

Draft Resolution No. 1: National Reporting

Recalling Article 2.5 of the Agreement requesting Parties to submit to the Secretariat a brief report not later than 31 March each year, covering progress made and difficulties experienced during the past calendar year in implementing the Agreement;

Conscious that an assessment of the progress in implementing the Agreement is possible only through meaningful national reporting;

Mindful that in national reporting, the right balance needs to be struck with respect to the information desired and the use to which the data will be put, so as not to burden the Parties unnecessarily;

Grateful for the work undertaken by the Advisory Committee in developing a new reporting format that reflects the range of issues relevant to small cetacean conservation in the Agreement Area, and for its advice on the periodicity;

The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

1. *Decides* that Parties will be required to submit one comprehensive national report within each MOP-cycle;
2. *Further decides* that in order to meet the requirements of Article 2.5 of the Agreement the obligation to submit brief annual reports is retained, covering basic information as well as in-depth considerations on specific topics, as outlined below;
3. *Adopts* the outline for national reports presented in Annex 1;
4. *Directs* that each topic should be considered at least once per intersessional period, and that the report submitted in the year of the Meeting of the Parties should provide up-to-date information on all these topics, as follows
 - (a) all reports (annually): Section I, Section VII
 - (b) 2016 Report (for AC23 in 2017) and 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020): Section II B3, B4, C8 and D15
 - (c) 2017 Report (for AC24 in 2018) and 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020): Section II A1, A2 and C9, Section III, Section IV
 - (d) 2018 Report (for AC25 in 2019) and 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020): Section II B5, B6, B7, C10, C11, C12, C13, C14, E16 and E17, Section VI
 - (e) only 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020): Section V
5. *Requests* the Advisory Committee
 - (a) to 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 this Meeting of the Parties;

- (b) in developing the detail of each section, to 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 to decide which topics should be reported on by region;
 - (c) make full use of the information submitted in order to assess progress in the implementation of the Agreement and make recommendations to Parties;
 - (d) tailor the agenda for each of its meetings to reflect the topics selected for the previous year's national reports;
6. *Urges* Parties to submit their national reports by the deadline of 31 March of each year, indicated in Article 2.5 of the Agreement, making use of the online reporting system developed for the CMS Family;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to remind Parties of the date for submission of their national reports;
8. *Recognizes* that in order to meet its obligation to present Parties with a summary of the Party reports by 30 June of each year, as required in Article 4.2 of the Agreement, the Secretariat requires the submission of all national reports sufficiently in advance of this date;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to inform the Common Information Management, Communication and Outreach Team of the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats of the comments made by ASCOBANS Parties regarding the functionalities of the online reporting system, which would be useful when working to improve it;
10. *Repeals* Resolution No. 1 of MOP1 (1994) on National Reports.

Annex 1

Outline of a Revised National Reporting Format for ASCOBANS

Section I: General Information

A. Party Information

1. Name of Party
2. Details of National Coordinator (Focal Point) for ASCOBANS
3. Details of delegates (contributors to the report)
4. List of relevant national institutions

Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

[Where indicated, each threat/pressure shall have the following standard questions associated with it:

- *Specific, where available quantitative information on the threat, provided on a national or regional geographic scale, as appropriate (by sea area / by action plan area)*
- *The perceived level of risk to favourable conservation status (FCS) or good environmental status (GES), i.e. is the pressure increasing, decreasing, staying the same or unknown; to be done on a species by species basis where applicable*
- *Any notable instances/issues in the reporting period*
- *How the pressure is being managed, incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)*
- *Relevant new research/work/collaboration*

Any additional questions considered appropriate are indicated separately below].

A. Fisheries-related Threats

1. *Bycatch*

- *Standard questions*
- *Changes in fishing effort (for fisheries known to have an impact)*
- *Application of mitigation measures and alternative gear*
- *Monitoring / data collection programmes (also in recreational fisheries)*

2. *Resource Depletion*

- *Standard questions*

B. Disturbance (including potential physical impacts)

3. *Noise (impulsive i.e. piling and continuous/ambient i.e. shipping)*

- *Standard questions (unless already covered below)*
- *Any notable instances/issues in the reporting period, including providing information on planned or completed significant developments/activities,*

including the details of EIAs and monitoring in place before, during and after the project and relevant new research and work/collaborations

- Noise management for individual approved activities
- Noise management for cumulative impact, including assessment of associated or coincidental activities, regulations and guidelines, seismic shot point densities and level of impact that was assessed and deemed acceptable

4. Ocean Energy

- *Standard questions*

5. Cetacean Watching Industry

- *Standard questions*

6. Recreational Sea Use

- *Standard questions*

7. Other Sources of Disturbance

- *Standard questions*

C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

8. Unexploded Ordnance

- *Standard questions*

9. Marine Debris (ingestion and entanglement)

- *Standard questions*

10. Pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics)

- *Standard questions*

11. Ship Strikes

- *Standard questions*

12. Climate Change (incl. ocean acidification)

- *Standard questions*

13. Physical Habitat Change (e.g. from construction)

- *Standard questions*

14. Other Issues

- *Standard questions*

D. Management of Cumulative Impacts

15. Marine Spatial Planning

- National processes
- Transboundary processes

E. Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas

16. *List of protected areas, e.g. Natura 2000 sites*

- Number, names and status of MPAs with cetaceans forming part of the selection criteria
- Information on management measures, incl. any temporal/spatial restriction of activities i.e. seasonal fishery closures, changes to vessel activity etc.

17. *Website or contact where spatial information on MPAs can be obtained*

Section III: Surveys and Research

A. Biological Information (per species)

1. *Abundance estimates*

- Area of coverage
- Survey period applicable
- Method of abundance estimation
- Confidence limits where applicable

2. *New information on Life history parameters*

- Age at sexual maturity
- Inter-birth intervals
- Calf and adult mortality rates
- Potential reproductive span
- Longevity

B. Monitoring Programmes

3. *High level overview of current monitoring programme*

4. *Detail of any planned activities of note*

5. *Relevant outputs to note (by species)*

C. Dedicated Surveys and Other Relevant Research

6. *Aerial surveys (how many have been conducted, over which area, when?)*

- Number of surveys
- Area covered (with map)
- For which species?
- Timeframe of survey

7. *Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM)*

- Locations of moored instruments (with map)
- Timeframe of survey

- Target species
- Make and model of instruments used

8. Other research (not mentioned elsewhere in Section II, III or IV)

- Name of the project
- Institution
- Duration
- Aim
- Method

Section IV: Use of Bycatches and Strandings

A. Stranding Network

1. Collection of Carcasses

- Details (phone, email, website)

2. Live-Stranding Responses

- Details (phone, email, website)

B. Strandings

3. Recorded events (for each)

- Species
- Location
- Number of animals found per event
- Found dead or alive

4. Chosen response in the event of live strandings

- (Attempted/successful) re-floating
- (Attempted/successful) rehabilitations
- Euthanasia (incl. method used)

5. Necropsies

- Details of responsible institution (phone, email, website)
- Protocol used for dissection methodologies, collection of samples etc.
- Number of carcasses necropsied
- Causes of death identified
- Any notable issues to report

6. Database

- Details of responsible institution (phone, email, website)

Section V: Legislation

A. Overview of Legislative Framework

1. National

- Legislation
- Guidelines

2. Regional / International

- Legislation
- Guidelines

Section VI: Information and Education

A. Education and outreach

- Details of education/outreach events, stakeholders engaged i.e. industry, and threat/species focused on
- Details of information/outreach materials produced, threat/species focused on and target audience

Section VII: Other Matters

A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement

B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement