

## Resolution No. 2

### Activities of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee and Work Plan

*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* Resolution 6.2 on “Adverse Effects of Underwater Noise on Marine Mammals during Offshore Construction Activities for Renewable Energy Production” adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS;

*Further recalling* Resolution 10.4 on “Marine Debris”, Resolution 10.14 on “Bycatch of CMS-Listed Species in Gillnet Fisheries”, Resolution 10.15 on the “Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans” and Resolution 10.24 on “Further Steps to Abate Underwater Noise Pollution for the Protection of Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species” adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) in November 2011;

*Reaffirming* that the Advisory Committee, as a body with the task to provide 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;

*Welcoming* the draft Work Plan for the forthcoming period developed by the Secretariat and Advisory Committee;

*Noting* that resources are limited and that, while respecting the mandate of the Agreement, a focussed approach is necessary;

*Therefore welcoming* the strategy to focus ASCOBANS’ work recommended by the Advisory Committee, which establishes clear priorities to guide the work of the Contracting Parties, the Advisory Committee and the Secretariat;

#### *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 attached as 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 and the Secretariat, with respect to the implementation of the activities requested of the Parties, should:

- (a) Focus a substantial part of available resources on two priority issues: bycatch and disturbance by noise;
- (b) Monitor general developments with respect to other issues at stake, and report if new urgencies arise;
- (c) Strengthen the co-operation and interaction with the European Commission (DG Mare and DG Environment), other international organizations (e.g. ACCOBAMS, CBD, CMS, HELCOM, ICES, IWC and OSPAR), fishery and other economic sectors and non-governmental organizations;
- (d) Encourage co-operation and interaction with non-Party Range States;

4. *Reiterates* its request that Parties:

- (a) Ensure that all nominated 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;
- (b) Continue to ensure where possible suitable expertise within delegations to the Advisory Committee;

5. *Encourages* Parties to support the activities outlined in Annex 1 by means of financial and in-kind contributions;

6. *Further encourages* Parties to implement the relevant actions agreed in ASCOBANS Resolution 6.2 (2009) on “Adverse Effects of Underwater Noise on Marine Mammals during Offshore Construction Activities for Renewable Energy Production”, as well as those contained in CMS Resolutions 10.4 on “Marine Debris”, 10.14 on “Bycatch of CMS-listed Species in Gillnet Fisheries”, 10.15 on the “Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans” and 10.24 on “Further Steps to Abate Underwater Noise Pollution for the Protection of Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species”.

**Annex 1**  
**ASCOBANS Work Plan**

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING	LINKS TO AGREEMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
<b>Conservation Actions</b>			
1. Review new information on bycatch and associated strandings, bycatch mitigation and monitoring measures, including local initiatives, and fisheries effort and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action, in particular advice concerning the EU Common Fisheries Policy reform and Regulation 812/2004	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	At each AC Meeting	1. Habitat Conservation and Management 2. Surveys and Research
2. Review new information on pollution, including marine debris, and its effects on small cetaceans that occur in the ASCOBANS area and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	At each AC Meeting	1. Habitat Conservation and Management 2. Surveys and Research
3. Review the extent of negative effects of sound, vessels and other forms of disturbance on small cetaceans and review relevant technological developments and best practices, working where possible with initiatives by other organizations	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	At each AC Meeting	1. Habitat Conservation and Management 2. Surveys and Research
4. Develop guidelines which Parties and stakeholders may use to reduce disturbance by noise, where possible in collaboration with ACCOBAMS and other partners	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	2013	1. Habitat Conservation and Management
5. Review knowledge about and potential adverse effects of underwater unexploded ordnance as well as methods for its environmentally-friendly removal and make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	At each AC Meeting	1. Habitat Conservation and Management

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING	LINKS TO AGREEMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
6. Review and catalyse new information on small cetacean population size, distribution, structure and causes of any changes in the ASCOBANS area and make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	AC	At each AC Meeting	1. Habitat Conservation and Management 2. Surveys and Research
7. Review new information on emerging issues posing a potential threat to small cetaceans, such as climate change effects, where possible in collaboration with ACCOBAMS and other partners	AC	At each AC Meeting	1. Habitat Conservation and Management 2. Surveys and Research
8. Review best practice approaches to management of marine protected areas for small cetaceans and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	AC	At each AC Meeting	1. Habitat Conservation and Management
9. Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan), establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan	Jastarnia Group (supported by the Secretariat)	Throughout the intersessional period	
10. Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea, establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan	Coordinator/ North Sea Group (supported by the Secretariat)	Throughout the intersessional period	
11. Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the Western Baltic, the Belt Seas and the Kattegat, establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan	Jastarnia Group (supported by the Secretariat)	Throughout the intersessional period	
12. Consider how the work of ASCOBANS should be extended to take account of the new Agreement Area, including information on ship strikes	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	At each AC Meeting	

