

ASCOBANS NEWSFLASH JANUARY 2013

ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSPACE NOW ONLINE



The screenshot shows the homepage of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Workspace. At the top left is the ASCOBANS logo. The main heading is "Advisory Committee Workspace". Below this are navigation tabs: Home, Working Groups, Discussion, Members, Resources, and Wiki. On the right side, there are links for "My account" and "Log out". The main content area features a large image of dolphins and a welcome message: "Welcome to the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Workspace". Below the welcome message is a brief description of the workspace's purpose and a list of sections: "WORKING GROUPS", "Public Area", "New comments", "New forum topics", and "New content". The "Public Area" section includes links to "Introduction to the AC", "Current Groups", "ASCOBANS Secretariat", and "Links and Resources". The "New comments" section lists "ECS Workshop April 2013 - MPA".

After months of preparation, we are pleased to launch the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Workspace, an online platform designed for progressing the intersessional work of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee. It provides an innovative and powerful tool which facilitates participation, promotes communication and supports goal-driven work of the Advisory Committee. We are looking forward to constructive and lively discussions on the many important topics we are working on!

MATS AMUNDIN RECEIVES OUTREACH AND EDUCATION AWARD 2012

One highlight of the 7th Meeting of the Parties (Brighton, United Kingdom, October 2012) was the presentation of the 4th ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award.

The winner this time was Mats Amundin, who received his Award in honour of his outstanding contribution to raising and enhancing the awareness of various sectors of society concerning the situation of harbour porpoises and cetacean conservation in particular in the Baltic Sea region.

His work spans a broad range of activities from scientific research to teaching at the university level to outreach activities aimed at policy-makers and the general public. He works as Research Director at the Kolmården Animal Park in Sweden and is the Coordinator for the LIFE+-funded SAMBAH (Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise) project, has been a long-standing member of the ASCOBANS community and a regular participant in the Agreement's meetings, especially those of the Baltic Sea Working Group (Jastarnia Group).



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THANK YOU FOR A FANTASTIC ANNIVERSARY YEAR!



In 2012, ASCOBANS celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Agreement. This was used as an opportunity to make a special effort to reach as many people as possible with information regarding the Agreement and the species it protects.

Through a collaboration with The Whale Workshop, the Secretariat was able to offer a tailor-made roadshow featuring life-sized inflatable models of the majority of the species covered by ASCOBANS, which were shown together with the ASCOBANS exhibition banners. Thanks to voluntary contributions from Germany and France, special promotional material was prepared and the "anniversary roadshow" could be seen on the weekend between AC19 and the ECS conference in March 2012 in Galway, Ireland. At the WhaleFest 2012 in Brighton in October, an event attended by around 6,000 visitors, the main display was sponsored jointly by CMS and ASCOBANS and additional exhibition banners on threats to marine species were introduced to the public. Throughout the year, The Whale Workshop featured the ASCOBANS exhibition and the Anniversary on all shows held in Europe. Photos of the many events can be viewed [here](#).



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