

Agenda Item 14.3.1

Implementation of the ASCOBANS Triennial  
Work Plan (2007-2009)

Review of New Information on Bycatch and  
Other Causes of Mortality

Format for Reporting of Effort in Fisheries with  
High Risk of Bycatch

**Document 17**

**Collection and Provision of Fishing  
Effort Data**

**Action Requested**

- take note and comment
- decide on a suitable reporting format

Submitted by

Secretariat



**NOTE:**  
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR OWN  
COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

### **Secretariat's Note**

This document was produced by a working group during the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee and was annexed to the Report of that meeting as Annex 7. On the basis of this work, Parties should decide on a suitable reporting format for fishing effort in relevant fisheries.

## Collection and provision of fishing effort data

**This document refers to Resolution No. 5 of MoP 5 on incidental take of small cetaceans and to AC14/Doc.18 (C) presented to the Advisory Committee, Evaluating the bycatch of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS area.**

Under **Resolution No. 5: Incidental take of Small Cetaceans**, agreed at the last Meeting of Parties, Parties and Range States are urged to *“Collect and provide to the Advisory Committee information on the extent, type and distribution of static gillnet and tangle net effort in a format to be determined by the Advisory Committee”*.

The Advisory Committee proposes to the European Commission, in the interests of consistency and efficiency, that a joint request be put to ICES to evaluate fisheries effort and distribution in the static net sectors in the ASCOBANS area, with possible cooperation also with OSPAR and Helcom. This would help to meet ASCOBANS' objectives. However, in order to maintain its expertise and facilitate its independent evaluations on this important conservation matter, the Advisory Committee should seek transparent access to the data gathered and request regular reports of ICES' findings.

Detailed information on professional and recreational fishing effort is required in order to meet ASCOBANS' aims to identify, together with cetacean distribution data, potential bycatch problem areas and periods [and for competent authorities to be able to identify suitable bycatch mitigation measures].

It is suggested that the required data should be gathered and updated on an annual basis and in a standardised format.

- a. Data should be divided into appropriate categories with as much detailed information as possible of fishing vessels (number), by nation and year (e.g. professional (>15m), professional (<15m), recreational) and presented according to the ICES fishing divisions, sub-division and rectangle in which the fishing effort occurs.
- b. Data should include the maximum and minimum length of net fished at any one time by vessels (presented in consolidated format e.g. by number of vessels fishing with a maximum length of net within the range of 10km bands e.g. 0-10km, 10-20km, 20-30km total length etc) and also number of days hauling and soak times (km\*hr).
- c. For each specific fishery or metier, as much descriptive details as possible should be given of the fish target, types of nets used (e.g. mesh size, material, height of nets, hanging ratios, rigging details such as float and lead lines, use of pingers and/or other technical mitigation measures) and the configuration in which they are set (e.g. parallel tiers set at a certain distance and length).
- d. Data should be presented to show the monthly variation in set net effort by maximum net length deployed (km) and soak time (km\*hr) in each ICES fishing division, sub-division and rectangle.
- e. Where possible, the distribution of netting effort, as a monthly average, should be mapped within each ICES division, sub-division and rectangle, using GIS data (and recorded by gear type).
- f. Where the above data are not available, this should be stated explicitly in the annual report. However, all data which are available (e.g. number of relevant fishing vessels, by type and by port) should be provided together with details of measures being taken to obtain the outstanding data.