

Update from relevant ASCOBANS WGs

- **Offshore Renewable Energy WG**
 - Tasks given by AC27:
 - 1) Review the interactions between marine renewables and small cetaceans
 - 2) Consider the full range of possible impacts and appropriate mitigations
 - 3) Seek to establish criteria for identifying areas of high sensitivity for cetaceans
 - Current plan: Identify and outline issues that should be addressed, and provide a collection of viable approaches or options that have been successfully applied in the past, which can inform future construction of offshore renewable energy sources



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Update from relevant ASCOBANS WGs

- **Intersessional WG on Developing Cetacean-friendly Guidelines for MSP**
 - “elaborate on how to best develop guidelines for cetacean-friendly MSP and a draft resolution for MOP10”
 - Tasks:
 - 1) Produce an overview of potentially suitable measures which are included in national and international marine spatial plans today, which benefit the conservation status of cetaceans
 - 2) Consult with both MSP and cetacean experts throughout the development of the first draft of the guidelines to ensure interdisciplinary balance and cross-fertilization
 - 3) Draft the guidelines, based on a review of relevant scientific and grey literature, as well as available guidance for applying the ecosystem-based approach in MSP



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Upcoming meetings / workshops

- **Workshops at ECS 2023 conference, O Grove**
 - Marine Debris – New and Emerging Aspects, 15 April
 - Scoping the development of a European marine strandings database, 16 April
 - Current cetacean bycatch issues in European waters, 17 April
- **IWC Scientific Committee meeting, Bled**
 - 24 April – 6 May; who's going?
 - Relevant items to harbour porpoise in our area?
- **10th IMMA Workshop, NE Atlantic**
 - 22-26 May, Hamburg
 - Contributors of preliminary Areas of Interest from the Baltic?
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Photo: Josh Wilson | AK Wildlife Cruises Falmouth