

Agenda Item 5.1

Strategic and Institutional Issues

National Reporting

**Document 5.1**

**Proposed Amendments to Resolution 8.1:**

**National Reporting**

**Action Requested**

- Review the proposed amendments
- Introduce changes if needed
- Adopt the resolution

Submitted by

Secretariat



*Note:*

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

### **Secretariat's Note**

This document proposes amendments to Resolution 8.1, to reflect the fact that a comprehensive national reporting form presented in ASCOBANS/MOP9/Inf.5.1, including questions for all sections listed in Resolution 8.1, was developed in advance of MOP9 to cover data from 2016 to 2019. Questions from this form can be used in future annual reporting. The Secretariat would distribute the annual forms, derived from the form presented in ASCOBANS/MOP9/Inf.5.1.

Consequently, the 'Outline of a Revised National Reporting Format for ASCOBANS' contained in Annex 1 of Resolution 8.1. will be replaced by a simplified 'Outline of the National Reporting Form for ASCOBANS', representing sections of the form.

The overarching 2016-2019 form was developed thanks to a voluntary contribution from the Netherlands. An intersessional working group developed the questions for sections timed for AC24, at a workshop (February 2019 in Bonn, Germany), as well as via email correspondence and online teleconferences. The form included introductory text under each sub-section to describe the aim of the section and relevance of the questions. This approach continues in the current form. Questions for the current form were compiled and amended, as needed, from forms used in 2017, 2018 and 2019. A draft form was circulated to Parties, experts, and Non-Party Range States for comments, and finalised by a consultant in close cooperation with the Secretariat. There were no resources to put the questions online. However, this remains a possibility in the future.

As the questions for all sections have been established, there is no further need to develop new questions each year. However, the Advisory Committee may amend any question in the national reporting form if deemed necessary.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 8.1:  
NATIONAL REPORTING**

*NB: Proposed new text is underlined. Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~.*

*Recalling* Article 2.5 of the Agreement requesting Parties to submit to the Secretariat a brief report not later than 31 March each year, covering progress made and difficulties experienced during the past calendar year in implementing the Agreement;

*Conscious* that an assessment of the progress in implementing the Agreement is possible only through meaningful national reporting;

*Mindful* that in national reporting, the right balance needs to be struck with respect to the information desired and the use to which the data will be put, so as not to burden the Parties unnecessarily;

*Grateful* for the work undertaken by the Advisory Committee in developing a new reporting format that reflects the range of issues relevant to small cetacean conservation in the Agreement Area, and for its advice on the periodicity;

*The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS*

1. *Decides* that Parties will be required to submit one comprehensive national report within each MOP-cycle;
2. *Further decides* that in order to meet the requirements of Article 2.5 of the Agreement the obligation to submit brief annual reports is retained, covering basic information as well as in-depth considerations on specific topics, as outlined below;
3. *Adopts* the outline for national reports presented in Annex 1;
4. *Directs* that each topic should be considered at least once per intersessional period, and that the report submitted in the year of the Meeting of the Parties should provide up-to-date information on all these topics, as follows:
  - (a) all reports (annually): Section I, Section VII
  - (b) the report to be submitted in the first and fourth year of the quadrennium 2016 Report (for AC23 in 2017) and 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020): Section II B3, B4, C8 and D15
  - (c) the report to be submitted in the second and fourth year of the quadrennium 2017 Report (for AC24 in 2018) and 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020): Section II A1, A2 and C9, Section III, Section IV
  - (d) the report to be submitted in the third and fourth year of the quadrennium 2018 Report (for AC25 in 2019) and 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020): Section II B5, B6, B7, C10, C11, C12, C13, C14, and E16 and E17, Section VI
  - (e) the report that is to be submitted only in the fourth year of the quadrennium only 2019 Report (for MOP9 in 2020): Section V
5. *Requests* the Advisory Committee:
  - (a) to review and amend the reporting form, as necessary ~~develop the sections of the reporting format one by one, starting with those to be considered in each report and at the first Advisory Committee Meeting after this Meeting of the Parties;~~

