

Agenda Item 7

Relations with other Bodies

Document 27

## Reports of Representation of ASCOBANS at Meetings

### Action Requested

- Take note of the information submitted
- Comment
- Encourage all chosen to represent ASCOBANS at future meetings to give a short written report of key points to the Secretariat, which will also be tabled at the next AC meeting

Submitted by

Secretariat



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



## Reports of Representation of ASCOBANS at Meetings

### 17-19 April 2008

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, Rome, Italy

##### Attendance on behalf of CMS & ASCOBANS: Marco Barbieri

The Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee can be downloaded at <http://www.accobams.org/2006.php/meetings/show/6>. The meeting was attended by 12 members of the Committee and 18 experts and observers. The Agenda covered a wide variety of issues connected to the implementation of the Work Programme, including distribution studies, species conservation actions, captures of cetaceans in the Agreement area, Marine Protected Areas, anthropogenic noise, stranding networks and tissue banks, interactions with fisheries, ship strikes, climate change, Emergency Task Forces (ETFs), solid debris and whale watching.

In particular, the Committee recognised the great value of synoptic surveys and recommended that all possible effort be made to conduct surveys in this way. Information on populations' abundance and distribution is essential for the assessment of risk, the determination of appropriate mitigation measures and the associated determination of priority actions. Concerning the addressing of threats to cetaceans by noise, a habitat use modelling exercise for Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean Sea is ongoing. The modelling initiative is a collaborative effort with all those holding suitable sightings data in the area.

Furthermore, the Committee highlighted the importance of genetic studies in better understanding population structures, as the knowledge about the existence of subsets or separate populations affects greatly the conservation strategies. A Population Structure Working Group should be created and should have three main goals:

- define and prioritise genetic analyses required for different species on an ongoing basis;
- optimise the availability of genetic analysis' results to ACCOBAMS; and
- optimise and facilitate the use of the samples available and propose new sample collection campaigns when needed.

Concerning fin whales and ship strikes, the Committee decided to establish a Steering Committee (StC) to ensure that the recommendations of ad hoc workshops held in 2005 are acted upon. The StC will work in close contact with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, the IWC, the PELAGOS Sanctuary and other relevant experts.

The problem of climate change and its possible effects of the region's cetaceans were also discussed. The Committee agreed that it would be valuable to wait for the results of the forthcoming IWC Workshop on Climate Change which will be held in the intercessional period following the June 2008 IWC meeting before considering an ACCOBAMS workshop on the same subject.

### 5-9 May 2008

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Group (HABITAT), Warsaw, Poland

##### Attendance on behalf of ASCOBANS: Penina Blankett

The following harbour porpoise-related issues were taken up under the item Nature conservation and biodiversity – endangered species and habitats:

It was approved at the meeting that HELCOM SEAL will also consider harbour porpoise issues that relate to BSAP commitments at its future meetings and it was agreed that the expert who is participating in both the work of the Jastarnia Group/ASCOBANS and HELCOM SEAL (Ms Penina Blankett, Finland) should function as an information link between the two groups. In addition, the Meeting emphasised that duplication of work should be avoided.

Ms Penina Blankett, Finland, reported on relevant issues under the ASCOBANS meetings, including the Jastarnia Group and their 13 recommendations. The Meeting also discussed a Baltic harbour porpoise database (<http://www.balticseaporpoise.org/database.htm>) that has

been hosted and maintained in Germany. Preliminary discussions have been carried out regarding the possibility of linking this database to HELCOM GIS services or even of having the HELCOM Secretariat eventually host the database in the future.

The Meeting also discussed the technical difficulties in assessing the population size of the Baltic harbour porpoises, especially in the areas where the species is very rare. ICES informed the Meeting that they have an expert group (Marine Mammals Ecology) dealing with seals and harbour porpoises.

Concerning the co-operation between HELCOM and ASCOBANS, Finland proposed that HELCOM pursue co-operation especially with the Jastarnia Group.

