

MOP 2: Resolution on Management and Further Research Needs to Address Effects of Pollutants on Cetaceans Health (Bonn, 1997)

RESOLUTION ON MANAGEMENT AND FURTHER RESEARCH NEEDS TO ADDRESS EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS ON CETACEAN HEALTH

The Meeting of Parties:

RECALLING Resolution 2 of the First Meeting of Parties, where the Advisory Committee was asked to assess which pollutants are likely to adversely affect small cetaceans, in the light of the results of the IWC Workshop on Chemical Pollution and Cetaceans, and further provide advice to the Parties both for management measures and further research needs;

RECALLING that OSPARCOM and HELCOM are working towards reduction of emissions and sources of chemical pollutants and will develop their objectives and strategy with regard to hazardous substances further;

NOTING that the IWC Workshop concluded that a considerable amount of fundamental research is needed before it will be possible to adequately address the question of effects of pollutants on all cetaceans;

NOTING that the IWC Workshop was strongly convinced that, if any progress in this area is to be made within a reasonable time frame, an interdisciplinary, multinational programme of research is required that focuses on those species/areas where there is most chance of success, and further that harbour porpoises in the North Atlantic represented one such species/area;

NOTING that at its 49th Annual meeting, the IWC Scientific Committee endorsed a comprehensive scientific research programme to implement the Workshop recommendations, and that the International Whaling Commission accepted this endorsement and agreed to finance the initial planning phase thereof;

Decide to invite Parties and non-Party Range States to:

ENDORSE strongly the recommendations of the IWC Workshop on Chemical Pollution and Cetaceans and the research programme on the establishment of cause-effect relationships between cetacean health and chemical pollutants developed by the IWC's Scientific Committee (ASCOBANS/MOP/2/DOC.15);

AGREE that the Parties and the Advisory Committee should consider ways to facilitate the development and execution of that part of the programme which addresses cause-effect relationships between harbour porpoise health and chemical pollutants, in co-operation with the IWC and other relevant bodies;

ADVISE that the sampling and storage procedures described in the Report on the IWC Pollution Workshop (ASCOBANS/ADV.COM./4/DOC.4) and the forthcoming IWC Special Volume on Pollutants and Cetaceans should be followed when pollution studies on small cetaceans are carried out;

STRIVE, within OSPARCOM and HELCOM, for a significant reduction of pollutant emissions and sources in the ASCOBANS area, particularly for those pollutants where levels in small cetaceans exceed those associated with adverse effects.