

Agenda Item 7

Cooperation with other Bodies

Reports by the Secretariat, Parties and  
Partners

Document Inf.7.1.a

**Reports from Relevant Meetings  
Back to ASCOBANS**

**Action Requested**

- Take note
- Comment

Submitted by

Secretariat



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

## **Secretariat's Note**

The Rules of Procedure adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee remain in force until and unless an amendment is called for and adopted.

## Reports from Relevant Meetings Back to ASCOBANS

**6-9 October 2015**

**OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Biodiversity Monitoring and Assessment (ICG-COBAM), Trondheim, Norway**

**Report: Jan Haelters (Belgium)**

Since the publication of the OSPAR Quality Status Report (QSR) 2010, OSPAR has been working with other Regional Seas Conventions and the European Commission to develop common and widely applicable assessment tools. Many new indicators of the state of the marine environment, notably in the field of biodiversity, have been identified and assessment methods were developed for a number of them. The assessments and tools are required for delivery of both the OSPAR North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (The OSPAR Strategy) and the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD – with national reporting required in 2018).

In 2017, OSPAR has published its *Intermediate Assessment*<sup>1</sup>. This assessment covers both environmental status and trends across the North-East Atlantic. It includes consideration of biological diversity, with a.o. first assessments of common indicators of biodiversity.

For cetaceans, it includes an assessment of abundance and distribution, divided into three chapters:

- *Abundance and distribution of killer whales* (pilot assessment);
- *Abundance and distribution of coastal bottlenose dolphins*, and
- *Abundance and distribution of cetaceans* (other than coastal bottlenose dolphins and killer whale).

These assessments include data from SCANS III. Next to these, there is an assessment of *Harbour Porpoise Bycatch*. OSPAR has a Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP) that aims to deliver comparable data from across the OSPAR maritime area, which can be used in assessments to address the specific questions raised in the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP). While for many biodiversity indicators a coordinated monitoring (including a methodology, monitoring and reporting schedule, reporting format, quality assurance and assessment methodology) has been developed and even accepted in the CEMP, the ones on cetaceans require further development. This will be dealt with by OSPAR in the coming years.

For the full report, please refer to the [OSPAR website](#).

**12-13 October 2015**

**Third Meeting of the Strategic Plan Working Group, Bonn Germany**

**Report: Secretariat**

While the general process of the new Strategic Plan is relevant for all CMS instruments, including ASCOBANS, there were no specific ASCOBANS points on the agenda.

For the full report please refer to: [CMS Strategic Plan Working Group](#)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oap.ospar.org/en/ospar-assessments/intermediate-assessment-2017/>

### 13-15 October 2015

#### **NAMMCO Symposium: Impact of Human Disturbance on Arctic Marine**

##### **Mammals**

There were no specific ASCOBANS points on the agenda.

For the full report please refer to:

<http://nammco.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/report-nammco-disturbance-symposium.pdf>

### 14-15 October 2015

#### **44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee (CMS, Bonn, Germany)**

##### **Report: Secretariat**

ASCOBANS Secretariat reported to the meeting (see [UNEP/CMS/StC44/6.2.5](http://www.unep.org/cms/stC44/6.2.5)); for the full report please refer to:

[http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/stC44\\_report\\_approved\\_nov2016\\_e.pdf](http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/stC44_report_approved_nov2016_e.pdf)

### 20-22 October 2015

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (Nice, France)**

##### **Report: Secretariat**

The meeting considered many subjects also of relevance to ASCOBANS, such as bycatch, noise, boat-based wildlife watching, marine debris, development of species conservation plans, including one on the common dolphin, stranding responses, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and other EU processes. The Secretariat representative briefed the meeting on recent developments in CMS and ASCOBANS and highlighted opportunities for collaboration. For the full report, please refer to:

[http://www.accobams.org/new\\_accobams/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SC10\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.accobams.org/new_accobams/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SC10_Final_Report.pdf).

### 9-12 November 2015

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee (SC)**

##### **Report: Geneviève Desportes (NAMMCO)**

Reports from three Working Group (WG) were reviewed: Large Whale Assessment WG, the NAMMCO-JCNB<sup>2</sup> Joint WG, and the NASS<sup>3</sup> Planning WG. The SC also discussed the NASS Steering Committee's post-survey report as well as stock update and issues pertaining both to cetaceans and pinnipeds. The full report of the Scientific Committee can be accessed from the [NAMMCO website](http://www.nammco.no).

