

Agenda Items 4 and 5

Priorities in the Implementation of the  
Triennium Work Plan (2010-2012)

Implementation of the Triennium Work Plan  
(2010-2012) – Other Issues

Document 4-01

**ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan  
2010-2012 – Progress and Further  
Actions**

**Action Requested**

- Take note of the report
- Comment
- Decide on further actions to be taken

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**

1. This document contains an overview of action points for the current triennium of activity of ASCOBANS, covering the work of the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee and Parties, as adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties. It also indicates what progress has already been made in the implementation of the individual activities.
2. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting, guidance on further action required for each action will be requested. These will be included in a revised version of this document, to be annexed to the report of the meeting.
3. Parties are encouraged to enable the implementation of activities marked with an asterisk (\*) through voluntary contributions, as the budgetary provisions of the Agreement do not allow their satisfactory implementation.

**ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan 2010-2012 – Progress and Further Actions**

ACTIVITY TRIENNIUM WORK PLAN 2010-2012	ACTION BY	TIMING	LINKS TO AGREEMENT, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STRATEGY PAPER	PROGRESS MADE	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED
<b>Conservation Issues</b>					
1. Review annually and as far as possible in conjunction with EU, ICES and IWC, new information on bycatch and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action. This should include information provided by Parties and Range States on the implementation, efficacy and impacts of measures introduced to <u>reduce</u> bycatch, and on effort in relevant fisheries	AC (supported by Secretariat)	Annually	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	Bycatch Working Group reported to AC18 ( <a href="#">AC18/Doc.4-07</a> ) New Terms of Reference for the Bycatch Working Group adopted (Annex 7 of <a href="#">AC18 Report</a> ) Global CMS study on effects of bycatch in gillnets on migratory species and mitigation measures ( <a href="#">UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.30</a> ) <a href="#">CMS Res.10.14</a> on Gillnet Bycatch adopted	Progress Report of Working Group to AC19 (Doc.4-06)
2. Continue to review annually new information on pollution and its effects on small cetaceans that occur in the ASCOBANS area and, on the basis of this review, provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	AC	Annually		Pollution Review 2011 Annex 9 of <a href="#">AC18 Report</a> Joint ECS/ ASCOBANS/ ACCOBAMS Workshop on Pollution and Marine Mammals held on 20 March 2011 (AC19/Doc.5-02) <a href="#">CMS Res.10.4</a> on Marine Debris adopted	Pollution Review 2012 to be presented to AC19 WDCS to present background document on impact of marine debris on cetaceans to AC19 (AC19/Doc.5-03)

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<p>3. Continue to review the extent of negative effects of sound, vessels and other forms of disturbance on small cetaceans and to review relevant technological developments and best practices with a view to developing guidelines which Parties may use to reduce disturbance by noise</p>	<p>AC (supported by Secretariat)</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper</p>	<p>Meeting between the chairs of the ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS noise working groups and the Secretariat in March 2011; possible joint actions of the working groups agreed</p> <p>Noise Working Group reported to AC18 (<a href="#">Doc.4-08</a>)</p> <p>AC18 endorsed joint activities of ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS noise working groups</p> <p>Revised Terms of Reference for Noise Working Group adopted at AC18 (Annex 8 of <a href="#">AC18 Report</a>)</p> <p>Map showing areas of high risk of ship strikes prepared by Peter Evans (<a href="#">AC18/Doc.6-04</a>)</p>	<p>Progress Report of Working Group to AC19 (AC19/Doc.4-08)</p> <p>ASCOBANS to assist in facilitating requests for shipping data as needed</p>
<p>4. Review new information, as far as possible in co-operation with EU, ICES and IWC, on cetacean population size, distribution, structure, and causes of any changes in the ASCOBANS area and based on implications for conservation to make appropriate</p>	<p>AC</p>	<p>Annually</p>		<p>Secretariat wrote to the authorities of the Faroe Islands and NAMMCO regarding the whale hunt (see <a href="#">AC18/Doc.5-06</a> and <a href="#">AC19/Doc.5-01</a>)</p> <p>Tabular summary of the results of various trend</p>	<p>AC to investigate actual and potential effects of climate change distribution shifts</p> <p>Joint workshop on population structure to be held with</p>

