

MOP1: Resolution on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan (Stockholm 1994)

RESOLUTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

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

RECOGNIZING the importance of the need of Parties to co-operate and not to duplicate the work of other international bodies and the desirability of drawing on their expertise;

NOTING the research recommendations of the Report of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee to ASCOBANS for the First Meeting of the Parties;

DECIDES to establish the following Action Plan for 1994-1997. The following are priority actions for the period:

I. Reduction of Pollution

- 1) The Advisory Committee shall assess which pollutants are likely to adversely affect small cetaceans, in the light of the results of the IWC intersessional meeting on the effects of chemical pollution on cetaceans.
- 2) Following 1), the Advisory Committee shall provide advice to the Parties both for management measures and further research needs.
- 3) Parties are encouraged to implement existing commitments (e.g. under HELCOM, OSPARCOM) to reduce polluting discharges that may have an adverse impact on cetaceans.
- 4) The Advisory Committee shall assess needs in relation to standardisation of analytical and reporting procedures in post-mortems, biopsies and pollution analyses, and shall provide recommendations to Parties by March 1996.

II (i). Reduction of direct interactions with fisheries

- 5) Parties should establish or be encouraged to continue independent observer schemes to assess most significant by-catches before 1996. Parties should take account of the need to establish information and education programmes for fishermen.
- 6) The Advisory Committee shall gather and assess information on by-catch reporting schemes from all areas, and shall provide guidelines on best practice. This process should not inhibit Parties in establishing schemes.
- 7) Parties should support research on gear and method developments to reduce cetacean by-catch. Parties are encouraged to co-operate in this research.
- 8) The Advisory Committee shall, in the light of work of other intergovernmental organisations, assess the level at which interactions between fisheries and small cetaceans become unacceptable, and shall report no later than the next Meeting of the Parties.

- 9) The Advisory Committee shall consider available information on by-catch together with available information on population size, life-history parameters etc., in order to assess the impact of by-catches on small cetacean populations and report to Parties no later than the next Meeting of the Parties.
- 10) Parties are encouraged, as appropriate, to introduce regulations and other management measures to reduce levels of by-catch of cetaceans in fishing gear.

II (ii). Reduction of indirect interactions with fisheries

- 11) Parties are encouraged to research the food and feeding ecology of small cetaceans.

III (i). Reduction of disturbance

- 12) Parties are encouraged to introduce guidelines to reduce disturbance.

III (ii). Reduction of indirect disturbance

- 13) Parties are encouraged to work with others (e.g. HELCOM, CWSS, EU) to establish criteria to define protected areas for small cetaceans.

IV. Monitoring, status and population studies

- 14) The Meeting endorses the proposal¹ submitted to the IWC on Population Structure of Harbour Porpoises in the North Atlantic and encourages Parties and the Advisory Committee to facilitate this research.
- 15) The Meeting recommends to Parties and relevant non-Party Range States that a sightings survey be undertaken to estimate harbour porpoise population size of the Baltic Sea. It would be cost effective to undertake this as an extension of the SCANS survey in summer 1995.
- 16) Parties are encouraged to research the life history parameters of small cetaceans.
- 17) Parties are encouraged to continue research on migration patterns and its potential importance to efforts in ASCOBANS.
- 18) The Advisory Committee shall review the results of SCANS, both for methods and further survey needs, and report to the Parties by March 1996.
- 19) The Secretariat shall compile information from national reports in order to facilitate the formation of a database on strandings and by-catch in the Agreement area by the next Meeting of the Parties.

V. Education and promotion

- 20) The Advisory Committee shall, with relevant experts, assess the education and promotion needs in relation to the requirements and work programme of ASCOBANS and shall report to the Parties by March 1996.

¹ refer to Meeting document CMS/ASCOBANS/1/RP.1

VI. Administrative

- 21) The Advisory Committee shall, with the Secretariat, review the guidelines on the structure of national reports in time for the next Meeting of the Parties.
- 22) Parties should send copies of all relevant national legislation including that which prohibits intentional taking, killing or injuring of cetaceans and that which regulates by-catches, to the Secretariat.