

**PROGRAMME OF WORK 2021-2023
FOR THE JOINT BYCATCH WORKING GROUP OF ACCOBAMS AND ASCOBANS**

(Version: 20 September 2022)

TOR	Task description	Lead	Priority	Timeframe	Report to
1.	Collate and prepare an overview of scientific information ¹ relevant to bycatch of affected cetacean species.				
	1.1. ACCOBAMS Area: 1) Mediterranean, 2) Black Sea (e.g. ASI report, strandings network data, CeNoBS and Anemone reports). Engage Parties.	Ayaka Amaha Ozturk	High	Nov 2021, May 2023	SC14, SC15
	1.2. ASCOBANS Area. Engage Parties.	Peter Evans	High	Sep 2022	AC27
2.	Review available information on IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) fishing, recreational fishing, identification of bycatch risk areas, fishing techniques and gears applied in both agreement areas related to bycatch				
	2.1. IUU: ACCOBAMS Secretariat to contact Parties regarding illegal driftnets > report to Bureau	ACCOBAMS Secretariat	High (ACC) Medium (ASC)	Nov 2022 Sep 2022	MOP8 / SC15 AC27
	2.2. Recreational fishing		Medium	May 2023 Sep 2022	SC15 AC27
	2.3. Identification of bycatch risk areas	Peter Evans (ASCOBANS)	High	EC contract to PE (ASC) completed Jun 2021	

¹ Related to abundance and management units, including population dynamics.

TOR	Task description	Lead	Priority	Timeframe	Report to
	2.4. Fishing techniques and gears - ICES collecting this information in the ASCOBANS Area; also discussed in ASCOBANS North Sea and Jastarnia Groups.	Leave to ICES WGBYC / CIBBRiNA? GFCM	High (ACC) Medium (ASC)	Ongoing	
3.	Contribute to the assessment process of the EU-MSFD criteria and/or UNEP-MAP EcAp, and associated targets				
	3.1. EU MSFD: Comparison between the Agreement areas. Intermediate report.	Sinead Murphy	High	by end of 2022?	JBWG2
	3.2. EU MSFD: ABIOMMED project in the ACCOBAMS Area. OSPAR and HELCOM leading in the ASCOBANS Area (underway).	ABIOMMED Partners		Ongoing	JBWG2
	3.3. UNEP-MAP EcAp: Report on SPA-RAC in ACCOBAMS Area.	SPA/RAC		End of 2023	JBWG2
4.	Review and provide updates on bycatch mitigation reduction measures currently available or under development and their effectiveness, using existing sources - Reviews done recently in both Agreement Areas	Co-chairs & Secretariats	Medium	Ongoing	JBWG2
	4.1. Collating experiences from case studies in the two Agreement Areas that describe which measures have or have not worked.	Co-chairs	High	Ongoing	JBWG2
5.	Prepare an overview of national and international legislation and other measures relevant to the monitoring and management of cetacean bycatch, and include an overview of actions taken to deliver on ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS obligations - Overview presented e.g. at JBWG1	Secretariats	Low	2023	JBWG2
6.	Prepare, as appropriate, and in coordination with ICES WGBYC, advice on: a. target setting including potential conservation and user objectives, in accordance with the policies of the two Agreements; b. monitoring cetacean bycatch and fishing operations				

TOR	Task description	Lead	Priority	Timeframe	Report to
	6.1. Advice on target setting (bycatch limits) - OSPAR, HELCOM, ICES WGs working on this in the ASCOBANS Area but plan is to have two workshops to reach conclusions		High (ACC) Medium (ASC)	Oct 2021 Apr 2023	SC14 AC28
	6.2. Advice on monitoring cetacean bycatch and fishing operations - ICES WGBYC working on this, with reference to the two Agreement Areas	-	Medium		
7.	Provide technical support as required to facilitate dialogue with relevant bodies that have certification schemes, such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), including by actively contributing to the assessment of relevant fisheries with respect to cetacean bycatch	-	High	Ongoing	As requested
8.	Comment on requests for information or advice received through the Secretariats	Secretariats	High	Ongoing	As requested
9.	Report back to ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and ASCOBANS Advisory Committee meetings, and where appropriate provide input intersessionally to other relevant meetings or working groups under the two agreements		High	Ongoing	As requested
10.	Engagement with fishers				
	10.1. Develop guidelines on how to best incentivise and engage fishers in mitigation and monitoring programmes. - Potentially covered in the International Bycatch Project.	Anne-Marie Svoboda	High	?	?
	10.2. Develop an outreach strategy (include sociologists)	?	High	?	?