



10th MEETING OF THE PARTIES
Odense, Denmark, 10-12 September 2024
Agenda Item 6.1.3

**DRAFT RESOLUTION: ASCOBANS CONSERVATION PLAN
FOR HARBOUR PORPOISES IN THE NORTH SEA**

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. The ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea (the 'North Sea Plan') has been revised through its Steering Group, and is tabled for adoption through a draft Resolution contained in Annex 1 of this document. The revised Plan is available in [ASCOBANS/MOP10/Doc.6.1.3b](#).

Action requested:

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION:

**REVISION OF THE ASCOBANS CONSERVATION PLAN
FOR HARBOUR PORPOISES IN THE NORTH SEA**

Recalling the aim of the Agreement to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans;

Aware that bycatch remains as the greatest threat, but that other factors such as high contaminant levels and both continuous and impulsive underwater noise are also of serious concern,

Recalling Resolution 6.1 *Adoption and Implementation of the Jastarnia and North Sea Plans*,

Acknowledging with appreciation the efforts undertaken by Parties to date to implement the North Sea Plan,

Recalling the requirement for regular reviews and updates of the *ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises (Phocoena phocoena L.) in the North Sea*,

The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

1. *Adopts* the 2024 Revision of the *ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises (Phocoena phocoena L.) in the North Sea* (hereinafter the 'North Sea Plan') annexed to this Resolution;
2. *Urges* the Parties concerned to continue and step-up implementation of the North Sea Plan and *invites* non-Party Range States also to implement this Plan;
3. *Urges* Parties and encourages other stakeholders to support the implementation of the high priority actions identified in the Plan relating to mitigation measures, through international cooperation, national efforts, and by providing the necessary financial means in order to progress this work;
4. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the actions relating to cooperation, public awareness and capacity-building, research and monitoring, through concerted national efforts, their participation in related fora and processes, and by providing the necessary financial means in order to progress these work areas;
5. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* non-Party Range States to nominate fisheries and environment experts to the North Sea Group and enable them to participate regularly in this working group, which is to be composed of representatives from the environment and fisheries sectors of the countries surrounding the North Sea;
6. *Requests* North Sea Parties and non-Party Range States to continue supplying ASCOBANS, in particular through the meetings of the North Sea Group, with updated information on progress in implementing the Plan; and
7. *Further requests* the Advisory Committee to continue reviewing the recommendations of the North Sea Group and to endorse them as appropriate.