- ~~(b)~~ in developing the detail of each section, to consult experts on the subjects in order to ensure that essential information is gathered in a form that standardizes responses and lends itself to statistical analysis as far as possible, and to decide which topics should be reported on by region;
- ~~(e)~~(b) to make full use of the information submitted in order to assess progress in the implementation of the Agreement and make recommendations to Parties;
- ~~(d)~~(c) to tailor the agenda for each of its meetings to reflect the topics selected for the previous year's national reports;
6. *Urges* Parties to submit their national reports by the deadline of 31 March of each year, indicated in Article 2.5 of the Agreement, ~~making use of the online reporting system developed for the CMS Family;~~
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to remind Parties of the date for submission of their national reports; and
8. *Recognizes* that in order to meet its obligation to present Parties with a summary of the Party reports by 30 June of each year, as required in Article 4.2 of the Agreement, the Secretariat requires the submission of all national reports sufficiently in advance of this date;
- ~~9. *Requests* the Secretariat to inform the Common Information Management, Communication and Outreach Team of the UNEP/CMS and UNEP/AEWA Secretariats of the comments made by ASCOBANS Parties regarding the functionalities of the online reporting system, which would be useful when working to improve it; and~~
- ~~10. *Repeals* Resolution No. 1 of MOP1 (1994) on National Reports.~~

## Annex 1: Outline of the National Reporting Form for ASCOBANS

*NB: Comparing the headings in the new form with the ones in Res.8.1 Annex 1, new text is shown underlined, and deleted text is ~~crossed out~~.*

### High-level Summary of Key Messages

#### Section I: General Information

##### A. Country Party Information

#### Section II: Habitat Conservation and Management (threats and pressures on cetaceans)

##### A. Fisheries-related Threats

1. Bycatch
2. Resource Depletion

##### B. Disturbance (incl. potential physical impacts)

3. Noise (impulsive i.e. piling and continuous/ambient i.e. shipping)
4. Ocean Energy
5. Cetacean Watching Industry
6. Recreational Sea Use
7. Other Sources of Disturbance

##### C. Habitat Change and Degradation (incl. potential physical impacts)

8. Unexploded Ordnance
9. Marine Debris (ingestion and entanglement)
10. Pollution and hazardous substances (incl. microplastics)
11. Ship Strikes
12. Climate change (incl. ocean acidification)
13. Physical Habitat Change (e.g. from construction)
14. Other issues

##### D. Management of Cumulative Impacts

15. Marine Spatial Planning

##### E. Area-based Conservation / Marine Protected Areas

16. List of pProtected Areas, e.g. Natura 2000 sites
17. ~~Website or contact where spatial information on MPAs can be obtained~~  
[\[embedded in the above topic\]](#)

#### Section III: Surveys and Research

##### A. Biological information (per species)

1. Abundance estimates
2. New information on life history parameters

##### B. Monitoring Programmes

3. High level oOverview of current monitoring programme and survey schemes
4. ~~Detail of any planned activities of note~~ [\[embedded in the above topic\]](#)
5. ~~Relevant outputs to note (by species)~~ [\[as above\]](#)

##### C. ~~Dedicated Surveys and Other Relevant Research~~ [\[as above\]](#)

6. ~~Aerial surveys (how many have been conducted, over which area, when)~~ [\[as above\]](#)
7. Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) [\[as above\]](#)
8. 4. Other research (not mentioned elsewhere in Section II III or IV)

#### Section IV: Use of Bycatches and Strandings Records

##### A. Stranding Networks and Strandings

1. ~~Collection of Carcasses~~ [\[embedded in the above heading, does not need a separate section\]](#)
2. ~~Live Stranding Responses~~ [\[as above\]](#)

##### B. ~~Stranding Network~~ [\[as above\]](#)

- ~~3. Recorded events (for each) [as above]~~
- ~~4. Chosen response in the event of live strandings [as above]~~
- ~~5. Necropsies [as above]~~
- ~~6. Database [as above]~~

Section V: Legislation

A. Overview of Legislative Framework

- ~~1. National [embedded in the above heading, does not need a separate section]~~
- ~~2. Regional / International [as above]~~

Section VI: Information and Education

A. Education and outreach

Section VII: Other Matters

- A. Other information or comments important for the Agreement
- B. Difficulties in implementing the Agreement