



10th MEETING OF THE PARTIES
Odense, Denmark, 10-12 September 2024
Agenda Item 5.2

DRAFT RESOLUTION: ASCOBANS WORK PLAN 2025-2028

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. This draft Resolution follows the model of the previous [Resolution 9.1](#) on the same subject. The draft Work Plan 2025-2028 is available in [ASCOBANS/MOP10/Doc.5.2b](#), which will be annexed to the adopted Resolution.

Action requested:

2. The Meeting of the Parties is requested to review and adopt the draft Resolution in Annex 1.

DRAFT RESOLUTION:

ASCOBANS WORK PLAN 2025-2028

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 CMS Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP14) *Synergies and Partnerships*, Resolution 11.22 (Rev.COP12) *Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes*, Resolution 11.23 (Rev.COP12) *Conservation Implications of Animal Culture and Social Complexity*, Resolution 11.27 (Rev.COP13) *Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*, Resolution 11.29 (Rev.COP12) *Sustainable Boat-Based Marine Wildlife Watching*, Resolution 12.14 *Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species*, Resolution 12.20 *Management of Marine Debris*, Resolution 12.21 (Rev.COP14) *Climate Change and Migratory Species*, Resolution 12.22 *Bycatch*, Resolution 14.1 *Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032*, Resolution 14.5. *Reducing the Risk of Vessel Strikes for Marine Megafauna*, Resolution 14.6 *Deep-seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities for Marine Megafauna*, Resolution 14.9. *Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans*, and Resolution 14.16 *Ecological Connectivity*,

Also recalling United Nations 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 of providing 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 [10.X] *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 2025-2028 contained in 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 [10.X] *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) identify for each relevant activity in the Work Plan related work streams of other fora, and strengthen the cooperation and interaction in particular with the European Commission (DG Mare and DG Environment), other international organizations (such as CMS, ACCOBAMS, HELCOM, ICES, IWC, NAMMCO and OSPAR), fishery and other economic sectors and non-governmental organizations; and
 - d) encourage co-operation and interaction with non-Party Range States;
4. *Calls upon* Parties to submit meaningful National Reports as outlined in Resolution [10.X] 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 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; and
 - 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;
 7. *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;
 8. *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; and
 9. *Repeals* Resolution 9.1.