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<sup>2</sup> Joint Greenland Canada Commission on narwhal and beluga

<sup>3</sup> North Atlantic Sightings Survey

Many issues discussed are not pertinent to ASCOBANS, as pertaining to areas or species outside its jurisdiction. A variety of issues were, however, relevant because of common issues or shared stock and are listed below.

### **By-catch**

By-catch remains an issue of importance in many areas in the North Atlantic, including in NAMMCO countries, with many uncertainty about by-catch rate for most species and areas. SC 21 assigned ToRs to a WG on By-Catch (BYCWG): 1) Identify all fisheries with potential by-catch of marine mammals; 2) Review and evaluate current by-catch estimates for marine mammals in NAMMCO countries; 3) If necessary, provide advice on improved data collection and estimation methods to obtain best estimates of total by-catch over time. The WG should include expertise from fisheries and external marine mammal/by-catch science. The SC recommended to initiate the work of the BYCWG by convening an introductory one-day meeting to schedule the work.

### **Pilot whale**

The Faroes have developed a scientific monitoring programme to update biological parameters. Samples collected include teeth, reproductive organs and stomach content. The plan is to continue to collect samples from every drive and deliver results to the next assessment meeting. The Faroes continue their tagging programme and tagged 5 whales on August 24. Preliminary results suggest that pilot whales move widely around in the North Atlantic.

### **Harbour porpoise**

Tagging of harbour porpoises continues in Greenland, and some of the 2014 tags are still operating. Tissue samples are being collected for various analyses for comparison with previous sampling programs. In response to the recommendations from the 2013 Harbour Porpoise WG, the Institute of Marine Research is seeking external funding for initiating work on harbour porpoises in cooperation with other research groups.

### **NASS 2015**

The objectives of the survey were to obtain fully corrected abundance estimates for predefined target species and all areas of importance for management, in particular of i) pilot whales around Faroe Islands ii) minke whales in West Greenland, around Iceland, Jan Mayen and Svalbard and the central Norwegian sea and iii) fin whales southwest of Iceland.

Survey effort included a shipboard survey around the Faroe Isles and around Iceland, an aerial survey of the Icelandic coastal waters and the shelf waters in East (first time) and West Greenland and as well as a shipboard survey around Jan Mayen and the Norwegian Sea following methods developed for the Norwegian minke whale surveys. With the exception of the Icelandic aerial survey that was hampered by unusually bad weather conditions, all the national surveys were successfully completed and resulted in valuable data useful for abundance estimation of the target species.

### **10-11 February 2016**

#### **24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO Report: Geneviève Desportes (NAMMCO)**

The member countries of NAMMCO, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway again confirmed their commitment to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of marine mammals through active regional cooperation and science-based management decisions. Many issues discussed, concerning both seal and cetacean stocks in the NAMMCO area of jurisdiction, as well as more administrative matters, were not directly relevant to ASCOBANS, although the main conclusion of the meeting are relevant. The full report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting can be accessed from the [NAMMCO website](#).

One of several positive results and initiatives presented to Council 24 was a clear result of sound and science-based management following advice from NAMMCO, with the increasing stocks of narwhal, beluga and walrus off Greenland.

However, Council 24 recognises that increased human activities (shipping, mining, etc.) in the Arctic may threaten the ecosystem. The parties were particularly concerned by a large-scale iron-ore project (Mary River Project) which may include shipping up to 10 months a year through some of the most important areas for narwhal, beluga and walrus. The increased shipping activities and noise disturbances could lead to the marine mammals abandoning these areas, which would have severe consequences for local communities, both in Canada and Greenland.

Climate change carries serious consequences for marine mammals, which can already be seen from the decreasing blubber thickness of harp seals and minke whales in the Barents Sea, and the changes in geographical distribution of minke whale and fin whale around Iceland.

Of specific relevance to ASCOBANS were two points under 12. *External Relations* mentioning ASCOBANS and that are copied below.

