



*Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*

*Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente, conclu sous l'égide de la Convention sur la Conservation des Espèces Migratrices appartenant à la Faune Sauvage (CMS)*



# REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO ACCOBAMS



***Tangier, 5-8 November 2013***



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## Introduction

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) was held in Tangier, Morocco at the Mövenpick Hotel & Casino, from 5 to 8 November 2013. This Meeting followed the entry into force of the Agreement on 1 June 2001, the First Meeting of the Parties held in Monaco in 2002, the Second Meeting of the Parties held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain in 2004, the Third Meeting of the Parties in Dubrovnik, Croatia in 2007, and the Fourth Meeting of the Parties in Monaco in 2010.

## Participants

2. Representatives of the following States Party to the Agreement took part in the Meeting: Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Ukraine.
3. A non-Party State, Israel, was represented by an observer.
4. The following inter-governmental organizations were represented: the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), the Black Sea Commission, the Convention on the conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP / CMS), the Agreement on the Conservation of small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (UNEP / CMS / ASCOBANS), the Barcelona Convention (UNEP / MAP), the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (UNEP-MAP RAC / SPA) and the Pelagos Sanctuary.
5. The following Partners were represented: European Cetacean Society (ECS), Israel Marine Mammal Research and Assistance Center (IMMRAC), OceanCare, Tethys Research Institute, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Med) and Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC).
6. Other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions were represented: Association de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources (AGIR), Chambre des Pêches Maritimes de la Méditerranée, Groupement d'Intérêt Scientifique pour les Mammifères Marins de Méditerranée et leur environnement (GIS3M), Humane Society International (HSI), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), International Association of Oil & Gas producers (OGP) and SINAY.
7. The Secretariat of ACCOBAMS acted as Secretariat for the Meeting.
8. The full list of participants appears as [Annex I](#) to this Report.

**Agenda Item 1 – Welcome addresses**

9. The Chair of the Bureau, Mr. Cyril Gomez (Monaco), opened the Meeting by thanking the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the Fifth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS and welcomed the participants. He stressed the importance of the instruments that would be submitted to the Meeting for consideration, namely, ACCOBAMS's long-term strategy for the period 2014-2025, the procedure as regards respect for commitments and the revised rules for the Scientific Committee of the Agreement. Lastly, he thanked His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco as well as His Highness Mr. Aziz Akhannouch, Moroccan Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, who attended the opening ceremony of the Meeting.
10. Mr. Stanley Johnson, Honorary Ambassador for CMS, speaking on behalf of both CMS and ASCOBANS, said that ACCOBAMS, CMS and ASCOBANS are dealing with common issues such as underwater noise, bycatch, marine debris, chemical pollution and climate change, and called for increased cooperation between the Secretariats of and the Parties to the different instruments. He informed participants of the proposal, forwarded by the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, that Cuvier's beaked whale be listed in Appendix I of CMS. He invited the Parties to sponsor this proposal, which would be submitted to the CMS Conference of Parties in November 2014. Lastly, he praised the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary for her skills and dedication in managing the Secretariat and hoped that when she would retire later this year, her successor and the team at the Secretariat would continue to keep the flag flying.
11. Mrs. Marie-Christine Grillo-Compulsione, the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary, expressed gratitude to the Moroccan Government for its hospitality and the welcome it had extended in the symbolic town of Tangier, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco for His presence and support, and His Highness Mr. Aziz Akhannouch, the Moroccan Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, for attending and hosting the Meeting. She hailed Morocco's active presence on the international biodiversity conservation scene. She ended by saying that the Meeting had a heavy agenda that reflected the challenges to be faced regarding cetacean conservation, and hoped that the coming three years would see the commitments made at this Tangier Meeting bear fruit.
12. His Highness Mr. Aziz Akhannouch, Moroccan Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, expressed his pleasure that His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco had been able to attend the present session of ACCOBAMS, thus giving it fresh momentum. He stressed the need for all the member States to work toward the common objectives of cetacean protection and conservation. He declared that Morocco, like other Mediterranean countries, has always supported positions and commitments taken within the framework of international organizations and will continue strengthening regional cooperation at technical, legal, institutional and scientific levels. The protection of resources is at the heart of the national

strategy to develop the Moroccan fisheries sector. Morocco has banned the use of drift nets, thus satisfactorily reducing dolphin and whale bycatch. He hailed H.S.H Prince Albert II's initiative to set up a Trust Fund for Mediterranean marine protected areas. Lastly, H.E.M the Minister expressed his country's hope that this Agreement would play a full part in the conservation of cetaceans in the region and wished the Meeting great success.

13. His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, after thanking the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the Meeting, hailed the usefulness and pertinence ACCOBAMS had displayed since it was set up. He reaffirmed the constant involvement of the Principality of Monaco in supporting ACCOBAMS and launched an appeal to the world community to step up its support for correct knowledge of the state of biodiversity in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and especially of the cetacean populations living therein. He hailed the outgoing Executive Secretary for her skills and dedication and announced the choice of Florence Descroix-Comanducci, a top-level marine biologist, as her successor at the head of the Agreement starting in the coming year. Lastly, he wished the Meeting full success in its work and promised he would support the decisions that would be made.
14. All of the welcome addresses appear in [Annex II](#).
15. The participants were invited to watch a short video document recently prepared by the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS.
16. The Chair informed the Meeting that the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of Parties applied to the present Meeting, except for the Articles concerning:
  - the rules on the Scientific Committee, which would be examined in Agenda item 11c)
  - the rules on the Credentials Committee, submitted for adoption in Draft Resolution 5.4 in Agenda item 11d)

## **Agenda item 2 – Granting the right to vote**

The Chair stated that the issue of granting the right to vote to countries that are not yet Parties to ACCOBAMS was not necessary for the present Meeting.

**Agenda item 3 – Admission of observers**

17. In accordance with Article III Paragraph 4 of the Meeting's Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat presented to the Parties the list of organizations that wished to take part in the Meeting as observers (MOP5/2013/Doc05Rev2).
18. The Meeting allowed all the observers listed to be present.

**Agenda item 4 – Election of the Bureau**

19. The Chair of the Bureau informed the Meeting that, during their pre-Meeting consultations, the heads of delegations had proposed that the new Bureau should be made up of representatives from the following countries: Croatia, France, Georgia, Monaco and Morocco.
20. The Meeting approved the suggestion of the heads of delegations and elected the following members of the Bureau:
  - Chairperson: Mrs. Zakia Driouich (Morocco)
  - Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Ana Štrbenac (Croatia)
  - Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Martine Bigan represented by Mrs. Muriel Soret (France)
  - Vice-Chairperson / Rapporteur: Mrs. Irina Lomashvili (Georgia)
  - Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Patrick Van Klaveren (Monaco)
21. Zakia Driouich, the new Chair of the Bureau, thanked the Meeting for electing her and said she was certain that the discussions would be fruitful.
22. The Executive Secretary congratulated the Chair and all the members of the outgoing Bureau for their efficiency over the past three years.

**Agenda item 5 – Adoption of the Agenda**

23. The Executive Secretary presented the draft Agenda (MOP5/2013/Doc01) and timetable (MOP5/2013/Doc 02) that had been proposed.
24. The Meeting adopted the proposed Agenda and timetable. The Agenda appears in [Annex III](#) to this Report.

**Agenda item 6 – Establishment of the Credentials Committee**

25. In accordance with Article IV of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties, a Credentials Committee was set up. Lebanon chaired this Committee, with Georgia, Monaco and Tunisia as members.



## Agenda item 7 – Opening statements

26. The Executive Secretary invited any Parties or organizations who wished to speak to do so under this Agenda item and invited those who wanted their opening statement to appear in the Appendix to the Report to provide the Secretariat with a copy of that text, in written or electronic form, in English or in French ([Annex IV](#)).
27. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, coordinator of the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP), reiterated the relevance of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, especially as regards specially protected areas and biological diversity, to the issues addressed by ACCOBAMS. She emphasized the long-standing cooperation between RAC/SPA and ACCOBAMS and informed the Meeting of the Memorandum of Understanding now being finalized between UNEP/MAP and ACCOBAMS. This Memorandum will enhance existing synergies, and especially those integrated within the Ecosystem Approach process developed in the MAP context. It will enable data to be collected on Mediterranean cetaceans and their ecosystems and also allow issues of marine litter and underwater noise to be dealt with.
28. Heidrun Frisch, representative of the ASCOBANS Agreement (UNEP/ASCOBANS), referred to the speech given by CMS Ambassador Stanley Johnson on behalf of the Executive Secretary of CMS, Mr. Bradnee Chambers, who also acts as Executive Secretary to ASCOBANS and therefore represented both organizations. To add a few additional notes, she pointed out that ASCOBANS had celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 and said the Secretariat was pleased that the two Agreements have been cooperating closely since the inception of ACCOBAMS. Especially in recent years, this collaboration has intensified, and two joint working groups between ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS are now in operation, including one on underwater noise already mentioned in the CMS Ambassador's speech and one on the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The joint CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat very much welcomed this spirit of cooperation and was looking forward to continuing to work together with ACCOBAMS in the years to come.
29. Mrs. Fannie Dubois, Executive Secretary of Pelagos Sanctuary, declared she was glad to participate in ACCOBAMS activities in an official and matter-of-fact way since the Permanent Secretariat of the Pelagos Sanctuary had been reactivated in January 2013. The Sanctuary intends to be an ACCOBAMS pilot zone for the implementation of innovative initiatives in accordance with the objectives of the Agreement. In this respect, three major areas of cooperation have already been initiated: i) the struggle against ship strikes, ii) the supervision of whale-watching activities in their natural environment, and iii) marine protected areas. However, other cooperation issues are being examined.
30. Mr. Alain Jeudy de Grissac, speaking for the IUCN headquarters in Switzerland and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, thanked the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for its invitation to

participate in the Fifth Meeting of the Parties and thanked Morocco for hosting it. He said that IUCN is always ready to take part in nature conservation activities and that he personally, as head of the Mediterranean marine programme for the conservation of the marine environment with a particular focus on cetaceans, felt a special interest. In the IUCN Red List of Species, the status of Mediterranean marine mammals and marine turtles was reviewed in 2012 and the status of Mediterranean marine fish was studied in 2011, both raising awareness of the state of the Mediterranean environment. A Red List of Ecosystems is now being studied by experts, with special concern for the marine environment; such a List would provide better protection for the ranges of some species, in particular cetaceans.

31. Mrs. Lobna Ben Nakhla, representing RAC/SPA and Honorary Vice-Chair of the Network of Marine Protected Area Managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), read a statement in the name of MedPAN. MedPAN and ACCOBAMS established a Memorandum of Collaboration in 2012 and have worked together on several activities of mutual interest: organizing the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Forum (Antalya, November 2012), preparing a Mediterranean MPA Status report and a road map for 2020 for a network of ecologically representative Marine Protected Areas that would be well connected and efficiently managed, and developing a Manual for managing cetaceans in MPAs.
32. Mr. Greg Donovan, representing the International Whaling Commission (IWC), thanked the Government of Morocco for hosting the Meeting. He stated that the IWC is pleased with the continuous cooperation between ACCOBAMS and the IWC in many areas of common scientific interest, e.g. ship strikes, climate change, marine debris, sustainable whale watching and the ACCOBAMS basin wide Survey Initiative.
33. Mr. Simone Panigada, representing the European Cetacean Society (ECS), expressed his gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for its great hospitality and for the wonderful organization and perfect location of the meeting. He underlined the fruitful collaboration between ECS and ACCOBAMS, and particularly the joint organization of various workshops with ASCOBANS. He said these efforts should be pursued, especially in view of the forthcoming Conference to be held in 2014 in Liège, Belgium.
34. The representative of the Chambre des Pêches Maritimes (Tangier) reiterated the desire of the fishing industry in northern Morocco to conduct joint work with ACCOBAMS in order to achieve an approach that would both protect cetaceans and safeguard the interests of fishermen.
35. The observer representing Israel affirmed that his country has been a Party to CMS since 1983 and that all marine mammals are fully protected under Israeli law. Activities implemented by Israel are presented under Agenda item 10b.

## Agenda Item 8 – Progress reports

### a) Reports of the Sub-Regional Coordination Units

36. Mrs. Valéria Abaza, representing the Black Sea Commission, presented the report of the ACCOBAMS Black Sea Sub-Regional Coordination Unit ([Annex V](#)). She presented the main actions carried out in the Black Sea which, in terms of research and conservation, involve the following topics: population structure, species conservation plans, the Survey Initiative, by-catch, interaction with fisheries, anthropogenic noise, emergency situations, protected areas, chemical pollution and climate change. She also presented actions concerning communication and awareness- and capacity-building.
37. Mrs. Lobna Ben Nakhla, representative of RAC/SPA, presented the report of the Mediterranean Sub-Regional Coordination Unit ([Annex VI](#)). The main activities were assisting research carried out in northeast Sardinia and collaborating with the research institute Tethys to monitor cetaceans in the Pelagos area and the Ionian Sea (Greece). RAC/SPA is implementing the regional project for developing a Mediterranean network of Marine and coastal areas (MedMPAnet) and the third phase of the MedOpenSeas Project. RAC/SPA is also collaborating with the permanent secretariat of ACCOBAMS to organize a workshop on the impact of climate change on cetaceans and marine turtles during the first half of 2014.

### b) Report of the Depositary

38. The representative of the Depositary of the Agreement (the Principality of Monaco), referring to the report presented in [Annex VII](#), informed the Meeting of key points on how new Parties could join the Agreement and on the ratification of amendments during the three-year period 2011-2013. By 15 July 2013, he said, there were 23 Parties to ACCOBAMS and since the Fourth Meeting of the Parties, held in Monaco from 9 to 12 November 2010, no new Parties had joined the Agreement.
39. As to the amendments to the Agreement decided by the Parties in 2010, related to the extending of the ACCOBAMS geographical area, four approval instruments had been received by the Depositary, coming from Monaco, Bulgaria, Ukraine, and Spain. The Depositary had informed the Parties, the European Commission, and the ACCOBAMS and Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP/CMS) Permanent Secretariats about this by diplomatic route.
40. He also said that during the 2011-2013 period, the Depositary, through various diplomatic agents in the Principality of Monaco, had backed the Permanent Secretariat's approach encouraging the other border states and the European Commission to join the Agreement.

41. The Depositary's representative called on the Parties to give priority to ratifying the amendment on extending the Agreement's geographical area, thus enabling this amendment to come into force.

**c) Report of the Secretariat**

42. The Executive Secretary, referring to the report presented in [Annex VIII](#), informed the Meeting about the state of ratifications and institutional arrangements set in place between the Secretariat and the Parties. She said in this respect that all the Parties except two (Algeria and Montenegro) had appointed Focal Points, and pointed out that, having no Focal Point for either of these countries, the Secretariat had difficulties communicating with these Parties.
43. She stated that the ACCOBAMS regional workshops had once again proven extremely useful for guiding the Secretariat's actions in the countries during the triennium and for identifying countries' requirements for implementing the Agreement. The Secretariat then presented the main activities carried out since the last Meeting of the Parties.
44. In their speeches made after the presentations on the Secretariat's activities report, the delegations congratulated the Secretariat on the work done and the quality of the documents provided. It was proposed that the information database set up by the Secretariat be enriched with links to relevant databases such as MEDACES. Moreover, the Coordinator for the UNEP/MAP indicated that the issue of data exchange is an important one for the process of implementing the Mediterranean Ecosystem Approach and that now is the time to work together to define and introduce the most appropriate means of exchanging information.

**d) Report of the Chair of the Scientific Committee**

45. Since the Chair of the Scientific Committee, Mr. Alexei Birkun, was unable for reasons of health to attend the Meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Vincent Ridoux, presented the report on the Scientific Committee's activities concerning the following topics ([Annex IX](#)): population structure, species conservation plans, the Survey Initiative, by-catch, interaction with fisheries, ship strikes, anthropogenic noise, emergency situations, protected areas, chemical pollution, climate change and databases. He said that the Scientific Committee had met twice since the last MOP and that in its last meeting it had made the following recommendations for the Parties:
  - Recommendation 8.1.: Recommendations about comprehensive estimates of cetacean populations ("ACCOBAMS Survey")

- Recommendation 8.2.: Recommendation about live removals of bottlenose dolphins in the Black Sea
  - Recommendation 8.3.: Recommendation about elaborating a Conservation Plan for fin whales in the Mediterranean
  - Recommendation 8.4.: Recommendation about ship strikes on cetaceans
  - Recommendation 8.5.: Recommendation about cetacean watching
  - Recommendation 8.6.: Recommendation about the conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean.
46. The representative from Greece noted that as regards seismic surveys in the Ionian Sea, Greece had replied officially to the request of the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to provide relevant information on mitigation measures applied and that no unusual stranding events were reported during the survey. He also noted that during the mass stranding events of Cuvier's beaked whales in November-December 2011, no seismic surveys or naval exercises were conducted by Greece.

**e) Report of the Bureau**

47. Mr. Cyril Gomez, Chair of the Bureau during the period 2011-2013, presented the Bureau report ([Annex X](#)). He reported that the Bureau met three times during the period mentioned above and that the conclusions and recommendations of each of these meetings were recorded in reports. Thereafter, he reviewed the major items the Bureau had to deal with. In this respect, he pointed out that the Bureau examined the state of progress of the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement with the host country and asked the Secretariat to remain in contact with the competent authorities of the Principality of Monaco to provide the necessary modifications needed to be more in accordance with the regulations in force in the Principality and to present a finalized version during the Sixth Meeting of the Parties. The Bureau prepared a proposal aimed at modifying the composition of the Scientific Committee. This proposal was presented at the Fifth Meeting of the Parties with a view to introducing, on the one hand, more transparency in the appointment process for Scientific Committee members and, on the other, to open up the Scientific Committee to a larger inclusion of scientists from the Parties and from ACCOBAMS's Partner organizations. He also pointed out that the Bureau had examined a new form for the presentation of projects within the Supplementary Conservation Fund. The new form was submitted for the opinion of the Fifth Meeting of the Parties. The Bureau also examined the process for developing ACCOBAMS's long-term strategy and reported its recommendations to the expert in charge of this development. It also asked the Secretariat to prepare a draft credentials procedure within ACCOBAMS to be submitted to the Parties during the Fifth Meeting of the Parties. This

proposal is based namely on an analysis by the Permanent Secretariat of similar provisions used within the Bern Convention.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Report by the Credentials Committee**

48. The representative from Lebanon reported that Credential Letters received from seventeen Parties (Albania, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Lebanon, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Ukraine) had met the criteria of Article VI of the Rules of Procedures for the Meeting of the Parties.
49. The Committee mentioned that the Credential Letter submitted by Libya was in Arabic. Considering that the Committee was made of, among others, two Parties from Arabic Countries, which were Lebanon and Tunisia, and that these Parties examined the content of the letter and certified its conformity with Article VI of the Rules of Procedures for the Meeting of the Parties, the Committee recommended accepting the document presented by the Libyan Delegate.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – National reports**

##### **a) Synthesis of the National Reports of the Parties**

50. The Secretariat affirmed that National Reports had been submitted online by the Parties following the format adopted within Resolution 4.6, and that in accordance with a decision made by the Parties, National Reports were completed by the Secretariat according to information collected during Regional Workshops or in National Reports submitted by the Parties in the framework of other Organization meetings. Focal Points verified and completed the information in these reports.
51. With the aim of improving the online reporting system, it was asked to give more space for the entry of information within particular items.
52. The Secretariat introduced the synthesis on the implementation of ACCOBAMS by the Parties in document MOP5/2013/Doc13 and underlined a lack of information on the implementation of Resolutions.
53. Greece and Ukraine asked the Secretariat to integrate information included in their respective National Reports in the synthesis of National Reports.

**b) Range States activities**

54. The representative from Israel pointed out his country's interest in joining ACCOBAMS. He made it clear that, even though Israel is not a Party to ACCOBAMS yet, it has already contributed to the conservation of these species through its institutions, scientists and non-governmental organizations. He said that some Israeli scientists are well known within the community of scientists involved in the conservation of cetaceans.

**Agenda Item 11 – Institutional dispositions****a) ACCOBAMS long-term strategy 2014-2023**

55. The Coordinator of the Working Group in charge of strategy development, Mrs. Ana Štrbenac, underlined the decision of the last Meeting of the Parties, reflected in Resolution 4.24, to prepare the ACCOBAMS Strategy and introduced the process used for the analysis of the Agreement's effectiveness and for the development of the Strategy. She stressed that the Strategy proposal was prepared with a participatory approach, including:
- representatives of the ACCOBAMS Bureau, Parties, Partners, Consultants and the Secretariat of the Bonn Convention forming the Strategy Working Group,
  - participants in the ACCOBAMS regional workshops, representing the Parties and relevant regional agreements.

In addition, the Strategy proposal was a subject of public consultations.

56. The Coordinator presented the following main elements of the Strategy referring to the Appendix to Document MOP5/2013/Res5.1: Analysis of the present state of ACCOBAMS affairs; ACCOBAMS Mission; Vision; Objectives; Action plan; Implementation and financing; Monitoring and revision of the Strategy.
57. She added that the implementation of the Strategy will be based on operational work programmes for three-year periods, with a more detailed action plan for the strategy. Agreement funds (trust fund, voluntary contributions) will remain the primary source of funding, but more emphasis should be given to external funding. The monitoring of the strategy will include the regular monitoring of the operational work programmes and the implementation of resolutions. Overall effectiveness will be evaluated after 5 years of implementation and at the end of the Strategy period.
58. Following the presentation of the strategy by the Coordinator, the Chair once again stressed the importance of focal points and their role in ACCOBAMS's work and its national implementation. She then invited the participants to express their views and comments about the Strategy proposal.

59. Many participants congratulated the consultant on the quality of the work achieved, pointing out that the Strategy suggested is in accordance with the objectives of the Agreement and in line with the international orientations for the conservation of biodiversity and the marine environment. They stressed that the Strategy will be extremely useful in guiding the Parties and ACCOBAMS's various bodies in their work in forthcoming years, namely for achieving the CDB Aichi targets.
60. The representative from the CMS Secretariat informed the meeting that CMS was undertaking a similar exercise, during which an overarching Strategic Plan for Migratory Species was being developed for the period 2015-2023. Like any plan for migratory species, it is meant to serve as a guiding framework for all work supporting the conservation of migratory species. This approach and the opportunities for ACCOBAMS Parties to be involved had been explained in a CMS statement at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau in December 2012. ACCOBAMS Parties were highly encouraged to engage in this important exercise by commenting on the second Draft Plan when it would be available in January 2014. This would help ensure the development of a strong, realistic plan in support of the conservation of migratory species. In order to highlight this important process, she offered to provide additions to draft Resolution 5.1 prepared by the CMS Secretariat.
61. Stressing the significance of climate change, the representative from the Humane Society International (HSI) asked the Secretariat if the ACCOBAMS climate change workshop would be held in a near future. In this context, the Executive Secretary emphasized that the workshop had been postponed for logistical reasons but will take place in 2014 - either before or after the Scientific Committee meeting in April.
62. The Coordinator was invited to prepare a final version of the strategy taking into account the amendments proposed by the participants, with a view of adopting it as an Annex to Resolution 5.1 ([Annex XI](#)).

**b) Work Programme 2014-2016**

63. The Secretariat presented the Work Programme suggested for the 2014-2016 period contained in Document MOP5/2013/Res 5.2. In so doing, the Secretariat referred to the following documents:
- ACCOBAMS contribution to the Ecosystem Approach process in the Mediterranean - MOP5/2013/Doc10
  - Population structure: next steps in the ACCOBAMS area - MOP5/2013/Doc 21
  - ACCOBAMS Working Groups and relevant Terms of Reference - MOP5/2013/Doc 29
  - Concept note on project proposal on cetaceans by-catch and depredation reduction in the Mediterranean and Black Seas fisheries - MOP5/2013/Inf 04



- Development of a project for assessing and reducing the impact of ghost fishing on marine biodiversity, in particular fishery resources, cetaceans and sea turtles, in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea - MOP5/2013/Inf 05
  - Resolutions of relevance for ACCOBAMS adopted by other Organisations - MOP5/2013/Inf 35
  - Presentation of the Provisions of the Council Regulation (EC) no 812/2004 relevant for the ACCOBAMS area and proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending this Regulation MOP5/2013/Inf 45
  - Report of the “Western Mediterranean” regional workshop on ACCOBAMS implementation *Ref Document: RWwm02/2012/Doc09*
  - Report of Central Mediterranean workshop on ACCOBAMS implementation *Ref Document: RWcm02/2012/Doc10*
  - Report of the “Southern Mediterranean” regional workshop on ACCOBAMS implementation *Ref Document: RWsm02/2012/Doc10*
  - Report of Eastern Mediterranean workshop on ACCOBAMS implementation *Ref Document: RWem02/2012/Doc10*
  - Report of Black Sea workshop on ACCOBAMS implementation *Ref Document: RWbs02/2012/Doc10*
64. The Secretariat indicated that the Work Programme had been developed on the basis of proposed strategy for ACCOBAMS, bearing in mind both the recommendations made by the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and relevant programmes and initiatives developed by other organizations, in order to ensure a good degree of synergy and dovetailing with these programmes and initiatives. It then reviewed the actions proposed in the Work Programme as well as their respective objectives.
65. Several participants stressed their wish to see ACCOBAMS become increasingly integrated into work related to the European Union’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive and work related to the Habitats Directive. During discussions on means to achieve this integration, it was suggested both that the Parties to ACCOBAMS which are members of the European Union inform the Union’s relevant bodies about the programmes and initiatives undertaken by ACCOBAMS, and that after this MOP the ACCOBAMS Secretariat contact the European Commission, expressing its desire to participate in working groups and other meetings organized within the context of the Marine Strategy and the Habitats Directive.
66. The representative from CMS proposed that the ACCOBAMS Secretariat jointly with the ASCOBANS Secretariat examine, with the CMS Executive Secretary, possible joint approaches to bring about greater linkage and collaboration with the processes of the European Union’s Marine Strategy.

67. The Meeting reviewed the "ACCOBAMS Working Groups and relevant Terms of Reference" document (MOP5/2013/Doc29) and approved its content. Concerning the joint ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS working group on the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive and in particular the designation of the working group coordinator, the Meeting invited the two Secretariats to consult together as soon as possible to define the workload of the coordinator and, if necessary, entrust this task to a consultant who would work with the help of the Focal Points.
68. Following the presentation by the Secretariat of Document MOP5/2013/Doc10 intended to provide information on how cetaceans are considered in the determination of the Mediterranean's Good Environmental Status and targets for the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach process in the Mediterranean by the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP), the Meeting commended this initiative and encouraged the Secretariat to liaise with the Barcelona Convention for the determination of the Good Environmental Status (GES).
69. The modifications proposed by the participants and approved by the Meeting have been reflected in the Work Programme appended to Resolution 5.2 ([Annex XI](#)).
70. The Meeting instructed the Secretariat to contact the Parties in order to set an exact date for the annual celebration of the ACCOBAMS Day for Cetaceans (Section "A 3a: Public Awareness-Raising" of the Work Programme). This date should be chosen bearing in mind the dates of known relevant events.

**c) Scientific Committee**

71. The Secretariat recalled that in Resolution 4.4, the Parties had asked the Scientific Committee and the Bureau, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to present to the Parties and Partners a proposal concerning issues linked to the make-up of the Scientific Committee, six months before the Fifth Meeting of the Parties. It also indicated that the Bureau had instructed the Secretariat to prepare a document based on the elements approved by the Meetings of the Bureau and to circulate it to the Bureau and Scientific Committee Members in order to draft a proposal concerning the new structure and work procedures of the Scientific Committee. It described the process that had been used and the difficulties encountered, and reviewed the main elements of the proposal for Rules on the Scientific Committee that had been sent to the Focal Points six months before the Meeting (Annex to Document MOP5/2013/Res5.3).
72. Participants asked for clarification on the number of experts proposed by CIESM, for the list provided by the Secretariat only contained 5 experts instead of the 10 requested by the Parties.

73. Invited to speak on the issue by the Chair, the General Director of CIESM indicated that his organization did not agree to provide a list of ten experts out of whom the Parties to ACCOBAMS would choose 5 to be members of the Agreement's Scientific Committee. He also stated that his organization would withdraw from its collaboration with ACCOBAMS in appointing the members of the Scientific Committee if the Parties to ACCOBAMS did not accept the conditions set by CIESM. The General Director of CIESM stressed the importance of the Parties not interfering in selecting the experts proposed by his organization.
74. The Chair then decided to form a Working Group open to the delegations of the Parties, chaired by Morocco, to find a solution as to the composition of the Scientific Committee.
75. The Working Group met twice and its Chair reported about the compromise reached, especially regarding the leadership and coordination of the Scientific Committee which shall be entrusted by the Meeting of the Parties to CIESM or IUCN in rotation from one triennium to the next.
76. The Meeting tasked the Secretariat to submit the elements above to CIESM and IUCN before being submitted for adoption to MOP 5. If one of the two organizations informs the Secretariat that it cannot take on the role of leadership and coordination for the Scientific Committee according to the above terms, the Meeting of Parties shall choose the other organization, which would then be invited to appoint 6 members in consultation with the Secretariat of the Agreement.
77. The two organizations viewed the suggestions of the Parties favourably and confirmed their agreement to appoint the experts representing them in accordance with the elements decided on by the Parties.
78. The Rules regarding the Scientific Committee were thus modified, taking into account the new elements decided on by the Parties on the subject, and appear in the Annex to Resolution 5.3.
79. Following on the consultations between the Parties and Partner organizations, the Meeting decided to entrust, for the period 2014-2016, the leadership and coordination of the Scientific Committee to CIESM and to appoint the members of the Scientific Committee as follows:
- Members representing CIESM: 3 members shall be selected by CIESM in close consultation with the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary
  - Members representing IUCN: Renaud de Stefanis, Ibrahim Ben Amer, Léa David
  - Regional representatives:
    - Western region: Marina Sequeira (Alternate member Sadia Belcaid)
    - Central region: Mehdi Aissi (Alternate member Drasco Holcer)

- Eastern region: Vasileois Petropoulos (Alternate member Mohamed Abdelwarith). During the appointment of members, the representative from Lebanon withdrew its two applications that had been proposed.
  - Black Sea region: Konstantin Mihailov (Alternate: Dimitar Popov)
  - Representative for ECS: Tilen Genov
  - Representative for IWC: Greg Donovan
  - Representative for CMS: Bill Perrin
80. The draft Resolution was adopted later as Resolution 5.3 ([Annex XI](#)).

**d) Status of ACCOBAMS Partners**

81. The Secretariat introduced Document MOP5/2013/Doc16 presenting two new partnership requests.
82. After examining the two requests, and taking into account their conformity with Resolution 4.20, the Parties granted Partner Status to:
- the Non-Governmental Organization “Mare Nostrum”
  - the organization “Groupement d’Intérêt Scientifique pour les Mammifères Marins et leur environnement” (GIS3M).

**e) ACCOBAMS Compliance Procedure**

83. The Secretariat informed the Meeting of the Parties that, on the basis of various cases of non-compliance with obligations communicated to the Secretariat, the Bureau had entrusted the Secretariat with the preparation of a draft procedure of compliance with the ACCOBAMS obligations in order to submit it to the Meeting of the Parties.
84. The legal expert of the Secretariat, Mr. Tullio Scovazzi, informed the Meeting of the Parties that the draft in question took into account non-confrontational procedures for the prevention of disputes that had been established or were being established within other treaties on the protection of the environment (see doc. MOP5/2013/Inf. 34). These procedures presented
- some common aspects, such as the non-confrontational character of the procedure that ended with a recommendation, the objective of facilitating the implementation of the obligations arising from the treaty, the establishment of an ad hoc body (Committee),
  - as well some differences, in particular as regards the composition of the Committee and the right to present a submission.

The draft proposed to the Meeting of the Parties had been discussed and approved with some modifications by the Bureau. It was based on the principles of openness to civil society (in this case represented by the organizations having the status of ACCOBAMS Partners), transparency and effectiveness.

85. In the discussion, some Parties expressed their support for the draft. Other Parties raised doubts on some points, in particular as regards the use of the expression “compliance with obligations”, the composition of the Committee and the confidentiality of the procedure.
86. The Chairperson asked the legal expert to meet with the Parties who had manifested doubts in order to find generally acceptable solutions. Following the meeting, some modifications were proposed which, without changing the substance of the draft, entailed a revision of the terminology (follow-up procedure instead of compliance procedure) and of the provision on confidentiality. The revised text was accepted by the Parties as a whole.
87. The draft Resolution was adopted later as Resolution 5.4 ([Annex XI](#)).
88. The Chairperson invited the Meeting of the Parties to approve the amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties (new Art. 18 on the election of members of the Follow-up Committee), in order to proceed to the election of the members of the Committee.
89. The amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties were approved.
90. The representatives from Croatia and Lebanon declared that their States withdrew the applications they had proposed.
91. The representatives from Tethys declared that their organization withdrew the applications it had proposed.
92. The Chairperson asked the representatives of Cyprus and of Slovenia to act as tellers. They did accept. The election of the members of the Committee took place according to the procedure set forth in Art. 18 of the Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties.
93. The following candidates nominated by the Parties were elected: Mr. Victor Escobar, M. Mohamed Hamani and Mrs. Marie-Anne Mortelette.
94. The following candidates nominated by the ACCOBAMS Partners were consequently elected: Mr. Drasko Holcer (Blue World) and Mr. Dan Kerem (IMMRAC), with Mr. Aviad Schenin as alternate.

95. The following members were drawn by lot as members whose term is reduced:

- Mr. Mohamed Hamani and Mrs. Marie-Anne Mortelette among the members nominated by the Parties;
- Mr. Dan Kerem (with Mr. Aviad Schenin as alternate) among the members nominated by the ACCOBAMS Partners.

**f) Procedure for the ACCOBAMS call for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund**

96. The Secretariat presented Draft Resolution 5.5 (Procedure for the ACCOBAMS call for proposals for projects funded by the Supplementary Conservation Fund), explaining that improvements had been made to the procedure and documents for the call for project proposals following on the lessons learned from the first two calls for project proposals launched in 2011 and 2012 by the Secretariat.
97. Some representatives welcomed the possibility of submitting project proposals in French.
98. The Meeting reviewed and amended the call for proposals documents, bearing in mind the remarks and suggestions made by the delegates.
99. The draft Resolution was later adopted as Resolution 5.5 ([Annex XI](#)).

**g) Staff Regulations**

100. The representative of the Principality of Monaco presented Draft Resolution 5.6 on staff regulations.
101. He pointed out that the first draft regulations had been prepared by the Secretariat jointly with the Monaco Government and that they needed to be refined. At present, the Principality of Monaco provides the Executive Secretary and some secretarial work by another person. His Highness had declared in his Statement that while regretting the departure of the present Executive Secretary, he maintained his commitment to and his support for the Secretariat. After examining several applications, Florence Descroix-Comanducci's application was accepted.
102. The finalization of the draft staff regulations should present, then, all the possible hypotheses to be considered for the recruitment of Permanent Secretariat staff.
103. The Meeting received favourably the proposal of the Principality of Monaco and the Draft Resolution was later adopted as Resolution 5.6 ([Annex XI](#)).

**h) Rules of Procedure for the Bureau**

104. Following requests received by the Secretariat, the last meeting of the Extended Bureau had mandated the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of its procedures.
105. The amendments addressed Article 3 and concerned:
- the opening up of the Meeting of the Extended Bureau to Sub-regional Units of Coordination, the Parties and the host Country of the next Meeting in order to bring assistance to the preparation of the Meeting of the Parties. The Secretariat pointed out that this opening up to participation had no financial implications.
  - the elimination of the Focal Point application for appointment of social economic experts. Indeed, the Secretariat made it clear that the experts' participation was based on a criterion of neutrality and so the intervention of the Focal Point was of no avail.
106. For these amendment proposals, the Meeting requested the elimination of the notion of geographical representation.
107. The Meeting adopted the amendments and wished the experts' selection by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Bureau be based on their curriculum vitae.
108. The draft Resolution was adopted later as Resolution 5.7 ([Annex XI](#))

**i) Rio + 20: perspectives for ACCOBAMS**

109. Taking into consideration the document "The Future We Want", arising from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio, 2012), and in accordance with the decision made by the Bureau, the Secretariat introduced the draft Resolution "Rio+20: outlook for ACCOBAMS" (MOP5/2013/Res 5.8), in order to ground present and future ACCOBAMS implementation actions on the spirit and objectives of this document. The legal expert of the Secretariat, Mr. Tullio Scovazzi, informed the Meeting of the Parties that the draft resolution included the aspects of "The Future We Want" that were most linked to ACCOBAMS's objectives.
110. The representative from AGIR suggested extending ACCOBAMS's concerns to include support for capacity-building activities that particularly target players involved in fishery activities, paying special attention to traditional fishing cooperatives. This should give them more autonomous economic management and reward their efforts to protect marine resources, especially as regards marine protected areas and their surrounding areas.

- 111. During the discussion, two proposals to improve the wording of the draft Resolution, one relating to the preamble and the other to paragraph m, were submitted and approved.
- 112. The draft Resolution was adopted later as Resolution 5.8 ([Annex XI](#)).

**j) Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties: revised version**

- 113. The rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties were revised with regard to the Regulations relating to the Scientific Committee adopted by the Parties in Resolution 5.3 and with regard to the Regulations relating to the Follow-up Committee adopted by the Parties in Resolution 5.4.
- 114. The rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties as they were adopted by the Meeting are included in [Annex XII](#).

**Agenda Item 12 – Implementation of the Agreement: technical and scientific issues**

**a) Comprehensive cetacean population estimate and distribution in the ACCOBAMS area**

- 115. Mr. Simone Panigada introduced Draft Resolution 5.9 relating to the comprehensive estimate of cetacean populations and their distribution in the ACCOBAMS area while pointing out the necessity for recruiting a coordinator for survey implementation.
- 116. The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting of the delay in the implementation of a convention established between the French Agency of MPAs and the IUCN Cooperation Centre for the Mediterranean which provides for financing by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for the recruitment of a fund-raiser in charge of mobilizing necessary funds to implement the survey project. She also stressed the fact that the amount foreseen initially by the Convention had been reduced.
- 117. Concerning the delay in the implementation of this convention, the Executive Secretary pointed out that she had received recently a mail from the MPA Agency informing her of its commitment to solve the problem in the near future.
- 118. Concerning the reduction of financing, the representative from the IUCN Cooperation Centre for the Mediterranean confirmed that the available funds would be allocated first and foremost to the setting up of the survey project.
- 119. Concerning the coordinator's recruitment requested by the Scientific Committee, the Meeting pointed out that this coordinator could only be recruited once the funds necessary



for the implementation of the survey project would be available. Moreover, the Meeting pointed out the importance for the fund-raiser to work jointly with the “Survey Initiative” Work Group established by the Scientific Committee in order to facilitate the setting up and the search for funds necessary for the implementation of this project.

- 120. The representative from Malta suggested that the information and study findings on the estimate of cetacean populations be made available on the ACCOBAMS website.
- 121. The representative from Portugal asked the Secretariat to send to all the Parties, for the sake of information, the “Survey initiative” draft document once completed.
- 122. The representative from Greece informed the Meeting that available data could be provided to EMODnet and that this could bring potential funding to the Secretariat.
- 123. After minor corrections, the draft Resolution was adopted later as Resolution 5.9 ([Annex XI](#)).

**b) Commercial cetacean watching in the ACCOBAMS Area**

- 124. The Secretariat presented feasibility studies for the development of pilot projects on whale watching carried out in Morocco and Tunisia in 2012 (MOP5/2013/Inf41 and Inf42) as well as the results of whale-watching operators present in the Agreement area.
- 125. Morocco and Tunisia thanked the Secretariat for the studies undertaken in their countries and said they wish to continue collaborating closely for the operational implementation of these pilot projects.
- 126. The HSI representative welcomed the feasibility studies and noted that worldwide scientific evidence of a negative impact of whale watching has accrued. Hence, in those bodies where the technical development of whale watching is being discussed – such as the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Committee – we increasingly speak of ‘Responsible Whale Watching’, which is what the Whale Watching ‘label’ of ACCOBAMS is also trying to address. He added that further advice on how this may be achieved can be obtained from specialist bodies including Whale and Dolphin Conservation and the IWC’s long-standing whale watching subcommittee.
- 127. The Executive Secretary presented Draft Resolution 5.10 regarding commercial cetacean watching in the ACCOBAMS area.
- 128. The Representative from the Pelagos Sanctuary reminded the Meeting that Resolution 4.6 of the 4th Conference of Parties to the Pelagos Agreement provided for the establishment of a joint Pelagos-ACCOBAMS label whose draft was presented during the 5th Conference of

Parties (Rome, June 2013). In addition, following the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee (October 2013), it was considered that the implementation of national legal tools necessary to prevent the intentional disturbance of marine mammals was a prerequisite to the implementation of any type of “label” for whale-watching activities. The Working Group on whale watching was put in charge of identifying the problems encountered by the Parties for the implementation of the label and had to consider all the possible solutions to frame this activity in an effective and efficient way. Results of these investigations shall be presented during the next Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting of the Pelagos Sanctuary planned in October 2014. Moreover, the Pelagos Scientific and Technical Committee recommended maintaining the joint Pelagos-ACCOBAMS nature of the framework project for whale-watching activities.

129. After minor corrections, the draft Resolution was adopted later as Resolution 5.10 ([Annex XI](#)).

**c) Ship Strikes on cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea**

130. The Chairperson invited Simone Panigada to present Draft Resolution 5.11 on ship strikes.
131. Mr. Panigada explained that cetaceans and in particular large species are threatened by ship strikes. He stressed the importance of taking into account this issue based on existing recommendations and particularly those provided by the joint ACCOBAMS/IWC workshop and pursuing collaboration with relevant organizations.
132. He explained that the REPCET system allows for the real-time spotting of cetaceans and its cost is estimated at €300 / month per vessel equipped. Additional information on this system would be provided to participants upon request.
133. After minor corrections, the draft Resolution was adopted later as Resolution 5.11 ([Annex XI](#)).

**d) Work towards a conservation plan for fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea**

134. The Chairperson asked Simone Panigada to present Draft Resolution 5.12 relating to the conservation plan for fin whales in the Mediterranean.
135. He explained that fin whales in the ACCOBAMS area are under several anthropogenic threats, namely ship strikes.
136. Therefore, appropriate research should be conducted on the use and distribution of habitats in order to describe fin whales' preferences in terms of habitats and examine the existence of

critical habitats for this species. This would facilitate the implementation of management measures to regulate maritime traffic, fishing and whale watching.

137. The draft Resolution was adopted later as Resolution 5.12 ([Annex XI](#)).

**e) Conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean**

138. The Scientific Committee informed the participants that the last CMS Conference of Parties (Bergen, Norway 2011) had asked the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee to prepare a proposal to include the Mediterranean Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*) in Appendix 1 of CMS (granting to this species the endangered status) to be presented to the CMS COP 11 in 2014.
139. The Representative from Spain offered to support this proposal in the next CMS Meeting of Parties, an initiative welcomed by NRDC and OceanCare.
140. The Parties underlined the significance of the work undertaken by the Scientific Committee on the map modelling the habitats of Ziphius.
141. They invited the Scientific Committee to continue its work and asked it to give explanations on the data, modelling methodology and scientific protocols used to create this kind of map. Such explanations would give the Parties a better understanding of this kind of map and its related issues.
142. NRDC and OceanCare commended the work of the Scientific Committee in developing a very sound recommendation to improve the protection of Cuvier's beaked whales from intense noise sources. They emphasised that this Recommendation had been prepared in accordance with the 2011-2013 Work Programme.
143. They informed the Meeting about worrying scientific information about the level of impacts by anthropogenic noise, including impacts at the population level, and said that in many regions in the world, the practice and transparency of environmental impact assessments, as well as proactive engagement in best environmental practice, are much more advanced than in the Agreement area.
144. The French Delegation advised that future Resolutions linked to underwater noise should be sent at early stage to the ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS/CMS Noise working group so it may issue an opinion and propose improvements to:
- obtain an overview of the proposed resolutions,

- issue recommendations in order to facilitate the application of the proposed resolutions considering environmental, technical and economic constraints,
  - facilitate adoption by the Parties.
145. The representative from Greece called for further collaboration with experts and relevant international instruments, stating that ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17 on Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise is a good instrument and that its implementation should be tested to give feedback on relevant work for the identification of supplementary mitigation measures.
146. Upon the request of participants, a drafting group on Cuvier's beaked whale conservation was created to revise the draft Resolution. This drafting group, open to all participants, was chaired by France.
147. Some members of the drafting group considered that the "areas of special concern for Cuvier's beaked whales" map could not appear as it stands and the Parties agreed that this map would appear in Recommendation 8.6 of the Scientific Committee ([Annex IX – Recommendation 8.6](#)).
148. The representative from Greece stated that this map had been created based on two models with huge differences between them and the final model is an amalgamation of the two. The data used for the creation of the final map go back to 1991. As a map is a strong element to use, Greece believes that the model should be tested before being published. Greece believes that the work of the Scientific Committee is on the right track and should be developed.
149. For the future use of this kind of map, the French Delegation underlined that in no case should such maps be used to prohibit, limit or drastically restrict economic and military activities in "areas of special concern for beaked whales". If such were the case, it would not be acceptable for the Parties. On the other hand, these maps could be used as advice and management tools to better plan economic and military activities in those areas in order to reduce, limit or cancel impacts on Ziphius. This kind of tool is necessary and very useful for the conservation of Ziphius.
150. The French representative stated that the English version of the Resolution on the conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean is the reference version.
151. The draft Resolution was adopted later as Resolution 5.13 ([Annex XI](#)).

**f) Identification of cetaceans / population structure**

152. The representative from Ukraine introduced Draft Resolution 5.14 relevant to the live removal of Bottlenose dolphins in the Black Sea underlining that this draft Resolution was consequent to the Recommendations of the Scientific Committee. It banned the importing, exporting and re-exporting of specimen from this Black Sea species and provided for the use of genetic, morphological and photo-identification methods to inventory all specimens kept in captivity.
153. The Chairperson underlined that the issue of deliberate taking was not only referring to Black Sea Bottlenose dolphins and that a broader resolution could be presented in the next ACCOBAMS Meeting of the Parties.
154. The representative from Malta informed the Meeting of CITES provisions regarding the marking of captive individuals. She informed the participants that genetic markers are not efficient for enforcement matters when compared to other marking methods such as microchips which can be read in the field there and then. Genetic markers need appropriate testing facilities which are not available in all ACCOBAMS Countries, since such laboratories must also be accredited to perform genetic analysis on the particular species (not genus). This means that the result is not instant and most of the time requires days or even weeks to be available. Thus they are definitely not useful if a live animal is being withheld or if samples degrade with time.
155. The Secretariat underlined the significance of genetic analysis to identify the origin of the specimen and reduce the danger of fraud linked to the use of chips.
156. The representative from OceanCare did welcome Draft Resolution 5.14 and Document ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc20 on the identification of cetaceans for CITES' purposes as a proactive and solution-oriented way forward to impose the implementation of the Agreement's objectives – the ban on live removals – as well as to prevent the continuation of illegal trade with captive bottlenose dolphins originating from the Black Sea. It is furthermore another step forward towards close cooperation between ACCOBAMS and CITES. In response to questions raised during the discussion on the recommended inventory, OceanCare did provide additional background on the issue. Live removals in the Agreement area have continued, as have trade activities. Dolphins involved in international trade have often been classified as captive-bred while such animals are replaced with wild-caught animals. The proposed inventory will be an efficient tool to help authorities mitigate this trend.
157. Under this item, Mr. Simone Panigada also introduced Document MOP5/2013/Doc 21 presenting the results of the workshop on cetacean population structure jointly organized by

ECS/ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS on the occasion of the 27<sup>th</sup> ECS Annual Conference (Setubal, Portugal 8-10 April 2013).

158. After a few minor corrections, the draft Resolution was adopted later as Resolution 5.14 ([Annex XI](#)).
159. The Parties asked the Secretariat to contact the Parties to identify a Country that would submit the draft Recommendation in the next CITES meeting.
160. The Chairperson gave the floor to the legal expert, Mr. Tullio Scovazzi, in order to introduce Document MOP5/2013/Inf 37, "Taking of cetaceans and dolphinarium: a legal analysis within the ACCOBAMS framework".
161. The expert pointed out that, on the basis of a detailed analysis of the ACCOBAMS provisions, he reached the conclusion that dolphinarium, as they involve the capture, trade and captivity of cetaceans, are in conflict with a certain number of legal obligations binding the Parties, in particular with the prohibition of "taking". They are also in conflict with obligations arising from other relevant legal instruments binding all or some of the ACCOBAMS Parties, such as other international treaties and three directives of the European Union.
162. In the discussion that followed, Cyprus and OceanCare declared that they appreciated the conclusions of the study, which could prove to be useful in the case of applications to national authorities for the opening of new dolphinarium. The Executive Secretary remarked that she was aware that the authorities of some States Parties to ACCOBAMS are confronted with this kind of application and that they should be provided with the legal analysis needed to provide a correct answer.

**g) Impact of anthropogenic noise**

163. The Executive Secretary informed the Meeting that the last Meeting of ASCOBANS's Advisory Committee (Warsaw, Poland, 27-29 August 2013) had suggested extending the Joint Working Group to the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (UNEP/CMS), having appropriately amended the TORs (MOP5/2013/Doc29).
164. The Meeting agreed to include the CMS in the Joint Working Group on noise.
165. The Co-Chair of the Joint Working Group on noise, Yanis Souami, introduced Documents MOP5/2013/Doc22Rev1, Doc23Rev1 and Doc 24. He explained that a consultation had been held by the French Maritime Cluster with representatives from various sectors (marine renewable energies, fisheries, maritime transport, Navy, oil prospection, marine protected

areas etc.) to assess the guidelines adopted by ACCOBAMS in Resolution 4.17 and identify technical and economic constraints encountered when implementing the recommendations. Some of the conclusions of this consultation work were included by the Joint Working Group on noise in Document MOP5/2013/Doc23Rev1.

166. A letter from the French Maritime Cluster was distributed to all participants in English and French, indicating that the report of the French Maritime Cluster "bruit sous-marin : enjeux économiques et environnementaux en milieu marin" (Underwater noise: economic and environmental challenges in the marine environment) would be transmitted to the European Network of Maritime Clusters.
167. The Chair warmly welcomed this partnership with the French Maritime Cluster and the results it had produced and highlighted the need for the Joint Working Group on noise to continue its work, bringing together all the concerned stakeholders.
168. The same drafting group that had amended Resolution 5.13 regarding the conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean also amended Draft Resolution 5.15 on the impact of anthropogenic noise.
169. With respect to paragraph 2 of Resolution 5.15, the representative for France stated that consultations and work on these topics were already underway or had been undertaken at international and national levels. For example, in the context of the European Commission's Marine Strategy Framework Directive's Descriptor 11, such norms and standards are being defined.
170. Therefore, the Meeting of the Parties invited ACCOBAMS to approach these bodies in order to lodge its work within their schedule and stressed the need for overall consistency.
171. After a few minor corrections, the draft Resolution prepared by the drafting group was adopted later as Resolution 5.15 ([Annex XI](#)).

### **Agenda Item 13 – Budgetary issues**

#### **a) Report on incomes and expenditures relevant to the Trust Fund and external contributions and to the Supplementary Conservation Fund for 2011-2013**

172. The Executive Secretary presented the report on incomes and expenditures related to the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund for 2011-2013 (MOP5/2013/Doc25) and explained that the figures for 2013 covered the period up to 31 August. However, since that date no other contributions had been received by the Secretariat. Presenting the state of contributions, she indicated

that the total sum of unpaid contributions was €100,826.25 and that several contributions are not received at the start of the year, often making it necessary for the Secretariat to use the reserve established on the basis of Resolution 4.2. Here, to remedy such situations, she advised the Parties to pay their contributions at the start of the year.

