



Terms of Reference – Consultant

Revision of the Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan)

Closing date for applications: 31 October 2008

1. Project Description:

The harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) is widely distributed in shelf waters of the temperate North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans and in some semi-enclosed seas (e.g. the Black and Baltic Seas). Although still numerically abundant as a species, at least in comparison to many other cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises), the harbour porpoise has experienced major declines in portions of its range, including and perhaps most notably the Baltic Sea.

The Jastarnia Plan is the result of a collaborative effort organised under the auspices of ASCOBANS. It is the culmination of a series of scientific initiatives and meetings over several years, starting in 1997. The ASCOBANS Parties adopted a series of Resolutions on this issue. The final Recovery Plan was endorsed by the ASCOBANS Parties at their 4th Meeting in 2003.

Since 2005, annual meetings of the Jastarnia Group are held. This expert working group is composed of representatives from the environment and fisheries sectors of the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea as well as NGO representatives and public information experts from the region. As outlined in the Jastarnia Plan and confirmed by the ninth meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, the Jastarnia Group's task is to carry forward the recommendations in the Recovery Plan. It discusses progress made and further implementation priorities for the Jastarnia Plan and makes recommendations to the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee.

At the 14th Meeting of the Advisory Committee (San Sebastián, Spain, April 2007), suggestions for revision of the Jastarnia Plan, made by the 3rd Meeting of the Jastarnia Group (Copenhagen, Denmark, February 2007) were welcomed. Accordingly, the Jastarnia Group and the Secretariat have started working on this draft for a revised and updated version. The preliminary result of these efforts has been brought to the attention of the AC as AC15/Doc.13. The AC decided on steps for the finalisation of the revised Jastarnia Plan.

2. Responsibilities:

In consultation with the ASCOBANS Secretariat and the Jastarnia Group, the consultant will prepare a revised version of the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises, building on the current version as welcomed by the 4th Meeting of Parties (2003 - http://www.service-board.de/ascobans_neu/files/recoveryplan.pdf) and in line with the revisions requested by the 15th Advisory Committee (2008):

- a) Adapt the structure and layout to follow more closely the draft North Sea Conservation Plan (http://www.service-board.de/ascobans_neu/files/ac15-14.pdf);
- b) Prepare an executive summary;
- c) Present the key action points in an annex.

The consultant will base the editing on the version presented by the Jastarnia Group to the Advisory Committee as AC15/Doc.13 and take care not to change its content.

3. Qualifications:

An advanced university degree in a conservation-related subject is required. Further, we expect:

- Extensive experience in project and programme development;
- A clear overview of small cetacean conservation issues;
- Sound knowledge of the particular situation in the Baltic Sea region;
- Excellent drafting skills in the English language.

Prior involvement in harbour porpoise conservation in the ASCOBANS region and particularly in the Baltic Sea is an asset.

4. Duration:

The final draft of the revised Jastarnia Plan should be ready for circulation through the UNEP/ASCOBANS Secretariat by 30 November 2008.

5. Fee:

Applicants are requested to make an offer specifying their total expected fee. The fee will be paid upon satisfactory completion of the activities specified in paragraph 2 above and presentation of an invoice to the UNEP/CMS Secretariat.

6. Other Provisions:

The incumbent may be requested to travel to the 5th Jastarnia Group Meeting and/or the 16th Advisory Committee Meeting of ASCOBANS in order to help countries to finalise the document for endorsement by the AC and subsequent adoption by the 6th Meeting of Parties. Financial arrangements for such missions will be made separately.

Please send your offer by email or fax to:

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