

ASCOBANS NEWSFLASH OCTOBER 2011

RELEASE OF “ODONTOCETES - THE TOOTHED WHALES”

ODONTOCETES The Toothed Whales

by Boris M. Culik

Illustrations by Maurizio Wurtz, Artescienza

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For 86 per cent of all toothed whale species, entanglement in gillnets, traps, weirs, purse seines, longlines and trawls is resulting in an unsustainably high death toll. This is among the findings of a report published today by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals under the UN Environment Programme (UNEP/CMS).

The report is an encyclopaedia on the 72 species of toothed whales compiled by Professor Boris Culik of Kiel University in Germany and represents the most recent scientific findings on the distribution, migration, behaviour and threats to this suborder of the cetaceans, which includes sperm whales, beaked whales, porpoises and dolphins.

The UNEP/ASCOBANS Secretariat will present a free copy of the publication to each participant in the upcoming 19th Meeting of the Advisory Committee. The web version of the report can be accessed [here](#).

Click [here](#) to read the UNEP press release.

19TH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO TAKE PLACE IN IRELAND

The 19th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee will be held from **20-22 March 2012** at the Galway Bay Hotel in Galway, Ireland. The registration form has been posted on [this page](#), where the Provisional Agenda and more information on the venue and travel will also be made available along with documents prepared for the meeting.

Observers are usually welcome to attend these meetings. Those interested are required to inform the Secretariat in writing of their intention to participate no later than 20 January 2012 to allow Parties time to decide on their admission. Please refer to the [official invitation letter](#) for details.

The Advisory Committee was established to facilitate the implementation of the ASCOBANS Agreement and the decisions of the Parties by providing advice and information to the Secretariat and the Parties between the sessions of the Meeting of Parties (MOP). Reports of past meetings can be accessed [here](#).



8TH MEETING OF THE JASTARNIA GROUP (31 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY 2012)

The 8th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Working Group will take place at the Secretariat's premises in Bonn, Germany, from 31 January to 2 February 2012.

The Jastarnia Group was established to take forward the implementation of the Recovery Plan for the Baltic Harbour Porpoise and includes experts from the environment and fisheries sectors from around the Baltic Sea. Each year, the Jastarnia Group reviews new developments and research and makes recommendations to the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee. At the upcoming meeting, the Jastarnia Group will also consider a draft paper on conservation measures for harbour porpoises in the western Baltic and Belt Sea, which is intended to close the gap between the North and Baltic Sea action plans currently in place.

Participants are requested to register by 13 January 2012.



For more information, please contact:
Ms Heidrun Frisch
CMS/ASCOBANS Coordinator
+49 228 815 2418 / h.frisch@ascobans.org

www.ascobans.org