173. The representative for Libya indicated that his country had started proceedings to pay its unpaid contributions to ACCOBAMS; he stressed Libya's wish to honour its financial commitments to ACCOBAMS and the other environmental Conventions to which it is Party.
174. The representative from Spain informed the Meeting about the current situation of the Mediterranean Database of Cetacean Strandings (MEDACES), which has not been operational since June 2012. Despite economic constraints, Spain is willing to contribute with €9,000 in order to continue the maintenance of MEDACES by the University of Valence, hoping that the rest of the necessary budget will be provided by both the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and the RAC/SPA.
175. The Executive Secretary then reviewed the state of voluntary contributions and indicated that the total sum of voluntary contributions received in the period 2011-2013 (up to 31 August 2013) was €397,800 and that these contributions came from Monaco and France. The Secretariat had also received co-funding, the total sum of this being €34,000, coming from RAC/SPA, Pelagos-Monaco, IUCN Med, OceanCare, and the association Whales What Else. Taking into account the remainder from the voluntary contributions received before the triennium, the balance of voluntary contributions on 31 August 2013 was €402,075, €300,000 of which came from the voluntary contribution received from Spain, which has been earmarked for the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative project. The Executive Secretary expressed her gratitude to the Parties which had made voluntary contributions and the partner organizations which had helped with co-funding.
176. Regarding the Supplementary Conservation Fund (SCF), the Executive Secretary reported that this Fund had been replenished twice during the period 2011-2013, using the unpaid contributions from the 2008-2010 triennium that had been received in 2011 plus the voluntary contributions made by France and Monaco. Thanks to the SCF mechanism, two calls for proposals were launched during the triennium 2011-2013 and six projects received funding. On 31 August 2013, the balance available for commitment from the SCF was €20,226.11 .
177. Then the Executive Secretary presented the state of available cash in the ACCOBAMS Secretariat's accounts; on 31 August 2013 this was €870,957.



**b) Adoption of the budget for 2014-2016**

178. The Executive Secretary presented the three options proposed for the incomes in the ACCOBAMS Trust Fund for 2014, 2015 and 2016 and the impacts these would have on the Parties' ordinary contributions.
179. In their statements made after these presentations by the Executive Secretary, the participants congratulated the Secretariat on the clarity of the information provided on incomes and expenditures and on its efforts to mobilize voluntary contributions. They were delighted to see that in the ACCOBAMS budget the percentage of funds devoted to conservation actions was relatively large compared to other conventions and other Agreements under the CMS.
180. In their discussions on this agenda item, some Parties (Cyprus, Malta, Tunisia) were in favour of option 1. However, the discussions led to a consensus to choose option 2, while noting the possibility of instalments over the period 2014-2016 for minimum contributions. A review considered fair, linked to decrease in the UN key, to the amount of the three capped contributions was approved.
181. The draft Resolution regarding financial and administrative matters for 2014-2016, amended on the basis of the Meeting's decisions, was adopted later as Resolution 5.16 ([Annex XI](#)).
182. The ACCOBAMS budget for the period 2014-2016, and the table of the Parties' ordinary contributions, as approved by the Meeting, are appended to Resolution 5.16.

**Agenda Item 14 – Confirmation of previous Resolutions**

183. The Secretariat introduced Draft Resolution 5.17, "List of resolutions in force", informing the Parties that it would be useful, for the sake of clarity, to be able to distinguish between applicable instruments and those that have been replaced by subsequent instruments. This was the purpose of the draft resolution and the annexed list.
184. The draft Resolution was approved without discussion and was adopted later as Resolution 5.17 ([Annex XI](#)).

**Agenda Item 15 – Adoption of Resolutions**

185. Further to the work of the meeting, the Parties adopted the following Resolutions:

Resolution 5.1	ACCOBAMS Strategy (period 2014-2025)
Resolution 5.2	Work programme 2014-2016
Resolution 5.3	Scientific Committee
Resolution 5.4	ACCOBAMS follow up procedure
Resolution 5.5	Procedure for the ACCOBAMS call for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund
Resolution 5.6	Staff Regulations
Resolution 5.7	Rules of Procedure for the Bureau
Resolution 5.8	Rio + 20: perspectives for ACCOBAMS
Resolution 5.9	Comprehensive cetacean population estimates and distribution in the ACCOBAMS area (ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative)
Resolution 5.10	Commercial cetacean watching in the ACCOBAMS area
Resolution 5.11	Ship Strikes on cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea
Resolution 5.12	Work towards a conservation plan for fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea
Resolution 5.13	Conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean
Resolution 5.14	Live removals of bottlenose dolphins in the Black Sea ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> )
Resolution 5.15	Addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise
Resolution 5.16	Financial and administrative matters for 2014-2016
Resolution 5.17	List of Resolutions in force

186. The participants wanted to pay tribute to the organizers of the Fifth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS. For this purpose they adopted Resolution 5.18 ([Annex XI](#)).
187. The participants also wished to adopt a resolution of tribute to Mrs. Marie-Christine Grillo-Compulsione as first Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS. This draft Resolution was adopted as Resolution 5.19 ([Annex XI](#)).
188. After a speech in which she thanked all ACCOBAMS stakeholders since its inception, the Executive Secretary was much applauded by the participants.

#### **Agenda Item 16 – Other business**

189. There were no additional issues raised by the participants under this agenda item. However, the participants asked the Secretariat to include a table of contents with page numbering in the meeting's report and to make the presentations given in this meeting available on the

ACCOBAMS website. Participants also requested the Secretariat to make efforts to reduce the environmental impact (by recycling paper) of the Meeting of the Parties.

#### **Agenda Item 17 – Date and venue of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties**

190. The Chairperson indicated that it customary for the Parties to offer or announce their intention to study the possibility of hosting the next MOP. The Secretariat indicated that it has contacted the countries on this subject, particularly the Black Sea countries, for there had never been a Meeting of the Parties in this part of the ACCOBAMS area. So far, no response has reached the Secretariat on this point. The Meeting requested that the Secretariat continue its contacts with the countries to define, in consultation with the Bureau, the place and date of the next MOP that should be held in 2016.

#### **Agenda Item 18 – Adoption of the Report of the Meeting**

191. The Meeting reviewed the draft report prepared by the Secretariat and adopted it as orally amended.

#### **Agenda Item 19 – Closure of the Meeting**

192. After exchanging of the usual civilities, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 8.30 pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013.



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## **ANNEX II : Welcome addresses**

*Addresses are shown in chronological order.*

**WELCOME ADDRESS FROM Mr. CYRIL GOMEZ, CHAIR OF ACCOBAMS DURING THE TRIENNium  
2011-2013**

Monseigneur,

Monsieur le Ministre,

Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués,

Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants des organisations et institutions Partenaires,

Chers amis,

En tout premier lieu, je souhaiterais remercier le Gouvernement du Royaume du Maroc pour l'organisation de cette 5ème Conférence des parties de l'Accobams dans cette belle ville de Tanger, porte d'entrée entre l'Atlantique et la Méditerranée.

Dans ce lieu de navigation important, les turbulences générées par les courants font remonter une partie des eaux de fond, riches en nutriments. Un phénomène qui structure une chaîne alimentaire stable pendant toute l'année expliquant la présence importante de cétacés dans cette région.

L'Accobams est un outil particulièrement adapté pour répondre aux enjeux de gestion des habitats naturels soumis à une pression anthropique. En effet, il combine la capacité de dialogue inhérente à tout instrument international et l'aptitude à accompagner des projets concrets, dans un cadre à la fois souple, rigoureux et transparent.

C'est pour cette raison que les trois années passées dans le Bureau de l'Accobams, aux côtés du Secrétariat Exécutif et du Comité Scientifique, ont été pour moi passionnantes.

Je saisis cette occasion pour rendre hommage au Secrétariat de l'Accord, à Madame Marie-Christine Grillo, à sa grande disponibilité et à son professionnalisme. Je félicite également l'équipe qui l'entoure.

Durant ces trois années, il était important de présenter de nouveaux outils à cette conférence des Parties. Je n'en citerai que deux.

Tout d'abord, une stratégie de long terme a été élaborée pour les dix prochaines années. Elle fournie, pour la première fois dans un document unique, une vision et une déclinaison opérationnelle des objectifs d'ACCOBAMS.

Ce travail, coordonné par Madame Anna Strebnac, a fait une très large part à la concertation. A ce titre, la contribution des organisations et institutions partenaires participe pleinement à la richesse des débats au sein de l'Accord et mérite d'être rappelée et soulignée.

En second lieu, je souhaiterais évoquer la proposition qui sera débattue de doter l'Accord d'une « procédure de respect des obligations dans le cadre d'ACCOBAMS ». Cette procédure repose sur une approche non-conflictuelle et tient compte des situations particulières de chaque Partie.

Elle ambitionne de faciliter, notamment par le renforcement de l'information, la conformité aux dispositions de l'Accord de manière simple, flexible, rapide, juste, transparente et effective par rapport au coût.

Les mammifères marins jouent un rôle déterminant dans la production primaire de la chaîne alimentaire. Par exemple, les carcasses de ces animaux offrent des ressources pour de nombreuses espèces marines : mollusques, poissons, crustacés.

Les changements climatiques sont au cœur des préoccupations environnementales aujourd'hui. De nombreuses études ont montré les capacités de fixation de carbone des grands cétacés. En 2010, des scientifiques Américains et Canadiens ont estimé que la reconstitution des stocks de baleines, au niveau de ceux observés au début du XXe siècle, permettrait à l'océan de stocker 8,7 millions de tonnes de carbone supplémentaires : autant qu'une forêt de 110.000 hectares.

Monseigneur, Monsieur le Ministre,

Je souhaiterais conclure en vous remerciant d'avoir bien voulu honorer de votre présence cette session d'ouverture de la 5ème Conférence des parties de l'Accobams.

Seule l'implication forte des Autorités politiques est à même d'apporter une réponse adaptée à des problématiques qui résultent en grande partie des interactions de l'homme avec son environnement. Les effets globaux du réchauffement climatique et les impacts régionaux en témoignent.

Il nous appartient tous ensemble, d'en limiter les conséquences, au bénéfice de toutes les formes de vie sur terre et dans nos océans.

Je vous remercie.

**OPENING STATEMENT**  
**To be delivered by Stanley Johnson on behalf of Bradnee Chambers,**  
**Executive Secretary of UNEP/CMS**

Your Serene Highness, distinguished delegates and participants of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS, dear ACCOBAMS Secretariat,

It is my pleasure to address you all on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the joint Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and the northern European small cetacean Agreement, ASCOBANS. The Executive Secretary, Bradnee Chambers, regrets that he is unable to be present personally due to other commitments, and he has asked me as Honorary Ambassador for CMS, to speak on his behalf. As cetaceans are species close to my heart, I am delighted to be able to participate in this important meeting.

Many of the species covered by ACCOBAMS are also listed on the CMS Appendices, thus making them of immediate concern to the mother convention of the Agreement. One proposal for the listing of a new species on CMS Appendix I, namely the Mediterranean population of Cuvier's beaked whale, has been facilitated through your Scientific Committee. The draft is now under consultation with the CMS Scientific Council, and the final version will need to be submitted by a Party to CMS to the Conference of the Parties in November 2014. We invite Parties to consider whether they are in a position to sponsor this proposal – the CMS Secretariat will be pleased to assist you and answer any queries you may have.

There are also many common threats and issues that ACCOBAMS, CMS and ASCOBANS deal with, such as underwater noise, bycatch, marine debris, chemical pollution, the effects of climate change, to name but a few. The increasing collaboration on these is testimony to the good spirit of cooperation between the Secretariats and the Parties to the different instruments.

As I have just mentioned, one such issue has emerged as one of the biggest threats to cetaceans: underwater noise. It is heartening to see how over the last years, this issue has gained global recognition and is now being addressed at all levels. Whales, dolphins and porpoises are undoubtedly among the most vulnerable species when it comes to noise

pollution. It is therefore fitting that ACCOBAMS is taking such a leading role in addressing this problem. The collaboration with your sister Agreement, ASCOBANS, through the Joint Noise Working Group is now well established, and before you is a proposal to include CMS in this initiative, too, which we encourage you to view favourably.

Distinguished delegates, there are many other issues that require our joint efforts in order to achieve an improvement for cetaceans. An effective approach requires planning, and the exercise you have undertaken in order to arrive at the draft long-term strategy now before you for adoption is an excellent example. The strategy also foresees even closer collaboration with CMS and ASCOBANS, and we could not agree more. As you may be aware, CMS is currently undertaking a similar process during which a “Strategic Plan for Migratory Species” is being developed. Relating the goals and objectives clearly to the Aichi Targets, this Strategic Plan is foreseen to be the guiding framework for all our efforts to conserve migratory species, in the framework of all instruments of the CMS Family. It does not replace the ones more specific to particular species groups such as your long-term strategy, but will help to set the context and framework for these in the wide and varied field of environmental policy.

Distinguished delegates, you have a full agenda ahead of you and many important decisions to make. For example, the draft work programme presented for adoption, when approved and implemented, will make a real difference to the conservation status of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. CMS is looking forward to working with ACCOBAMS, both at Secretariat level and through our institutional bodies, in order to support the full implementation of this work plan. In all these endeavours, let us bear in mind the importance of synergies in order to reach our goals in as effective a manner as possible. Also, we urge Parties to commit the necessary resources to its implementation, both through the Agreement and at national level.

Distinguished delegates, ACCOBAMS is now a mature Agreement and a strong voice for the conservation of cetaceans in your region. In no small part is this due to the exceptional efforts of the Secretariat. I therefore cannot close before having expressed CMS’s gratitude to Marie-Christine Grillo-Compulsione, your Executive Secretary, for the

dedication and skill with which she has managed the Secretariat and supported the work of the Agreement's bodies. When she retires at the end of this year, she will surely be missed, but we trust that her successor, Mme Florence Descroix-Comanducci, and the team in the offices in Monaco will keep carrying the flag with zeal and success. The CMS Executive Secretary stands ready to support them as and when needed!

At this point, I should also convey CMS's deep appreciation for the exceptional level of support the government of Monaco is giving to ACCOBAMS and Your presence here today, Your Highness, is ample proof of that. It is only through such engagement from Parties that many of the achievements become possible.

Distinguished delegates, you have an agenda full of important and interesting matters to go through in these coming days, so I will not take any more of your time now. Before closing, though, I would like to express my gratitude to all who have contributed to the preparation of this meeting, including the host government Morocco, which has provided these excellent facilities. May we all bear in mind why we are here: to improve the conservation status of cetaceans in the region, and this simple idea should guide all of us in our deliberations.

Now I wish us all a pleasant and successful meeting and an enjoyable time here in Tangier!

## **WELCOME ADDRESS FROM MS GRILLO-COMPULSIONE, ACCOBAMS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Monseigneur, Excellence, chers participants,

C'est un grand honneur pour le Secrétariat d'être accueilli par le Gouvernement Marocain dans cette ville située aux portes de la Méditerranée, dans cette ville carrefour du monde et bordant le détroit de Gibraltar, si vital pour notre Méditerranée et tellement emblématique pour les cétacés.

Monseigneur, c'est un grand honneur et un immense plaisir de voir votre Altesse prendre part à cette rencontre qui réunit les gouvernements qui ont adhéré à l'ACCOBAMS. Moi-même, et tout le Secrétariat de l'Accord, nous sommes tous très sensibles à l'appui que vous nous avez toujours accordé.

Aussi, nous sommes ravis que Mr Aziz AKHANOUCHE, Ministre de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche maritime soit avec nous aujourd'hui et je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour lui exprimer toute notre gratitude aux autorités marocaines pour avoir bien voulu héberger cette Réunion des Parties. C'est un nouveau témoignage de l'engagement du Maroc dans la conservation de notre patrimoine naturel.

Le Maroc, qui est toujours très présent sur la scène internationale de la conservation de la biodiversité, a toujours su défendre les caractéristiques de notre Méditerranée notamment dans ces grandes instances internationales où nos valeurs, notre diversité, notre biodiversité ne sont pas toujours bien connues ou évaluées.

Je voudrai vous remercier pour le rôle que vous avez joué dans ce domaine non seulement dans le domaine marin mais aussi dans le domaine terrestre.

Il m'est particulièrement agréable de noter que la plupart des pays de la Méditerranée et de la Mer Noire ont répondu présents et sont représentés à cette réunion. Il est de même pour les organisations régionales et internationales et les ONG avec lesquelles nous avons tissé de fructueux liens de collaboration. Je voudrais vous remercier tous, représentants des pays et des organisations

multilatérales et des ONG, vous remercier pour votre présence ici. Cette présence me laisse fonder un grand espoir quant aux issues de cette réunion, ses conclusions et les actions qui en découleront.

Notre agenda pour les 4 jours de cette réunion est particulièrement chargé, il est à la hauteur des défis que nous avons à relever en matière de conservation des cétacés et j'émets le souhait que le prochain triennium nous permettra de récolter les fruits de nos engagements d'aujourd'hui et que la Réunion de Tanger constituera un exemple d'engagement des Pays dans la réalisation des objectifs de cet Accord que nous nous devons d'honorer.



## **WELCOME ADDRESS FROM MR. AZIZ AKHANNOUCH, MOROCCAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MARITIME FISHERIES**

Votre Altesse Sérénissime Le Prince de la Principauté de Monaco,  
Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués des pays membres,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est pour moi un réel plaisir que la 5<sup>ème</sup> réunion de l'Accord sur la Conservation des Cétacés de la Mer Noire, de la Méditerranée et de la zone Atlantique adjacente (ACCOBAMS) se tienne pour la première fois dans la rive sud de la Méditerranée et précisément au Royaume du Maroc.

Nous nous réjouissons de la présence à cet évènement de Son Altesse Le Prince de la Principauté de Monaco, qui a voulu par ce geste donner une nouvelle impulsion à cette session de l'ACCOBAMS.

Permettez-moi, Votre Altesse, de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à Tanger. Votre présence à cette session traduit un signe fort de votre implication pour le succès des missions de l'ACCOBAMS.

Altesse, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs.

Ce qui nous réunit aujourd'hui est la nécessité de renforcer les capacités institutionnelles et scientifiques de notre organisation qui fait désormais partie intégrante de notre patrimoine régional et reflète notre étroite coopération dans un domaine à potentialités réelles, mais d'une extrême sensibilité.

Notre présence aujourd'hui, ici même à Tanger, exprime notre désir d'œuvrer collectivement pour la réalisation des objectifs qui sont assignés à notre organisation pour la conservation et la protection des Cétacés de la Méditerranée et de la mer Noire, dans le but de réduire les menaces qui pèsent sur ces espèces

En effet, comme vous le savez, nous faisons face à d'énormes défis liés au réchauffement climatique et à l'acidification des océans qui impactent négativement les ressources du milieu marin.

Ce constat sévère nous interpelle pour œuvrer à l'adoption d'une nouvelle vision de la coopération en conjuguant nos efforts mutuels afin de mettre en place des politiques capables d'assurer un développement durable des ressources de la terre.

Permettez-moi d'insister sur la nécessité de l'adhésion de tous les Etats membres pour l'aboutissement de ce projet qui par sa structure intégrera toutes les synergies, compétences et expertises dont dispose notre région.

Le Maroc à l'instar des autres pays méditerranéens, a toujours manifesté son soutien et son appui aux positions prises au sein des instances internationales et ce, dans le respect total des principes de la gestion durable et rationnelle des ressources.

C'est cet impératif qui guide notre vision de la coopération internationale, dont l'ACCOBAMS est l'une des illustrations.

Le Maroc entend continuer à œuvrer dans le sens d'un renforcement de la coopération régionale sur les plans technique, juridique, institutionnel et scientifique, mais aussi par la conception et la réalisation de projets visant la conservation et la protection des cétacés.

Cette détermination pour la préservation de la ressource trouve son origine au cœur la stratégie nationale du développement du secteur de la pêche marocain Halieutis, lancée en 2009 sous la Haute Impulsion de Sa Majesté le Roi Mohamed VI que Dieu le Glorifie. L'axe « durabilité » se trouve au cœur de la stratégie Halieutis. Parmi les projets les plus importants de cet axe, le Maroc a interdit l'utilisation des filets maillants dérivants comme le prévoit la résolution de la 3<sup>ème</sup> session de notre organisation, et par la même occasion a réduit de manière satisfaisante la prise accidentelle des dauphins et baleines dans les filets de pêche de sa flotte. Deux options de retrait ont été retenues, le retrait de l'engin ou le départ volontaire et définitif de la pêche. A ce jour, 245 navires ont été indemnisés pour un montant avoisinant les 19 Millions d'€. Ce programme a par ailleurs été complété par un plan de formation pour la reconversion vers de nouvelles filières de pêche de 1.857 marins pêcheurs qui étaient actifs à bord des navires utilisant ces engins. Le budget alloué à cette formation atteint 3,5 Millions d'€.

D'autres dispositions ont été prises par le Maroc tel le suivi du phénomène d'échouage des cétacés et la réduction des interactions entre la pêche pélagique et les cétacés le long des côtes méditerranéennes marocaines.

De même, un module de cétologie est dispensé dans les universités Abdelmalek Saadi à Tanger et Chouaib Doukkali à El Jadida en collaboration avec l'ACCOBAMS.

Altesse, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs

Le Royaume du Maroc salue avec intérêt l'initiative du Prince Albert II visant à la création d'un Fonds fiduciaire pour les aires marines protégées de Méditerranée qui permettra d'améliorer la qualité de la gestion de nos richesses naturelles méditerranéennes.

Dans le même esprit, le Royaume du Maroc souhaite que cette organisation joue pleinement et efficacement son rôle d'organe influent pour la conservation et la protection des Cétacés à la lumière de l'expertise scientifique accumulée par nos chercheurs.

Je vous remercie encore une fois pour votre précieuse contribution et souhaite plein succès à vos travaux.

**ADDRESS FROM HIS SERENE HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO**

***Discours d'ouverture de S.A.S. le Prince  
5ème réunion des Parties à l'ACCOBAMS  
(5-8 novembre 2013, Tanger, Maroc)***

Monsieur le Ministre,  
Madame le Secrétaire Général,  
Mesdames, Messieurs,  
Chers amis,

Depuis sa conception, l'Accord ACCOBAMS, texte dédié à la conservation des Cétacés dans nos mers, démontre son utilité et sa pertinence au fil des années. C'est donc avec grand plaisir que je me trouve aujourd'hui parmi vous et je remercie chaleureusement le Royaume du Maroc pour son amicale invitation qui nous donne l'occasion de nous rencontrer dans cette ville mythique de Tanger.

Le Royaume du Maroc partage avec la Turquie et l'Espagne cette particularité géographique de couvrir deux des trois mers de la zone d'action de l'Accord.

Je me félicite que le Royaume du Maroc ait ratifié l'Accord il y a un peu plus de 14 ans et, depuis lors, contribué activement aux travaux des différentes instances en hébergeant notamment diverses activités telles que des ateliers de formation pratique sur l'étude des échouages et la nécropsie des cétacés, une session du Comité scientifique ainsi que la deuxième Conférence biennale sur la conservation des cétacés dans les pays du sud de la Méditerranée qui s'est tenue à El Jadida en octobre 2011.

Par ailleurs, le Maroc, au travers du Département des Pêches, collabore depuis deux ans, aux côtés du Secrétariat de l'Accord, à la promotion d'activités de whale watching durable, activités qui permettront de créer des nouvelles sources de revenus tout en assurant la conservation des cétacés.

Dans un monde en crise, il est souvent difficile de prôner la conservation de la nature, vocabulaire ancien que j'utilise volontairement car il est compréhensible d'un large public. Pour vous,

spécialistes, j'évoquerai la conservation de la biodiversité. Pour les politiques, je parlerai de la gestion durable des ressources naturelles.

Ce sont trois vocabulaires qui se complètent, trois approches illustrant des progrès de l'insertion progressive des processus vitaux naturels dans le concert du développement socio-économique durable.

L'implication de mon pays dans la mise en place et le suivi de l'ACCOBAMS est intacte depuis son adoption et sa signature en 1996 par de nombreux pays, dont Monaco. Protéger les cétacés, c'est agir au sommet des réseaux trophiques.

Vous savez à quel point j'ai engagé, tant mon gouvernement que ma Fondation, dans des actions concrètes de conservation des espèces marines afin de préserver la biodiversité, clé de voute d'une gestion durable des mers et des océans.

Dans ce contexte, sont privilégiés les programmes de terrain et les plans d'action, inscrits dans le cadre des Conventions intergouvernementales pertinentes comme la CITES et surtout la CMS à laquelle je rends un hommage tout particulier aujourd'hui.

Protéger les cétacés, c'est aussi les préserver des menaces qui pèsent sur eux et préserver leur environnement.

Les bruits d'origine anthropique et leur diffusion à grande distance dans le milieu marin sont de plus en plus reconnus comme une menace qui dépasse largement le cadre des cétacés. Considérés hier comme une fatalité, ils font aujourd'hui l'objet de recherches de solutions d'atténuation.

C'est sur la base d'évaluations des méfaits de ces perturbations et des bénéfices de ces méthodes qu'il sera possible de convaincre les acteurs techniques et socio-économiques d'y investir les ressources humaines et financières nécessaires.

D'autres périls pèsent sur les cétacés. Vous le savez, il faut prendre la mesure de l'impact des gestes de la vie quotidienne sur notre environnement. Macro et micro-déchets, polluants,

émanant directement de notre vie domestique constituent des agressions pernicieuses. La sensibilisation, de nous tous, consommateurs, quant à leurs effets, est cruciale.

D'autant plus qu'acheteurs et consommateurs n'accepteront de supporter les coûts liés à leur élimination que s'ils sont clairement justifiés. C'est à ce titre que vous intervenez, par vos décisions et recommandations basées sur une science consciente de son rôle et de ses responsabilités.

Même si le principe de précaution nous impose l'édiction de mesures effectives, la connaissance de la situation permet de cibler ces mesures, gage de réussite, d'économie et de crédibilité.

Pourtant, vos travaux vont le souligner, des programmes bien élaborés destinés à fournir un état réel de la situation n'ont pas complètement abouti, faute de moyens financiers suffisants et malgré l'appui de bailleurs de fonds que je remercie chaleureusement. Force est de constater que la Méditerranée et la Mer Noire sont souvent l'objet d'une attention moindre que les autres mers qui bordent l'Europe.

Pourtant ce sont les seules qui baignent trois continents, qui relient des entités géopolitiques très différentes.

Je lance donc un appel à la communauté internationale pour accentuer son appui à la bonne connaissance de l'état des biodiversités de ces deux mers et particulièrement des populations de cétacés qui y vivent.

J'espère que cet appel sera entendu et j'engage le Secrétariat de l'Accord, en relation avec celui de la CMS, à agir activement auprès de ces instances.

L'ACCOBAMS se définit aussi par la diversité géographique, géopolitique et thématique de son domaine d'intervention. Par cet instrument juridique de protection des cétacés sont concernés trois mers, des niveaux de développement et d'ensembles géopolitiques divers, une mosaïque de cultures, de civilisations et de langues.

Naviguer au cœur de cette diversité est certes une aventure exaltante mais également complexe. Je tiens ici à remercier tout particulièrement votre Secrétaire exécutif Madame Marie-

Christine Grillo-Compulsione qui, depuis plus de 18 ans, s'est consacrée à cette tâche avec énergie, compétence et diplomatie.

Elle a su faire de l'ACCOBAMS non seulement un instrument efficace mais également un modèle pour d'autres régions du monde. Vos actions et l'administration clairvoyante de l'Accord m'ont encouragé à maintenir l'offre de mon pays d'y accueillir le Secrétariat Exécutif. Si aujourd'hui vous accédez à la requête de votre Secrétaire Exécutif de se retirer à la fin de cette année, après examen de plusieurs candidatures, le profil de Madame Florence Descroix-Comanducci, apparaît parfaitement adapté aux missions qui lui seront dévolues.

Comme son prédécesseur, biologiste marin de haut niveau, elle est dotée d'une solide expérience de gestion de projets de collaboration internationale dans le cadre des laboratoires d'environnement de l'AIEA. Je sais qu'elle trouvera à vos côtés la collaboration nécessaire.

Je voudrais enfin rappeler la nécessité de mettre en commun nos compétences afin de travailler ensemble à davantage renforcer la coopération entre les diverses entités internationales qui œuvrent en faveur d'une bonne gestion de l'environnement marin pour favoriser l'émergence d'une économie durable.

Mon pays y veille tant au niveau régional que mondial et porte une attention particulière aux travaux onusiens dédiés à la biodiversité en haute mer.

Je suis en effet convaincu qu'une volonté interétatique demeure l'un des moyens les plus sûrs pour préserver ces espèces.

Mesdames, Messieurs, je souhaite plein succès dans vos travaux et vous assure de mon soutien dans la mise en œuvre des décisions que vous prendrez.

Je vous remercie.

## **ANNEX III : Agenda**

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome addresses
2. Granting the right to vote
3. Admission of Observers
4. Election of the Bureau
5. Adoption of the Agenda
6. Establishment of the Credentials Committee
7. Opening Statements
8. Progress reports
9. Report by the Credentials Committee
10. National reports
11. Institutional arrangements
12. Implementation of the Agreement : technical and scientific issues
13. Budgetary issues
14. Confirmation of previous Resolutions
15. Adoption of Resolutions
16. Other business
17. Date and venue of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties
18. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting
19. Closure of the Meeting



## **ANNEX IV: Opening statements**

*Statements are shown in chronological order.*

## STATEMENT FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF PELAGOS SANCTUARY

Monseigneur, Excellences, Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs de délégation, chers collègues,

Le Sanctuaire Pelagos tient à remercier l'ACCOBAMS et tout particulièrement son Secrétariat Permanent et la délégation marocaine pour leur chaleureux accueil. Le Secrétariat Permanent du Sanctuaire est heureux de participer à nouveau aux activités de l'ACCOBAMS de façon officielle et effective.

En effet, le Secrétariat Permanent du Sanctuaire Pelagos a été réactivé en janvier 2013 et d'ores et déjà 2 Comités Scientifiques et Techniques et 1 Conférence des Parties du Sanctuaire ont été organisés afin de relancer la coordination des activités des pays parties.

En tant qu'accord international entre la France, l'Italie et la Principauté de Monaco dédié à la conciliation entre le développement des activités socio-économiques et la protection des mammifères marins et de leurs habitats, le Sanctuaire Pelagos, également inscrit sur la liste des Aires Spécialement Protégées d'Importance Méditerranéenne, se veut être une zone pilote de l'ACCOBAMS pour la mise en œuvre d'initiatives innovantes répondant aux objectifs de l'Accord.

En ce sens, 3 axes de coopération majeure ont déjà été initiés :

- la lutte contre les collisions avec l'organisation conjointe, par les Secrétariats Permanents des 2 accords, d'une rencontre organisée en septembre 2013 à Monaco à l'occasion du Monaco Yacht Show, dédiée à fédérer les armateurs, les compagnies de navigation de grande plaisance autour de cette problématique et à présenter le système REPCET,
- l'encadrement des activités d'observation des cétacés en milieu naturel par la poursuite de la mise en œuvre du label commun Pelagos-ACCOBAMS, dont il sera question dans les prochains points de l'ordre du jour ;
- les Aires Marines Protégées, avec notamment la présidence par les Secrétariats Permanents des 2 accords d'un atelier sur le thème « *management plan et migrating species* » à l'occasion de l'IMPAC3 en octobre 2013 à Marseille.

Bien entendu, d'autres sujets de coopération sont également en cours d'étude et le Comité Scientifique et Technique a déjà chargé le Secrétariat Permanent de réviser les résolutions du Sanctuaire Pelagos en conformité avec celles de l'ACCOBAMS et de présenter les versions modifiées pour la 6<sup>ème</sup> Conférence des Parties prévue en France en 2015.

Fannie Dubois

Sanctuaire Pelagos - Secrétaire Exécutif

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## **IUCN STATEMENT**

On behalf of IUCN headquarters in Switzerland and of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, I would like to thank the Secretariat of ACCOBAMS for the invitation to participate to the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties and Morocco for hosting it. IUCN remains always available for activities concerning the conservation of nature and I personally am interested as the responsible of the Mediterranean marine programme in the conservation of the marine environment with a particular attention to cetaceans. As you know, one of the specificities of IUCN is the development of the Red List of Species, and the status of Mediterranean marine mammals and marine turtles have been reviewed in 2012 and the status of Mediterranean marine fishes status studied in 2011, both allowing more awareness on the status of the Mediterranean environment. In the future, the preparation of a Red List of Ecosystems is studied by the experts with a special concern for the marine environment. Such a red list of ecosystems could allow protecting better the area of repartition of some species, and in particular the cetaceans.

## STATEMENT OF MEDPAN

Le réseau MedPAN fédère les gestionnaires d'Aires Marines Protégées en Méditerranée et les soutient dans leurs activités de gestion depuis 1990. Pérennisé sous la forme d'une organisation indépendante depuis 2008, MedPAN collabore avec ACCOBAMS depuis plusieurs années et un Mémoire de Collaboration a été établi entre les deux organisations en 2012.

Les deux organisations ont en particulier collaboré à l'organisation du Forum des Aires Marines Protégées en Méditerranée qui s'est tenu en novembre 2012 à Antalya. ACCOBAMS a apporté une forte contribution à la préparation du Statut des AMP de Méditerranée ainsi que de la feuille de route pour atteindre d'ici 2020 un réseau d'AMP écologiquement représentatif, bien connecté et efficacement géré et prenant notamment en compte la protection des cétacés.

ACCOBAMS a également appuyé l'élaboration de la stratégie 2013-2017 du réseau MedPAN. Dans ce cadre, les deux organisations ont co-produit un manuel de gestion des cétacés pour les AMP.

MedPAN a enfin diffusé les publications et les actualités d'ACCOBAMS afin d'en informer le réseau des gestionnaires d'AMP en Méditerranée.

Dans le futur, il est essentiel de prolonger cette collaboration en faveur d'un réseau représentatif d'aires marines protégées en Méditerranée, en particulier par la création d'AMP d'importance pour la conservation des cétacés. MedPAN pourra notamment mobiliser le réseau des AMP sur les prochaines campagnes de suivis des cétacés menées par ACCOBAMS et contribuer à assurer une gestion effective de ces futures AMP.

## OPENING STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

The IWC would like to thank the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and the Government of Morocco for the excellent facilities provided in this beautiful city of Tangier.

The IWC is pleased to participate in this meeting and to continue the excellent co-operation that exists between ACCOBAMS and the IWC and the respective Secretariats.

In particular, the IWC is delighted to continue to participate in the work of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, represented by the IWC's Head of Science. There are many areas of common scientific interest between the ACCOBAMS and IWC Scientific Committees (e.g. bycatches, effects of noise, chemical pollution, ship strikes, whalewatching, abundance estimation, monitoring and population modelling) and the work of these two bodies complement each other in many ways. The conservation of cetaceans can only benefit from such co-operation and the translation of scientific advice into practical conservation actions by intergovernmental organisations and national authorities.

Although there are many areas of common interest, including conservation management plans, five are highlighted here. The first concerns our joint and long-standing interest in the issue of ship strikes and assessing the impact such collisions may have on cetacean populations within and outside the ACCOBAMS region. This issue is of importance to both the Scientific and Conservation Committees of the IWC, the benefits of co-operation with ACCOBAMS have been formally recognised and we have already held one important joint workshop. The IWC is extremely pleased to continue this important co-operation and to work together on future work.

The second concerns work on climate change. The IWC Scientific Committee has held a number of workshops on this matter including one held at the University of Siena, Italy in 2009. That and a subsequent workshop focussing specifically on small cetaceans in December 2010 have guided our work on this issue and we look forward to continued co-operation with ACCOBAMS. It continues to work on this issue, recognising the importance of regional as well as global approaches; in this regard the IWC will be holding an Arctic workshop in early 2014 and information will be provided on the IWC website ([www.iwc.int](http://www.iwc.int)).

The third relates to the issue of marine debris. The Scientific Committee held a workshop on this topic in May 2013 and its report will be discussed and actions developed at a second workshop convened by a joint Conservation Committee-Scientific Committee steering group in 2014 – again information will be provided on the IWC website ([www.iwc.int](http://www.iwc.int)).

The fourth relates to work on sustainable whalewatching. The IWC has developed a 5-year strategic plan for whalewatching (2011-2106) with a number of key elements: research and assessment; management; and capacity building and development. A key component of the work will be the development of a web-based handbook. The plan can be found at [www.iwc.int/whalewatching](http://www.iwc.int/whalewatching).

The fifth relates to the importance to conservation of baseline data on the abundance and distribution of cetaceans. The IWC Scientific Committee has endorsed the ACCOBAMS basinwide

survey initiative several years ago. The Committee has also supported and some members participated in aerial surveys within the ACCOBAMS area to provide support for a synoptic basinwide survey. The survey has been recommended strongly by the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee for many years. The undertaking of such a survey is a major exercise from both a scientific and logistical standpoint. The IWC continues to support this important initiative.

The IWC wishes every success to the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties of ACCOBAMS in its work to ensure the conservation of cetaceans in the region.

## **OPENING STATEMENT OF ECS**

Madame Chair, Madame Executive Secretary, dear colleagues, dear friends,

It is a great pleasure for the European Cetacean Society to be present at this 5th Meeting of Parties. We would like to express our gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco and to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat for the wonderful organization so far, the perfect location, the excellent logistics and the great hospitality.

The relationship between the European Cetacean Society and ACCOBAMS is long lasting and we have been involved in several conservation issues over the last years. The participation of a representative of the ECS within the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS has been a great tool to share ideas, expertise, discuss priorities and suggest conservation actions. The ECS is very concerned about the need to carry one appropriate mitigation measure within the ACCOBAMS area and it is willing to help, whenever possible, in the achievement of our common goals.

The organization of a series of workshops, in liaison also with ASCOBANS, have produced important contributions in term of conservation recommendations; the reports of these workshop are presented and discussed during the ACCOBAMS meetings and represent important documents to for the scientific community at large. The European Cetacean Society is in full agreement with the thematic priorities for the next triennium and different topics have been the subject of workshops and symposia organized over the last few years. Currently, there is already some effort to decide how to organize joint workshops at the upcoming ECS Conference, planned for next year in Liege (Belgium). In particular, we are talking about a workshop on the Pelagos Sanctuary, the largest Marine Protected Area which lies right in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.

I see we have a very long and articulated agenda and I wish not to take more time to the work of the Meeting of the Parties, therefore I wish all of you a very fruitful meeting and I thank you once more for the organization.

## **OPENING STATEMENT OF THE CHAMBRE DES PECHEES MARITIMES DE TANGER**

A l'occasion de la tenue de la Cinquième Réunion de l'ACCOBAMS, les professionnels de la pêche de la Région Nord à travers la CPMM réitèrent leur souhait à ce que l'ACCOBAMS mène un travail en commun avec la profession afin d'aboutir à une approche qui puisse concilier la protection des Cétacés et la préservation des intérêts des pêcheurs.

Les pêcheurs de la Région croient fermement en la nécessité de la conservation des Cétacés au regard des enjeux de protection de la biodiversité marine et pour traduire notre volonté dans les faits, la Chambre des Pêches Maritimes de la Méditerranée à proposer à l'ACCOBAMS l'intégration au niveau de notre projet de construction d'un Centre Professionnel Maritime de la Méditerranée un observatoire pour les Cétacés.

La profession espère que les travaux de cette importante rencontre aboutiront à des recommandations et propositions concrètes qui aideront à atténuer les difficultés quotidiennes auxquelles sont confrontés les pêcheurs en raison de l'interaction entre l'activité pêche et Cétacés.



## **OPENING STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

Distinguished Chairperson,  
Distinguished Delegates and Secretaries General  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Slovenia is pleased to participate at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS, and is grateful for the hospitality extended by our hosts, the Kingdom of Morocco.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for its devoted and engaged work on conservation of cetaceans in the past triennium. Further, Slovenia would like to thank the Scientific Committee, and especially its Chair for its valuable inputs to the work of this Agreement. Last but not least we are grateful to the Agreement Chairperson for the lead in the period from the last MOP.

We look forward to a successful meeting and progress that can be achieved through constructive deliberations on issues of importance to this Agreement.

## OPENING STATEMENT BY ISRAEL

Prepared by Dr. Simon Nemtzov

Wildlife Ecologist, and Coordinator for International Treaties and Agreements

The Israel Nature and Parks Authority,

3 Am Ve'Olam Street, Jerusalem 95463, Israel.

Israel has been a Party to the Convention on Migratory Species since 1983, but Israel is not a Party to ACCOBAMS and I will report on this matter later in the meeting, under Agenda item 10b.

All marine mammals are fully protected under Israeli law, and they may not be captured or harmed, or disturbed in any way.

In Israel there is a very active and professional Marine Mammal Rescue Center called IMMRAC, which has been a Partner organization to ACCOBAMS for many years, and its President, Danny Kerem, is familiar to many of you here.

A number of recent activities in Israel are important for cetacean conservation in the eastern Mediterranean region, and I will now address four major issues briefly:

1. **Fisheries reform:** Israel is in the process of conducting a new reform program to create a more environmentally-friendly fishing industry in its coastal waters, which includes a number of steps, some of which will have a positive influence on cetaceans, too. Especially important will be limiting or stopping the bottom trawlers which cause damage to the benthic environment, and can also pose a risk to dolphins as by-catch.
2. **Marine Protected Areas (MPA's).** A new policy program for MPA's in Israel proposes to establish a series of new MPA's that will include approximately one-third of Israel's Mediterranean coastline and about 20% of Israel's territorial waters (Yahel & Engart, 2012).
3. **Desalination factories.** Israel is undergoing a tremendous program to build five massive desalination factories to supply freshwater. Three factories have already begun partial operation and the other 2 are still under construction. When completed within the next 1-2 years, they will produce about 80% of Israel's freshwater needs. The effect of these huge factories on cetaceans is mainly from the warm water output (or effluent), with its higher salt content, near these factories. This effluent which will be about 1.6 billion cubic meters per year, could create local rich concentrations of marine life, and there is fear that it could attract cetaceans, too. This is being closely monitored.
4. **Lessepsian migration.** Since the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, there has been occasional migration and establishment of Red Sea species into the eastern Mediterranean; a phenomenon

called Lessepsian migration. The rate of Red Sea species coming into the Mediterranean has increased dramatically over the past few years, to the point that the eastern Mediterranean now has local populations of hundreds of exotic species of tropical fish and invertebrates. This recent increase is thought to be a consequence of climate change and the rise in the temperature of the Mediterranean Sea, making it more compatible for tropical species. Plans to enlarge and deepen the Suez Canal are likely to exacerbate this problem. It is also possible that Red Sea marine mammals could become established in the Mediterranean Sea (Kerem et al., 2012).

Israel is a member of only one CMS Agreement, namely, the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA) however, at this time, the Environment Ministry is considering joining four additional CMS agreements, namely: ACCOBAMS, Eurobats, MOU-Raptors and MOU-Sharks. I am hopeful that some if not all of these agreements will be signed in the near future.

Although Israel is not yet a Party to ACCOBAMS, and although Israel does not have large populations of marine mammals in its small coastal area, we take seriously our role as protectors of the cetaceans in the eastern Mediterranean, and we continue to collaborate with ACCOBAMS and with all Parties that are interested in working together to achieve our shared goals.

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## **ANNEX V: Report of the Black Sea Sub- Regional Coordination Unit**

**REPORT OF THE BLACK SEA SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT**  
**(Report prepared by the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution 2011-2013)**

**I. LINK WITH THE ACCOBAMS WORKING PROGRAMME 2011-2013**

The MOP4 mandated the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to develop activities during the 2011-2013 triennium, in collaboration with Sub Regional Coordination Units.

**II.1 - Main activities on Research and Conservation**

**RMTM1 - The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative**

For the DG MARE Project MARE/2011/16Lot2 Black Sea Cetaceans Surveys (aerial and vessel-based), the BSC PS contributed directly:

In inception meeting of the project organized in June 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey;

Provided letter of support to the project coordination in order to facilitate the application process to obtain necessary permissions to carry out the aerial and vessel surveys in the Black Sea;

Involved the members of the BSC Advisory Groups on Biodiversity Conservation (AG CBD) and Environmental Aspects of Fisheries and Other Marine Living Resources (AG FOMLR) in providing the requested information on the existing national legal framework relevant for cetaceans' conservation and the impact of fisheries on them, by filling in the provided questionnaire.

Bulgarian representative of the NGO Green Balkans participated as observer in the aerial survey for cetaceans covering the NW Black Sea, EEZ of Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine W from Crimea.

In the vessel survey aiming at assessment of cetaceans' abundance and distribution and identification of hot spots and critical habitats, Bulgaria was represented by the Institute of Fisheries Varna.

Romanian experts from NIMRD Constanta and BREMA Laboratory, Ukraine are also involved in the above-mentioned project.

**RMTM2 - Population structure**

Information on population structure will be available after the data collected during the vessel survey will be processed.

In Turkey, genetic analysis over 100 harbour porpoise samples from western and eastern Black Sea, from the Sea of Marmara and Istanbul Strait is still ongoing.

**RMTM3 - RMTM9 - Species Conservation Plans**

The Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans, prepared by the experts from the Black Sea region in consultation with other experts was adopted by the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee in November 2006. Although the document provides the framework for the actions on conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea, the Plan was not formally adopted by the Black Sea Commission.

Nevertheless, the countries implement actions provided in the Conservation Plan for Cetaceans. Bulgaria implemented two projects corresponding to:

- Action 14: Cetacean photo-identification program
- Action 15: Regional cetacean stranding network
- Action 16: Strategies for capacity building and raising awareness

Romania and Turkey also implemented projects related to these actions and they will be presented in the respective section.

#### **RMTM10 - Bycatch and interaction with fisheries**

Black Sea countries report to the BSC the number of by-caught dolphins every year, although the information isn't collected on regular basis.

In Bulgaria studies on by-catch and interaction with fisheries were carried out under the project "Development of national network for monitoring the Black Sea cetaceans (stranded and by-caught) in Bulgaria and identifying relevant measures for mitigation the adverse impact of fisheries, 2010-2011, financed by ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, for cetacean bycatch assessment in the Bulgarian central Black Sea area during the period 2010-2011. The bycatch index of *P. phocoena* was estimated at 22 per 100 km net set and that of *T. truncatus* – 2 per 100 km net set or overall 24 cetaceans per 100 km net set; high of *P. phocoena* was in June; 9.4 porpoises and 1.0 bottlenose dolphin were taken per 1000 turbot.

In Romania fishing activities are implemented according to the Law of Fisheries and annual prohibition Orders. By Law of Fisheries, the fishermen are obliged to report the cetaceans by-caught in their gears and take the necessary measures to release the individuals accidentally caught. Based on this obligation, NGO Mare Nostrum collaborated with several operators in order to find and test methods to reduce by-catches. The observations showed that more than 30% of the stranded dolphins presented marks of entanglement in fishing gears.

#### **RMTM11 - Anthropogenic Noise**

In Romania the institutions providing their expertise to the private or state companies interested in offshore exploration of oil and gas resources, using seismic survey take into consideration the provision on anthropogenic noise in the studies for Environmental Impact Assessment and make recommendations for mitigation of negative impact on cetacean populations.

On the other hand, pingers AQUAmark 200 were tested as a possible method to reduce by-catch of cetaceans in fishing gears.

#### **RMTM12 - Ship strikes**

There's no system in place to monitor the ship strikes on cetaceans.

#### **RMTM13 - Whale watching**

For cetacean's photo-identification 71 sightings were organized by NGO Mare Nostrum in Romanian waters; only 40 were successful and out of these in only 10 cases more than one individual was observed (mostly harbor porpoise – *Phocoena phocoena relicta* – and bottlenose dolphin – *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*)

#### **RMTM14 - Responses to emergency situations**

In Bulgaria, the Institute of Fishery Resources (IFR) responds to cetacean die-offs and live strandings along the Bulgarian Black Sea coastline through the cetacean stranding network (CSN). IFR records and coordinates research activities on cetacean strandings. The Federation of Nature Conservation NGO's Green Balkans (NGO) also reports strandings in the southern area of the coast after IFR has involved NGO in its last project related to such issues and mentioned in RMTM10. The two organizations rely on the assistance of a network of volunteers from the general public. The telephone numbers of IFR and NGO, green telephone of the Regional Inspectorates of Environment and Water (RIEW) in Varna and Burgas and 112- uniform emergency telephone number receive the calls from the public and transfer the information to the CSN. Since 2012 funding for such activities in IFR is missing and the emergency situations response is not always effective and/or available. Therefore the basic problem for most CSNs in

the Black Sea region related to maintenance of such activities on a regular basis and long-term scale remain unsolved after completion of respective research projects.

In Romania, the NGO Mare Nostrum developed in 2012 a network of cetacean monitoring (strandings, by-catches and sightings); in the same time a special team is ready for emergency situations, which in 2012-2013 responded to more than 300 stranded cetaceans, among them two being alive.

The members of the network are persons aware on the necessity to protect these animals; among them are students, teachers, fishermen, lifeguards, employees of National Agency Romanian Waters, National Institute of Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Coast Guard, Sanitary Veterinary Directorate etc.

#### **RMTM15 - Marine Protected Areas**

In the Black Sea region, in spite of many attempts to create a coherent network of Marine Protected Areas, the best covered part is western and northwestern part : Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. In Ukraine there are special areas for cetacean's conservation purpose around Crimea.

In Bulgaria there are no protected areas strictly dedicated to cetaceans' conservation. In both Bulgaria and Romania there are NATURA 2000 sites designated along the coast. Although the entire Black Sea was proposed to be designated as cetaceans' sanctuary, no concrete actions were taken so far.

In Romania the national network of marine protected area consist of only two sites: 2 Mai-Vama Veche Marine Reserve (5000 ha) and the marine part of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (buffer zone – about 103.000 ha).

In 2007, through Order no.1964/13 in December 2007, on instituting the natural protected area regime of European interest sites as part of the European ecological Network Natura 2000 in Romania, six marine sites were moved to a special conservation regime. All these sites are now listed as areas of Special Conservation Interest (SCI).

In 2011, through the Order of the Ministry of Environment and Forests no. 2387/2011, Romania approved the designation of two new sites, under the Habitats Directive.

The Marine Zone from Cape Tuzla: ROSCI0273 as area for special conservation interest (European, regional, national) was designated for the conservation of some marine species, among them being *Turpsiops truncatus* (IUCN, regional – BS TDA 2007) and *Phocoena phocoena* (IUCN, regional – BS TDA 2007)

#### **RMTM16 - Chemical Pollution**

Chemical pollution is monitored by all countries in their territorial waters and reported to Black Sea Commission by its PMA Advisory Group every year. Also, the LBS Advisory Group reports on the pollution stemming from the rivers and on the main hot spots, both municipal and industrial. Every five year, a more comprehensive report that assess not only the chemical pollution of the Black Sea, but overall state of its environment is prepared. At present the third assessment of the state of environment of the Black Sea is under preparation

#### **RMTM17 - Climate Change**

The climate change is recognized in the Black Sea Strategic Action Plan 2009 as a cross-cutting issue that should be addressed in order to successfully achieve its 65 management targets. Although it's not considered a priority by the BSSAP 2009, climate change is considered by the BSC institutional network among their research targets and was included in the Black Sea research agenda (BS-ERANET).



## II.2 - Communication, awareness and capacity building

### National Action Plans on cetaceans conservation

**Bulgaria** – currently has no National Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans. Nevertheless, there is an interest on conservation of cetaceans; proposals for two methodologies for monitoring of cetaceans along Bulgarian coast as part of Biodiversity Monitoring System coordinated by Environmental Executive Agency. Methodologies concern the collection of data on cetacean stranding and photo-identification.

**Romania** has a National Action Plan for the Conservation of Dolphins in the Romanian Black Sea waters (approved through the Gov. Order no. 374/2004). Currently there are several projects implementing the provisions of the Plan focusing mainly on:

- Monitoring of dolphins' stranding and by-caught in fishing gears;
- Experimenting of technical solutions to mitigate the mortalities caused by fishing activities;
- Assessment of the current status of dolphin populations threatened by the industrial fishing;
- Using a new type of fishing gear following the environmental impact assessment studies;
- Using turbot fishing nets with mesh size bigger than 200 mm, etc.

No information from the other countries was provided to the BSC PS.

### Training

#### Bulgaria

National expert meeting was organized in Pomorie on 29.05.2012 with representatives of Ministry of Environment and Water, Regional Environmental Inspectorates in Burgas and Varna, Basin Directorate – Varna, Institute of Fish Resources, etc.

National training on photo-identification of cetaceans was organized in Pomorie on 28-29 June 2012 for Green Balkans team.

International photo-ID training was organised jointly with Mare Nostrum NGO in Constanta, Romania in the period 22-25 July, 2012. Experts from Green Balkans NGO, Institute of Fish Resources and Institute of Oceanology – BAS participated from Bulgaria. Two experts of Green Balkans participated in Cetacean necropsy training organised by National Focal Point and ACCOBAMS and hosted by IFR-Varna in the period 14-18.07.2012. Trainer was Mr. Alvaro Garcia de los Rios from Spain.

