

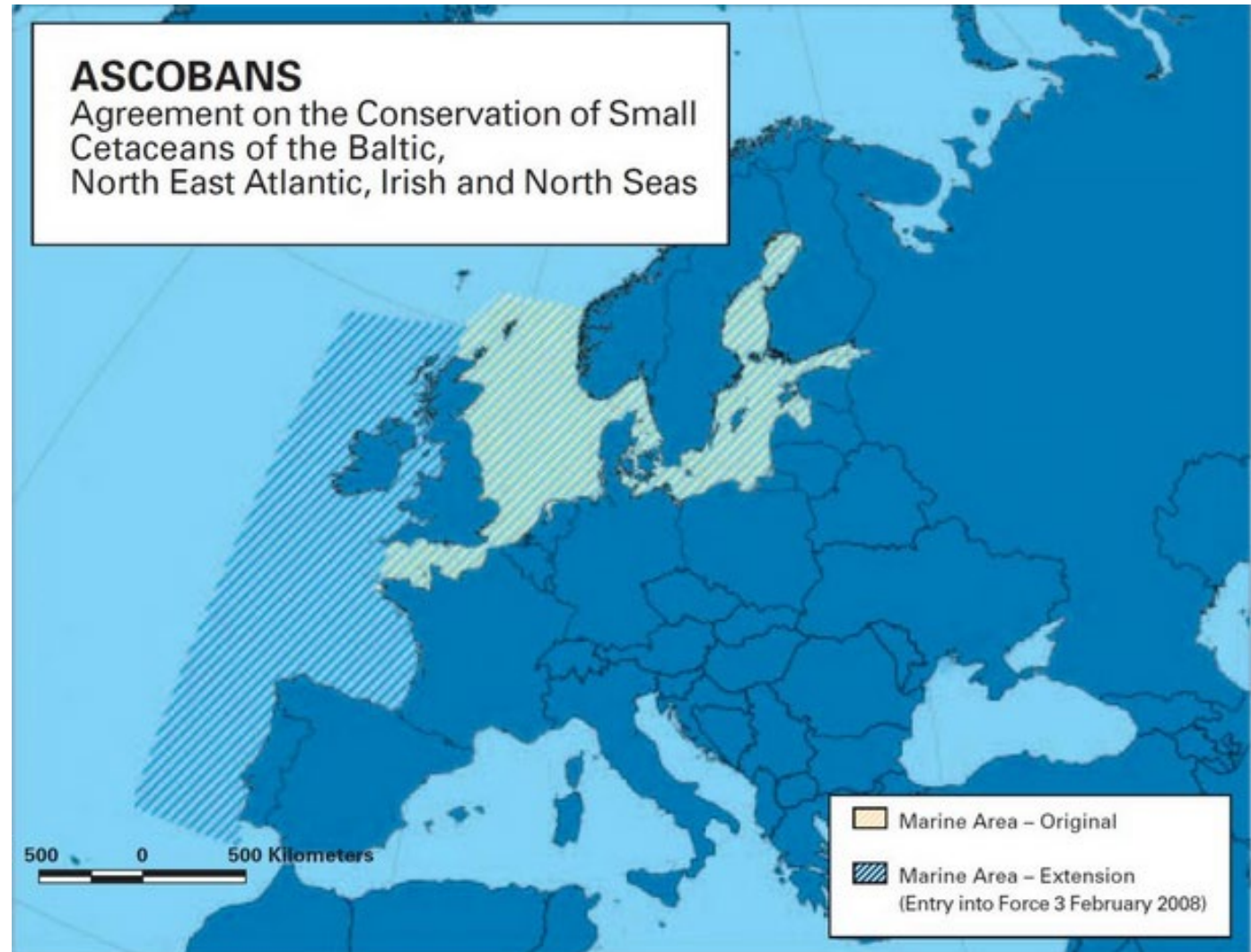
Overview of relevant ASCOBANS provisions for the workshop

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What is ASCOBANS?

- Legally binding, multilateral UN treaty
- Promotes close cooperation between countries, to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans
- Administered by UNEP; Secretariat shared with CMS
- 10 Parties, 7 non-Party Range States
- Covers any species, subspecies or population of toothed whales (*Odontoceti*) occurring in the Agreement Area (except the sperm whale)
- www.ascobans.org



Small Cetacean Stranding Response

ASCOBANS Resolution 8.10 (Rev.MOP9):

- Best Practice on Cetacean Post-mortem Investigation and Tissue Sampling protocol
- Establish long-term national strandings response and investigation networks that provide consistent and geographically comprehensive surveillance of mortalities
- Contribute data to the web-based strandings database
- Liaise with existing networks and the IWC SI for assistance, and to support their stranding networks with the funds necessary to carry out their work, and to facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity-building between networks
- Through national stranding networks and relevant institutes, to share experiences, data, samples and research outputs, with their counterparts in other countries in order to help build capacity throughout the ASCOBANS Area, and beyond



ASCOBANS interests in strandings data

- Strandings' analysis through necropsy and sampling can provide indications of reason for injury and death
- Stranding numbers provide information on population status, abundance and distribution
- Effective response to strandings contributes to the maintenance of favourable conservation status of small cetaceans, and has implications for animal welfare
- What a successful database might look like to the ASCOBANS Secretariat: data readily available (at least certain level), free/low-cost to maintain, easy to use
- What ASCOBANS needs out of the workshop and what might be the next steps: indication of whether to have its own simple database or a joint one with other IGOs; indication of costs → Working Group to elaborate further



Web-accessed database for marine mammal strandings and necropsy data

ASCOBANS AC27, Action Point 7:

- An initial online survey to gauge interest in joining a collaboration which would seek to explore the advantages and challenges in developing an online web-accessed data repository for strandings information
- A more detailed online survey seeking to understand drivers for the creation of an online
- A review of existing or planned databases containing marine strandings data
- A technical workshop to:
 - Identify stakeholder requirement / specifications / concerns for any database
 - consider issues of data ownership
 - Identify technical considerations and operation maintenance
 - Formulate a design brief, including potential outline costs and timescales for the project

