Agenda Item 16	National Reporting Form
Document 16	Proposed Amendments to the ASCOBANS National Reporting Form Regarding Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
Action Requested	• Take note • Comment
Submitted by	Chair of the Intersessional Working Group on Developing MSP Guidelines

Note: Delegates are kindly reminded to bring their own document copies to the meeting, if needed.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ASCOBANS NATIONAL REPORTING FORM REGARDING MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP)

Mandate

1. AC26/AP18: "The Secretariat, with the input of Parties, to amend the relevant questions in the MSP section on the National Report with regards to species-specific provisions, and threats to cetaceans being managed through MSP; and on performance against HELCOM-VASAB[1] key elements for applying the ecosystem-based approach in MSP."

Proposed additional questions

2. Does your national MSP include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – yes/no
    a) If yes, list the species covered by ASCOBANS which are explicitly assessed: [Text box]
    b) If yes, and if those ASCOBANS species present in your national waters are not explicitly assessed in your SEA, explain why: [Text box]

3. Does your MSP include specific provisions such as reservation or priority layers for the management of one or more ASCOBANS listed species (e.g. such as the reservation areas for harbour porpoises in the German MSP)? – yes/no
    a) If yes, please explain how these will to be applied, including specific management actions. [Text box]
    b) If yes, are these provisions restricted in time (e.g. selected period of months)? – yes/no

4. Does your MSP include buffer zones between areas designated for particular economic use (e.g. offshore wind, shipping) and marine protected areas (including Natura-2000 sites) or areas of particular importance for ASCOBANS-listed species? – yes/no
    a) If yes, please explain how these will be applied, including specific management actions. [Text box]
    b) If yes, are these buffer zones intended to benefit ASCOBANS-listed species? – yes/no

5. Does your MSP include provisions for the mitigation of underwater noise with regards to ASCOBANS species (e.g. for shipping, during offshore wind park construction)? – yes/no
    a) If yes, please explain how and where these are being applied, including specific management actions. [Text box]

6. Please assess how your country's MSP[1] implements key elements for applying the ecosystem-based approach[2] in MSP (from 1 where it is not applied to 5 where it is completely applied):

Key element for applying the ecosystem-based approach in MSP	1 (not applied)	2 (partially applied)	3 (moderately applied)	4 (well applied)	5 (completely applied)
Best available knowledge & practice					
Precaution					
Alternative development					
Identification of ecosystem services					
Mitigation					
Relational understanding					
Participation and communication					
Subsidiarity and coherence					
Adaptation					

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[1] If your country has several separate MSPs (e.g. for the coastal zone(s) and the EEZ), please enter one table per MSP.
[2] For further explanation of these key elements see e.g. HELCOM-VASAB Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach to Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea area.

7.   Proposed deletion of the following MSP questions in the current National Report format:

15.2. Have there been any other instances/issues in your country regarding marine spatial planning during the reporting period. Please select only one option
☐ No
☐ Yes
Provide details:
›››

15.3. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on marine spatial planning in your country. List initiatives/projects (incl. PhD, MSc); publications (reports, theses, papers in journals, books) from any study; web links to other relevant information.
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8.   The following questions could potentially also be deleted, or would benefit from amendment in order to measure success in implementing MSP for the benefit of cetacean conservation within the framework of ASCOBANS:

Transboundary plan(s) and processes in force:
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Transboundary plan(s) and processes in preparation:
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Further information regarding transboundary plans, including links to online resources and maps where available:
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