

Agenda Item 7.3: Draft Resolutions for MOP 4

**Draft Resolution No. 9:
Activities of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee 2004-2006**

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. 9

Activities of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee 2004-2006

The Meeting of the Parties:

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

RECOGNISING that much progress is achieved by the commissioning of work by specialists, whether members of the Advisory Committee or otherwise;

REAFFIRMING that the Advisory Committee, as a body tasked to provide advice on scientific, policy-related and administrative matters, needs a balance of scientists, policy-makers and administrators to adequately cover its role;

Asks the Advisory Committee to:

CONTINUE to invite the intergovernmental bodies IWC, ICES, IBSFC, HELCOM, OSPARCOM and the European Commission to send representatives to Advisory Committee meetings;

CONTINUE to review, on an annual basis, new information on population distribution, sizes and structures, and by-catches of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS area. On the basis of this review, provide recommendations to individual Parties and other relevant authorities;

CONTINUE to review at each meeting a list of international meetings, compiled by the Secretariat, at which the aims of ASCOBANS might most usefully be promoted, and recommend which meetings should be attended, by whom and with what objective and to review the outcomes of meetings attended;

CONTINUE to review, on an annual basis, new information on pollution and its effects on small cetaceans which occur in the ASCOBANS area and, on the basis of this review, provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities;

CONTINUE to review the progress and implementation of the IWC programme POLLUTION 2000+ and provide recommendations to Parties and Range States on ways to facilitate its execution;

REVIEW, on an annual basis, progress in implementing the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan) and to continue its efforts to further the implementation of that plan;

CONTINUE to support and cooperate in the process of elaborating a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea, as called for in the Bergen Declaration adopted by the Fifth International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea (Bergen, March 20-21 2002);

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;

REVIEW the progress on by-catch mitigation and report on this progress to the 5th Meeting of the Parties;

CONTINUE to review the extent of disturbance to small cetaceans by shipping with a view to providing recommendations to Parties, by the 5th Meeting of the Parties, on possible ways to mitigate negative effects;

REVIEW, in 2005, progress of Parties and Range States in working with military authorities to reduce disturbance to cetaceans by military activities;

CONTINUE to review the extent of disturbance to small cetaceans due to seismic surveys in the ASCOBANS area;

REITERATES its request that Parties

ENSURE that all nominated Advisory Committee members and their advisors can allocate time to attend Advisory Committee meetings, to intersessional work, and to participate in the intersessional Advisory Committee working groups;

CONTINUE to ensure where possible a suitable balance of expertise within delegations to the Advisory Committee.