

ASCOBANS provisions related to bycatch

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ASCOBANS provisions



- Bycatch recognized as main threat in the Agreement text; each MOP has had bycatch-related decisions; regional WGs focus heavily on bycatch
- The ASCOBANS Conservation and Management Plan coins the term “**unacceptable interaction**”
- Key conclusions set out in
 - Res.3.3 and Res.5.5 *Incidental Take of Small Cetaceans*
 - Res.8.5 (Rev.MOP9) *Monitoring and Mitigation of Small Cetacean Bycatch*
 - Others: Res.9.2 *Baltic Proper Harbour Porpoise*, Res.8.4 (Rev.MOP9) *Conservation of Common Dolphins*, Res.9.1 *ASCOBANS Work Plan*

ASCOBANS provisions



- “..the general aim should be to **minimise (i.e. to ultimately reduce to zero) anthropogenic removals** within some yet-to-be-specified time frame, and for intermediate target levels should be set”
- A suitable short-term practical sub-objective “to restore and/or maintain stocks/populations to **80% or more of the carrying capacity**”
- ‘Unacceptable interactions’ were defined initially as “total **anthropogenic removal above 1.7 %** of the best available estimate of abundance”
- “...the intermediate **precautionary** objective to reduce by-catches to **less than 1%** of the best available population estimate”

Thank you for your attention!



Key references: **www.ascobans.org**

- Joint Bycatch Working Group -page
https://www.ascobans.org/en/working_group/bycatch
- Resolutions <https://www.ascobans.org/en/documents/mop-resolutions>
- Agreement text <https://www.ascobans.org/en/documents/agreement-text>
- www.ascobans.org/en/species/threats/bycatch