

**4<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ASCOBANS  
Esbjerg, Denmark, 19 - 22 August 2003**

**Resolution No. 9**

**Activities of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee 2004-2006**

*Reaffirming* the importance of the need to cooperate with, and not to duplicate the work of, other international bodies and the desirability of drawing upon their expertise;

*Recognising* that much progress is achieved by the commissioning of work by specialists, whether members of the Advisory Committee or otherwise;

*Reaffirming* that the Advisory Committee, as a body tasked to provide advice on scientific, policy-related and administrative matters, needs a balance of scientists, policy-makers and administrators to adequately cover its role;

*The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS*

*Instructs* the Advisory Committee to:

*Continue* to invite the intergovernmental bodies IWC, ICES, IBSFC, HELCOM, OSPARCOM, ACCOBAMS and the European Commission to send representatives to Advisory Committee meetings;

*Continue* to review, on an annual basis, new information on population distribution, sizes and structures, and by-catches of small cetaceans and other relevant fisheries information in the ASCOBANS area. On the basis of this review, provide recommendations to individual Parties and other relevant authorities, including guidance on the adequacy of bycatch monitoring and provision of fisheries data;

*Continue* to review at each meeting a list of international meetings, compiled by the Secretariat, at which the aims of ASCOBANS might most usefully be promoted, and recommend which meetings should be attended, by whom and with what objective and to review the outcomes of meetings attended;

*Continue* to review, on an annual basis, new information on pollution and disturbance and its effects on small cetaceans which occur in the ASCOBANS area and, on the basis of this review, provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities;

*Continue* to review the progress and implementation of the IWC programme POLLUTION 2000+ and provide recommendations to Parties and Range States on ways to facilitate its execution;

*Review*, on an annual basis, the implementation of the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan) (Document MoP4/Doc.23) and to continue its efforts to further the implementation of that plan;

*Continue* to support and cooperate in the process of elaborating a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea, as called for in the Bergen Declaration adopted by the Fifth International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea (Bergen, March 20-21 2002);

*Continue* to contribute to the preparatory work for the projected new abundance survey of the Agreement area and waters to the west of the Agreement area with a view to completing the survey by 2006.

*Review* the progress on by-catch mitigation and report on this progress to the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties;

*Continue* to review the extent of negative effects upon small cetaceans of shipping, including high-speed ferries, and relevant developments in vessel technology, with a view to providing recommendations to Parties, by the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties, on possible ways to mitigate those negative effects;

*Consider* how the work of ASCOBANS should be extended in the new Agreement area, especially regarding bycatch reduction;

*Consider* the possible amendment to the ASCOBANS Agreement to include all cetacean species;

*Continue* to review the extent of disturbance to small cetaceans due to seismic surveys in the ASCOBANS area;

*Review*, in 2005, the effects of offshore extractive activities and windfarms on small cetaceans;

*Reiterates* its request that Parties

*Ensure* that all nominated Advisory Committee members and their advisors can allocate time to attend Advisory Committee meetings, to intersessional work, and to participate in the intersessional Advisory Committee working groups;

*Ensure* where possible a suitable balance of expertise within delegations to the Advisory Committee.