Overview of Relevant CMS COP12 Outcomes

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IMMAs

Resolution 12.13:
• Acknowledges the IMMA criteria and identification process.
• Requests Parties etc to suggest areas where identification of IMMAs could be particularly beneficial.
  • Design and connectivity of protected area networks
  • Comprehensively addressing threats to aquatic mammals

Decisions 12.40-12.41:
• CMS ScC to collaborate with IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force.
Resolution 12.14 (consolidation + guidelines):

• Endorses the Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities.

• Contents:
  • An introduction and link to detailed Technical Support Information, which includes species-specific information
  • Technical Advisory Notes
  • Separate modules for different industries
Decisions 12.42-12.43:

• The CMS ScC instructed to assess the need for further noise-related voluntary guidelines on activities of concern.

• Next Steps
  • Will be presented to ASCOBANS MOP for adoption.
Resolution 12.15:

• Seeks more recognition of topic, which unlike terrestrial “bushmeat” has not yet been the focus of international policy efforts.

• Recommends increasing scientific understanding and knowledge of aquatic wild meat harvests, collaborating, and providing the required support to ensure legal and sustainable subsistence harvests.

• Requests the establishment of a thematic working group dealing with aquatic wild meat........
Following a call for nominations of Councillors and external experts, the WG was established in June, 2018 and has started deliberations on the CMS ScC Workspace.

Some of the tasks include:

- Collecting information, facilitating discussion on the issue, and serving as an expert resource for CMS Parties, ScC and Secretariat
- Sharing information with IWC and participating in future Small Cetacean Sub-committee meetings with a focus on aquatic wild meat.
Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes

Resolution 11.22 (Rev. COP12):

- Calls upon Parties to develop / implement national legislation prohibiting the live capture of cetaceans from the wild for commercial purposes.
  - Particularly taking stricter domestic measures in line with CITES Article XIV regarding the import and international transit of live cetaceans.
- Requests Sec & ScC to enhance cooperation with CITES and the IWC on small cetaceans
- Endorses **Best Practice Guidelines** designed to assist interested Parties on how to improve existing legislation or develop new laws.
Recreational In-Water Interactions with Aquatic Mammals

Resolution 12.16:

• Gives recognition to the threat and widespread disturbance it can represent to aquatic mammals.
• Urges the adoption of national measures to regulate such activities.
• Calls for research on the effects and significance of these disturbances.

Decisions 12.50-12.52:

• ScC to develop guidelines and recommended code of conduct for operations, in consultation with the IWC and based on documents on national measures provided by Parties.
Resolution 12.20 (consolidation):

- Consolidates old Resolutions, Incorporates new knowledge and developments.
- Recognizes the range of challenges and the knowledge gaps in management of marine debris.
- Covers best practice for commercial marine vessels, actions by the industry, public awareness and education campaigns, and collaboration and policy intervention.
Resolution 11.23 (Rev. COP12):

- Requests the CMS Expert Working Group on Culture and Social Complexity to continue its work, including:
  - developing a list of priority species listed on the CMS Appendices for a comprehensive investigation of culture and social structure and commencing more detailed analysis as appropriate
  - developing a taxonomy of culture across other taxa of relevance to CMS to assist in determining priority species for case studies.
Resolution 11.23 (Rev. COP12):

- Urges Parties to apply a precautionary approach to the management of populations for which there is evidence that influence of culture and social complexity may be a conservation issue.

- The report from the workshop that took place in Parma in April, 2018 has been published as CMS/ScC-SC3/Inf.8.
Bycatch

Resolution 12.22 (Consolidation):

• Outlines actions needed to achieve effective mitigation and monitoring, in areas including:
  • Participation in RFMOs
  • Bycatch mitigation methods and data collection
  • Collaboration and cooperation
  • Technological and financial assistance
Resolution 11.29 (Rev.COP12):

- Endorses guidelines on boat-based marine wildlife watching for different taxonomic groups.
- The Guidelines cover:
  - General considerations including EIAs and licensing/permits
  - Species-specific considerations (sirenians, pinnipeds, elasmobranchs, seabirds, and marine turtles)
  - Specific risks, early indicators of disturbance, factors to consider, management considerations, guidelines and suggested thresholds for each taxonomic group
Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching

Resolution 11.29 (Rev.COP12):

- They do not cover in-water interactions, though the ScC has decided to consider these topics jointly in the future.
- Regarding cetacean watching, CMS is collaborating with the IWC, which is taking the lead in the development of a joint IWC-CMS Whale Watching Handbook, to be presented at the IWC67 in Brazil in September 2018.

Decisions 12.78-12.80:

- Emphasize collaboration with IWC and ACCOBAMS.