

Agenda Item 7.3

Further Implementation of the Agreement  
(2013-2015/16)  
Extension of the Work of the Agreement  
into the New Agreement Area

Document 7-03

**Draft Resolution:  
Research and Conservation Actions  
in the Extended Agreement Area**

**Action Requested**

- Review the draft Resolution
- Introduce any changes as desired
- Adopt the Resolution

Submitted by

France & United Kingdom



**NOTE:  
IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR  
OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**



## DRAFT RESOLUTION

### Research and Conservation Actions in the Extended Agreement Area

*Recalling* Resolution No. 4 of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties (2003) on the Extension of the ASCOBANS Agreement Area;

*Noting* that the Amendment agreed to under Resolution 4.4 entered into force on 3 February 2008;

*Further noting* that ACCOBAMS Resolution A/4.1 agrees an extension of the ACCOBAMS geographical scope, resulting in an overlap with the ASCOBANS Agreement Area;

*Welcoming* the willingness of the ACCOBAMS Parties “to strengthen their collaboration with the ASCOBANS Parties and Secretariat in order to establish synergies in matters and activities of common interests”, as expressed in above-mentioned resolution;

*Conscious* that the distribution of many small cetacean species found within the original Agreement Area extends further west and south than those initial boundaries, as do the human pressures on those populations;

*Emphasizing* that in order to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans as outlined in provision No. 2.1 of the Agreement, the work of the Agreement needs to extend its focus beyond the original Agreement Area;

*Noting with gratitude* the work undertaken by the Intersessional Working Group on Research and Conservation Actions Undertaken in the Extended Agreement Area;

#### *The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS*

1. *Reiterates* the importance of close collaboration between ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS;
2. *Agrees* that such collaboration should focus on issues of common concern in order to use resources most prudently;
3. *Welcomes* the establishment of joint working groups on thematic issues, such as the ones created to deal with underwater noise and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
4. *Further welcomes* the efforts of the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS to collaborate closely, and instructs the Secretariat to continue and build upon these efforts;
5. *Requests* the Advisory Committee to continue considering recent research and conservation actions within the Extension Area, and to make recommendations on priority actions;
6. *Calls upon* Parties in the Extension Area, and invites non-Party Range States to give priority to the following joint actions:
  - (a) planning for, and funding of, a third “SCANS-type” survey covering all ASCOBANS waters;

- (b) giving particular attention to bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin and harbour porpoise populations, as well as special species such as beaked whales, including obtaining a better understanding of population structure;
  - (c) further consideration of the impact of ship strikes on [small] cetaceans in collaboration with ACCOBAMS and the IWC, making use of the Global Ship Strikes Database of the IWC, and identification of any potential risk areas and mitigation measures if appropriate;
  - (d) further consideration of the impact of bycatch, particularly inshore, including the need for data and monitoring, and consideration of appropriate mitigation measures;
  - (e) enhance the monitoring value of the various series of stranding data (e.g. on cause of death) by exploring the mechanisms that relate animals to their original location and population;
7. *Encourages* non-Party Range States to ratify ASCOBANS to allow full cooperation for the benefit of the species.