

European strandings database scoping workshop April 2023



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Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



The Scottish
Government



ASCOBANS strandings database workstream timeline

- 2011- *“Feasibility study on the creation of a web-accessed strandings database covering Agreement Party and Range States within the ASCOBANS region (Cadiz ECS)”*
- 2012- [Resolution 7.4](#) (AC19)
- 2015-16- *“Development of a fully costed proposal for a web-accessed database for cetacean stranding and necropsy data in the ASCOBANS region”*
- 2016- [Resolution 8.10](#) (MOP8)
- end 2018- SSFA to *“Develop a web-accessed database for cetacean stranding and necropsy data in the ASCOBANS region”* (USD12.5k)
- 2020- [Resolution 8.10 \(Rev.MOP9\)](#) (MOP9)

[AC19/Doc.6-05](#) presented at AC19 (2012)

[AC23/Inf.9.1a](#) presented at AC23 (2017)

“Strongly encourages the creation of a web-accessed database for marine mammal strandings and necropsy data in the ASCOBANS region, as foreseen in the Agreement’s Conservation and Management Plan; and calls upon Parties to provide funding for the creation and long-term support of such a database”

“Encourages Parties... contributing to the web-accessed database for marine mammal strandings and necropsy data called for in Resolution No. 4 of MOP7 once this database is defined and created”

“Calls on Parties to provide sufficient funding and support for: [...] (d) the creation and maintenance of a web-accessed database for marine mammal strandings and necropsy data called for in Resolution 7.4”



2019/2020

- ZSL approach- tiered, low-cost approach. Effectively subsidized by donation of ZSL ICT staff time
- **Covid...** significant financial impact on ZSL
- Subsequent loss of large number of ZSL ICT staff (furlough→ redundancies)
- Loss of database delivery capability within ZSL
- SSFA funding returned to ASCOBANS due to inability to deliver on contract



Questions arising post 2020

- Is there still appetite for an ASCOBANS strandings/necropsy database? What are the current drivers/stakeholders?
- *Still ASCOBANS region focused? Low cost/simpler approach or more substantial development?*
- *Or development explored in collaboration with other IGO's eg IWC?**
- What funding may be available to support development? What funding sources could be considered (e.g. member states directly, industry)?
- Given developments we would suggest a potential intersessional workshop
- *to reassess and scope scientific and technical aspects of an online database*
- *identify process and potential candidate/s to take this work forward*



2021- Initial discussions between ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, IWC and HELCOM about strandings data reporting; and interest in potential joint development

Thank you...



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- **Contract manager-** Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
- **CSIP partner organisations-** Institute of Zoology, Natural History Museum, Marine Environmental Monitoring, Cornwall Wildlife Trust Marine Strandings Network, University of Exeter/Cornwall Marine Pathology Team
- **SMASS and University of Glasgow.** Scottish Government (Marine Scotland).
- **Live strandings-** British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR), RSPCA, SSPCA, CRRU
- **Collaborators-** Sea Mammal Research Unit, Cefas, APHA, ULPGC, UoE, UoN, UoL, Mordeun Institute, University of Aberdeen, National Museum of Scotland, Finn Pathologists
- **Statutory Authorities-** Maritime and Coastguard Agency/Receiver of Wreck, Natural England, Scotland's Natural Agency, Natural Resources Wales, DAERA
- **NGO's-** WDC, Wildlife Trusts, Seawatch Foundation

