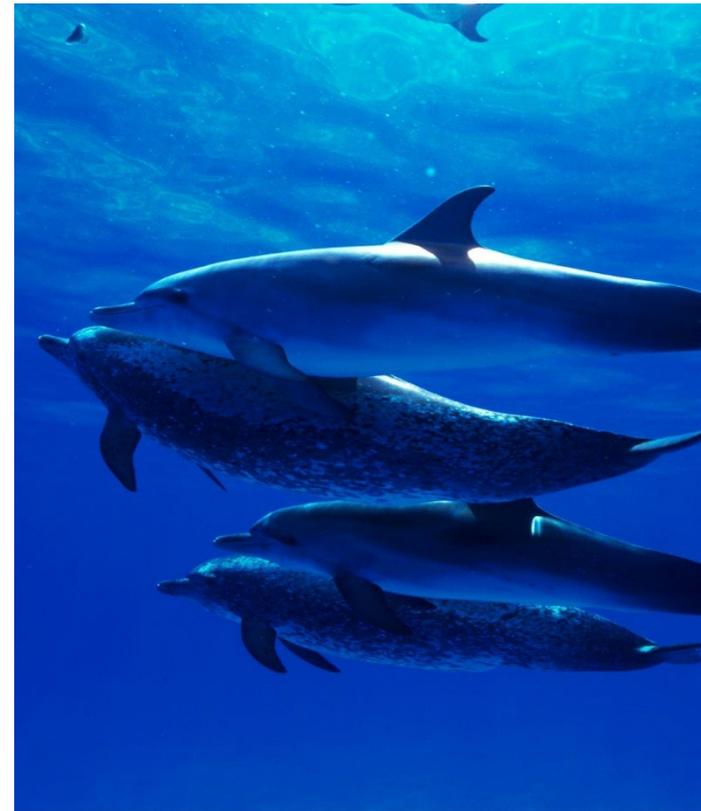




# Relevant outcomes from the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP14) to CMS



Jenny Renell, ASCOBANS Secretariat



# Relevant outcomes from CMS COP14 (1)

- Baltic Proper population of the harbour porpoise listed to CMS Appendix I
  - Enters into force on 17 May 2024
- Bycatch
  - Parties, that are Range States to the Baltic Proper harbour porpoise, are requested to urgently implement time-bound action plans and measures for effective bycatch mitigation
- Fish aggregating devices
  - Parties are encouraged to address the potential negative impacts of FADs
- Marine pollution
  - Parties are requested to integrate the need to address the threat of marine pollution when developing conservation plans; identify habitats and populations affected by chronic pollution threats; set up rapid-response systems



# Relevant outcomes from CMS COP14 (2)

- Marine noise
  - Parties are requested to inform the ScC-SC7 about lessons learned in application of the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities*
  - Parties are requested to make use of CMS TS *Best Available Technology (BET) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) for Mitigating Three Noise Sources: Shipping, Seismic Airgun Surveys and Pile Driving*
- Vessel strikes
  - New Resolution: encourages Parties to propose core aggregation zones and known migration corridors; urges Parties to consider integrating such areas into broader MPA designations; urges Parties to encourage the shipping industry to take proactive measures to reduce the risk of vessel strikes
  - Agrees to promote and support the development and implementation of best practices for reducing the risk of vessel strikes, incl. speed restrictions, use of technology, education



# Relevant outcomes from CMS COP14 (3)

- Deep-sea mining
  - New Resolution: urges Parties urges Parties not to engage in, or support, deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities until sufficient and robust scientific information has been obtained to ensure that those do not cause harmful effects to migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems
  - Decisions: Parties are requested to inform the Sec of relevant scientific or other information that considers the impacts of those activities on migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems
- Recreational in-water interactions
  - *Guidelines on Recreational In-water Interactions with Marine Wildlife* adopted
  - Parties encouraged to disseminate the guidelines to relevant organizations and operators