## 12.2 ASCOBANS

*As noted above, the General Secretary underlined the benefits to conservation of joining forces and competence when possible. She presented three areas where a scientific cooperation with ASCOBANS would be of relevance to both organisations.*

*The assessment of North Sea harbour porpoises, so far considered a single stock and therefore a shared stock between one NAMMCO party (Norway) and several ASCOBANS parties (Sweden, Denmark, UK, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France), was the most obvious. The estimation of life parameters, population health status, impact of anthropogenic disturbances, including by-catch, and their mitigation were all difficult areas which would benefit from the broadest possible expertise.*

*Within the framework of ecosystem-based management, it was relevant for NAMMCO to monitor / support monitoring the actual impact of persistent organic pollutants on marine top predators, to inform conservation management. Such monitoring was also a theme within ASCOBANS.*

*ASCOBANS had announced its intention of developing a Conservation Plan for Common Dolphins. In the present occurrence of the species as north as Tromsø, the development of this plan may also be an area where sharing of data between both organisations could be beneficial.*

### **Comments**

*The Council **agreed** that a scientific cooperation between ASCOBANS and NAMMCO would be beneficial in some areas. It tasked the Secretariat to consult with the ASCOBANS Secretariat to explore which areas would be best suited for initiating such a scientific cooperation.*

## 12.3 Other business

*In general, with climate change and unforeseeable consequences for marine mammals, the Council agreed that it was essential to increase the scientific cooperation between organisations dealing with marine mammals. NAMMCO should therefore aim at strengthening its cooperation with the Arctic Council, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), OSPAR, the Agreement on the*

*Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and any other international instrument, which may require the advice of NAMMCO.*

*IWMC noted that NAMMCO wishes to strengthen its cooperation with the organisations having competence in marine mammals. In that respect, IWMC advised NAMMCO to develop in particular stronger links with the FAO and CITES.*

**12-16 March 2016**

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society “Into the Deep – Research and Conservation on Oceanic Marine Mammals”**

**Report: Secretariat**

For further information see: <http://europeancetaceansociety.eu/conference/30th-annual-conference-funchal-madeira>

**12-14 April 2016**

**12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group, ASCOBANS**

**Report: Secretariat**

Resolution 2/10 (Oceans and Seas) and Resolution 2/11 (Marine plastic litter and microplastics) were most relevant to ASCOBANS. For a full report of the meeting see:

[http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC23\\_2.1.a\\_Report%20of%20the%2012%20Jastarnia%20Group%20Meeting.pdf](http://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC23_2.1.a_Report%20of%20the%2012%20Jastarnia%20Group%20Meeting.pdf)

**23-27 May 2016**

**Second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2), UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya**

**Report: Secretariat**

For a full report of the meeting see:

<http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/10646>

**30 August – 1 September 2016**

**8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties (MOP8), ASCOBANS**

**Report: Secretariat**

The following Recommendations are of particular relevance to ASCOBANS: 10.6 (ship strikes) and 10.10 (live strandings). The following Resolutions are of particular relevance to ASCOBANS: 6.9 (Format of National Implementation Reports), 6.16 (Interactions between fisheries and cetaceans), 6.17 (Anthropogenic Noise), 6.21 (Species Conservation Management Plans) and 6.22 (Cetacean Live Stranding). For a full report of the meeting see:

<http://www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/MOP8>

**22-25 November 2016**

**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Parties (MOP6)**

**Report: Secretariat**

For a full report of the meeting and the resolutions see:

<http://www.accobams.org/meetings/6th-meeting-parties-accobams/>

**4-7 November 2016**

## 23rd Meeting of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee Report: Geneviève Desportes (NAMMCO)

Reports from four Working Group (WG) were reviewed: By-Catch WG, Coastal Seal WG, Abundance Estimates WG and ICES/NAFO/NAMMCO WG on Harp and Hooded seals; as well as the report from the Symposium on *Impact of Human Disturbance on Arctic Marine Mammals*. The full report of the Scientific Committee can be accessed from the [NAMMCO website](#).

Many issues discussed are not pertinent to ASCOBANS, as pertaining to areas or species outside its jurisdiction. A variety of issues were, however, relevant because of common issues or shared stock and are listed below.