Further, the Meeting was informed about the proposed project "Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise" (SAMBAH) and noted that ASCOBANS has provided financial support for preliminary workshops in Sweden and Finland. The Meeting was supportive of the SAMBAH project and hoped that external funding could be secured for the project.

The report on the distribution of harbour porpoise prey species in the Baltic Sea was presented at the meeting and it was stated that the report is the first step of the SAMBAH project in producing distribution maps of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea. The Meeting noted however that the information on the distribution of prey species cannot be considered directly comparable to the distribution of harbour porpoises themselves.

Countries reported on their activities:

Denmark informed the Meeting of work carried out to identify high density areas for harbour porpoises in Danish waters. The report has collated all relevant data on movements and density of harbour porpoises in Danish and adjacent waters in order to identify areas with high density of or key habitat for harbour porpoises in Denmark. The data may be used to designate protected areas under the Habitats Directive. Comprehensive data from satellite tracking, aerial and ship surveys, and acoustic surveys from ships have been collected from 1991 to 2007 in Danish waters and were used in this process.

Germany stated that harbour porpoises are protected according to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

Poland informed the Meeting of a project collecting information on sightings, strandings and by-catches of harbour porpoises in the Puck Bay area (presentation by Mr. Krzysztof Skora). The project is promoting the use of pingers and is carrying out a public-awareness campaign on the harbour porpoise and interactions with fisheries in order to enhance harbour porpoise-friendly fisheries in Puck Bay, including ecolabelling. The Meeting congratulated Poland on the project and considered it a good approach to mitigating negative interactions between nature protection activities and fisheries.

Sweden informed the Meeting that they are in the process of finalising a national action plan for the harbour porpoise, which will be ready during the summer of 2008. The action plan is being produced by SEPA in close co-operation with the Swedish Board of Fisheries.

### **19-30 May 2008**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CBD, Bonn, Germany**

**Attendance on behalf of CMS & ASCOBANS: Robert Hepworth, Marco Barbieri, Heidrun Frisch**

A number of decisions relevant for the work of ASCOBANS were made at this Conference, which can be downloaded at <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/list.shtml?meeting=cop-09>. In particular, Decision IX/20 on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity in of interest, which addresses topics such as priority areas for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction; the impacts of destructive fishing practices, unsustainable fishing, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing on marine biodiversity and habitats, potential impacts of direct human-induced ocean fertilization on marine biodiversity; ocean acidification and its impacts on marine biodiversity and habitats; adverse impacts of human activities to seabed habitats; the convening of an expert workshop to discuss scientific and technical aspects relevant to environmental impact assessment in areas beyond national jurisdiction with a view to contributing to the development of scientific and technical guidance; scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas

in need of protection, and scientific guidance for designing representative networks of marine protected areas, as recommended by the Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in Need of Protection; and the development of representative networks of marine protected areas.

The Conference was accompanied by a large number of side events. While it was not possible to attend all of potential interest for ASCOBANS, especially worth mentioning were the WWF International Side Event on “Conservation in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction – High Seas Marine Protected Areas”, where the world’s four High Seas Marine Protected Areas already in existence were showcased, presenting how they can work, what different meanings ‘MPA’ can have, and what the different systems/frameworks can be for such an MPA, to further understand the concept. Relevant publications can be downloaded from [http://www.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/blue\\_planet/publications/](http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/blue_planet/publications/).

Another side event was concerned with the “UNEP-IUCN TEMATEA Project on Issue-Based Modules for the Coherent Implementation of Biodiversity-Related Conventions”. The main aim of the project is to support a better and more coherent national implementation of biodiversity-related conventions. The Issue-Based Modules are web-based tools that provide a logical, issue-based framework of commitments and obligations from regional and global biodiversity-related agreements. The use of the Issue-Based Modules is further supported at the country level to promote national cooperation and communication across sectors and conventions. ASCOBANS decisions are yet to be integrated in this framework. More information can be found at <http://www.tematea.org/>.

