

Terms of Reference for an ASCOBANS Workshop on Further Development of Management Procedures for Defining the Threshold of 'Unacceptable Interactions' / Removals of Concern

Part II

This workshop is for invited participants representing managers, scientists and stakeholders, including attendees from relevant parts of the European Commission (at least DG Mare/DG Environment), Member State fisheries authorities, the RACs, relevant intergovernmental bodies (Regional Seas Commissions, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS) and relevant NGOs.

About 30 participants would attend and the workshop would be held in the margins of the ECS meeting in Malta in March.

1) Approach

A one-day workshop that will address three main tasks:

1. Explore existing procedures for defining thresholds of mortality, beyond which population declines are inferred. Procedures relating to bycatch include those developed under the SCANS II project based on the Catch Limit Algorithm approach, PBR and ASCOBANS/IWC threshold of 1.7% / 1%. This would encompass presentations of model scenarios under example conservation objectives. This work would feed into the development of a "common" bycatch mortality indicator for the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, with the development of targets for regularly occurring small cetacean species.
2. Define conservation objectives in relation to thresholds of anthropogenic mortality (specifically from bycatch) for small cetaceans at a European-wide level. This would encompass a review of existing conservation objectives in other fora/geographic areas.
3. Provide an overview of available information on proposed assessment units of regularly occurring species; highlighting the gaps in our current knowledge of those species that are required for establishing removal rates of concern at a European level.

2) Workshop Steering Group

The Workshop Steering Group comprises Kelly Macleod, Eunice Pinn, Jan Haelters, Mark Simmonds and Sinéad Murphy.