

**Agenda Item 5.2: Elaboration of a recovery plan for harbour porpoises
 in the North Sea**

Summary Record of CONSSO October 2003

Submitted by: Secretariat



NOTE:
**IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING
THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

Secretariat's Note

The Summary Record of CONSSO OCT 03 is reproduced here without annexes. The AC is requested to take note of Agenda Item 4.3 (North Sea Recovery Plan).

Summary Record

Agenda Item 0 – Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairman Ms Åsa Norrman from the Swedish Ministry of the Environment. Ms Norrman welcomed the delegates and observers to the meeting. She gave a brief statement over some major events during the last year related to the marine environment and mentioned amongst others the *Prestige* accident, the efforts by the EU to speed up phasing out single hull ships and the onset of the work within the framework of the EU Marine Strategy. She also mentioned ICES advice to stop the cod fishery in the North Sea. She further reiterated the requirements set out in the Bergen Declaration and the importance to identify actions that will bring added value to the work in other fora. She also underlined the “bottom up approach” stated in the Bergen Declaration and the need for the NGO:s to be involved in the process.

Agenda Item 1 – Adoption of the agenda

CONSSO OCT 03/1/1, CONSSO OCT 03/1/2, CONSSO OCT 03/1/3

1.1 The Chairman introduced the draft agenda (CONSSO OCT 03/1/1).

The meeting adopted the draft agenda without amendments as in Annex 1.

Agenda Item 2 – General remarks

CONSSO expressed its gratitude to the work carried out within the Issue Group on Sustainable Shipping and stressed that it is important that all North Sea States attend the meetings of the Group. It was expressed that the political issues have to be highlighted prior to the Ministerial Meeting in 2006. It was mentioned that shipping should be high on the agenda and that tackling fisheries issues is a challenge. Further it was stressed that the work within CONSSO should focus on bringing added value to work carried out in other fora.

Agenda Item 3 – Issue Group on Sustainable Shipping

CONSSO OCT 03/3/1, CONSSO OCT 03/3/2, CONSSO OCT 03/3/3

3.1 The Chairman of the Issue Group on Sustainable Shipping introduced his report to CONSSO (CONSSO OCT 03/3/1).

He reflected upon the work that had been carried out within the Issue Group since the last CONSSO-meeting.

In the discussion following the introduction the following points were made:

It was underlined that the Clean Ship approach should be the overarching political issue for the Ministerial Meeting but that also other issues need to be considered.

Further it was stressed that ballast water should be addressed on a broader scale than within the North Sea. In this context the UK introduced the draft letter on ballast water management in the North Sea.

The meeting agreed that the letter should be sent from CONSSO, signed by the Chairman, to the OSPAR Commission, The Helsinki Commission, the European Union and ICES. After discussion and with minor amendments to the letter the meeting approved the letter as in Annex 2.

Sweden informed about the work on the application to IMO to designate the Baltic Sea as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area. The issue regarding the possibility to designate the North Sea as a PSSA was raised by the meeting and it was agreed that the issue could be addressed at a future CONSSO – meeting.

Several environmental NGO's expressed their concern at the slow progress being made on the follow-up of shipping issues, and the manner in which certain Bergen ministerial commitments were being treated by the issue group. They expressed special concern at the lack of progress on those issues with work deadlines in 2004, and identified implementation of the ballast water guidelines as an example where the issue group was not working to fulfil the ministerial commitment made in Bergen.

After the discussion the meeting endorsed the proposed guidelines (CONSSO OCT 03/3/1 Annex 1) and approved the proposed work programme of the Issue Group on Sustainable Shipping (CONSSO OCT 03/3/1 Annex 2).

3.2 KIMO introduced the document Single European Union Directive on Maritime Safety and Oil Pollution (CONSSO OCT 03/3/2).

The meeting took note of the document and forwarded the document to IGSS for further consideration with the exception of the part of the document dealing with the development of a recommendation for a single European Directive on Maritime Safety and Oil Pollution.

3.3 ICS introduced their document ICS Position Paper, Marpol Annex VI (CONSSO OCT 03/3/3).

The meeting took note of the document.

Agenda Item 4 – Further work on Fisheries

CONSSO OCT 03/4/1, CONSSO OCT 03/4/2, CONSSO OCT 03/4/3, CONSSO OCT 03/4/4, CONSSO OCT 03/4/5

4.1 The Secretariat introduced the draft proposal of work plan for a possible Issue Group on Fisheries (CONSSO OCT 03/4/1).

Other fora also address most of the issues on fisheries dealt with by CONSSO. It was therefore pointed out that CONSSO should focus its work on such issues where the work could bring an added value to work done elsewhere.

