

MOP 2: Resolution on Further Implementation of ASCOBANS (Bonn 1997)

RESOLUTION ON FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF ASCOBANS

The Meeting of Parties:

RECOGNISING that the conservation, research and management measures listed in the Conservation and Management Plan in the Annex of the Agreement require an action plan for the full implementation of the Agreement;

RECOGNISING the commitments by the Parties in other international bodies and fora to cetacean conservation and other commitments that will aid cetaceans;

RECOGNISING the importance of the need of Parties to co-operate and not to duplicate the work of other international bodies and the desirability of drawing upon their expertise;

NOTING that in the waters of EU member states, several of the articles of Council Directive 92/43/EEC require the conservation of small cetaceans;

NOTING the resolutions agreed at this meeting on the effects of pollutants on cetacean health and incidental take of small cetaceans;

COMMENDING existing efforts to identify and protect specific areas for small cetaceans;

Decides to invite Parties and non-Party Range States to:

*Protected areas*

CONTINUE or INITIATE research aimed at identifying the location of any further suitable areas, and to implement appropriate management actions in these areas to ensure the protection of small cetaceans;

*Post-mortem examinations*

CONTINUE or INITIATE support for schemes that ensure that the bodies of small cetaceans are, where possible, subject to full and expert post-mortem analysis for cause of death and any other studies relevant to conservation;

*Reduction in disturbance*

SUBMIT to the Advisory Committee by 1999 available information on the location and extent of seismic activities in the ASCOBANS and neighbouring areas during 1997 and 1998, and provide details of any mitigation measures taken to reduce possible effects of such activities on small cetaceans;

INTRODUCE, where appropriate, guidelines and other measures to reduce disturbance to small cetaceans;

*Monitoring, status and population studies*

ENCOURAGE further research relevant to ASCOBANS on abundance, life history parameters, migration patterns, and population structure of small cetaceans.