12. Review new information on marine debris (ingestion and entanglement), including microplastics, and its impacts on small cetaceans. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
13. Review new information on other forms of pollution and hazardous substances, and their impacts on small cetaceans and cetacean habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.7 PCBs 8.9 Cumulative Impacts 7.4 Chemical Pollution 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2019
14. Review new information on ship strikes and their impacts on small cetaceans. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts 5.4 Adverse Effects	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2019

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
15. Review new information on climate change and ocean acidification, and the impacts these have on small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2019
16. Review new information on physical habitat change , 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.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2019
17. Review new information on any other issues , including emerging issues posing a potential threat, and the impact they have on small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2019
Management of Cumulative Impacts			
18. Review best practice approaches to management of cumulative impacts on small cetaceans and their habitats, such as marine spatial planning. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.9 Cumulative Impacts	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2017
19. Contribute to the development of risk maps showing the spatial and temporal (by season) distribution of activities that have an impact on cetaceans, including information provided in National Reports, taking into account the work done by other organizations (funding may be required).	8.1 National Reporting	AC	2020
Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas			
20. Review best practice approaches to management of marine protected areas for small cetaceans. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.1 National Reporting 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2019
21. Contribute to the development of a map of MPAs where cetaceans form part of the selection criteria, for the entire ASCOBANS Area, including information provided in National Reports, taking into account the work done by other organizations (funding may be required).	8.1 National Reporting	AC	2020

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
Species Action Plans and Regional Initiatives			
22. 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.	8.3 Jastarnia Plan 7.1 Porpoise Conservation 6.1 Jastarnia and North Sea Plans	Jastarnia Group	At each annual meeting
23. 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.	7.1 Porpoise Conservation 6.1 Jastarnia and North Sea Plans	North Sea Group	At each annual meeting
24. 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.	7.1 Porpoise Conservation	Jastarnia Group	At each annual meeting
25. Finalize the Conservation Plan for Common Dolphins and circulate it to the Parties for adoption.	8.4 Common Dolphins	AC	2017
26. Review progress and actions in the “Extension Area”, maintain or establish collaboration, as appropriate.	8.1 National Reporting 7.3 Actions in Extension Area 5.3 Extension of Area	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	At each AC meeting

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
Surveys and Research			
Biological Information			
27. Review new information on population size, distribution, structure, life-history parameters and causes of any changes in the ASCOBANS Area of populations of small cetaceans. Make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities.	8.1 National Reporting 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
Monitoring Programmes			
28. 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.	8.1 National Reporting 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
Dedicated Surveys and Other Relevant Research			
29. 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.	8.1 National Reporting 5.7 Research 4.7 Populations 3.5 Population Studies	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
30. Contribute to the development of maps of survey effort, including information provided in National Reports, taking into account the work done by other organizations where appropriate (funding may be required).	8.1 National Reporting	AC	2020
Project Funding			
31. 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
32. Prepare for each meeting of the Advisory Committee an overview of approved activities requiring funding.		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
Use of Bycatches and Strandings			
Stranding Networks			
33. 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.	8.10 Stranding Response	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
34. Engage actively in the ongoing work on best practice guidelines for stranding events in the frameworks of the International Whaling Commission and ACCOBAMS.	8.10 Stranding Response	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups) / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
35. Facilitate development of guidelines for responses to individual or groups of small cetaceans at risk in dangerous circumstances.	8.10 Stranding Response	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
Strandings			
36. Review new information provided through the national reports. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.	8.1 National Reporting 8.10 Stranding Response	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
37. Engage actively in the ongoing work on best practice guidelines for necropsies in the frameworks of the International Whaling Commission, the European Cetacean Society and ACCOBAMS.	8.10 Stranding Response	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups) / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
38. Continue monitoring new information on the causes of strandings and mortality of cetaceans, as well as best practice guidance on stranding responses and necropsies, and to make recommendations to Parties as appropriate.	8.10 Stranding Response 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
39. Contribute to the development of a map showing location and numbers of strandings (both dead and alive), including information provided in National Reports, taking into account the work done by other organizations where appropriate.	8.1 National Reporting	AC	2020

