

Agenda Item 4.3: Bycatch Issues

**Relevant Decisions of the Ministerial Declaration of the
9th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection
of the Wadden Sea, Esbjerg, 2001**

Submitted by: Common Wadden Sea Secretariat



ASCOBANS

NOTE:

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

Relevant Decisions of the Ministerial Declaration of the 9th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea, Esbjerg, 2001

1 The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation

The three governments of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands cooperate to protect and manage the Wadden Sea as an ecological entity since 1978. Since then, nine Trilateral Governmental Conferences for the Protection of the Wadden Sea have been held and the trilateral cooperation strengthened and intensified. In this framework, a common secretariat, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) was established in 1987. The CWSS is amongst other things the secretariat for the "Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea".

At the seventh Trilateral Governmental Conference in 1994 the ministers agreed - among others - on the following „Target“ in the Wadden Sea Area:

„Viable stocks and a natural reproduction capacity of Common seal, Grey seal and Harbour porpoise“

2 The last Trilateral Wadden Sea Conference in Esbjerg, 2001

At the last Trilateral Wadden Sea Conference, which took place in Esbjerg, Denmark on October 31, 2001 a Ministerial Declaration was adopted by the responsible ministers. Agreements on trilateral policy and management are based on the targets adopted at the Conference 1994.

On the basis of the assessment of the available information, the Wadden Sea states agreed on the following regarding the conservation of small cetaceans:

*§ 28. To **recall**, in accordance with the 3rd Meeting of Parties to ASCOBANS, the definition of "unacceptable interactions" between fisheries practices and small cetaceans as being in the short term a total anthropogenic removal above 1.7% of the best available estimate of abundance, and to **support** the intermediate precautionary objective to reduce by-catches of harbour porpoise to less than 1% of the best available population estimate.*