Further, HELCOM held a side event on “The Strategic HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, at which the main issues addressed in the BSAP adopted in 2007 by the nine Baltic Sea coastal countries and the European Community were presented. It is an ambitious overarching programme of actions to drastically reduce pollution to the Baltic Sea and restore its good ecological status by 2021. The plan is a first attempt by a regional marine protection convention to implement the ecosystem approach defined by the 1992 Rio Declaration and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and as outlined in various decisions of the CBD. Additionally, one of the four segments of the plan focuses on measures to halt habitat destruction and the decline in biodiversity in the Baltic Sea area. This European award-winning plan has been heralded as a pilot project for European seas in the context of the EU Marine Strategy Directive. As a pioneer in the application of the ecosystem approach, the HELCOM action plan also serves as a model example to be followed by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans under the auspices of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.

On the evening of 26 May 2008, the UNEP/CMS Family of Agreements hosted a dinner event titled “One Convention Family – Thousands of Species – Our Planet”, which was attended by around 150 guests from around the world.

The CMS and co-located Agreements Secretariats also shared an information tent in the “Plaza of Diversity” running in parallel to the CBD Conference just outside the venue. More information can be found in AC16/Doc.22.

### **19-21 September 2008**

#### **Muc Mhara 2008 - 2nd IWDG International Whale Conference, Dublin, Ireland**

##### **Attendance on behalf of ASCOBANS: Stefan Bräger (AC Chair)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Whale Conference of the IWDG was concentrating on the harbour porpoise (“Muc Mhara” or “Pig of the Sea” in Gaelic) in Irish waters and beyond. The three-day programme brought together some expert speakers and some of the group’s members as well as interested members of the public in the pleasant ambience of one of Dublin’s best hotels.

The first evening was video night with some ten clips on cetaceans and some live Irish music. The round-table seating arrangements for some 70 people (with a few standing) and the lively atmosphere provided well for a social ‘icebreaker’. The private and TV contributions on live and stranded cetaceans (“Tales of the Whales”) painted a picture of the high biodiversity in Irish waters with some 24 cetacean species.

The following day was filled with five excellent presentations and an afternoon excursion to a nearby bay where porpoises were sighted by everybody. The opening presentation by well-known porpoise expert Professor Andy READ of Duke University provided insight on the ecology and behavior of the harbour porpoise. It was followed by Emer ROGAN of University College Cork who lectured on the ecology of harbour porpoises in Irish waters according to post-mortem necropsies. PhD student Joanne O'BRIEN of GMIT reported on her findings during the acoustic monitoring of harbour porpoises on the west coast of Ireland. Her presentation was directly followed by Simon BERROW's who concentrated on the visual monitoring of this species in Irish waters. After lunch Signe SVEEGAARD of the National Environmental Research Institute in Denmark presented her and Jonas TEILMANN's results from the satellite-tracking of 63 harbour porpoises in Skagerrak, Kattegat and Inner Danish Waters and beyond.

After the delicious conference dinner, the remainder of the evening was enjoyed by everyone during a competitive table quiz with fifty hilarious questions on Irish cetology.

Sunday's programme was devoted to monitoring and protections of harbour porpoises with four presentations and a general discussion: Ben WILSON discussed, in how far offshore renewable devices could be a threat to porpoises. My presentation concentrated on harbour porpoise populations and protection in the EU context. During this presentation, I represented ASCOBANS and advertised the agreement (for Ireland to join). Ronan COSGROVE reported on an assessment of pingers and porpoise bycatch rates in Irish gillnet fisheries. And last but not least, David LYONS from the National Parks and Wildlife Service provided the official view on harbour porpoise conservation in the Republic of Ireland.

The other two Irish government officials working on marine conservation (Ms L. Sides and Dr E. Kelly) were also present during Sunday's presentations. During the final discussion, Liz Sides publicly stated that Ireland would like to join ASCOBANS, but lack personnel and resources to fulfill the reporting commitments. A decision, however, is unlikely before another six to twelve months. The offer of IWDG to host the next ASCOBANS-AC meeting in Ireland in April 2009 was not publicly announced. The ministry, however, is aware of it.