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
Information and Education			
Information, Outreach and Education			
40. Make efforts to implement the existing (and possible future) Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan.		Parties / Partners / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
41. 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	2019
42. 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.	5.8 Education and Promotion	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
43. Support annual celebration of the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise on the 3 rd Sunday in May.	8.3 Jastarnia Plan	Parties / Partners / Secretariat	Every year
44. Facilitate presentation of the ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award at MOP9.		Secretariat / AC	2019
45. Take advantage of attendance at other fora to give presentations or make information available on topics related to ASCOBANS.		Secretariat / Parties / Partners	Throughout the intersessional period
46. Report on outreach and communication issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee.		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting
Stakeholder Involvement			
47. Work towards strengthening or establishing positive relationships with stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and European fisheries Advisory Councils.		AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
Institutional Issues			
Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops			
48. Ensure Advisory Committee Meetings are organized as scheduled, with papers circulated one month in advance of the meetings.		Secretariat	For each AC Meeting
49. Arrange for a special session dealing with a species selected by the previous meeting at each meeting of the Advisory Committee, covering issues such as population status and structure, distribution, abundance, life history, threats and pressures, the conservation status and recommendations for research and conservation actions.		AC / Secretariat	For each AC Meeting
50. Organize meetings of regional working groups (Jastarnia Group, North Sea Group) at intervals defined in each group's ToR.		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
51. Organize workshops including at the annual conferences of the ECS on topics of priority interest to ASCOBANS, funding permitting.		Secretariat	As instructed
52. Support intersessional correspondence working groups as needed.		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
53. Seek to secure a host for the 9 th Meeting of Parties at least a year in advance of the meeting; otherwise arrange for it to be held in Bonn.		Secretariat	2019
Budgetary and Administrative Matters			
54. Report on budgetary and administrative issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee.		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting
55. 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	2019

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
56. Encourage Parties and partner organizations to provide voluntary contributions for projects prioritized by the AC or outreach initiatives.		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
57. Develop funding arrangements for projects prioritized by the Advisory Committee and Meeting of Parties.		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
Cooperation with Other Organizations			
58. Identify priorities and improve co-operation between ASCOBANS and institutions of the European Union.		AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
59. 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
60. Seek to implement the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 (CMS Resolution 11.2) and consider the development of sub-targets.		AC	Throughout the intersessional period
61. Seek to cooperate closely with CBD, ECS, HELCOM, ICES, IWC, NAMMCO, OSPAR, UNCLOS, UNEP and other relevant organizations.	8.6 Ocean Energy 8.7 PCBs 8.8 Munitions 8.10 Stranding Response 5.8 Education and Promotion	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
62. Seek to collaborate with the ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC), the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) established by the European Union, the Regional Coordination Groups, and other relevant organizations addressing bycatch.	8.5 Bycatch	AC	Throughout the intersessional period
63. Transmit information on the effects of PCBs on small cetaceans to UNEP, the Stockholm Convention, the CLRTAP Protocol on POPs, HELCOM and OSPAR for further consideration and possible action, and seek to engage with these processes as far as feasible.	8.7 PCBs	Secretariat / Ac	Throughout the intersessional period
64. Seek to strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations.		AC / Partners / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
65. 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
66. 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
National Reports			
67. Develop the sections of the reporting format one by one, starting with those to be considered in each report and at the first Advisory Committee Meeting after MOP8.		AC	Annually
68. In developing the detail of each section, consult experts on the subjects in order to ensure that essential information is gathered in a form that standardizes responses and lends itself to statistical analysis as far as possible, and decide which topics should be reported on by region.		AC	Annually
69. Make full use of the information submitted in order to assess progress in the implementation of the Agreement and make recommendations to Parties.		AC	Annually

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
70. Tailor the agenda for each of the meetings of the Advisory Committee to reflect the topics selected for the previous year's national reports.		AC	Annually
Other Matters			
71. Consider output of the 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
72. Promote accession of non-Party Range States and the European Commission to the Agreement.		Secretariat / Parties	Throughout the intersessional period
73. 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 MOP9
74. 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
75. 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