



Terms of Reference – Consultant

Coordinator for the ASCOBANS North Sea Harbour Porpoise Conservation Plan

Closing Date: 30 July 2009

1. Project Description:

ASCOBANS has drawn up a Conservation Plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea. This has been tabled as a document for the 6th Meeting of Parties in September 2009 (to be downloaded from <http://www.ascobans.org/index0501.html>), when it will hopefully be formally adopted by the Parties to ASCOBANS. In the meantime, uncontroversial parts of the plan should start to be implemented and time-limited funding is available for a part-time coordinator.

The Advisory Committee suggested that this be done by a contract to a relevant institution or experienced individual based in a North Sea Party to ASCOBANS.

2. Responsibilities:

Tasks that need to be addressed early on in the plan's implementation include:

- 1) To document and collate existing international and national regulations and guidelines that are relevant to the conservation and management of harbour porpoises in the North Sea and to provide this collation to all stakeholders;
- 2) To promote and explain the Conservation Plan to relevant stakeholders, including:
 - International and supranational bodies
 - Range states
 - Appropriate industry representatives incl. fisheries, hydrocarbon exploration, shipping etc
 - Appropriate local authorities
 - NGOs
- 3) To develop mechanisms to ensure that the Actions given in the Conservation Plan are implemented including the organisation of scientific workshops;
- 4) To make a recommendation for the evolution of some EU fishery regulations: data collection regulation, electronic logbooks, etc. in order to get the most appropriate data from effective fishing effort;
- 5) To coordinate the collection and collation of appropriate data on anthropogenic activities in a format that will facilitate its use in a GIS context;
- 6) To report on progress with the implementation of the plan.

The coordinator will seek guidance from the ASCOBANS North Sea Working Group and the UNEP/ASCOBANS Secretariat.

3. Qualifications:

Institutions or experienced individuals should demonstrate their relevant experience. In particular, the coordinator or lead staff member is expected to have:

- An advanced university degree in a conservation- or policy-related subject;
- Extensive experience in project and programme development;
- A clear overview of small cetacean conservation issues;
- Sound knowledge of the particular situation in the North Sea region;
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English.

Candidates from a North Sea ASCOBANS Party will be given priority. Prior involvement in harbour porpoise conservation and/or with relevant stakeholders in the ASCOBANS region is an asset.

4. Duration:

The coordinator will include in his/her offer the duration of service, taking into account the funds available as outlined below. As a minimum, 6 months of service are expected. The contract is renewable depending on funding availability and satisfaction of service.

5. Fee:

The funds currently available for this task amount to USD 10,000. Applicants are requested to make an offer specifying the total time they would commit to this contract for the fee outlined. The fee will be paid in two instalments upon satisfactory completion of activities specified in paragraph 2 above and presentation of an invoice to the UNEP/ASCOBANS Secretariat.

6. Other Provisions:

Financial arrangements for any missions necessary under the assignment will be made separately and are subject to availability of funds.

Please send your offer to ascobans@ascobans.org.