

Agenda Item 5

Implementation of the Triennium Work Plan
(2010-2012)- Other Issues

Document 5-05

**Proposed ECS/ASCOBANS
Workshop on Implementation of the
cetacean component of the Habitats
Directive in EU Member States**

Action Requested

- Take note of the proposal
- Comment and provide guidance on follow-up

Submitted by

ECS / Secretariat



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

Proposed ECS/ASCOBANS Workshop on

Implementation of the cetacean component of the Habitats Directive in EU Member States

Galway 24 March 2012

The EU Habitats Directive is the driver for considerable research and monitoring of cetacean populations within Europe. Under this Directive EU member states are required to maintain species considered at risk at a favourable conservation status. This includes all cetacean species as they are all listed on Annex IV of the Directive. For two species (harbour porpoise and bottlenose dolphin) a *coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation* must be established. The Directive applies to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of each state, which for some countries extends 200 nm offshore.

Under Article 17 of this Directive, Member States must report on the status of each species in its waters every six years. The first report on implementation of this Directive was required in 2007 and the next report will be in 2013. Many Member States, for most species, have returned an assessment of *Unknown*, reflecting the difficulties in monitoring mobile marine species. Member States are thus required to greatly improve their knowledge of the distribution, abundance and *status* of cetaceans in their waters.

We have the opportunity to hold a workshop on this topic at the next European Cetacean Society Conference in Galway, Ireland, on Saturday 24 March 2012. We suggest a full day's workshop will be required.

We will invite representatives from a number of Member States who can provide an overview of surveys, research and monitoring aimed at addressing legal obligations under this Directive. We also hope to identify a suitable representative from the EU who can advise on interpretation of the Directive, and a statistician to review the scope for use of current datasets from a statistical perspective.

We intend to produce a short report outlining current practice within Europe in addressing this issue which could inform a debate on this topic. We propose making this a joint workshop with ASCOBANS. The outcomes of this workshop would provide highly relevant to ASCOBANS and may also encourage Ireland to sign up to this agreement

Indicative budget (significant savings might be possible):

Item	Cost €	Sponsorship	Balance
Workshop Venue	500	GMIT	0
Coffee/Lunch	up to 1000		up to 1000
Travel of Invited Speakers	up to 3000		up to 3000
Accommodation of Invited Speakers	up to 2000		up to 2000
Production of Report	up to 1000		up to 1000
Printing and Circulation	1000	ECS	0
TOTAL	up to 8500		up to 7000

Dr Simon Berrow.
6 April 2011