

Agenda Item 1.3

Opening of the Meeting

Opening of the Scientific Session

Document 1.3 rev.1

**ASCOBANS Work Plan 2013-2016 –
Progress**

Action Requested

- Take note
- Comment

Submitted by

Secretariat



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

Secretariat's Note

1. This document contains an overview of action points for the current intersessional period of ASCOBANS, covering the work of the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee and Parties, as adopted by the 7th Meeting of the Parties in Resolution No. 2. It also indicates what progress has already been made in the implementation of the individual activities.
2. The decisions and action points agreed under each agenda item of the 20th Advisory Committee Meeting will serve to provide guidance on further action required.

ASCOBANS Work Plan 2013-2016 - Progress

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING	LINKS TO AGREEMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN	PROGRESS
Conservation Actions				
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	AC20 to discuss Bycatch WG report: AC20/Doc.3.1.1.a
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	AC20 to discuss Pollution compilation at AC20 Marine Debris WG report: AC20/Doc.3.4.2
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	AC20 to discuss Activities of Noise WG: AC20/Doc.3.2.1.a Proposed new ToR: AC20/Doc.3.2.1.b
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	AC20 to discuss Activities of Noise WG: AC20/Doc.3.2.1.a Proposed new ToR: AC20/Doc.3.2.1.b

WORK PLAN ACTIVITY	ACTION BY	TIMING	LINKS TO AGREEMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN	PROGRESS
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	AC20 to discuss Briefing paper AC20/Doc.3.5
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	AC20 to discuss ECS Workshop report: AC20/Doc.4.1.1
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	AC20 to discuss
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	AC20 to discuss ECS Workshop report: AC20/Doc.4.2.1
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		AC20 to discuss JG9 Report: AC20/Doc.2.1.1.a

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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		AC20 to discuss NSG2 Report: AC20/Doc.2.2.1.a Coordinator Report: AC20/Doc.2.2.1.b Implementation Report: AC20/Doc.2.2.1.c NSG3 Meeting August 2013
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		AC20 to discuss JG9 Report: AC20/Doc.2.1.1.a
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		AC20 to discuss Working Group Report: AC20/Doc.4.3.1.
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		AC20 to discuss
14. Review progress of bottlenose dolphin project (TURSIOPS SEAs) and advise on a way forward	AC, led by UK	At each AC Meeting		AC20 to discuss
15. Issue call for project proposals and conduct consultation on prioritization prior to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting		AC20 to discuss Responses to 2013 call: AC20/Doc.6.2.a

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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		AC20 to discuss ECS workshop report: AC20/Doc.3.6
ASCOBANS Meetings, Working Groups and Workshops				
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	AC20 August 2013
18. Seek to secure a host for the 8 th 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	JG9 April 2013 NSG3 August 2013
20. Consider revisions to the national reporting format and make recommendation to the 8 th Meeting of the Parties	AC	During the intersessional period		AC20 to discuss

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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		AC20 to discuss Workshop Reports: Chemical Pollution AC20/Doc.3.4 White-beaked Dolphins AC20/Doc.4.1.c Population Structure AC20/Doc.4.1.1 Spatial Management AC20/Doc.4.2.1
22. If feasible, hold a joint CMS Family workshop on a subject of common interest such as bycatch	Secretariat	During the intersessional period		AC20 to discuss
23. Support intersessional correspondence working groups as needed	Secretariat	Throughout the intersessional period		AC Workspace: AC20/Doc.7
24. Propose priorities for the coming period	AC	AC Meeting before MOP8		
Budgetary and Administrative Issues				
25. Report on budgetary and administrative issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Article 4.2	AC20/Doc.15.1 AC20/Doc.15.2 AC20/Doc.15.3
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	

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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	AC20 to discuss Activities Requiring Funding: AC20/Doc.6.2.b
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	AC20/Doc.6.1.a
Communication, Education and Public Awareness				
30. Report on outreach and communication issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	Article 4.2	AC20/Doc.5.2
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	AC20 to discuss Secretariat's report: AC20/Doc.5.2 Special efforts during Anniversary Year 2012
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	Secretariat's report: AC20/Doc.5.2 Draft Kids' Zone developed
33. Support annual celebration of the International Day of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise on the 3 rd Sunday in May	Secretariat	At each AC Meeting	5. Information and education	Secretariat's report: AC20/Doc.5.2

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34. Facilitate presentation of the ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award at MOP8	Secretariat / AC	AC Meeting before MOP8	5. Information and education	
Cooperation with other Organizations				
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	AC20 to discuss MSFD WG: AC20/Doc.14.3
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	AC20 to discuss Joint WGs with ACCOBAMS on Noise and MSFD Collaboration CMS Family: AC20/Doc.14.2.a AC20/Doc.14.2.b rev.1
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	AC20 to discuss Role of NGOs: AC20/Doc.14.1.b
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	AC20 to discuss SAMBAH Stakeholder Workshop: AC20/Doc.14.4
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	AC20 to discuss AC20/Doc.14.1.a AC20/Doc.14.5

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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	AC20 to discuss
Institutional Issues				
41. Promote accession of non-Party Range States and the European Commission to the Agreement	Secretariat / Parties	Throughout the intersessional period	Article 4.1	AC20 to discuss
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	