

3rd Session of the Meeting of Parties

Bristol, United Kingdom

26 – 28 July 2000

**Resolution No. 7
Further Implementation of ASCOBANS**

The Meeting of Parties:

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

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

RECOGNISING the importance of the need for Parties to cooperate and not to duplicate the work of other international bodies and the desirability of drawing upon their expertise;

RECOGNISING the requirements under EU legislation;

RECALLING Resolution 2 of the Second 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;

NOTING that the IWC has developed a programme of research that investigates the causative link between levels of pollution and physical responses in cetaceans, known as POLLUTION 2000+;

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 ASCOBANS can support this work in an advisory capacity;

NOTING that knowledge on the less common species of small cetaceans such as the Lagenorhynchus species, especially the white-beaked dolphin, is less well developed than knowledge on the harbour porpoise;

NOTING the resolutions agreed at this Meeting on disturbance and fisheries issues;

COMMENDING existing efforts to identify and protect specific areas for small cetaceans;

INVITES Parties and Range States to

CONTINUE or INITIATE research aimed at identifying the location of any further suitable sites for the establishment of protected areas, and to implement appropriate management actions in these areas on their own or in the context of other intergovernmental bodies to ensure the protection of small cetaceans;

CONTINUE or INITIATE support for schemes that ensure that the bodies of small cetaceans are, where possible, subject to full and expert post-mortem analysis for cause of death and any other studies relevant to conservation; and take appropriate measures to reduce those impacts on small cetacean populations recognised to increase mortality rates;

ENCOURAGE further research relevant to ASCOBANS objectives on abundance, life history parameters, migration patterns and population structure of small cetaceans as a basis for an improvement of conservation measures;

RECOMMENDS that Parties and Range States

INITIATE or CONTINUE monitoring programmes for the residues of novel contaminants of particular concern, including polybrominated compounds, toxaphenes and organotin compounds and where possible these should be associated with appropriate pathological studies to provide basic data on population biology and indications for physiological effects of contaminants, thereby helping to identify significant harmful impacts at the earliest stage, leading to the swift development of appropriate conservation measures;

SUPPORT research in particular on the less well-known cetacean species of the ASCOBANS area, in particular as regards life-history parameters and population structure.