Training workshop for municipal ecologists was organised at Pomorie on 31 August 2013. Representatives of 8 coastal municipalities (Shabla, Kavarna, Avren, Nessebar, Pomorie, Bourgas, Primorsko and Tsarevo), Regional Environmental Inspectorates in Burgas and Varna, Fisheries and Aquaculture Executive Agency attended the event. Topics presented and discussed included: ACCOBAMS, Conservation Plan for Black Sea cetaceans, Biology and identification of cetaceans, international data bases MEDACES and OBIS SEAMAP and how to fill MEDACES field form. Special attention was given to the coordination between institutions for solving the problems of strandings that create a lot of negative publicity.

#### Romania

In 2012 under the project "Photo-identification of dolphins from the Romanian Black Sea coastal waters" three training sessions were organized by NGO Mare Nostrum:

- For captains of vessels on 28<sup>th</sup> June – hosted by NIMRD 'Grigore Antipa' Constanta
- For photographers on 28-29<sup>th</sup> June – hosted by Museum of Natural Sciences, Constanta;
- For scientists (22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> July – hosted by NIMRD 'Grigore Antipa' Constanta

No additional information from the other countries.

## Database

### Bulgaria

During the period 2011-2013 the Green Balkans team continued collecting the data on stranded cetaceans along Southern Black Sea coast. Fruitful collaboration is kept with experts from Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water – Bourgas. In 2011 were registered 21 strandings in the Southern region: *D. delphis* – 1; *Ph. Phocoena* – 5; *T. truncatus* – 6; unidentified – 9. In 2012 were registered 78 cases: Delphinidae – 4; *D. delphis* – 5; *Ph. Phocoena* – 44; *T. truncatus* – 20; unidentified – 9. In 2013 about 40 strandings were recorded but data is not processed completely. Highest number of strandings was recorded in months May-July. Highest numbers of cases were registered along beaches of Bourgas and Pomorie municipalities.

### Romania

Marine Mammals Database (MMDB) for the Romanian Black Sea with MEDACES interface for data transmission. Collection and transimission of data are ongoing. Romania collects data on by-caught dolphins in the frame of the National Program for Fisheries Data Collection.

A special database was organized by NGO Mare Nostrum after the implementation of the project on photo-identification, strandings and by-catches:

The output of the project activities after:

- 124 land survey and more than 200 interventions for stranded dolphins, identifying 89 stranded cetaceans in 2011, 177 in 2012 and 55 individuals in 2013 until 19 of August. A total of 321 dead cetaceans;
- 71 sea survey for photo-ID, with a total of 74 days on sea from which resulted a Photo-ID Catalog with 25 individuals of *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*;
- ; 1534 new volunteer observers enrolled in monitoring network;
- establish a working protocol for cetacean monitoring between Mare Nostrum and Administrations and private comapnies from costal area etc.  
Resulted in three database, part of them allready shared true OBIS Seamap database site:
- DB with strandings and sightings (bycatches where not recorded) ;
- DB with photo-ID cetaceans (25 individuals of *Tursiops truncatus ponticus*)

## Public awareness and communication material

### Bulgaria

Activities implemented by Institute of NGO – Green Balkans:

Black Sea Action Day celebrations in Pomorie and Burgas with presentations on Black Sea cetaceans have been organized in 2011 and 2012. The events have been attended by school classes from Pomorie and Bourgas. Good cooperation in these events was achieved with Natural History Museum in Bourgas.

Exhibition “Black Sea cetaceans” consisting of 5 boards is produced and part of permanent exhibition at Pomorie Lake visitor centre. The exhibition was displayed for 2 months in the Natural History Museum in Bourgas. Presentation on cetaceans and research methods was made as official event for opening of the exhibition covered by local media at Bourgas. Within the project “Pilot Cetaceans Photo-ID activities along Southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast” brochure with CD have been produced. Brochure presents project activities and basic information on photo-identification of cetaceans along Bulgarian Black Sea coast. CD with created “BULPHINS CATALOGUE 2012” is attached to the brochure. Additional information uploaded on the CD includes: text of ACCOBAMS and Black Sea Cetaceans Conservation Plan; Instructions on Cetacean Stranding surveys and photo-identification of Cetaceans along Bulgarian coast plus field forms to be used.

In 2013 the topic on cetacean research attracted media attention and many interviews were

published by newspapers and radios including national media: Trud, Dnevnik and Bulgarian National Radio.

Special section dedicated to cetaceans in the Black Sea was developed on the Green Balkans website:

[http://greenbalkans.org/show.php?language=en\\_EN&cat\\_id=132&id=1933&](http://greenbalkans.org/show.php?language=en_EN&cat_id=132&id=1933&)

Activities implemented by Institute of Fish Resources (IFR) – Varna:

Materials produced under project: "Development of national network for monitoring the Black Sea cetaceans (stranded and by-caught) in Bulgaria and identifying relevant measures for mitigation the adverse impact of fisheries", 2010-2011, financed by ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat:

- Guide on Bulgarian network for cetaceans monitoring in Bulgaria, 2011, 11 pp.
- Methodology used in Bulgaria to monitor cetacean strandings: ppt, 2011, 40 pp.
- Practical recommendations for sampling cetaceans from strandings and bycatches, 14 pp.
- Posters: Bulgarian network for cetaceans monitoring and conservation in English and Bulgarian

Interviews for National TV, participation in TV movie, Radio, newspapers, information for Black Sea associations and organisations.

#### **Romania**

A total of 33 sessions of public awareness campaigns, made face to face in the region of Constanta and Tulcea (just seaside cities), distributing leaflets, and 36 informative stands on the beaches. Distributing over 20.000 materials (leaflets, T-shirts, caps, cups, pens, calendars, bandanas, badges, stickers, documentary movie etc.).

- Awareness campaigns for fishermen, a total of 61 fishermen informed.
- 78 presentations in schools, for students, with over 2500 students and teachers.
- Dedicated website [www.delfini.ro](http://www.delfini.ro) and a facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/delfinimn>, with over 10000 visitors.
- media appearances in both the print and audio visual media (more than 300 articles in local and national media).
- Celebration of the "Dolphin's week"
- National consultation workshop with the local stakeholders

#### **Turkey**

With the partnership of the Whale Workshop, inflatable models of marine mammals in actual size and color will be exhibited in two shopping centers in Istanbul and Eskisehir in September and October 2013.

## **II.3 - Meetings**

### **Romania**

- 6 meetings organised by us for presenting the results of the Program and the future of it to interested parties and collaborators.
- 2 meetings with fishermen
- 1 meeting on fisheries from Romania and Bulgaria in Brussels, 2013

### **BSC PS**

BSC PS organized two meetings (Sep. 2011 and 2012) with its FOMLR Advisory Group and experts on cetaceans from the Black Sea countries. Representative of ACCOBAMS Secretariat attended the meeting in 2012, where the activities on cetacean's conservation in the Black Sea countries were discussed and priorities were established.

Also, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat attended the regular meetings of BSC in 2011 and 2012. In 2012 a re-newed MoU between BSC and ACCOBAMS was signed in Istanbul by representatives of both organizations.

## II.4 - Projects

### Bulgaria

#### Green Balkans:

#### **Project: Pilot Cetaceans Photo-ID activities along Southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast**

Beneficiary: Green Balkans NGO, Bulgaria

Budget: 15 000 euro

Duration: 10 months (May 2012 – February 2013)

### **GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

The project's overall goal was to introduce the method in Bulgaria and start pilot photo-identification activities along Southern part of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast.

Objectives of the project encompass:

- Raising capacities of experts from scientific institutions and NGO involved in cetacean research and conservation in Bulgaria.
- Starting pilot photo-identification surveys and establishing "BulFins" catalogue for Southern Bulgarian Black Sea.
- Developing a program for photo-ID of Cetaceans along Bulgarian Black Sea coast and proposal for its inclusion in the National Program for Monitoring of Biodiversity.
- Raising public awareness on cetaceans' conservation and provisions of ACCOBAMS by creating an exhibition in Pomorie Lake Visitor Centre.

### **ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

- National expert meeting and trainings on photo-identification of cetaceans have been held with participants from authorities (Ministry of Environment and Water, RIOEW-Bourgas and Varna), scientific institutions (Institute of Fish Resources – Varna and Institute of Oceanology, BAS – Varna) and Green Balkans NGO.
- In total 19 surveys have been made in the period June – October 2012 along Southern Black Sea coast of Bulgaria in the two target areas: Cape Emine and Cape Maslen nos. Totally 1008,3 km have been cruised and 102 hours and 40 minutes were spent in the sea during these surveys. In total 46 sightings have been recorded (4 of dead and 42 of alive cetaceans) and in 10 of these cases photo-sessions have been made with moderate success. Most numerous have been sightings of Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena relicta*) – 20 cases (including one dead). Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) was observed in 19 cases and Common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis ponticus*) has been observed only once. In six cases species of observed cetacean wasn't identified (3 were dead bodies floating in the water).
- More than 200 images of Cetaceans were collected during 19 surveys of the project but only 87 images of these were selected for inclusion in the catalogue of identifiable cetaceans. All three Black Sea species were represented in the catalogue: Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena relicta*) – 5 images of two individual, Common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis ponticus*) – 6 images of three individuals and Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) – 76 images of twenty four individuals.
- Exhibition "Black Sea Cetaceans" consisting of 5 panels was created presenting following topics: Cetacean species found in the Black Sea; Biology and Ecology; Methods for research of Cetaceans; Threats to Black Sea Cetaceans and information on ACCOBAMS.
- Brochure describing project activities and basic information on photo-identification of Cetaceans along Bulgarian Black Sea coast was produced and CD with created "BULPHINS CATALOGUE 2012" is attached to the brochure.

### **Project: Building capacities of Bulgarian Black Sea municipalities on Cetaceans strandings**

Beneficiary: Green Balkans NGO, Bulgaria

Partner: Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria

Budget: 12 700 euro

Duration: 8 months (July 2013 – February 2014)

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

This project's main goal is to build capacities of the Bulgarian Black Sea municipalities for reaction in case of Cetacean strandings on their shores. It is an effort to solve a problem arising in recent years along Bulgarian coast related to increased number of stranded cetaceans and the public reaction to that problem. The project aim to solve that issue thus contributing to implementation of ACCOBAMS Work programme 2011-2013, action CB 2 - Monitoring of cetacean stranding. This action is with high priority. Additionally it will support impementation of Actions 15 (Regional CSNs) and 16 (Strategies for Capacity building and raising awareness) of CPBSC and will facilitate collection of data with better quality on strandings.

To achieve that a series of trainings are planned – one joint theoretical and number of special trainings on-site in cases of strandings. Theoretical training will include lectures on following topics: national and international legal framework for protection of Black Sea cetaceans; biology and anatomy of cetaceans; how to take biometric measurments of found dead stranded cetaceans and filling of MEDACES blank; discussion on how to improve interaction between different authorities and needed initiatives and permits. On-site training will put emphasis on species identification, data to be recorded in MEDACES, safety precautions. Special toolkits will be prepared and handed to each municipality in the form of emergency tool box containing the most important tools for collection of field data: field forms; gloves; masks; containers for storage of teeth and parasites; cutter; pliers for extraction of teeth; measuring tape; scales; etc. Protocol for action by municipalities in cases of stranded cetacean will be developed. Its main aim will be to create working mechanism to solve the problem with decaying carcasses on beaches during busy summer season and on the other hand to improve quality of collected data on strandings. All collected data will be submitted to international data bases MEDACES and OBIS SEAMAP.

### **Institute of Fish Resources (IFR) – Varna:**

- Development of national network for monitoring the Black Sea cetaceans (stranded and by-caught) in Bulgaria and identifying relevant measures for mitigation the adverse impact of fisheries, 2010-2011, financed by ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat, MoU ACCOBAMS, N° 01/2010: 70 pp.
- Adverse Fisheries Impacts on Cetacean Populations in the Black Sea, 2012-2014, Implementing and management organization: MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd., Supporting and funding organization: Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission, European contract ref MARE/2011/16 Lot 2.

### **Romania**

The following projects were implemented in Romania in 2011-2013:

1. "Improving the conservation status of marine biodiversity in the Romanian coastal zone, especially dolphins" funded true Structural funds between December 2009 and May 2012

2. "Monitoring of Black Sea cetaceans" co-financed by OMV Petrom, February 2012 – November 2012
3. "Photo-identification of dolphins from Romanian Black Sea coastal waters" June 2012 – May 2013
4. "Monitoring of Black Sea cetaceans" co-financed by DB Schenker, December 2012 – November 2013
5. "Monitoring of Black Sea cetaceans, part II" co-financed by OMV Petrom, March 2013 – December 2013
6. "Eco educational project" co-financed by DP world, July 2013 – November 2013

#### **Turkey**

1. Stranding cetacean surveys in the western Turkish Black Sea coast is continued on a monthly basis. (Receiving financial support from TUDAV)
2. Passive acoustic monitoring study in the Istanbul Strait is continued. (Receiving financial support from TUDAV and Japan Science and Technology Agency)
3. Behavior study of cetaceans in the Istanbul Strait is continued. (Receiving financial support from Istanbul University Scientific Research Projects Unit)
4. Stranding cetacean surveys around the Marmara Sea coast is continued on a seasonal basis. (Receiving financial support from Istanbul University Scientific Research Projects Unit)
5. Seasonal survey in the Istanbul Strait with towing hydrophones (Receiving financial support from TUDAV and Japan Science and Technology Agency)

In addition, at regional level the project coordinated and implemented by MacAlister Elliott & Partners Ltd and funded by DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the EC "Studies for implementing a Common Fisheries Policies: Negative impact on the populations of Cetaceans in the Black Sea".

### **III - COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

At the regional level, BSC collaborates with ACCOBAMS (MoU signed in 2012) and GFCM (MoU signed in 2011) on the conservation of the Black Sea resources and BS environment in general. Also there is a close cooperation between countries, and the best forums are CBD and FOMLR Advisory Groups, NGOs that implement common projects (Green Balkans, BG, Mare Nostrum RO) Black Sea Ad-Hoc Working Group on Fisheries, governmental organizations such as ministries of environment from all Black Sea countries and associated Environmental Protection Agencies, etc.

## **ANNEX VI: Report of the Mediterranean Sub- Regional Coordination Unit**

## REPORT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATION UNIT

Implementation of Actions by UNEP- MAP RAC/SPA for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the  
Mediterranean  
(MARCH 2011- AUGUST 2013)

### I. LINK WITH THE ACCOBAMS WORKING PROGRAMME 2011-2013

The MOP4 mandated the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to develop activities during the 2011-2013 triennium, in collaboration with Sub Regional Coordination Units.

### II.1 - Main activities on Research and Conservation

#### RMTM1 - The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

An agreement was signed with ACCOBAMS, IUCN, French Agency for Marine Protected Areas and RAC/SPA to appoint a project manager to help in developing the survey project and fund raising.

#### RMTM2 - Population structure

RAC/SPA supported the CIMA Foundation (Italy) and the University of Sassari (Italy) to carry out the study "The pelagic cetaceans in the north oriental Sardaigne during 2011-2012.

The main objectives of the project are :

- a) Assess the richness and the abundance of cetaceans in the pelagic habitats in the National Parc La Maddalena Archipel and the International Marin Parc of Bouches de Bonifacio.
- b) Quantify the seasonal passage of cetaceans in the International Marin Parc of Bouches de Bonifacio,
- c) Assess if the water of the continental platform of International Marin Parc of Bouches de Bonifacio, during winter brief period, are feeding areas for fin whales, as already observed in the MPA of Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo.

#### RMTM10 - Bycatch and interaction with fisheries

RAC/SPA took part to the Coordinating meeting for developing Project on cetaceans, bird and other threatened species bycatch and depredation reduction in the ACCOBAMS area.



## RMTM15 - Marine Protected Areas

New SPAMI proposal on Lara-Toxeftra Turtle Reserve, Cyprus was presented during the 11<sup>th</sup> SPA Focal Points Meeting (RABAT, Morocco 2-5 July 2013).

RAC/SPA co-organised with the MedPAN Secretariat, UNDP Turkey and the Ministry of Environment of Turkey the 2012 Forum on Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (Antalya, November 2012). The “Roadmap towards a comprehensive, ecologically representative, effectively connected and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas network by 2020” and the Antalya Declaration were the main outputs of the Forum.

These documents were endorsed by 11<sup>th</sup> SPA FPs meeting and regional partners.

Draft Guidelines to improve the implementation of the Mediterranean SPA network and connectivity between SPAs have been finalized in May 2012 and presented during the 11<sup>th</sup> SPA FPs meeting.

A manual for MPA managers, including the identification and presentation of MPAs issues regarding cetaceans and the role of managers in cetacean conservation at local, national and regional levels is being prepared under the auspice of ACCOBAMS secretariat, MedPAN and RAC/SPA.

Since 2008, RAC-SPA under the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been implementing the “**MedOpenSeas**” project to identify and establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the open seas, including the deep seas. The primary objective of this project is to promote the establishment of a representative ecological network of MPAs in the Mediterranean within the framework of SPA/BD Protocol on the establishment of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs). This project is financially supported by the European Commission, and is now in its third phase.

The first phase of the project, completed in late 2009, led to the identification of twelve priority conservation areas in the open seas, including the deep seas. These priority areas could become candidates for SPAMI listing and/or be recommended for inclusion in other frameworks, such as Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The aim of the project’s second phase, completed in early 2012, was to support neighbouring Parties of the above-mentioned priority areas in evaluating and potentially presenting these sites as candidate(s) for inclusion in the SPAMI List, in accordance with the provisions of the SPA/BD Protocol. RAC/SPA has been facilitating this preparatory work, including oceanographic surveys and stakeholder negotiations. The programme of work of the second phase included the establishment of *ad hoc* working groups, composed of representatives from the countries bordering the Alborán Sea (Algeria, Morocco and Spain) and Gulf of Lions (France, Spain) priority areas.

The current third phase activities started on December 2012 and focuses on the spatial planning and evaluation of three priority areas: Adriatic Sea, Alborán Sea and the Sicily Channel/Tunisian Plateau areas.

The RAC/SPA is currently starting to prepare meetings with the representatives of the neighbouring countries to these three sites, in order to present the proposed process and to discuss the feasibility of setting up multilateral working groups. Meanwhile, work to obtain compilation reports and review of the current understanding of the biodiversity for each of the three priority areas has been launched.

The RAC/SPA was designated as the Lead Agency for the “Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (SAP BIO) in the Mediterranean Region”. Within the actions envisaged within SAP BIO, priorities related to the promotion and better management of protected areas are considered. Many valuable natural habitats on the coastal zone in the Mediterranean are not ecologically evaluated to be designated as Coastal or Marine Protected Areas. Enlarging percentage/size of protected areas is required in numerous documents adopted at national and international scale.

Within that framework, the “Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) Network through the boosting of MPAs Creation and Management” (the “**MedMPAnet Project**”) was developed in order to promote the creation of new protected areas.

The MedMPAnet Project is part of the UNEP/MAP-GEF MedPartnership Project “Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Ecosystem” led by UNEP/MAP (Athens) and is implemented by the RAC/SPA (Tunis), with financial support of the European Union (EU), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation to Development (AECID) and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM).

#### **RMTM17 - Climate Change**

Indicators standardized for the monitoring of climate change in Mediterranean MPAs are being elaborated in collaboration with the IUCN. A second meeting of experts took place in Malaga ,Spain (October 2012), organized by RAC/SPA with the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation (IUCN-Med) to continue guiding the development of indicators for biodiversity impacts in marine protected areas (MPAs) by the threats of climate change (CC)

In fact, marine protected areas in the Mediterranean can play an important role as « monitoring spots » where the effects of climate change can be studied and evaluated and where management strategies to adapt to, mitigate and, whenever possible, counter such negative effects can be developed.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between RAC/SPA and ACCOBAMS in order to organize a workshop “Impact of climate changes on cetaceans and marine turtles”. The workshop will aim to:

- Establish a state of knowledge on the prediction of climate change and its impacts on the marine environments in the Black and Mediterranean Seas
- Determine the consequences of climate change for migratory species, in particular cetaceans in the Black and Mediterranean Seas and turtles in the Mediterranean Sea
- Identify gaps in knowledge and possible subject for further research.

## II.2 - Communication, awareness and capacity building

### National Action Plans on cetaceans conservation

RAC/SPA supported the preparation of the National Action Plan for marine mammals' conservation in Egypt.

### Training

RAC/SPA was partner in the organization of the to the following gatherings:

- The IX European Seminar on Marine Mammals: Biology and conservation, held from 3 to 7 September 2012 in Valencia.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of the European society for research on cetaceans (Setubal, Portugal, April 2013) .
- Cetology module for the Environment Master Courses (Tunis, Tunisia, March 2013).

### Database

Unfortunately and due to budget restriction, RAC/SPA couldn't support financially the work of MEDACES.

### Public awareness and communication material

RAC/SPA published the Guidelines for the establishment and management of marine Protected Areas for cetaceans.

## II.3 - Meetings

RAC/SPA collaborated in the organisation of the following gatherings:

- Second Biennial Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries, which took place in El Jadida (Morocco), 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011.
- Southern Mediterranean Workshop on ACCOBAMS Implementation, Hammamet, Tunisia, 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
- The cetacean national stranding network: functioning and organisation, Salambô, Tunisia 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012.
- Forum on Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (Antalya, November 2012) organized in collaboration with the MedPAN Secretariat, UNDP-Turkey and the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey (SPA/RAC).

RAC/SPA took part to the following meetings:

- Coordinating meeting for developing Project on cetaceans, bird and other threatened species bycatch and depredation reduction in the ACCOBAMS area, (Tangier, 3-4 April 2013).
- National workshop on the feasibility of pilot project for whale watching, Tunisia 28 May 2013.

#### **II.4 - Projects**

RAC/SPA supported the following projects:

- Pelagic cetaceans of the north oriental Sardinia, implemented by CIMA Foundation and Sassari University.
- The cetacean sanctuary Research Project, implemented by Tethys Research Institute.
- The Ionian Dolphin Project, implemented by Tethys Research Institute.

#### **III - COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.**

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) and the United Nations Environment Programme in its capacity as Secretariat of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) is being signed.

## **ANNEX VII: Report of the Depositary**

## REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY

The Depositary of the Agreement, the “Département des Relations Extérieures” of the Principality of Monaco, has the honour of submitting this report to the State Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS).

Since the Fourth Meeting of the Parties held in Monaco from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010, **no new accession to the Agreement has been recorded.**

**As of July 15<sup>th</sup> 2013, there are 23 Parties to ACCOBAMS (Table 1).**

Following the adoption, during the last Meeting of the Parties in 2010, of the **Amendments to the Agreement text and its annexes**, regarding the geographical extension of ACCOBAMS, the Department has recorded the deposit of **four instruments of approval**, coming from: the Principality of Monaco, the Republic of Bulgaria, Ukraine and the Kingdom of Spain (Table 2).

The Depositary has informed, through diplomatic ways, the Parties, the European Community, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat and the Secretariat on the Convention for Migratory Species (CMS) of these approvals.

Moreover, during the 2011-2013 triennium, the Depositary, through the various diplomatic officers of the Principality of Monaco, has supported the action of the Permanent Secretariat to raise awareness among other Riparian States and the European Commission with a view to their accession.

**Table 1**

The following table presents the status of the Parties to the Agreement as of July 15<sup>th</sup> 2013.

COUNTRY / PAYS	SIGNATURES	RATIFICATIONS		ENTRY INTO FORCE ENTRÉE EN VIGUEUR
	Dates	Tool / Instrument	Deposit of the tool Dépôt de l'instrument	
ALBANIA / ALBANIE	24/11/1996	25/05/2001	03/07/2001	01/10/2001
ALGERIA / ALGERIE		19/03/2007(AA) ***	25/09/2007	01/12/2007
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE HERZEGOVINE				
BULGARIA / BULGARIE	16/09/1999	23/09/1999	10/11/1999	01/06/2001
CROATIA / CROATIE	24/11/1996	03/05/2000	10/07/2000	01/06/2001
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	24/11/1996	30/01/2006	14/02/2006	01/05/2006
EGYPT / EGYPTTE		04/03/2010	19/04/2010	01/07/2010
EUROPEAN UNION /UNION EUROPEENNE (1)				
FRANCE	24/11/1996	26/02/04 (AA)***	10/03/2004	01/06/2004
GEORGIA / GEORGIE	24/11/1996	30/03/2001	31/05/2001	01/06/2001
GREECE / GRECE	24/11/1996*	24/11/1996*	24/11/1996*	01/06/2001
ISRAEL				
ITALY / ITALIE	24/11/1996	10/02/2005	24/06/05	01/09/2005
LEBANON / LIBAN		05/05/2004(A)* *	13/12/2004	01/03/2005
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA / LIBYE		12/05/2002	18/06/2002	01/09/2002
MALTA / MALTE	23/03/2001*	23/03/2001*	23/03/2001*	01/06/2001
MONACO	24/11/1996	25/04/1997	30/04/1997	01/06/2001
MONTENEGRO		17/02/2009 (AAA)****	18/05/2009	01/08/2009
MOROCCO / MAROC	28/03/1997	13/05/1999	05/07/1999	01/06/2001
PORTUGAL	24/11/1996	30/09/2004 (A) **	15/10/2004	01/01/2005
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE	28/09/1998	13/06/2000	17/07/2000	01/06/2001
RUSSIA / RUSSIE				
SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE		12/07/2006	25/09/2006	01/12/2006
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	24/11/1996	07/01/1999	02/02/1999	01/06/2001
SYRIA /SYRIE		07/02/02 (A)**	22/03/2002	01/06/2002
TUNISIA / TUNISIE	24/11/1996	31/12/2001	15/01/2002	01/04/2002
TURKEY / TURQUIE				
UKRAINE		09/07/2003	23/10/2003	01/01/2004
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME UNI				

\* Signature valid for ratification / Signature valant ratification

\*\* A = Adherence / Adhésion

\*\*\* AA = Approval / Approbation

\*\*\*\*AAA= Accession / Accession

(1) Instituting the European Community since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009

**Table 2**

The following table presents the status of the Parties having approved the Amendments as of July 15th 2013.

COUNTRY / PAYS	RATIFICATIONS		ENTRY INTO FORCE ENTRÉE EN VIGUEUR
	Tool / Instrument	Deposit of the tool Dépôt de l'instrument	
ALBANIA / ALBANIE			
ALGERIA / ALGERIE			
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE HERZEGOVINE			
BULGARIA / BULGARIE	08/02/2012 (AC)*****	14/03/2012	
CROATIA / CROATIE			
CYPRUS / CHYPRE			
EGYPT / EGYPTE			
EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPEENNE			
FRANCE/FRANCE			
GEORGIA / GEORGIE			
GREECE / GRECE			
ISRAEL/ISRAEL			
ITALY / ITALIE			
LEBANON / LIBAN			
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA / LIBYE			
MALTA / MALTE			
MONACO/ MONACO	24/02/2011 (AA)***	02/03/2011	
MONTENEGRO			
MOROCCO / MAROC			
PORTUGAL/PORTUGAL			
ROMANIA / ROUMANIE			
RUSSIA / RUSSIE			
SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE			
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	26/11/2012 *	10/01/2013	
SYRIA /SYRIE			
TUNISIA / TUNISIE			
TURKEY / TURQUIE			
UKRAINE / UKRAINE	26/11/2012 (AC)*****	02/01/2013	
UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME UNI			

- \* ratification / ratification
- \*\* A = Adherence / Adhésion
- \*\*\* AA = Approval / Approbation
- \*\*\*\*AAA= Accession / Accession
- \*\*\*\*\*AC= Acceptance / Acceptation

NB: 16 ratifications are needed for the entry into force of the amendments / 16 ratifications sont nécessaires pour l'entrée en vigueur des amendements



## **ANNEX VIII: Report of the Secretariat**

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT  
(JANUARY 2011 – OCTOBER 2013)**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**I.1- Status of Ratifications**

As of September 2013, there are 23 State Parties to the Agreement: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The Permanent Secretariat received, in November 2011 and in November 2012, information respectively from the ACCOBAMS Contact Point and the CMS Focal Point in Israel stated that the Ministry of Environmental Protection was exploring the possibility of Israel to join ACCOBAMS. Also the Secretariat was informed that the Agreement was submitted to the Turkish Parliament for adoption.

**I.2 Focal Points**

Focal Points have been nominated by the Parties as well as by certain non-member Countries (Table I).

Nevertheless, notwithstanding official letters by the Secretariat, 2 Countries have still no Focal points (Algeria and Montenegro).

Table I: ACCOBAMS Focal Points as of September 2013

<b>PARTIES</b>	<b>NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS</b>
ALBANIA ALBANIE	<p><b>Mrs. Elvana RAMAJ</b> Nature Protection Policies Directorate Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration Tirana - ALBANIA Tel. + 355 692 121 425 - Fax. + 355 42270625 Mobile: +355672052118 <a href="mailto:eramaj@moe.gov.al">eramaj@moe.gov.al</a></p>
ALGERIA ALGERIE	To be appointed
BULGARIA BULGARIE	<p><b>Ms Tihomira SLAVEYKOVA</b> Ministry of Environment and Water 67 William Gladstone St. 1000 Sofia - BULGARIA Tel: +359 42 692 226 – Mob: +359 884 26 54 67 <a href="mailto:tslaveykova@moew.government.bg">tslaveykova@moew.government.bg</a></p>
CROATIA CROATIE	<p><b>Ms. Ana STRBENAC</b> Head of the Expertise Division State Institute for Nature Protection Trg Mažuranica 5, 10000 Zagreb – CROATIA Tel: +385 1 5502 912 - Fax: + 385 1 5502 901 Mobile: +385 91 54 288 68 <a href="mailto:ana.strbenac@dzzp.hr">ana.strbenac@dzzp.hr</a></p>

CYPRUS CHYPRE	<p><b>Ms. Marina ARGYROU</b> Senior Fisheries and Marine Research Officer Marine Environment Unit Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR) Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment 101 Vithleem Street 1416, Nicosia – CYPRUS Tel: + 357 22 80 78 52 – Fax: +357 22 77 59 55 <a href="mailto:margyrou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy">margyrou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy</a></p>
EGYPT EGYPTE	<p><b>Prof. Dr. Mustafa FOUDA</b> Minister Advisor for Biodiversity Nature Conservation Sector Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs 30 Misr Helwan El-Zyrea Rd. P.O. Box 11728, Al Maadi, Cairo – Egypt Tel: +202 2527 1391 – Fax: +202 2528 0931 Mobile: 012-2283890 <a href="mailto:foudamos@link.net">foudamos@link.net</a></p>
FRANCE	<p><b>Mme Martine BIGAN</b> Chef de projet, espèces marines Ministère de l'Ecologie, du Développement durable et de la Mer – Direction générale de l'aménagement du logement et de la nature - Direction de l'eau et de la biodiversité -Sous Direction du littoral et des milieux marins La Grande Arche,1, Parvis de la Défense F-92055 – La défense Cedex - FRANCE Tel: +33 1 40 81 32 09 - Fax: +33 1 40 81 71 87 <a href="mailto:martine.bigan@developpement-durable.gouv.fr">martine.bigan@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</a></p>
GEORGIA GEORGIE	<p><b>Mrs. Irina LOMASHVILI</b> Main specialist of the Biodiversity Protection Service Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia 6, Gulua st, Tbilisi, 0114, Georgia Tel/fax: (+995 32) 272 72 31/32 - mob: +995 99 46 07 50 <a href="mailto:irinaloma@yahoo.com">irinaloma@yahoo.com</a></p>
GREECE GRECE	<p><b>Dr. Eleni TRYFON</b> Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change Directorate General for the Environment Natural Management Station 36, Trikalon, Str. GR 11526 Athens, Greece Tel: +30 210 6918202 - Fax: +30 210 6918487 <a href="mailto:e.tryfon@prv.ypeka.gr">e.tryfon@prv.ypeka.gr</a></p>
ITALY ITALIE	<p><b>Dr. Oliviero MONTANARO</b> Direzione per la Protezione della Natura Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare Via Cristoforo Colombo, 44, 00147 Roma ITALIA Tel: +39 06 5722 8487– Fax: +39 06 5722 8424 <a href="mailto:montanaro.oliviero@minambiente.it">montanaro.oliviero@minambiente.it</a></p>
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<b>LIBYA LIBYE</b>	<p><b>Mr. Almokhtar SAIED</b>  Head of Marina and Wild Life Conservation Section  Natural Conservation Department  Environment General Authority (EGA)  P.O. BOX 13793, Tripoli  Algehran - Tripoli - LIBYA  Tel: + 218 214 873 764 - Fax: +218 214 872 160  <a href="mailto:mok405@yahoo.com">mok405@yahoo.com</a></p>
<b>MALTA MALTE</b>	<p><b>Ms. Carmen MIFSUD</b>  Senior Environment Protection Officer  Environment Protection Directorate  Malta Environment &amp; Planning Authority  St. Francis Ravellin, Floriana  PO Box 200 Marsa MRS 1000 MALTA  Tel.: +356 22.90. 71.03 - Fax: +356 21.22.84.38  <a href="mailto:accobams.malta@mepa.org.mt">accobams.malta@mepa.org.mt</a></p>
<b>MONACO</b>	<p><b>Mme Céline VAN KLAVEREN-IMPAGLIAZZO</b>  Secrétaire des Relations Extérieures  Direction des Affaires Internationales  MINISTERE D'ETAT  Place de la Visitation  MC 98015 - MONACO Cedex  Tel: +377 98.98.44.70 /Fax: +377 98.98.19.57  <a href="mailto:cevanklaveren@gouv.mc">cevanklaveren@gouv.mc</a></p>
<b>MONTENEGRO</b>	<i>To be appointed</i>
<b>MOROCCO MAROC</b>	<p><b>Mme Zahra ROCHDI</b>  Directrice de la Coopération et des Affaires Juridiques  Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et des Pêches Maritimes  Nouvelle Cité j - Agdal - B.P. 47 Rabat  Tel :+212 537 68 81 95/96  <a href="mailto:rochdi@mpm.gov.ma">rochdi@mpm.gov.ma</a></p>
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	<p><b>Ms. Marina SEQUEIRA</b>  Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas, I.P.  Divisão de Gestão de Espécies da Fauna e da Flora  Rua de Santa Marta, 55  1150-294 Lisboa  Tel: (+ 351) 21 350 79 00  Fax: (+351) 21 350 79 84  <a href="mailto:marina.sequeira@icnf.pt">marina.sequeira@icnf.pt</a></p>
<b>ROMANIA ROUMANIE</b>	<p><b>Mrs. Camelia DUMITRACHE</b>  National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa"  Blv. Mamaia, 300, Constanta, 8700 – ROMANIA  Tel: +40 241543 288 / +40 241 540 870  Fax: +40 241 831 274  <a href="mailto:iulia@alpha.rmri.ro">iulia@alpha.rmri.ro</a></p>
<b>SLOVENIA SLOVENIE</b>	<p><b>Mr. Andrej BIBIC</b>  Sector for Nature Conservation Policy - Directorate for the Environment  Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning  Dunajska 48  SI-1000 Ljubljana - SLOVENIA  Phone: +386 14787471  <a href="mailto:andrej.bibic@gov.si">andrej.bibic@gov.si</a></p>

<b>SPAIN ESPAGNE</b>	<p><b>Mr. Javier PANTOJA</b>  Head of Marine Biodiversity Unit  Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment  General Directorate for Sustainability of the Coast and the Sea  Division for the Protection of the Sea  Pl. San Juan de la Cruz, s/n  E-28071-Madrid (Spain)  Phone: +34 915976829; Fax: +34 915976902  <a href="mailto:jpantoja@magrama.es">jpantoja@magrama.es</a></p>
<b>SYRIA SYRIE</b>	<p><b>M. Mhmmad MHMMAD</b>  Ministry of State for Environment Affairs  P.O.Box:3773  Damascus – SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  Tel:+963 11 231 8682 / 231 86083  Fax: +963 11 231 2120  Mobile: +963 956 702 264  <a href="mailto:Mhammad.a.a@hotmail.com">Mhammad.a.a@hotmail.com</a></p>
<b>TUNISIA TUNISIE</b>	<p><b>Mr. Mohamed HAMANI</b>  Directeur de la Conservation des Ressources Halieutiques  Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Hydrauliques  Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture  30 Rue Alain Savary – 1002 Belvédère - Tunis – TUNISIE  Tel: + 216 71 890 784 – Fax: +216 71 799 401  <a href="mailto:m.hmani09@yahoo.fr">m.hmani09@yahoo.fr</a></p>
<b>UKRAINE</b>	<p><b>Dr. Volodymyr DOMASHLINETS</b>  Head of Fauna Conservation Division  Directorate of Protection of natural Resources and EcoNet  Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine  Urytskogo str., 35, Kiev, 03035 - UKRAINE  Tel.: +380 44 206 31 27 - Fax: +380 44 206 31 34  <a href="mailto:vdomashlinets@yahoo.com">vdomashlinets@yahoo.com</a>; domashlinets@menr.gov.ua  P. +380 662886229</p>

### I.3- Amendment

The Resolution A/4.1 “Amendments: Extension of the ACCOBAMS geographical scope” was adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to ACCOBAMS (Monaco, 9-12 November 2010).

In this context, according to Art. X, para. 4, of the Agreement, the amendment to the Annex 2 entered into force since 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011, except for Parties that would have entered a reservation in accordance with Art. X, para. 5.

Under Art. X, para. 3, of the Agreement, an amendment to the Agreement, after having been adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, enters into force on the thirtieth day after the date on which two thirds of the Parties to the Agreement at the date of the adoption of the amendment have deposited their instruments of acceptance with the Depositary. Given that the Parties at the moment of the adoption of the amendment were 23, this means that 16 instruments of acceptance are required.

Currently the text of the Agreement and the Annex 1 still remain not yet in force.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013 Bulgaria, Monaco, Spain and Ukraine deposited their instrument of acceptance with the Depositary.

## II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKING PROGRAMME 2011-2013 BY THE SECRETARIAT

The MOP4 mandated the Secretariat to develop activities during the 2011-2013 triennium. The implementation of this mandate is presented here below. Activities described hereafter illustrate also cooperation between ACCOBAMS and International Governmental Organisations and Non Governmental Organisations.

### II.1 - Main activities on Research and Conservation (

*Please refer also to "Report of the Chair of the Scientific Committee and recommendations" (ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc11)*

#### RMTM1 - The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

- An agreement was signed with ACCOBAMS, IUCN, French Agency for Marine Protected Areas and RAC/SPA to appoint a project manager to help in developing the survey project and fund raising. A workshop gathering the scientists involved in the project was held in Rome (16th-17h November 2011, under the request of those scientists to finalize the project in including aerial surveys for some areas.
- The Secretariat was informed by the ACCOBAMS Chair of the Scientific Committee about a Survey to be conducted in the Black Sea in the frame of a EC DG MARE contract. Cetacean surveys will be implemented in the western Black Sea, including Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine (comprehensive aerial and boat surveys).

*Please refer to "Overview of the ACCOBAMS cetacean Survey in the Central and Eastern Black Sea" (ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Inf06)*

#### RMTM2 - Population structure

A joint ECS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS workshop will be organised during the 2013 Meeting of the ECS. The objective was to provide an overview of the existing studies and gap analysis concerning population structure and the outline of a work programme to support population structure studies in the ACCOBAMS area for the subsequent quinquennium.

*Please refer to "Population structure : next steps in the ACCOBAMS area" (ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc21)*

During the Seventh Meeting of the Bureau the Scientific Committee was asked to prepare a recommendation on the identification of origin of cetaceans bred or kept in captivity that could be presented by a Party to CITES in the Scientific Committee section. As it was too late for the forthcoming CITES Meeting to be held in March 2013, this draft Resolution would have to be presented at the next Meeting of the CITES in 2016.

*Please refer to "Identification of cetaceans for the needs of CITES (ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc20)*

#### RMTM4 - RMTM9 - Species Conservation Plans

- Concerning the Mediterranean common dolphin, terms of reference for a new composition of a Steering Committee for the conservation of Mediterranean common dolphins were proposed during the Eighth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.

*Please refer to "ACCOBAMS Working Groups and relevant Terms of References" (ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc29)*

- Concerning the Mediterranean bottlenose dolphin, Mr. Guido Gnone was designated as general coordinator (to replace Ms. Caterina Fortuna).

- For the Cuvier's beaked whales, the last CMS COP (Bergen, Norway 2011) asked the Scientific Committee to prepare a proposal to include the Ziphius in the Appendix 1 of the CMS to be presented to the CMS MOP 11 in 2014. The proposal was sent to the CMS Secretariat on September 2013.  
*Please refer to "Proposal to include the Cuvier's beaked whale in Annex I of the CMS" (ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc19)*
- About Black Sea cetaceans, the Secretariat participated to the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Black Sea Commission (22-23 November 2012, Istanbul, Turkey). On the occasion of the signature of a MoU between both Secretariats a list of concrete activities were established according to the decisions of the BSC Parties.

#### **RMTM10 - Bycatch and interaction with fisheries**

On the occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> GFCM Commission (14-19 May 2012, Marrakech, Morocco) a MoU was signed between the GFCM and ACCOBAMS Secretariats. An International Workshop on By-Catch was organized (7-9 December 2011, Antalya, Turkey) by the GFCM in collaboration with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.

A project coordinated by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and the Secretariat of the General Fisheries (GFCM) on cetacean bycatch and depredation reduction in the Agreement's area is in preparation. The Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas of the Mediterranean Action Plan is partner to the project.

As a first step, the project is implemented in the Western Mediterranean with a view towards extending this experience to the rest of the area of competence of ACCOBAMS and GFCM. National partners associated to this project are from Algeria, France, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia. The total budget is 622 000€ (75% from **MAVA Foundation**).

Particular emphasis shall be placed on fishermen capacity building, national authorities' information and awareness and technology transfer.

#### **RMTM11 - Anthropogenic Noise**

- Noise Working Group: During the last Meeting of the Parties, the Resolution 4.17 (Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on Cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area) was adopted with the task for the Working Group to go ahead with this issue. The composition of the Working Group was approved by the Seventh Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and Yanis Souami was designated as coordinator.  
The main role of the Working Group was to simplify and clarify Guidelines to facilitate their implementation by the Parties and shipping operators, in particular by providing information about mitigation technologies and management measures as well as their effectiveness and cost.  
The year 2011 was dedicated to contact numerous Organisations and make them aware about the Guidelines.  
A joint Working Group with ASCOBANS was created accordingly to the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee recommendation and on the occasion of the 19<sup>th</sup> ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting (19-23 March 2012).  
After collecting opinion from different actors (industries, states, scientists, NGOs and others), a working platform was created in 2012 to exchange documents on noise with the view of preparing a synthesis.  
The "Cluster Maritime Français", was approached by the Coordinator of the Working Group.
- During the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific Committee, it was decided to appoint a consultant for providing a bibliographic synthesis (*ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc22: Anthropogenic noise and marine mammals: review of the effort in addressing the impact of anthropogenic underwater noise in the ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS areas*) and consulting of

noise-producers (ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc23: *Implementation of underwater noise mitigation measures by industries: Operational and economical constraints*).

- According to the decision of the Parties a Methodological guide (ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc24: *Methodological guide: Guidance on Underwater Noise Mitigation Measures*) was prepared, thanks to a Voluntary Contribution of the Principality of Monaco, by the coordinator of the Working Group. It aims to improve and facilitate the use of the Guidelines to Address the Impact of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area.
- Cuvier's beaked whales : In November 2011, a petroleum company and naval exercises by a military fleet have deployed some exercises in the Ionian Sea. As usual, national stranding networks have been put in alert. In the same time, an atypical mass stranding of Cuvier's beaked whales, *Ziphius cavirostris*, occurred on the western shores of the Greek island of Corfu. Consequently to this event, the Permanent Secretariat approached the UNCLOS Secretariat in order to collect information on other similar events. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) informed the Secretariat that they do not collect information on stranding events and that they would be pleased to reflect in future reports relevant information received from ACCOBAMS.
- During the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific Committee, a statement of concern was prepared about the ongoing seismic survey work in the area of the Hellenic Trench and the ACCOBAMS Secretariat was requested to transmit it to the appropriate authorities and companies.
- The ACCOBAMS Secretariat attended the Sixteenth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical And Technological Advice (30 April – 5 May 2012, Montreal, Canada) and more precisely the Side Event on the impacts of underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity (*please refer to section III.2*).

#### **RMTM12 - Ship strikes**

In the frame of the support of the REPCET programme, the Secretariat is undertaking the translation of a study on “the evaluation of technical alternatives and management measures internationally implemented to reduce the impact of shipping on cetaceans” that will be distributed to the scientific community and will be available on the web site.

The Secretariat co-organised with Pelagos Secretariat, a conference on “ship strikes and presentation of REPCET system” in the frame of the 2013 Monaco Yacht Show.

#### **RMTM13 - Whale watching**

A training on the Label for operators from France and Monaco was organised by Pelagos France during spring 2012 (2-6 April 2012) in collaboration with ACCOBAMS.

Thanks to a voluntary contribution from France, a feasibility study for developing pilot projects of whale watching was carried out in Morocco and Tunisia in 2012. The results of the studies were presented at the 2012 Forum of Mediterranean MPAs (Antalya, Turkey, 25-28 November 2012). The Secretariat initiated contact with a French NGO “Marco Polo – Echanger autrement” (<http://www.marcopolo.asso.fr>) with the view to develop synergies between their activities for promoting ecotourism and pescatourism and the activities supported by ACCOBAMS for developing sustainable whale watching activities in Tunisia and Morocco (component 2 of the project coordinated by ACCOBAMS and GFCM, please refer to RMTM 10).



#### **RMTM14 - Responses to emergency situations**

*Please refer to the item RMTM11*

Some countries expressed their interest to be trained on necropsies. The training is pending to the availability of 2 carcasses. As of October 2013, 4 trainings organised: in Bulgaria; Cyprus, Morocco and Tunisia *Please refer to II.2*

#### **RMTM15 - Marine Protected Areas**

In the frame of the collaboration with the RAC/SPA, the “Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of Marine Protected Areas for Cetaceans” were published.

The Permanent Secretariat continued to strengthen collaboration with International bodies such as MEDPAN (a MoU was signed) and IUCN. The Permanent Secretariat was part of the organisers of the 2012 Forum of Mediterranean MPAs that was held end of November 2012 in Antalya (Turkey). On this occasion, the Secretariat organized two events on the whale watching activities as a tool for promoting sustainable tourism and for raising environmental awareness in the MPAs.

A manual for MPAs managers was prepared jointly with MedPAN and RAC/SPA This manual is aimed at supporting MPA managers to take into consideration the cetacean component in MPA management.

A workshop was convened in April 2013, at ECS in Portugal in spring 2013 on MPA management (please refer to III.2).

The Secretariat was also present at IMPAC 3 in Marseilles 21-25 October 2013, to support the inclusion of the cetacean conservation element in the wider process of MPA development.

#### **RMTM17 - Climate Change**

During the first semester 2014, a workshop is planned to be organized in collaboration with the RAC/SPA and the participation of other regional instruments to address the climate change issues and their impacts on the migratory species (turtles and cetaceans) in the Black and Mediterranean Seas.

### National Action Plans on cetacean conservation

The National Action Plans for cetacean conservation for Algeria is in preparation.  
In Morocco the National Action Plan is being finalised.

### Training for cetacean necropsies

The Secretariat started to set up a training regarding the necropsies of cetaceans for veterinarians or scientists usually involved in this task:

- The first training took place in Bulgaria (July 2012)
- The second in Morocco (January 2013)
- The third in Cyprus (June 2013)
- The fourth in Tunisia (June 2013)

It plans to be continued in 2014 in Countries asking for such training that have opportunity to collect and store one or two cetacean carcasses from a stranding.

This training is also aimed to reinforce capacity building and help in implementing better use of the Guidelines regarding the best practices and procedures for dealing with mass mortality events due to chemical pollution, noise and pathogenic agents.

### Second Biennial Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries (CSMC 2, 12-14 October 2011, El Jadida, Morocco)

The Organisation of this Conference came from a need expressed by the Scientific Community of this region. The Conference was organised with the aim to assess the knowledge acquired on cetaceans in the South and East Mediterranean, identify potential gaps and stimulate the development of conservation actions in order to promote the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Agreement.

The Second Conference was organised in collaboration with the Department of Maritime Fisheries of Morocco, the University Chouaïb Doukkali (UCD) and the "Réseau National des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer" (REMER). This Conference benefited from the financial support of the Regional Activity Center for Specially protected Areas (UNEP/MAP/RAC/SPA) and the Principality of Monaco.

About sixty participants from 7 Mediterranean countries took part to the Conference. Participants were scientists, students, PhD candidates and administrators from environmental national agencies.

The Conference discussions and presentations were based on five round tables, a poster session and a formation workshop on a dolphin necropsy. Subjects of the round tables were: "Interactions between cetaceans and human activities", "Monitoring of cetacean populations", "Marine Protected Areas", "National Action Plans" and "Monitoring of cetacean strandings".

*Please refer to document ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Inf43 "Recommendations from the Second Biennial Conference on Cetacean Conservation in South Mediterranean Countries"*

### Cetacean sighting database

An expert (Tilen Genov) continues his work on the ACCOBAMS initiative to contribute to add representative cetacean datasets from the Mediterranean and Black Seas regions in OBIS-SEAMAP.

The Secretariat met the Representative of the “Office de l’Environnement de Corse” in September 2012, to talk about perspectives of INTERCET. INTERCET is a web-GIS application. It joins together the GIS technology and the Web logic of sharing data and information. (please refer to the section of the Report of the Scientific Committee).

The ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat is implementing an interactive database. The aim of the project is to collect the main and most important information of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat and transpose them to multiple GIS layers. Our layers present: the scientific projects that have been realized with the distribution of the Cetaceans, the Marine Protected areas that have an interest for the Cetaceans, the whale watching activities in the area, and many other information in relation with the objectives of the Agreement.

### Public awareness and communication material

-The Permanent Secretariat developed new communication material:

CDs, posters, roll-up panels presenting the Agreement and its activities on the occasion of various international meetings have also been edited.

- The UNEP/MAP/RAC/SPA, in collaboration with the Secretariat, published a booklet on the Guidelines for Marine Protected Areas issued from the ACCOBAMS-MOP3/2007/Res 3.22 adopted by Contracting Parties.

The Principality of Monaco invited the Permanent Secretariat to present the Agreement activities to the “2012 Yeosu Expo” (12<sup>th</sup> May -12<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 Yeosu, South Korea), under the theme “*The Living Ocean and Coast: diversity of resources and sustainable activities*”.

Thanks to the support of the “Whales what else” Association a set of games for the young public was created.

## II.3 - Meetings

a)

### Representation of ACCOBAMS

Since the Fourth Meeting of the Parties (November 2010), the Permanent Secretariat was represented to meetings and workshops in order to liaise with other Organisations and to strengthen collaboration.

During these contacts, the Secretariat presented the activities of the Agreement, disseminated information material and investigated with the Country representatives ways of strengthening cooperation for the implementation of ACCOBAMS.

