



ASCOBANS workshop on MPA management for small cetaceans

Summary – Status report

16th Meeting of the Jastarnia Group, 8-9 June 2020 (online)

Stina Nyström, WWF Sweden

9 June 2020

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Background



- Need identified during ASCOBANS AC25 – Action point 11;
It is of particular interest to ASCOBANS to obtain an overview of the current scale of MPAs and to review best practice approaches to their management in order to make recommendations to Parties, taking MPAs beyond being just ‘paper parks’. Therefore, it is requested that an international workshop be organized (involving among others ASCOBANS, the European Commission and ACCOBAMS) on cetacean MPA management.
- Jointly organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Finland; WWF Germany; WWF Sweden; Coalition Clean Baltic and ASCOBANS



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment

Coalition Clean Baltic



Status planning process, WS target group



Status:

- Since ASCOBANS AC25 regular planning meetings within the organizational committee (with support of WS facilitator)
- Developed a provisional programme/schedule* and draft set-up for WS
- Original plan to host in 20-22 April in Finland – no new dates set yet but aiming for autumn

Target groups:

- ASCOBANS's Parties and Non-Party Range States
- Main target group; Experts on small cetaceans (and threats), MPA managers, policy makers
- Aim to keep small; ~ 35 participants
- By invitation only (first one sent out by ASCOBANS secretariat in March)

*https://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/ascobans_jg16_inf3.9_mpa-workshop_programme_0.pdf

Workshop goal



Our aim is to have an open atmosphere, allowing for innovative ideas!

Objectives:

- **Objective 1:** To discuss criteria of *well-formulated conservation objectives*, and to collect and develop examples of such objectives
- **Objective 2:** To outline a *toolbox of ambitious management measures* for mitigating threats and improving habitats in small cetacean MPAs
- **Objective 3:** To share experiences of managing small cetacean MPAs and to learn from each other

Threats to be addressed: Fisheries bycatch, Impulsive and continuous underwater noise, Environmental contaminants, Ecosystem changes (including prey depletion and habitat quality), Disturbance from presence of humans (whale watching, leisure crafts etc.)

Questions?



Please contact ASCOBANS secretariat:
ascobans.secretariat@ascobans.org

Organizational committee: Ida Carlén, CCB; Penina Blankett, Ministry of the Environment, Finland; Stina Nyström, WWF Sweden; Heike Zidowitz, WWF Germany, Mark Simmonds, Humane Society International; and Jenny Renell, ASCOBANS secretariat