### By-catch

The By-catch WG met in February at the Marine Research Institute, Reykjavik, Iceland. The specific aims of the first meeting were to establish the framework of the WG work and a) identify what data and other information were available and which data were missing to be able to evaluate current by-catch estimates in NAMMCO countries, b) recommend possible Chairs, and c) schedule the next meeting and define its specific TOR.

The WG reviewed the status in the NAMMCO countries regarding by-catch reporting systems, types of fisheries and assumed by-catch risks as well as required and existing by-catch related data. The WG agreed that an independent, permanent NAMMCO by-catch WG, with a link to the ICES WGBYC was the best way to proceed with the ToRs established by the SC. Securing fisheries gear and statistics expertise was also a prerequisite.

The SC endorsed the review and the *Modus operandi* defined by the By-Catch WG. The Chair of the By-catch WG will be Kimberley Murray from NEFSC, NOAA, USA, and invited external participants will be Marjorie Lyssikatos (NEFSC, NOAA, USA – chair of the ICES WGBYC) and Simon Northridge (SMRU, SOI, UK – member of the ICES WGBYC).

### Killer whale

The SC noted that in answer to a current request from the Council, this is a species that is hunted in Greenland, with uncertain catch statistics and no abundance estimate. Work is ongoing that will help in answering the request and the SC recommends that the information is gathered with more speed in order for the SC to be able to monitor the hunt.

### Pilot whale

No abundance estimates for pilot whales from the Iceland/Faroe Islands NASS2015 shipboard survey had been available, and the SC **recommended** that the analysis of these data should be completed within the next few months. Abundance estimates had been generated for West Greenland and, for the first time, East Greenland.

### Dolphins

Abundance estimate for white-beaked dolphins were generated from the 2015 data for both West Greenland and, for the first time, East Greenland. The number of sightings in West Greenland was only half of the sightings in 2007, although the decline observed in abundance estimate was not significant. The SC noted that there were also sufficient sightings in the Norwegian shipboard surveys and the Icelandic coastal aerial survey in 2016 to generate an abundance estimate.

### Harbour Porpoise

An increased research effort on harbour porpoises in Norway is being driven by the concerns regarding the by-catch. As part of the 2016 SCANS-III survey, the Norwegian coast from 62°N

to Lofoten was covered by aerial surveys for the first time, and abundance estimates are expected in spring 2017. In addition to the survey effort, a project collecting by-caught porpoises was initiated in 2016. Samples were being collected for diet, genetics, body condition, and life history parameters.

Recent genetic work encompassing sample from Iceland have developed single nucleotide polymorphisms for porpoises, which makes possible to use microsatellite data in a relatedness study, as a possible alternative method to estimate abundance.

Porpoises tagged with satellite transmitters in central West Greenland in July-October made large scale movements in the North Atlantic, after leaving the Greenland shelf area. The return to the coastal areas took place in June, porpoises showed site fidelity to the tagging area, except two animals, that chose East Greenland as summering ground. Abundance estimates were developed for harbour porpoises from the 2015 Greenland aerial surveys, showing an increase in West Greenland from the 2007 estimate.

The SC agreed that a new assessment of harbour porpoises should be considered in 2018 and supported the idea that a future meeting should include scientists from ASCOBANS and the EU.

### **Abundance Survey**

NASS2015 (and 2016 for Norway) was a successful survey, thanks to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Arktis 2030 program for a significant portion of the funding.

### **7-9 February 2017, Monaco**

### **11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS**

For a full report see:

[http://www.accobams.org/new\\_accobams/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SC11\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.accobams.org/new_accobams/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/SC11_Final_Report.pdf)

### **5-6 April 2017**

### **25th Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO**

### **Report: Geneviève Desportes (NAMMCO)**

At the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Commission, the member countries of NAMMCO, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway reaffirmed their commitment to enhance their cooperation regarding marine mammal research, conservation, and management and the improvement of hunting methods. The Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the sustainable and responsible use of marine resources by agreeing on a common declaration at the closure of the meeting, the [Nuuk Declaration](#).

The importance of NAMMCO as a management organisation for marine mammals in the North Atlantic was underlined by the progress accomplished during these 25 years. The sustainable and responsible use of marine mammals had benefitted from

- better knowledge on marine mammal populations and their sustainable management,
- sound management advice contributing to increases in marine mammal population sizes,
- significant improvements in hunting methods,

- the establishment of an observation scheme for hunting activities in member countries.