After a long discussion there was a common agreement of the meeting to establish an ad hoc Issue Group on Fisheries. The meeting stressed that it was important that the EC participates in the ad hoc Issue Group on Fisheries. Sweden offered to take the lead country role for the ad hoc Issue Group on Fisheries and welcomed assistance from others. It was also decided that the first meeting of the ad hoc Issue Group on Fisheries should be held before the end of March 2004.

A drafting group was established to prepare the terms of reference for the ad hoc Issue Group on Fisheries.

The Chairman of the drafting group presented the outcome of the drafting group to the meeting. After a minor amendment the meeting approved the terms of reference for the ad hoc Issue Group on Fisheries as attached as Annex 3.

4.2 BirdLife International and Seas At Risk had submitted comments on the paper draft proposal of work plan for a possible Issue Group on Fisheries (CONSSO OCT 03/4/2).

The meeting took note of the document and left it to the ad hoc Issue Group on Fisheries for consideration.

4.3 ASCOBANS had submitted the document Recovery plan for harbour porpoise in the North Sea (CONSSO OCT 03/4/3) as adopted by the ASCOBANS 4th meeting of Parties in resolution 10.

The meeting took note of the document related to the implementation of § 30 in the Bergen Declaration and agreed that the ad hoc Issue Group on Fisheries could consider its content.

4.4 BirdLife International introduced the document Potential interaction between the North Sea Sandeel fishery and other fish stocks (CONSSO OCT 03/4/4).

BirdLife International highlighted the possible interaction between sandeel fisheries and sandeel as a food resource for other marine life (fish and seabirds). Furthermore BirdLife pointed out that this issue could be a matter for the ad hoc Issue Group to consider.

The meeting took note of the document and agreed that its content could as appropriate be considered by the ad hoc Issue Group on Fisheries.

4.5 WWF introduced the press release Fishery closure needed to save cod from brink of oblivion (CONSSO OCT 03/4/5).

In the light of the latest ICES advice and with reference to §§ 16-18 in the Bergen declaration, WWF highlighted the need to implement the cod recovery plan and proposed that the ad hoc

Issue Group on Fisheries should consider the full scope of sustainable fisheries issues when drafting a future work plan.

The meeting took note of the document.

Agenda item 5 – Ministerial Meeting on Environmental Impacts of Shipping and Fisheries

CONSSO OCT 03/5/1

5.1 The Chairman introduced the paper Draft Ministerial Meeting on Environmental Impacts of Shipping and Fisheries (CONSSO OCT 03/5/1) and invited the meeting to consider the issues raised.

The meeting decided to have the Ministerial Meeting during spring 2006. Among issues to be reflected upon and issues that could be on the agenda the following were mentioned:

- Focus should be on a few specific items in a short and clear declaration.
- The future of the process after the Ministerial Meeting will have an impact on the meeting and must therefore be taken into consideration.
- It should be considered which concerned ministers should attend the meeting.

The Chairman concluded that the considerations on this issue would continue.

Agenda item 6 – North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors

CONSSO OCT 03/6/1

6.1 The executive Secretary of OSPAR introduced the document Report from the second meeting of the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors (CONSSO OCT 03/6/1).

In the discussion it was highlighted that the issue could be a topic at the Ministerial Meeting in 2006.

The meeting took note of the report.

Agenda item 7 – Information on the outcome of the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in Bremen

The Chairman of OSPAR and the executive Secretary of OSPAR informed about the outcome of the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in Bremen in June 2003.

One organisation expressed its disappointment at the weakness of the outcome of the Bremen Ministerial Meeting with regard to fisheries and certain aspects of shipping. The organisation further underlined the importance of the agreements adopted in § 7 in the Bergen Declaration concerning the protection of species, habitats and marine areas.

The meeting took note of the information.

Agenda item 8 – Next CONSSO - meeting
CONSSO OCT 03/8/1

8.1 The Chairman introduced the document Draft Next CONSSO-meeting (CONSSO OCT 03/8/1).

The meeting decided to hold the next CONSSO - meeting in Stockholm on 27-28 October 2004.

Agenda Item 9 – Administrative Matters
CONSSO OCT 03/9/1

9.1 The Secretariat introduced the document Draft Administrative Matters (CONSSO OCT 03/9/1) regarding what further information should be sent to observers that have not responded to the inquiry from the Secretariat about their future involvement.

The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should send a second inquiry to the Observers that had not responded to the first inquiry and that further information about the process only will be sent to those Observers that respond to the second inquiry.

Agenda Item 10 - Any other business

No other issues were brought up.

The meeting was closed.