

Terms of Reference for a Coordinator of Harbour Porpoise Action Plans

(as adopted by the 23rd ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, 2017)

1. Background

As outlined in the ASCOBANS [Recovery Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea](#), “Experience has shown that in order to be effective, Conservation Plans must have a recognised, full-time co-ordinator. This is particularly true where effective conservation requires action (including legislative action) by a number of stakeholders including: intergovernmental and national authorities, scientists from several disciplines, representatives from industry, local communities, and interested NGOs. The scale of work required by this Plan exceeds the resources available within the (part-time) ASCOBANS Secretariat.”

This is equally true with respect to the Baltic and Belt Sea areas and the ambitious [Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises](#) (Jastarnia Plan) and [Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat](#) (WBBK) under ASCOBANS. A Coordinator for the three ASCOBANS Action Plans on Harbour Porpoises (i.e. covering the North, Belt and Baltic Seas) should therefore be appointed, not least to maximise synergies amongst the different plans.

2. Terms of Reference

a) Qualifications

The co-ordinator should have a background in marine nature conservation as well as experience and a proven understanding of the political and legal context and of scientific issues concerning harbour porpoise conservation in the North, Belt and Baltic Seas. He or she should be an effective communicator, able to establish and maintain relations with and to represent ASCOBANS positions vis-à-vis the various stakeholders.

b) Tasks

Reporting to the Jastarnia and North Sea Group, the Coordinator would, in particular, have to perform the following tasks:

- 1) Provide technical support at meetings of the Regional Coordination Group which will develop the regional implementation of the Data Collection Framework (DCF), assuming this is practically feasible;
- 2) Review progress under the North Sea, Jastarnia and WBBK Plans and make proposals for amending the Action Points in advance of the meetings of the Groups;
- 3) Review latest available information on harbour porpoise bycatch from the fleets operating in the North, Belt and Baltic Seas;
- 4) Collate regional information on life history parameters (e.g. age structure, age at sexual maturity, reproductive information) for harbour porpoises in the areas covered by the three plans, ensuring synergies with other fora;
- 5) Provide technical support at the ICES WGBYC annual meetings and other relevant fora (e.g. the North Sea Advisory Council, Baltic Sea Advisory Council, HELCOM, OSPAR);
- 6) Provide advice on appropriate funding mechanisms for the long-term implementation of the three action plans and support fundraising efforts;
- 7) Coordinate efforts to deliver the action plans, identifying synergies and opportunities for efficiency savings.

c) Working hours and travel budget

It is expected that the Coordinator would require an initial one month phase of full time work and the work would then average 2.5 days per week. Up to Euro 8,000 can be used for travel *per annum*.