

5th MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ASCOBANS
The Netherlands, 18 - 20 September and 12 December 2006

Resolution No. 6

Activities of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee 2007-2010

Reaffirming the importance of cooperating with, and not duplicating the work of, other international bodies and the desirability of drawing upon their expertise;

Recognising that much progress is achieved by the commissioning of work by specialists, whether members of the Advisory Committee or otherwise;

Reaffirming that the Advisory Committee, as a body tasked to provide advice on scientific, policy-related and administrative matters, needs a balance of scientists, policy-makers and administrators to adequately cover its role;

Stressing that the successful work of the Advisory Committee depends on the ability of its members to allocate sufficient time to the work of the Committee and its working groups;

The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS

Instructs the Advisory Committee to:

Make Resolution 2b of MOP5 operational for ASCOBANS;

Continue to invite the intergovernmental bodies such as IWC, ICES, CMS, HELCOM, NAMMCO, OSPAR, ACCOBAMS and the European Commission and relevant international organisations such as ECS, to send representatives to Advisory Committee meetings;

Explore the possibilities of further developing positive relationships with other stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and Regional Advisory Councils;

Improve co-operation, exchange of information as well as expertise between the Advisory Committee of ASCOBANS and the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council of CMS;

Continue to review at each meeting a list of international meetings, compiled by the Secretariat, at which the aims of ASCOBANS might most usefully be promoted, and recommend which meetings should be attended, by whom and with what objective and to review the outcomes of meetings attended;

Continue to review, on an annual basis, new information on pollution (including the IWC programme POLLUTION 2000+) and its effects on small cetaceans which occur in the ASCOBANS area and, on the basis of this review, provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities;

Continue to review the extent of negative effects upon small cetaceans of sound, vessels and other forms of disturbance on small cetaceans and to review relevant technological

developments, with a view to providing recommendations to Parties, by the 6th Meeting of the Parties, on possible ways to mitigate those negative effects;

Review, on an annual basis, the implementation of the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan) (Document MoP4/Doc.23) and, when in operation, the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea and to continue its efforts to further the implementation of those plans;

Provide a clear format for the information to be provided by Parties and Range States on static gillnet and tangle net effort;

Review, on an annual basis and as far as possible in conjunction with the EU, ICES and IWC, new information on bycatch and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action. This should include information provided by Parties and Range States on the implementation, efficacy and impacts of measures introduced to reduce bycatch, and on effort in relevant fisheries;

Review new information on cetacean population size, distribution, structure, and causes of mortality in the ASCOBANS area and based on implications for conservation make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities.

Review, before MoP6, the formal structures and processes of the Agreement to determine whether other mechanisms would be more effective in achieving the conservation objectives of ASCOBANS;

Consider how the work of ASCOBANS should be extended to take account of the new Agreement Area, which includes areas beyond national jurisdiction;

Consider, in 2009, the possible amendment of the ASCOBANS Agreement to include all cetacean species;

Explore ways in which ASCOBANS can better liaise and work with the EC on issues of mutual interest;

Repeals Resolution 9 of MOP4;

Reiterates its request that Parties

Ensure that all nominated Advisory Committee members and their advisors can allocate time to attend Advisory Committee meetings, to intersessional work, and to participate in the intersessional Advisory Committee working groups;

Continue to ensure where possible suitable expertise within delegations to the Advisory Committee.