

5th MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ASCOBANS

The Netherlands, 18 - 20 September and 12 December 2006

Resolution No. 1

Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea

Recalling that the 5th International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea (Bergen, Norway, 20-21 March 2002) called for a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea to be developed and adopted (Paragraph 30, Bergen Declaration);

Recalling that the declaration of the Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Helsinki and OSPAR Commissions (Bremen, Germany, 25-26 June 2003, 'Bremen Declaration') adopted the common statement "Towards an Ecosystem Approach to the Management of Human Activities" (Paragraph 13), which highlights the need to develop and promote the implementation of a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea;

Recalling the considerable experience ASCOBANS has gained with the development of the recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the Baltic ('Jastarnia Plan');

Noting the results of the two abundance surveys SCANS-I and SCANS-II;

Noting the preparations ASCOBANS has already undertaken towards the development of a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea at the 9th and 10th Meetings of the Advisory Committee in 2002 and 2003;

Recalling the deliberations on the Recovery Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea at the 11th, 12th and 13th Meetings of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee;

Recalling Resolution No. 10 on a Recovery Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea adopted by the 4th Meeting of the Parties in 2003;

Commending Germany for its initiative and support for the development of a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea;

Noting the decision of the Advisory Committee at its 13th Meeting to change the name "Recovery Plan" to "Conservation Plan";

Without prejudice to the exclusive competence of the European Community for the conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources, and the Community's Directives;

The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

Adopts, as a basis for a Conservation Plan, the paper "Towards a Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea" annexed to this Resolution;

Broadly supports the document as the basis for a conservation plan to be developed under the leadership of the Chair and Vice-chair of the Advisory Committee before the Committee's 14th Meeting.