The conference was very well prepared and organized. It certainly helped to promote cetacean conservation and research in Ireland as a whole as well as harbour porpoise protection within SACs and probably also the joining of Ireland to ASCOBANS. The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group must be congratulated for this excellent meeting.

## **6-10 October 2008**

### **58<sup>th</sup> Session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee, London, UK**

#### **Attendance on behalf of CMS & ASCOBANS: Heidrun Frisch**

The most relevant discussions were on ship strikes (Agenda Item 18) and the possible inclusion of marine noise in the work programme of the MEPC (AI 19). With regard to ship strikes, the MEPC decided to adopt the annex to the document drafted by the United States (MEPC58/18) as interim voluntary guidelines and discuss any possible improvements delegations would wish to make at MEPC59. Alexandre de Lichtervelde (Belgium) mentioned that he would undertake intersessional consultations by correspondence. CMS and the relevant agreements should be mentioned in the text where appropriate to encourage cooperation with these frameworks.

With regard to noise, the MEPC endorsed the suggestion by the United States (MEPC59/19) to include the issue on their agenda and set up a correspondence group to draft technical guidelines. The US would take the lead. In the capacity of CMS Marine Mammals Officer, and on behalf also of ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS, Heidrun Frisch took part in the correspondence group, supported by several colleagues and advisers to the Secretariat. A report on the activities of the correspondence group will be submitted to MEPC59.

On the evening of 7 October Heidrun Frisch presented on work of CMS and cetacean-related agreements as far as relevant to the work of the IMO in a side event. Information material was distributed throughout the meeting. In the margins of the meeting, discussions centred largely on ship strikes work, as well as results and follow-up of the Year of the Dolphin campaign.

## 21-23 November 2008

### 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the *French National Stranding Network* to discuss “Monitoring Strategies for Marine Mammal Populations”, La Rochelle, France

#### Attendance on behalf of ASCOBANS: Stefan Bräger (AC Chair)

The 10th anniversary meeting of the *French National Stranding Network* was conducted bi-lingually (with simultaneous translation) to discuss monitoring strategies for marine mammal populations in general. It was extremely well organized and well attended with about 180 participants.

Session 1 (chaired by G. NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA) provided introductions to monitoring requirements under ACCOBAMS (by G. NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA), ASCOBANS (by S. BRÄGER; *PDF copy attached*), under the EU Habitats Directive and related regulations (M. BIGAN), the French national framework regarding marine mammal monitoring (by O. LAROUSSINIE), and the proposed UK approach to monitoring requirements (by E. PINN). P. G. H. EVANS attempted to convert the societal demands into measurable parameters.

Session 2 (chaired by V. RIDOUX) dealt with existing practices in Portugal, Guadeloupe, Crozet, Bay of Biscay, and the southern Indian Ocean. Y. MORIZUR reported on a monitoring project for marine mammal by-catches in the French fleets under EU regulation 812/2004.

Session 2 was continued on Saturday with a number of interesting presentations, among them: “PCB levels are associated with thymic involution and infectious disease mortality in UK-stranded harbour porpoises (1989-2006)” by P. JEPSON, “Long-term monitoring, site-fidelity and long-distance movements of bottlenose dolphins in Corsica” by F. DHERMAIN, and “Distribution and long-term trends in cetacean abundance in coastal waters of the Bay of Biscay” by I. CASTÈGE.

Session 3 (chaired by G. PIERCE) looked at indicators and their performance, again with a large number of exciting contributions such as “Static acoustic monitoring of cetacean sonar: an alternative to line transect surveys” by N. TREGENZA, and “Fluctuating asymmetry: a useful indicator of marine mammal population health” by C. SCHAEFF.

Sunday was reserved for Session 4 with two concurrent workshops on “Strategies for monitoring marine mammal populations” (chaired by A. HOHN) and “Network management and quality control for monitoring data” (chaired by O. VAN CANNEYT). The workshops were summarized by M. TASKER who provided a synthesis and recommendations.

