

Agenda Item 6.2.6

Further Implementation of the Agreement

Conservation Issues

CMS Family Environmental
Impact Assessment Guidelines
for Noise-generating Offshore
Industries

Information Document 6.2.6b

**Action Plan resulting from the ACCOBAMS
Workshop on Sonars and Cetacean
Interactions**

Action Requested

Take note

Submitted by

ACCOBAMS



Note:

Delegates are kindly reminded to bring their own document copies to the meeting, if needed.

ACTION PLAN resulting from the ACCOBAMS Workshop on sonars and cetacean interactions

| N° | Action | Pilot |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Organisation | | |
| 1 | Request the TG-Noise/MSCG ¹ chairs to share information on EU parties point of contact (POC) | ACCOBAMS Secretariat |
| 2 | Request MEDPOL Focal Points to share information on POC for non-EU Contracting Parties | ACCOBAMS Secretariat |
| 3 | Encourage Parties (Focal Points) to assign a POC in national navies by MOP7 using Resolution 6.17 | ACCOBAMS Secretariat |
| 4 | Allow the ACCOBAMS secretariat to get in direct contact with navies' POC for the purpose of implementing the action plan | Parties |
| 5 | Allow the Secretariat to get into contact with NATO (working group) | Parties |
| 6 | Request the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, with the engagement of the Scientific Committee, to organize information/training/formation session of appropriate bodies in navies (planners and CO), also recalling final report of MOP6 | Parties |
| Information Sharing | | |
| 7 | Provide ACCOBAMS with clarification of the distinction between exercises and operations, for purposes of informing how impacts from naval sonar activities can be mitigated (consider more the activity rather than the area) | French Navy |
| 8 | Map/identify sonar exercise areas, including where major NATO exercises are carried out | ACCOBAMS Secretariat in coordination with navies |
| 9 | Produce an overview of sonar types | ACCOBAMS Secretariat in coordination with navies |
| 10 | Consider listing and prioritizing areas for avoiding or limiting active sonar use | ACCOBAMS SC |
| 11 | Provide navies with available practical information on cetacean distribution (map) and seasonality, in a way that is understandable by navy planners and crews | ACCOBAMS Secretariat |
| 12 | Improve knowledge on cetacean distribution and seasonality, particularly on beaked Whales and unsurveyed areas, and provide updated information to navy planners and crews | ACCOBAMS SC |
| 13 | Provide feedback to ACCOBAMS SC and Secretariat on how information on cetacean distribution and seasonality has been used in planning and mitigation of active sonar activities | Navies |
| 14 | Ask the appropriate scientific organisations in countries to establish cooperation (e.g., data collection) with ACCOBAMS SC | ACCOBAMS Secretariat |
| 15 | Collect data from appropriate bodies (e.g. CMRE ¹) on cetacean distribution | ACCOBAMS SC |
| 16 | Analyse data gaps pertaining to marine mammal conservation and request the | ACCOBAMS SC |

¹ Marine Strategy Coordination Group

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| | ACCOBAMS SC to fill these gaps; priority should be given to areas planned for exercises | |
| 17 | Hold follow-up workshop(s), inclusive of additional navies and NATO, to aid in implementing the elements of this action plan | ACCOBAMS Secretariat, in coordination with navies |
| Protocols/Procedures | | |
| 18 | Prioritize areas of high risk to beaked whales for spatial avoidance (following Bernaldo de Quiros et al. 2019) | ACCOBAMS Secretariat and SC, in coordination with Navies |
| 19 | Ask the navies to provide standing protocols they use, then synthesize and propose a global protocol | ACCOBAMS Secretariat with ACCOBAMS SC |
| 20 | Propose a pilot project to perform scientific surveys of the exercise areas before and after the exercise | ACCOBAMS SC |
| 21 | Propose sending gliders (with hydrophones) to monitor a proposed exercise area ahead of exercises in suitable beaked whale habitat to avoid beaked whales | Navies |
| 22 | Support permanent monitoring of areas used recurrently | Parties |
| 23 | Investigate how to transpose to sonar the best practices used by Germany's Sound Protection Concept (StUk3) for pile driving | ACCOBAMS SC |
| 24 | Ask the relevant bodies to provide guidelines they have already published (e.g. TG Noise) | ACCOBAMS Secretariat |
| 25 | Encourage national navies to make use of relevant guidelines (ACCOBAMS/CMS) | ACCOBAMS Secretariat |
| 26 | Explore the possibility of replacing the notion of "moratorium area" with that of "sensitive zone" | ACCOBAMS SC |
| 27 | Use information on cetacean distribution and seasonality provided by ACCOBAMS in planning and mitigating active sonar activities, and provide feedback to ACCOBAMS on actions taken to reduce impact of sonar on cetaceans | Navies |
| 28 | Give available information relating to use of sonar before, during and after exercises | Navies |
| 29 | Include risk assessment for marine mammals in the planning of major exercises or of regular sonar activity in an exercise area | Navies |