

Resolution No. 3

Research and Conservation Actions in the Extension of the Agreement Area

Recalling Resolution No. 4 of the 4th Meeting of the Parties (2003) on the Extension of the ASCOBANS Agreement Area;

Noting that the Amendment agreed to under Resolution 4.4 entered into force on 3 February 2008;

Further noting that ACCOBAMS Resolution A/4.1 agrees an extension of the ACCOBAMS geographical scope, resulting in an overlap with the ASCOBANS Agreement Area;

Welcoming the willingness of the ACCOBAMS Parties “to strengthen their collaboration with the ASCOBANS Parties and Secretariat in order to establish synergies in matters and activities of common interests”, as expressed in the above-mentioned resolution;

Conscious that the distribution of many small cetacean species found within the original Agreement Area extends further west and south than those initial boundaries, as do the human pressures on those populations;

Emphasizing that in order to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans as outlined in provision No. 2.1 of the Agreement, the work of the Agreement needs to extend its focus beyond the original Agreement Area;

Noting with gratitude the work undertaken by the Intersessional Working Group on Research and Conservation Actions Undertaken in the Extended Agreement Area;

The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

1. *Reiterates* the importance of close collaboration between ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS;
2. *Decides* that such collaboration should focus on issues of common concern in order to use resources most prudently;
3. *Welcomes* the establishment of joint working groups on thematic issues, such as the ones created to deal with underwater noise and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
4. *Further welcomes* the efforts of the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS to collaborate closely, and instructs the Secretariat to continue and build upon these efforts;
5. *Welcomes* OSPAR Decision 2010/5 on the establishment of the Josephine Seamount High Seas Marine Protected Area;
6. *Requests* the ASCOBANS Secretariat to discuss with the OSPAR Secretariat potential cooperation in relation to cetacean conservation in the Josephine Seamount High Seas Marine Protected Area;

7. *Requests* the Advisory Committee to continue considering recent research and conservation actions within the Extension Area, and to make recommendations on priority actions;
8. *Calls upon* Parties in the Extension Area, and invites non-Party Range States to give priority to the following joint actions:
 - (a) planning for, and funding of, a third “SCANS-type” survey to include the entire extension area;
 - (b) giving particular attention to bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin and harbour porpoise populations, as well as particular species such as beaked whales, including obtaining a better understanding of population structure;
 - (c) further consideration of the impact of ship strikes on cetaceans in collaboration with ACCOBAMS and the IWC, making use of the Global Ship Strikes Database of the IWC, and identification of any potential high-risk areas and mitigation measures if appropriate;
 - (d) further consideration of the impact of bycatch, including the need for improved monitoring particularly of inshore fleets, collation of data, working in particular with ICES, and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures, taking into account similar work in other areas;
 - (e) collecting and sharing strandings-related data, including consideration of “drift models”, taking into account similar work in other areas;
9. *Encourages* non-Party Range States to ratify ASCOBANS to allow full cooperation for the benefit of the species.