The Council adopted a Communication and Outreach Strategy and decided to undertake a Performance Review of the organisation by external experts. A new website [www.nammco.no](http://www.nammco.no) was launched, containing information on the conservation and management status of all marine mammal population, as well as matters related to marine mammals in a broader sense. The Council also decided to advance the work on by-catch, entanglement and live strandings by establishing a Working Group dealing with these issues.

During 2017, topics to be dealt with by the Scientific Committee include 1) stock assessments of fin, humpback and common minke whales as well as narwhals and belugas, 2) a global circumpolar review of the conservation status of beluga and narwhal stocks, 3) a review of by-catch of marine mammals by NAMMCO countries, and 4) a workshop in cooperation with scientists having conducted surveys in waters adjacent to the NAMMCO survey areas to gain a wider perspective on cetacean distribution and abundance in the whole North Atlantic.

The Council adopted a new request for advice tasking the Scientific Committee to advise on the best process to investigate the effects of non-hunting related anthropogenic impacts on marine mammals:

*Committed to furthering its ecosystem approach to the management of marine mammals, and recognising the range of anthropogenic pressures facing North Atlantic marine mammals associated with the climate and environmental changes taking place, the Council requests the SC to advise on the best process to investigate the effects of non-hunting related anthropogenic stressors on marine mammal populations, including the cumulative impacts of global warming, by-catch, pollution and disturbance. [R-1.5.4]*

Of specific relevance to ASCOBANS was a mention under 14. *External Relations* mentioning ASCOBANS copied below:

*Following up on the NAMMCO 24 decision to strengthening its scientific cooperation with other organisations, the NAMMCO Opening Statement delivered at ASCOBANS MOP8 conveyed an invitation “to enhance the scientific cooperation between the two organisations to the benefits of small cetacean conservation. Three issues of shared concerns come to mind: by-catch monitoring, estimation and mitigation; the assessment of North Sea harbour porpoises, a shared stock between NAMMCO and ASCOBANS; and the monitoring of the effect of persistent organic pollutants on marine top predators.”*

The full report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Council meeting can be accessed from the [NAMMCO website](http://www.nammco.no).

### 29 April – 3 May 2017 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the European Cetacean Society (Middlefart, Denmark)

For a full report of the meeting see:

<http://www.europeancetaceansociety.eu/conference/31st-annual-conference-denmark>

No reports have been received for the following list of meetings. The webpage of the respective organizations should be consulted for further information.

Date	Organizer	Title	Venue	Participant/ Report
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12-16 October 2015	IMO	37 <sup>th</sup> Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties (London Convention 1972) and 10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Contracting Parties (London Protocol 1996) ( <a href="http://www.imo.org">www.imo.org</a> )	London, UK	IWC
13-15 October 2015	OSPAR	Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Protected Areas (ICG-MPA)	Lisbon, Portugal	
14-15 October 2015	HELCOM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Hazardous Submerged Objects (SUBMERGED 3-2015) ( <a href="http://www.helcom.fi">www.helcom.fi</a> )	Gothenburg, Sweden	
26-30 October 2015	World Cetacean Alliance (WCA)	World Whale Conference (26-27 Oct.), Whale Heritage Sites Summit (28-30 Oct.) ( <a href="http://worldcetaceanalliance.org/2015-conference/">http://worldcetaceanalliance.org/2015-conference/</a> )	Horta, Azores	
28-29 October 2015	HELCOM	1 <sup>st</sup> Workshop of the HELCOM Intersessional Group for MSFD Programmes of Measures (GEAR IG PoM WS 1-2015) ( <a href="http://www.helcom.fi">www.helcom.fi</a> )	Warsaw, Poland	Penina Blankett
2-5 November 2015	CBD	Nineteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTT-19) ( <a href="http://www.cbd.int">www.cbd.int</a> )	Montreal, Canada	
4-6 November 2015	OSPAR	Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (ICG-ML) ( <a href="http://www.ospar.org">www.ospar.org</a> )	Lerwick, Shetland, UK	
9-13 November 2015	HELCOM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Group on the State of the Environment and Nature Conservation (STATE&CONSERVATION 3-2015) ( <a href="http://www.helcom.fi">www.helcom.fi</a> )	Helsinki, Finland	Penina Blankett
26-27 November 2015	HELCOM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Group on Ecosystem-based Sustainable Fisheries (FISH 3-2015) ( <a href="http://www.helcom.fi">www.helcom.fi</a> )	Warsaw, Poland	
1-3 December 2015	OSPAR	Intersessional Correspondence Group on Biodiversity Monitoring and Assessment (ICG-COBAM) ( <a href="http://www.ospar.org">www.ospar.org</a> )	London, United Kingdom	
2-4 December 2015	HELCOM	9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of ad hoc Seal Expert Group (SEAL 9-2015) ( <a href="http://www.helcom.fi">www.helcom.fi</a> )	Germany	Susanne Viker
9-10 December 2015	OSPAR & Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment of the Netherlands	Microplastics Conference – Closing the plastic value chain: measures for reducing microplastic emissions ( <a href="http://www.ospar.org">www.ospar.org</a> )	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Jeroen Vis

