



**Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species  
Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans  
of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas**  
*Joint Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme*



**Invitation to the  
22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee**

Bonn, 24 April 2015

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC22), which will be held upon the kind invitation of the Government of The Netherlands at the Ministry of Economic Affairs **in The Hague, Netherlands**. The meeting will take place **from 29 September - 1 October 2015**.

### **Participation**

In accordance with Rule 1 of the Rules of Procedure for the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, as adopted at AC19, all Parties to the Agreement are entitled to appoint one member of the Advisory Committee and such advisers as the Party may deem necessary. All non-Party Range States and Regional Economic Integration Organizations bordering on the waters concerned by the Agreement may send observers to the meeting.

As at previous meetings, other organizations and international bodies concerned with relevant issues are invited to participate in the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting as observers. Any individual or body qualified in cetacean conservation and management must request admittance to the sessions of the Advisory Committee (such a request is not needed for the Secretariats and technical advisory bodies of CMS and its daughter agreements, CITES, Bern Convention, ECS, HELCOM, IATTC, ICES, IUCN, IWC, NAMMCO, NEAFC and OSPAR). **Requests for observer status** from organizations or qualified individuals must reach the Secretariat 60 days before the Meeting, i.e. **by 31 July 2015**. A completed registration form or a written indication by email of your or your organization's intention to participate is sufficient. If your organization has not been represented before, please include some information on the relevance to the Agreement.

Parties will be requested to inform the Secretariat of any objections by 30 August 2015. Unless objections are received from more than one third of the Parties (i.e. four objections), the applicant will be admitted as a non-voting observer. The Secretariat will promptly notify all applicants of the final decision.

Please **register** for the meeting **by 30 August 2015** through the meeting registration link on the AC22 page ([www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/AC22](http://www.ascobans.org/en/meeting/AC22)). Each participant needs to be registered separately. We would like to urge all to register early, as otherwise it will be difficult for the host and Secretariat to complete the logistical arrangements for the meeting. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## Documents

The Provisional Agenda for the Meeting will be circulated shortly.

In line with the Rules of Procedure, please submit any **documents and draft resolutions** intended for discussion at the meeting to the Secretariat **by 25 August 2015**, in order to allow timely circulation for the meeting.

We would also like to request your assistance in updating the list of Dates of Interest to be considered by AC22. Therefore, if you know of a meeting in 2015 or 2016 that should be included in the draft, please notify the Secretariat by 25 August 2015.

## Travel and Accommodation

The meeting is foreseen to **start at 9:30 on 29 September and end at 18:30 on 1 October**. When making your travel arrangements, please ensure that you can be there until the list of decisions and action points has been adopted and the meeting closes. A more detailed timetable will be made available in due course.

The North Sea Group will meet on 28 September in the same venue.

Information on travel and accommodation options will be circulated shortly.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Heidrun Frisch and Ms Bettina Reinartz at +49 228 815 2416 or [ascobans.secretariat@ascobans.org](mailto:ascobans.secretariat@ascobans.org) if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you in The Hague in September!

Yours sincerely,



Bradnee Chambers

Acting Executive Secretary