

Agenda Item 7

Relations with other Bodies

Document 7-09

**Draft Terms of Reference for the
Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS
Working Group on the Marine
Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**

Action Requested

- Take note
- Comment on the ToR
- Nominate working group members

Submitted by

Secretariat



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

Secretariat's Note

At the 18th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, the representative of ACCOBAMS had proposed a joint working group on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Related documents were [AC18/Doc.7-04](#), [AC18/Doc.7-05](#) and [AC18/Doc.7-06](#).

AC18 had welcomed this opportunity for collaboration with ACCOBAMS and elements of terms of reference for the working group had been discussed and following the meeting communicated to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and the Scientific Committee Task Manager on Research, Vincent Ridoux, for finalization.

In January 2012, the Secretariat circulated draft terms of reference containing both the proposal made by ASCOBANS AC18 and the subsequently revised draft prepared within ACCOBAMS processes. Comments and nominations for group membership were gathered until 6 February 2012, and a revised draft containing an overview of nominations received re-circulated in early March 2012. No further comments on the text were received.

However, Belgium provided some more information regarding the processes within OSPAR COBAM, where a number of indicators related to cetaceans are under development, namely relating to (1) distributional range and pattern of cetacean species regularly present, (2) abundance at the relevant temporal scale of cetacean species regularly present, and (3) numbers of individuals within species being bycaught in relation to population. The working group should consult the summary record of COBAM, and especially the terms of reference for the subgroups that will deal with the review of the draft indicator sheets. At present only one expert per country is foreseen to be proposed by OSPAR member states.

The following people have so far asked to be part of the working group:

ACCOBAMS	ASCOBANS
Carmen Mifsud (Malta)	Alison Wood (WDCS)
Javier Pantoja (Spain)	Mark Simmonds (WDCS)
Marina Sequeira (Portugal)	Marije Siemensma
Leonardo Tunesi (Italy)	Jan Haelters (Belgium)
Caterina Fortuna (Italy)	Peter Evans (Sea Watch Foundation)
Martine Bigan (France)	Russell Leaper
Tidani Couma (Monaco)	Karsten Brensing (WDCS)
Simion Nicolaev (Romania)	
Violin Raykov (Bulgaria)	

There is a clear need for further nominations for working group members representing ASCOBANS Parties.



Draft Terms of Reference for the Joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Working Group on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

This working group will operate by correspondence.

In the short-term (by mid-2012):

- Review the work done on cetaceans by Regional Seas Conventions (including OSPAR ICG COBAM and WKBIOD workshop organized in November 2011 regarding GES and targets for biodiversity descriptors, as well as HELCOM CORESET) and further discuss areas where no specific work has been done in the view of:
 - validating the proposed species list for the various MSFD subregions or establishing the species list for subregions where no proposal exist
 - establishing the relevance of the Commission Decision indicators
 - establishing the relevant geographical scale for GES assessment for cetaceans
 - validating proposed GES determination and targets or establishing GES determination and targets where no proposal exist, following as relevant the methodology established by ICG COBAM (advice document that was widely distributed through the EU)
 - identifying the main pressures acting on cetaceans and proposing “pressure targets” in order to reach or maintain GES for cetaceans
- Participate in the current Ecosystem Approach process within the Mediterranean Action Plan
- Complete the table containing the expert appraisal for “Criteria and methodological standards relevant to ACCOBAMS on good environmental status of marine waters” for the ASCOBANS area

In the medium term (before mid-2013):

- Identify relevant species, geographical and temporal scales and parameters to measure, including developing an index of cumulative impacts, in order to assess the environmental status of cetaceans
- Participate in the future revision of the EC Decision on criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters, to include relevant aspects related to the status of and pressures on cetaceans
- Propose a common methodology for cetacean monitoring in marine protected areas