13-18 December 2015	Society for Marine Mammalogy	21 <sup>st</sup> Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals: Bridging the Past Toward the Future ( <a href="http://www.marinemammalscience.org">www.marinemammalscience.org</a> )	San Francisco, CA, USA	Fiona Read
19-21 January 2016	OSPAR	Intersessional Correspondence Group on the implementation follow up of measures for the protection and conservation of species and habitats (ICG-POSH) ( <a href="http://www.ospar.org">www.ospar.org</a> )	Trondheim, Norway	Jeroen Vis
1-5 February 2016	ICES	Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC) ( <a href="http://www.ices.dk">www.ices.dk</a> ) Report: <a href="http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2016/WGBYC/01_WGBYC%20Report%202016.pdf">http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2016/WGBYC/01_WGBYC%20Report%202016.pdf</a>	Copenhagen, Denmark	UK
8-11 February 2016	ICES	Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology (WGMME) ( <a href="http://www.ices.dk">www.ices.dk</a> ) Report: <a href="http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2016/WGMME/wgmme_2016.pdf">http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Expert%20Group%20Report/acom/2016/WGMME/wgmme_2016.pdf</a>	Madrid, Spain	UK
21-26 February 2016	AGU, ASLO and TOS	2016 Ocean Sciences Meeting (incl. sessions: The Emerging Science of Marine Debris: From Assessment to Knowledge that Informs Solutions Advances in the ecology, behavior, physiology, or conservation of marine top predators) ( <a href="http://osm.agu.org/2016/">http://osm.agu.org/2016/</a> )	New Orleans, LA, USA	
29 February - 4 March 2016	OSPAR	Biodiversity Committee (BDC) ( <a href="http://www.ospar.org">www.ospar.org</a> )	Gothenburg, Sweden	Jeroen Vis
10-11 March 2016	OSPAR	Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Strategy Framework Directive (ICG-MSFD(1) 2016) ( <a href="http://www.ospar.org">www.ospar.org</a> )	Paris, France	
18-22 April 2016	IMO	69 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) ( <a href="http://www.imo.org">www.imo.org</a> )	London, UK	IWC
25-29 April 2016	CBD	Twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-20) ( <a href="http://www.cbd.int">www.cbd.int</a> )	Montreal, Canada	
4-20 June 2016	IWC	Scientific Committee Meeting (SC66B) ( <a href="http://www.iwc.int">www.iwc.int</a> )	Bled, Slovenia	Mark Simmonds

20-24 June 2016	OSPAR	OSPAR Commission ( <a href="http://www.ospar.org">www.ospar.org</a> )	Tenerife, Spain	Jeroen Vis
1-10 September 2016	IUCN	World Conservation Congress ( <a href="http://iucnworldconservationcongress.org/">http://iucnworldconservationcongress.org/</a> )	Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA	
20-28 October 2016	IWC	66 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC66) ( <a href="http://www.iwc.int">www.iwc.int</a> )	Portorož, Slovenia	
13-17 November 2016	ICMMPA	4th International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (ICMMPA-4) ( <a href="http://icmmpa.org/">http://icmmpa.org/</a> )	Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, México	