Since last Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau, Permanent Secretariat participated to:

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (25-26 January 2011, Istanbul, Turkey)

- 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the GFCM (7-11 February 2011, Marseille, France) and 35<sup>th</sup> General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (9-14 May 2011, Rome, Italy)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the [European Cetacean Society](#) (21-23 March 2011, Cádiz, Spain)
- Knowledge and conservation of submarine canyons of the Mediterranean 26-27 April 2011, Monaco)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Scientific and Technical Committee of Pelagos Sanctuary (13 May 2011, Monaco)
- 18<sup>th</sup> ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (4-6 May 2011, Bonn, Germany)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (17-20 May 2011, Marseille, France)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Marine Protected Areas for Marine Mammals (7-11 November 2011, Martinique)
- Meeting organised by Corsica Mare Osservazione on cetaceans (17th September 2011, Corsica, France)
- Seminar Safesea Project “Sustainability of local fishing arts and the promotion of a safer sea for cetaceans” (16-17 April 2011, Portugal)
- MEDPAN- Steering Committee of the activities related to capacity building of MPA managers in the Mediterranean (26th September 2011, Marseille, France)
- DOALOS - Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (31 May - 1 June 2011, New York, USA)
- UNEP/MAP – Working group on Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) (3-4 March 2011, Athens, Greece)
- SAP BIO : follow up of the CBD CoP 10. (4th -5th April 2011, Tunis, Tunisia)
- UNEP/CMS - Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (20-25 November, Bergen, Norway). See section III
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats - 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee (29 November - 2 December 2011, Strasbourg, France)
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE), Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA), 2<sup>nd</sup> Transversal Working Group on By-catch (7-9 December 2011, Antalya, Turkey)
- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE), (23-26 January 2012, Rome, Italy)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (8-10 February 2012, Paris, France)

- GFCM - Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Fourteenth Session, 2<sup>nd</sup> Transversal Working Group on By-catch (20-24 February 2012, Sofia, Bulgaria)
- 19<sup>th</sup> ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (20-22 March 2012, Galway, Ireland)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society (26-28 March 2012, Galway, Ireland)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice under the Convention on Biological Diversity (30 April – 5 May 2012, Montreal, Canada)
- GFCM - 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission - (14-19 May 2012, Marrakesh, Morocco)
- Workshop on the Application of the Ecosystem Approach by MAP (29-30 May 2012, Athens, Greece)
- Meeting on Management plan for *Tursiops truncatus* in Mediterranean Sea (23 May 2012, Marseille, France)
- ICCAT Sub Committee on ecosystems (2 - 5 July 2012, Sète, France)
- Fourth Meeting of SAP BIO Advisory Committee and Third Meeting of SAP BIO National Correspondents (4 July 2012, Malaga, Spain)
- 15<sup>th</sup> AG FOMLR Meeting and workshop on Black Sea Cetaceans Protection / Conservation (4-5 September 2012, Istanbul, Turkey )
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats - 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change (1-2 October 2012, Strasbourg, France)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS (22-24 October 2012, Brighton, UK )
- 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (22 -23 November 2012, Istanbul, Turkey)
- MEDPAN - The 2012 forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (25-28 November 2012, Antalya, Turkey)
- Meeting of the Correspondence Group on GES and Targets Biodiversity and Fisheries Cluster (7-8 February 2013, Roma, Italy)
- GFCM - Sub-Committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (18 – 20 February 2013, Roma, Italy)
- Joint GFCM BSC Workshop on IUU Fishing in the Black Sea (25-27 February 2013, Istanbul, Turkey)
- Training course 2013 Shipping and cetaceans - Souffleurs d'Ecume (29 March 2013, Marseille, France)
- 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society (2-3 April 2013, Setubal, Portugal)

- Second Meeting of the GFCM Working Group on the Black Sea (WGBS)(24-26 April 2013, Varna, Bulgaria)
- MedPAN – 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee (17 May 2013, Malaga, Spain)
- Ramoge - Working group on ICZM (28 May 2013 and 19 September 2013, Monaco)
- Fifth Conference of the Parties of Pelagos (4-5 June 2013, Roma, Italy)
- MEDPOL National Focal Points Meeting (18 – 21 June 2013, Barcelona, Spain)
- International Conference on "Sustainable Development Solutions for the Mediterranean Region", (3-5 July 2013 Pontignano – Siena, Italy)
- Fourth meeting of National Correspondents of the SAP BIO (1st July 2013, Rabat, Morocco)
- Eleventh Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs (2-5 July 2013, Rabat, Morocco)
- 20th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (27-29 August 2013, Warsaw, Poland)
- Ramoge: Working group regarding public awareness (5 September 2013, Monaco)
- Training on INTERCET database (25 September 2013, Carry le Rouet, France)
- IMPAC 3 (21-24 September 2013, Marseilles, France)
- Sixth Meeting of Scientific and Technical Pelagos Committee (30-31 October 2013, Monaco)

b)	<i>Institutional meetings organised by the Agreement</i>
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#### **Scientific Committee Meetings:**

##### ***Seventh Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (29-31 March 2011, Monaco)***

Please refer to the Reference document ACCOBAMS-SC7/2011/Doc29.

##### ***Eighth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (13-15 November 2012, Monaco)***

Please refer to the Reference document ACCOBAMS-SC8/2012/Doc23

#### **Bureau Meetings:**

##### ***Seventh Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau (13-14 December 2011, Monaco)***

Please refer to the Reference document ACCOBAMS-BU7/2011/Doc17

##### ***Eighth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau (11-12 December 2012, Monaco)***

Please refer to the Reference document ACCOBAMS-BU8/2012/Doc23

##### ***Second Meeting of the Extended Bureau of ACCOBAMS (7-8 May 2013, Monaco)***

Please refer to the Reference document ACCOBAMS-BU-EXT2/2013/Doc23

#### **Regional Workshops**

During its Seventh Meeting (Monaco, 13-14 December 2011), the Bureau approved the organization of a new set of Regional Workshops in 2012 and recommended to use the opportunity they offer to

consult with the Focal Points about the preparation of the working programme for the next triennium and about the ACCOBAMS Strategy.

Five Regional Workshops were organized in June 2012:

- RW1- "Western Mediterranean Workshop" (10-11 June 2012, Hammamet, Tunisia) : Italy, France, Monaco, Morocco, Spain and Portugal ;
- RW2- "Central Mediterranean Workshop" (13-14 June 2012, Hammamet, Tunisia) : Croatia, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia (no representative from Albania);
- RW3- "Southern Mediterranean Workshop" (15-16 June 2012, Hammamet, Tunisia) : Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia ;
- RW4- "Eastern Mediterranean Workshop" (26-27 June 2012, Istanbul, Turkey): Greece, Lebanon (no representative from Cyprus and Syria) ;
- RW5- "Black Sea Workshop" (28-29 June 2012, Istanbul, Turkey): Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Ukraine.

## II.4 - Projects

### a) Call for proposals of projects under the Supplementary Conservation Grants fund

During their Second Meeting (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, November 2004), Parties to ACCOBAMS decided to establish a Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund. This Fund is based on voluntary contributions from Parties or any other source in order to help developing Countries and Countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the Agreement.

In order to ensure more transparency in the process for granting funds to projects under the Additional Conservation Grants Fund, the Secretariat prepared a call for proposals of projects under the Supplementary Conservation Grants fund that was welcomed by the Seventh Scientific Committee Meeting (Monaco, 29-31 March 2011) and by the Bureau.

**2011** : This document was sent to all Focal Points and all ACCOBAMS Partners in May 2011. The Secretariat received 6 projects. After evaluation from the Scientific Committee and Bureau decisions, two different projects on photo identification were supported in Bulgaria and Romania.

**2012** : The document was sent to all Focal Points and all ACCOBAMS Partners in August 2012. The new call for proposals addresses Capacity Building issues. The Secretariat received 9 projects, 7 are eligible. During the Eighth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (Monaco, 13-15 November 2012), the Scientific Committee recommended that the process of reviewing proposals submitted under the present tender should be postponed until after the Bureau Meeting.

### b) Module on cetacean conservation

The education of future decision makers and professionals to issues related to the marine environment is the primary objective of the project, organised with the support of the Italian Ministry of Environment. The teaching module is designed to enrich students' knowledge in cetacean conservation through a multidisciplinary approach and is primarily aimed at training scientists from all French-speaking countries of the Agreement area. The module of cetology represents 30 hours of training on the following item:

- species of cetaceans (identification, anatomy, physiology, adaptation, parasitology, etc.)
- threats to cetaceans (interaction, pollution, collisions, noise, etc.)
- study skills (observation/ rating population, photo-identification, passive acoustics, etc.)
- legal and legislative framework on the conservation of cetaceans.

Scientific Masters for this project have been identified in the French-speaking countries of the Agreement (Algeria, France, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia). More than two hundred students already received teaching from the ACCOBAMS module of cetology. Relevant professors from

each Country are going to be appointed to follow the implementation of the process. Courses contents were translated in English in order to start the implementation in English speaking Universities next triennium.

Country	City	University	Faculty	Dates
<b>Algeria</b>	Oran	Es-Sénia Oran	Faculty of science	October / November 2012
<b>France</b>	Corte	Pascal Paoli	Faculty of science	December 2013
<b>Lebanon</b>	Beyrouth	Saint Joseph	Faculty of science	March 2013
	Jounieh	Saint-Esprit de Kaslik	Faculty of science	March 2013
<b>Tunisia</b>	Tunis	Tunis-Carthage	Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie	March 2013
	Tunis	Tunis-Carthage	Faculty of science	March 2013
<b>Morocco</b>	Tanger	Abdelmalek Essaadi	Faculty of science et Technology	October 2012
	El Jadida	Chouaïb DOUKALI	Faculty of science	October 2012

### **c) Project regarding threatened marine species: mitigating the impacts of fishing activities**

The Secretariat is developing of a project within the area of cooperation between the Secretariats of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) and the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM).

The aim: to improve conservation of threatened marine species, such as cetaceans, turtles and seabirds, in fishery activities in the Mediterranean.

Based on the relevant decisions adopted by the Riparian Countries of the Mediterranean within regional cooperation bodies (ACCOBAMS Resolutions and GFCM recommendations), the projects intends to:

- mitigate negative interactions between threatened species and fishery activities and also,
- decrease the pressure on species through the diversification of small-scale fishermen activities by promoting ecotourism.

Particular emphasis shall be placed on fishermen capacity building, national authorities' information and awareness and technology transfer.

The project received a support from **MAVA Foundation**. The total budget is 622 000€ (75% from MAVA Foundation). Particular emphasis shall be placed on fishermen capacity building, national authorities' information and awareness and technology transfer.

### **d) Development of a regional programme for assessing and reducing the impact of ghost fishing on marine biodiversity**

According to the ACCOBAMS Conservation plan, the Secretariat is working on a development of a regional programme for assessing and reducing the impact of ghost fishing on marine biodiversity, in particular fishes, cetaceans and turtles, in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

Aim: to assess and reduce ghost fishing in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for strengthening the conservation of marine biodiversity, in particular fishes, cetaceans, and sea turtles.

Objectives:

- To improve data collection for assessing the quantity of derelict fishing gears in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and their impact on marine biodiversity (and associated financial costs);
- To promote the retrieval of lost fishing gears;
- To prevent abandonment, loss and the discarding of fishing gears at sea.

Strengthening collaboration between global and regional intergovernmental organizations



interested in the issue of ghost fishing or marine debris in general will be pursued as a cross-cutting objective of the project to ensure better synergy and to optimize efforts.

## **II.5 - National Report on line**

In accordance with Resolution 4.6 the Secretariat launched the preparation of the new version of the online reporting system of ACCOBAMS and to feed the related databases with information contained in the national reports to ACCOBAMS and to other relevant conventions (CMS, Barcelona Convention, CBD, GFCM). Since 25 April 2012 the system is available on the ACCOBAMS web site and the Parties are invited to review the information it contains, to complete and update it as appropriate.

## **III - COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.**

### **III.1- CMS**

*Please refer to RMTM4 - RMTM9 - Species Conservation Plans*

The last CMS Conference of the Parties (Bergen, Norway 2011) asked the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee to prepare a proposal to include the Mediterranean Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*) in the Appendix 1 (granting to this species the endangered status) of the CMS to be presented to the CMS COP 11 in 2014 (please refer to ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc19 « Proposal to include the Cuvier's beaked whale in Annex I of the CMS). The Secretariat contacted the CMS to put the document on the Scientific Council Workspace as a Wiki, allowing the users to make comments if they wish

The final document needs to be submitted by an ACCOBAMS/ CMS Party at least 150 days before the COP. Assuming the COP will take place in early November (not confirmed yet), this would be around the end of May 2014.

### **III.2- ASCOBANS**

*Please refer to RMTM2 - Population structure, RMTM11 - Anthropogenic Noise, RMTM15 - Marine Protected Areas*

The Secretariat regularly participates to the institutional meetings of ASCOBANS and joint intercessional activities are undertaken:

- joint work on noise disturbances
- joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Working Group on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- joint ECS/ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS Workshop on the Implementation of the Cetacean Component of the Habitats Directive in EU Member States (24 March 2012)
- joint ECS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Workshop on Population Structure (ECS, 2013)
- joint ECS/ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Workshop on the Challenge of spatially managing cetaceans - a highly mobile animal group (ECS, 2013)

The last COP of ASCOBANS adopted a resolution presented by France and UK focusing on the collaboration between both instruments. Relevant items were identified concerning activities to be developed in the common area: by catch, ship strikes, population structure, strandings events.

In addition, the last ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (Warsaw, Poland, 27-29 August 2013) proposed to extent the Noise Working Group to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS) with appropriately amended Terms of Reference (please refer to the Document ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc29).

### III.3. CBD

The Secretariat participated to the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice under the Convention on Biological Diversity (30 April – 5 May 2012, Montreal, Canada).

On this occasion, the Secretariat presented the work carried by ACCOBAMS in order to address underwater noise issue during a side event convened on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 on “Impacts of Underwater Noise on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity: Global Cooperation for a Quieter Ocean”. This event was convened jointly by the CBD Secretariat and the CMS Secretariat in collaboration with UNEP, OSPAR Secretariat, ASCOBANS Secretariat, ACCOBAMS Secretariat and Ocean Noise Coalition. It discussed the impacts of underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats in the view of facilitating international and regional cooperation on addressing this issue.

The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (8-19 October, Hyderabad, India) adopted two decisions on marine and coastal biodiversity, namely on:

- Ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs). In this decision, the CBD COP 11 took note of the Mediterranean Synthesis Report and its conclusion regarding the continuation of the work in close cooperation with Mediterranean countries and relevant organizations, in order to finalize the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in the Mediterranean region. CBD COP 11 also took note of the particular need for a regional workshop to be organized in the Mediterranean region in order to finalize the description of areas that meet the criteria for ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in time for its report to be considered by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat will maintain contact with UNEP/MAP/RAC-SPA which initiates this initiative in 2009 to be part of the forthcoming regional workshop.
- Other matters related to marine and coastal biodiversity. This decision addresses the biodiversity concerns in sustainable fisheries, the issue of impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and the issue of impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity.

### III.4. European Commission

The Secretariat presented relevant activities carried out by ACCOBAMS to DG Environment and DG MARE (10 -11 July 2012, Bruxelles, Belgium). MFSD issues were more specially considered. The Secretariat met also EC Directorate General for Development and Cooperation to discuss possible ways to collaborate.

Contact was made with a Member of the European Parliament to discuss the issue of oil exploration activities in the Hellenic Trench.

### III. 5. Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)

#### a) Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach

At their last Ordinary Meeting (8-10 February 2012, Paris, France), the Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted Decision IG.20/4 related to the implementation of the MAP ecosystem approach roadmap. ACCOBAMS is mentioned in an operative paragraph of the Decision related to the preparation of an integrated monitoring program in cooperation with regional competent organizations.

ACCOBAMS attended a workshop organized by MAP on the Application of the Ecosystem Approach (29-30 May 2012, Athens, Greece) and informed the meeting about Resolution 4.8 related to the ACCOBAMS contribution to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Considering the convergence between the MSFD and the implementation of MAP ecosystem approach roadmap, and considering the MAP's will to associate its Partners in the next steps of the ECAP process, the Secretariat of the ACCOBAMS confirmed its interest to participate to the Coordinating Group as well as to the Working Group on Good Environmental Status (GES) and Targets, in particular to the sub-groups "Pollution and Litter" and "Biodiversity and Fisheries", that will be established by MAP.

Please refer to ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc10 "Participation of ACCOBAMS to the Ecosystems Approach Process"

#### b) REMPEC

Following the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Paris, 8-10 February 2012), the ACCOBAMS Secretariat confirmed the interest of ACCOBAMS in being involved in the Working Group that will be established for drafting an action plan to implement the Offshore Protocol pursuant Decision IG.20/12.

#### c) MEDPOL

During the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Barcelona Convention (8-10 February 2012, Paris, France) the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat took note of the Decision IG.20/10 regarding the "Adoption of the Strategic Framework for Marine Litter management".

At this occasion, the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat has expressed its wish to collaborate with MEDPOL and more particularly regarding the objectives one and five as the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan (Annex II to the Agreement).

#### d) RAC/SPA

Pursuant Decision IG.20/4 adopted at the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, RAC/SPA is initiating the SAP BIO updating process. ACCOBAMS is contributing to the process as a Member of the SAP BIO Advisory Committee.

In addition, RAC/SPA will continue activities related to the development of MPAs in open seas, including the deep seas. ACCOBAMS will continue to be part of the process as a Member of the project Steering Committee.

Please refer to RMTM 15 "Marine Protected areas": A manual for MPAs managers was prepared jointly with MedPAN and RAC/SPA This manual is aimed at supporting MPA managers to take into consideration the cetacean component in MPA management.

### III. 5. BSC

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat signed Memorandum of Collaboration with the Black Sea Commission Secretariat (ACCOBAMS Sub-Regional Coordination Unit for Black Sea Countries) on the occasion of

the 28<sup>th</sup> Black Sea Commission Meeting (22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012, Istanbul Turkey). A joint Working programme will be soon defined to develop concrete activities.

### **III. 6. GFCM**

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat signed a MoU with the GFCM Secretariat at the occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting of the GFCM (Marrakech, May 2012). Indeed, Parties to ACCOBAMS invited regularly the Secretariat to develop collaboration with the GFCM and to establish a MoU if relevant. Both Secretariats are participating mutually to technical and institutional meetings. Currently the main item of collaboration is the assessment and mitigation of bycatch.

The 36<sup>th</sup> GFCM Commission, adopted two Recommendations of importance for ACCOBAMS:

- Recommendation on mitigation of incidental catches of cetaceans in the GFCM area
- Recommendation on the establishment of a set of minimum standards for bottom-set gillnet fisheries for turbot and conservation of cetaceans in the Black Sea

### **III. 7. RAMOGE**

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat participated in Meetings of two working groups:

- Working group on Integrated Coastal Zone Management,
- Working group on public awareness

### **III. 8. Pelagos**

*See section II.1 RMTM13 - Whale watching.* The new Executive Secretary, Mrs Fannie Dubois was appointed by the 3 Pelagos Parties. The Secretariat started exchanges to identify activities based on collaboration between both Secretariats decided by the common Parties.

### **III. 9. IUCN**

An agreement was signed with ACCOBAMS, IUCN, French Agency for Marine Protected Areas and RAC/SPA to appoint a project manager to help in developing the survey project and fund raising. For administrative reasons the process was delayed. The Secretariat is still waiting for an official statement from French Agency for Marine Protected Areas.

### **III.10. MEDPAN**

MedPAN is the network of managers of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean. The objective of the network is to improve the effectiveness of marine protected areas management in the Mediterranean.

The MedPAN network today counts over 29 members, mainly managers of marine protected areas from the entire Mediterranean basin, and 16 partners that are keen to contribute to the strengthening of the network.

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat signed a Memorandum of Collaboration with MedPAN in March 2012 in order to:

- Promote the establishment of a representative network of MPAs, in particular through the establishment of MPAs important for cetaceans conservation

- Develop capacity building activities for MPA managers on issues related to cetaceans conservation.

In addition, MedPAN adopted the system of call of proposals for projects to be developed in MPAs. In order to avoid duplication both Secretariats will exchange on the projects received envisaging if relevant to share the financial support.

MedPAN co-organized with RAC/SPA a Forum on MPAs, held in Antalya, Turkey, 25-28 November 2012. Please refer to *RMTM15 - Marine Protected Areas: A manual for MPAs managers* was prepared jointly with MedPAN and RAC/SPA This manual is aimed at supporting MPA managers to take into consideration the cetacean component in MPA management.



## **ANNEX IX: Report of the Chair of the Scientific Committee and Recommendations**

## REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS (2011-2013)

The MOP4 mandated the Scientific Committee to develop activities during the 2011-2013 triennium, in collaboration with Sub Regional Coordination Units, ACCOBAMS Secretariat and Partners.

Two Scientific Committee Meetings were held during the triennium 2011-2013:

***Seventh Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (29-31 March 2011, Monaco)***

Please refer to the Reference document ACCOBAMS-SC7/2011/Doc29.

***Eighth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee (13-15 November 2012, Monaco)***

Please refer to the Reference document ACCOBAMS-SC8/2012/Doc23.

The composition of the Scientific Committee was as follow:

**CIESM**

- BIRKUN Alexei, (Chair)
- RIDOUX Vincent, CIESM (Vice-Chair)
- KEREM Dani,
- NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA Giuseppe,
- OZTURK Ayaka,

**Regional representatives:**

- BAKER, Mohamed (Eastern Mediterranean, alternate),
- BEAUBRUN, Pierre (Western Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic area, alternate),
- BOUTIBA, Zitouni (Western Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic area),
- BRADAI, Mohamed Nejmeddine (Central Mediterranean, alternate),
- HOLCER, Drasko (Central Mediterranean),
- IBRAHIM, Ameer (Eastern Mediterranean),
- KRIVOKHIZHIN, Sergey (Black Sea),
- MIKHAILOV, Konstantin (Black Sea, alternate),

ECS: PANIGADA Simone,

IUCN Med: TROYA Antonio,

IWC: DONOVAN Greg.

### 1. - Main activities on Research and Conservation

#### **RMTM1 - The ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative**

A preliminary survey in the North-Western part of the Black Sea has been carried out in summer 2013. The project, titled 'Studies for carrying out the Common Fisheries Policy: Adverse Fisheries Impacts on Cetacean Populations in the Black Sea', have started in August 2012 and is managed by the MacAlister Elliott & Partners Ltd. (MEP, United Kingdom) and funded by the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission. Both aerial and vessel based surveys have been conducted in the waters of Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine. According to the project's work plan, results of the surveys will be presented in 2014.



## **RMTM2 - Population structure**

A workshop on cetacean population structure was organized following a decision of the ACCOBAMS Parties on the advice of its Scientific Committee to identify key research priorities within the ACCOBAMS area that would elucidate population structure of the major cetacean species in the region and support their conservation and management.

The principal aim of the workshop was to identify and combine different approaches to investigate cetacean population structure, and to promote a multidisciplinary approach through the collaboration of different research groups in the ACCOBAMS Agreement area, to help identify management units for the different species that occur regularly.

The workshop agreed on the benefit of combining multiple approaches in population structure assessments, and on the vital importance of identifying Management Units for conservation. It also agreed on the need to identify different types of data, and stressed the importance of consideration of their relative strengths and limitations, as well as sampling issues that can affect interpretation of the results. Furthermore, it was underlined the important role that oceanographic features play on population structure processes and migratory routes.

During the final discussion, several species and issues were identified for immediate attention with respect to investigating population structure. The participants underlined the importance to examine the status of short-beaked common dolphins particularly in Greek waters, following marked declines in the Eastern Mediterranean, and to investigate the possibility that the species has moved into different sea areas. Risso's dolphin was another species highlighted as needing priority attention, given its relatively low abundance and patchy distribution, apparent strong site fidelity from photo-ID studies, suggesting that local clusters of animals may form separate management units.

Killer whales in the Strait of Gibraltar and Gulf of Cadiz were considered a population in need of urgent conservation intervention due to its small size and relatively high mortality rate. Further study of individuals from both Gibraltar and the Atlantic are important to elucidate population structure.

Harbour porpoises in the ACCOBAMS Agreement Area were also deemed in need of urgent attention. Evidence that the isolated Black Sea population had experienced a severe genetic bottleneck in the last 30 years correlated with an observed marked decline in abundance makes it all the more important to investigate the genetics of the small number of animals reported in recent times from the neighbouring Aegean Sea.

Cuvier's beaked whale is another Mediterranean species with localised distributions and distinct habitat preferences. At present, nothing is known of its population structure, and the workshop recommended that attention be paid to DNA sampling of individuals from within its various hotspots.

Finally, the knowledge of the genetic identity of fin whales within different regions of the Mediterranean remains equivocal, with some evidence indicating genetic isolation from the Atlantic and other evidence suggesting interchange between the two regions.

**Tursiops**

In 2012, under the direction of Caterina Fortuna, the sub-areas coordinators were asked to process an extended report on the status of the bottlenose dolphin, according to the data available.

A total of 10 contributions were received from 13 sub-areas (2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13). The overall pattern shows an inhomogeneous and fragmented picture: only 5 sub-areas were able to produce a proper distribution analysis (presence/absence) of Tt within their geographical borders; only 4 sub-areas were able to produce an abundance estimate of Tt within their borders and only in two cases these estimates seem to be reliable and representative of the entire sub-area (sub-areas 2 and 5).

Following this first step, a short questionnaire was sent to all the sub-areas coordinators, asking for their perception in relation to the bottlenose status in each sub-area. We received 11 complete answers from 13 sub-areas (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13).

The bottlenose dolphin is considered as a regular species in all the sub-areas. It is considered stable in 5 sub-areas (2, 4, 6, 10a, 13); decreasing in 2 sub-areas (10b, 11); increasing in 2 sub-areas (1, 5). In three sub-areas (8, 9, 12) the coordinators have no idea of possible trends (see attached report for complete results).

Data shortage seems to be a problem in most of the sub-areas. However, at least in some cases, it is not clear if the effort to aggregate all the data available was profitable. The dispersion of data and the difficulty to aggregate these in a rationale system may be a common problem in several sub-areas.

**Ziphius**

Cuvier's beaked whale has been one of the key species for consideration by the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee has considered recent efforts produced by Ana Cañadas and colleagues to map highly used areas by beaked whales in the Mediterranean Sea and focused attention on the need to identify sensitive areas. The Permanent Secretariat was asked to prepare, with guidance from the authors, a fact sheet based on this study to communicate on this issue targeting in particular decision makers, navy sector and the general public.

The Scientific Committee suggested also that a side-event on this issue could be organized on this issue at the next MOP.

The Scientific Committee developed a Statement of Concern about Atypical Mass Strandings of Beaked Whales in the Ionian Sea, which had been sent to focal points in March 2012, but at the time of the Scientific Committee meeting had received no feedback. A drafting group (Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara, Natacha Aguilar, Ana Cañadas, Alexandros Frantzis, Nicolas Entrup, Tim Lewis and Walter Zimmer) were charged to draft, by January 2013, a Recommendation reiterating the elements of the previous relevant recommendations from Scientific Committee, the Statement of Concern as well as new information if available. The recommendation was then reviewed, revised and endorsed by the Scientific Committee and submitted towards the Bureau. It contained sound information which is suitable to be used as a fact sheet and background briefing towards decision makers.

A CMS Appendix I listing proposal for Cuvier's beaked whale has been submitted to the CMS Scientific Council workspace for comment, and it is hoped that a CMS Party or several Parties would formally sponsor the listing proposal and submit it to the CMS Secretariat at least 150 days before the next Meeting of the CMS Conference of the Parties in late 2014.

**Fin whale**

The fin whale is a highly mobile, pelagic cetacean found at its highest regional concentrations in the northwestern Mediterranean and particularly within the Pelagos Sanctuary's boundaries. During the last few years, evidence was provided that fin whales occur in important concentrations well beyond the Sanctuary's western boundary, i.e., south of the Gulf of Lion towards the Balearic Islands, where in fact models predicted the presence of fin whale feeding habitat. Tracks of eight fin whales, derived from a satellite tagging experiment we conducted in the area in Sept. 2012, while stressing the importance of the Pelagos Sanctuary for the whales, at the same time confirmed the propensity of several whales to spend time to the west of the Sanctuary, in a vast area comprised between the shelf drop in the Gulf of Lion, the west coast of Sardinia and Catalonia. Furthermore, the prediction by the same models of the existence of important fin whale habitat in the Tyrrhenian Sea, just south of the Sanctuary's eastern boundary, were confirmed by observations at sea.

MPAs can provide effective protection to cetaceans, although the high mobility of many species presents a challenge to the applicability of MPAs to their conservation. In spite of its large size (87,000 km), the Pelagos Sanctuary includes only in part the critical habitats of the cetacean populations regularly found within its borders.

Since threats to cetaceans (e.g., maritime traffic, fishing, seismic exploration and effects of climate change) occur throughout the western Mediterranean, extending spatial protection to cover a larger portion of the species' critical habitat would provide a greater potential for addressing these threats. With the significant increase in ecological knowledge acquired in recent years, and with most of the concerned area now having become within national jurisdiction due to the establishment of an EEZ by France and an Ecological Protection Zone by Italy and Monaco, it would now be possible to design and manage a zoned system whereby areas containing cetacean critical habitats outside and within the Sanctuary boundaries are afforded protection. Such system would also contribute to strengthen the bases for the identification of CBD's Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA) in the region, and support the implementation of a Marine Spatial Planning scheme, whereby human activities impacting on cetaceans can be made to coexist with environmental protection.

If a Conservation Plan for fin whales is requested by the Parties, it would be good to follow the effort by the International Whaling Commission to draft conservation and management plans (CMPs) for threatened species and work in synergy with them.

**Black Sea cetaceans**

The implementation of the Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans has been discussed at the 7th and 8th Meetings of the Scientific Committee. The list of priority actions needed for the triennium in collaboration with ACCOBAMS was considered and the importance of the funding and input by ACCOBAMS expertise was emphasized.

The Scientific Committee expressed its concern about reports indicating the continued live removals of bottlenose dolphins from the Black Sea. Such activities are contrary to the objective set within the Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans, which foresees the elimination of live captures of cetaceans, and the provisions of the ACCOBAMS and the Bern Convention. While reports about illegal live removals do not describe the scale of such activities, concerns have been expressed over the lack of official recognition by the Georgian and Ukrainian governments of those facts that indicate the presence of illegal practice of taking live bottlenose dolphins from the wild and keeping them in captivity.

The Scientific Committee produced Recommendation 8.2 aimed to urge the governments to carry out an inventory and thorough assessment of individual identity of all bottlenose dolphins kept in captivity by means of genetic, morphological and photo-ID methods and providing appropriate administrative measures in order to prevent substitution of dolphins that die in captivity by animals taken from the wild.

#### **RMTM10 - Bycatch and interaction with fisheries**

A research and conservation project on the “Adverse Fisheries Impacts on Cetacean Populations in the Black Sea” has started in August 2012 with the end in August 2014. This project is managed by the MacAlister Elliott & Partners Ltd (UK) and funded by the European Commission (DG MARE). The research team consists of specialists from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine and UK. Draft regional strategy for reducing cetacean bycatch in the Black Sea should be one of the outputs.

#### **RMTM11 - Anthropogenic Noise**

In 2011 the Working Group became a joint ACCOBAMS/ ASCOBANS Working Group, and then in 2013 the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee agreed to evolve it further to become a joint ACCOBAMS/ ASCOBANS/CMS Working Group reflecting that the CMS Family was addressing this issue with more seriousness.

In this period, a contact database of industries was created and after collecting the input from different actors (industries, states, scientists, NGOs and others), a working platform was created in 2012 to exchange document on noise with the view of preparing a synthesis. A questionnaire was circulated to industries and experts, although the results of this initiative were limited. An ad hoc working group that met during the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee proposed appointing a consultant for this specific work and the Scientific Committee agreed on a Terms of Reference for a project aimed to provide a synthesis of:

- regulations, directives, resolutions, national laws, etc., about noise
- Guidelines already in place to address noise issue
- current available practices and technologies used to reduce the impact of noise
- field and operational constraints regarding the implementation of the present guidelines
- procedures to evaluate mitigation measures
- as well as developing a perspective on what the best guidelines might look like, comparing these with the measures called for in the ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS guidelines, and identify discrepancies

Finally, the Terms of Reference also sought to identify the scientific information gaps preventing the development of better mitigation measures.

Three documents have been developed through this consultancy and are presented to ACCOBAMS MoP5:

- Doc22Rev1 - Anthropogenic noise and marine mammals: review of the effort in addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise in the ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS areas
- Doc23Rev1 - Implementation of underwater noise mitigation measures by industries: operational and economic constraints
- Doc24 - Methodological guide: Guidance on Underwater Noise Mitigation Measures

Comments were received from the Noise Working Group on all three documents, but time only permitted these comments being reflected in Doc 22 and 23 before the ACCOBAMS MOP.

A symposium about sound and marine mammal was organised by the French Navy. The French Maritime Cluster (FMC) created an industrial working group on noise. Members of this working group reviewed the ACCOBAMS Noise Guidelines and responded to the questionnaire. Meetings were also convened to better understand industrial point of view about noise.

The ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee was informed of a programme of seismic survey work scheduled to take place in the region of the Hellenic Trench including in international waters and reported to be starting in early November. The region constitutes an area of critical habitat for

the endangered Mediterranean sperm whale, whose population only numbers a few hundred individuals at best, and which, as a deep diving species, may be strongly affected by the loud noise used in such surveys. The Hellenic Trench is also an important habitat for Cuvier's beaked whale, another particularly vulnerable species, and the bottlenose dolphin, striped dolphin, common dolphin and Risso's dolphin are also found there. This is an area which ACCOBAMS has proposed should be designated as an Area of Special Importance/MPA because of its cetacean populations.

Finally, during ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting, a broadened Terms of Reference for the Joint Noise Working Group was adopted. These Terms of Reference represent the natural evolution of this group and the important work that it needs to address on behalf of ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and CMS.

Also during the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Meeting an offer from Sigrid Lüber of OceanCare to fill the co-Chair role for ASCOBANS was discussed, as Karsten Brensing was not able to continue in his role of co-Chair for family reasons. The ASCOBANS Parties warmly accepted this offer.

The NWG would benefit from additional guidance as to the focus of efforts in the coming triennium and would welcome this being expressed in *ACCOBAMS Res 5.15: Impact of Anthropogenic Noise*.

### **Hellenic Trench**

During the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee discussed a programme of seismic survey work scheduled to take place in the region of the Hellenic Trench, including in international waters.

The Hellenic Trench constitutes an area of critical habitat for the endangered Mediterranean sperm whale, whose population only numbers a few hundred individuals at best, and which, as a deep diving species, may be strongly affected by the loud noise used in such surveys

The Hellenic Trench is also an important habitat for Cuvier's beaked whale, another particularly vulnerable species, as well bottlenose dolphins, striped dolphins, common dolphins and Risso's dolphins. It is an area which ACCOBAMS has proposed should be designated as an Area of Special Importance/MPA because of its cetacean populations.

The Scientific Committee called on the companies involved in the planned surveys to provide information to the Scientific Committee and take urgent precautionary action to protect the local cetaceans and offered its expertise to the relevant Greek authorities and the industries.

In particular, the Scientific Committee drew the attention to the ACCOBAMS Noise Guidelines, including the deployment of visual and acoustic marine mammal observers empowered to require the shut-down of airguns if cetaceans are detected within the prescribed zone and urged:

- that duplicate surveys should be avoided across the same area;
- alternative approaches to seismic airgun survey should be sought and deployed; and
- efforts should be made to avoid ensonifying adjacent areas simultaneously.

In addition, there should be a full and transparent EIA.

The Scientific Committee requested that ACCOBAMS Secretariat expeditiously transmit their concerns to the appropriate authorities and companies.

Since the Scientific Committee meeting, informal reports have been received that the seismic surveys have now been completed. Indications are that the company plans to commence test drills, starting in the Ionian and possibly the Katakolon Seas, in the first half of 2014.

The Scientific Committee has not been approached by either the Greek authorities or the company involved and has not seen the detailed of any Environmental Impact Assessment.

This situation has reinforced the importance of the European Parliament's amending 'Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment' that now includes research and extraction of mineral resources and decides that the information to be provided within environmental impact assessments should include specific details that mirror those articulated in the ACCOBAMS Noise Guidelines.

#### **RMTM12 - Ship strikes**

ACCOBAMS and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) have recognised the problem of ship strikes within the ACCOBAMS area and have been working together to develop a better understanding of the issue and to develop effective mitigation measures. Several areas of the Mediterranean Sea were identified at the joint ACCOBAMS/IWC workshop on this topic as areas of particular interest due to shipping and cetacean densities:

- (1) the Strait of Gibraltar;
- (2) the Pelagos Sanctuary;
- (3) the area south west of the island of Crete;
- (4) the area around the Balearic Islands;
- (5) area between Almeria and Nador at the eastern side of the Alborán Sea; and in addition at the present meeting;
- (6) The Strait of Sicily and
- (7) The Bay of Biscay was identified as an additional area within the ACCOBAMS extension area.

Collaborative work on ship strike issues should continue, based on the existing recommendations of the joint ACCOBAMS/IWC workshop as well as additional subsequent information received e.g. from the Bay of Biscay. The ultimate objective for ACCOBAMS is to collect information to allow a robust assessment of the extent of ship strikes within the agreement area, and develop and evaluate effective mitigation measures, recognising that there is no universal solution to the issue. While the animal welfare issue applies to all animals, priority for mitigation measures may be directed at areas/species where there is a probable population level effect.

The IWC is funding the role of ship strikes co-ordinators to take forward work on this important issue including the recommendations of the joint workshop. It supports this initiative, noting that one of the co-ordinators (Panigada) is the Chair of the ACCOBAMS ship strikes working group. This will facilitate greatly the collaborative work with the IWC on this matter as well as regular exchange of ideas.

Key components of the work of the ship strikes co-coordinators involve better communications with shipping companies and increased reporting of events via regional initiatives and especially the Global Ship Strikes database (<http://www.iwcoffice.org/ship-strikes>) and the Scientific Committee recommends increased efforts in this regard within the ACCOBAMS area. Continuation of the existing initiatives within the area is recommended, as well as the need by ACCOBAMS Parties to support and promote these efforts as recognised in previous Resolutions (ACCOBAMS Res 3.14, 4.10, CMS 10.15 and ASCOBANS 7.3).

#### **RMTM15 - Marine Protected Areas**

This workshop was proposed to examine best ways to spatially manage threats to marine mammals in Europe and adjacent seas both within and beyond MPAs. Attention was focused upon the areas covered by the two Regional Agreements (ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS), including the area of overlap. The intention was to draw upon the direct experiences of policy makers, managers and scientists using case studies where appropriate from Europe and beyond; and to examine possible approaches to improve MPA management so that it can deal with the wide range of threats that impact marine mammal populations throughout their range. Emphasis was placed upon consideration of large zoned MPAs and the incorporation of multiple species across

marine taxa as well as more general ecosystem considerations. ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS Secretariats kindly provided financial support towards the organisation of this workshop and participation of invited speakers.

#### **RMTM16 - Chemical Pollution and Marine Debris**

In 2013, the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) ran a workshop at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) that considered marine debris and cetaceans. The report of this meeting was submitted to the Scientific Committee (as paper SC/65a/Rep06) and its recommendations reviewed and endorsed. The workshop report will be published in the IWC journal in due course.

A summary of the workshops deliberations are provided in Annex 2.

#### **RMTM17 - Climate Change**

No intervention and no presentation  
Please refer to the report of the Secretariat

## **2. - Communication, awareness and capacity building**

#### **Database**

##### **INTERCET:**

Following experiences on Tursiops truncatus conservation Plan (RMTM 5), the coordinator propose to start an extended data aggregation process on a common Web-GIS platform (INTERCET).

A list of potential data contributors at Mediterranean level was processed (Annex 3).

##### **OBIS SEAMAP :**

ACCOBAMS and WDCCS initiative has facilitated the contribution of the Tethys' dataset of cetacean sightings on OBIS SEAMAP: the Ocean Biogeographic Information System Spatial Ecological Analysis of Mega-Vertebrate Populations. OBIS SEAMAP is a spatially-referenced online database, which was developed by Duke University with the purpose to aggregate observations data from across the globe about marine mammals, seabirds and sea-turtles. The whole Tethys dataset, coming from 25 years of effort in research, includes over 8,700 sightings of cetaceans, accounting for over 69,000 individuals from both shipboard and aerial surveys:

##### **1. Shipboard survey**

Tethys' dataset comprises the work carried out between 1986 and 2010 during shipboard surveys, conducted mainly in the Mediterranean Sea, and especially in the Corso-Ligurian-Provencal basin, in the Ionian Sea and in the Adriatic Sea. The presence of cetaceans has been investigated also in the Atlantic Ocean (Canary Islands, Morocco coasts) and in the Caribbean Sea. This dataset includes about 7,627 cetaceans sightings (94% collected in the Mediterranean Sea) accounting for 24 different species of cetaceans and 61,091 animals. In addition 225,000 km of research effort are provided.

##### **2. Aerial survey**

The Tethys-ISPRA aerial survey dataset comprises the work carried out between 2009 and 2011 during a series of aerial surveys, founded by the Italian Ministry of the Environment, to provide significant baseline information on cetaceans distribution and abundance around Italy.

The covered areas included the Pelagos Sanctuary, the Central Tyrrhenian, the Corsica and Sardinia Seas, and the Ionian Sea and the Gulf of Taranto. This dataset includes about 1,142 cetaceans sightings accounting for 7 different species of cetaceans and 8,093 animals. In addition

69,903 km of research effort are provided. These surveys provide baseline data to develop efficient long-term systematic monitoring programmes, as required by a number of national and international frameworks.

The Tethys data set may represent a significant contribution for a better knowledge of cetacean distribution in the Mediterranean.

In 2011 the Brema Laboratory (Ukraine) has presented to EMODnet/EurOBIS three datasets on Black Sea cetaceans:

- Cetacean sightings in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov and Kerch Strait (1993-2010);
- Cetacean strandings in the northern Black Sea and the Sea of Azov (1989-2010); and
- Cetacean bycatches in the northern Black Sea (1997-2009).



## ANNEXES

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## ANNEX 1: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

### Recommendation 8.1: Recommendations related to the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

#### **Background**

In 2003, the Scientific Committee first drew the attention of the ACCOBAMS Parties to:

- the fundamental importance of obtaining baseline population estimates and distributional information of cetaceans within the area as soon as possible;
- the fact that without such information (and a suitable monitoring programme) it is impossible to *inter alia* determine whether ACCOBAMS is meeting its conservation objectives;
- its great importance in the assessment of risk, the determination of appropriate mitigation measures and the associated determination of priority actions.

The Committee agreed then, and has frequently strongly reiterated since, that such work thus represents the *highest priority for research within the ACCOBAMS area*.

#### **Recommendations**

Nine years, several workshops and at least two MoP Resolutions strongly supporting the initiative later, the survey has still not taken place. This has been for financial rather than scientific reasons. An enormous amount of work has gone into planning the surveys and developing proposals – and indeed revising them. The most recent re-evaluation occurred at a workshop held in Rome in 2011 (SC8/Doc 05Rev); this resulted in a fully-developed cost-effective programme with a primarily aerial component. The Scientific Committee **strongly endorses** this updated proposal and **strongly recommends** that it be undertaken as soon as possible. Its 2003 view of its importance has not changed and indeed the long time period since has only increased its importance. This time and again in the Committee's discussions on a wide range of subjects, the need for this synoptic survey has been **reiterated**, including capacity building. It is also fundamental to the ability of ACCOBAMS to meet its objectives and the new proposed ACCOBAMS strategy. It can also make a fundamental contribution to initiatives outside ACCOBAMS, including for example the MSFD of the European Commission. While the synoptic concept is fundamental to the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, it was agreed that for the scientific reasons outlined in SC8/Doc 05Rev, it is possible to undertake the survey related to the Black Sea and adjacent waters separately (and see below).

With respect to the Mediterranean component of the survey, the Scientific Committee noted that there is a Coproject led by the Sea Mammal research Unit in the UK to cover offshore Atlantic waters previously covered by the SCANS and CODA programmes, as well as a further T-NASS survey covering the remainder of the North Atlantic for 2015. While it is not practical to undertake the Mediterranean Survey in the same year, [2014] or 2016 are realistic if funding can be found and the Committee **agrees** that there are advantages in establishing a link between the ACCOBAMS survey initiative and these other surveys. For example, this could allow synergies in terms of method development, implementation and logistics (e.g. in chartering aircraft/ships, hiring and training observers, etc). The feasibility of such a link should be initially investigated by the Scientific Steering Group proposed in SC8/Doc 05Rev (Birkun, Cañadas, Donovan, Hammond, Fortuna, Panigada).

The Committee **reminds** the Bureau and the Parties of ACCOBAMS previous **strong** commitments to the survey. It was informed by the Secretary that a fund-raiser is being hired under an agreement with IUCN and the French *Agence des aires marines protégées*. It **recommends** that this be undertaken without delay. It also **reiterates** its previous recommendation of the need to hire a co-ordinator (initially part-time and with a focus on the Black Sea extension discussed below). The co-ordinator would work in close co-operation with the fund-raiser and the Scientific Steering Group.

With respect to the Black Sea area, the Committee received information on a survey being funded by DG-Mare in summer 2013 that will cover about 25% of the Black Sea in its northwestern shallow water area. While the Committee welcomes news of the survey it **reiterates** the great importance of undertaking a synoptic survey of this region. Interpretation of the results from this quarter alone will be

difficult and it is certainly not possible to extrapolate the results from that area to the full Black Sea. The Committee **strongly recommends** that the whole of the Black Sea is covered this summer. It was informed that the Secretariat already has funds of €150,000. The Committee strongly **recommends** that this money be allocated to ensuring that the Black Sea region is covered.

The Committee agrees that as a matter of urgency the Scientific Steering Group examines the existing plan for the Black Sea and determines the funds required to complete the Black Sea and adjacent waters in 2013, at the coverage level identified in SC8/Doc 05Rev. The Scientific Steering Group will determine options for the level of coverage based on the available funding and develop a final design and protocol. For the survey to succeed it agrees that it is essential that some funding be made available for the co-ordinator. The Committee strongly welcomed the offer from MacAlister Elliot to work with the Steering Group to facilitate coverage of the whole area in a consistent manner. This work should be undertaken as a matter of urgency and investigation and precautionary applications for permits should begin immediately, in conjunction with scientists from the relevant range states (e.g. Turkey, Russia, Georgia). The Scientific Committee **reiterates** the greatly increased conservation and scientific value of covering the whole area synoptically. It **urges** the Bureau, the Black Sea Commission and the ACCOBAMS Secretariat to do all they can to ensure that the necessary funds and permits are made available. An important unique opportunity will be lost if this does not happen and only the northwestern corner is covered.

## **Recommendation 8.2: Recommendation addressing the continued live removals of Bottlenose Dolphins in the Black Sea**

Recalling that Article II of ACCOBAMS requires Parties to “prohibit and take all necessary measures to eliminate, where this is not already done, any deliberate taking of cetaceans”, the Scientific Committee expresses its concern about reports indicating the continued live removals, an additional direct take on top of the already high bycatch levels, of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) from the Black Sea.

Such activities are also contrary to both the objective set within the Black Sea Conservation Plan for Cetaceans, which foresees the elimination of live captures of cetaceans, and the provisions of the Bern Convention.

The Scientific Committee also notes that the Black Sea subspecies of bottlenose dolphin was assigned a zero trade quota by CITES in 2002 with respect to live captured animals and classified as *Endangered* under the IUCN Red List

The Scientific Committee agrees with the concerns expressed in the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group in the 2002-2010 Conservation Action Plan for the World’s Cetaceans which stated that ‘live-capture can become a serious threat to local cetacean populations and especially when it is undertaken ‘without a rigorous program of research and monitoring’. The Scientific Committee is unaware of any stock assessment of any kind that has been carried out in relation to the reported live-captures in Georgia and Ukraine (e.g. Notarbartolo di Sciara & Birkun, 2010).

While reports about illegal live removals do not describe the scale of such activities, concerns have to be expressed over the lack of official recognition by the Georgian and Ukrainian governments of those facts that indicate the presence of illegal practice of taking live bottlenose dolphins from the wild and keeping them in captivity.

### **Therefore the Scientific Committee suggests to the Secretariat to:**

Send a letter of concern to the Georgian and Ukrainian governments recalling the illegality of live removals of cetaceans from the Black Sea and asking them to carry out:

an inventory and thorough assessment of individual identity of all bottlenose dolphins kept in captivity by means of genetic, morphological and photo-ID methods and providing appropriate administrative measures in order to prevent substitution of dolphins that die in captivity by animals taken from the wild. The Committee notes that the IWC Scientific Committee has guidelines on the practical aspects of the use of DNA registers for cetaceans.

This communication shall be brought to the attention of Bern Convention Secretariat, the Black Sea Commission and the CITES Secretariat by the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.

### **Recommendation 8.3: Recommendation to work towards a Conservation Plan for fin whales of the Mediterranean**

#### **Background:**

Fin whales in ACCOBAMS area face a number of actual and potential anthropogenic threats, including collisions with vessels, chemical and acoustic pollution, entanglement in fishing gear and disturbance by boats and climate change. ACCOBAMS has been working on issue related to the conservation of fin whales for some time and has established a steering group under Panigada to further this work.

Appropriate habitat use and distribution studies, to describe fin whales'habitat preferences and to investigate the existence of critical habitats for this species, are therefore needed to aid implementation of management measures to regulate naval traffic, fishing and whale watching. The Pelagos Sanctuary can be an important reference area for both research work and the development of appropriate mitigation measures that can then be applied throughout the full range of the fin whales in the Mediterranean.

A workshop on 'fin whales research and conservation in the Mediterranean Sea' was held in Cadiz (Spain), on March 20th 2011, during the European Cetacean Society annual Conference. The workshop participants agreed to improve coordination between scientific groups operating at the Mediterranean level and to improve communications between researchers. The participants to the workshop agreed on a list of priority actions to be pursued, including among others:

- update actions listed in the "ACCOBAMS fin whale workshop" held in 2005,
- draft concise research actions to fill the gaps, and
- prepare a list of experts active at the Mediterranean level.

The need for a conservation plan was also discussed and the final decision was to wait for the report and the list of actions to be evaluated before deciding about the need for a full conservation plan following the approach developed by Donovan *et al.* (2008). This is not to suggest that some level of conservation concern for Mediterranean fin whales does not exist.

One of the primary issues identified was the collection and analyse information on the distribution, abundance and threats to fin whales in the whole ACCOBAMS area. This clearly relates strongly to the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative.

Based on the discussions at the workshop and at the present SC meeting, the Committee agreed number of research and conservation priorities, including:

**(A)** The maintenance or establishment of long-term systematic programmes to monitor trends in abundance and shifts in distribution in selected targeted areas and other areas of importance for the species such as:

- (1) Gulf of Lion and in general productive areas west of the Pelagos Sanctuary (mostly off France)
- (2) Central Tyrrhenian Sea to the south of the Sanctuary
- (3) Sicily Strait, particular in late Winter – early Spring
- (4) Western Ionian Sea and possibly southern Adriatic
- (5) Eastern Mediterranean Sea (not fully surveyed, but increased incidental report suggest the area warrants further consideration)

**(B)** The use of existing photo-identification databases as a long-term management and conservation tool and especially to compare photo-id data from the Strait of Gibraltar and western Mediterranean with data from the North Atlantic area.

**(C)** Population structure and movements. This clearly relates strongly to action will be undertaken under the population structure initiative, but will clearly involve information from further genetic analyses, photo-identification data and telemetry data (see Resolution 4.10 from MoP4). The Committee welcomed the information from a recent telemetry study provided by Panigada and looks forward to receiving the results of this work which *inter alia* will begin to provide important information on destinations of fin whales in winter time and possible links with the wider North Atlantic, with important conservation implications. Acoustic data can also play an important role.

The Scientific Committee **recommends**:

- (1)** the importance of continuing work to elucidate the stock structure and movements of fin whales in the ACCOBAMS area, especially with respect to photo-identification, acoustics, telemetry and genetics – the movement information is particularly important with respect to developing focussed mitigation against threats such as ship strikes;
- (2)** the importance of the ACCOBAMS Survey initiative to provide a summer snapshot of distribution throughout the whole region as well as a reliable estimate of total abundance;
- (3)** that the Steering Group to contact all of the working groups working in the area to update available information on fin whales, including those related to potential threats (e.g. see the work of Fossi on micro plastics /ref.) to consult on priorities for future work with a focus on conservation;
- (4)** that the Steering Group works on an outline of draft conservation plan to bring together a summary of the available information (including the report of the ACCOBAMS climate change workshop) and priorities for the next meeting of the Scientific Committee, with a view to reviewing whether the time is ripe to engage with stakeholders to develop a full plan.

The Scientific Committee **reiterates** the great importance of collaboration amongst research groups to forward conservation of fin whales within the ACCOBAMS region.

## Recommendation 8.4: Recommendation on Ship Strikes

### Introduction:

ACCOBAMS and the IWC have recognised the problem of ship strikes within the ACCOBAMS area and have been working together to develop a better understanding of the issue and to develop effective mitigation measures. Several areas of the Mediterranean Sea were identified at the joint ACCOBAMS/IWC workshop on this topic as areas of particular interest due to shipping and cetacean densities:

- (1) the Strait of Gibraltar;
- (2) the Pelagos Sanctuary;
- (3) the area south west of the island of Crete;
- (4) the area around the Balearic Islands;
- (5) area between Almeria and Nador at the eastern side of the Alborán Sea; and in addition at the present meeting;
- (6) The Strait of Sicily and
- (7) The Bay of Biscay was identified as an additional area within the ACCOBAMS extension area.

