

LIST OF ACTION POINTS AND DECISIONS

of the 21st Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee

Scientific Session

1. All Action Points agreed at the tenth meeting of the Jastarnia Group were endorsed by the Advisory Committee (Annex 5).
2. The revised Terms of Reference of the Jastarnia Group as presented were endorsed by the Advisory Committee.
3. Jastarnia Group members will discuss intersessionally through correspondence their positions regarding the proposed ban on drift nets in EU waters.
4. The Secretariat will seek nominations of experts for the necropsy coordination group by the 15 October deadline (see JG10/AP36).
5. All Action Points agreed at the fourth meeting of the North Sea Group were endorsed by the Advisory Committee (Annex 6).
6. The Secretariat will extend the contract of Geneviève Desportes so that she can represent ASCOBANS at the STECF meeting in October.
7. The proposal to hold an expert workshop to consider how EU bycatch legislation should be revised was endorsed and Geneviève Desportes' extended contract should include her assisting with the preparation of the workshop.
8. The Terms of Reference for a workshop on the requirements of EU legislation to address monitoring and mitigation of small cetacean bycatch were agreed (Annex 7).
9. Terms of Reference for a workshop on Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM), possibly to be held back to back with the next meeting of the Advisory Committee, were agreed (Annex 8).
10. The Terms of Reference of the Bycatch Working Group were amended (Annex 9).
11. Interim arrangements for Peter Evans to chair the Bycatch Working Group were agreed.
12. Defra (UK) will host a meeting in January 2015 in London to progress ASCOBANS' work on the issue of 'Further Development of Management Procedures for Defining the Thresholds of Unacceptable Interactions', to be coordinated by Jamie Rendell and Mark Simmonds.
13. ASCOBANS will try to organize a technical workshop on 'Further Development of Management Procedures for Defining the Thresholds of Unacceptable Interactions' (by invitation only) in the margins of the ECS Conference in March 2015 and terms of reference for the workshop were agreed. A Steering Committee comprising Kelly Macleod, Eunice Pinn, Jan Haelters, Mark Simmonds and Sinéad Murphy was established (Annex 10).
14. The Advisory Committee identified its priorities for the Work Programme of the Joint Noise Working Group (Annex 11).
15. The Advisory Committee agreed to consider co-funding with ACCOBAMS on a case by case basis occasional expert meetings of the Joint Noise Working Group.

16. The Advisory Committee will consider holding further workshops on EIAs relating to underwater noise as this was a rapidly evolving, dynamic field.
17. Peter Evans was encouraged to publish full proceedings of the EIA Underwater Noise Workshop.
18. The Joint Noise Working Group was requested to consider the recommendations from the EIA Workshop and how they could be disseminated to a wider audience.
19. With regard to ship strikes the Advisory Committee decided that ASCOBANS should seek to collaborate with the dedicated work streams at IWC.
20. Parties should continue to support research on the effects of PCBs on small cetaceans in the Agreement Area.
21. Through the Secretariat, ASCOBANS should establish links with other fora such as the IWC, OSPAR, HELCOM, ACCOBAMS and CMS with regards work underway to address marine debris. At its 22nd meeting, the Advisory Committee should consider how ASCOBANS could best contribute to the body of work already under way on this issue, in particular through collaborative activities for addressing specific knowledge gaps and educational opportunities.
22. At its 22nd Meeting the Advisory Committee should examine what Parties are undertaking with regard to campaigns related to raising awareness of marine debris.
23. The Secretariat will liaise with HELCOM and OSPAR to ascertain how ASCOBANS can best support their processes regarding underwater ordnance.
24. The Secretariat should collate the information that Parties submit to the appropriate fora in HELCOM and OSPAR relating to underwater ordnance (location, quantity and plans, methods and technologies for its safe removal) to enable the Advisory Committee to make progress with Work Plan Activity 5.
25. The Secretariat will ask Parties to provide details of those responsible for cetacean rescue, and what laws require, allow and prohibit in each country.
26. The Secretariat will gather information from ACCOBAMS, ECS, IWC and others on work relating to responses to cetaceans facing hazards.
27. The Secretariat will request ASCOBANS Parties nominate an expert on cetaceans and climate change to the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Climate Change. If possible, this person should be able to represent ACCOBAMS as well.
28. The Advisory Committee will maintain a watching brief on emerging marine renewable energy technologies. A standing agenda item will be introduced to the Advisory Committee allowing Parties to bring in new information and developments, in particular information on wave and tidal energy.
29. The Secretariat should arrange for a presentation on emerging marine renewable energy technologies and mitigation measures to be made to the Advisory Committee.
30. The Secretariat will contact the Faroese Authorities with a request to provide information on recent hunts, in particular details regarding the species affected by the hunt, how sustainability is assessed, what regulations and management are in place, and how the catches are utilized.

