

Agenda Item 7.3: Draft Resolutions for MOP 4

Draft Resolution No. 8: Further Implementation of ASCOBANS

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

Resolution No. 8 Further Implementation of ASCOBANS

The Meeting of the Parties:

RECALLING that the conservation, research and management measures listed in the Conservation and Management Plan in the Annex to the Agreement require an action plan for the full implementation of the Agreement;

NOTING and ENDORSING the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises;

RECOGNISING the commitments by the Parties in other international bodies and fora to cetacean conservation and other commitments that will aid cetaceans;

REAFFIRMING the importance of the need for Parties to cooperate and not to duplicate the work of other international bodies and the desirability of drawing upon their expertise;

RECOGNISING the requirements under EU legislation;

RECALLING that the IWC has developed a programme of research that investigates the causative link between levels of pollution and physical responses in cetaceans, known as POLLUTION 2000+;

RECALLING that OSPARCOM and HELCOM are working towards reduction of emissions and sources of chemical pollutants and will develop their objectives and strategy with regard to hazardous substances further;

UNDERLINING that ASCOBANS can support this work in an advisory capacity;

RECALLING that knowledge on the less common species of small cetaceans such as the *Lagenorhynchus* species, especially the white-beaked dolphin, remains less well developed than knowledge on the harbour porpoise;

NOTING the resolutions agreed at this Meeting on disturbance and fisheries issues;

COMMENDING existing efforts to identify and protect specific areas for small cetaceans;

REITERATES its invitation to Parties and Range States to

CONTINUE or INITIATE research aimed at identifying the location of any further suitable sites for the establishment of protected areas, and to implement appropriate management actions in these areas on their own or in the context of other intergovernmental bodies to ensure the protection of small cetaceans;

CONTINUE or INITIATE support for schemes that ensure that the bodies of small cetaceans are, where possible, subject to full and expert post-mortem analysis for cause of death and any other studies relevant to conservation; and take appropriate measures to reduce those impacts on small cetacean populations recognised to increase mortality rates;

ENCOURAGE further research relevant to ASCOBANS objectives on abundance, life history parameters, migration patterns and population structure of small cetaceans as a basis for an improvement of conservation measures;

RECOMMENDS that Parties and Range States

CONTINUE to support research in particular on the less well-known cetacean species of the ASCOBANS area, in particular as regards life-history parameters and population structure.