The Scientific Committee also noted the interest of ASCOBANS and the Pelagos Sanctuary on this issue and **recommends** increased co-operation with these entities.

### Objectives

The Scientific Committee **recommends** that its collaborative work on ship strike issues continues, based on the existing recommendations of the joint ACCOBAMS/IWC workshop as well as additional subsequent information received e.g. from the Bay of Biscay. The ultimate objective for ACCOBAMS is to collect information to allow a robust assessment of the extent of ship strikes within the agreement area, and develop and evaluate effective mitigation measures, recognising that there is no universal solution to the issue. While the animal welfare issue applies to all animals, priority for mitigation measures may be directed at areas/species where there is a probable population level effect.

### Actions

The Scientific Committee welcomes the news that the IWC is funding the role of ship strikes co-ordinators to take forward work on this important issue including the recommendations of the joint workshop. It supports this initiative, noting that one of the co-ordinators (Panigada) is the Chair of the ACCOBAMS ship strikes working group. This will facilitate greatly the collaborative work with the IWC on this matter as well as regular exchange of ideas.

The Scientific Committee confirms the above identified areas for concerted efforts with respect to data collection both for assessing the extent of the problem and for developing mitigation measures, especially the scope for modified shipping lanes.

Key components of the work of the ship strikes co-coordinators involve better communications with shipping companies and increased reporting of events via regional initiatives and especially the Global Ship Strikes database (<http://www.iwcoffice.org/ship-strikes>) and the Scientific Committee **recommends** increased efforts in this regard within the ACCOBAMS area. It welcomes and encourages continuation of the existing initiatives within the area and encourages the ACCOBAMS Parties to support and promote these efforts as recognised in previous Resolutions (ACCOBAMS Res 3.14, 4.10, CMS 10.15 and ASCOBANS 7.3). These efforts include:

- (1) training initiatives within merchant navy schools, companies (including ferry companies and whale watching vessels) and navies (e.g. see existing initiatives including those within the Bay of Biscay and the PSSA project for Pelagos, we recommend that the watch crew be trained in this issue. [http://www.souffleursdecume.com/english/formation\\_collisions\\_EN.html](http://www.souffleursdecume.com/english/formation_collisions_EN.html));
- (2) promotion of the issue and the importance of reporting via a number of fora including specialist marine press;
- (3) further evaluation and dissemination of information on mitigation approaches such as REPCET (see the joint workshop report);
- (4) additional co-operation with IMO (and the MEPC) both via IWC and CMS agreements but also through initiatives with member states (the most appropriate mechanism for IMO action);

- (5) improved protocols for the identification of ship strikes via necropsies (there is a global initiative led by the USA in this regard);
- (6) investigation of incidence and nature of ship strike injuries within photo-identification studies;
- (7) encourage studies that improve access to the temporal and spatial distribution of shipping including AIS information;
- (8) encourage studies that improve our understanding of the temporal and spatial distribution of cetaceans within the region including telemetry studies;
- (9) encourage studies to develop and evaluate mitigation measures, incorporating *inter alia* results from (7) and (8) above, recognising that appropriate measures will vary depending on circumstances and areas.

The ship strikes working group of ACCOBAMS should continue to work on these issues and collate and report on relevant studies within and outside the ACCOBAMS area. It will foster collaboration with IWC, ASCOBANS, CMS and IMO and develop priority actions and studies, including the consideration of a project to develop a standard training module.



### **Recommendation 8.5: Recommendation on Ship Strikes Recommendation on Whale watching**

The Scientific Committee recognises the many potential benefits of whale watching from wide-range of perspectives, including economic, public awareness and education. From a scientific perspective, however, it notes that any expansion of whale watching activity in the agreement area should be carefully managed in order to minimise potential adverse impacts on cetacean individuals and populations. The Scientific Committee is also appreciative of the work conducted by the IWC Scientific Committee and Conservation Committees on whale watching and will also use information from this source to help inform its future work.

The Scientific Committee therefore recommends that its work on the scientific aspects of whale watching issues continues, under the following topics (not listed in priority order).

(1) An 'ACCOBAMS certificate of accreditation for whale watching' will be developed and should take into account the ACCOBAMS Whale Watching Guidelines. The Committee noted that this certification approach will be trialled in collaboration with the Pelagos Sanctuary.

(2) Continuation and expansion of national or regional training courses (based on the Pelagos expertise) for operators covering the biology of animals, risks, boat behaviour around the animals, how to achieve ACCOBAMS accreditation, involvement in scientific research, etc.

(3) Continued consideration (including collation and review of scientific literature) of potential adverse effects on cetaceans and means to mitigate these with an emphasis on:

- Population-level impacts
- Swim-with activities;
- Use of aerial spotter aircraft
- The concept of 'carrying capacity'

(4) Monitoring the activity of whale-watching operators in each country in order to obtain information on growth and development to try to identify potential problems before they become too difficult to manage. This will be assisted by the definition of a common protocol for monitoring whale watching development and a database to store the information.

(5) Assistance in the development of methods to better inform the general public (including yachtsmen and other boaters involved in opportunistic whale watching) about responsible boat behaviour around cetaceans. This might include the integration of suitable cetology modules in official training for professional and recreational boat licenses and informative flyers in logbook and notices in harbour offices.

## Recommendation 8.6: Recommendation on the conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean

“Areas of Special Concern for Beaked Whales” (ASC-BW) and mitigation protocols for anthropogenic activities using intense underwater sound sources

### Background

The Cuvier's beaked whale, *Ziphius cavirostris*<sup>1</sup>, is a predominantly deep-water (>500 m) cetacean, often associated with steep slope (>40 m km<sup>-1</sup>) habitats, with a preference for submarine canyons and escarpments, although sightings over the abyssal plane have been recorded.

The Mediterranean population of *Z. cavirostris* has been assessed as Vulnerable in the IUCN's Red List<sup>2</sup>. Amongst all the anthropogenic pressure factors which represent a threat to the survival of beaked whales in the Mediterranean, impulsive man-made sound, in particular that generated by military sonar and seismic surveys, stands out as being of special concern. Events in which the underwater transmission of naval sonar has been linked to atypical mass strandings and deaths of beaked whales in the Mediterranean are listed in Annex 1 to this Recommendation.

Concern about the impact of the proliferating use of high-energy man-made sound in the sea on the conservation of beaked whales is demonstrated by numerous provisions at the global, European and regional levels, and within ACCOBAMS itself (Resolutions and Scientific Committee Recommendations). A list of such provisions is contained in **Annex 3** to this Recommendation.

There have been a number of initiatives to prevent mortalities of beaked whales resulting from the use of intense anthropogenic noise sources. In the Mediterranean, the NATO Undersea Research Centre (NURC) developed in 2009 the document “NURC Marine Mammal Risk Mitigation Rules and Procedures”<sup>3</sup> (here subsequently referred to as the NURC-Mammal Rules), which was written “*in support of NATO's principles and policies of environmental protection*”. One of the main targets of NURC-Mammal Rules is to reduce the risk of mass strandings and other impacts on beaked whales in the Mediterranean related to NURC activities. For this, it states: “*NURC's precautionary policy is therefore to reduce the temporal and spatial interactions of sounds and beaked whales*” and “*Objective 1 focuses on the potential risk of beaked whales stranding as a result of the use of sound sources. As the specific behavioral reaction that results in the stranding of beaked whales in proximity to the use of sounds is unknown, the risk mitigation of NURC focuses on avoiding the habitat of beaked whales.*” This means spatial mitigation, i.e. avoidance of areas with known concentrations of beaked whales, which has already been proposed as an effective measure to mitigate acoustic impacts<sup>4</sup>.

An example of the effectiveness of spatial mitigation is the moratorium on the use of military sonar within 50 nautical miles (nm) of the Canary Islands that was established in 2004; since then, no atypical mass

<sup>1</sup> Hereafter simply referred to as “beaked whale” since it is the only member of the beaked whale family which is represented by populations regularly occurring in the Mediterranean.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/full/16381144/0>. Although in the online assessment the species is still listed as Data Deficient, its listing as Vulnerable has already been approved by the Red List Authority, and as such it will be posted soon on the Red List website (A. Cañadas, pers. comm.).

<sup>3</sup> NURC-Mammal Rules can be found at: <http://solmar.nurc.nato.int/policy/NURC-SP-2009-002.pdf> ; NURC is now the Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE).

<sup>4</sup> Dolman, S. Spatio-temporal restrictions as best practice precautionary response to ocean noise. *Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy*, 10:219–224 (2007).

strandings of beaked whales have been recorded in the archipelago<sup>5,6</sup>. The NURC-Mammal Rules (2009)<sup>3</sup> state *“Since the establishment of this policy, no deleterious effects as a result of Centre research are known to have resulted. Continued application of this policy and recommended mitigation measures will minimize the potentially harmful effects of sounds on marine mammals.”* However, in 2011 (after the above statement was made) a new mass stranding of beaked whales linked to naval activities in the Mediterranean resulted in the mortality of at least 12 whales in Greece and Italy (**Appendix 1**), underlining the need for all navies to apply the NURC-Mammal Rules in the ACCOBAMS region.

Efforts to apply spatial mitigation are hindered by a scarcity of beaked whale distribution data. To help identify areas of high concentrations of beaked whales in the Mediterranean, the Scientific Committee undertook a collaborative exercise to collate existing distribution data on beaked whales, and model beaked whale habitat use in the region<sup>7</sup>. This resulted in the identification of several areas where concentrations of beaked whales are observed or are predicted to exist. In many areas the scarcity of data made it impossible to predict beaked whale distribution. However, while stressing the importance of validating and enhancing the results of the model with further systematic surveys in the Mediterranean as time and resources allow, the Scientific Committee is confident that the data used in this project has already allowed the definition of several high-use areas for beaked whales with reasonable reliability. These areas should therefore be considered to be of special concern when human activities identified as representing important risk factors for beaked whales, such as the use of intense sound sources, are contemplated within such areas. In these cases effective mitigation measures should be applied.

Atypical beaked whale mass strandings associated with naval activities have also occurred at locations in the Mediterranean outside of areas of observed and predicted concentrations. Given that some strandings of two or more beaked whales have been recorded in the region without any information about potentially harmful human activities occurring at the time, independently of the cause of these strandings (see **Appendix 2**), the stranding locations were used as indicators of areas of high risk for beaked whale atypical strandings.

Mitigation methods include visual and acoustic monitoring for beaked whales and other cetaceans before, during and after activities using intense sound sources. However, beaked whales have shown behavioural reactions to sound at very low received levels<sup>8</sup>. This implies a very wide spatial range of effect for intense sound sources such as naval sonar, typically of the order of tens of kilometres radius depending on the source and transmission conditions. Such distances are beyond the practical detection range for visual and acoustic monitoring methods, except in training ranges instrumented with a network of hydrophones. Thus, ACCOBAMS agrees with the NURC-Mammal Rules in that avoiding areas of beaked whale concentration is an effective mitigation strategy<sup>3</sup>.

Given the scientific evidence that military sonar has a negative impact upon beaked whales, with this Recommendation the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS wishes to support, with scientific data and procedures, the requirement that national parties, their navies and NATO apply effective mitigation measures when conducting noise producing activities in the region, thereby contributing to the conservation of beaked whales in the Mediterranean Sea.

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<sup>5</sup> Aguilar de Soto, N. & Martín, V. Canary Islands naval moratoria. Abstract presented in: Agardy *et al.*, A Global Scientific Workshop on Spatio-Temporal Management of Noise. Report of the Scientific Workshop, Lanzarote, Canary Islands (2007).

<sup>6</sup> Fernández *et al.* Last “Atypical” Beaked Whales Mass Stranding in the Canary Islands (July, 2004) *J Marine Sci Res Dev*, 2:2 <http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2155-9910.1000107>

<sup>7</sup> Cañadas *et al.* ACCOBAMS collaborative effort to map high-use areas by beaked whales in the Mediterranean (2012).

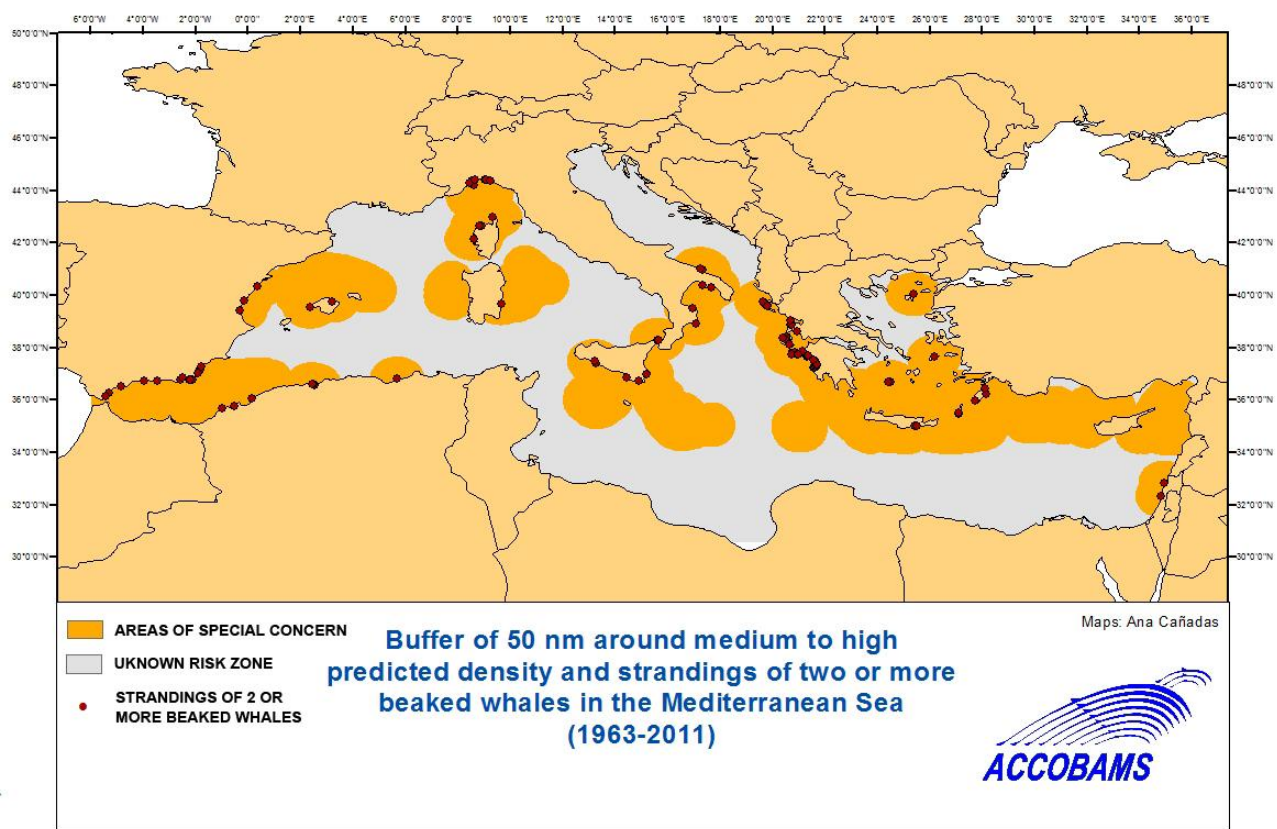
<sup>8</sup> Tyack PL, *et al.* Beaked whales respond to simulated and actual navy sonar. *PLoS ONE* 6(3): e17009. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0017009 (2011)

**Based on all these premises,**

- highly concerned that beaked whales in the Mediterranean are frequently exposed to human activities involving the production of intense underwater noise;
- referring to the most recent information about Mediterranean areas having been identified as hosting high concentrations of beaked whales;
- convinced that the production of intense underwater noise in areas identified as beaked whale habitat carries environmental implications and responsibilities;
- considering that the locations of mass strandings ( $\geq 2$ ) of beaked whales in the Mediterranean are important additional indicators of areas of enhanced risk for beaked whales;
- recalling and reconfirming the importance of implementing conservation actions defined within previous Recommendations adopted by the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS and Resolutions adopted in the various international fora, including those of the ACCOBAMS Meetings of Parties to which the Parties are subject (**Appendix 3**);
- in particular calling on the Parties to apply the Guidelines contained in Resolution 4.17;
- taking specific note of the recommendations contained in the report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, where the following conservation actions were identified for beaked whales: a) a large proportion of areas within the Mediterranean, where depths are greater than 600 m, are potential beaked whale habitats; b) based on existing knowledge of noise disturbance thresholds, beaked whales should not be exposed to noise where received levels exceed SPL 140 dB re 1  $\mu$ Pa @ 1 m peak to peak; c) a precautionary buffer around the preferred habitat mentioned in a) should be applied to ensure that the noise threshold is not exceeded

**the Scientific Committee strongly recommends the following actions:**

1. Designate areas already identified as high-use areas for beaked whales, areas where mass strandings have occurred, and a 50 nm buffer zone around all these areas (Figure 1), as **‘Areas of Special Concern for Beaked Whales’ (ASC-BW)**. These areas should be considered for spatial mitigation (i.e., avoidance) by all ACCOBAMS Parties and NATO, as specified in the NURC-Mammal Rules. Use of naval sonar and underwater explosions should be avoided in these areas. Furthermore, the use of other sound sources that exceed 220 dB re 1  $\mu$ Pa at 1 m peak to peak source level (e.g. pile driving, seismic exploration) within ASC-BW should be fully justified with EIAs, including a report on the lack of alternative locations and an independently evaluated protocol to mitigate the impact of such activities. Marine Protected Areas are considered ASC for biodiversity and thus deserve the same level of protection. The Parties are encouraged to promote work that produces data to validate and augment the beaked whale distribution model in order to update and refine the delimitation of beaked whale preferred areas in the Mediterranean, and revise the location of ASC-BW accordingly.



**Figure 1:** Map of Areas of Special Concern for Beaked Whales (ASC-BW) in the Mediterranean (orange) not including existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). ASC-BW and MPAs deserve the application of spatial mitigation for naval sonar and, whenever possible, for other intense anthropogenic sound sources. ASC-BW include: i) the locations of recorded beaked whale mass strandings (red circles) included in Appendix 2, Table 1; ii) known and/or predicted high use areas for beaked whales<sup>7</sup>; and iii) a buffer zone of 50 nm around both i) and ii), based on the existing moratorium on the use of naval sonar within 50 nm of the Canary Islands archipelago<sup>5,6</sup>. Areas of unknown risk (grey) are those where further data are required to assess beaked whale presence prior to, and during, human activities of potential impact, according to Resolution 4-17 of ACCOBAMS and NURC Marine Mammal Mitigation Rules and Procedures<sup>3</sup>.

**2. Avoiding** use of naval sonar within ASC-BW will indubitably reduce the risk of exposure to noise hazard and mortalities for a significant part of the population of beaked whales in the Mediterranean. However, until further data are available to refine the identification of ASC-BW, it cannot be guaranteed that some areas identified as “of unknown risk” (Figure 1), do not host beaked whale populations susceptible to sonar. Thus, in “areas of unknown risk”, and in particular in the areas identified as beaked whales suitable habitat by the Scientific Committee during its 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting (see above), mitigation should always be applied before, during and after activities emitting intense noise sources, i.e. where source levels exceed 220 dB re 1  $\mu$ Pa @ 1 m peak to peak. The mitigation requirements should include dedicated surveys and monitoring efforts of all potential beaked whale habitats with 50 nm around the planned sonar activities. Mitigation requirements should be included in national regulations and take the form of rigorous and transparent planning, consultation and permitting processes with Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) whenever the use of these intense sound sources are planned in the Mediterranean.

**3. Define** in the national legislations the requirements of mitigation protocols for activities where sound source levels exceed 220 dB re 1  $\mu$ Pa @ 1 m peak to peak. This should take into consideration the text in

ACCOBAMS and ASCOBAMS resolutions and guidelines (Annex III) and include at least the following specific measures:

- a. Gather bibliographic data on marine biodiversity in the planned area of activity and whenever possible avoid areas where there are documented concentrations of beaked whales.
- b. Perform acoustic (24 h) and visual surveys and monitoring in the planned area of activity before and during the activity. These surveys and monitoring should use appropriate, independently assessed, equipment and protocols.
- c. Model three-dimensional sound transmission, and based on this define acoustic safety zones. Develop shut-down protocols for all protected species known to occupy the area of activity. The detection of beaked whales within safety zones should result in the shut down of activities involving intense sound production, as specified by NURC-Mammal Rules<sup>3</sup>. These rules state: *“Stop transmissions and use of explosives if a beaked whale is identified within the monitoring range. Contact the MMRM Project Leader prior to resuming operations.”*
- d. Perform independent and transparent monitoring of sound-production activities during the proposed activity, whenever national security is not compromised, and internal reporting to the relevant government authority with competence on conservation of nature in the activity area.
- e. Carry out real-time public reporting of both activity progress and encounters with protected species during the activity.

Acknowledging that this and previous Recommendations made by the Scientific Committee are primarily focussed on the risks posed by anthropogenic noise to beaked whales in isolation, it is important to also consider the cumulative and synergistic impacts of other anthropogenic threats together with those of noise. These additional threats will be the subject of a workshop at the next ACCOBAMS Meeting of Parties.



## Appendix 1

### Mediterranean beaked whale mortality events associated with naval manoeuvres and/or use of military sonar

**Anthropogenic noise**, especially when originating from military sonar, has been identified as a major threat to beaked whales. This vulnerability seems to be due to their extreme diving behavior<sup>9</sup>. Multiple mass stranding and mortality events, all associated with naval sonar training, have occurred in many locations around the world. However the Mediterranean Sea is the region where most mass strandings of beaked whales have been recorded related to naval exercises, and where it was first discovered that these strandings are linked with the use of military sonar<sup>10,11</sup>. The total number of dead whales that reached the coasts during naval exercises is also very high. Atypical mass strandings and mortalities involving beaked whales that closely coincided with naval exercises within the Agreement area include:

- Gulf of Genoa, Italy (1963); naval exercise: **15** beaked whales<sup>11,12</sup>
- Corsica, France (1974); naval exercise: **3** beaked whales, 1 striped dolphin<sup>13</sup>
- Valencia, Spain (1996); naval exercise: **2** beaked whales<sup>11,12,14</sup>
- Kyparissiakos Gulf, Greece (1996); SACLANTCEN experimental testing of low and mid-frequency sonar: **21** beaked whales<sup>10</sup>
- Ionian Sea, Greece (1997); NATO Naval exercise: **9** beaked whales<sup>11,12,15</sup>
- Ionian Sea, Greece (2000); NATO Naval exercise: **1** beaked whale stranded alive<sup>16</sup>
- Oran, Algeria (2001); naval exercise: **2** beaked whales<sup>11,12</sup>
- Almería, Spain (2006); NATO exercise: **4** beaked whales<sup>17</sup>
- Fontane Bianche, Sicily, Italy (February 2011); NATO naval exercise : **2** beaked whales<sup>18</sup>
- Ionian Sea, Greece and Italy (December 2011); Italian naval exercises and seismic surveys: **12** beaked whales.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Tyack P.L., Johnson M., Aguilar de Soto N., Sturlese A., Madsen P. Extreme diving of beaked whales. *J. Exp. Biol.*, 209, pp. 4238-4253 (2006).

<sup>10</sup> Frantzis A. Does acoustic testing strand whales? *Nature* 392:29 (1998), Frantzis, in prep.

<sup>11</sup> D'Amico *et al.* Beaked whale strandings and naval exercises. *Aquat. Mamm.* 35(4): 453-472 (2009).

<sup>12</sup> Filadelfo *et al.* Correlating military sonar use with beaked whale mass strandings: what do the historical data show?. *Aquat. Mamm.* 35(4), 435-444 (2009).

<sup>13</sup> Taylor *et al.* A call for research to assess risk of acoustic impact on beaked whale populations. SC/56/E36. <http://cetuc.ucsd.edu/Publications/Reports/TaylorIWCSC-56-E36-2004.pdf> (2004).

<sup>14</sup> Blanco, C. and Raga, J.A. 2000. Cephalopod prey of two *Ziphius cavirostris* (Cetacea) stranded on the western Mediterranean coast. *J.Mar. Biol. Assoc. UK* 80:381-2.

<sup>15</sup> Frantzis A. The first mass stranding that was associated with the use of active sonar (Kyparissiakos Gulf, Greece, 1996). In: Proceedings of the workshop: " *Active sonar and cetaceans* ". 8 March 2003, Las Palmas, Gran Canaria. ECS newsletter 42 (Special Issue): pp. 14-20 (2004).

<sup>16</sup> A. Frantzis pers. comm. One whale stranded alive while NATO vessels were observed from the coast.

<sup>17</sup> Atypical beaked whale mass stranding in Almería's coasts: pathological study. *Bioacoustics*, 17: 295-297 (2008).

<sup>18</sup> [http://www.manp.nato.int/news\\_releases/mcnaples/pressreleases11/NR\\_03\\_11.html](http://www.manp.nato.int/news_releases/mcnaples/pressreleases11/NR_03_11.html). NATO Anti-submarine Warfare Exercise – NATO Allied Maritime Command Naples (A. Barlotta, pers. comm.).

<sup>19</sup> <https://lists.uvic.ca/pipermail/marmam/2011-December/003963.html> . Exercises Italian Navy, MARE APERTO/AMPHEX 2011 (A. Frantzis, pers. comm.; S. Mazzariol, pers. comm.).

## Appendix 2

### Mass strandings of beaked whales in the Mediterranean as an indication of high risk areas

Strandings do not necessarily provide an accurate representation of the distribution of deep-diving cetaceans such as beaked whales, since animals may die at some distance from their stranding location, which is ultimately also affected by oceanographic and geomorphologic factors. In spite of this bias in the use of strandings as predictors of density, mass strandings provide unambiguous indications of the presence of high risk areas. Table 1 summarises the strandings recorded in the Agreement area involving two or more beaked whales. More information about these strandings is available from the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.

**Table 1:** Strandings of two or more beaked whales recorded in the Mediterranean Sea (1963-2011). Strandings for which there is information about spatial and temporal coincidence with naval exercises are marked with an asterisk (see Appendix 1 for details). Data from the review by Podestà et al. (2006)<sup>20</sup>, the databases of Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute<sup>21</sup>, the Italian Stranding Database<sup>22</sup> and MEDACES<sup>23</sup> (with data from CSET, CREMA, ICBIBE, GECM, IMMRAC). Detailed information about the strandings included in this table is available from the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.

Month	Year	Country		Month	Year	Country
May	1963	ITALY *		January	1999	GREECE
November	1963	ITALY		July	1999	ITALY
August	1962	GREECE		August	1999	ITALY
November	1966	ITALY		February	2001	ALGERIA *
December	1974	FRANCE *		July	2001	ALGERIA *
November	1979	ALGERIA		April	2003	FRANCE
February	1987	ITALY		February	2004	ISRAEL
September	1987	GREECE		April	2005	ITALY
July	1988	GREECE		June	2005	ITALY
November	1991	GREECE		July	2005	SPAIN
January	1992	ITALY *		September	2005	ITALY
April	1993	GREECE		January	2006	SPAIN *
November	1993	GREECE		April	2006	ITALY
February	1994	GREECE		April	2007	SPAIN
February	1996	SPAIN *		January	2008	SPAIN
March	1996	SPAIN		October	2008	FRANCE
May	1996	GREECE *		February	2011	ITALY *
August	1997	GREECE		November	2011	GREECE *
October	1997	GREECE *		December	2011	ITALY*
November	1998	SPAIN				

<sup>20</sup> Podestà et al. A review of Cuvier's beaked whale strandings in the Mediterranean Sea. *J. Cetacean Res. Manage.* 7(3):251–261 (2006)

<sup>21</sup> Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute. <http://www.pelagosinstitute.gr/>

<sup>22</sup> Monitoraggio degli spiaggiamenti di cetacei sulle coste italiane. <http://mammiferimarini.unipv.it/>

<sup>23</sup> Mediterranean Dataset of Cetacean Strandings. <http://medaces.uv.es/>



### **Appendix 3**

#### **Recent provisions to address concerns for beaked whale conservation**

The species received protection under the provisions, among others, of ACCOBAMS, by being listed in Appendix I of the Bern Convention, Appendix II of CITES, Annex A of EU CITES Regulation 338/97, Annex II of the SPA/BD Protocol to the Barcelona Convention, and Annex IV of the EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

For Member States of the European Union, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) covers underwater noise and energy produced by sonar for non-military use in European marine waters. As of 2014, Member States must design monitoring programmes on the basis of an assessment performed in 2012, followed one year later by a programme of measures. At present, a technical group for the implementation of the MSFD is developing advice on how to monitor both ambient underwater noise and loud impulsive low frequency underwater noise (from seismic surveys and from piling activities e.g. for wind farms). Member States are encouraged to engage as soon as possible with such monitoring processes and consult with the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee as one of the appropriate expert bodies. Non-EU Member States are encouraged to engage in a similar process.

On October 28<sup>th</sup> 2004 the European Parliament adopted a resolution (B6-0089/2004) on the environmental effects of high-intensity active naval sonars. The resolution addressed the growing public concern about mass mortalities of whales occurring during naval sonar exercises, and expressed concern over whale mortalities associated with the use of mid-frequency sonar, quoting a report from the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission stating that there is now compelling evidence that military sonars have a direct impact on whales. The resolution called on member states to develop international agreements for regulating noise levels in the world's oceans, to monitor, investigate, and report mortality events associated with sonar use, and to urgently adopt moratoria and restrictions on the use of sonar in naval operations. It also calls on the European Commission to assess the environmental impacts of current deployments in European waters.

#### **ACCOBAMS**

Recent Resolutions of significant importance stressing concerns over the status of Mediterranean beaked whales and the potential impacts of anthropogenic noise in the Agreement Area include:

[2010:] ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.17. Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area.

[2010:] ACCOBAMS Resolution 4.15. Marine Protected Areas of Importance for Cetacean Conservation.

The ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee has already raised significant concerns over the issue including in Recommendation 2.7 (Man made noise), Recommendation 4.3 (Anthropogenic Noise) and Recommendation 6.6 (Anthropogenic Noise) with specific references to the vulnerability of, in particular, beaked whales. In addition Recommendations 1.1, 2.1 and 4.12 deal with the impacts caused by acoustic devices.

In February 2012 a “Statement of Concern about Atypical Mass Strandings of Beaked Whales in the Ionian Sea” was issued by the Scientific Committee and brought to the attention of the Secretariat and therefore to the attention of the Parties. [*“It respectfully but strongly requested as a matter of urgency “all Parties [to] ensure that the mechanisms are in place to comply fully with resolution commitments, recommendations and guidelines”. It asked for Parties to support a proper and transparent investigation into these events, but little feedback from the Parties was received in the following months.”*]

Most recently, information about seismic surveys in the Hellenic Trench, one of the core habitats previously indicated as being critical for beaked whales, was brought to the attention of the Scientific Committee at its 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting in November 2012 in Monaco. As a consequence, the Scientific Committee adopted a "Statement from the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee concerning the ongoing seismic survey work in the area of the Hellenic Trench."<sup>24</sup>

Selected recent relevant decisions by Multilateral Environmental Agreements:

#### **UNITED NATIONS**

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) defines the term "pollution" as "the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the marine environment..., which results or is likely to result in such deleterious effects as harm to living resources..." (Art. 1(1) (4)).

[2011:] GENERAL ASSEMBLY. Resolution 65/37. Oceans and the law of the sea. *Notes* that ocean noise is a potential threat to living marine resources, affirms the importance of sound scientific studies in addressing this matter, encourages further research, studies and consideration of the impacts of ocean noise on marine living resources, and requests the Division to continue to compile the peer-reviewed scientific studies it receives from Member States and intergovernmental organisations pursuant to paragraph 107 of resolution 61/222 and, as appropriate, to make them, or references and links to them, available on its website.

#### **CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

[2012:] UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/18: Marine and coastal biodiversity: Impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity.

[2010:] UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/X/29: Marine and coastal biodiversity.

#### **CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)**

[2008:] UNEP/CMS/Resolution 9.19. Adverse anthropogenic marine/ocean noise impacts on cetaceans and other biota.

[2011:] UNEP/CMS/Resolution 10.24. Further steps to abate underwater noise pollution for the protection of cetaceans and other migratory species.

#### **ASCOBANS**

[2009:] ASCOBANS Resolution 6.2. Adverse Effects of Underwater Noise on Marine Mammals during Offshore Construction Activities for Renewable Energy Production.

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<sup>24</sup> Annex VIII to the Report of the Meeting, <http://tiny.cc/k2yzvw>

## ANNEX 2: REPORT OF RECENT WORK BY THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

### Report of recent work by the International Whaling Commission

**Mark Peter Simmonds, Humane Society International**

*In 2013, the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) ran a workshop at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) that considered marine debris and cetaceans. The report of this meeting was submitted to the Scientific Committee (as paper SC/65a/Rep06) and its recommendations reviewed and endorsed. The workshop report will be published in the IWC journal in due course.*

*A summary of the workshops deliberations are provided below:*

The IWC's first marine debris workshop was held from 13-17 May 2013 at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Thirty-eight participants from 8 countries attended. The convenor (Simmonds) and host (Moore, WHOI Marine Mammal Center Director) welcomed everyone to this first collaboration between IWC and WHOI and then thanked all the sponsors of the IWC's work on marine debris, including Oceancare, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United Kingdom, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Humane Society International and the WHOI Marine Mammal Center. The first day was a public seminar consisting of a number of keynote presentations and a question and answer session. These keynote presentations illustrated the ways in which debris and cetaceans interact, including the long lingering deaths that can result from entanglement, and a growing realisation that ingestion of plastics, including microplastics, may be a significant problem. In 2012, 280 million tonnes of plastic were produced globally, less than half of which was consigned to landfill or recycled. If current rates of consumption continue, the planet will hold another 33 billion tonnes of plastic by 2050, filling about 2.75 billion standard rubbish-collection trucks (Rochman et al., 2013). The keynote presentations also highlighted the need for improved international cooperation.

The subsequent closed workshop sessions were separated into two main components: entanglement and ingestion and inhalation of debris.

#### **1. Entanglement**

The workshop opened with several presentations on entanglement. The workshop recommended that all gear removed from cetaceans be retained, documented and detailed, archived, and analysed wherever feasible. The workshop recommended that fishery effort models should be coupled to lost gear recovery effort data to evaluate whether higher fishing effort is correlated with areas of higher densities of lost gear. The workshop agreed that lost gear recovery has saved thousands of animals, even ones that do not have a commonly associated monetary value and the noted that the entanglement risk of man-made materials on the sea bed and other environmental consequences likely exceed any perceived benefits that items such as tires, toilets and traps may have of creating artificial habitat. The workshop recommended that when derelict fishing gear is removed from the marine environment, that a dedicated observer (biologist) is on board to collect data on the species, composition, and numbers encountered in the gear, as well as on the type and condition of the gear.

The workshop recommended that the IWC should identify effective programs of derelict gear removal and establish a program to provide an effective transfer of information and methods to countries interested in beginning new derelict gear removal programs.. This could be modelled after the IWC's disentanglement training program with guidance from the IWC's Scientific Committee.

The workshop discussed the effectiveness of management measures such as sinking ground line requirement and weak links. The NOAA Fisheries Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (TRT) has compiled a matrix to summarize the gear research that has been proposed and conducted to reduce entanglements of large whales in the Atlantic (available at [http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/plan/gear/Gear%20Research%20Matrix\\_Oct%202010\\_final.pdf](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/whaletrp/plan/gear/Gear%20Research%20Matrix_Oct%202010_final.pdf)).

The workshop strongly encouraged continued research and development into alternative fishing techniques, strategies to reduce the entanglement of cetaceans in active fishing gear, and validation of the effectiveness of existing fishing practices that lower the risk of entanglement incidence and severity. The workshop further encouraged that the assessment of such alternatives in active fishing gear include evaluation of their potential to alter the contribution of marine debris in the environment and the risk of entanglement or ingestion by cetaceans.

Furthermore, the workshop recommended that future efforts to both understand and mitigate cetacean entanglement should include participation from multiple stakeholders (e.g. manufacturers, fishers and other relevant ocean users).

With respect to gear marking, the workshop recommended that every effort should be made to distinguish whether the entangling gear was active or derelict at the time of entanglement. Recognising the difficulty involved in this, the workshop recommended further research to assist this process.

The workshop recommended combining existing fisheries knowledge and appropriate fishing techniques with applied research and innovation to engineer and utilize fishing gear that ideally is: 1) traceable; 2) generates less debris; and 3) causes fewer injuries and mortality to cetaceans.

The workshop next discussed appropriate pathology protocols and recommended a diagnostic approach to documenting entanglement and debris which is detailed in the report. The workshop recommended that information on rates of debris occurrence in animals necropsied (presence/absence) as well as the rate and type of related pathology (impact on animal) should be collected in order to better understand potential population-level threats. Also, it recommended that data collected on debris interactions should be submitted to a global database (possibly to be housed alongside the IWC's Cetacean Emerging and Resurging Diseases (CERD) website) for which a standardised data form should first be designed.

## **2. Ingestion and inhalation of debris**

The workshop also considered ingestion of debris further to reviews of the literature, and recommended that identifying the sources and fates of plastic debris would help improve and support extended producer responsibility (EPR) initiatives by the manufacturer or distributor of the plastic. New evidence was presented from studies in Japan on stranded animals. This showed a high level of ingestion by ziphiids and it was noted that they may be particularly susceptible to ingested plastic debris because of their complex stomach structure. The workshop recommended further research in the following areas: obtaining acoustic information on how marine debris is perceived by cetaceans, which would help understanding of the causes of ingestion; determining the distribution of debris within the habitat of deep diving whales; and given the overall paucity of information on rates of debris ingestion in wild cetacean populations, non-lethal research and evaluation of strandings to measure rates of occurrence of debris ingestion and the pathological impacts would be valuable in a range of species and areas.

The workshop also expressed concern regarding the high rates of debris ingestion in certain species (e.g. ziphiids, sperm whales and certain populations of Franciscana dolphins). The workshop agreed that, depending on severity, ingestion of debris is a welfare concern at an individual level. The workshop noted that the impact on cetaceans of entanglement and debris in the Arctic may increase as industries move into higher latitudes with climate change-driven ice recession opening up new areas for industrialization. The workshop recommended the benign collection of benchmark data on the impacts of marine debris on cetaceans in this area at the earliest opportunity.

Research on the toxicological effects of plastic additives on cetaceans being conducted at the University of Siena was presented. The workshop commended this research and encouraged further work of this kind. Once ingested by animals, microplastics can accumulate within the guts of organisms where it can be engulfed and stored by cells (Browne et al., 2007; 2008). This provides a feasible pathway for microplastic to transfer sorbed contaminants, constituent monomers and additives into the tissues of animals and affect physiological processes that sustain health.

The workshop expressed concern regarding the potential impact of microplastics and made the following recommendations with regards to further research:

- develop and validate the use of direct (vibrational spectroscopy) and indirect (e.g. contaminants associated with plastic: phthalates, PCBs, PBDEs) measures of ingested microplastic in baleen whales;
- examine whether ingested micro- and nano-plastic can transfer into the food chains of cetaceans;
- evaluate the use of established biomarkers of exposure to assess the toxicity of microplastics, including endocrine disruption; and
- conduct laboratory and field experiments to investigate the bioavailability and toxicity of priority pollutants and additives from microplastic.

### **Overarching conclusions**

The workshop encouraged debris sampling when conducting observational cetacean research at sea (i.e. sightings surveys) and recommended that industry partners be involved in marine debris prevention, research and response to ensure success in reducing marine debris impacts on cetaceans.

The workshop also encouraged governments and industry to support all the research identified by this workshop (and the workshop noted that none of its recommendations would require cetaceans to be taken).

Finally, the workshop agreed that ingestion and inhalation of marine debris may sometimes be lethal, that sub-lethal pathology may also occur, and that intake of debris is a problem, both as an individual welfare concern and potentially for some populations and species. Therefore, the workshop encouraged further non-lethal research on the individual and potential population-level impacts of ingestion of debris and, noting the promising research on biomarker development, the group recommended further work in this field.

Therefore, using existing expertise within and external to the IWC, the workshop recommended that the IWC Scientific Committee should establish work to help evaluate the risks of ingestion and inhalation based upon (1) the spatial distribution of microplastics and macro debris and (2) the feeding strategies and location of feeding areas of cetaceans, and that the Scientific Committee prioritize studies of those cetacean that are likely at greatest risk of ingesting or inhaling macro- and micro- debris and associated pollutants (Fossi et al., 2012). The workshop thus also recommended that the initial focus of research be on three species of filter-feeding whales: the North Atlantic right whale, the fin whale in the Mediterranean Sea, and the gray whale in the eastern North Pacific.

### **The workshop identified the following priority mitigation measures:**

#### **Entanglement:**

Since both active and derelict gear are largely responsible for cetacean entanglements, focus should be to mitigate the impacts of both of these sources on cetaceans. The workshop recommended a consideration of how different managerial regimes affect (i.e., facilitate or hinder) the feasibility of implementing actions, regulatory or otherwise, intended to reduce the risk of entanglement to cetaceans, maximize the return of lost viable gear to fishers, and avoid the introduction of derelict fishing gear into aquatic environments. These actions include: (1) targeting reduction of fishing effort; (2) modifying of fishing gear; (3) developing a response system to respond to and retrieve lost gear; and (4) implementing time-area closures and marine spatial planning.

#### **Ingested debris:**

As impacts are largely dependent on species group, the workshop strongly recommended research that allows prioritization of relevant cetacean populations, as data does not exist at this time to allow this. The group encouraged modelling approaches that examined the relationship between marine debris “hot spots” and information on distributions, feeding strategies and mortality rate data already collected by the IWC and other organisations. The workshop also recommended the determination of hazard function of specific debris with subsequent connection with the modelling data.

The workshop went on to discuss how to best liaise with other international organisations and offered some advice to the next IWC workshop on marine debris (which will have mitigation and management as its main focus) and this can be found in the full report of the meeting and included greater outreach to all stakeholders and reviewing the progress of the recommendations made by first marine debris workshop.

One of these recommendations extended to a the potential development of a scale-able contingency plan for assessing impacts of major releases of marine debris on cetaceans, which offers member states guidance on mitigation options. The SWG considered that such an approach required further consideration by the Scientific Committee and some intercessional consideration.

#### **Review by the Scientific Committee (SC) of the IWC of the workshop report**

The SC endorsed the recommendations of the workshop and agreed with its conclusions that:

- Legacy and contemporary marine debris have the potential to be persistent, bioaccumulative and lethal to cetacean populations and represent a global management challenge; and
- Entanglement in and intake of active and derelict fishing gear and other marine debris have lethal and sub-lethal effects on cetaceans, and therefore the SWG agreed that marine debris, and its contribution to entanglement, exposures including ingestion, and its associated impacts, including toxicity, is both a welfare and a conservation issue for cetaceans on a global scale and a growing concern.

The SC called on the IWC parties and the Secretariat to take immediate action to help better understand and address this growing problem, including

- providing data on rates of marine debris interactions with cetaceans into the national progress reports and supporting the second marine debris workshop (which will have mitigation and management as its focus).
- strengthening capacity building in the IWC entanglement response curriculum;
- building international partnerships with other relevant organisations and stakeholders including an effective transfer of information about ongoing research and debris-reduction and removal removals programmes;
- developing programmes to remove derelict gear and schemes to reduce the introduction of new debris; and
- incorporating marine debris into the IWC conservation management plans and consider making it the focus of a plan in its own right.

The SC tasked an intersessional working group with reviewing the research-related recommendations that came from the workshop in order to start to identify prioritised research for the Committee. It was noted that this review should give consideration to the evaluation of the efficacy of fishing practices that pose a lower risk of entanglement or loss of gear, given that active and derelict fishing gear is a major cause of injury and mortality in cetaceans; and further investigations into microplastics, their associated chemical pollutants and microbes and macrodebris ingestion. The intersessional group will also liaise with this steering committee for the second marine debris workshop which is planned to focus on mitigation and occur before the next meeting of the IWC.

### ANNEX 3: POTENTIAL DATA CONTRIBUTORS FOR AN EXTENT OF INTERCET AT MEDITERRANEAN LEVEL

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## **ANNEX X: Report du Bureau**

## REPORT OF THE BUREAU

Three Bureau Meetings were held during the last triennium:

- The Seventh Bureau Meeting was held on December 13 and 14, 2011 in the premises of ACCOBAMS's Secretariat,
- The Eighth Meeting took place in Monaco, at the Auditorium Rainier III Congress Center (CCAM), on December 11 and 12, 2012,
- The last Meeting was held in the form of an Extended Bureau Meeting, on May 7 and 8, 2013 in Monaco (CCAM).

The composition of the Bureau was as follows:

- Chair : Mr. Cyril GOMEZ (Monaco)
- Vice-chair : Mr. Andrej BIBIC (Slovenia)
- Vice-chair : Mr. Volodymyr DOMASHLINETS (Ukraine)
- Vice-chair : Mrs. Marina SEQUEIRA (Portugal)
- Vice-chair/ Rapporteur: Mr. Gaby KHALAF (Lebanon).

All the triennium Bureau Meetings were also attended by: Mrs. Céline Van KLAVEREN-IMPAGLIAZZO (Monaco) – Host Country Focal Point and Mrs. Ana ŠTRBENAC – Facilitator of ACCOBAMS Strategy Working Group.

Mr. Cyril GOMEZ chaired the three Meetings, attended by the members of the Bureau, the Scientific Committee Chairman, Mr. Alexeï BIRKUN, and the members of ACCOBAMS Secretariat.

Three experts were nominated by the Chair of the Bureau, in consultation with other Bureau Members, to participate to the Meeting of the Extended Meeting:

- Mr. Henri FARUGGIO
- Mr. Moustafa FOUDA
- Mr. Simion NICOLAEV

A report was drafted after each Meeting (ACCOBAMS-BU7/2011/Doc17, ACCOBAMS-BU8/2012/Doc23 and ACCOBAMS-BU\_EXT2/2013/Doc23). All these reports are presented to the Fifth Meeting of the Parties as reference documents.

The purpose of this report is to present an overview of the main issues discussed during those three Bureau Meetings.

## 1. Institutional and administrative matters

### a) Accession to the Agreement

The Bureau was informed of exchanges between the Secretariat and Israel ACCOBAMS Contact Point on the fact that the Minister of Environment Protection was exploring the possibility for Israel to join ACCOBAMS.

Concerning the ACCOBAMS amendment adopted by the MOP 4, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Depository received the acceptance instruments from Bulgaria, Monaco, Spain and Ukraine and that the ratification process had started in Slovenia.

#### **Decision 1**

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to prepare draft letters to be sent by the Depository to the relevant National Authorities :

- in each ACCOBAMS Party, to encourage the ratification or acceptance of the amendment decided by the MOP 4 with the view of having this amendment enter into force before the MOP 6.
- in Israel, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Russian Federation and Turkey , to encourage them to ratify the ACCOBAMS.

### b) Headquarters Agreement

The Permanent Secretariat informed the Bureau about the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country and on the revision of some details for the purpose of consistency with regulations in force in the Principality.

#### **Decision 2**

The Bureau mandated the Secretariat to contact the appropriate Authorities in the Principality of Monaco to review the Headquarters Agreement in order to propose a finalized version to the MOP 6.

### c) Organization of the Scientific Committee

It is reminded that Resolution 4.4 mandated the Bureau and the Scientific Committee to work together, with the help of the Secretariat, to prepare the proposal on the Scientific Committee composition to be presented to the MOP 5.

In accordance with this decision:

- the Chair of the Scientific Committee submitted to the Bureau a first proposal during its 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting (ref.: BU7/Doc12). Following discussions on this proposal, the Bureau instructed the Scientific Committee to prepare a synthesis document identifying current practices on that matter in other international Organizations comparable to ACCOBAMS and to make a new proposal integrating the Scientific Committee's proposal and complementing it.
- The Secretariat presented the requested document to the 8<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting (BU8/2012/Doc14) after submitting it for opinion to the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee. It should be noted that the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Committee did not wish to examine this document in detail, considering that only orientations outlined in document BU7/Doc12 should be taken into account. However, a constructive discussion took place between the Bureau and the Chair of the Scientific Committee during the 8<sup>th</sup>

Meeting of the Bureau. As a result, the Bureau asked the Permanent Secretariat to submit to the Bureau at the Extended Bureau Meeting a draft Resolution on the Scientific Committee's operation including the following 4 principles :

- Transparency : ensuring greater transparency in the selection of Scientific Committee Members through the adoption of relevant criteria based on the cross-matching of their expertise with the strategy and work program of ACCOBAMS ;
- Openness : allowing Parties to designate, on a voluntary basis, national experts to participate in the work of the Scientific Committee, in addition to CIESM representatives, partner organizations representatives and regional representatives ;
- CIESM : the Scientific Committee Chair and the Task Managers will be designated among CIESM representatives ;
- Involvement : Task Managers and regional representatives should play a more active role to support the Chair during Scientific Committee Meetings and other works.

In compliance with these instructions, the Permanent Secretariat submitted the draft Resolution to the Extended Bureau Meeting.

**Decision 4 :**

The Bureau decided to propose to the MOP 5 a draft Resolution on the Scientific Committee's operation.

For the sake of transparency, the Bureau instructed the Permanent Secretariat to communicate this draft Resolution to the Parties and Partners along with :

- an explanatory note on the process of development of this document since the MOP 4 ;
- a review of similar practices in other international organizations;
- a document synthesizing all the options proposed by the Scientific Committee and by the Bureau on the future operation of the Scientific Committee ;
- the comments received from the Scientific Committee regarding this issue ;
- Relevant excerpts from the reports of the Bureau Meetings and the Scientific Committee Meeting.

Finally, the Bureau asked the Permanent Secretariat to invite :

- the Parties to propose candidates to act as Regional Experts
- the General Director of CIESM to propose a list of 10 experts from which the Parties will select the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the 4 Task Managers.

d) Call for proposals – Supplementary Conservation Fund

At the 7<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting, a new application form for “calls for proposals” under the Supplementary Conservation Fund was presented to the Bureau by the Secretariat. The Bureau accepted this proposal and instructed the Secretariat to translate this application form to allow that project proposals be submitted in French.

At the 8<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee Meeting, a number of concerns regarding the implementation of calls for proposals were raised. These concerns mainly included the eligibility criteria and the use of French. These considerations led the Scientific Committee to postpone the analysis of projects proposed under the 2012 call for proposals.

**Decision 5 :**

The Bureau mandated the Chair of the Scientific Committee to reorganize the evaluation of project proposals under the Supplementary Conservation Fund by establishing an evaluation group made of Scientific Committee Members.

The composition of the evaluation group and the evaluation procedure shall be decided by the Chair of the Scientific Committee in consultation with the other members of the Scientific Committee.

However, the Bureau stressed that each proposal should be assessed by at least 2 members of the evaluation group.

Considering that many members of the Scientific Committee can easily review project proposals written in French, the Bureau considered that it would not be necessary to translate into English the project proposals submitted in French.

Finally, the Bureau invited the Secretariat to :

- inform the proponents about the time required to process their request ;
- prepare a procedure proposal for calls for proposals, to be submitted to the MOP 5.

e) Compliance Committee

The triennium allowed for the preparation of a draft ACCOBAMS compliance procedure, to be submitted to the Parties at the MOP 5. This proposal is based in particular on the analysis by the Permanent Secretariat of similar provisions in the Bern Convention.

**Decision 6 :**

The Bureau instructed the Permanent Secretariat to :

- send a mail to Parties and Partners to inform them that a Compliance Committee could be set up if so decided by the parties at the MOP 5.
- collect and distribute CVs of candidates that Parties and Partners would like to present to the first election of Members of the Compliance Committee.

f) Preparation of the Fifth Meeting of Parties

In accordance with Article 3 of the Bureau’s Rules of Procedure, the Meeting discussed the preparation of the Fifth Meeting of Parties (MOP 5) and examined draft Resolutions to be submitted to the MOP 5.

## 2. Budgetary matters

In compliance with Resolution 4.3, the Secretariat informed the Bureau on a regular basis about the Trust Fund and the Supplementary Conservation Fund, taking into account the Work Program adopted by the Parties.

## 3. Scientific Committee Activities

At the Bureau Meetings, Mr. Alexei BIRKUN (Chair of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS) presented a report on the Scientific Committee's activities and introduced the Scientific Committee's Recommendations.

### a) Statement of the Scientific Committee on seismic activities in Greece

The Chair of the Scientific Committee drew the attention of Bureau Members on the seismic surveys of Greece in the Hellenic Trench and presented a statement from the Scientific Committee on this matter.

