

**5<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ASCOBANS****Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands, 18 - 22 September 2006****Resolution No. 1****Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea**

*Recalling* that the 5th International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea (Bergen, Norway, 20-21 March 2002) called for a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea to be developed and adopted (Paragraph 30, Bergen Declaration);

*Recalling* that the declaration of the Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Helsinki and OSPAR Commissions (Bremen, Germany, 25-26 June 2003, 'Bremen Declaration') adopted the common statement "Towards an Ecosystem Approach to the Management of Human Activities" (Paragraph 13), which highlights the need to develop and promote the implementation of a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea;

*Recalling* the considerable experience ASCOBANS has gained with the development of the recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the Baltic ('Jastarnia Plan');

*Noting* the results of the two abundance surveys SCANS-I and SCANS-II;

*Noting* the preparations ASCOBANS has already undertaken towards the development of a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea at the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Advisory Committee in 2002 and 2003;

*Recalling* the deliberations on the Recovery Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea at the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee;

*Recalling* Resolution No. 10 on a Recovery Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties in 2003;

*Commending* Germany for its initiative and support for the development of a recovery plan for harbour porpoises in the North Sea;

*Noting* the decision of the Advisory Committee at its 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting to change the name "Recovery Plan" to "Conservation Plan";

*Without prejudice to the exclusive competence of the European Community for the conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources, and the Community's Directives;*

*The Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS*

*Adopts*, as a basis for a Conservation Plan, the paper "Towards a Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea" annexed to this Resolution;

*Broadly supports* the document as the basis for a conservation plan to be developed under the leadership of the Chair and Vice-chair of the Advisory Committee before the Committee's 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting.