

**LIST OF ACTION POINTS AND DECISIONS**  
**of the 19<sup>th</sup> ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting**

**SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION SESSION**

1. Noting comments made by the German delegation, the Advisory Committee endorsed the Action Points of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jastarnia Group. (Agenda Item 4.1)
2. The Secretariat would call for volunteers to serve on an Intersessional Working Group to further elaborate the Draft Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat, giving HELCOM HABITAT and other relevant fora the opportunity to submit comments to the working group. The deadline for submission of the final draft would be 30 June 2012, after which the Secretariat would submit it to the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties for adoption. (Agenda Item 4.1)
3. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat should be adopted as a self-standing document, and be administered through the Jastarnia Group where it would be discussed in a distinct session. (Agenda Item 4.1)
4. The recommendations contained in the Report of the Meeting of the North Sea Group held on 19 March 2012 were endorsed. (Agenda Item 4.2)
5. Revised Terms of Reference for the Bycatch Working Group were agreed (Annex 6). (Agenda Item 4.3)
6. The participation of ASCOBANS in the side event on ocean noise to be held at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 16, 30 April - 5 May 2012) of the Convention on Biological Diversity was endorsed. (Agenda Item 4.4)
7. Within three months the Noise Working Group would complete its advice on underwater noise from renewable energy production and would submit a report to the 20<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting. (Agenda Item 4.4)
8. The proposal of the chairs of the ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS Noise Working Groups that the two groups be joined was endorsed. (Agenda Item 4.4)
9. The Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Noise Working Group would *inter alia* elaborate a questionnaire for consultation with industry. (Agenda Item 4.4)
10. The Russian NGO Baltic Fund for Nature was encouraged to apply for funds for passive acoustic monitoring studies in the Kaliningrad region, ideally compatible with SAMBAH. (Agenda Item 5.1)
11. The Advisory Committee would write to the Faroese authorities welcoming the detailed information regarding the small cetacean hunts. (Agenda Item 5.1)
12. The dialogue with NAMMCO should be maintained. (Agenda Item 5.1)
13. Further research into species abundance, such as NAMMCO's T-NASS II and further CODA and SCANS surveys, should be encouraged and supported. (Agenda Item 5.1)

14. An Intersessional Working Group on Marine Debris, to be chaired by the North Sea Foundation, was established and its Terms of Reference agreed (Annex 8). (Agenda Item 5.2)
15. Parties should help the Secretariat acquire satellite-based data on shipping density in order to facilitate further analysis to identify high risk areas and trends, in collaboration with ACCOBAMS. (Agenda Item 5.3)
16. It was agreed that an ECS/ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS Workshop on Management of Marine Protected Areas for Cetaceans would be held at the 2013 ECS Conference. The Advisory Committee encourages management authorities to participate. (Agenda Item 5.4)
17. The Secretariat was nominated to represent ASCOBANS in the HELCOM BALTFIMPA Reference Group. (Agenda Item 5.4)
18. The Extension Area Working Group was requested to continue its work in the next intersessional period. (Agenda Item 5.5)
19. Range States should be encouraged to develop collaborative efforts on topics identified as high priority in the extension area. (Agenda Item 5.5)
20. The report of the Informal Working Group on Large Cetaceans would in future be combined with that of the Extension Area Working Group. (Agenda Item 5.6)
21. The priority ranking of project proposals submitted by the deadline of 15 February which emerged from the consultation procedure, resulting in a list of 13 projects, was confirmed. For Secretariat activities, anniversary celebrations in the margins of MOP7 (Activity 3) and production of material for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Activity 2) were seen as priorities. (Agenda Item 6.2)
22. The Terms of Reference for the Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Working Group on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) were agreed as amended (Annex 9). The Secretariats would set a deadline for the identification of a convener for the Group.
23. Intersessional Working Groups should take account of relevant CMS COP10 Resolutions in their work. (Agenda Item 7.1)
24. The draft resolution on the work plan for the next intersessional period was amended and endorsed for submission to the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties. (Agenda Item 8)
25. Parties were encouraged to consider tabling further resolutions by 19 July 2012. (Agenda Item 8)<sup>1</sup>
26. The Jury for the ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award informed the meeting that Mats Amundin of Kolmården Djurpark in Sweden had been chosen. (Agenda Item 9)

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION**

27. The time allocation for the Administrative Assistant would be increased from 50 to 75 per cent for the remainder of 2012 from funds available within the existing budget. (Agenda Item 13.1)

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<sup>1</sup> The submission date has been corrected in this version.

28. Parties agreed in principle to consider moving to a four-year cycle for the Agreement and would consider the implications before making a final decision at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties. (Agenda Item 14)
29. Parties agreed to UNEP/CMS continuing to provide secretariat services. (Agenda Item 14)
30. In addition to budget options 1 and 3, the Secretariat was asked to prepare a third option with no budgetary increase compared with the current triennium. (Agenda Item 14)
31. The draft resolutions on management of expenditures and future administrative and budgetary arrangements were amended and endorsed to be submitted for further consideration at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties. (Agenda Item 14)
32. The draft Rules of Procedure for the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties were endorsed by the meeting. (Agenda Item 14)
33. It was agreed that the contract for the North Sea Plan Coordinator would be extended for a further six months on the same conditions. (Agenda Item 15)
34. Project 4 "Examine habitat exclusion and long-term effects of pingers" would be funded in full. (Agenda Item 15)
35. The "Kaliningrad CPOD project" submitted by Baltic Fund for Nature would receive €12,000 provided that 1) deployment would start by 1 September 2012, 2) it would receive sufficient co-funding, and 3) the use of SAMBAH resources in support of the project was in line with EU LIFE+ regulations. If these conditions were not met, project 6 "Enhanced detection of harbour porpoises" would be funded instead. (Agenda Item 15)
36. Sweden's offer to host the 20<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting was welcomed. The Secretariat would liaise with Sweden and dates would be chosen after the decision on whether to have a three- or four-year cycle had been made. (Agenda Item 17)