



**Invitation to the  
19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee**

Bonn, 6 October 2011

Dear Sir / Madam,

The UNEP/CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat is pleased to announce that the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC19) will be held at the Galway Bay Hotel **in Galway, Ireland**. The meeting will take place **from 20-22 March 2012**. The dates and venue were chosen in line with the request made by Parties at AC18 to hold the meeting back-to-back with the Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, which will take place from 26-28 March 2012, with the associated workshops foreseen for 24 and 25 March.

The Provisional Agenda and timetable for the meeting will become available in due course.

### **Participation**

In accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure for the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, as adopted at AC17, all Parties to the Agreement are entitled to appoint one member of the Advisory Committee and such advisers as the Party may deem necessary. All non-Party Range States and Regional Economic Integration Organizations bordering on the waters concerned by the Agreement may send observers to the meeting.

As at previous meetings, other organizations and international bodies concerned with relevant issues are invited to participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting as observers. Any individual or body qualified in cetacean conservation and management must request admittance to the sessions of the Advisory Committee (such a request is not needed for ACCOBAMS, HELCOM, ICES, IWC and OSPAR). **Requests for observer status** from organizations or qualified individuals must reach the Secretariat **by 20 January 2012**. A completed registration form or a written indication by email of your or your organization's intention to participate is sufficient. If you have not been represented before, please include some information on the relevance to the Agreement.

Parties will be requested to inform the Secretariat of any objections by 20 February 2012. Unless objections are received from more than one third of the Parties (i.e. four objections), the applicant will be admitted as a non-voting observer. The Secretariat will notify all applicants of the final decision promptly.

Please **register** for the meeting **by 20 February 2012** by making use of a separate registration form for each participant. We would like to urge all to register early, as otherwise it will be difficult for us to complete the logistical arrangements for the meeting. Thank you for your understanding.

## Documents

We would like to ask you to submit **documents** intended for discussion at the meeting to the Secretariat **by 20 February 2012**, in order to allow timely circulation for the meeting.

This is especially important for the submission of **draft resolutions** for the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties, on which you would like to give the Advisory Committee opportunity to comment. Please indicate to the Secretariat as early as possible whether your country is planning to submit a draft resolution on a particular topic.

We would also like to request your assistance in updating the list of Dates of Interest to be considered by AC19. Therefore, if you know of a meeting in 2012 or early 2013 that should be included in the draft, please notify the Secretariat by **20 February 2012**.

## Travel and Accommodation

The meeting is foreseen to **start at 9:30 on 20 March and end at 18:30 on 22 March**. When making your travel arrangements, please ensure that you can be there until the list of decisions and action points has been adopted and the meeting closes.

A block reservation of rooms has been made for all participants in the **Galway Bay Hotel** ([www.galwaybayhotel.net](http://www.galwaybayhotel.net)), which serves as meeting venue. The daily rate for AC19 participants is €85 incl. breakfast. If you want to avail yourself of the block reservation, please book your room using the attached form **by 7 February 2012** by email ([reservations@galwaybayhotel.com](mailto:reservations@galwaybayhotel.com)) or fax (+35391518317). All rooms held aside under the block reservation will be released after that date.

More detailed information for participants on travel options will be circulated in due course.

Please note that those wishing to stay for the ECS Conference will have to book their rooms separately. Information on this will become available on [www.europeancetaceansociety.eu](http://www.europeancetaceansociety.eu).

## Call for Financial Support

We would like to inform Parties that the budgetary provisions in the ASCOBANS trust fund for organizing this meeting are not sufficient for covering the costs. Additional funds are needed for Secretariat travel, hiring of microphones/sound system, preparation of the proceedings of the meeting, as well as a reception and event celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Agreement. We would therefore urge all Parties to consider supporting these activities by voluntary contributions! A detailed budget will be provided by the Secretariat upon request.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Heidrun Frisch and Ms Bettina Reinartz at +49 228 815 2416 or [ascobans@ascobans.org](mailto:ascobans@ascobans.org) if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you in Galway in March 2012!

Yours sincerely,



Elizabeth Maruma Mrema  
Acting Executive Secretary

Enclosure

- Registration Form
- Hotel Room Booking Form