

**List of Action Points and Decisions  
of the 17<sup>th</sup> ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting**

**SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION SESSION**

1. The Secretariat would prepare a list of decisions and action points for adoption at the end of the meeting, which would be forwarded to participants promptly. A draft report would follow within two weeks for comments. (Agenda Item 1.2)
2. The Advisory Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Jastarnia Group as amended. (Agenda Item 4.1)
3. A Working Group for the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea was established and terms of reference agreed. Until the chair for this working group was elected, the Netherlands would take the lead. (Agenda Item 4.2.1)
4. A time-limited Working Group on Bycatch was established to report to the next Advisory Committee meeting and terms of reference agreed. (Agenda Item 4.3)
5. Parties were requested to provide funding to facilitate the representation of ASCOBANS at RACs and similar meetings. (Agenda Item 4.3)
6. An open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Noise was established and terms of reference adopted. Karsten Brensing was elected Chair. (Agenda Item 4.4)
7. Parties were encouraged to develop national information material for outreach to fishermen and would report back on their success in due course. The draft leaflet developed by ASCOBANS would be passed to the Parties for their consideration. Material from the leaflet could be incorporated into the ASCOBANS website as the Secretariat felt appropriate. (Agenda Item 4.5.1)
8. The Secretariat would make changes to the redesigned website to make the page on Resolutions more user-friendly. Parties were invited to convey any further comments to the Secretariat. (Agenda Item 4.5.1)
9. The Secretariat, Parties and partners should give thought to possible events to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASCOBANS in 2012. (Agenda Item 4.5.2)
10. The Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan was adopted with minor changes. (Agenda Item 4.5.3)
11. Parties, concerned that ASCOBANS species and possibly populations were affected, requested the Secretariat to contact the authorities of the Faeroe Islands regarding the whale hunt. (Agenda Item 5.1)
12. Peter Evans (ECS) would provide a tabular summary of the results of various trend analyses in strandings, sightings and by-catch for all cetacean species occurring in the ASCOBANS area, country by country. (Agenda Item 5.1)
13. With a view to adopting a revised version of the Jastarnia Plan at MOP7, the Jastarnia Group was requested to identify by AC19 at the latest measures geared to the situation of Harbour porpoises in the area west of the Darss-Limhamn Ridge. (Agenda Item 5.2)

14. A map of the ASCOBANS Area showing places with a high risk of ship strikes should be prepared in time for AC19. Peter Evans would be contracted in order to produce this map. (Agenda Item 5.4)
15. The Informal Working Group on Large Cetaceans to be chaired by Peter Evans was established. The Group would conduct its business through correspondence and meet physically during AC18. (Agenda Item 5.6)
16. The following Projects were endorsed: 1 (Inventories of Harbour porpoise presence in Russian territorial waters of the Baltic Sea - €6,950); 3 (Feasibility study on the creation of a web-accessed strandings database covering Agreement Parties and Range States - €8,500); 4 (Pollutant exposure in coastal top predators: assessing current levels of exposure and toxic effects - €9,750) and 6 (Understanding Harbour porpoise and fishery interactions in the North-West Iberian peninsula - €10,000). Poland would provide questions for the Secretariat to forward to the applicants for project 1 for a possible cost-neutral amendment of the project. (Agenda Item 6.2)
17. The ASCOBANS Project Proposal Format was adopted with minor amendments. (Agenda Item 6.3)
18. The Secretariat would liaise with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat over organizing a joint workshop at the ECS Annual Conference in 2011 on pollutants and new compounds now entering marine ecosystems and their effects on cetaceans. The Secretariat should also discuss co-funding the participation of speakers with ACCOBAMS and would revert to Parties in the event of lack of funding. Peter Evans and Mark Simmonds offered to convene the workshop. (Agenda Items 7 and 5.3)
19. The Secretariat would examine the feasibility of a joint CMS Family workshop on a subject of common interest such as bycatch, involving all marine Agreements and MoUs. (Agenda Item 7)
20. The Advisory Committee agreed which meetings the ASCOBANS Secretariat or other representatives would attend. (Agenda Item 7.1)
21. The Acting Executive Secretary was mandated to write to the Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS to present the ASCOBANS Parties' position regarding the proposed extension of the ACCOBAMS Area and to request that discussion of this proposal be postponed until the CMS Future Shape Process had run its course. The position of the ASCOBANS Parties should also be presented at the forthcoming ACCOBAMS MOP (9-12 November 2010). (Agenda Item 7.2)
22. The ASCOBANS Style Guide was adopted with minor amendments. (Agenda Item 8)

### ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

23. The Secretariat would continue the practice of sending a mid-year report on administrative and budgetary issues to Parties. (Agenda Item 13.1)
24. The Secretariat would discontinue the budget outlines of the running year presented to the Advisory Committee Meeting. (Agenda Item 13.3)
25. The Netherlands would take the lead in preparing the evaluation of the Secretariat arrangements requested by MOP6. Parties interested in joining an intersessional working group to prepare a preliminary report for consideration by AC18 should contact the Dutch National Coordinator by 15 November 2010. (Agenda Item 14)
26. Germany would fund a temporary part-time North Sea Plan Coordinator in 2011. Other Parties were urged to provide voluntary contributions to cover further years. In the absence of sufficient contributions, the 18<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee Meeting would decide on the use of trust fund reserves. (Agenda Item 14)
27. The Secretariat would prepare a draft job description for the North Sea Plan Coordinator and send it to the North Sea Working Group for comments. (Agenda Items 14 and 4.2)
28. The next Meeting of the Advisory Committee would take place in spring 2011. Offers to host the meeting should be sent to the Secretariat by 1 November 2010. The default venue would be Bonn. The Secretariat would conduct an online poll to determine suitable dates. (Agenda Item 15)
29. Sami Hassani (France) was elected as Chair of the Advisory Committee. Penina Blankett (Finland) was elected as Vice-Chair. (Agenda Item 16)
30. The Secretariat would prepare a list of proposals for funding of internal activities presented during a Meeting of the Advisory Committee in addition to external project proposals received prior to the meeting. Parties would prioritize and decide on the funding of these activities before the end of each meeting.
31. The Secretariat would intensify efforts to ensure representation of the Russian Federation at future ASCOBANS Meetings and if necessary seek German support.