ACCOBAMS provisions related to incidental catch
ACCObAMS provisions

- Conservation Plan (Annex 2 of the Agreement)

1. Adoption and enforcement of national legislation

a) Parties shall work out and implement measures to minimize the fishing negative effects on the conservation of cetacean. Most particularly, no vessels will be authorized to keep on board or to use any drift nets.

b) Parties shall introduce or amend regulations with a view to preventing fishing gear from being discarded or left adrift at sea, and to require the immediate release of cetaceans caught incidentally in fishing gear in conditions that assure their survival.
ACCOBAMS provisions

- Conservation Plan (Annex 2 of the Agreement)

2. Assessment and management of human-cetacean interactions

Parties shall, in co-operation with relevant international organizations, collect and analyse data on direct and indirect interactions between humans and cetaceans in relation to inter alia fishing, industrial and touristic activities, and land-based and maritime pollution. When necessary, Parties shall take appropriate remedial measures and shall develop guidelines and/or codes of conduct to regulate or manage such activities.
ACCObAMS provisions

- **Resolution 7.11 Interactions between fisheries and cetaceans (2019)**

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments of the Parties to **protect cetacean species against by-catch**;

2. *Stresses* the need to produce a realistic estimate of cetacean and other megafauna species by-catch for different types of legal fishing activities, for illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and for ghost net fishing;

3. *Requests* Parties to assess the level of cetacean by-catch arising from their fisheries using a combination of methods, following the guidelines included in the manual *“Monitoring incidental catch of vulnerable species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea: Methodology for Data Collection”*, developed by GFCM in collaboration with other partners, such as:
   - a) trained observers on board fishing vessels, where possible;
   - b) fishermen interview surveys;
   - c) self-sampling by fishermen, where possible;
   - d) strandings data collection;
   - e) remote electronic monitoring;

4. *Invites* Parties to **enhance fishing gears identification and traceability**, as well as **retrieval of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gears**, to eliminate by-catch of cetaceans in ghost gears;
ACCOBAMS provisions

7. Recommends that the Parties and non-Party Range States make every effort to support global and regional initiatives to investigate the most appropriate measures to mitigate by-catch and depredation and implement them, as necessary, in close collaboration with the fishing communities and other relevant stakeholders, including through relevant regional instruments;

10. Invites the Permanent Secretariat to provide assistance to Parties in addressing the issue of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities (…);

11. Invites the Scientific Committee to keep a watch over the recent advances in technology regarding the acoustic devices and progress in fishing gear technologies for mitigating the interactions between cetaceans and fishing gears (…);

12. Invites the Permanent Secretariat to pursue its collaboration with the GFCM Secretariat and strengthen its involvement in the relevant works and initiatives undertaken under GFCM;

14. Invites the Permanent Secretariat to strengthen its collaboration also with the Secretariats of CMS, ASCOBANS, IWC and other relevant Organizations to investigate approaches for achieving significant decrease in the cetacean by-catch levels, using, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Scientific Committee;

(…)

Collaboration with GFCM

- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding in May 2012 between the Secretariats of both instruments
- Several joint projects on interactions between vulnerable species and fishing activities
- Joint publication of best practices guides