#### **Decision 7 :**

The Bureau mandated the Permanent Secretariat:

- to elaborate and send a letter on seismic activities to the relevant Greek authorities,
- to post the Scientific Committee statement on the ACCOBAMS's website.

### b) Survey Initiative

The Bureau, the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat also discussed the Survey Initiative. In particular, it was stressed at the 7<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting that combining ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative in Eastern and Central Black Sea to the similar study funded by the European Commission (DG Mare) in the Western Black Sea seemed an interesting opportunity.

In this framework, the Bureau:

- confirmed the allocation of 150,000 € from ACCOBAMS's budget to the Survey Initiative ;
- encouraged the Secretariat to identify additional sources of funding to cover the overall project costs (estimated at 290,000 €).

At the 8<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting, it was noted that:

- securing additional funding was not possible. However, the Chair of the Scientific Committee confirmed that a smaller project – exclusively funded from ACCOBAMS's budget up to 150,000 € - could still be scientifically relevant.
- difficulties remain for obtaining permits for surveying significant areas of the Eastern and Central Black Sea.

#### **Decision 8 :**

Concerning the Survey Initiative, the Bureau and the Chair of the Scientific Committee agreed not to commit to any expenditure as long as surveying permits were not obtained from the relevant countries' administrations and appropriate tenders were not duly completed for services necessary to the execution of the project.

The Bureau also requested the Permanent Secretariat to contact ICCAT in order to assess the opportunity of developing collaboration with this body which does similar aerial surveys for Bluefin tuna.



#### 4. Long-term Strategy 2013-2023

Ana Štrbenac, facilitator of the Working Group on ACCOBAMS Strategy established in accordance with Resolution 4.24, introduced a proposal for the 2014-2023 ACCOBAMS Strategy.

##### **Decision 9 :**

The Bureau instructed the Permanent Secretariat to prepare a work program for the next triennium in compliance with the ACCOBAMS Strategy proposal.

#### 5. Projects and Activities

At each Bureau Meeting, the Secretariat presented the status of ongoing projects. Based on the information provided by the Secretariat, the Bureau expressed opinions and Recommendations to guide the Secretariat in the management of these projects.

##### **Decision 10 :**

The Bureau mandated the Secretariat to:

- make sure issues related to cetacean conservation will be incorporated into the action plan for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol under the Bern Convention ;
- continue to work with various institutions and organizations: UNEP, IWC, European Commission, Black Sea Commission, RAC/SPA, REMPEC, OMI, UICN, GFCM, Pelagos, IFAW, CMS ;
- contact the Spanish Focal Point to support the RAC/SPA proposal for hosting MEDACES database.

With regard to the 2011 Call for proposals launched under the Supplementary Conservation Fund, the Bureau decided :

- to support 2 projects in the Black Sea,
- to reject :
  - o the CIMA projects (absence of support from national authorities concerned with the project)
  - o two similar projects of photo-identification in Adriatic as they were geographically partially overlapping. The Bureau mandated the Secretariat to ask both proponents to cooperate with each other in order to solve the problem; their refusal to cooperate led the Bureau to refuse to fund the same project twice. The Bureau then asked the Secretariat to inform the two proponents of this decision and to explain the reasons for it.

The Permanent Secretariat informed the Bureau about military operations carried out by the US NAVY aimed at using Bottlenose Dolphins to localize mines in Montenegro waters.

##### **Decision 11 :**

The Bureau mandated the Secretariat to :

- collect additional information;
- contact the Montenegro Embassy to remind ACCOBAMS goals and Parties decisions;
- contact the US Marine Mammal Commission;
- undertake a legal analysis for the MOP 5 on how ACCOBAMS could approach the issue of delphinarium in the ACCOBAMS area.

## 6. Partnership

During the 2011-2013 triennium, eleven applications were submitted to the Bureau:

- ALNILAM Conservacion
- CORSICA MARE OSSSERVAZIONE
- ATUTAX
- GREENBALKANS
- CRAM FONDATION
- ARCHIPELAGOS INSTITUTE OF MARINE CONSERVATION
- ORCA
- CIMA
- GIS3M
- EAAM;
- WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums).

Applications from EAAM and WAZA were rejected by the Bureau.

Applications from CIMA Foundation and GIS3M were suspended pending reception of letters of support from the National Focal Points and will be examined at the MOP 5.

### **Decision 12 :**

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to :

- inform organizations and institutions that have not signed the « Declaration of Commitment » that they are no longer Partners;
- invite the CIMA Foundation and GIS3M to attend the MOP 5 as observers.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.1</b> <b>ACCOBAMS STRATEGY (PERIOD 2014 – 2025)</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Article III, paragraph 8, sub-paragraphs a), b) and c) of the ACCOBAMS Agreement,

*Recalling* Resolution 4.24 “ACCOBAMS Strategy”,

*Considering* that the effectiveness of ACCOBAMS and of the Resolutions adopted within this framework would be strengthened by an elaboration of a long-term Strategy covering the period 2014-2025,

*Welcoming* the work carried out by the special Working Group to prepare a draft Strategy, that encompasses results of the evaluation of the Agreement’s effectiveness and reflections about the Agreement’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats,

*Aware* that the ACCOBAMS mission is to continue to promote and facilitate regional cooperation at all levels, providing best expertise and standards and supporting implementation of all necessary measures for conserving cetaceans in the region,

*Aware* also that the ACCOBAMS vision is that cetacean populations in the ACCOBAMS area will be in a favourable conservation status, expressed as healthy populations and habitats with minimized adverse human impacts, with ACCOBAMS having a role of key regional player also in promoting active regional cooperation,

*Stressing* that the ACCOBAMS overall objective and its supportive specific objectives are linked to the Aichi Biodiversity targets (Decision X/10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity) and to the targets of the European Union Biodiversity Strategy (2010-2020),

*Convinced* of the need to set forth an Action Plan that includes a number of activities related to the good management of the Agreement and to concrete cetacean conservation efforts,

*Stressing* the importance of operational work programmes for the implementation of the Strategy and of regular monitoring of the Strategy implementation progress,

*Stressing also* the need to develop synergies with the work programmes and strategies of other relevant Organisations, such as with the UNEP/CMS mother Convention and the development of the new Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023,

*Looking for* new sources of external funding and the elaboration of a fundraising strategy, and encouraging Parties to grant at national level and through voluntary contributions through the Secretariat,

1. *Decides* to adopt the ACCOBAMS Strategy (Period 2014 – 2025) which is annexed to the present Resolution;
2. *Calls on* the Parties to implement the Action Plan included in the Strategy;

3. *Decides* that the implementation of Strategy shall be based on operational work programmes for triennial periods, elaborating the Strategy Action Plan in more details;
4. *Calls on* the Parties for the monitoring of the Strategy implementation progress through the regular monitoring of ACCOBAMS resolutions and operational work programmes;
5. *Asks* Parties to consider the Strategy in the preparation and the implementation of the work programmes of other relevant instruments for the conservation of cetaceans;
6. *Calls on* the Parties and mandates the Secretariat to engage in the process of developing the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, with a view to maximizing the benefit of the new Plan for the implementation of the ACCOBAMS Agreement and Strategy.
7. *Mandates* the Secretariat to elaborate a fundraising strategy.

**ANNEX**  
**ACCOBAMS Strategy (Period 2014 - 2025)**

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## ACCOBAMS Factsheet

<b>Full name</b>	Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area
<b>Mother Convention</b>	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention)
<b>Entered into force</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> of June 2001
<b>Geographical scope</b>	All maritime waters of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, their gulfs and seas as well as thermal waters connected to or interconnecting to these maritime waters; The Atlantic area contiguous to the Mediterranean Sea west of the Straits of Gibraltar.
<b>Parties (23)</b>	Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine
<b>Partners (36) as of July 2013</b>	Alnilam, Alnitak, Archipelagos Institute of Marine Conservation, ATUTAX, BICREF - Biological Conservation Research Foundation, Blue World Institute of Marine Research and Conservation, BREMA Laboratory, Conservation Biology Research Group - University of Malta, Conservation Information and Research on Cetaceans (CIRCE), Corsica Mare Osservazione, CRAM Foundation, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra dell'Ambiente e della vita – DISTAV, écoOcéan Institut, European Cetacean Society (ECS), Green Balkans, Groupe de Recherche sur les Cétacés (GREC), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Israel Marine Mammal Research and Assistance Center (IMMRAC), IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Morigenos - Slovenian Marine Mammal Society, National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", Nature Trust, Ocean Care, Oceana Foundation, Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, ORCA, Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, Project Ninam, Souffleurs d'écume, Syrian Society for the Conservation of Wildlife (SSCW), Swiss Cetacean Society (SCS), Tethys Research Institute, Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), University of Valencia, Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), WWF - Mediterranean Programme Office
<b>Depository</b>	Principality of Monaco
<b>Secretariat's Headquarters</b>	Principality of Monaco
<b>Organisations with signed Memorandum of Understanding (14)</b>	Association «FLORA & FAUNA», Association Nationale de Développement Durable et la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage (ANDDCVS), Black Sea Council for Marine Mammals (BSCMM), Blue World Institute, Green Balkans NGO, Institute of Fish Ressources in Varna, , Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM), Mare Nostrum, MedPAN, National Council for Scientific Research of Lebanon, National Research Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa", RAC/SPA, Tethys Research Institute, TUDAV
<b>Average annual budget</b>	325.000 EUR
<b>Sources of funding</b>	54%-Voluntary Contributions, 44% Ordinary Contributions, 2% - Other
<b>Official website</b>	<a href="http://www.accobams.org">www.accobams.org</a>

## Summary

ACCOBAMS was concluded as a tool to promote conservation of cetaceans through regional cooperation. After almost 10 years of operations, the Fourth Meeting of Parties decided to develop a long-term Strategy.

A special Working Group was organised to prepare a Strategy proposal, based on the analysis of the ACCOBAMS effectiveness for the 2002 – 2010 period. This Working Group included 24 members: ACCOBAMS Bureau, representatives of the Parties, Partners, Consultants and Secretariat of the Bonn Convention. In addition, 20 participants of the regional workshops, representing Parties and relevant regional agreements, actively contributed to preparation of the strategic document.

The Strategy includes seven main elements: *Analysis of present state of ACCOBAMS affairs; ACCOBAMS Mission; Vision; Objectives; Action plan; Implementation and financing; Monitoring and revision of the Strategy.*

The *Analysis of present state* encompasses results of the evaluation of the ACCOBAMS effectiveness and reflections of the Working Groups' members about the Agreement's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). According to the effectiveness analysis, ACCOBAMS has not succeed in ensuring good status of cetacean populations, but it managed to improve regional cooperation; both by linking scientists and facilitating that countries with good human and financial capacities help those with no or weak capacities. The willingness to help countries with less resources and high motivation of some members of the ACCOBAMS structure were identified as the main strengths on which the Strategy should be built upon. On the other hand, insufficient support of the sectoral stakeholders has been identified as the most relevant weakness, followed with weak compliance. The constant demand to address emerging issues and the potential for synergies with existing and operating international agreements are the best opportunities to use, while energy crisis, political instability in some regions and financial crisis are challenges that should be considered in the future.

ACCOBAMS purpose, as expressed in the *Mission* is to continue to promote and facilitate regional cooperation at all levels, providing best expertise and standards and propelling implementation of all necessary measures for conserving cetaceans in the region.

ACCOBAMS *Vision* is that cetacean populations in the ACCOBAMS area will be in a favourable conservation status, expressed as healthy populations and habitats with minimised adverse human impacts, with ACCOBAMS having a role of key regional player.

The ACCOBAMS's overall *objective* and 10 supportive specific objectives were identified and linked to the Aichi targets and targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2020. The overall objective is to improve current conservation status of cetaceans and their habitats in the ACCOBAMS area by 2025, more specifically to achieve that status of at least all the regularly present species listed as endangered (EN) in the IUCN Red List downgraded to at least vulnerable (VU), with support of ACCOBAMS and ensure good environmental status (GES) as defined in the MSFD and according to the Ecosystem approach process implemented by the Mediterranean Action Plan, at least in the areas representing critical habitats. The specific objectives are grouped in two chapters: Management of the Agreement and Cetacean conservation efforts. Good management of the Agreement includes improvement of communications, better involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations, ensurance of adequate funding, improvement of compliance and implementation monitoring, as well as application of ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas. Cetacean conservation efforts are focused to improvement of knowledge



about state of cetaceans; reduction of human pressures, particularly those related to interaction with fisheries and habitat loss and degradation; enhancement of public awareness; improvement of national capacities; and effective conservation of cetacean critical habitats.

The *Action plan* includes 75 activities: 28 for good management of the Agreement and 47 as part of concrete cetacean conservation efforts. The management of the Agreements' activities address information and communication, existing partnerships, new partnerships, new funding opportunities, compliance to work programme and resolutions, monitoring overall effectiveness, enter into force of already adopted geographical extensions and potential geographical extensions. Cetacean conservation efforts activities are grouped under all relevant themes: cetacean populations estimates and distribution, population structure, monitoring cetaceans status, interaction with fisheries, chemical pollution, anthropogenic noise, ship strikes, cetaceans watching, marine debris, climate change, species conservation plans, captivity related issues, public awareness, functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situations, capacities to use photo ID, undertake aerial surveys and other issues, cetacean conservation postgraduate programmes, protected areas for cetaceans.

The *implementation* of the Strategy will be based on the operational work programmes for triennial periods, elaborating Strategy Action plan in more details. The Agreement funds (trust fund, voluntary contributions) will remain as the important source of *funding*, but more emphasis should be given to use of external funding.

*Monitoring* of the Strategy implementation progress will include regular monitoring of operational work programmes and resolutions implementation. The overall effectiveness will be evaluated after 5 years of implementation and at the end of the Strategy period, as a basis for the Strategy revision.

## 1. Introduction

The ACCOBAMS was developed as a cooperative tool for conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and contiguous Atlantic area. The conclusion of the Agreement is a result of consultations between the Secretariats of the three Conventions: the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Mediterranean Coast (Barcelona Convention), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) and the Convention relative to the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), whose standing Committee decided, in 1989, to create an informal group on little cetaceans that met in Palma de Majorca in 1991 with the view of drafting an Agreement. The Bucharest Convention on the protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution joined the group of Conventions later. The Agreement has been ready for signature in Monaco since the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 1996 and entered into force the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2001.

Almost 10 years later, with 23 Parties and 36 Partners, ACCOBAMS has matured and become ready for evaluation whether invested efforts resulted with desired outcomes and how to adapt and strategically plan further work. In this regard the 4th Meeting of Parties to ACCOBAMS agreed to develop the ACCOBAMS Strategy for the next 10 years period using the participatory approach (Resolution 4.24.). During this process, a need for synergy with other relevant strategic planning processes was taken into account. It particularly refers to the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan 2011 – 2020; Aichi targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for the 2010 – 2020 period. The ACCOBAMS Strategy implementation period will also overlap with the "Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023", which should be adopted in 2014 at the eleventh Conference of Parties.

## 2. Methodology of the Strategy development

Process of the Strategy development started in 2011 with **initial planning** of the process itself, which included proposal of development steps pursuant to the Resolution 4.24., including timetable and responsibilities. The proposal was reviewed by the Scientific Committee, Bureau and Executive Secretary.

The **evaluation of ACCOBAMS effectiveness** for 2002-2010 period was prepared, using the existing data and where necessary, interviews with relevant representatives of ACCOBAMS bodies or other stakeholders. This document was a basis for the work of the **Working Group for preparation of the Strategy**. The Working Group consisted of 24 members including the WG coordinator, members of the Bureau, representatives of Scientific Committee, interested Parties and Partners and Consultants as well as a representative of the Bonn Convention (Appendix 1). It was opened for participation to all Focal Points, Partners and other interested participants throughout the Strategy development process. The interaction of the Working Group members was based on the e-mail correspondence.

The Working Group was coordinated through several steps leading to preparation of the Draft Strategy. The most active members were representatives of the Scientific Committee, Partners and Consultants. In addition, half day facilitated workshops were organised adjoining regional workshops in 2012, with participation of national focal points or other representatives of Parties and other organisations (Appendix 2). The participants were informed about the Strategy development progress and they actively discussed and proposed activities that represented core of the Strategy.

All suggestions and comments were compiled into the Strategy Working document and sent for review to the Working Group members, focal points and subsequently meetings of the Scientific

Committee and the Bureau. All comments were integrated and this version of the document was published on the ACCOBAMS site for public consultations during one month. In that period comments were received from two organisations: Secretariat of the Bonn Convention and MedPAN, and included in the document presented to the ACCOBAMS Extended Bureau. Resolution on the Strategy is presented to the 5th Meeting of Parties for approval.

### **3. Analysis of present state of ACCOBAMS affairs**

The Evaluation of ACCOBAMS's effectiveness 2002 – 2010 (Summary in Appendix 3) showed that ACCOBAMS has only partly fulfilled its overall objective; conservation status of cetacean populations is still poor, but at the same time it contributed to a better regional cooperation. In this regard, ACCOBAMS particularly promoted better linkages between scientists and facilitated that countries with good human and financial capacities help those lacking these capacities. The latter, as well as the high motivation of the some members of the ACCOBAMS structure, were identified by the Working Group as the main strengths on which the Strategy should be built (Appendix 4). On the other hand, insufficient support of the sectoral stakeholders has been identified as the most relevant weakness, followed with low level of compliance by Parties and low political power of the Agreement. The most important external opportunities for the Agreement to seize are the constant demand to address emerging issues (such as marine debris, climate change) and the potential for synergies with existing and operating international marine conservation agreements. Energy crisis, as a trigger for intensification of relevant activities, along with political instability in some regions and financial crisis are threats or challenges that should be taken into account.

### **4. Mission<sup>25</sup>**

“ACCOBAMS promotes and facilitates active regional cooperation at all levels, providing best expertise and standards and propelling implementation of all necessary measures for conserving cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area.”

### **5. Vision<sup>26</sup>**

„Cetacean populations in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area will be in a favourable conservation status<sup>27</sup>, expressed as healthy populations and habitats with minimised adverse human impacts, with ACCOBAMS having a role of key regional player.”

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<sup>25</sup> Reference – Res. 4.24.

<sup>26</sup> Reference – Res.4.24

<sup>27</sup> The EU Habitats Directive provides a definition of favourable conservation status

## 6. Objectives

Overall objective	Desired outcomes	Achievement indicator	Link to Aichi Strategy <sup>28</sup> (strategic goal)	Link to EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy <sup>29</sup> (target)
Improve conservation status of cetaceans and their habitats in the ACCOBAMS area by 2023 <sup>30</sup>	<p>Status of at least all the regularly present species listed as endangered (EN)<sup>31</sup> in the IUCN Red List downgraded to at least vulnerable (VU) with support of ACCOBAMS</p> <p>Good environmental status (GES) achieved in at least areas representing cetaceans critical habitats</p>	<p>IUCN/ACCOBAMS Cetacean Red List Status trend</p> <p>Conservation status of cetaceans trend pursuant to Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive</p> <p>GES according to the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)</p> <p>GES according to the Ecosystem approach process implemented by the Mediterranean Action Plan</p>	<p>Strategic Goal B: Targets 6,8</p> <p>Strategic Goal C : Target 12</p>	Targets 1, 4 (action 14) and 6

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

<sup>29</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1\\_EN\\_ACT\\_part1\\_v7%5B1%5D.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area

<sup>31</sup> Including species that are currently identified as data deficient (D.D.), but could have EN status. (Relation B.1.)

## A. MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT

No.	Specific objectives	Desired outcomes	Achievement indicator	Link to Aichi Strategy (strategic goal)	Link to EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy (target)
A.1.	Improve communication across, up and down ACCOBAMS as an organisation	All ACCOBAMS Bodies, national focal/contact points, Partners and other relevant national institutions, organisations and experts are familiar with activities implemented by or relevant for ACCOBAMS and share accurately information	Percentage of relevant national institutions/organisation or independent experts familiar with or involved in ACCOBAMS activities  Number of information on emerging issues shared accurately <sup>32</sup> with or via Secretariat	Not applicable	Not applicable
A.2.	Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations, including all riparian countries	All key stakeholders actively cooperate with ACCOBAMS, particularly the EC, GFCM, IMO, representatives of navy, oil and gas exploration and exploitation industry  All riparian countries become Party to the ACCOBAMS	Percentage of key stakeholders cooperating with ACCOBAMS  Percentage of riparian countries that ratified ACCOBAMS	Strategic Goal A: Target 4 and supportive to Strategic Goal E: Target 17	Target 1: Action 3

<sup>32</sup> Within 24 hours after actual occurrence

A.3.	Ensure adequate funding, in particularly for conservation activities	Real budget for conservation is increased and fulfils at least 50% of needs	Percentage of the fulfilled conservation activities needs	Not directly applicable, although supportive to Strategic goal E: Target 20	Target 6: Action 18, Target 20
A.4.	Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress	High level of implementation of ACCOBAMS resolutions (provisions) by Parties and overall work programmes implementation, amounting to at least 70%, with progress monitored at least once per triennium,  ACCOBAMS effectiveness is improved for 50%	Percentage of resolutions and work programme implementations evaluated at least at triennial rate  Overall ACCOBAMS effectiveness level	Not applicable	Not applicable
A.5.	Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas in close cooperation with other CMS instruments	All countries from adjacent areas implement ACCOBAMS cetacean conservation standards	Level of compliance to ACCOBAMSs resolutions implementation on behalf of riparian countries not yet Parties to ACCOBAMS	All of the above	Not specifically addressed

## B. CETACEAN CONSERVATION EFFORTS

No.	Specific objectives	Desired outcomes	Achievement indicator	Link to Aichi Strategy (strategic goal)	Link to EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy (target)
B.1	Improve the knowledge about state of cetaceans	<p>Sufficient data collected to be able to assign all currently D.D. species to one of the IUCN categories</p> <p>New knowledge about/related to state of other species gained with support of ACCOBAMS</p>	<p>Updated IUCN/ACCOBAMS Cetacean Red Lists</p> <p>New literature, published articles or other references</p>	Strategic Goal E: Target 19	Target 1: Action 4
B.2	Reduce human pressures on cetaceans, particularly those related to interaction with fisheries , habitat loss and degradation	<p>Mortality rate and number of animals injured through activities caused by humans are decreased by at least 30%</p> <p>No recorded redistribution of cetacean populations that can be linked to human pressures.</p>	<p>Mortality trends and cases of animals injured through human activities</p> <p>Trends of cetaceans redistribution in relation to human impacts</p>	Strategic Goal B: Targets 5,6 and 8	Target 4: Actions 14, 15 and Target 6; Action 17

B.3	Enhance public awareness about cetaceans	General public and other relevant stakeholders in at least 20% of Parties are aware about cetaceans and need for their conservation through activities supported by or linked to ACCOBAMS	Level of awareness of general public and other relevant stakeholders (public awareness index)	Strategic Goal A: Target 1	Target 1, Action 4
B.4	Improve capacities of national organisations and experts	Trained staff/experts at least for two topics promoted through ACCOBAMS, particularly in south Mediterranean and Black Sea countries	Number of national staff/experts with acquired knowledge about topics promoted through ACCOBAMS	Strategic Goal E: Target 19	Not specifically addressed
B.5	Enhance effective conservation of cetaceans critical habitats	State of cetaceans in at least 5 areas containing critical habitats is maintained or improved with certain support by ACCOBAMS	Management effectiveness level of protected areas for cetaceans	Strategic Goal C: Target 11	Target 1: Actions 1 and 2



## 7. Action plan

### A. MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT

#### A.1. Specific objective: *Improve communication across, up and down ACCOBAMS as an organisation*

No.	Activity	Subject(s) in charge	Expected outputs	Possible sources of funding <sup>33</sup>	Priority level <sup>34,35</sup>	Target species	Relation to other activities
<b>A.1.1. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION</b>							
A.1.1.1.	Establish regular platform of communication to inform all relevant subjects about ongoing activities, cooperation possibilities, project call of proposals and other relevant information	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Parties, Partners	Regularly exchanged information	AF	Ongoing	All species	A.3
A.1.1.2.	Maintain and regularly update ACCOBAMS database <sup>36</sup> , including information about all cetacean conservation related scientists and experts operating in the region	Secretariat, Parties, Scientific Committee, Partners	New and updated information filled into ACCOBAMS database	AF	Ongoing	All species	-
A.1.1.3.	Maintain regular communication of ACCOBAMS Bodies	All Bodies	Regular meetings of all bodies (f.e. for SC and Bureau at least	AF	Ongoing	All species	A.3.

<sup>33</sup> AF= Agreement Funds ( Trust Fund, Voluntary Contributions granted by specific country(ies) to the Agreements budget); NC - national co-funding/in kind through logistic , etc.... ; EF= External Funds

<sup>34</sup> Very high = activity should be completed before the end of the first triennium, High = activity should be completed by the end of the first triennium/beginning of the second , Medium = activity should be completed by the end of the second triennium/ beginning of the third, Low = activity should be completed by the end of the third triennium/beginning of the forth, Ongoing – for activities implemented regularly during all triennia

<sup>35</sup> Proposed prioritisation level is based on scores given during regional workshops on desired priorities for the upcoming triennium and inputs of WG members

<sup>36</sup> Note: Development of comprehensive ACCOBAMS database is in progress and it should be established by 2013 (including information about institutions, projects, experts, etc....)

			twice in each triennium)				
A.1.1.4.	Continue organising regional workshops with representatives of Parties and introducing participation of representatives of Scientific Committee	Secretariat, Parties, Scientific Committee	Regional workshops once in each triennium	AF	Ongoing	All species	A.4.
A.1.1.5.	Continue organising biennial conferences for the Southern Mediterranean countries	Secretariat, Mediterranean Sub-regional Coordination Unit	Biennial conferences once in each triennium	AF	Ongoing	All species	-
A.1.1.6.	Regularly update ACCOBAMS web-site, including FINS	Secretariat	New and accurate information available on the web-site	AF	Ongoing	All species	A.3.1.4.

**A.2. Specific objective: *Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations***

No.	Activity	Subject(s) in charge	Expected outputs	Possible sources of funding <sup>37</sup>	Priority level <sup>38</sup>	Target species	Relation to other activities
<b>A.2.1. EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS</b>							
A.2.1.1.	Continue active cooperation with GFCM	Secretariat, Scientific Committee	Participation in the work of relevant GFCM bodies/working groups  Joint projects	AF	Ongoing	DD,GM, OO, PP, SC, TT <sup>39</sup> (depredation)	B.2.1.
A.2.1.2.	Start more active cooperation with IMO	Secretariat, Scientific Committee	Joint activities/projects	AF	Medium - High	All species	B.2.3., B.2.4.
A.2.1.3.	Intensify collaboration with CMS and relevant CMS agreements such as ASCOBANS in line with the relevant resolutions, as well as activities with other relevant nature conservation and environmental protection agreements such as the Barcelona Convention, IWC, etc.....	Secretariat	Regular meetings of the Secretariats  Joint projects  Joint working groups on particular issues (such as ship strikes with IWC, anthropogenic noise with ASCOBANS, etc...)	AF	High	All species	B.2.2., B.2.3., B.2.4.
A.2.1.4.	Include cetacean conservation activities in the strategic documents	Secretariat, Parties	Cetacean conservation activities included in	AF	High	All species	All B activities,

<sup>37</sup> AF= Agreement Funds (Trust Fund, Voluntary Contributions granted by specific country(ies) to the Agreements budget); NC - national co-funding/in kind through logistic, etc....;EF= External Funds

<sup>38</sup> Very high = activity should be completed before the end of the first triennium, High = activity should be completed by the end of the first triennium/beginning of the second , Medium = activity should be completed by the end of the second triennium/ beginning of the third, Low = activity should be completed by the end of the third triennium/beginning of the forth, Ongoing – for activities implemented regularly during all triennia

<sup>39</sup> DD=*Delphinus delphis* – short-beaked common dolphin, GM=*Globicephala melas* – long-finned pilot whale, OO=*Orcinus orca* – killer whale, PP=*Phocoena phocena* – harbour porpoise, SC = *Stenella coeruleoalba* – striped dolphin, TT=*Tursiops truncatus* – common bottlenose dolphin,

	and other planning documents of relevant stakeholders, such as EU Biodiversity Strategy, marine strategies in the ACCOBAMS area (MSFD <sup>40</sup> ), CBD Strategy, Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, SAP BIO, GFCM, IMO, MedPAN, etc....		all relevant regional strategic documents				A.3.
A.2.1.5.	Mobilise more actively international, regional and local NGOs for lobbying about cetacean conservation interests at decision-making level	Secretariat, Partners	Regular communication/meetings with representatives of the relevant international NGOs	AF	High	All species	-
<b>A.2.2. NEW PARTNERSHIPS</b>							
A.2.2.1.	Negotiate accession of all riparian states to the Agreement	Secretariat, Parties	All riparian states are Parties to ACCOBAMS	AF	Very high	All species	-
A.2.2.2.	Establish formal partnership with the EC jointly with ASCOBANS and as feasible with assistance from CMS, having a role of expert adviser for cetacean conservation issues	Secretariat, relevant Parties, Partners	Formal Agreement  Participation in the relevant EC fora  Contribution to the determination and monitoring of the GES (MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD)  Joint projects	AF	Very high	All species	B.1.1., B.1.2., B.1.5.

<sup>40</sup> EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive

A.2.2.3.	Establish formal partnership with NATO - NURC	Secretariat, Parties	Formal Agreement  Participation in the meetings  Joint projects	AF	High	All species	B.2.3.
A.2.2.4.	Establish formal partnership with International association of oil and gas producers (OGP)	Secretariat	Formal Agreement  Participation in the meetings  Joint projects	AF	High	All species	B.2.2., B.2.3.
A.2.2.5.	Establish connections with International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	Secretariat	Participation in meetings  Joint activities	AF	Medium - High	All species	B.1.2.
A.2.2.6.	Establish connections with the European Boating Association (EBA)	Secretariat	Participation in meetings  Joint activities	AF	Medium	All species	B.2.3., B.3.1.4.
A.2.2.7.	Establish connections with the WTO (World Tourism Organisation)	Secretariat	Participation in meetings  Joint activities	AF	Medium	All species	B.2.3., B.2.5.

**A.3. Specific objective: *Ensure adequate funding, in particularly for conservation activities***

No.	Activity	Subject(s) in charge	Expected outputs	Possible sources of funding <sup>41</sup>	Priority level <sup>42</sup>	Target species	Relation to other activities
<b>A.3.1. NEW FUNDING POSSIBILITIES</b>							
A.3.1.1.	Appoint one projects preparation/implementation assistance and fundraising officer in the Secretariat	Parties, Secretariat	Project and fundraising officer as a member of the Secretariat staff	AF, NC	High	All species	All B activities
A.3.1.2.	Analyse available funding possibilities in the region (EU funds, private funds , etc....) and develop a funding strategy	Secretariat	Overview of available funding possibilities in the region  Funding Strategy	AF	Very high	All species	All B activities
A.3.1.3.	Regularly inform Parties about project call of proposals and other funding possibilities	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Partners	Information exchanged via e-mailing list	AF	Ongoing	All species	A.1.1.1., all B activities
A.3.1.4.	Encourage development of multilateral/ transboundary projects	Secretariat, Parties, Partners, Scientific Committee	Submitted project proposals prepared with assistance of ACCOBAMS bodies	AF	High	All species	All B activities

<sup>41</sup> AF= Agreement Funds (Trust Fund, Voluntary Contributions granted by specific country(ies) to the Agreements budget); NC - national co-funding/in kind through logistic, etc....;EF= External Funds

<sup>42</sup> Very high = activity should be completed before the end of the first triennium, High = activity should be completed by the end of the first triennium/beginning of the second , Medium = activity should be completed by the end of the second triennium/ beginning of the third, Low = activity should be completed by the end of the third triennium/beginning of the forth, Ongoing – for activities implemented regularly during all triennia

**A.4. Specific objective: Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress**

No.	Activity	Subject(s) in charge	Expected outputs	Possible sources of funding <sup>43</sup>	Priority level <sup>44</sup>	Target species	Relation to other activities
<b>A.4.1. COMPLIANCE TO WORK PROGRAMME AND RESOLUTIONS</b>							
A.4.1.1.	Evaluate work programmes implementation progress and level of resolutions implementation by Parties as a basis for new triennial work programme planning	Secretariat, Bureau, Follow-up Committee	Analyses of work programmes implementation and implementation of resolutions report	AF	High	All species	A.1.1.4., All B activities
A.4.1.2.	Propose remedy actions in cases of non-compliance and infringements	Follow-up Committee	Proposal of remedy actions	AF	High	All species	-
<b>A.4.2. MONITORING OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS</b>							
A.4.2.1.	Evaluate overall Agreement's effectiveness, at least prior to the Strategy revision	Secretariat, External Assistance	Evaluation of ACCOBAMS effectiveness	AF	Low	All species	B.1.3., B.3.1.6., B.5.1.3.

<sup>43</sup> AF= Agreement Funds (Trust Fund, Voluntary Contributions granted by specific country(ies) to the Agreements budget); NC - national co-funding/in kind through logistic, etc....;EF= External Funds

<sup>44</sup> Very high = activity should be completed before the end of the first triennium, High = activity should be completed by the end of the first triennium/beginning of the second , Medium = activity should be completed by the end of the second triennium/ beginning of the third, Low = activity should be completed by the end of the third triennium/beginning of the forth, Ongoing – for activities implemented regularly during all triennia

**A.5. Specific objective: *Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas***

No.	Activity	Subject(s) in charge	Expected outputs	Possible sources of funding <sup>45</sup>	Priority level <sup>46</sup>	Target species	Relation to other activities
<b>A.5.1. ENTER INTO FORCE OF ALREADY APPROVED GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENSION</b>							
A.5.1.1.	Enforce ratification by Parties of the existing Amendment for geographical extension to the Atlantic	Depositary, Parties	Amendment entered into force	NC	Very high	All species	-
<b>A.5.2. POTENTIAL GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENSIONS</b>							
A.5.1.2.	Analyse added value of extension to the adjacent areas, particularly of the Red Sea extension	Secretariat, Relevant Parties, Scientific Committee, other experts	Proposal of further actions regarding extension of the Agreement	AF, NC	Medium	All species	-

<sup>45</sup> AF= Agreement Funds (Trust Fund, Voluntary Contributions granted by specific country(ies) to the Agreements budget); NC - national co-funding/in kind through logistic, etc....;EF= External Funds

<sup>46</sup> Very high = activity should be completed before the end of the first triennium, High = activity should be completed by the end of the first triennium/beginning of the second , Medium = activity should be completed by the end of the second triennium/ beginning of the third, Low = activity should be completed by the end of the third triennium/beginning of the forth, Ongoing – for activities implemented regularly during all triennia



## B. CETACEAN CONSERVATION EFFORTS

### B.1. Specific objective: *Improve knowledge about state of cetaceans*

No.	Activity	Subject(s) in charge	Expected outputs	Possible sources of funding <sup>47</sup>	Priority level <sup>48</sup>	Targeted species	Relation to other activities
<b>B.1.1. CETACEAN POPULATIONS ESTIMATES AND DISTRIBUTION</b>							
B.1.1.1.	Undertake two comprehensive surveys of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea using aerial surveys where possible	ACCOBAMS Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Parties, Partners; RAC/SPA (Mediterranean Sub-regional coordination unit); IUCN; French Marine Protected Areas Agency; other experts	Study report of distribution and abundance of cetaceans in the Western, Central, part of the South and Eastern Mediterranean Sea based on results of the survey	AF, EF, NC	Very high	All species	B.1.3.
B.1.1.2.	Assist in development and implementation of sub-regional (transboundary) abundance and distribution survey projects in the areas where aerial surveys are not possible	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, other experts, Parties, Partners	Study report of distribution and abundance of cetaceans based on results of the survey	AF, NC	Very high	All species	B.1.3.
B.1.1.3.	Facilitate undertaking the 2 <sup>nd</sup> survey of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the Black Sea	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Parties, Partners, other experts, Black Sea Commission (Black Sea Sub-regional coordination unit)	Study report of distribution and abundance of cetaceans in the Black Sea based on results of the 2nd survey	AF, NC, EF	Low	All Black Sea species	B.1.3.

<sup>47</sup> AF= Agreement Funds (Trust Fund, Voluntary Contributions granted by specific country(ies) to the Agreements budget); NC - national co-funding/in kind through logistic, etc....; EF= External Funds

<sup>48</sup> Very high = activity should be completed before the end of the first triennium, High = activity should be completed by the end of the first triennium/beginning of the second , Medium = activity should be completed by the end of the second triennium/ beginning of the third, Low = activity should be completed by the end of the third triennium/beginning of the forth, Ongoing – for activities implemented regularly during all triennia

<b>B.1.2. POPULATION STRUCTURE</b>							
B.1.2.1.	Implement population structure priorities based on knowledge gap analysis	Scientific Committee, Partners, other experts, IWC, ASCOBANS	Analyses/studies of population structure	AF,E	High-Medium	All species	-
<b>B.1.3. MONITORING CETACEANS STATUS</b>							
B.1.3.1.	Monitor mortality trends and cases of animals injured through different human activities, using existing tools (such as MEDACES), at least on triennial basis	Secretariat, RAC/SPA (Mediterranean Sub-regional coordination unit), Parties, Partners	Mortality trend reports	AF,NC EF	Ongoing	All species	A.4.2.1., B.2.1. – B.2.7.
B.1.3.2.	Assess IUCN threat status of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it regularly	Scientific Committee, Partners, IUCN, other experts	Threat assessment reports  Updates available on the IUCN, ACCOBAMS websites	AF,EF	Very high	All species	B.1.1., B.1.2., all B.2.
B.1.3.3.	Prepare Red Books of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Region	Scientific Committee, Partners, IUCN, other experts	Red Books of cetaceans	AF, EF	High	All species	As above
B.1.3.4.	Assess favourable conservation status of cetaceans in the entire ACCOBAMS area (link to the EU Habitat Directive reporting obligation)	Scientific Committee, Partners, other experts	Report on the state of cetaceans	AF,EF	High	All species	As above

**B.2. Specific objective: *Reduce human pressures on cetaceans, in particularly those related to bycatch, habitat loss and degradation (pollution)***

No.	Activity	Subject(s) in charge	Expected outputs	Possible sources of funding <sup>49</sup>	Priority level <sup>50</sup>	Target species	Relation to other activities
<b>B.2.1. INTERACTION WITH FISHERIES (BYCATCH and DEPREDACTION)</b>							
B.2.1.1.	Assess cetaceans bycatch and depredation impacts on cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and adjoining Atlantic area and propose mitigation measures focusing on pilot areas through a joint GFCM/ACCOBAMS project <sup>51</sup>	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Parties in cooperation with GFCM	Analysis of cetacean bycatch in the Mediterranean Sea and proposal of mitigation measures	EF, NC	Very high - High	DD, GM, OO, PP, SC, TT (depredation)	B.1.3., A.2.1.1.
B.2.1.2.	Prepare a cetaceans bycatch reduction strategy for the Mediterranean Sea and adjoining Atlantic area, based on the results of the joint GFCM/ACCOBAMS project	ACCOBAMS Secretariat, Scientific Committee	Bycatch reduction strategy for the Mediterranean Sea and adjoining Atlantic area	EF, NC	High-Medium	As above	A.2.1.1.
B.2.1.3.	Participate in the EC research and conservation project on the Adverse Fisheries Impacts on Cetacean Populations in the Black Sea (2012-2014), addressing impacts of interaction of fisheries on cetaceans and preparing a draft Strategy for reducing cetacean bycatch in the Black Sea and adjacent waters	Other experts, Black Sea Commission (Black Sea Sub regional coordination unit), Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Parties	Analysis of cetacean bycatch in the Black Sea  Bycatch reduction strategy for the Black Sea	EF, NC	Very high	All Black Sea species	A.2.1.1.

<sup>49</sup> AF= Agreement Funds (Trust Fund, Voluntary Contributions granted by specific country(ies) to the Agreements budget); NC - national co-funding/in kind through logistic, etc....;EF= External Funds

<sup>50</sup> Very high = activity should be completed before the end of the first triennium, High = activity should be completed by the end of the first triennium/beginning of the second , Medium = activity should be completed by the end of the second triennium/ beginning of the third, Low = activity should be completed by the end of the third triennium/beginning of the forth, Ongoing – for activities implemented regularly during all triennia

<sup>51</sup> Development of the project started in 2012

B.2.1.4.	Organise a connection with the EU bycatch reporting system	Secretariat, Scientific Committee	Joint data collection system	EF,NC	High	As 2.1.2.	A.2.2.1., A.2.2.5.
<b>B.2.2. CHEMICAL POLLUTION</b>							
B.2.2.1.	Assess the impact of chemical pollution on cetaceans	Scientific Committee, other experts	Assessment of impacts of pollution on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area	AF, EF	Medium	All species	B.1.3., A.2.1.3.
<b>B.2.3. ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE</b>							
B.2.3.1.	Identify anthropogenic noise/cetaceans interactions hot spots in the ACC. area	Scientific Committee, other experts, Partners	Overview of noise hot spots	AF, EF	Very high	All species, particularly ZC, PM <sup>52</sup>	A.2.2.2., A.2.2.4.
B.2.3.2.	Monitor all activities in the region including noise component	Secretariat, Parties	Overview(s) of approved activities including noise component	AF, NC, EF	Very high	All species	A.2.1.3., A.2.2.2., A.2.2.3., A.2.2.4., A.2.2.6.
B.2.3.3.	Map and develop a monitoring of sea ambient noise, particularly in critical habitats	Scientific Committee, other experts, Partners	Map of sea ambient noise Monitoring protocol(s)	AF, EF	High	All species	As above
B.2.3.4.	Develop and update more detailed guidelines to mitigate impacts of anthropogenic noise, using the existing guidelines	Secretariat, ASCOBANS, other experts	Revised guidelines to mitigate impacts of anthropogenic noise	AF,EF	High	All species	As above
<b>B.2.4. SHIP STRIKES</b>							
B.2.4.1.	Identify high risk areas for ship strikes in the Mediterranean Sea	Scientific Committee, other experts, Partners, Parties	Overview of high risk areas for ship strikes	AF, EF	Medium	BP, PM <sup>53</sup>	A.2.1.2.

<sup>52</sup> PM = *Physeter macrocephalus* – sperm whale, ZC = *Ziphius cavirostris* – Cuvier's beaked whale

<sup>53</sup> BP= *Balaenoptera physalus* – fin whale, PM = *Physeter macrocephalus* – sperm whale

B.2.4.2.	Promote use of mitigation measures, particularly REPCET system to shipping companies in the region	Secretariat, Partners, Parties	Ships/boats in areas inhabiting large whales using the REPCET or other systems	AF, EF	High	BP, PM	A.2.1.2.
B.2.4.3.	Develop a protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities	Scientific Committee, IWC, other experts	Protocol	AF	High	BP, PM	B.1.3.1.
<b>B.2.5. CETACEAN WATCHING</b>							
B.2.5.1.	Promote use of ACCOBAMS / Pelagos cetacean watching label	Secretariat, Pelagos Sanctuary, Partners, Parties	All states with intensive cetacean watching use labelling	AF, EF	–Medium - Low	All species	-
B.2.5.2.	Revise cetacean-watching guidelines when new information is available, include. data collection protocols	Scientific Committee	Revised guidelines on cetacean-watching	AF	Ongoing	All species	A.2.2.6.
B.2.5.3.	Assess and monitor cetacean watching activities in ACCOBAMS area	Scientific Committee, Secretariat, Parties	Assessments of cetacean watching activities with monitoring protocols	AF	Ongoing	All species	-
<b>B.2.6. MARINE DEBRIS</b>							
B.2.6.1.	Assess the impact of ghost nets on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area	Secretariat, other experts	Assessment of ghost nets impacts on cetaceans	AF, EF	High	All species	B.1.3.
B.2.6.2.	Assess the impact of plastic bags, microplastic and other plastic materials ingestion on cetaceans in cooperation with existing initiatives, such as IWC	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, MedPOL, IWC	Assessment of plastic materials impacts on cetaceans	AF, EF	High	All species	B.1.3.
<b>B.2.7. CLIMATE CHANGE</b>							
B.2.7.1.	Assess impacts of climate change on cetaceans and identify indicator species, in cooperation with existing initiatives, such as IWC, IUCN GFCM, etc....	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Partners (IUCN), other experts, IWC, GFCM	Assessment of climate change impacts on cetaceans	AF, EF	Low	All species	B.1.3.

<b>B.2.8. SPECIES CONSERVATION PLANS</b>							
B.2.8.1.	Revise regional conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders	Black Sea Commission (Sub-regional coord. unit), Secretariat, other experts, Parties	Revised regional conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans	AF, EF	High	All Black Sea species	B.2.1., B.2.2., B.2.3., B.2.6.
B.2.8.2.	Finalize conservation plans for fin whale, bottlenose dolphin and Cuvier's beaked whale	Scientific Comm., Partners, other experts	Conservation plans	AF	High	BM, TT, ZC	B.1.1., B.2.3., B.2.4
B.2.8.3.	Assist in development and implementation of national action plans, particularly in the South Mediterranean and in Black Sea countries	Secretariat, RAC/SPA, Black Sea Commission (Sub-regional coord. units), Scientific Committee, other experts	National action plans	AF	High	All species	B.1.1., B.2.1.
<b>B.2.9. CAPTIVITY RELATED ISSUES</b>							
B.2.9.1.	Assess and monitor specimens held in captivity in the ACCOBAMS area	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Sub-regional coordination units, Parties, Partners, Other Experts	Assessments of specimens in captivity	AF	Ongoing	All species, particularly Black Sea TT	-

**B.3. Specific objective: *Enhance public awareness about cetaceans***

No.	Activity	Subject(s) in charge	Expected outputs	Possible sources of funding <sup>54</sup>	Priority level <sup>55</sup>	Target species	Relation to other activities
<b>B.3.1. PUBLIC AWARENESS</b>							
B.3.1.1.	Introduce ACCOBAMS cetaceans day and promote annual celebration	Secretariat, Partners, Parties	ACCOBAMS cetaceans day regularly celebrated in the area	AF, NC	Medium	All species	-
B.3.1.2.	Use new tools to communicate with public via ACCOBAMS's web-site, such as social networks, smart phone applications, Google applications, etc....	Secretariat, Partners	Exchanges through social networks  New applications	AF	Medium	All species	-
B.3.1.3.	Undertake public information activities targeted to future generations (children), using different tools (such as designing a special part of the web-site for children, promote educational kits <sup>56</sup> , etc....)	Secretariat, Partners	Section for children available on ACCOBAMS web-site  Educational kit distributed to relevant subjects	AF, NC	Medium	All species	B.4.3.

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<sup>56</sup> Note: Educational kit should be produced in 2013

B.3.1.4.	Promote cetacean conservation during different events, such as meetings of parties of ACCOBAMS and other relevant international agreements, IUCN's world congress, MedPAN promoted forum of MPAs in the Mediterranean, fairs with participation of tour operators, representatives of recreational boating and leisure fishing , etc....	Secretariat, Partners, Parties	Side-events, such as lectures, exhibitions	AF	Ongoing	All species	A.1.1.4.
B.3.1.5.	Regularly inform media about cetacean conservation activities and other aspects of ACCOBAMS work	Secretariat, Partners, Parties	Press releases, Web-site updates	AF, NC	Ongoing	All species	-
B.3.1.6.	Organise public awareness related survey	Secretariat, other experts, Parties	Survey format and instructions  Survey report	AF	High	All species	A.4.2.1.



**B.4. Specific objective: *Improve capacities of national organisations and experts***

No.	Activity	Subject(s) in charge	Expected outputs	Possible sources of funding <sup>57</sup>	Priority level <sup>58</sup>	Target species	Relation to other activities
<b>B.4.1. FUNCTIONAL STRANDING NETWORKS AND RESPONSES TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS</b>							
B.4.1.1.	Undertake systematic trainings on necropsies, live strandings and response to emergency situation in the ACCOBAMS region	Secretariat, Partners	Trained participants from all Parties with identified needs	AF, NC	Ongoing	All species	B.1.3.1.
B.4.1.2.	Establish (sub)regional mailing lists of participants in the stranding networks to facilitate exchange of information, in particularly in the South Mediterranean region	Secretariat, Parties	Regularly exchanged information on stranding events	AF, NC	Ongoing	All species	A.1.1.1., B.1.3.1.
B.4.1.3.	Establish a regional Emergency Task Force as advise to Parties and develop an operational protocol	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Partners	Operational regional Emergency Task Force nominated	AF	Very high	All species	B.1.3.1.

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<b>B.4.2. CAPACITY TO USE CETACEANS PHOTO ID AND UNDERTAKE AERIAL SURVEYS</b>							
B.4.2.1.	Undertake systematic trainings on the use of photo-id and carrying out of aerial surveys designed for both cetacean professionals and non-professionals (particularly MPAs practitioners)	Secretariat, Partners, MedPAN	Trained experts from all Parties with identified needs	AF, EF	Medium	All species	B.1.1.
B.4.2.2.	Provide photo-id equipment to the Parties with least capacities	Secretariat	Relevant Parties with provided equipment	AF, EF	Medium	All species	B.1.1.
B.4.2.3.	Promote and facilitate exchange of expertise, such as participation of experts with less knowledge in the specific projects implemented by experienced researchers, etc...	Secretariat, Parties	Experts trained through participation in the specific projects	AF,NC	Low - Medium	All species	B.1.1.
<b>B.4.3. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR OTHER CETACEAN CONSERVATION ISSUES</b>							
B.4.3.1.	Facilitate organisation of study tours and trainings with participation of protected areas managers from the areas containing cetacean critical habitats in the similar areas using good management practices	Secretariat, MedPAN, Parties	Experts participated in the study tours/trainings facilitated by ACCOBAMS	AF	Ongoing	All species	B.5.1.

B.4.3.2.	Enable practice of cetacean conservation staff on relevant issues in the ACCOBAMS Secretariat	Parties, Secretariat	Trained cetacean conservation staff from the Parties	AF, NC	Ongoing	All species	
<b>B.4.4. CETACEAN CONSERVATION AND POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES</b>							
B.4.4.1.	Introduce cetacean conservation modules in the existing postgraduate programmes	Secretariat, Partners	Post-graduate programmes with included cetacean conservation modules	AF, NC, EF	Ongoing	All species	

**B.5. Specific objective: *Enhance effective conservation of cetaceans critical habitats***

No.	Activity	Subject(s) in charge	Expected outputs	Possible sources of funding <sup>59</sup>	Priority level <sup>60</sup>	Target species	Relation to other activities
<b>B.5.1. PROTECTED AREAS FOR CETACEANS</b>							
B.5.1.1.	Update regularly a list of areas containing critical habitats of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS region	Scientific Committee, Partners, other experts	Lists of areas containing critical habitats of cetaceans	AF	High	All species	B.1.1.
B.5.1.2.	Develop tools for adequate management of areas containing critical habitat, including evaluation of management effectiveness and using examples of best practice	Secretariat, MedPAN, Scientific Committee, other experts	Guidelines on adequate management of areas containing critical habitats	AF	High	All species	B.2.
B.5.1.3.	Evaluate effectiveness of protected areas containing critical habitats for cetaceans using existing initiatives (such as MedPAN endeavours in that context), at least after 5 years of Strategy adoption	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, other experts, RAC/SPA (Mediterranean Sub-regional coordination unit), MedPAN	Evaluation of effectiveness of protected areas for cetaceans, fore mostly their contribution to achievement/maintenance of favourable conservation status	AF, EF	High	All species	A.4.2.1.

<sup>59</sup> AF= Agreement Funds (Trust Fund, Voluntary Contributions granted by specific country(ies) to the Agreements budget); NC - national co-funding/in kind through logistic, etc...;EF= External Funds

<sup>60</sup> Very high = activity should be completed before the end of the first triennium, High = activity should be completed by the end of the first triennium/beginning of the second , Medium = activity should be completed by the end of the second triennium/ beginning of the third, Low = activity should be completed by the end of the third triennium/beginning of the forth, Ongoing – for activities implemented regularly during all triennia

## **8. Implementation and financing**

The Strategy will be implemented through operational work programmes for triennial periods. The work programmes will be prepared with active cooperation between all ACCOBAMS bodies, Parties and other stakeholders, with coordination of the Secretariat. The work programmes will elaborate activities from the Strategy (Action Plan chapter) in more details, in particular regarding concrete responsibilities of subjects in charge, sources of funding and estimation of costs of each activity (Appendix 5).