# Relevant outcomes from CMS COP14 (4)



- Important Marine Mammal Areas
  - Parties are requested to make use of IMMAs when designating MPAs or generally for MSP
- Conservation priorities for cetaceans
  - New Resolution *Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans*
  - Decisions: Parties are requested to review the priorities in their region (Annex 2 of UNEP/CMS/COP14 /Inf.27.5.1a) and to review the detailed recommendations for each of the priority threats in the Resolution, and address those of highest urgency



# Plans for the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (MOP<sub>10</sub>) to ASCOBANS

Jenny Renell, ASCOBANS Secretariat



# MOP10: 10-12 September 2024, Odense, Denmark

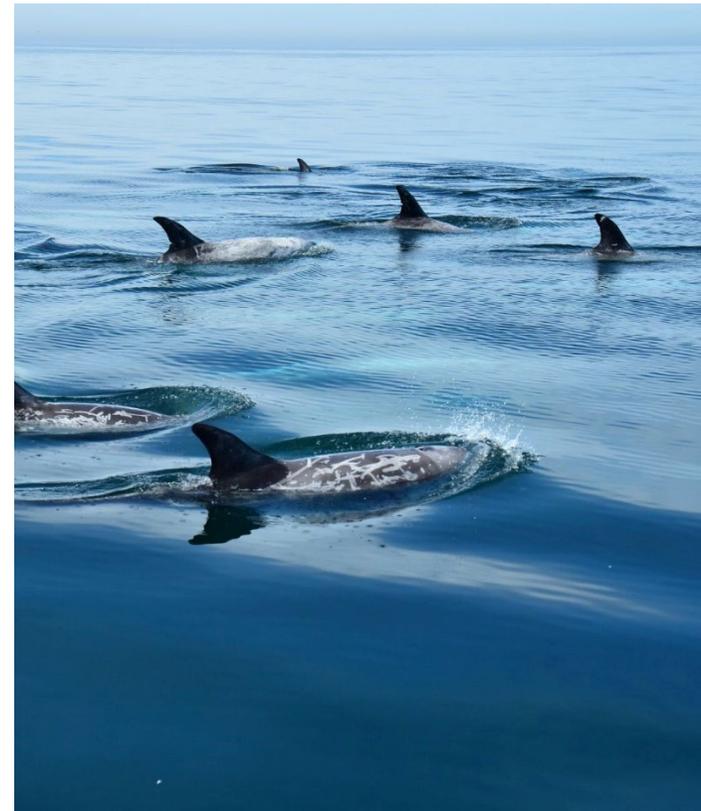
- New Resolutions:
  - First Revision of the ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea – to adopt the Revised North Sea Plan
  - Cetacean-sensitive Maritime Spatial Planning for the ASCOBANS Area – to adopt the guidelines
  - Beaked whales
  - Recreational speed crafts
  - Consider relationship of ASCOBANS to other organizations in order to identify potential duplication or gaps in efforts
- Potentially revise existing Resolutions:
  - Monitoring and Mitigation of Small Cetacean Bycatch
  - Small Cetacean Strandings Response
  - Ocean Energy & Adverse Effects of Underwater Noise on Marine Mammals during Offshore Construction Activities for Renewable Energy Production
- Required: Work Plan 2025-2028; Management of Expenditures 2020-2023; Financial and Administrative Matters 2025-2028; National Reporting 2025-2028





# Upcoming ASCOBANS Workshops at ECS 2024

Jenny Renell, ASCOBANS Secretariat



# European Cetacean Society 2024 Conference, Catania, Italy

- Protecting the lesser-known cetaceans of the NE Atlantic – 8 April, a.m.
- Development of a European Marine Strandings Database: Workshop II – 9 April, a.m.
- Recreational activities and their impact on cetaceans – 9 April, p.m.

Register by 25.3. (1st-come-1st-serve) →

<https://www.europeancetaceansociety.eu/workshops>

