

ACCOBAMS provisions related to incidental catch



First Meeting of the Joint Bycatch Working Group
10-12 February 2021



ACCOBAMS provisions

- **Conservation Plan (Annex 2 of the Agreement)**

1. Adoption and enforcement of national legislation

a) Parties shall work out and **implement measures to minimize the fishing negative effects on the conservation of cetacean**. Most particularly, no vessels will be authorized to keep on board or to use any drift nets.

b) Parties shall introduce or amend regulations with a view to **preventing fishing gear from being discarded or left adrift at sea**, and to **require the immediate release of cetaceans caught incidentally in fishing gear in conditions that assure their survival**.

ACCOBAMS provisions

- Conservation Plan (Annex 2 of the Agreement)

2. Assessment and management of human-cetacean interactions

Parties shall, in co-operation with relevant international organizations, **collect and analyse data on direct and indirect interactions between humans and cetaceans** in relation to inter alia **fishing**, industrial and touristic activities, and land-based and maritime pollution. When necessary, Parties shall take appropriate remedial measures and shall develop guidelines and/or codes of conduct to regulate or manage such activities.

ACCOBAMS provisions

- **Resolution 7.11 Interactions between fisheries and cetaceans (2019)**

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments of the Parties **to protect cetacean species against by-catch**;
2. *Stresses* **the need to produce a realistic estimate of cetacean and other megafauna species by-catch** for different types of legal fishing activities, for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and for ghost net fishing;
3. *Requests* Parties to assess the level of cetacean by-catch arising from their fisheries using a combination of methods, following the guidelines included in the manual **“Monitoring incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea: Methodology for Data Collection”**, developed by GFCM in collaboration with other partners, such as:
 - a) trained observers on board fishing vessels, where possible;
 - b) fishermen interview surveys;
 - c) self-sampling by fishermen, where possible;
 - d) strandings data collection;
 - e) remote electronic monitoring;
4. *Invites* Parties to **enhance fishing gears identification and traceability**, as well as **retrieval of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gears**, to eliminate by-catch of cetaceans in ghost gears;

ACCOBAMS provisions

7. *Recommends* that the Parties and non-Party Range States make every effort to support global and regional initiatives **to investigate the most appropriate measures to mitigate by-catch** and depredation and **implement them**, as necessary, in close collaboration with the fishing communities and other relevant stakeholders, including through relevant regional instruments;

10. *Invites* the Permanent Secretariat **to provide assistance to Parties** in addressing the issue of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities (...);

11. *Invites* the Scientific Committee (...) **to keep a watch over the recent advances in technology regarding the acoustic devices and progress in fishing gear technologies** for mitigating the interactions between cetaceans and fishing gears (...);

12. *Invites* the Permanent Secretariat **to pursue its collaboration with the GFCM Secretariat** and strengthen its involvement in the relevant works and initiatives undertaken under GFCM;

14. *Invites* the Permanent Secretariat **to strengthen its collaboration also with the Secretariats of CMS, ASCOBANS, IWC and other relevant Organizations** to investigate approaches for achieving significant decrease in the cetacean by-catch levels, using, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Scientific Committee;

(...)

Collaboration with GFCM

- ❖ Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding in May 2012 between the Secretariats of both instruments
- ❖ Several joint projects on interactions between vulnerable species and fishing activities
- ❖ Joint publication of best practices guides