Altogether the conference and workshops proved to be extremely interesting. The presentation on behalf of ASCOBANS as well as the poster for the SAMBAH project were well regarded.

## 26 November 2008

### 28<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee Meeting, Strasbourg, France

#### Attendance on behalf of the CMS Family of Agreements: Robert Hepworth

An address was delivered to the meeting, highlighting ongoing activities of CMS and the 5 Agreements and 6 Memoranda of Understanding that cover all or parts of Europe. Cooperation between the CMS Family and the Bern Convention has a long history

## 1-5 December 2008

### 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CMS, Rome, Italy

#### Attendance on behalf of CMS & ASCOBANS: Robert Hepworth, Marco Barbieri, Heidrun Frisch

100 governments and 70 international NGO bodies met, resulting in some important steps forward for the conservation of migratory animals. The Irrawaddy and Black Sea Bottlenose dolphins secured Appendix I listing. The Atlantic Humpback Dolphin also got Appendix I status while Clymene or Short-Snouted Spinner Dolphin, Risso's Dolphin, the Mediterranean population of the Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise were given Appendix II.

Alongside improved conservation for species, governments also adopted several resolutions including one to reduce noise pollution from vessels and other sources especially in habitat sensitive for whales, dolphins and other marine species. Measures to reduce accidental

bycatch of non-target species in fisheries were at the centre of discussions. Climate change and the special role of many migratory species as indicators of its detrimental effects will also receive increased attention from the CMS member states over the next years.

All Resolutions passed at the CMS COP9 can be downloaded from [http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/COP9\\_documents\\_overview.htm](http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/COP9_documents_overview.htm). The most relevant have also been tabled as documents for AC16.

### **12 January 2009**

#### **Meeting on a Programme Support Cost Management Study, Geneva, Switzerland**

##### **Attendance on behalf of the CMS Family of Agreements: Robert Hepworth**

UNEP had invited 4 UNEP MEA Secretariats (CITES, Rotterdam/Stockholm Convention, Basel Convention and CMS) to meet with the Programme Support Cost Study Team (Jean-Pierre Halbwachs and Chris Kirkcaldy). Discussions centred on ensuring more transparent and equitable use of the 13% PSC and suggestions for administrative streamlining.

In follow-up of the meeting, the CMS Family of Agreements in Bonn sent a joint letter to the Executive Director of UNEP, asking him to consider reducing or reallocating for projects managed by the Secretariats the 13% Programme Support Costs (PSC) charged on voluntary contributions. A decision on this is still outstanding.

### **16-20 February 2009**

#### **UNEP Governing Council, Nairobi, Kenya**

##### **Attendance on behalf of CMS (& ASCOBANS): Robert Hepworth**

The Executive Secretary was invited to give a presentation to a ministerial round table on environmental governance, co-chaired by the UK and France Environment Ministers. Amongst the key points made by the Executive Secretary were:

(i) Whilst the existing structure of international environmental governance is admittedly extensive, there is sometimes a confusion between the number of laws (treaties) and the number of institutions (e.g. MEAs) serving them. There should be no assumption that institutions have to proliferate, or that they cannot be streamlined. Apart from the well-publicised example of the chemicals MEA, CMS now implements almost 20 regional species agreements (as well as the parent Convention), including 2 binding treaties on gorilla and cetaceans. There is no doubt that clustering and sharing of services and staff can be increased avoiding the distraction, time and cost which would be involved in trying to negotiate the amalgamation of treaties.

(ii) Governments are absolutely entitled to expect MEA secretariats like CMS to actively identify synergies and co-operate with UN and other bodies to “deliver as one”.

(iii) The CMS Family supported the principles behind the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) – the case for common scientific standard information as a platform for biodiversity conservation was unanswerable. CMS’ own record in being able to keep its science relatively “pure” and allow technical experts to operate freely should be taken on board. The final institutional formula would need safeguards to ensure that IPBES did not become over-politicised.