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recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities				analyses in strandings, sightings and bycatch prepared by Peter Evans ( <a href="#">AC18/Doc.6-05</a> ) AC19 included item on management of MPAs	ACCOBAMS at the 2013 ECS Conference (postponed by 1 year) WDCS and Sea Watch to table related paper (AC19/Doc.5-04)
5. Continue to evaluate progress in the implementation of the Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan), establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan	Jastarnia Group (supported by the Secretariat)	Annually	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	8 <sup>th</sup> Jastarnia Group meeting held in January/February 2012 (AC19/Doc.4-02) SAMBAH (Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise) project (2010-2014) with support from Baltic Sea Parties and EU Terms of Reference for Baltic Coordinator endorsed (Annex 6 of <a href="#">AC18 Report</a> )	
6. Review the effectiveness of the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises in 2011. Jastarnia Group to draft revision of plan if necessary for AC preceding the MoP7 *	Independent reviewer (e.g. R. Reeves) / Jastarnia Group	2011		External consultant developed draft paper containing background information and proposed objectives for the “gap area”, reviewed by Jastarnia Group (AC19/Doc.4-03) Jastarnia Group 8 Report (see AC19/Doc.4-02)	

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7. Incorporate the implications arising from the conclusions of the ASCOBANS/HELCOM Small Cetacean Population Structure Workshops in the development of the Jastarnia and North Sea harbour porpoise action plans and potentially other actions (to be elaborated by the Advisory Committee), taking particular note of the fact that the western Baltic, Inner Danish Waters and Kattegat areas are at present not covered by either plan	AC	AC17		External consultant developed draft paper containing background information and proposed objectives for the “gap area”, reviewed by Jastarnia Group (AC19/Doc.4-03)	
8. Promote and coordinate the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea, gather information on its implementation and the results obtained, inform the public and evaluate the effectiveness of the Plan every three years to update it*	Coordinator/Steering Group (supported by the Secretariat)	Throughout the triennium	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	Interim Coordinators contracted in October 2009. Final report contained in <a href="#">AC18/Doc.4-06</a> North Sea Group established at AC17 (ToR in Annex 8 of <a href="#">AC17 Report</a> ); progress report contained in <a href="#">AC18/Doc.4-05</a> and AC19/Doc.4-04 North Sea Plan Coordinator appointed in August 2011; progress report contained in AC19/Doc.4-05	Coordinators and North Sea Group to report to AC19 (AC19/Doc.4-05 and 4-06) Parties to make budgetary provision or voluntary contributions for the continuation of the North Sea Coordinator consultancy after 2012

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9. Continue to consider how the work of ASCOBANS should be extended to take account of the new Agreement Area, which includes areas beyond national jurisdiction	AC (supported by Secretariat)	Throughout the triennium		Joint workshop with ECS and ACCOBAMS on implementation of the cetacean components of the Habitats Directive organized for 24 March 2012 at the ECS Conference (see <a href="#">AC18/Doc.5-05</a> )	Intersessional Working Group under leadership of Peter Evans to prepare paper on research and conservation actions in extension area for AC19
10. Promote an informal Working Group of the Advisory Committee which shall summarise information on large cetaceans in the Agreement area and address aspects of their conservation (in accordance with the Terms of Reference proposed by MOP6 for this group)	AC	Throughout the triennium		Informal Working Group established at AC17 First report of Working Group <a href="#">AC18/Doc.5-04 rev.1</a>	WG to report to AC19
11. Review progress of bottlenose dolphin project (TURSIOPS SEAs) and guide as required	AC, led by UK			Progress report contained in <a href="#">AC17/Doc.6-04</a>	Update to be given to AC19
<b>ASCOBANS Meetings and Workshops</b>					
12. Ensure the annual cycle of Advisory Committee Meetings, with papers circulated one month in advance of the meetings	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.2		

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13. Seek to secure a host for the 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties at least a year in advance of the meeting; otherwise arrange for it to be held in Bonn	Secretariat	2011	Article 4.2	United Kingdom to host: 22-24 October 2012 in Brighton	
14. Organize meetings of regional working groups (Jastarnia Group, North Sea Group) at intervals defined in each group's ToR *	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	8 <sup>th</sup> Jastarnia Group meeting held in January/February 2012 (see AC19/Doc.4-02)	
15. If required by AC, organize a workshop, e.g. at an annual conference of the ECS, on a topic of priority interest to ASCOBANS *	Secretariat	During triennium	1. Habitat Conservation and Management	Joint ECS/ ASCOBANS/ ACCOBAMS Workshop on Pollution and Marine Mammals held on 20 March 2011 ( <a href="#">AC18/Doc.5-03</a> ) Joint ECS/ ASCOBANS/ ACCOBAMS Workshop on implementation of the cetacean components of the Habitats Directive to be held on 24 March 2012 (see <a href="#">AC18/Doc.5-05</a> )	Joint workshop on population structure to be held with ACCOBAMS at the 2013 ECS Conference (postponed by 1 year)
16. In conjunction with the European Cetacean Society and North Sea Foundation, organize one or more meetings to develop a constructive dialogue with the fisheries sector in the ASCOBANS area, in order to aid the Parties to progress bycatch mitigation	AC (supported by Secretariat)	Throughout the triennium	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	Intersessional Steering Group established by AC16 Bycatch Workshop held on 20 March 2010 Bycatch Working Group reported to AC18 ( <a href="#">Doc.4-07</a> ) New Terms of Reference for the Bycatch Working Group	ASCOBANS representatives to be sent to RACs and similar fisheries meetings; Parties to provide funding Working Group to report to AC19