The Agreement funds (trust fund, voluntary contributions) represent steady source of funding that will be used for management of the agreement and to certain extent for actual cetacean conservation activities. However; for successful implementation of the Strategy, in particular large projects planned under cetacean conservation efforts (f.e. dedicated surveys); it is critical to use external funding such as the EU funds, private funding, etc... National co-financing/in-kind is expected as logistic for implementation of certain activities.

## **9. Monitoring and revision of the Strategy**

Monitoring of the Strategy implementation progress will include regular monitoring of operational work programmes and resolutions implementation (as described in the A.4. section of the Action Plan). The overall effectiveness will be evaluated after 5 years of Strategy implementation, taking opportunity of triennial regional workshops, and at the end of the Strategy period, as a basis for the Strategy revision. In cases of some emerging trends and developments, the evaluation of the effectiveness and Strategy revision could be undertaken before conclusion of the 12 years period. The decision will be made by the Meeting of Parties or the Bureau, after consultation with other ACCOBAMS bodies.

## 10. Appendices

### Appendix 1. Working Group for the development of Strategy

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Carmen MIFSUD	Malta
Celine VANKLAVEREN	Monaco
Members of the Scientific Committee	
Alexei BIRKUN	Chair of the ACCOBAMS SC
Giuseppe NOTARBARTOLO DI SCIARA	Task manager/former Chair
Greg DONOVAN	IWC representative
Simone PANIGADA	ECS representative
Members of the Bureau	
Cyril GOMEZ	Chair of ACCOBAMS (Monaco)
Andrej BIBIC	Slovenia
Volodymyr DOMASHLINETS	Ukraine
Gaby KHALAF	Lebanon
Marina SEQUEIRA	Portugal
CMS	
Heidrun FRISCH	ASCOBANS Coordinator and Marine Mammals Officer for CMS

## Appendix 2. Regional workshops participants involved in the Strategy development process

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Chedly RAIS	ACCOBAMS Secretariat
Valeria ABAZA	BLACK SEA COMMISSION – Permanent Secretariat
Lobna BEN NAKHLA	RAC/SPA

### Appendix 3. Summary of Evaluation of the ACCOBAMS effectiveness for the 2002 – 2010 period<sup>61</sup>

The evaluation of ACCOBAMS effectiveness was carried out using the species management effectiveness evaluation methodology. Existing written documents, mostly produced in the scope of ACCOBAMS, provided sufficient information for the assessment. Certain information was provided by the Executive Secretary, former and current Chairs of the Scientific Committee and the representative of the Mediterranean Sub-regional coordination unit – RAC/SPA.

Cetacean populations in the Black and Mediterranean Seas and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS Area) represent the main value and the ACCOBAMS overall objective is to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status of cetaceans in the Black and Mediterranean Seas and contiguous Atlantic area through coordinated effort at regional level.

The **context** of ACCOBAMS operations is rather complex. Human activities represent the source of all threats to cetacean populations in the ACCOBAMS area; the most significant are interactions with fisheries, foremostly bycatch, and habitat loss and degradation. At least 10 stakeholders groups operate in the ACCOBAMS area, ACCOBAMS being a member of the nature conservationists and environmentalists stakeholders group. The stakeholders having the most impacts of cetacean populations have the most political power, in particularly fishermen, shipping and recreational boating and navy. Nature conservationists and environmentalists are most active; they have a great interest and human potential, but least political power. International cetacean conservation related legislation framework is well established, although the implementation is weak.

**ACCOBAMS management planning** adequacy is partial. No long-term strategy was developed, but a mid-term work programmes which are adopted on regular basis (each triennium). Not all relevant stakeholders actively participate in the decision-making process, even when invited, in particularly representatives of relevant sectors. These programs are also not linked to other regional sectoral plans or strategies. They are also not clearly structured. Lack of any monitoring indicators represents a problem for evaluation of their level of implementation and effectiveness evaluation in general.

Human **inputs** at the ACCOBAMS structure level have been fairly adequate, particularly those of the Scientific Committee in a broader sense. Partners played an important role in that respect. Discontinuities of Secretariat's composition, apart from the Executive Secretary, and lack of adequate contribution of most of the regional representatives to the work of the Scientific Committee have been two problematic factors. The latter had an important share in not using the full potential of national experts and scientist. Financial needs for administration and general management issues have mostly been sufficient, particularly thanks to the support of Monaco. National focal and contact points were appointed in almost all of Parties, they are usually low or middle ranked officers and have responsibilities for a range of different activities and agreements. Although Parties staff costs are not financed from the ACCOBAMS budget, Parties human capacity is important for implementation of work programme activities. Parties' human capacities are weak, mostly in the south Mediterranean and Black Sea countries.

The work programmes **implementation process** was carried out with partial adequacy. Information basis needed for implementation of activities and consequently draft future ones were hardly adequate, but still useful. Mostly adequate research was planned at the regional level, in particularly comprehensive survey; less attention was given to socio-economic surveys. As the planning was done without participation of sectoral stakeholders, they also have not participated in the work programmes implementation. In addition, no monitoring of work programmes implementation was carried out in this phase, due to already indicated absence both of planned indicators and monitoring programmes

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<sup>61</sup> Štrbenac A. (2012). Evaluation of the ACCOBAMS effectiveness for the 2002 – 2010 period



**Outputs** assessment showed that altogether 55% of the work programmes stipulated activities were implemented to some extent in the 2002 – 2010 periods, and 37% were not commenced. The Scientific Committee and Secretariat were responsible for implementation of the most activities. The low level of fulfilled financial needs for conservation actions; 26%, mostly contributed to that level, along with combination of human capacities issues of all ACCOBAMS structures and Parties. The whale watching was among best implemented activities. The average implementation rate amounts around 50%. Other activities as stranding networks and tissue banks, capacity building and the Emergency Task Force were implemented at different levels and the issue interaction with fisheries was the least implemented one.

Number of resolutions covering all relevant cetacean conservation issues, including guidelines to facilitate and standardise best available practices, were developed and adopted in the scope of ACCOBAMS. According to the analysis of the implementation of adopted provisions on behalf of Parties, around 38% were implemented to some extent. The average implementation rate amounts around 44%. The best implemented were those activities referring to the captivity related issues, followed with interactions with fisheries. The least implementation level is reached with the issue of anthropogenic noise. Although work programmes have foundation in adopted resolutions, resolution's provisions are formulated more generally, in terms of recommendations or guidelines without time limits. It is reflected in a discrepancy between levels of implementation of the same thematic issues. Spain, Italy, Croatia, Portugal and Monaco reached the best implementation levels when compared to the other countries. Italy, Spain, France and Monaco also ensured substantial voluntary contribution which enabled implementation of conservation activities and provided assistance to countries with the least capacities. The level of implementation is unknown for Greece and Libya, Parties which do not actively participate in ACCOBAMS work.

The level of achievement of specific objectives is substantially lower than work programme implementation rate. Lack of clear indicators for specific objectives and lack of data challenged their assessment in general. In addition, adequate linkages between planned work programme activities and fulfilment of desired objectives may be considered. Several objectives could not be evaluated at all in the absence of monitoring indicators evaluation; in particularly level of public awareness increase achieved through ACCOBAMS and state of critical habitats. Out of other specific objectives, the best achieved is probably the one on increased human capacities in terms of gained knowledge. ACCOBAMS has only partly fulfilled its overall objective and desired **outcome**; conservation status of cetacean populations is still poor, but ACCOBAMS contributed to a better regional cooperation. In this respect, ACCOBAMS in particular helped to improve linkages between scientists and also facilitated that countries with good human and financial capacities help those lacking these capacities.

Main ACCOBAMS's **strengths** are; established ACCOBAMS institutional framework; high motivation of some members of ACCOBAMS bodies, representatives of partners and Parties; significant knowledge and expertise; financial contribution of countries like Italy, Monaco, France and Spain and their willingness to assist less favoured countries; amount of work done so far, particularly regarding developed guidelines and formulated best practices covering all relevant cetacean conservation issues; existence of planning of ACCOBAMS work. Main **weaknesses** include weak political position; limited financial and human capacities, particularly those of Parties; lack of transparency in the selection of the Scientific Committee members; not used potential of local scientist and experts; poor involvement of many countries, in particularly those containing critical habitats of some species; weak information flow between national focal points and ACCOBAMS's bodies; lack of active involvement of the EU and representatives of the other stakeholders (fishermen, shipping and boating; navy , etc....); lack of general public and future generations involvement-, lack of long-term strategy and any programme to monitor level of implementation of the planned activities. Main general recommendations are targeted to mitigate weaknesses building up on existing strengths and

they include: improvement of financial and human capacities through investigation of new funding possibilities and increase of the relevant Secretariats capacities as well as some improvements to better use the potential of local scientists and experts and ensure better information flow between Parties and ACCOBAMS's bodies intersessionally; increase the cooperation with other stakeholders (in particularly the EU) at regional levels through formalisation of relations and involvement in joint projects; improvement of implementation of ACCOBAMS resolutions through introduction of control mechanisms similar to case files and better linkages with Parties through periodical organisation of regional workshops; improvement of public awareness through planned systematic campaigns in cooperation with partners and improvement of existing planning through development of long-term strategy, amendment of existing planning documents and development of monitoring programmes both for work programmes implementation and to measure ACCOBAMS effectiveness prior to any long term planning.

#### Appendix 4. SWOT analysis of present state of ACCOBAMS affairs

No.	Strengths	Score (1-5) <sup>62</sup>
S.1	Highly motivated members within the ACCOBAMS structure, in particular the Executive Secretary and the assisting staff, former Chair and most of the members of the Scientific Committee, several active Parties and partners (mostly NGOs),	4,71
S.2	Willingness of financially stronger countries like Italy, Monaco, France and Spain to contribute to implementation of conservation activities and thus to help countries with less resources,	4,71
S.3	Significant knowledge and expertise, especially within the Scientific Committee which has members with world renowned expertise ,	4,28
S.4	Existence of mechanism to involve civil sector directly into ACCOBAMS's structure (Partner status),	4,00
S.5	stablished and operating ACCOBAMS's organisational structure, comprising of ACCOBAMS bodies,	3,83
S.6	Existence of work planning, as good procedural standard for an organisation,	3,57
S.7	Already started strategic partnerships with regional organisations representing fishermen and shipping, such as GFCM and IMO,	3,57
S.8	Strategic partnerships with regional agreements competent for marine biodiversity conservation such as Barcelona Convention and Bucharest Convention (Sub-regional coordination units status),	3,43
S.9	Number of developed and adopted resolutions, including technical documents, to assist Parties to address cetacean conservation key issues in the best possible and standardised way,	3,43

<sup>62</sup> Score range 1 to 5: 1 = not relevant

2 = low importance

3 = important

4 = high importance

5 = very high importance

No.	Weaknesses	Score (1-5)
W.1	Insufficient support of certain key stakeholders such as the EU and the representatives of navy, oil and gas exploitation industry,	4,71
W.2	Low level of compliance to provisions of adopted resolutions by Parties,	4,55
W.3	Low political power of ACCOBAMS as organisation,	4,33
W.4	Lack of funding for conservation activities at ACCOBAMS's level,	4,28
W.5	Still significant negative impacts of human activities on cetaceans, in particularly bycatch and habitat loss and degradation	4,00
W.6	Lack of knowledge about the state of cetaceans in the region (distribution, abundance, threats),	4,00
W.7	Lack of human and financial resources, in particularly in the south Mediterranean and some Black Sea countries,	3,85
W.8	Weak information flow between national focal/contact points, Secretariat and other ACCOBAMS bodies in particularly intersessionally,	3,71
W.9	Lack of evaluation of ACCOBAMS's effectiveness, as a tool to adapt current management more accurately,	3,71
W.10	Weak information flow between national focal/contact points and other relevant subjects (such as competent authorities, NGOs) within each Party,	3,57
W.11	Insufficient continuity and connection with other overlapping or similar CMS species agreements,	3,43
W.12	Lack of defined and regular monitoring of ACCOBAMS's strategy and work programmes implementation,	3,43
W.13	Array of local scientists and experts not included in the ACCOBAMS's work,	2,85

No.	Opportunities	Score (1-5)
O.1	Demand to accurately address emerging issues related to cetaceans (f.e. marine debris, climate change, etc....),	3,57
O.2	Complement the work with other regional nature conservation related organisations efforts to ensure more holistic conservation of marine biodiversity,	3,57
O.3	Strategic partnership with other relevant civil society,	3,43
O.4	Generally positive human perception of cetaceans as species, as potential to use for promotion of cetaceans conservation,	3,28
O.5	Future generations are great potential to ensure public support in the future,	3,14
O.6	Need for further expertise for standardisation of cetacean conservation related practices and processes at regional level,	3,14
O.7	Extension of the geographical coverage of the Agreement to the Red Sea, as the adjacent sea	3,00
O.8	Need for technical assistance/expertise to EU countries to meet obligations stipulated in the EU Directives – in particularly Habitats Directive, MSFD	3,00

No.	Threats or Challenges	Score (1-5)
T.1	Energy crisis triggers intensification of related activities that already affect cetaceans, such as deep-sea oil and gas exploration and exploitation,	4,14
T.2	Political instability in some regions/countries, affecting transboundary cooperation at all levels (between scientist, decision-makers , etc....), particularly in the Eastern Mediterranean,	3,85
T.3	Financial crisis contributing to decline of national funding and other funding opportunities for nature conservation	3,71
T.4	Increase of regional differences/north – south, etc....,	3,57
T.5	Decrease of existing capacities of Parties due to financial crisis,	3,43
T.6	Overextension of resources, in particularly those of Government institutions through competing demands from overlapping or similar CMS species agreements,	3,14

## Appendix 5. Proposal of the Work Programme Format

***Main specific objectives group title (f.e. B. Cetacean conservation efforts)***

<b>Group of activities title (f.e. B.1.1. Cetacean population estimates and distribution)</b>						
Activity specified in the ACCOBAMS Strategy (f.e. B.1.1.1. Undertake a comprehensive survey...)						
Relevant resolutions:						
Action	Responsible subject	Subject (s) participating in implementation	Outputs	Timeline	Estimated costs	Budget line(s)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.2</b> <b>WORK PROGRAMME 2014 – 2016</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Acting in accordance* with the commitments of the Parties to conserve cetaceans in conformity with the Agreement, especially the fundamental obligations placed upon Parties in Article II,

*Taking into account* the Long Term Strategy for ACCOBAMS (2014-2025), as adopted under Resolution 5.1,

*Recognizing* the need to set priorities,

*Acknowledging* the relevant work being carried out in other frameworks, in particular within the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals|| (CMS) and the instruments adopted within its framework, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), the system of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution (Bucharest Convention) and the Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM),

*Stressing* the need to increase collaboration with other relevant International Organizations in the spirit of the ecosystem approach,

*Aware* that scientific research in Agreement area remains essential to identify populations with the least favourable conservation status and to address the conservation priorities,

*Conscious* that the current heterogeneity of management and research capacity in the area covered by the Agreement must be addressed by capacity-building and public awareness,

*Taking into consideration* the results of regional workshops organised in 2012 within ACCOBAMS, where the needs of Parties for the implementation of the Agreement have been identified,

*Thanking* the Scientific Committee for its involvement, its work and its wise advice to Parties in setting up accurate conservation measures,

*Thanking* also the Sub-Regional Coordination Units and the ACCOBAMS Partners for their continuous support to the implementation of the Agreement,

*Recalling* that Article IX, paragraph 3, calls for voluntary contributions to increase the funds available for monitoring, research, training and projects related to conservation,

*Recalling* Resolutions 1.7 and 5.5, establishing and implementing a Supplementary Conservation Fund,

1. *Notes* that identification of knowledge gaps, both thematic and geographical, is of particular importance for the Agreement;

2. *Adopts* the Work Programme for 2014–2016, as in the Annex to the present Resolution, without prejudice to the pursuance of existing conservation actions, and considers its implementation a priority;
3. *Urges* Parties to support projects and activities in line with the Work Programme by means of financial and in kind contributions and to report thereon to the Sixth Meeting of the Parties;
4. *Asks* Parties to share with the Agreement Secretariat all national relevant GIS information in order to update the interactive map platform for ACCOBAMS activities and projects;
5. *Urges* Parties and specialized international Organizations to develop international cooperative projects for implementation of the Work Programme and to keep the Agreement Secretariat fully informed of progress;
6. *Further urges* the Parties and the other donors to provide financial assistance to Countries in need of capacity building to support the implementation of the Agreement and of the Work Programme, directly or through the financial mechanisms of the Agreement, in particular through the Supplementary Conservation Fund;
7. *Calls on* the Scientific Committee, the Agreement Secretariat and Bureau, the Sub-Regional Coordinating Units, ACCOBAMS Partners and international and national non-governmental Organizations to promote the actions necessary to facilitate implementation of the Work Programme, bearing in mind the Resolutions adopted by the Meetings of the Parties;
8. *Calls on* the Scientific Committee to further promote cooperation with scientific Institutions of the ACCOBAMS area;
9. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat:
  - to disseminate the Work Programme for priority actions for 2014–2016, to collaborate closely in its implementation with the Secretariats of other relevant Conventions, international Organizations and ACCOBAMS Partners and to seek appropriate donors;
  - to inform in time the National Focal Points of workshops and work programmes, as well as of the establishment of working groups within the ACCOBAMS framework;
10. *Requests* the Agreement Secretariat to strengthen co-operation and develop activities with other relevant bodies, in particular within the CMS Family, the Barcelona Convention system, the IWC, the Bern Convention, the Bucharest Convention, European Commission, the GFCM, CITES, MedPAN and Pelagos.



**ANNEX**  
**Work Programme 2014 - 2016**

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## MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT (MA)

MA 1	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION			
MA 1 a	Establish regular communication			
Relevant Resolutions: -				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Establish regular <b>platform of communication</b> to inform all relevant subjects about ongoing activities, cooperation possibilities, project call of proposals and other relevant information	Secretariat	Parties, Scientific Committee, Partners  Other experts <sup>63</sup>	Active e-mailing list (regular exchange of information)	ET <sup>64</sup>
2- Maintain and regularly update <b>ACCOBAMS database</b> , including information about all cetacean conservation related scientists and experts operating in the region	Secretariat	Parties, Scientific Committee, Partners  Other experts	New and updated information filled into ACCOBAMS database	ET
3- Continue organising <b>regional workshops</b> with representatives of Parties and introducing participation of representatives of Scientific Committee	Secretariat	Parties, Scientific Committee	Regional workshops organised in 2015	2015
4- Continue organising <b>biennial conferences</b> for the Southern Mediterranean countries	Secretariat	Mediterranean SRCU <sup>65</sup>	Biennial conferences organised in 2014	2014
5- Regularly update <b>ACCOBAMS web-site</b> , including FINS	Secretariat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New and accurate information available on the web-site</li><li>• FINS regularly published</li></ul>	2014

<sup>63</sup> Other experts are experts not included in the Scientific Committee and not included as ACCOBAMS Partners

<sup>64</sup> ET = Entire Triennium

<sup>65</sup> SRCU = Sub-regional Coordination Unit

MA 2	INVOLVEMENT OF ALL KEY STAKEHOLDERS			
MA 2 a	Strengthen involvement of all key stakeholders in ACCOBAMS's operations			
Relevant Resolutions: 2.2/ 2.30 / 3.8 / 4.8/ 4.20				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Strengthen existing <b>partnerships</b> : GFCM, IMO, CMS and relevant CMS agreements such as ASCOBANS, the Barcelona Convention, RAC/SPA, the Black Sea Commission, IWC, EU Biodiversity Strategy, marine strategies in the ACCOBAMS area (MSFD <sup>66</sup> ), CBD Strategy, SAP BIO, ECS, international, regional and local NGOs	Secretariat	Relevant Parties, Scientific Committee, Partners  Other experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation in the work of relevant GFCM bodies/working groups</li><li>• Joint project with GFCM on by-catch</li><li>• Joint activities with ECS</li><li>• Regular meetings of relevant Secretariats</li><li>• Cetacean conservation activities included in all relevant regional strategic documents</li><li>• Regular communication/meetings with representatives of the relevant international NGOs</li></ul>	ET
2- Establish <b>new partnerships</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accession of all riparian states to the Agreement,</li><li>• Establish formal partnership with the EC jointly with ASCOBANS and as feasible with assistance from CMS,</li><li>• Establish formal partnership with NATO – NURC, OGP, ICES</li></ul>	Secretariat	Relevant Parties, Partners  Other experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All riparian states are Parties to ACCOBAMS</li><li>• Participation in the relevant fora and Meetings</li><li>• Contribution to the determination and monitoring of the GES (MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD)</li></ul>	ET
3- Organise a <b>workshop</b> of Partners	Secretariat	Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reinforcement of synergy between Partners</li><li>• Harmonisation of activities</li></ul>	2014 (SC9)

<sup>66</sup> EC Marine Strategy Framework Directive

MA 3	ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING, IN PARTICULARLY FOR CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES			
MA 3 a	New funding possibilities			
Relevant Resolutions: 1.7/ 3.6/ 5.16/5.5				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Appoint one <b>projects</b> preparation/implementation assistance and fundraising <b>officer</b> in the Secretariat	Secretariat	Parties	Project and fundraising officer as a member of the Secretariat staff	ET
2- Analyse available <b>funding possibilities</b> in the region (EU funds, private funds etc.) and develop a funding strategy	Secretariat	Partners, SRCU <sup>67</sup>  CMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of available funding possibilities in the region</li><li>• Funding Strategy in particular for joint projects</li></ul>	2014
3- Regularly inform Parties about <b>project call of proposals</b> and other funding possibilities	Secretariat	Parties, SRCU	Information frequently sent via e-mailing list	ET
4 - <b>Evaluate</b> projects submitted for funding under the Supplementary Conservation Fund	Secretariat	Scientific Committee	Project proposals selected for implementation with support from ACCOBAMS	ET
5- Encourage development of <b>multilateral/transboundary projects</b>	Secretariat	Parties, Scientific Committee, Partners  Other experts	Project proposals prepared with assistance of ACCOBAMS bodies	ET

<sup>67</sup> SRCU = Sub-regional Coordination Units

MA 4	IMPLEMENTATION OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ACCOBAMS			
MA 4 a	Improve the level of implementation of and compliance with ACCOBAMS resolutions as well as the monitoring of its progress			
Relevant Resolutions: 5.4				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Evaluate work programmes implementation progress and level of resolutions implementation by Parties as a basis for new triennial work programme planning	Follow-up Committee	Bureau, Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Evaluation of work programme</li><li>Reports on implementation by Parties</li><li>Reports on implementation of the Resolutions</li></ul>	ET
2- Propose remedy actions in cases of non compliance and infringements	Follow-up Committee	Bureau, Secretariat	Proposal of remedy actions	ET

MA 5	ACCOBAMS EXTENSION AREA			
MA 5 a	Ensure implementation of the ACCOBAMS's cetacean conservation standards in the adjacent areas			
Relevant Resolutions: A/4.1				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Enforce <b>ratification</b> by Parties of the existing Amendment for geographical extension to the Atlantic	Depositary	Parties	Amendment has entered into force	ET
2- Analyse added value of extension to the adjacent areas, particularly of <b>the Red Sea extension</b>	Secretariat	Relevant Parties, Scientific Committee  Other experts	Proposal of further actions regarding extension of the Agreement	2015 (SC10)

## CONSERVATION ACTIONS (CA)

CA 1	IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS			
CA 1 a	Cetacean population estimates and distribution			
Relevant Resolutions: 5.9				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Undertake a comprehensive <b>surveys</b> of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the <b>Mediterranean Sea</b> using aerial surveys where possible	Secretariat	Parties, Scientific Committee, Partners, Mediterranean SRCU <sup>68</sup>  French Marine Protected Areas, IUCN Agency, Other experts	Study report of distribution and abundance of cetaceans in the different parts of the Mediterranean Sea based on results of the survey	ET
2- Undertake a comprehensive <b>surveys</b> of abundance and distribution of cetaceans in the <b>Black Sea</b>	Secretariat	Parties, Black Sea SRCU, Scientific Committee, Partners  Other experts	Study report of distribution and abundance of cetaceans in the Black Sea based on results of the survey	ET
3- Undertake <b>regional</b> comprehensive <b>surveys</b> of abundance and distribution of cetaceans	Parties	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Partners  Other experts	Study reports of distribution and abundance of cetaceans	ET
4- Undertake a <b>retrospective analysis</b> of the literature and on results of the mentioned comprehensive surveys	Scientific Committee	Parties, Secretariat, Partners SRCU  Other experts	Lists and maps of critical habitats by species (including migration routes, biological corridors, breeding/calving and feeding areas)	ET

<sup>68</sup> SRCU = Sub-regional Coordination Units

CA 1	IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS			
CA 1 b	Population Structure			
Relevant Resolutions: 4.11				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Implement <b>population structure priorities including region-wide and local genetic studies</b> , based on knowledge gap analysis performed in 2013, allowing to identify isolated populations (Greek waters, killer whales in Gibraltar, etc.)	Scientific Committee	Partners  IWC, CMS, ASCOBANS, OSPAR, other experts	Identification of isolated populations	ET

CA 1	IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT STATE OF CETACEANS			
CA 1 c	Monitoring cetaceans status			
Relevant Resolutions: 2.22/ 3.19				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- <b>Monitor mortality trends</b> and cases of animals injured through human activities (e.g. ship strikes), using existing tools (such as MEDACES), at least on triennial basis	Scientific Committee	Parties, SRCU <sup>69</sup> , Secretariat, Partners  Other experts	Mortality trend reports	2014 - 2015
2- Assess <b>IUCN threat status</b> of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and update it regularly, and more specifically gather information to assess the Data Deficient species	Scientific Committee	Secretariat, Partners  IUCN, other experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Threat assessment reports</li><li>Updates available on the IUCN and, ACCOBAMS websites</li></ul>	2014 - 2015
3- Prepare <b>Red Books of cetaceans</b> in the ACCOBAMS Region for Mediterranean and Black Seas and communicate with European Union, including Killer whales in the cetaceans of the Mediterranean Sea	Scientific Committee	Secretariat, Partners  IUCN, other experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Red Books of cetaceans</li><li>Report on the state of cetaceans</li></ul>	2016

<sup>69</sup> SRCU = Sub-regional Coordination Units

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 a	Interaction with fisheries			
Relevant Resolutions: 2.13/ 2.21/ 2.25/ 3.13/ 4.9				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Assess cetaceans bycatch and depredation impacts on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area and propose <b>mitigation measures</b> focusing on pilot areas through a joint GFCM/ACCOBAMS project	Secretariat	Parties SRCU <sup>70</sup> Scientific Committee  GFCM, EC, other experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data on cetacean bycatch in pilot areas the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea and mitigation measures</li><li>• Contribution to GFCM Task 1</li><li>• Contribution to the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and MSFD</li></ul>	ET

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 b	Anthropogenic noise			
Relevant Resolutions: 2.16 / 3.10/ 4.17/ 5.15				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Identify anthropogenic <b>noise</b> /cetaceans interactions <b>hot spots</b> in the ACCOBAMS area	Working Group	Scientific Committee, Partners  Other experts	Overview of noise hot spots	2014
2- Monitor all activities in the region including <b>noise component</b>	Parties	Secretariat  Working Group	Overview(s) of approved activities including noise component	ET
3- <b>Map</b> and develop a monitoring of sea ambient noise, particularly in critical habitats	Working Group	Secretariat, Scientific Committee, Partners  Other experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Map of sea ambient noise</li><li>• Monitoring protocol(s)</li></ul>	2016
4- Update a <b>guide</b> for Parties to use mitigation measures	Secretariat	Working Group, other	Updated guide to use mitigation measures	2016

<sup>70</sup> SRCU = Sub-regional Coordination Units



		experts		
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CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 c	Ship strikes			
Relevant Resolutions: 5.11				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Identify <b>high risk areas</b> for ship strikes in the Mediterranean Sea	Scientific Committee and its relevant working group	Parties, Secretariat, Partners  IMO, IWC, other experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Overview of high risk areas for ship strikes</li><li>● New shape file in the ACCOBAMS interactive platform</li></ul>	2015
2- Promote use of <b>mitigation measures</b> , particularly REPCET system to shipping companies in the region	Secretariat	Parties, Partners  Pelagos, IWC	Ships/boats in areas inhabiting large whales using the REPCET or other systems	2014 - 2015
3- Develop a protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities	Scientific Committee its relevant working group	IWC, other experts	Protocol for investigating and documenting ship strikes injuries and mortalities	2016

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 d	Cetacean watching			
Relevant Resolutions: 3.23/ 4.7/ 5.10				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Promote use of a ACCOBAMS / Pelagos “High quality whale watching” <b>certificate</b> including organisation of training for operators	Secretariat	Parties, Partners  Pelagos	All states with intensive cetacean watching use labelling	
2- Prepare a framework document regarding national rules on the implementation of a “High quality whale watching” certificate	Secretariat	Parties, Partners  Pelagos , other experts	Framework document regarding national rules on the implementation of a “High quality whale watching” certificate	2016

3- <b>Assess</b> the whale watching activities and <b>critical areas</b> for these activities in the Mediterranean Sea	Scientific Committee	Secretariat, Partners  Other experts	Map of areas of concern due to whale watching activities.	2015
4- Prepare guidelines for monitoring cetacean watching development in the Agreement Area and guidelines to develop national databases to store the information	Scientific Committee	Secretariat, Partners  Other experts	Guidelines for monitoring cetacean watching development in the Agreement Area Guidelines to develop national databases to store the information	2015
5- Prepare procedures and forms on data collection from cetacean watching vessels for the Agreement Area	Scientific Committee	Secretariat, Partners  Other experts	Procedures and forms on data collection for cetacean watching vessels for the Agreement Area	2015

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 e	Marine debris			
Relevant Resolutions: 4.8				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Assess the impact of <b>ghost nets</b> on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area: undertake a <b>joint project with MedPOL and GFCM</b>	Secretariat	Parties, Scientific Committee, Partners  GFCM, MedPOL, other experts,	Assessment of ghost nets impacts on cetaceans	2015
2- Assess the impact of <b>plastic bags</b> , microplastic and other plastic materials ingestion on cetaceans in cooperation with existing initiatives, such as IWC : bibliographic synthesis and Scientific Committee recommendation	Scientific Committee	Secretariat, Partners  IWC, MedPOL, other experts,	Assessment of plastic materials impacts on cetaceans by providing bibliographic synthesis	2014-2015

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 f	Climate change			
Relevant Resolutions: 4.14				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Assess the <b>impact of climate change</b> : bibliographic synthesis	Scientific Committee	SRCU <sup>71</sup> , Secretariat, Partners  Other experts	Bibliographic synthesis	2014

<sup>71</sup> SRCU = Sub-regional Coordination Units

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 g	Species conservation plans			
Relevant Resolutions: 1.8/ 1.12/ 3.7/ 3.11/ 4.6/ 4.13/5.12/ 5.13/ 5.14				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Revise regional <b>conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans</b> , in cooperation with relevant stakeholders	Scientific Committee	Parties, Black Sea SRCU, Secretariat  Other experts	Revised regional conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans	2014
2- Prepare /Adopt Conservation Plans for: ● <b>Cuvier’s beaked whales</b> ,  ● <b>Fin whale</b> ,  ● <b>Bottlenose dolphin</b>  ● <b>Killer whales</b>  ● <b>Long finned pilot whales</b>	Scientific Committee	Parties, SRCU, Partners  Other experts	Conservation Plans for: ● Cuvier’s beaked whales, ● Fin whale, ● Bottlenose dolphin ● Killer whales ● Long finned pilot whales	ET
3- Adopt / implement/ revise if necessary <b>National Action Plans</b>	Parties	SRCU, Scientific Committee, other experts	Implementation of National Action Plans in most of the ACCOBAMS Parties	ET

CA 2	REDUCE HUMAN PRESSURES ON CETACEANS, IN PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO BYCATCH, HABITAT LOSS AND DEGRADATION (POLLUTION)			
CA 2 h	Captivity related issues			
Relevant Resolutions: 5.14				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Assess and inventory specimens of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins kept in the captivity	Black Sea SRCU	Parties, Scientific Committee, Secretariat  Other experts	Assessment of BS bottlenose dolphins kept in the captivity and Timing as you wish	2015

CA 3	ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT CETACEANS			
CA 3 a	Public awareness			
Relevant Resolutions: 2.23				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Introduce <b>ACCOBAMS cetaceans day</b> and promote annual celebration	Parties	SRCU <sup>72</sup> , Secretariat, Partners	ACCOBAMS cetaceans day regularly celebrated in the area	2014
2- Create and disseminate <b>communication tools</b> such as educational kit	Secretariat	SRCU, Partners,  Other relevant organisations	Communication tools distributed to relevant subjects	ET
3- Organise public awareness related survey	Parties	SRCU, Secretariat, Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Survey format and instructions</li><li>Survey report</li></ul>	ET

<sup>72</sup> SRCU = Sub-regional Coordination Units

CA 4	IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS			
CA 4 a	Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situation			
Relevant Resolutions: 1.10/ 3.25/ 4.16				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Undertake systematic <b>trainings on necropsies</b> , live strandings and response to emergency situation in the ACCOBAMS region	Secretariat	Partners  Pelagos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Trained participants from all Parties with identified needs</li><li>Live stranding training in collaboration with Pelagos in 2014</li></ul>	ET
2- Establish <b>(sub)regional mailing lists</b> of participants in the stranding networks to facilitate exchange of information, in particularly in the South Mediterranean region	Secretariat	Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identification and synthesis of subregional mailing lists</li><li>Regularly exchanged information on stranding events in particular on the occasion of conference biennial</li></ul>	2014
3- Establish a <b>regional Emergency Task Force</b> as advise to Parties and develop an operational protocol	Secretariat	Scientific Committee, Partners  Other experts	Operational regional Emergency Task Force nominated	2014

CA 4	IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS			
CA 4 b	Capacity to use cetaceans photo id and undertake aerial surveys			
Relevant Resolutions: 2.28/ 5.9				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Undertake <b>trainings</b> on the use of photo-id	Secretariat	Scientific Committee, Partners  MedPAN, others experts	Trained experts from all Parties with identified needs	ET
2- Promote the use of <b>INTERCET</b>	Secretariat	Parties, Scientific Committee, Partners	Use of INTERCET	ET

		Others experts		
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CA 4	IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS			
CA 4 c	Capacity building for other cetacean conservation issues			
Relevant Resolutions: -				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Identify protected areas <b>managers</b> from the areas containing cetacean critical habitat and facilitate exchanges between areas containing cetacean critical habitats in the similar areas using good management practices (organising visits for example)	Secretariat,	Parties  MedPAN,	Cetacean conservation is taken into account at the regional level in the network of MPAs	ET
2- Enable practice of cetacean conservation staff on relevant issues in the ACCOBAMS Secretariat	Secretariat	Parties	Trained cetacean conservation staff from the Parties	ET

CA 4	IMPROVE CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EXPERTS			
CA 4 d	Cetacean conservation and postgraduate programmes			
Relevant Resolutions: -				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Introduce <b>cetacean conservation modules</b> in the existing postgraduate programmes	Secretariat	Parties, SRCU <sup>73</sup> , Partners  Universities	Post-graduate programmes with included cetacean conservation modules	2015

<sup>73</sup> SRCU = Sub-regional Coordination Units



CA 5	ENHANCE EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS CRITICAL HABITATS			
CA 5 a	Protected areas for cetaceans			
Relevant Resolutions: 3.22/ 4.15				
Action	To be coordinated by	With the cooperation of	Outputs	Timing
1- Update regularly a <b>list of areas</b> containing critical habitats of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS region	Scientific Committee	SRCU <sup>74</sup> ,  Other experts	Lists of areas containing critical habitats of cetaceans available on the ACCOBAMS web-site	2015
2- Develop /Disseminate <b>tools for adequate management</b> of areas containing critical habitat, including evaluation of management effectiveness and using examples of best practice	Secretariat	Scientific Committee  MedPAN, other experts	Guidelines on adequate management of areas containing critical habitats	2014
3- Evaluate <b>effectiveness</b> of protected areas containing critical habitats for cetaceans using existing initiatives (such as MedPAN endeavours in that context)	Secretariat	SRCU, Scientific Committee,  MedPAN, Pelagos, other experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Evaluation of effectiveness of protected areas for cetaceans, foremostly their contribution to achievement/maintenance of favourable conservation status</li><li>Joint workshop with Pelagos</li></ul>	2014

<sup>74</sup> SRCU = Sub-regional Coordination Units

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.3</b> <b>SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Article VII of the Agreement on the composition and functions of the Scientific Committee,

*Recalling* Resolution 4.4 “Composition of the Scientific Committee” requesting the Scientific Committee and the Bureau, with the help of the Secretariat, to present to the Contracting Parties and Partners a proposal six months before the Fifth Meeting of the Parties on matters related to the composition of the Scientific Committee,

*Considering* the recommendations by the Scientific Committee and the Bureau,

*Commending* the participation in the Scientific Committee of representatives from the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the European Cetacean Society (ECS) and the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC),

*Taking into account* the recommendations of the evaluation of the Scientific Committee presented to the Fourth Meeting of the Parties,

*Stressing* the need for establishing a closer link between the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS and the rest of the scientific community working on cetaceans in the Agreement area,

*Considering* the 2014-2025 Strategy as adopted by Resolution 5.1, as well as the 2014-2016 Work Programme adopted by Resolution 5.2,

*Stressing* the need for strengthening the representativeness of the Parties’ scientific community in the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS, by allowing Parties to designate, on a voluntary basis, national experts to participate to the work of the Scientific Committee,

*Considering* that the task managers and the regional representatives should have a more active role to support the Chair during the meetings of the Scientific Committee and other works,

*Aware* of the need to adapt the selection procedure for the Scientific Committee to the increasing challenges the Agreement is facing,

1. *Adopts* the rules on the Scientific Committee, as in Annex to this Resolution;
2. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolutions 1.3, 2.6 and 3.3 and that Article 27 of the Revised Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties is terminated;
3. *Entrusts* the Chair of the Scientific Committee to CIESM, according to the functions defined in the appended regulations;
4. *Notes* the experts appointed by CIESM and IUCN for 2014-2016, as follows:

- CIESM :

- Dani KEREM
- Simone PANIGADA,
- Ayaka Amaha OZTURK ;

- IUCN :

- Ibrahim BENAMER,
- Léa DAVID,
- Renaud DE STEPHANIS;

5. *Asks* the Scientific Committee to appoint its Chair from among the CIESM experts, its Vice-Chair from among the IUCN experts, and the task managers from among the other experts;
6. *Thanks* CIESM and IUCN for shouldering the responsibility for their experts' participation expenses;
7. *Invites* the Sub-Regional Coordination Units to fully participate in the work and the Meetings of the Scientific Committee;
8. *Invites* the Agreement Secretariat, subject to budgetary availability, to ensure, where necessary, the participation in the Meetings and/or work of the Scientific Committee of experts in disciplines that are not covered by the members of the Scientific Committee, including legal and socio-economic aspects, after consultation with the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee as for the selection and the definition of tasks of these experts;
9. *Invites* the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).to participate in the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS, and calls the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the European Cetacean Society (ECS) and the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to pursue their contribution in the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS.

## **ANNEX - Rules on the Scientific Committee**

### **GENERAL FUNCTIONS**

#### **Article 1**

1. The Scientific Committee, established in accordance with Article VII of the Agreement, provides scientific advice and information to the Meeting of the Parties or to the Parties through the Secretariat.
2. The functions of the Scientific Committee are defined in Article VII, paragraph 3, of the Agreement.
3. The Scientific Committee is entrusted in turn, per triennium, to one of the two expert organizations (CIESM and IUCN) which will perform in turn the functions of Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee.

#### **Article 2**

1. The Scientific Committee shall consist of at least thirteen members, namely:
  - one Chair and two experts appointed by the body to which the Scientific Committee has been entrusted under Article 1.3;
  - one Vice-Chair and two experts appointed by the organization other than that to which the Scientific Committee was entrusted, cited under Article 1.3;
  - four representatives of the Regions defined in the Appendix, appointed by the Meeting of the Parties from a list of experts submitted by the Parties together with their *curriculum vitae*;
  - one representative from the European Cetacean Society (ECS), one from the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and one from the Scientific Council of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
2. Additional members of the Scientific Committee may be designated by the Parties on a voluntary basis. The cost of their participation to the meetings of the Scientific Committee shall not be covered by the Agreement's funds.

### **SELECTION OF THE MEMBERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

#### **Article 3**

1. The selection of the Scientific Committee members must take into consideration the following criteria, finalized by the Extended Bureau in accordance with the Work Programme proposed to the Parties:
  - a) To be an expert in one or more fields relevant to cetacean conservation science;

- b) To possess an appropriate level of quality, relevance, productivity and originality in activities related to cetacean conservation, as demonstrated through scientific publications and reports, communications to conferences, participation in working groups or committees at national or international levels;
- c) To be available to participate in the work of the Scientific Committee, attend its meetings and contribute to the working groups, with the required continuity;
- d) To be proficient in one of the two Agreement's working languages (English and French) and possibly in both.

2. The qualified experts designated by CIESM and IUCN are designated in close consultation with the Executive Secretary, who reports on the outcome of these consultations to the Meeting of the Parties.

3. The priorities set out in the Work Programme for each triennium, as well as the need to ensure a balanced geographical representation, shall be taken into account when selecting the six experts of the Scientific Committee.

4. Four task managers are designated from among the experts referred to in Article 2.1.

#### **Article 4**

The terms of office of the members shall expire at the closure of the ordinary Meeting of the Parties following that at which they were appointed.

### **MEETINGS**

#### **Article 5**

1. The quorum for an ordinary meeting shall consist of the two thirds of the members of the Committee, without considering the additional members referred to in Article 2, paragraph 3. The quorum shall be reduced to half of the members in extraordinary meetings.

2. The Chair shall preside over the meetings of the Scientific Committee, prepare the provisional agenda in consultation with the Secretariat, and liaise with members between meetings of the Committee. The Chair may represent the Committee as required and carry out other functions as may be delegated to him/her by the Committee, within the limits of the Committee functions.

3. The Vice-Chair, shall assist the Chair.

4. At its first meeting after the Meeting of Parties, the Scientific Committee shall assign specific topics for each task manager taking into account the priorities set in the Work Programme for the triennium.

5. Each task manager, in addition to his/her role as member of the Scientific Committee, shall coordinate the works of the Scientific Committee concerning the topics that he/she has been assigned by the Scientific Committee.
6. Each task manager shall provide a report to the meetings of the Scientific Committee on the topics he or she is in charge of.
7. Each regional representative shall provide a report to the meetings of the Scientific Committee on the conservation status of cetaceans and relevant activities in the region he or she has the responsibility of.

## **Article 6**

1. The Scientific Committee may establish *ad hoc* working groups as needed to deal with specific tasks. It shall define the terms of reference and composition of each working group.
2. The meetings of the working groups shall be held, where possible, in conjunction with other events.
3. The Scientific Committee may consider reports from other relevant meetings and working groups established under the Agreement, when necessary.
4. These Rules shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the meetings of working groups.

## **Article 7**

1. The Chair, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, may decide to invite, as observers, other experts as deemed necessary.
2. The Chair, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, may decide to invite, as observers, experts in disciplines that are not covered by the members of the Scientific Committee, including legal and socio-economic matters.
3. ACCOBAMS Partners may participate as observers to the Meeting of the Scientific Committee.

## **Article 8**

1. Notices of meetings, including date and venue, shall be sent to all Parties, to the members of the Scientific Committee and to the ACCOBAMS Partners, by the Secretariat at least 45 days in advance and, in the case of extraordinary meetings, at least 14 days in advance.
2. The Secretariat of the Agreement, with the support of the Sub-Regional Coordination Units, shall undertake secretarial tasks during the meetings of the Scientific Committee and of its working groups and shall provide administrative and logistical support.
3. A report of each Meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat as soon as possible and shall be communicated to all members and observers of the Scientific Committee, to all Parties and ACCOBAMS Partners.
4. The report shall be posted on the ACCOBAMS website.

## **Article 9**

1. Decisions of the Scientific Committee shall be taken by consensus.
2. If consensus cannot be reached regarding an issue, all the positions expressed about it during the meeting shall be included in the meeting report.

## **Article 10**

1. The meeting of the Scientific Committee shall be convened once a year during the first two years of the triennium by the Secretariat of the Agreement in consultation with the Chair.
2. Extraordinary meetings may be convened if the Bureau agrees.

## **COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE**

## **Article 11**

1. In application of Article II, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, when a Party asks for advice on exceptions to the prohibition on deliberate taking of cetaceans, the Secretariat shall immediately communicate the request to the Chair and to the members of the Scientific Committee for advice.
2. Within 30 days, the Chair takes a decision on the request also on the basis of the advices received from the other members of the Scientific Committee and communicates it to the Agreement Secretariat for immediate communication to the requesting Party.

## **Article 12**

1. Between sessions, any member of the Scientific Committee or the Sub-Regional Coordination Units, through the Secretariat, or the Secretariat directly may submit a written proposal to the Chairperson for a decision within the limits of the functions of the Scientific Committee.
2. The Chair shall communicate the proposal to members of the Scientific Committee for comments within 60 days from the date of that communication.
3. Any comments received within the 60-day period shall be communicated to members of the Scientific Committee and to the Secretariat.
4. If, by the date on which comments on a proposal were due to be communicated, the Secretariat has not received any objection from a member of the Scientific Committee, the proposal shall be considered as adopted. Its adoption shall be notified to all members and to those who have made the proposal.
5. If any member of the Scientific Committee objects to a proposal within the 60 days time limit, the proposal shall be referred to the next meeting of the Scientific Committee.

### **Article 13**

When in the opinion of the Scientific Committee an emergency arises, requiring the adoption of immediate measures to avoid deterioration of the conservation status of one or more cetacean species, the Chair may ask the Agreement Secretariat to contact the relevant Parties urgently.

## **WORKING LANGUAGES**

### **Article 14**

1. The working languages of the Scientific Committee shall be English and French.
2. Simultaneous translation in English and French may be provided for the plenary sessions of the meetings of the Scientific Committee if funding is available.
3. Working documents shall be made available in English or in French and may be translated if funding is available.

## **REPORT**

### **Article 15**

The Chair of the Scientific Committee shall submit to each ordinary Meeting of the Parties and to each meeting of the Bureau a written report on the Scientific Committee's work since the previous ordinary Meeting of the Parties.

## **FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 16**

These Rules shall apply immediately upon their adoption by the Parties.

### **Article 17**

These Rules may be amended as required by a decision of the Meeting of the Parties.



## Appendix

### Article 1

In order to ensure balanced geographical representation in the Scientific Committee, the geographical scope of the Agreement is divided into four regions.

### Article 2

For the purpose of facilitating Scientific Committee members' nomination, the regional distribution of Parties is as follows:

Region	Parties
<b>Western Mediterranean and contiguous Atlantic area</b>	Algeria, France, (Italy), Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, (Tunisia)
<b>Central Mediterranean</b>	Albania, Croatia, (Greece), (Italy), Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia, (Tunisia)
<b>Eastern Mediterranean</b>	Cyprus, Egypt, (Greece), Lebanon, Syria
<b>Black Sea</b>	Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Ukraine

### Article 3

At the moment of the designation of representatives of the Regions, because of their geographical situation, Greece, Italy and Tunisia can select their attachment to a region:

- 'Western Mediterranean' or 'Central Mediterranean' for Italy and Tunisia;
- 'Central Mediterranean' or 'Eastern Mediterranean' for Greece.

### Article 4

Article 3 applies to any other Party that wishes to be associated with another region, unless one Party in that region disagrees.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.4</b> <b>ACCOBAMS FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURE</b></p>
--

*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Article III, paragraph 8 c), of the Agreement,

*Determined* to facilitate, promote and improve follow-up of the Agreement through non-confrontational means for preventing and settling disputes,

*Conscious* that to this end, follow up procedures have been established within the framework of a number of treaties on the protection of the environment, having a world or a regional basis,

*Recognizing* the need for the establishment of a specific Follow up Procedure under the Agreement, where a role is given not only to the Parties, but also to the Secretariat and the organizations and institutions having the status of ACCOBAMS Partner,

*Stressing* that this Follow up Procedure is to be considered as a means for preventing disputes and for facilitating the implementation of the Agreement,

*Noting* with the appreciation the work accomplished by the Bureau in this regard,

1. *Decides* to establish a Follow up Procedure with the aim to facilitate, promote and improve the follow up with the Agreement on the basis of the Rules constituted the Annex 1 of this Resolution;
2. *Decides* to proceed to the first election of the members of the Follow up Committee at the same Meeting of the Parties when this Resolution is adopted, as provided for in Article 3, paragraph 9, of the Follow up Procedure;
3. *Approves* the submissions form (Annex 2 of this Resolution);
4. *Encourages* the Parties, the Secretariat and the ACCOBAMS Partners to make use of the Follow up Procedure as a non-confrontational means for preventing and settling disputes.

**ANNEX 1**  
**Rules on the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure**

**Article 1 - Legal Basis**

The following Follow up Procedure (hereinafter referred to as “the Procedure”) is based on Article III, paragraph 8 c), of the Agreement.

**Article 2 - Objectives and Nature of the Procedure**

1. The objective of the Procedure is to monitor, facilitate and promote follow up with the provisions of the Agreement, taking into account the specific situation of each Party and with a view to preventing disputes. The Procedure shall complement the work performed by other bodies of the Agreement.
2. The Procedure shall be carried out in a simple, flexible, expeditious, fair, transparent, cost-effective and non-confrontational way.

**Article 3 - Structure and Election of the Follow up Committee**

1. A Follow up Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) is hereby established.
2. The Committee shall consist of five members elected during the Meetings of the Parties. Three of the members shall be elected by secret ballots by Parties from a list of candidates nominated, one by each Party. Two of the Members shall be elected by secret ballots by the organizations and institutions having the status of ACCOBAMS Partner (hereinafter referred to as “ACCOBAMS Partners”) from a list of candidates nominated one by each of them.
3. For each Committee member an alternate member may be elected, if proposed by the Party or ACCOBAMS Partner concerned. The alternate member shall serve in the absence of the Committee member.
4. The full term of office of the Committee members commences at the end of an ordinary Meeting of the Parties and runs until the end of the second ordinary Meeting of the Parties thereafter.
5. At the time of the first election, the term of office of two Committee members elected by the Parties and of one Committee member elected by the ACCOBAMS Partners shall be limited to the period between the end of this ordinary Meeting of the Parties and the end of the subsequent one. The Committee members in question shall be drawn by lots.
6. The Committee members elected by the Parties shall not include more than one national of the same Party.
7. Nominated candidates shall be persons of high moral character and shall have recognized competence in the fields dealt with by the Agreement, including legal matters. In the election of the Committee members, consideration shall be given to the diversity of experiences and competences and to the equitable geographical and gender distribution of membership. Members of the Bureau cannot be members of the Committee at the same time.

8. The procedure for the nomination of candidates for the Committee shall be the following:
- a) nominations shall be sent to the Secretariat of the Agreement not later than twelve weeks before the opening of the Meeting of the Parties during which the election is to take place;
  - b) each nomination shall be accompanied by a *curriculum vitae* of the candidate in at least one of the official working languages of the Agreement;
  - c) the Secretariat shall distribute the nominations and the *curricula vitae*.
9. In derogation to paragraph 8 above, the first election of the members of the Committee can take place at the Meeting of the Parties when the Resolution on the ACCOBAMS Follow up Procedure is adopted, on the basis of nominations and *curricula vitae* previously submitted by the Parties and the ACCOBAMS Partners on request by the Bureau.
10. The Committee members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.
11. The Committee members and their alternates shall serve in their personal capacity and shall act objectively in the best interest of the Agreement. Every Committee member shall, before taking up his or her duties, make a solemn declaration that he or she will perform his or her functions impartially and conscientiously.
12. The Committee shall elect its own President and Vice-President. The Vice-President shall, in addition, serve as the *rapporteur* of the Committee.

#### **Article 4 - Meetings of the Committee**

1. The quorum of the Committee shall consist of three members, including at least two members elected by the Parties.
2. The Committee shall meet at least once a year.  
Depending on the workload, the Committee may decide:
- to hold additional meetings, in particular in conjunction with other bodies established by the Agreement.
  - to cancel a meeting.
3. The Secretariat shall arrange for and service the meetings of the Committee.
4. The Committee meetings shall be open, as observers, to ACCOBAMS Parties and, unless the Party whose follow up is in question requests otherwise, to ACCOBAMS Partners.
5. The Party whose follow up is in question shall participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee and shall have the opportunity to present its views and any relevant information, expert advice and document.
6. The Party whose follow up is in question, other Parties and ACCOBAMS Partners shall not take part in the elaboration and adoption of the related Committee recommendation, nor shall they be involved in the adoption of the report of the Committee.
7. Without prejudice to the previous paragraphs, the Committee may, in appropriate circumstances, undertake some of its activities through electronic communications.

