

**List of Action Points and Decisions  
of the 18<sup>th</sup> ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting**

**SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION SESSION**

1. Parties would notify the Secretariat by 20 June 2011 of any reservations regarding the recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Jastarnia Group. (Agenda Item 4.1)
2. The terms of reference for the Baltic Sea Coordinator were endorsed as amended. (Agenda Item 4.1)
3. New terms of reference for the Bycatch Working Group were adopted. Russell Leaper would act as interim chair until a permanent successor was elected. (Agenda Item 4.3)
4. Revised terms of reference for the Noise Working Group were adopted. (Agenda Item 4.4)
5. The Secretariat would circulate a proposal for a publication to mark the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASCOBANS as soon as possible to receive the Parties comments and endorsement. (Agenda Item 4.5)
6. Parties would provide their comments on the new website by 20 June 2011. As soon as necessary amendments were made, the old one would be taken off-line and the new site would be migrated to the URL [www.ascobans.org](http://www.ascobans.org). (Agenda Item 4.5)
7. The Secretariat would organize a joint workshop with ECS and ACCOBAMS on the implementation of the cetacean components of the Habitats Directive in EU member states (2012 Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society, Galway, Ireland). (Agenda Item 5)
8. An item on management of marine protected areas would be included on the agenda of AC19. WDCCS and the Sea Watch Foundation were requested to table a related paper. (Agenda Item 5)
9. The Secretariat was requested to write to the Faroe Islands Authorities again to seek a response to the outstanding items, and to pursue the issue of the cetacean hunts with NAMMCO. (Agenda Item 5.1)
10. A joint workshop with ACCOBAMS on population structure would be convened at the 2012 Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society. (Agenda Item 5.1)
11. WDCCS would present a background document summarizing the state of knowledge of the impact on cetaceans of marine debris (including ingested plastics) to AC19. (Agenda Item 5.2)
12. The Advisory Committee agreed with the recommendation of the IWC/ACCOBAMS Workshop that organizations such as IWC, ACCOBAMS, IMO, ASCOBANS or UNEP should support approaches to holders of shipping data for access for research use. ASCOBANS would assist in facilitating requests for shipping data to assist in identifying high risk areas to cetaceans within the ASCOBANS area. (Agenda Item 5.3)
13. Peter Evans was asked to convey the Advisory Committee's support for WWL's efforts to reduce ship strikes. (Agenda Item 5.3)

14. An Intersessional WG led by Peter Evans would prepare a paper for AC19 on research and conservation actions undertaken in the extended Agreement Area. Inputs from all Range States and ACCOBAMS were to be sought. (Agenda Item 5.4)
15. A process for ranking project proposals was adopted. The Secretariat would circulate proposals, and Parties and Partners would communicate their priorities in advance of the AC meeting. The outcome would be announced at the meeting. (Agenda Item 6.2)
16. A joint Working Group with ACCOBAMS on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive would be established. The Secretariats would liaise with Parties and Partners over its terms of reference and composition. (Agenda Item 7)
17. The Secretariat was requested to give high priority to participation of ASCOBANS representatives in RAC meetings. (Agenda Item 7)

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION**

18. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a paper for AC19 setting out the advantages and disadvantages of a budget prepared in US dollar as opposed to a Euro budget. (Agenda Item 13.2)
19. The Secretariat would convey the views of the Advisory Committee to UNEP and UNON regarding the treatment of the devaluation of the Euro in the ASCOBANS accounts. (Agenda Item 13.2)
20. Parties decided that savings from the 2010 budget should be used 1) to extend the contract of the North Sea Coordinator until the end of 2012; 2) to hire a consultant for the development of a draft paper containing background information and proposed objectives for the “gap area” between the coverage of the North Sea and Jastarnia Plans; and 3) if more resources became available to apply them to projects in accordance with the priority list agreed by the AC. (Agenda Item 14)
21. In liaison with the Jastarnia Group and Baltic Sea National Coordinators, the Secretariat would develop terms of reference for the “gap area” consultancy. (Agenda Item 14)
22. The Evaluation Report of the Secretariat arrangements would be adopted subject to amendment through a written procedure and the final version would be forwarded to the CMS COP10 as an information document that could be taken into account for the Future Shape process. (Agenda Item 15)
23. The key recommendation was for the Secretariat to facilitate 1) collaboration with fisheries organizations and 2) a closer alignment with EU processes. (Agenda Item 15)
24. Offers to host AC19 and/or MOP7 should be sent to the Secretariat by 1 September 2011. (Agenda Item 17)
25. AC19 would preferably take place before Easter 2012 (second half of March) and the Secretariat would investigate the possibility of holding it back-to-back with the Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society in Galway, Ireland. (Agenda Item 17)