

Agenda Item 3.2.1

Review of New Information on Threats to Small  
Cetaceans

Underwater Noise

Report and Recommendations of the  
Working Group

Document 3.2.1.c

**Offer to Coordinate the  
ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS Open-  
ended Intersessional Working Group  
on Noise**

**Action Requested**

- Take note
- Decide on response

Submitted by

Secretariat



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

## **Secretariat's Note**

The CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat received the enclosed offer by OceanCare to support the intersessional work on underwater noise in the framework of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, as well as possibly CMS (see AC20/Doc.3.2.1.b), by taking on a coordinating function. It is herewith presented to the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee for its guidance.

Dr Bradnee Chambers  
ASCOBANS Acting Executive Secretary  
UNEP/CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat  
UN Campus  
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1  
53113 Bonn  
Germany

Via email: [ascobans@ascobans.org](mailto:ascobans@ascobans.org) / [bchambers@cms.int](mailto:bchambers@cms.int)

Wädenswil, July 22, 2013

**Reference: Offer to coordinate the ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Noise**

Dear Dr Chambers

OceanCare was very pleased, when in 2009 Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) Parties created an open-ended intersessional working group on noise. We have been honoured to participate in the activity of this working group, which has worked in collaboration with a sister working group for ACCOBAMS. In 2012 the ASCOBANS and Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) working groups on noise were helpfully merged and the joint working group has continued to progress the activities articulated in ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17, ASCOBANS Resolution 6.2 and ASCOBANS Resolution 7.2 – disseminating information about activities and developments between ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS and other international bodies, as well as developing guidelines for ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS Parties to consider.

OceanCare has been working for the protection of marine mammals and oceans since 1989 and has enjoyed a productive and collaborative relationship with ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS. In 2004 OceanCare was entrusted as an ACCOBAMS Partner and as a long-standing member of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, OceanCare contributes expertise and is closely involved in the working groups on ocean noise pollution, bycatch and other threats. Working within official process is an important focus of our work. As such, we were pleased to also be granted Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 2011 so that we could provide expert advice on questions surrounding the protection of the marine environment, including noise pollution.

OceanCare understands that our additional support of the working group might be welcomed in order to renew the momentum of the work on this important subject, and in this spirit we would like to tender an offer to act as a Coordinator to the Joint ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS Working Group on Noise. We understand that in doing so we would operate under Terms of Reference that are endorsed by both ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS Parties, and that our role would be to coordinate the activities and reporting of the working Group under ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS Party direction. Where necessary an expert would be consulted.

We would extend this offer to coordinating a trilateral working group if, at some point in the future, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) also joins this initiative in response CMS Resolution 9.19 and CMS Resolution 10.24.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss this proposal with you or for the opportunity to present our credentials for this role to the ASCOBANS Parties.

Yours sincerely



Sigrid Lüber  
OceanCare President