

ASCOBANS Triennium Work Plan for 2007 - 2009

ACTIVITY	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE
Entire ASCOBANS Area		
Review, on an annual basis, and as far as possible in conjunction with EU, ICES and IWC, new information on bycatch and make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action. This should include information provided by Parties and Range States on the implementation, efficacy and impacts of measures introduced to reduce bycatch, and on effort in relevant fisheries	Advisory Committee	
Provide a clear format for the information to be provided by Parties and Range States on static gillnet and tangle net effort	Advisory Committee	
Continue to review, on an annual basis, new information on pollution (including the IWC programme POLLUTION 2000+) and its effects on small cetaceans which occur in the ASCOBANS area and, on the basis of this review, provide recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	Advisory Committee	Annually
Continue to review the extent of negative effects upon small cetaceans of sound, vessels and other forms of disturbance on small cetaceans and to review relevant technological developments with a view to providing recommendations to Parties, by the 6 th Meeting of the Parties, on possible ways to mitigate those negative effects	Advisory Committee	By MOP6 (recommendations)
Organise a one day workshop to establish criteria and guidelines for the identification of sites of importance for small cetaceans	Secretariat	Spring 2007
Organise a three-day workshop on population structure of the harbour porpoise in the ASCOBANS area, including one-day dedicated to the Baltic Sea harbour porpoises	Secretariat	26-28 February 2007

ACTIVITY	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE
Review new information on cetacean population size, distribution, structure, and causes of mortality in the ASCOBANS area and based on implications for conservation to make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities	Advisory Committee	Annually
Continue to step up activities to raise awareness of issues related to cetacean conservation in the Agreement Area	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Continue to translate ASCOBANS information material and to undertake promotional activities in both Party and non-party Range States	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Continue to develop the ASCOBANS web site, aiming to meet the needs of a wide range of target audiences and including educational material	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Clearly define the role of the Secretariat in working together with the EU, CMS, OSPAR, HELCOM and ACCOBAMS in order to synchronize joint actions in educational and promotional activities, and create synergy to provide added value while avoiding duplication of effort	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Take appropriate advice, produce targeted information material on conservation issues facing small cetaceans in the region, and in particular in consultation with appropriate fishermen's organisations, RACs and others develop material to distribute to fishermen, especially with respect to bycatch issues	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Baltic Sea Sub-Region		
Continue to produce information material in the languages of the Baltic Sea region	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Review the implementation of the ASCOBANS Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan) (Document MoP4/Doc.23) and continue efforts to further its implementation	Advisory Committee, Jastarnia Group	Annually

ACTIVITY	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE
Liaise with Parties and others to find funding for the continuation, beyond the year 2007, of the web-based, international database on opportunistic sightings, strandings and bycatch	Secretariat	2007
North Sea Sub-Region		
Develop a conservation plan for the North Sea Harbour Porpoise	AC Chair, Vice-chair, Secretariat	By AC14
Review, once it is in place, the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea and continue efforts to further its implementation	Advisory Committee	Annually
North Atlantic Sub-Region (Extension Area)		
Continue to consider how the work of ASCOBANS should be extended to take account of the new Agreement Area, which includes areas beyond national jurisdiction	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Institutional Issues		
Make Resolution 2b of MOP5 (Operating Procedures of the Agreement 2007-2009) operational for ASCOBANS	Advisory Committee	
Continue to invite the intergovernmental bodies such as IWC, ICES, CMS, HELCOM, NAMMCO, OSPAR, ACCOBAMS and the European Commission and relevant international organizations such as ECS, to send representatives to Advisory Committee meetings	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Explore the possibilities of further developing positive relationships with other stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and Regional Advisory Councils	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium

ACTIVITY	ACTION REQUIRED OF	INTERVAL/TIME LINE
Improve co-operation, exchange of information as well as expertise between the Advisory Committee of ASCOBANS and the Standing Committee and the Scientific Council of CMS	Advisory Committee	Throughout the triennium
Continue to review at each meeting a list of international meetings, compiled by the Secretariat, at which the aims of ASCOBANS might most usefully be promoted, and recommend which meetings should be attended, by whom and with what objective and to review the outcomes of meetings attended	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Annually
Review, before MOP6, the formal structures and processes of the Agreement to determine whether other mechanisms would be more effective in achieving the conservation objectives of ASCOBANS	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	By MOP 6
Explore ways in which ASCOBANS can better liaise and work with the EC on issues of mutual interest	Advisory Committee, Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Promote the Agreement and its aims in Parties, Range States and with other relevant players	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Promote accession of non-Party Range States to the Agreement	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium
Consider, in 2009, the possible amendment of the ASCOBANS Agreement to include all cetacean species	Advisory Committee	By AC16
Support Parties, Range States and Agreement bodies in implementing the above Work Plan, in so far as primary responsibility does not lie with the Secretariat	Secretariat	Throughout the triennium