

Agenda Item 4.1

Priorities in the Implementation of the
Triennium Work Plan (2010-2012)
ASCOBANS Baltic Recovery Plan
(Jastarnia Plan)

Document 4-01

**Recommendations of the 6th Meeting
of the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group**

Action Requested

- Take note of the recommendations made
- Comment
- Endorse the recommendations

Submitted by

Jastarnia Group



**NOTE:
IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR
OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING**

Secretariat's Note

The full report of the 6th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group, held in Hel, Poland, on 23-24 February 2010, will be made available as an addendum to this document as soon as it becomes available.

Recommendations of the 6th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Jastarnia Group

1. The SAMBAH project team should be represented at future Jastarnia Group meetings.
2. Jastarnia Group members should promote the SAMBAH project including by providing data.
3. The ASCOBANS Secretariat should promote the SAMBAH project internationally (including with the European Commission and with the Baltic RAC).
4. Parties and the Secretariat should try to involve Russia building on *inter alia* its involvement with harbour seals (and offer financial assistance for Russian participation).
5. National activities related to SAMBAH (including in non-SAMBAH countries, in particular Germany) should be coordinated to avoid duplication and information should be shared.
6. The ASCOBANS Secretariat and Parties should promote SAMBAH in IDBHP (e.g. the Secretariat should promote SAMBAH on the ASCOBANS website).
7. Efforts should be made to ensure that SAM devices are left in place or returned when dislodged. Possible means of achieving this might include marking devices with a contact address and offering rewards to people returning them. Such measures should address all sea users and not just fishermen.
8. Supportive fishermen should be involved in outreach initiatives to inform the wider fisheries community about SAMBAH.
9. Secretariat and Parties should lend support in obtaining permits to set SAM devices by contacting the relevant authorities, and national representatives should assist the Secretariat in identifying the right contact persons to approach.
10. The Group notes the recent promising new methods of monitoring and mitigating bycatch across the greater Baltic region and recommends that options of compiling this information and making it available to those not or not fully aware of it be explored. The Jastarnia Group and the ASCOBANS Secretariat should take the lead in this process.
11. A targeted approach to involving stakeholders such as fishermen should be adopted. With respect to fishermen, this should involve working primarily with those who have been receptive in the past.
12. Bycatch mitigation activities of the Jastarnia Group should be coordinated with the related work of other regional bodies and organizations in order to avoid duplication of effort.
13. A summary of current and historic morphological data should be included in Anders Galatius' and Jonas Teilmann's study and presented to the 2011 Jastarnia Group.
14. With respect to recreational fisheries, Parties should work towards banning those types of gear known to pose a threat to harbour porpoises.
15. The possibility of using cod traps, as successfully applied in Sweden, or other gear as an alternative to pingers elsewhere in the Baltic and the greater Baltic region, as well as the possibility of reflecting their use in a porpoise-friendly label should be investigated.
16. Parties are urged to undertake studies of fisheries effort as contained in recommendation 11 of the Jastarnia Plan.
17. The Jastarnia Group should make its expertise available to governments seeking to develop management plans for SACs/MPAs designated for the Harbour porpoise.
18. Parties should designate Focal Points dealing with the Baltic Harbour Porpoise database and provide the details of these Focal Points to the Secretariats of ASCOBANS and HELCOM.

19. The Jastarnia Group noted the draft of the fishermen's leaflet prepared for the Advisory Committee. The Group feels the draft needs substantial rewording or may even need to be totally rewritten. The Jastarnia Group suggests a new draft be prepared for the AC. The Baltic RAC should be contacted for the Baltic version. If necessary, Parties and the Secretariat should seek funding to enlist a Baltic expert to help with the Baltic version.
20. The AC Chair and the Secretariat should approach the European Commission to draw attention to the need to address the bycatch problem in the Baltic.
21. The Secretariat should contact EAZA suggesting that they participate in the 2010 IDBHP as part of the 2009-10 carnivore campaign.
22. The Jastarnia Group should step up cooperation with the Baltic RAC.
23. Taking note of recent studies indicating that there is no clear cut separation between the Eastern and western populations of Harbour Porpoise, the Jastarnia Group recommends that the present Jastarnia Plan be extended to the Baltic as defined by HELCOM without prejudice to the conservation plan of Harbour Porpoises east of the Darß Ridge.
24. The Secretariat should produce a synopsis of bycatch-related national regulations of relevance to individual fishermen, especially with regard to fines for bycatch and incentives for those delivering carcasses.