Agenda Item 7.3: Draft Resolutions for MOP 4

Draft Resolution No. 4: Extension of the ASCOBANS Agreement Area

Submitted by: United Kingdom

NOTE:
IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR OWN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING
EXTENSION OF THE ASCOBANS AGREEMENT AREA

The Meeting of the Parties:

NOTING that the range of a number of populations of species covered by ASCOBANS are known or assumed to comprise waters to the west and south-west of the current Agreement Area;

NOTING that the Agreement Areas of ASCOBANS and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) are currently not contiguous;

RECALLING that the Advisory Committee to ASCOBANS has repeatedly recommended the extension of the Agreement Area to the west and south-west of the current Agreement Area;

RECOGNIZING that the conservation of small cetaceans in the current ASCOBANS Agreement Area and in European waters as a whole would benefit from the extension of the ASCOBANS Agreement Area to parts of the Western Atlantic and from the establishment of a direct geographical link between the Agreement Areas of ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS;

GUIDED by a common will to further strengthen the Agreement;

Agrees to:

1. EXTEND the Agreement Area of ASCOBANS to the west and south-west of the current Agreement Area and to redefine this area as follows:

"The marine environment of the Baltic and North Seas, as delimited by the shores of the Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland; to the south-east by latitude 36°N and longitude 5.36°W; to the south-west by latitude 36°N and longitude 15°W; to the north-west by longitude 15° and a line drawn through the following points: latitude 60°N/longitude 15°W, latitude 60°N/longitude 05°W, latitude 64°N/longitude 0.37°W; to the north by latitude 64°N; and including the Kattegat and the Sound and Belt passages."
2. REPLACE Article 1.2 (b) with

"Area of the Agreement means the marine environment of the Baltic and North Seas, as delimited by the shores of the Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland; to the south-east by latitude 36°N and longitude 5.36°W; to the south-west by latitude 36°N and longitude 15°W; to the north-west by longitude 15° and a line drawn through the following points: latitude 60°N/longitude 15°W, latitude 60°N/longitude 05°W, latitude 64°N/longitude 0.37°W; to the north by latitude 64°N; and including the Kattegat and the Sound and Belt passages."

3. ADD a new subparagraph 6.5.4 to Article 6.5 reading as follows:

"Any State that becomes a Party to the Agreement after the entry into force of an Amendment shall, failing an expression of a different intention by that State:

a) be considered as a Party to the Agreement as amended; and

b) be considered as a Party to the unamended Agreement in relation to any Party not bound by the Amendment."

Projected Extension of ASCOBANS Agreement Area