### **2-4 March 2009**

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society (and associated workshops), Istanbul, Turkey**

##### **Attendance on behalf of CMS & ASCOBANS: Heidrun Frisch**

Two workshops with direct relevance to the work of ASCOBANS were attended. The first, “Reconciling diverse perspectives for cetacean communication” aimed to explore how different gendered, raced and classed stories lead to different perceptions of the sea and cetaceans. In order to disrupt these forces and hear a wider range of perspectives and hence create broader support for conservation, research needs to focus on multiple ways of communicating understanding; it needs to actively support local knowledge; and be self reflective about the underlying assumptions held by the researchers themselves. It provided some interesting insights, but little of direct applicability to our outreach work.

The second dealt with “Beaked whales and active sonar – transiting from research to mitigation”. A clear protocol on how to use results of research on the effects of active sonar on beaked whales for designing mitigation guidelines is currently lacking. Therefore an urgent requirement remains to design an effective monitoring and mitigation protocol to reduce the risks of intense sound sources damaging beaked whales. This workshop aimed to provide a background to the current field research investigating mitigation techniques, as well as a legal and official perspective about the feasibility of promoting a standardised mitigation protocol. A drafting group was established to produce a statement to be passed to the ECS membership and after some amendments it was adopted. Also, the speakers and other experts will work to produce concise mitigation guidelines. These have been forwarded to the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee as AC16/Doc.39 and AC16/Doc.50.

The Conference was divided in several thematic sessions, of which the presentations most relevant were attended, as well as poster displays. The topics of interest mainly comprised research on conservation and management, habitat and distribution/abundance. The invited talks on the effects of climate change on marine mammals were also interesting. The Conference provided excellent opportunities to talk with a number of researchers and conservationists about the work of the Convention and Agreement.

### **7-10 March 2009**

#### **“Blue Vision” Summit, Washington DC, USA**

##### **Attendance on behalf of CMS (& ASCOBANS): Robert Hepworth**

The Executive Secretary was invited to make a presentation to this major gathering of marine conservationists, focusing on CMS’ expanding role, including ASCOBANS and the new Eastern Atlantic/Western African Small Cetaceans agreement. Later he held informal discussions with the Executive Director of the Marine Mammal Commission, who are working on a new global assessment of marine mammals and may convene a workshop, with CMS support, to consider the results and suggest priorities.

### **17-19 March 2009**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Ad hoc HELCOM Seal Expert Group, Stockholm, Sweden**

##### **Attendance on behalf of ASCOBANS: Penina Blankett**

The following harbour porpoise-related issues were taken up during the HELCOM Seal meeting:

Ms Penina Blankett reported to the Meeting about the activities of the Jastarnia Group under ASCOBANS and the revision of the Jastarnia plan which is currently underway and about activities concerning the possibility of incorporating the porpoise database, which was developed by the Baltic Sea porpoise project and is now held by Forschungs-und-Technologiezentrum Westküste, Germany, into the HELCOM databases.

Sweden informed the Meeting that it has revised its action plan on the harbour porpoise so that it now includes genetic studies, noise effects, the collection of ghost nets, monitoring of by-catches, continued development of fishing gear and the effects of hazardous substances.

Poland informed the Meeting about Polish activities on the harbour porpoise, such as the placement of pingers in the entrance to Puck Bay and large information campaigns to inform the public about harbour porpoises. The Polish representative also reported that Polish fishermen have stopped cooperating and no longer report by-catches since the EC Regulation 812/2008 on the ban of driftnets entered into force.

Chair Arne Bjørge informed the Meeting that the North Sea action plan for porpoises has been finalised and has been submitted to the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee.

Ms Hanna Paulomäki from the HELCOM Secretariat reported that the Jastarnia Group of ASCOBANS will elaborate an Indicator Fact Sheet on the harbour porpoise, which should be presented to HELCOM MONAS in December 2009.