

Agenda Item 5.3

Strategic and Institutional Issues

Activities of the Advisory Committee and
Work Plan

Document 5.3 Rev.1

Draft Resolution:

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

Action Requested

- Review of the draft Resolution
- Introduce any changes as desired
- Adopt the Resolution

Submitted by

Advisory Committee



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

Secretariat's Note

This Draft Resolution has been developed by the drafting group established by the 22nd Meeting of the Advisory Committee, in collaboration with the Secretariat.

The drafting group based its work on an earlier draft presented in [AC22/Doc.9.1](#) and took guidance from the discussions.

In Revision 1, the proposed title and text has been expanded to allow for adoption of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, as explained in MOP8/Doc.5.1.

Draft Resolution:

**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 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 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;

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) 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. *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; and
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;
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. 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</p>	<p>AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)</p>	<p>2018</p>
<p>3. Make recommendations on appropriate triggers indicating when an environmental limit (an unacceptable interaction) is at risk of being reached or exceeded</p>	<p>8.[5] Bycatch</p>	<p>AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)</p>	<p>2018</p>

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
4. 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)			
5. 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] EIA Guidelines 6.2 Offshore Construction 5.4 Adverse Effects	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2017
6. 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
7. 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
8. 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
9. 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)			
10. 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
11. 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
12. 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
13. 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
14. 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
15. 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
16. 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			
17. 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
18. Develop risk maps showing the spatial and temporal (by season) distribution of activities impacting on cetaceans, based on information provided in National Reports (funding may be required)	8.[1] National Reporting	AC	2020
Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas			
19. 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
20. Develop a map of MPAs where cetaceans form part of the selection criteria, for the entire ASCOBANS Area, based on information provided in National Reports (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			
21. 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	7.1 Porpoise Conservation 6.1 Jastarnia and North Sea Plans	Jastarnia Group	At each annual meeting
22. 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
23. 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
24. Finalize and adopt the Conservation Plan for Common Dolphins on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties	8.[4] Common Dolphins	AC	2017
25. 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			
26. 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			
27. 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			
28. 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
29. Develop maps of survey effort, based on information provided in National Reports (funding may be required)	8.[1] National Reporting	AC	2020
Project Funding			
30. 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
31. 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			
32. 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] Necropsy and Rescue	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
33. 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] Necropsy and Rescue	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups) / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
34. Facilitate development of guidelines for responses to individual or groups of small cetaceans at risk in dangerous circumstances	8.[10] Necropsy and Rescue	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	
Strandings			
35. 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] Necropsy and Rescue	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
36. 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] Necropsy and Rescue	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups) / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
37. 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] Necropsy and Rescue 5.7 Research	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2018
38. Develop a map showing location and numbers of strandings (both dead and alive), based on information provided in National Reports (funding may be required)	8.[1] National Reporting	AC	2020

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
Information and Education			
Information, Outreach and Education			
39. Make efforts to implement the existing (and possible future) Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan		Parties / Partners / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
40. 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
41. 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
42. 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
43. Facilitate presentation of the ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award at MOP9		Secretariat / AC	2019
44. 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
45. Report on outreach and communication issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting [or: 2019?]
Stakeholder Involvement			
46. 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			
47. Ensure Advisory Committee Meetings are organized as scheduled, with papers circulated one month in advance of the meetings		Secretariat	For each AC Meeting
48. 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
49. Organize meetings of regional working groups (Jastarnia Group, North Sea Group) at intervals defined in each group's ToR		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
50. Organize workshops including at the annual conferences of the ECS on topics of priority interest to ASCOBANS, funding permitting		Secretariat	As instructed
51. Support intersessional correspondence working groups as needed		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
52. 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			
53. Report on budgetary and administrative issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee		Secretariat	At each AC Meeting
54. 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
55. Encourage Parties and partner organizations to provide voluntary contributions for projects prioritised by the AC or outreach initiatives		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
56. Develop funding arrangements for projects prioritized by the Advisory Committee and Meeting of Parties		Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
Cooperation with Other Organizations			
57. Identify priorities and improve co-operation between ASCOBANS and institutions of the European Union		AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
58. 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
59. 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
60. 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] Necropsy and Rescue 5.8 Education and Promotion	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
61. 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
62. Seek to strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations		AC / Partners / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period
63. 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
64. 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			
65. 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
66. 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
67. 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
68. 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

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	LINK TO EXTANT RESOLUTIONS	ACTION BY	TIMING
Other Matters			
69. 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
70. Promote accession of non-Party Range States and the European Commission to the Agreement		Secretariat / Parties	Throughout the intersessional period
71. 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
72. 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
73. 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