31. Parties should ask the EU Presidency to write along similar lines to the Faroese Authorities, raising concerns that some of the populations affected extend into European waters.
32. The Advisory Committee shall have regular sessions dedicated to particular species starting with the Common Dolphin at the 22nd Meeting.
33. The Advisory Committee would welcome the submission of a draft conservation plan for the common dolphin and agrees to give it due consideration. This should include consideration of the area of overlap between ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS.
34. Parties were urged to let St Andrews University have formal confirmation of any financial support for commitments for the SCANS III project by the end of the week beginning 6 October 2014.
35. The Secretariat will seek to facilitate attendance from Ireland of appropriate experts in meetings of the Advisory Committee.
36. Parties and partners should send suggestions for educational websites that can be linked to the ASCOBANS Kids Website.
37. The Secretariat should look into ways of evaluating the effectiveness of its outreach media and material.
38. In order to expand its social network presence and improve outreach Parties could nominate a national Facebook content manager, or provide relevant information to the Secretariat, as appropriate.
39. The Acting Executive Secretary is encouraged to seek out new opportunities through social media to raise the profile of ASCOBANS.
40. Everyone was encouraged to take part in the website user satisfaction survey before 19 October 2014.
41. ASCOBANS work should include an educational element to raise awareness among recreational boat users on how to reduce the risk of harming and disturbing cetaceans.
42. The Jastarnia Group was asked to hold an election for its Chair at its 11th meeting.
43. Peter Evans was re-elected as Chair of the Working Group on the Extension Area and of the Informal Working Group on Large Cetaceans.

Institutional Session

44. The Acting Executive Secretary was asked to approach non-Party Range States with a view to encourage them strongly to accede to the Agreement.
45. Parties were urged to assist with the recruitment of non-Party Range States.
46. The Secretariat will produce the compilation of National Reports by the end of the year.
47. An Inter-sessional correspondence process was established to be assisted by the Secretariat to identify the Agreement's reporting needs and all Parties are encouraged to send the Secretariat the name of the person participating in the process by 15 November. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee and the Chairs of the Working Groups together with the North Sea Coordinator will also take part.
48. Parties are urged to make financial pledges before the 22nd Advisory Committee to enable a professional survey designer to be recruited to produce the new reporting

- format and the ASCOBANS Secretariat will liaise with the IWC Secretariat, which is undertaking a similar exercise to see if synergies are feasible.
49. In addition to the thresholds workshop agreed (see AP13) the Necropsy Workshop proposed by the North Sea Group should be held at the 2015 ECS Conference.
 50. A decision was deferred on whether to develop sub-targets under the proposed Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 expected to be adopted at CMS COP11.
 51. The Secretariat will seek and facilitate where appropriate stronger stakeholder engagement through meetings and other fora, in order to further the conservation objectives of ASCOBANS.
 52. National representatives should seek opportunities to participate in local stakeholder meetings.
 53. The representation of ASCOBANS in meetings of other relevant organizations was decided as reflected in Annex 14.
 54. Parties accepted all the Secretariat's reports on administrative and budgetary matters for 2013 and 2014.
 55. The Secretariat will bring the concerns of the Parties on actual as against funded staff-time percentages to the Acting Executive Secretary and will consider ways to provide greater transparency to Parties.
 56. Parties agreed to fund the external project allocated the highest priority in the ballot (Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise Foraging Habitats - BALHAB).
 57. Parties decided that any remaining funds would be made available for the workshops identified as priorities by the Advisory Committee.
 58. The Secretariat will approach all Parties to ascertain their willingness to contribute towards the costs of contracting coordinators for the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions; Parties should respond by 15 November. The Netherlands (under condition that other North Sea Parties contributed their share) and Sweden indicated that they would provide some funds.
 59. The United Kingdom pledged a voluntary contribution of GB£5,000 towards the cost of the North Sea Coordinator.
 60. Parties will consider ways of ensuring longer-term funding for the coordinator consultancies.
 61. Parties decided to suspend the annual call for external projects for one year.
 62. The Netherlands offered to host the 22nd Meeting of the Advisory Committee and associated meetings, probably in the week beginning 28 September 2015.