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measures in an effective manner. The first meeting is proposed to take place at the Annual Conference of the ECS in Stralsund in March 2010. To initiate the process, an intersessional Steering Group under the Advisory Committee Chair shall be established between MOP6 and AC17				adopted (Annex 7 of <a href="#">AC18 Report</a> ) Chair of Bycatch Working Group attended North Sea RAC Meeting in October 2010 (see <a href="#">AC18/Doc.7-01</a> ) North Sea Plan Coordinator attended North Sea RAC Meeting in October 2011 (see <a href="#">AC19/Doc.7-01</a> )	
17. Propose priorities for the coming triennium (2013-2015)	AC	2012			
<b>Budgetary and Administrative Issues</b>					
18. Report on budgetary and administrative issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.2	AC19/Doc.13-01 AC19/Doc.13-02 AC17 decided to discontinue budget outlines of the running year	Continue mid-year report to Parties
19. Present a draft budget for the next triennium for consideration at an Advisory Committee meeting at least six months prior to the next Meeting of Parties	Secretariat / AC	2012	Article 4.1, 4.2	AC19/Doc.14-03, which includes considerations on advantages and disadvantages of a Euro vs. a Dollar budget for AC19	

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20. Prepare draft resolutions on budgetary and administrative issues for consideration at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee prior to MoP7	Secretariat / AC	2012	Article 4.1, 4.2	AC19/Doc.8-01 AC19/Doc.14-01 AC19/Doc.14-02	
21. Encourage Parties and partner organizations to provide voluntary contributions for projects prioritised by the AC or outreach initiatives	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1	Facilitated co-funding of pinger project (see Annex 3 to <a href="#">AC18/Doc.6-02</a> ) through Friends of CMS	Project proposals to be prioritized in advance of AC19 Parties to make voluntary contributions
22. Assist in developing funding arrangements for projects covering themes prioritised by the Advisory Committee (see task 15) and Meeting of Parties	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1	For progress with projects managed through the Secretariat see AC19/Doc.6-01 Process for ranking project proposals adopted at AC18	
<b>Communication, Education and Public Awareness</b>					
23. Develop a co-ordinated outreach programme, focussing particularly on activities that can help achieve the aims of ASCOBANS*	Secretariat/AC	2010	Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	CEPA Plan adopted (Annex 11 of <a href="#">AC17 Report</a> )	Parties to develop national material for outreach to fishermen Secretariat to use material from draft fisheries leaflet for further development of website ( <a href="#">AC17/Doc.4-03</a> )

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24. Report on outreach and communication issues to each meeting of the Advisory Committee	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.2	AC19/Doc.4-09	
25. Develop and implement CEPA to raise awareness of issues related to cetacean conservation in the Agreement Area*	Secretariat / Parties and observers	Throughout the triennium	5. Information and education	CEPA Plan adopted (Annex 11 of <a href="#">AC17 Report</a> ) Peter Evans contracted to write Anniversary Publication Cetacean roadshow proposal developed and offered to Parties and partners Reprints of information material initiated to ensure adequate supply IDBHP supported and Secretariat events organized (see AC19/Doc.4-09)	Parties to host events celebrating the 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Parties to support related activities with voluntary contributions
26. Continue to update and translate ASCOBANS information material into the languages of both Party and non-Party Range States*	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	5. Information and education	Regular reprints of revised ASCOBANS leaflet (available in all languages of the Agreement Area) 10-banner exhibition available in English (3 sets) and German (2 sets) New website contains basic information in all languages of the Agreement Area	Development/ finalization of further language versions of the exhibition; Parties to support with voluntary contributions

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27. Continue to develop the ASCOBANS website, aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of target audiences and including educational material*	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	5. Information and education	Revised website launched in July 2011 Plans for further enhancement outlined in AC19/Doc.4-09	Parties to provide voluntary contributions to enable development of additional sections as outlined in document
28. Collaborate with partner organizations to develop joint actions in educational and promotional activities, and create synergy to provide added value while avoiding duplication of effort	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	5. Information and education	Joint ASCOBANS/SAMBAH leaflet has been produced in all project languages funded through German voluntary contribution 2010	
29. Assess the need for targeted information material on conservation issues facing small cetaceans in the region in consultation with Parties and appropriate other bodies, and develop material as necessary in close cooperation with these partners *	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	5. Information and education	Related recommendations made in <a href="#">AC17/Doc.4-03</a>	Parties to provide voluntary contributions to enable development of additional sections as outlined in AC19/Doc.4-09
<b>Cooperation with other Organizations</b>					
30. Identify priorities and improve co-operation between ASCOBANS and the European Union institutions	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2, Proposed strategic priority in the Strategy paper	ASCOBANS representation at the ongoing DG-ENV process to determine “good environmental status” as goal of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive Mission of Coordinator to	

