

Agenda Item 7.3: Draft Resolutions for MOP4

**Draft Resolution No. 7:
Monitoring, Status and Population Studies**

Submitted by: Secretariat



ASCOBANS

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

4th Meeting of the Parties

Draft Resolution No. 7 Monitoring, Status and Population Studies

The Meeting of the Parties:

RECALLING Resolution No. 5 adopted by the Third Meeting of the Parties, which called for the completion of planning for an abundance survey of the Agreement area and for an abundance survey of waters to the west of the Agreement area to be carried out by the Fourth Meeting of the Parties;

NOTING that lack of information on abundance, spatial and seasonal distribution and population structure remain important limitations on determining the impact of by-catch and other anthropogenic impacts on harbour porpoises and in designing effective mitigation measures;

RECALLING that the last comprehensive abundance estimates for small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS area were made in 1994 and 1995 and that no estimate has been made in adjacent waters to the west of the Agreement area which are likely to be used by small cetaceans from within that area;

RECALLING that Council Directive 92/43 EEC requires knowledge of the status of small cetaceans in the waters of Member States of the EU and that because small cetaceans move freely through the area it is important to conduct wide area surveys;

RECALLING that the structure of small cetacean populations in the ASCOBANS area may be complex and is not well understood at present;

COMMENDING the efforts undertaken since the Third Meeting of the Parties to elucidate spatial aspects of the distribution of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea;

NOTING that preparatory work for a comprehensive survey of the Agreement area and waters to the west of that area, to be conducted in or beginning in 2004, has commenced;

RECOMMENDS that Parties and Range States continue to support further work to elucidate temporal and spatial aspects of distribution of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS area, as a prerequisite to any abundance estimates;

REQUESTS that the Advisory Committee continue to contribute to the preparatory work for the projected new abundance survey of the Agreement area and waters to the west of the Agreement area;

RECOMMENDS that Parties and Range States continue to ensure that further work to elucidate the genetic population structure of small cetaceans is undertaken in the ASCOBANS area.