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING	LINKS TO AGREEMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
13. Consider output of informal working group on large cetaceans in the Agreement Area, which summarizes information on the species and addresses aspects of their conservation	AC (incl. relevant Working Groups)	As appropriate during the intersessional period	
14. Review progress of bottlenose dolphin project (TURSIOPS SEAs) and advise on a way forward	AC, led by UK	At each AC Meeting	
15. Issue call for project proposals and conduct consultation on prioritization prior to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	
16. Seek to develop improved liaison and skill-sharing across the ASCOBANS Area concerning (1) responses to individual or groups of small cetaceans at risk in dangerous circumstances (this would include but not be limited to small cetaceans entering ports and rivers and live entangled animals); and (2) associated investigations into the causes of such problems and the development of strategies to address these issues	AC	During the intersessional period	
<b>ASCOBANS Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops</b>			
17. Ensure the cycle of Advisory Committee Meetings, with papers circulated one month in advance of the meetings	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Article 4.2
18. Seek to secure a host for the 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties at least a year in advance of the meeting; otherwise arrange for it to be held in Bonn	Secretariat	One year before MOP8	Article 4.2
19. Organize meetings of regional working groups (Jastarnia Group, North Sea Group) at intervals defined in each group's ToR	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1, 4.2
20. Consider revisions to the national reporting format and make recommendation to the 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties	AC	During the intersessional period	

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING	LINKS TO AGREEMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
21. Organize workshops at the annual conferences of the ECS on a topic of priority interest to ASCOBANS, funding permitting	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	
22. If feasible, hold a joint CMS Family workshop on a subject of common interest such as bycatch	Secretariat	During the intersessional period	
23. Support intersessional correspondence working groups as needed	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	
24. Propose priorities for the coming period	AC	AC Meeting before MOP8	
<b>Budgetary and Administrative Issues</b>			
25. Report on budgetary and administrative issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Article 4.2
26. Present a draft budget for the next financial period for consideration at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee prior to MOP8	Secretariat / AC	AC Meeting before MOP8	Article 4.1, 4.2
27. Prepare draft resolutions on budgetary and administrative issues for consideration at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee prior to MOP8	Secretariat / AC	AC Meeting before MOP8	Article 4.1, 4.2
28. Encourage Parties and partner organizations to provide voluntary contributions for projects prioritised by the AC or outreach initiatives	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1
29. Assist in developing funding arrangements for projects prioritized by the Advisory Committee and Meeting of Parties	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING	LINKS TO AGREEMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
<b>Communication, Education and Public Awareness</b>			
30. Report on outreach and communication issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Article 4.2
31. Implement CEPA to raise awareness of issues related to cetacean conservation in the Agreement Area, with a particular focus on outreach to relevant stakeholders, and where possible in collaboration with partner organizations	Secretariat / Parties and partners	Throughout the intersessional period	5. Information and education
32. Develop the ASCOBANS website, and other information material as needed, aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of target audiences in the languages of the Agreement Area	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	5. Information and education
33. Support annual celebration of the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in May	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	5. Information and education
34. Facilitate presentation of the ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award at MOP8	Secretariat / AC	AC Meeting before MOP8	5. Information and education
<b>Cooperation with other Organizations</b>			
35. Identify priorities and improve co-operation between ASCOBANS and the European Union institutions	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1, 4.2
36. Ensure close collaboration with the Secretariats and scientific advisory bodies of CMS and other CMS Regional Agreements on all issues of mutual interest	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1, 4.2
37. Seek to cooperate closely with CBD, ECS, HELCOM, ICES, IWC, NAMMCO, OSPAR, UNCLOS and other relevant organizations	Secretariat / AC	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1, 4.2

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING	LINKS TO AGREEMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN
38. Work towards establishing positive relationships with other stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and Regional Advisory Councils	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1, 4.2
39. Compile for each meeting of the Advisory Committee a report of representation of ASCOBANS at other meetings and a list of Dates of Interest	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Article 4.1, 4.2
40. Insofar as budgetary provisions and guidance by the Advisory Committee allow for it, ensure proper representation at meetings of other relevant organizations	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1
<b>Institutional Issues</b>			
41. Promote accession of non-Party Range States and the European Commission to the Agreement	Secretariat / Parties	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1
42. Present to Parties, each year no later than 30 June, provided all reports have been received sufficiently in advance of that date, a compilation of Annual National Reports	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Article 4.2
43. Present to the Meeting of Parties a summary of, <i>inter alia</i> , progress made and difficulties encountered since the last Meeting of Parties	Secretariat	At MOP8	Article 4.3
44. Support Parties, Range States and Agreement bodies in implementing this Work Plan, in so far as primary responsibility does not lie with the Secretariat	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1