

## **List of Action Points from AC25**

### ***General***

1. All Parties and Range States are asked to contribute complete and accurate information in their national reports.
2. Parties are encouraged to apply urgently for European Maritime and Fisheries Funds (EMFF), which can be used to finance measures relevant for Natura 2000, marine biodiversity and Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Secretariat to clarify whether EMFF can be used for transboundary projects.
3. The Advisory Committee instructs the Secretariat to seek voluntary contributions from Parties for the prioritized activities requiring funding.
4. The Secretariat to provide revised options for future meetings of the Advisory Committee, as discussed at AC25, to be presented at ASCOBANS MOP9.

### ***Cetacean Watching Industry***

5. The ASCOBANS Secretariat to collaborate with ACCOBAMS Secretariat with regards to mitigating pressures from the cetacean watching industry.

### ***Pollution and hazardous substances***

6. ASCOBANS to participate in IWC work on pollutants, for example to 'Pollution 2025' which is building on previous work and with a potential focus on cumulative impacts.

### ***Ship Strikes***

7. The ASCOBANS Secretariat to coordinate with the IWC Secretariat in: (a) Working on streamlining national progress report formats regarding ship/strikes of small cetaceans; (b) Discussing the process how ASCOBANS information can feed into the global IWC ship strike database.

### ***Climate Change***

8. Because of changes in ecosystem dynamics due to climate change, there are changes in small cetacean populations' distribution, abundance, and life history. Parties are requested to look in more detail into the drivers of distributional shifts in context of climate change of cetaceans and prey.

### ***Physical Habitat Change***

9. The Advisory Committee, led by the UK, to draft a Resolution on an ecosystems approach to examine the effects of pressures on small cetaceans, to be submitted to ASCOBANS MOP9. Members of the correspondence group are: Mark Simmonds, Kelly Macleod, Catherine Bell, Meike Scheidat, Anne-Marie Svoboda and Vedran Nikolic.

### ***Marine Protected Areas***

10. The UK to develop a map of cetacean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for the entire ASCOBANS Area using maps that are available from HELCOM, OSPAR or Natura 2000 databases. Parties are to provide access to shapefiles in cases where the necessary data are not available. Developing the map would meet ASCOBANS Work Plan Activity 21.
11. It is of particular interest to ASCOBANS to obtain an overview of the current scale of MPAs and to review best practice approaches to their management in order to make recommendations to Parties, taking MPAs beyond being just 'paper parks'. Therefore, it is requested that an international workshop be organized (involving among others ASCOBANS, the European Commission and ACCOBAMS) on cetacean MPA management. ASCOBANS to seek funding from the European Commission, with a voluntary contribution sought from a Party or Parties. The organizational committee includes Ida Carlén, Penina Blankett, Heike Zidowitz, Mark Simmonds, Stina Nyström.

### ***Use of bycatches and strandings***

12. The Advisory Committee endorses the process of harmonizing cetacean research monitoring and research within Europe and the resulting document outlining best practice; and recommends that the final protocol be adopted at ASCOBANS MOP9 as an Annex to a Resolution. A correspondence group drafting the Resolution includes Andrew Brownlow and Sinéad Murphy, and any additional members.

### ***Bycatch***

13. The Advisory Committee, through the Joint Bycatch Working Group, is to review and update the existing Resolution 8.5 on Bycatch, with a view of submitting a Resolution to ASCOBANS MOP9.

### ***Marine Debris***

14. The Advisory Committee, through the Marine Debris Working Group, is to submit a draft Resolution on Marine Debris to ASCOBANS MOP9. A correspondence group drafting the Resolution includes Mark Simmonds, Anne-Marie Svoboda, Peter Evans, Greg Donovan, Finn Larsen, Eunice Pinn, Michael Dähne, Bianca Unger, Carolin Philip and Ursula Siebert.

### ***Resource Depletion***

15. The Advisory Committee, through the Resource Depletion Working Group, is to draft a Resolution on Resource Depletion, with a view of submitting it to ASCOBANS MOP9.

### ***Common Dolphin SAP***

16. The ASCOBANS Secretariat is to send letters to request Non-Party Range States to participate in the implementation of the Species Action Plan on Common Dolphins.
17. The Advisory Committee, through its Common Dolphin Group, is to review and update the existing Resolution 8.4 'Conservation of Common Dolphins' e.g. to include the fact that the Species Action Plan has been adopted. The drafting will be led by the Co-chairs of the Common Dolphin Group, Sinéad Murphy and Florence Caurant, with a view of submitting the Resolution to ASCOBANS MOP9.

18. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretariat to organize a joint ASCOBANS-ACCOBAMS workshop on the Common Dolphin at the European Cetacean Society conference in 2021.
19. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretariat to seek funding for a position of Coordinator for the Species Action Plan for the North-East Atlantic Common Dolphin.

***Harbour Porpoise***

20. The Advisory Committee reconfirms its desire to see proposals submitted to CMS COP14 (2023) to list the Baltic population of the Harbour Porpoise on Appendix I and the Iberian population on Appendix I and II, and urges interested Parties to submit the proposals well in advance of the EU internal deadline.
21. The text of the CMS species listing proposal for the Harbour Porpoise and Iberian populations in the Baltic to be listed in CMS Appendices should be discussed in the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee (scheduled for 2021).
22. The Advisory Committee, through the Jastarnia Group, is to draft a Resolution on Harbour Porpoises in the Baltic, to be submitted to ASCOBANS MOP9.

***Lagenorhynchus species***

23. Parties are requested to address the following research questions regarding the research and conservation of White-beaked Dolphins and Atlantic White-sided Dolphins and to report back to A26 (scheduled for 2021):
  - a. Studies of life history parameters (ages and lengths at sexual maturity, reproductive rates, life spans) from stranded and bycaught animals;
  - b. Better abundance estimates across all areas of the North Atlantic;
  - c. Genetic sampling in northern and north-eastern parts of range;
  - d. Studies of diet through stomach contents, stable isotope and fatty acid analyses;
  - e. More contaminant studies;
  - f. Studies of likely effects of climate change.

***Beaked Whales***

24. Parties are to request their navies to provide their mitigation protocols for use of military sonar, with the view to the Advisory Committee assessing whether such protocols are effective.

***Noise***

25. The Secretariat is to review and update Resolution 8.11. on the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities, with a view to submitting a Resolution to ASCOBANS MOP9 to adopt these guidelines.

***ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award 2020***

26. Parties, NGOs and others are requested to send nominations for recipients of the ASCOBANS Outreach and Education Award 2020, as described in AC25/Doc.8.2. The jury comprises Mark Simmonds, Lucy Babey, Patricia Brtnik, Penina Blankett, and Sami Hassani.