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				Brussels in September 2011 (see AC19/Doc.7-01) Joint ECS/ ASCOBANS/ ACCOBAMS Workshop on implementation of the cetacean components of the Habitats Directive to be held on 24 March 2012 (see <a href="#">AC18/Doc.5-05</a> )	
31. Ensure close collaboration with the Secretariats of CMS and other CMS Regional Agreements on all issues of mutual interest, and contribute to the process of defining the future shape of CMS	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	Secretariat represented at ACCOBAMS SC7 (see <a href="#">AC18/Doc.7-01</a> ) Secretariat represented at Meetings of the ISWGoFS and at CMS COP10 (see AC19/Doc.7-01) Joint working group on Marine Strategy Framework Directive established with ACCOBAMS (see <a href="#">AC18/Doc.7-04</a> )	Examine the feasibility of a joint CMS Family workshop on a subject of common interest such as bycatch
32. Seek to cooperate with the HELCOM Secretariat in the creation and maintenance of a joint Baltic harbour porpoise database as part of HELCOM's online information system *	Jastarnia Group / Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	Project concluded; system online (final report contained in <a href="#">AC17/Doc.6-01 rev.3</a> )	Parties to ensure relevant data is reported to HELCOM regularly

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33. Continue to invite intergovernmental bodies such as IWC, ICES, CMS, HELCOM, NAMMCO, OSPAR, ACCOBAMS, the European Commission and other relevant international organizations to send representatives to Advisory Committee meetings	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.1, 4.2	Invitations and reminders sent for AC19	ASCOBANS representatives to be sent to RACs and similar fisheries meetings; Parties to provide funding
34. Ensure that the chairs of the Advisory Committee receive invitations to meetings of CMS and other CMS Regional Agreements	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	Contact details included in CMS database	
35. Explore the possibilities of further developing positive relationships with other stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and Regional Advisory Councils	AC / Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	Bycatch Workshop held on 20 March 2010 Chair of Bycatch Working Group attended North Sea RAC Meeting in October 2010 (see <a href="#">AC18/Doc.7-01</a> ) North Sea Plan Coordinator attended North Sea RAC Meeting in October 2011 (see AC19/Doc.7-01)	ASCOBANS representatives to be sent to RACs and similar fisheries meetings; Parties to provide funding
36. Compile for each meeting of the Advisory Committee a list of Dates of Interest	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.1, 4.2	AC19/Doc.7-02	Representatives to report back to AC20

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37. Insofar as budgetary provisions and guidance by the Advisory Committee allow for it, ensure proper representation at an appropriate level at meetings of other relevant organizations *	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1	Reports of representatives of ASCOBANS at meetings contained in AC19/Doc.7-01	Representatives to report back to AC20
38. Continue and improve effective communication with non-governmental and international organizations, such as OSPAR, HELCOM, ICES, ACCOBAMS, CBD and IWC	Secretariat / AC	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1, 4.2	Ongoing Secretariat represented at MOP4 and SC7 of ACCOBAMS; areas for joint work identified and endorsed by AC18	ASCOBANS representatives to be sent to RACs and similar fisheries meetings; Parties to provide funding
<b>Institutional Issues</b>					
39. Promote the Agreement and its aims in Parties, Range States and with other relevant players *	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1		ASCOBANS representatives to be sent to RACs and similar fisheries meetings; Parties to provide funding
40. Promote accession of non-Party Range States and the European Commission to the Agreement	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1	Facilitated participation of ASCOBANS in 2010 Treaty Event of the UN Secretary General Repeated contacts with all non-Party Range States Mission of Coordinator to Brussels in September 2011	

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				(see AC19/Doc.7-01)	
41. Present to Parties, each year no later than 30 June, provided all reports have been received by that date, a compilation of Annual National Reports	Secretariat	Annually	Article 4.2		Compilation to be published as soon as possible after receipt of last report
42. Present to the Meeting of Parties a summary of, <i>inter alia</i> , progress made and difficulties encountered since the last Meeting of Parties	Secretariat	2012	Article 4.3		
43. Support Parties, Range States and Agreement bodies in implementing this Work Plan, in so far as primary responsibility does not lie with the Secretariat	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium	Article 4.1		