



Call for Expressions of Interest: Coordination of ASCOBANS Harbour Porpoise Action Plans (2019)

The ASCOBANS Secretariat would welcome Expressions of Interest (EOI) to provide coordination of the three ASCOBANS Harbour Porpoise Action Plans from February 2019 onwards for one year initially as outlined below.

Background

The ten ASCOBANS Parties have adopted three Action Plans targeting Harbour Porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) to date: the [Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises](#) (Jastarnia Plan) targeting the critically endangered Harbour Porpoises in the Baltic proper; the [Recovery Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea](#); and the [Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat](#) (WBBK). There are two Working Groups which regularly review and provide guidance on the implementation of the three action plans. The longest-standing, [Jastarnia Working Group](#), has acted as Steering Group for the Jastarnia Plan and since its adoption in 2012, and it also covers the WBBK Plan. The North Sea Group is responsible for the North Sea Plan.

As outlined in the ASCOBANS [Recovery Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea](#), “Experience has shown that in order to be effective, Conservation Plans must have a recognised, full-time co-ordinator. This is particularly true where effective conservation requires action (including legislative action) by a number of stakeholders including: intergovernmental and national authorities, scientists from several disciplines, representatives from industry, local communities, and interested NGOs. The scale of work required by this Plan exceeds the resources available within the (part-time) ASCOBANS Secretariat.”

ASCOBANS Parties have therefore since 2017 ([AC23](#)) put in place a “Coordinator for the Harbour Porpoise Action Plan” and allocated funds accordingly¹. The initial allocation of funds was for one year and has been extended in September 2018 at the [AC24](#).

Aims of the Contract

Building on the work already undertaken the organization providing coordination should, under the supervision of the Secretariat, deliver on the following tasks:

- 1) Coordinate efforts to deliver the action plans, identifying synergies and opportunities for efficiency savings;
- 2) Review progress under the North Sea, Jastarnia and WBBK Plans and make proposals for amending the Action Points in advance of the meetings of the Groups;

¹ https://www.ascobans.org/sites/default/files/document/AC23_Report%20incl.%20Annex_.pdf

- 3) Review latest available information on Harbour Porpoise bycatch from the fleets operating in the North, Belt and Baltic Seas;
- 4) Collate regional information on life history parameters (e.g. age structure, age at sexual maturity, reproductive information) for Harbour Porpoises in the areas covered by the three plans, ensuring synergies with other fora;
- 5) Provide technical support at the annual meetings of the bycatch working group of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and other relevant fora (e.g. the North Sea Advisory Council, Baltic Sea Advisory Council, HELCOM, OSPAR);
- 6) Provide technical support at meetings of the Regional Coordination Group which will develop the regional implementation of the Data Collection Framework (DCF), assuming this is practically feasible; and
- 7) Provide advice on appropriate funding mechanisms for the long-term implementation of the three action plans and support fundraising efforts.

Required Profile and Qualifications

The ASCOBANS Secretariat welcomes EOIs from organizations or individuals with substantive proven experience and capacity to provide the required activities and outputs as described above. In particular, the organization or individual should:

- Have significant experience in marine nature conservation as well as experience and a proven understanding of the political and legal context and of scientific issues concerning Harbour Porpoise conservation in the agreement area, with particular emphasis on the Baltic proper given the conservation status of “critically endangered” in this region;
- Have excellent communication skills in English (other official languages spoken in ASCOBANS Parties are an advantage), and be able to establish and maintain relations with and to represent ASCOBANS positions vis-à-vis the various stakeholders;
- Have good understanding of the mandates and work of ASCOBANS.

The ASCOBANS Secretariat is looking forward to receiving EOIs by Monday 21 January 2019 09:00 CET. Please include a technical proposal, a financial offer and the relevant CVs. Please send your EOI to the ASCOBANS Secretariat by email: ascobans.secretariat@ascobans.org.