## **Article 5 - Adoption of Recommendations and Reports**

1. The Committee shall make every effort to adopt its recommendations and reports by consensus. If all efforts to reach a *consensus* have been exhausted and no recommendation or report has been adopted, they shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. Any Committee member or alternate member shall, with respect to any matter that is under consideration by the Committee, avoid direct or indirect conflict of interest. When a member finds himself or herself faced with a direct or indirect conflict of interest, that member shall bring the issue to the attention of the Committee before consideration of the matter. If the majority of the other Committee members find that the conflict occurs, the concerned member shall not participate in the elaboration and adoption of a recommendation or report of the Committee in relation to that matter.
3. Any Committee member can attach his or her dissenting or separate opinion to the relevant recommendation or report.

## **Article 6 - Functions of the Committee**

1. The Committee shall
  - a) consider any submission made in accordance with Articles 7 to 9 below, with a view to determining the facts and causes of the matter of -follow up and assisting the Party concerned in its resolution;
  - b) adopt recommendations that it considers appropriate to resolve such a follow up issue;
  - c) ensure the follow up of its recommendations and of the relevant decisions of the Meeting of the Parties and report the results to the latter;
  - d) at the request of the Meeting of the Parties, review general issues of implementation and follow up under the Agreement and prepare a report, including relevant recommendations on them, to be presented at the Meeting of the Parties;
  - e) report on its activities at each ordinary Meeting of the Parties and make recommendations as it considers appropriate.
2. The Committee's recommendations shall include motivations and, wherever appropriate to assist the Party concerned to implement the Agreement, legal and technical advice on the required measures, strategies and time schedules.
3. Recommendations and reports shall be finalized by the Committee not later than twelve weeks in advance of the Meeting of the Parties at which they are to be considered.
4. The Committee, through the Secretariat, shall notify the Party concerned in writing of its recommendations. The Party concerned shall be given the opportunity to comment in writing on the recommendations.

## **Article 7 - Submissions by Parties**

1. A submission may be brought before the Committee by one or more Parties that have reservations about another Party's follow up with its obligations under the Agreement.
2. A submission made under paragraph 1 above shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall be supported by corroborating information. The Secretariat shall, within one week of receiving a submission, send a copy of it to the Party whose follow up is in question. Any reply and supporting information shall be submitted to the Secretariat and to the Parties involved within three months or such longer period as the circumstances of a particular case may require, but in no case later than six months. The Secretariat shall

transmit the submission and the reply, as well as all corroborating information, to the Committee, which shall consider the matter as soon as practicable.

3. A submission may be brought before the Committee by a Party that concludes that, despite its best efforts, it is or will be unable to comply fully with its obligations under the Agreement.

4. A submission made under paragraph 3 above shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall explain the specific circumstances that the Party considers to be the cause of its non-follow up. The Secretariat shall transmit the submission and the supporting information to the Committee, which shall consider the matter as soon as practicable.

5. The Committee may decide not to proceed with a submission which it considers is:

- a) an abuse of the right to make such submission; or
- b) manifestly ill-founded or unreasonable; or
- c) incompatible with the provisions of the Agreement or this Procedure.

#### **Article 8 - Submissions by the Secretariat**

1. Where the Secretariat, also on request by the Scientific Committee, becomes aware of possible non-follow up by a Party with its obligations under the Agreement, it may request the Party concerned to furnish necessary information about the matter.

2. If there is no response or the matter is not resolved within three months, or such longer period as the circumstances of the matter may require, but in no case later than six months, the Secretariat may bring the matter to the attention of the Committee, which shall consider it as soon as practicable. The Secretariat shall immediately inform the Party concerned of its submission.

#### **Article 9 - Submissions by ACCOBAMS Partners**

1. A submission may be brought before the Committee by one or more ACCOBAMS Partners that have reservations about a Party's follow up with its obligations under the Agreement.

2. A submission made under paragraph 1 above shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall be supported by corroborating information. The Secretariat shall, within one week of receiving a submission, send a copy of it to the Party whose follow up is in question. Any reply and supporting information shall be submitted to the Secretariat and to the Parties involved within three months or such longer period as the circumstances of a particular case may require, but in no case later than six months. The Secretariat shall transmit the submission and the reply, as well as all corroborating information, to the Committee, which shall consider the matter as soon as practicable.

3. The Committee may decide not to proceed with a submission which it considers is:

- a) an abuse of the right to make such submission; or
- b) manifestly ill-founded or unreasonable; or
- c) incompatible with the provisions of the Agreement or this Procedure.

#### **Article 10 - Procedure before the Committee**

In carrying out its functions, the Committee may:

- a) consider any relevant information submitted to it by the Party whose follow up is in question, by other ACCOBAMS Parties, by the Secretariat or by ACCOBAMS Partners;
- b) request further information from any sources and draw upon outside expertise, as it considers necessary and appropriate;
- c) undertake, with the agreement of the Party concerned, information gathering in the territory of one Party;
- d) consult with other Agreement bodies and in particular with the Scientific Committee;
- e) request information from any Parties, through the Secretariat, on the general issues of implementation and follow up under its consideration.

#### **Article 11 - Confidentiality**

The procedure before the Committee and the documents examined by the Committee are confidential, unless the Party concerned agrees to their publicity.

#### **Article 12 - Consideration by the Meeting of the Parties**

1. The Meeting of the Parties may decide, upon consideration of recommendations of the Committee and taking in account the capacity of the Party concerned and factors such as the cause, type, degree and frequency of non-follow up, to:

- a) a) endorse the measures recommended by the Committee;
- b) b) take any other non-confrontational action it deems appropriate.

2. The Meeting of the Parties' decisions under paragraph 1 above also include motivations.

3. The Meeting of the Parties, through the Secretariat, shall notify the Party concerned in writing of its decisions.

#### **Article 13 - Relationship between settlement of disputes and the Follow-up Procedure**

The present Follow up Procedure shall be without prejudice to Article XII of the Agreement on the settlement of disputes.

#### **Article 14 - Enhancement of Cooperation**

In order to enhance cooperation between this and other Follow up Procedures adopted under other treaties, the Meeting of the Parties may request the Committee to communicate, as appropriate, with the relevant bodies of those treaties and report back to it with any relevant recommendation.

**ANNEX 2**  
**Submissions form**

**1. Name of the submitting Party or Organization / institution having the status of ACCOBAMS Partner:**

(If the submission is presented by the Secretariat, indicate "Secretariat")

**2. Contact person:**

(Person who has the capacity to represent the submitting Party or organization / institution having the status of ACCOBAMS Partner. If the submission is presented by the Secretariat, this information is not necessary)

Name and position:

Address for correspondence:

Tel.

E-mail:

**3. Name of the Party concerned by the submission:**

**4. Relevant provision(s) of the Agreement concerned by the alleged non follow up situation:**

(List as precisely as possible the provisions of the Agreement that the Party concerned is alleged not to follow up)

**5. Statement identifying the question of non-follow up:**

(Include all matters of relevance to the assessment and consideration of the submission. When a submission is made by a Party regarding its own non follow up, it has to provide the specific circumstances that it considers to be the cause of its situation)

**6. Information supporting the submission:**

(Relevant national legislation, national decisions, results of other procedures, etc. Indicate if any other domestic or international procedures have been undertaken to address the issue of non-follow up which is the subject of the communication)



7. **Any other information** (existence of an environmental impact assessment (EIA), size of projects, maps of the area, etc)

8. **List of the documents annexed to the submission:**  
(Only copies are accepted)

**Date:**

**Signature:**

(of the person specified under No. 2 or, in case of a submission by the Secretariat, of the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary)

This form has to be sent to the ACCOBAMS Follow-up Committee through the Secretariat at the following address:

ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary  
Jardin de l'UNESCO  
Les Terrasses de Fontvieille  
98000 Monaco (Principality of Monaco)  
Fax: +377 98 98 42 08  
E-mail: follow@accobams.net

**RESOLUTION 5.5**  
**PROCEDURE FOR THE ACCOBAMS CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED UNDER**  
**THE SUPPLEMENTARY CONSERVATION FUND**

*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Article IX, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, which provides that “the Meeting of the Parties may establish a supplementary conservation fund from voluntary contributions of Parties or from any other source in order to increase the funds available for monitoring, research, training and projects relating to the conservation of cetaceans”,

*Aware* that implementation of the Agreement requires the development and implementation of conservation projects that are in line with the objectives and priorities of ACCOBAMS,

*Recalling* that many fundamental obligations of Parties require actions which may significantly benefit from small scale funding, but often do not meet the eligibility criteria of national or international project funds,

*Reiterating* its conviction that in some Countries, the implementation of the Agreement will be severely constrained by the lack of adequate financial resources,

*Considering* Resolutions 1.7 and 2.4, relating to the Supplementary Conservation Grants Fund (SCF), and Resolution 3.6, relating to the procedure for submission of projects,

*Appreciating* the successful start of the SCF which has attracted both a significant number of project proposals as well as additional voluntary contributions for its operation,

*Thanking* the financial support from the governments of France and Monaco to replenish the SCF,

*Recognising* the need for further refinement of its framework as it was recommended by the Secretariat on the basis of lessons learned from the previous calls for proposals and comments from the Bureau and the Scientific Committee,

*Taking into account* similar procedures established by other international Organizations,

*Desirous* to establish a fully transparent and efficient procedure for the evaluation and the selection of project proposals,

1. *Decides* that the goals and objectives of the SCF are as follows:

- to catalyze the development and implementation of concerted or cooperative actions that should clearly contribute to the implementation of the Agreement and the priorities adopted by the Parties;
- to support applied conservation projects;
- to provide seed money to initiate long-term projects that have a multiplying impact well beyond the funding period;

- to stimulate dialogue and cooperation at the local and regional level in order to improve the conservation status of the cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area;
  - to assist in development of capacities to conserve cetaceans and their habitats;
  - to raise awareness of the conservation and management needs of cetaceans and their habitats;
  - to make relatively small funds available to communities and other conservation stakeholders with limited access to alternative funding sources;
2. *Decides* that the Fund is mainly financed through voluntary contributions according to the Resolution 5.16, Annex 4;
  3. *Urges* Parties and donor organisations to provide voluntary contributions to the SCF;
  4. *Agrees* to transfer, if appropriate, the unspent balance of previous triennium fund (including the 2011-2013 unpaid pledges that could be received in 2014-2016) to the SCF, as stated in Resolution 5.16, and *mandates* the Bureau to set the amount thereof on the basis of recommendations by the Secretariat;
  5. *Notes* that SCF will be implemented within the Agreement area;
  6. *Encourages* transboundary projects between countries Parties to ACCOBAMS;
  7. *Instructs* the Secretariat:
    - to manage and coordinate the SCF;
    - to launch calls for proposals of projects to be funded under the SCF in consultation with the Bureau of the Parties;
    - to inform the ACCOBAMS National Focal Points, the Members of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS, the ACCOBAMS Partners and other relevant Organisations, about the launch of a call for proposals;
  8. *Authorizes* the Secretariat to facilitate contacts between potential applicants in order to establish partnerships;
  9. *Authorizes* the Bureau, to decide upon applications received for grants, taking into account the Procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the SCF and the budget available;
  10. *Adopts* the Procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the SCF in Annex to this Resolution;
  11. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolution 2.4 and amends Resolution 3.6.

## **ANNEX**

### **Procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund**

#### **Content**

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## **Introduction**

ACCOBAMS (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area) is an intergovernmental legal instrument for cetacean conservation taking into account social and economic activities. Signed in Monaco in 1996 and entered into force in 2001, ACCOBAMS aims to reduce threats to cetaceans and improve knowledge on them.

The geographical scope of the Agreement is constituted by all the maritime waters of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean and their gulfs and seas, and the internal waters connected to or interconnecting these maritime waters, and of the Atlantic area contiguous to the Mediterranean Sea west of the Straits of Gibraltar. In 2010 the Parties adopted a Resolution to extend the ACCOBAMS area to cover the whole Exclusive Economic Zones of Portugal and Spain in the Atlantic.

Taking into account Article IX, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, the Parties to ACCOBAMS decided to establish at their First Meeting (Monaco, 28 February – 2 March 2002) a Supplementary Conservation Fund (SCF) from voluntary contributions of Parties or from any other source in order to increase the funds available for monitoring, research, training and projects relating to the conservation of cetaceans.

The SCF became operational as of the Second Meeting of the Parties (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 9-12 November 2004) and had have a significant role in supporting ACCOBAMS conservation initiatives in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

## **Functioning of the Supplementary Conservation Fund**

The goals and objectives of the SCF are as follows:

- To catalyze the development and implementation of concerted or cooperative actions that should clearly contribute to the implementation of the Agreement and the priorities adopted by the Parties;
- To support applied conservation projects;
- To provide seed money to initiate long-term projects that have a multiplying impact well beyond the funding period;
- To stimulate dialogue and cooperation at the local and regional level in order to improve the conservation status of the cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area;
- To assist in development of capacities to conserve cetaceans and their habitats;
- To raise awareness of the conservation and management needs of cetaceans and their habitats;
- To make relatively small funds available to communities and other conservation stakeholders with limited access to alternative funding sources.

Submissions of projects to be funded under the SCF are made in the framework of calls for proposals launched by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Parties.

The eligible proposals will be sent to the Scientific Committee to be evaluated.

The cycle for submission of project proposals depends on the funding accrued for this purpose; thus, depending on the funds available, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat will inform the ACCOBAMS National Focal Points, the Members of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS, the ACCOBAMS Partners and other relevant organisations, about the launch of the call for proposals.

### **Submission and eligibility criteria**

Project proposals can be submitted in English or in French.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their project proposal in English for facilitating the evaluation by the Scientific Committee.

Application must include the following documents:

- Doc 1: the concept form completed (Appendix 1);
- Doc 2: the project presentation form completed (Appendix 2);
- Doc 3: a cover letter addressed to the Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS;
- Doc 4: a CV of the team leader;
- Doc 5: an endorsement form signed by the ACCOBAMS national Focal Point of the country where the proposed project will be implemented (Appendix 3). In case of transboundary projects, application should include endorsement forms signed by each of the ACCOBAMS national Focal Point of the countries where the proposed project will be implemented.

Only projects submitted from low and middle income countries as classified by the World Bank that are Parties to ACCOBAMS, except countries more than three years in arrears with their contributions, will be eligible for funding.

In case of a transboundary project including a non-eligible country, funding granted from the SCF will be devoted only to activities carried out in the eligible country.

List of ACCOBAMS national Focal Points, list of eligible countries, deadlines for project proposal submission and any restriction depending on the requirements set by the respective funding body will be communicated by the Secretariat through the ACCOBAMS webpage dedicated to the call for proposals after consultation with the Bureau of the Parties.

Governmental Institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) may submit proposals. Projects shall be submitted through any entity which is legally established at the national level and has as its main aim the study, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Projects can receive a maximum grant of 15.000 €. No more than 10% of the requested funds can be allocated to project team salaries.

Projects that can demonstrate that co-funding is available, either provided by the applicants themselves or from another sources, will be favored.

Partnership and collaboration with Governmental Institutions and NGOs from other Parties to ACCOBAMS is encouraged provided that the receiver of the grant is a Governmental Institution or an NGO from one of the countries eligible to the SCF and the amount of budget allocated to the partner(s) from other Parties to ACCOBAMS doesn't exceed 30% of the requested grant.

The maximum normal duration of projects will be two years, in order to ensure the availability of results in a reasonable time frame.

An applicant is allowed to submit a maximum of two proposals on a given call.

The data from the project will have to be public data and, if relevant, will have to be communicated to the OBIS-SEAMAP and MEDACES databases upon completion of the project.

Proposals from Governmental Institutions and NGOs having among their employees or board, one or more members of the Bureau of the Parties, or one or more members of the Scientific Committee, or one or more staff of the Permanent Secretariat of ACCOBAMS are not eligible.

### **Selection procedure**

The project proposals received before the deadline will be checked by the Secretariat as for their eligibility.

The eligible proposals will be sent to the Scientific Committee to be evaluated using the evaluation sheet (Appendix 4) and the following scoring system:

#### Scoring criteria

1. Potential impact on the conservation of cetacean in the ACCOBAMS area (Score max: 5):
  - contribution to achieve the objectives of ACCOBAMS;
  - appropriateness of the proposed activity in relation to the priorities of the ACCOBAMS work plan.
2. Quality and efficiency of the methodology and team (Score max: 5):
  - quality and relevant experience of the team leader;
  - soundness of the proposed methodology and associated work plan;
  - appropriateness of the allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment).

#### Scoring scale

*Scores must be in the range 0-5. Half marks may be given.*

- 0 - The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.

- 1 - Poor. The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2 - Fair. While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
- 3 - Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.
- 4 - Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.
- 5 - Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question, any shortcomings are minor.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will organize the evaluation of the project proposals by establishing and coordinating an evaluation group made of Scientific Committee Members. The composition of the evaluation group shall be decided by the Chair of the Scientific Committee in consultation with the other Members of the Scientific Committee. Each project proposal should be assessed by at least three members of the evaluation group.

The final decision about the projects to be financially supported by the ACCOBAMS SCF will be made by the Bureau of the Parties, taking into account the eligibility check by the Secretariat and the scientific and technical evaluation of the project proposals by the Scientific Committee.

If necessary the Secretariat will ask the applicants for further information, based on the comments and suggestions made by the Members of the Scientific Committee when evaluating the project proposals.

### **Transfer of funds and submission of Progress and Final Reports**

Once a project is approved and funding has been granted by the Bureau of the Parties, the ACCOBAMS Secretariat prepares the Small Scale Funding Agreement with the applicant receiving the project funding.

Each recipient Organisation is required to provide a mid-term Progress Report on the implementation of the funded project not later than 12 months after receipt of the initial payment for projects with duration of up to 24 months and not later than 6 months for projects with duration up to 12 months. A Final Report should be submitted not later than three months after completion of the project. The deadlines for submission of both reports will be specified in the Small Scale Funding Agreement. Both Progress and Final Reports must be submitted with the endorsement of the ACCOBAMS national Focal Point. The Final Report should include a statement of expenditure for the funds provided and copies of any materials produced under the project.

### **Terms of Small Scale Funding Agreement to be concluded with Organizations receiving assistance**

In the Small Scale Funding Agreement which will be concluded between the ACCOBAMS Secretariat and the Organisation that will be granted financial assistance, the following will be specified:

- a) the extent and purpose of the financial assistance granted;
- b) the obligations of the recipient towards the implementation of the project;
- c) the obligation of the recipient to display the ACCOBAMS logo on all correspondence or material printed in connection with meetings or activities financed under the project (such as



invitations, announcements, agendas, reports, etc.) and to refer to the activity as being sponsored by ACCOBAMS;

- d) the obligation of the recipient to reimburse to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat any portion of cash advance remaining unspent or uncommitted on completion of the activities of the Small Scale Funding Agreement within one month of presentation of the expenditures report.

### **Reporting to donors**

The ACCOBAMS Secretariat provides donors with summary Reports of project results prepared on the basis of the Final Reports received from the beneficiaries.

## **Appendix 1: Project Concept Form**

*Reserved to ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat*

Form reference:

Title of the project:

Project category:      ☐ Research and monitoring    ☐ Capacity building    ☐ Public awareness

Project topic(s):

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bycatch/Depredation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Protected Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Stranding         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change       | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Plans   | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo-identification  | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine debris     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Ship Strikes          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cetacean watching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency situation  |  |  |

*[Project topics relevant to the work programme of the triennium at the launch of calls for proposals.]*

Project amount (Euro):

Project duration:

Geographical area of the project:

*[List of eligible countries at the launch of calls for proposals.]*

Partnership if relevant:

Date:

Signature and Organisation stamp:

## **Appendix 2: Project Presentation Form**

*Reserved to ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat*

Form reference:

### **A. THE APPLICANT**

#### **1. Identity**

Full legal name	
Acronym	
Legal status	
Official address	
Contact person	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
E-mail address	

#### **2. Description of applicant**

2.1. When was your Organization founded, and when did it start its activities?

--

2.2. What are the main activities of your Organization?

--

2.3. Will the project be implemented in collaboration with a partner Organisation?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If Yes, please indicate:

**- the identity of the partner:**

Full legal name	
Acronym	
Legal status	
Official address	
Contact person	
Telephone number	
Fax number	
E-mail address	

**- the role of the partner:**

--

## **B. THE PROJECT**

### **1. Description**

#### **1.1. Title**

--

#### **1.2. Coordination**

--

#### **1.3. Location**

Provide here a brief description of the area in which the project will be carried out (Please attach a map to this document).

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#### **1.4. Duration**

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#### **1.5. Countries participating in the project**

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#### **1.6. Objectives** (maximum 150 words)

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### **1.7. Justification**

Please indicate how the activities contribute to the ACCOBAMS objectives, with special reference to the ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan and reference of the appropriate ACCOBAMS Resolutions (maximum 250 words).

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### **1.8. Activities to be carried out and timetable**

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### **1.9. Expected outputs and methodology (maximum: 400 words)**

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### **1.10. Budget estimates**

Please provide for each activity a breakdown of

- personnel
- non-consumable equipments
- consumables
- travel
- field work
- other (specify).

Please provide all budget costs in Euros. If the financial arrangements for the project include any other financial support for an extra-funding, please provide detailed information on the amount(s), the donor(s) and the relevant commitments. Please also indicate any “in-kind” contributions to the project and their value.

Activities	Categories	Applicant		Partner	
		Budget requested to ACCOBAMS	Co-funding (in-kind or from other sources)	Budget requested to ACCOBAMS	Co-funding (in-kind or from other sources)
Activity 1	Personnel (Please specify)				
	Non-consumable equipments (Please specify)				
	Consumables (Please specify)				
	Travel (Please specify)				
	Field work (Please specify)				
	Other (Please specify)				
Activity 2	Personnel (Please specify)				
	Non-consumable equipments (Please specify)				
	Consumables (Please specify)				
	Travel (Please specify)				
	Field work (Please specify)				
	Other (Please specify)				
...					
Total					
GRAND TOTAL					

### 1.11. Issues relevant to transfer of technology

The project should include the concept of transfer of technology, with detailed proposals. Please provide information.

### 1.12. Links with other initiatives

(Remark: the Secretariat might consult with other Organisations if the Project activities were submitted to them for funding or are complementary to activities having received funding from them.)

Please indicate here if the proposed activities:

(i) were presented for funding under other initiatives/Organisations:

Yes ☐

No ☐

If Yes please indicate the initiative/Organisation.

- (ii) have direct links or are complementary to other activities having received funding from other Organisations:

Yes ☐

No ☐

If Yes please indicate such link or complementary.

## C. DECLARATION OF THE APPLICANT

“The information submitted in this application is true, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. Should any significant developments arise after this application is made, I shall notify ACCOBAMS Secretariat. I consent the information contained in this application being held on computer and circulated to the national Focal Point, the Bureau and the Scientific Committee.”

Date, Signature



### **Appendix 3: Endorsement form**

***This form is to be completed and signed by the ACCOBAMS national Focal Point of the country where the proposed project will be implemented (host country). In case of transboundary projects, application should include endorsement forms signed by each of the ACCOBAMS national Focal Point of the countries where the proposed project will be implemented concerning the respective areas.***

Host country:

Project title:

Organisation submitting the application:

Title and name:

Contact details:

I have read the Procedure for the ACCOBAMS Calls for proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund of ACCOBAMS and reviewed the above mentioned project, and would herewith like to endorse it for support from the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Fund.

Date:

Signature

#### **Appendix 4: Project Evaluation Form**

*Reserved to ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat*  
Form reference:

Project Title:

Applicant:

**Do you have collaboration relationship or conflicts with the applicant or with its staff or the proposed project team?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, please explain why.

**1. Are the project objectives in line with the objectives of ACCOBAMS?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

**2. Will the proposed project clearly contribute to the implementation of the Agreement and the priorities adopted by the Parties?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

If no, please explain why.

**3. Do the proposed activities duplicate or overlap previous or ongoing projects?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes please give details

**4. General appreciation**

☐ The project is acceptable

☐ The project needs improvements

Please specify

☐ The project cannot be accepted

Please explain

--

**5. Other suggestions and/or comments (if any)**

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**To Resume:**

**Potential impact on the conservation of cetacean in the ACCOBAMS area** (please choose a score):

0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
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**Quality and efficiency of the methodology and team leader** (please choose a score):

0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
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**Name of the evaluator:**

**Date:**

<b>RESOLUTION 5.6</b> <b>STAFF REGULATIONS</b>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Considering* that under Resolution 1.2 the Meeting of the Parties accepted the offer of the Government of the Principality of Monaco to host the Permanent Secretariat and agreed with the terms of reference of the Secretariat as annexed to the same Resolution,

*Considering* also that paragraph 1 of the above mentioned annex states that the Principality of Monaco will provide the Executive Secretary and will give to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat the means to devote the necessary time to carrying out their task successfully,

*Aware* that there is a need to adopt the ACCOBAMS Staff Regulations, which will include a procedure for the designation and appointment of the ACCOBAMS Executive Secretary and the other staff members,

1. *Thanks* the Government of the Principality of Monaco for the continuous support given to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat;
2. *Asks* the Secretariat to liaise during the next triennium with the national Focal Points in order to draft a proposal of the Staff Regulations, to draft accordingly the relevant amendments to the Head Quarter Agreement in collaboration with the Government of the Principality of Monaco and to submit the proposal and the draft amendments to the Bureau;
3. *Asks* the Bureau to review the proposal of the Staff Regulations and the draft amendments to the Head Quarter Agreement and to make recommendations to the Sixth Meeting of the Parties;
4. *Asks* the Secretariat to submit for adoption to the Sixth Meeting of the Parties the proposal of the Staff Regulations and the draft amendments to the Head Quarter Agreement, together with the recommendations of the Bureau.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.7</b> <b>RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE BUREAU</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Considering* Article VI, paragraph 1, of the Agreement,

*Considering* the need to amend the Rules of Procedure for the Bureau as regards the Bureau preparatory Meeting for the Meeting of the Parties,

1. *Decides* to adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Bureau as annexed to the present Resolution;
2. *Decides* that the Rules of Procedure for the Bureau as annexed to the present Resolution replace the previous Rules of Procedure for the Bureau.

**ANNEX**  
**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE BUREAU OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON THE**  
**CONSERVATION ON CETACEANS OF THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS**  
**ATLANTIC AREA<sup>75</sup>**

**Article 1**

The Bureau shall:

- a) provide general policy guidance and operational and financial direction to the Agreement Secretariat and the subregional Co-ordination Units concerning the implementation and promotion of the Agreement;
- b) carry out, between sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, such interim activities on its behalf as may be necessary or assigned to it by the Meeting of the Parties; and
- c) represent the Parties vis-à-vis the Government of the Host Country of the Agreement Secretariat and the Meeting of the Parties, the Depositary and other international Organizations on matters relating to the Agreement and its Secretariat.

**Article 2**

The Bureau shall meet at least twice between two Meetings of the Parties. One of these Meetings shall be held six months before each Meeting of Parties, and will act as a preparatory Meeting for the Meeting of Parties.

**Article 3**

1. At its preparatory meeting for the Meeting of the Parties and in the accomplishment of the functions provided for in Article 1, a) and b), the Bureau shall be supported, as observers, by:

- a representative of the State holding the next Meeting of the Parties, if not already represented in the Bureau,
- a representative of each of the two sub-regional Co-ordination Units,
- a Working Group.

The Bureau, with the help of these observers, will have the task to examine:

- the progress made in the activities of the Secretariat and the sub-regional Co-ordination Units;
- the proposals made by the Scientific Committee, and
- the drafts of Recommendations and Resolutions to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties.

2. The Working Group shall be made up of three experts having extensive experience in social and economic aspects of conservation and management of marine biodiversity. The three experts shall be selected before the third year of each triennium by the Bureau in close consultation with the Secretariat, according to the development of the Working Programme and the priorities to be taken in consideration for the subsequent triennium. The three experts shall be selected based on their Curriculum vitae.

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<sup>75</sup> The composition and functions of the Bureau are settled by Article VI of the Agreement. The Rules of procedure of the Bureau, acting as Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties, are already stated in the general Rules of procedures of the Meeting of the Parties which will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of the Bureau.

**3.** Cumulative function between member of the Scientific Committee and member of the Working Group shall be avoided.

**4.** The Secretariat shall invite the three selected experts to attend the Bureau Meeting on a voluntary basis and shall cover their travel and accommodation fees.

**5.** Each Party not represented in the Bureau can send an observer to the Meeting of the Bureau preparatory for the Meeting of the Parties. The Party concerned shall cover the travel and accommodation fees of the observer.

#### **Article 4**

The precise dates of the Meetings shall be set by the Chairperson of the Bureau, after consultation with the Secretariat and the other members. The Secretariat shall inform the members of the Bureau, as well as all Parties of the date, place and agenda of each Meeting and shall invite them to participate.

The Secretariat shall inform the members of the Working Group of the date, place and agenda of the Meeting of the Bureau preparatory to the Meeting of the Parties and shall invite them to participate.

#### **Article 5**

The Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each Meeting, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Bureau.

#### **Article 6**

The Bureau shall provide a report on its activities for each session of the Meeting of the Parties that shall be circulated to all Parties in advance of the session by the Agreement Secretariat.

#### **Article 7**

The Chairperson of the Scientific Committee shall be invited to participate as an observer in the Meetings of the Bureau.

#### **Article 8**

The Agreement Secretariat shall provide secretariat services for the Bureau Meetings.

#### **Article 9**

These rules may be amended as required by the Meeting of the Parties.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.8</b> <b>RIO +20 PERSPECTIVES FOR ACCOBAMS</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Fully aware* of “The Future We Want”, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (Rio + 20),

*Convinced* that the document “The Future We Want” is to be considered as a very valuable source of inspiration also for future actions within the ACCOBAMS framework,

*Noting* that several among the principles enshrined in the 1992 Rio Declaration of Environment and Development and reaffirmed in “The Future We Want”, such as the principle of sustainable development, the principle of the benefit of present and future generations, the precautionary principle and the principle of integration of actions to preserve the environment with activities related to the socio-economic development, are recalled also in the ACCOBAMS,

*Emphasizing* that the vulnerability of cetaceans to threats from several sources warrants the implementation of specific conservation measures,

*Recalling*, as provided for in the ACCOBAMS on the basis of Articles 65 and 120 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, that must be permitted only economic uses of cetaceans, such as cetacean watching , which do not consist in any deliberate taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing or killing, ,

1. *Commits* itself to base its present and future actions for the implementation of the ACCOBAMS on the spirit and objectives of the document “The Future We Want”, emphasizing the following aspects of the document as particularly relevant in the ACCOBAMS framework:
  - a) The necessity to promote harmony with nature, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, recognizing the rights of nature in the context of promotion of sustainable development<sup>76</sup>;
  - b) The call for holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem<sup>77</sup>;
  - c) The importance of involving all relevant decision makers in the planning and implementation of sustainable development policies<sup>78</sup>;

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<sup>76</sup> See para. 39 of “The Future We Want”.

<sup>77</sup> See para. 40 of “The Future We Want”.

<sup>78</sup> See para. 42 of “The Future We Want”.



- d) The important role that local authorities and communities can play in implementing sustainable development, including by engaging citizens and stakeholders and providing them with relevant information<sup>79</sup>;
- e) The essential character of broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings for the promotion of sustainable development<sup>80</sup>;
- f) The need for meaningful involvement in sustainable development of all major groups, such as women, children, youth, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community<sup>81</sup>;
- g) The support to public-private partnerships and to the involvement of business and industry in sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of corporate social responsibility<sup>82</sup>;
- h) The recognition of the important contribution of the scientific and technological community to sustainable development and the commitment to close the technological gap between developing and developed countries and to strengthen the science-policy interface, as well as to foster international research collaboration on sustainable development<sup>83</sup>;
- i) The valuable contribution that non-governmental organizations make in promoting sustainable development through their well established and diverse experience and capacity, especially in the area of analysis, the sharing of information and knowledge, promotion of dialogue and support of implementation of sustainable development<sup>84</sup>;
- j) The call to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed<sup>85</sup>;
- k) The acknowledgement of the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, which can complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level<sup>86</sup>;

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<sup>79</sup> See para. 42 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>80</sup> See para. 43 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>81</sup> See para. 43 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>82</sup> See para. 46 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>83</sup> See para. 48 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>84</sup> See para. 53 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>85</sup> See para. 73 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>86</sup> See para. 97 of "The Future We Want".

- l) The need to ensure effective linkage among global, regional, subregional and national processes to advance sustainable development<sup>87</sup>;
- m) The necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable fisheries and aquaculture that is economically viable, while conserving water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters<sup>88</sup>;
- n) The need to support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building that promote environmental awareness, conserve and protect the environment, respect wildlife, flora, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity, and improve the welfare and livelihoods of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment as a whole<sup>89</sup>;
- o) The commitment to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, to maintain the biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment<sup>90</sup>;
- p) The concern that the health of oceans and marine biodiversity are negatively affected by marine pollution, including marine debris, especially plastic, persistent organic pollutants, heavy-metal and nitrogen-based compounds, from a number of marine and land-based sources, including shipping and land run-off, and the commitment to take action to reduce the incidence and impacts of such pollution on marine ecosystems<sup>91</sup>;
- q) The commitment to enhance action to manage adverse ecosystem impacts from fisheries, including by eliminating destructive fishing practices<sup>92</sup>;
- r) The commitment to enhance actions to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts, including through the effective use of impact assessments<sup>93</sup>;
- s) The importance of area-based conservation measures, including marine protected areas, consistent with international law and based on best available scientific information, as a tool for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components<sup>94</sup>;

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<sup>87</sup> See para. 100 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>88</sup> See para. 111 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>89</sup> See para. 130 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>90</sup> See para. 158 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>91</sup> See para. 163 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>92</sup> See para. 168 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>93</sup> See para. 168 of "The Future We Want".

<sup>94</sup> See para. 177 of "The Future We Want".

- t) The reaffirmation of the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being<sup>95</sup>;
- u) The call upon all countries to prioritize sustainable development in the allocation of resources in accordance with national priorities and needs and the recognition of the crucial importance of enhancing financial support from all sources for sustainable development for all countries, in particular developing countries<sup>96</sup>;
- v) The call to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed<sup>97</sup>;
- w) The need for enhanced capacity-building for sustainable development and, in this regard, the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, reiterating the importance of human resource development, including training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance Scientific Committee members.<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>95</sup> See para. 197 of “The Future We Want”.

<sup>96</sup> See para. 253 of “The Future We Want”.

<sup>97</sup> See para. 269 of “The Future We Want”.

<sup>98</sup> See para. 277 of “The Future We Want”.

**RESOLUTION 5.9**  
**COMPREHENSIVE CETACEAN POPULATION ESTIMATES AND DISTRIBUTION**  
**IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA (ACCOBAMS SURVEY INITIATIVE)**

*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Article II, paragraph 3, of the Agreement and its Annex 2 (Conservation Plan), paragraph 2,

*Recalling* Resolution 4.12 “Comprehensive cetacean population estimates and distribution in the ACCOBAMS area”, which has replaced the previous Resolutions 2.19 and 3.15,

*Taking in consideration* the Recommendations of the Scientific Committee,

*Reaffirming* the fundamental importance of obtaining as soon as possible baseline population estimates and distributional information of cetaceans within the ACCOBAMS area,

*Stressing* that, without such information and a suitable monitoring programme, it will be impossible, *inter alia*, to determine whether ACCOBAMS is meeting its conservation objectives,

*Reiterating* that the work for obtaining such information represents the highest priority for conservation research within the ACCOBAMS area and is of great importance in the assessment of risk from different sources (e.g., by-catch, degradation of habitats, disturbances, pollutions) and in the determination of appropriate mitigation measures and priority actions,

*Recalling* that identification of the components of biological diversity is a fundamental priority, expressed *inter alia* in the Convention on Biological Diversity, and that the Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) requires to monitor the conservation status and the impact of human-induced mortality on populations of all cetacean species,

*Recognizing also* the importance given by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EU) to qualitative descriptors for determining good environment status, including the maintenance of biological biodiversity,

*Aware* that it is now essential that the comprehensive programme to obtain baseline cetacean population estimates and distribution in the ACCOBAMS area (the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative) is rapidly implemented and in particular that the synoptic survey section of the initiative takes place as soon as possible,

*Aware* that, despite the work done for planning the surveys and developing and revising proposals, financial constraints have so far prevented the carrying out of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative,

*Considering* that it is possible to undertake the survey separately for the Mediterranean and the Black Seas waters and that there are advantages in establishing links between the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and other survey programmes which are being carried out by other entities in the North Atlantic Ocean or in the Black Sea,

*Recalling* the Agreement signed with ACCOBAMS, IUCN, French Agency for Marine Protected Areas and RAC/SPA to appoint a project manager to help in developing the survey project and fund raising,

*Thanking* the French Agency for Marine Protected Areas for its offer to financially support the engagement of a fund raiser,

*Expressing* also its gratitude to the Spanish Governments for its financial support and counting also on other Parties that have accepted to provide in-kind support,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the Parties to the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative, to promoting it at the national and international levels and to carrying out it with the least possible delay;
2. *Notes* that the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative has now been revised in the form of a fully-developed cost-effective programme with a primarily aerial component;
3. *Encourages* other competent international Organizations to participate in the programme;
4. *Invites* Parties and Range States to ensure that any proposed national programmes on the study of abundance and distribution of cetaceans are compatible with, the development of the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative;
5. *Invites* Parties and Range States to:
  - a) give priority to finding financial or in-kind support for the survey;
  - b) appoint a national contact person, if necessary to assist the national Focal Point, whose tasks will be to:
    - facilitate the process of obtaining permits for vessels and aircraft to operate in the waters under their jurisdiction in accordance with relevant provisions of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
    - co-ordinate the identification of financial and/or in-kind support for the survey;
    - co-ordinate ongoing monitoring projects and, where appropriate, facilitate the development of new projects;
    - identify observer candidates;
  - c) share with the Secretariat reports and GIS information of national programmes on the study of abundance and distribution of cetaceans;
6. *Asks* the researchers involved in these surveys that:
  - all the information obtained from these surveys is available on the ACCOBAMS website with all the GIS information and raw data as necessary;
  - all measures are taken when and if possible to train and increase the capacity building of all the Countries involved;

7. *Asks* the Scientific Committee for advice on the development and coordination of international and national research and monitoring programmes on cetacean population abundance and distribution in the ACCOBAMS area, in compliance with Article VII, paragraph 3, d), of the Agreement;
8. *Takes note* that it is possible to undertake the survey separately for the Mediterranean and the Black Seas waters and that:
  - a) as regards the Mediterranean Sea waters, there are advantages in establishing a link between the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative and other survey programmes to be carried out in the North Atlantic by other entities, in order to allow synergies in terms of method development, implementation and logistics (e.g., in chartering aircraft or ships and in training observers);
  - b) as regards the Black Sea waters, while a survey funded by the European Union has taken place in summer 2013 covering the north-western area (about 25% of the Black Sea), there is a need to cover the whole Black Sea, as data coming from the surveyed area cannot be extrapolated to the entire region;
9. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolution 4.12.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.10</b> <b>COMMERCIAL CETACEAN WATCHING IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Resolution 4.7 regarding the Guidelines on Commercial Cetacean Watching in the ACCOBAMS Area,

*Taking in consideration* the Recommendations of the Scientific Committee,

*Considering* that under Article II, paragraph 1, of the Agreement, the Parties shall prohibit and take all necessary measures to eliminate any deliberate taking of cetaceans, including harassing or attempting to engage in any such conduct,

*Considering* also that under Chapter 1.c) of Annex 2 to ACCOBAMS, the Parties shall require impact assessments to be carried out in order to provide a basis for either allowing or prohibiting the continuation or the future development of activities that may affect cetaceans or their habitat in the ACCOBAMS area, including tourism and cetacean-watching, as well as for establishing the conditions under which such activities may be conducted,

*Acknowledging* that commercial cetacean-watching activities, where properly conducted, should be encouraged as they do contribute to the building of education and awareness on cetaceans and their habitat and present other potential benefits, including economic benefits,

*Recalling* the endorsement of the Guidelines for implementing a Pelagos / ACCOBAMS certificate for commercial whale-watching activities during the Fourth Meeting of the Parties,

*Congratulating* Morocco and Tunisia for having express their interest to establish whale watching activities and starting a feasibility study for developing pilot projects of whale watching, thanks to a financial support from France,

*Also congratulating* France for having adopted an Order “Arrêté du 1er juillet 2011 fixant la liste des mammifères marins protégés sur le territoire national et les modalités de leur protection” prohibiting the harassment of cetaceans and for having organised in 2012 the first training session regarding the access to the certificate for a sustainable whale-watching,

*Noting* that any expansion of cetacean watching activities in the Agreement area should be carefully managed in order to minimise potential adverse impacts on cetacean individuals and populations,

*Recalling* paragraph 130 of “The Future We Want” that underlines the need to support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building that promote environmental awareness, conserve and protect the environment, respect wildlife, flora, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity, and improve the welfare and livelihoods of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment as a whole,

1. *Mandates* the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, in cooperation with the Pelagos Secretariat, to prepare a framework document regarding national rules on the implementation of a “High quality whale watching” certificate, to be submitted at the Sixth Meeting of the Parties;

2. *Encourages* Parties to adopt national rules in order to implement at national level the certificate in relevant bodies;
3. *Adopts* the logo “High quality whale watching” as presented in Annex of this Resolution;
4. *Recommends* Parties to support the continuation and expansion of national or regional training courses for operators, covering, inter alia, the biology of animals, risks, boat behaviour around the animals, involvement in scientific research;
5. *Encourages* the Scientific Committee to continue consideration, including collation and review of scientific literature, of potential adverse effects of cetacean watching on cetaceans and means to mitigate them, with an emphasis on population-level impacts, swim-with activities, use of aerial spotter aircraft, the concept of “carrying capacity”;
6. *Mandates* the Scientific Committee:
  - a) to prepare guidelines for monitoring cetacean watching development in the Agreement Area and guidelines to develop national databases to store the information;
  - b) to prepare procedures and forms on data collection for cetacean watching vessels for the Agreement Area;
7. *Asks* Parties to:
  - a) monitor the activity of cetacean watching operators, in order to obtain information on their development and to identify potential problems;
  - b) test the guidelines, procedures and forms referred to in paragraph 6 a) and b);
  - c) send the relevant information to the Secretariat;
6. *Also asks* Parties to develop methods to better inform the general public, including yachtsmen and other boaters involved in opportunistic cetacean watching, about responsible boat behaviour around cetaceans, including the integration of suitable cetology modules based on the ACCOBAMS module on cetology in official training for professional and recreational boat licenses, the preparation of informative flyers in logbook and the distribution of notices in harbour offices;
7. *Asks* Parties and Scientific Committee to report on this issue for the Sixth Meeting of the Parties.



ANNEX  
Logo « High quality whale watching »



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.11</b> <b>SHIP STRIKES ON CETACEANS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Resolution 4.10 “Ship Strikes on large cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea”, which has replaced the previous Resolution 3.14,

*Taking in consideration* the Recommendations of the Scientific Committee,

*Aware* that cetaceans, in particular large species such as fin and sperm whales, are threatened by impacts with ships,

*Also aware* that the speed, rather than the shape or displacement, of vessels is the most significant factor in ship strikes,

*Recognizing* that the number of vessels will increase substantially in the near future,

*Recalling* the Resolution 8.22 of the Meeting of the Parties of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) on Human-Induced Impacts on Cetaceans, which also addresses ship strikes, and under which a CMS Programme of Work for Cetaceans is being developed,

*Conscious* that ship strikes are a concern for many populations of cetaceans listed on the Appendix of CMS and that the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) is also concerned with this issue,

*Taking note of* the Guidance document for minimizing the risk of ship strikes with cetaceans of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)<sup>99</sup>, and of the publication: “Mapping of potential risk of ship strike with fin whales in the Western Mediterranean Sea. A scientific and technical review using the potential habitat of fin whales and the effective vessel density” from the Joint Research Center of the European Commission,

*Stressing* that the broadest application of REPCET project, which is being carried out within the Pelagos Sanctuary, is of particular importance,

*Taking note of* the report and the work plan of the joint IWC (International Whaling Commission) - ACCOBAMS Workshop on Reducing Risk of Collisions between Vessels and Cetaceans, held in Beaulieu, France, in 2010,

*Considering* that a number of areas are of particular interest due to their shipping and cetacean density, such as, in the Mediterranean Sea, the Strait of Gibraltar, the Pelagos Sanctuary, the area south west of the island of Crete, the area around the Balearic Islands, the area between Almeria and Nador at the eastern side of the Alborán Sea, the Strait of Sicily, and, in the ACCOBAMS extension area, the Bay of Biscay,

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<sup>99</sup> Reference: Ref. T5/1.01 MEPC.1/Circ.674.

*Welcoming* projects undertaken by ACCOBAMS Partners such as GIS 3M, écoOcean Institute and CIRCE regarding ship strikes on cetaceans,

*Welcoming*, as regards the problem of ships strikes, all forms of collaborative work which involves, besides the ACCOBAMS Parties and Secretariat, other interested entities, such as the IMO, the IWC, the European Commission and the CMS, ASCOBANS, Pelagos,

1. *Urges* Parties:

- to enhance involvement of the competent authorities in facilitating exchange of information between scientists and shipping companies;
- to support the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (Comprehensive cetacean population estimates and distribution in ACCOBAMS area), since such effort can provide detailed information on large cetaceans' abundance and distribution throughout the Mediterranean and on high risk areas for cetaceans and ship strikes;
- to allow access to general summarized ship traffic data (some of which data can be accessed from the European Union Member States's (MS) Initial assessment reports compiled for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, with regards to the pressures sections and available on each MS's website and also through the Automatic Identification System (AIS), in order to relate traffic information to cetacean presence and allow identification of high risk areas for ship strikes;
- to consider extending to the entire Agreement area the REPCET system applied in the Pelagos Sanctuary area with some shipping companies and, when feasible, with the financial or other support as necessary, from the Secretariat;
- to take note of the recommendations and the work plan from the joint IWC - ACCOBAMS Workshop on reducing the risk of collisions between vessels and cetaceans in the Mediterranean area, as annexed to Resolution 4.10, as well of subsequent additional information;

2. *Encourages* Parties to continue to collect information on non-lethal ship strikes through photo-identification studies, with the aim of allowing an assessment of the extent of ship strikes within the Agreement area and developing effective mitigation measures, including the modification of shipping lanes;

3. *Recommends* Parties to support studies, in particular photo-identification studies along with telemetry and genetic studies, that elucidate migration/movement patterns of sperm and fin whales throughout the ACCOBAMS area and to report the results to the ACCOBAMS and IWC Scientific Committees;

4. *Invites* Parties, with the advice of the Scientific Committee:

- to follow and support the recommendations adopted by international bodies, such as IMO or the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC);
- to prepare and present joint documents to IMO–MEPC;

- to consider adopting systems under the IMO framework, such as the Mandatory Ship Reporting System or the establishment of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas;
- to make the reporting of actual ship strikes, or near misses, available, to fill the relevant databases that have been developed regionally and within the IWC and to transmit the reports to the relevant authorities, when relevant;

5. *Requests Parties:*

- to consider ship strikes with cetaceans as a complementary topic for training watchmen and crew on deck, involving merchant navy schools, shipping companies (including ferry companies and cetacean watching vessels) and navies;
- to provide for detailed necropsies following dedicated protocols to assess the cause of death for stranded large cetaceans;
- to ask the Secretariat to assist them in enhancing the necessary skills to perform these tasks, when needed;
- to ensure communication with shipping companies and increase reporting by them of ship strike events as far as possible;

6. *Instructs the Agreement Secretariat to investigate the most appropriate ways of:*

- raising cetacean issues with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre (REMPEC) and obtaining relevant information from them;
- liaising with the Ship Strike Working Group of the International Whaling Commission (IWC);
- liaising with the IWC Secretariat and associated scientific bodies, to provide a complementary ACCOBAMS database of ship collisions, that is directly linked to and in accord with the global IWC database;
- collaborating with the Pelagos Secretariat to propose mitigation measures to the Parties;
- collaborating closely with the joint CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat as well as the scientific bodies of the two Agreements to facilitate full exchange of information and, where appropriate, joint projects/initiatives;
- encouraging collaboration with non-party States;
- facilitating collaborations among countries for specific issues, including the exchange of information on traffic, presented on the Automatic Identification System (AIS) and ship strike issues in targeted areas, such as between Spain and Morocco;
- enhancing cooperation with companies in ship strikes mitigation;

- taking into consideration activities developed by other relevant Organizations.
7. *Asks* the Scientific Committee:
    - to identify joint actions and pilot measures for using the Pelagos Sanctuary and the Strait of Gibraltar as model for testing ground for mitigation measures;
    - to identify areas with high / medium shipping density and assess for these areas the potential risks of collision with cetaceans;
    - to promote behaviour studies on large cetaceans regarding risks of ship strikes;
    - to develop a protocol for investigating and documenting ship strike injuries and mortalities in cetaceans, in the frame of the joint two-year work plan to address ship strike issues with IWC;
  8. *Asks* the ACCOBAMS Ship Strikes Working Group to continue its work, to collate relevant studies within and outside the Agreement area and report on them, to foster collaboration with the IMO, the IWC and the CMS, ASCOBANS, Pelagos, as well as to develop priority actions and studies, including the consideration of a project for a standard training module;
  9. *Asks* the ACCOBAMS Ship Strikes Working Group to collaborate with the IWC working group on ship strikes;
  10. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolution 4.10 and that the Annex to Resolution 4.10 is to be annexed to the present Resolution.

## ANNEX

### Excerpt of the “Report of the Joint IWC-ACCOBAMS Workshop on Reducing Risk of Collisions between Vessels and Cetaceans”<sup>100</sup>, September 2010, Beaulieu (France)

(...)

#### 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

All of the recommendations in the report are important. However, here a number are highlighted.

##### 8.1 Priority species/populations/areas

Several species of whales are at risk of ship strikes within the geographical area examined by the Workshop including fin, sperm and other deep diving species. The Workshop recognised that gaps in data exist for both whale distribution and abundance, and also for shipping data. This lack of data prevented a full assessment of the conservation implications of ship strikes for both species. Nonetheless the Workshop **recommended** three areas as priorities for collecting data to allow improved risk assessments of ship strikes:

(1) **The Strait of Gibraltar.** The Straits carry some of the highest traffic densities in the world and are a region of known importance for concentrations of whales with a number of demonstrated cases of ship strikes.

(2) **The Pelagos Sanctuary.** Fin and sperm whale strikes have regularly been reported from the areas within and around the Sanctuary and the commitment of the range states provides a platform for the introduction of mitigation measures.

(3) **The area south west of the island of Crete.** Localised studies of sperm whales in the Mediterranean suggest that distribution is highly concentrated within limited areas with low densities elsewhere. Long-term studies to the SW of Crete have suggested that this is a consistent area of high concentrations of sperm whales where ship strike mortalities are known to have occurred. The density of shipping also suggests this may be a high risk area. This area is suggested as a focus for further investigation to ensure sufficient data are gathered to determine whether minor routing changes to shipping could achieve a significant risk reduction. Although the conservation implications from ship strikes at a population level cannot be determined without further abundance data, studies to determine effective mitigation strategies could allow these to be implemented rapidly if new data on abundance indicated a serious conservation problem.

(4) **The area around the Balearic Islands** and the main shipping routes radiating from Ibiza, Mallorca and Menorca towards the Gulf of Lyons, Valencia and Alicante constitute one of the top high risk areas for interactions between shipping, and especially fast ferry lines and whales. Studies conducted by Alnitak (e.g. (Cañadas *et al.*, 2000; Cañadas *et al.*, 2005; Canadas *et al.*, 1999) highlight the relevance of the waters around these islands for cetaceans and particularly sperm whales and fin whales. Reports of collisions in all three islands and the intensity of ferry traffic clearly highlight the need for an intensified monitoring effort. In the context of the LIFE project INDEMARES, Spain has been conducting pilot monitoring studies using AIS data.

(5) **The area between Almeria and Nador at the eastern side of the Alborán Sea** constitutes one the main cetacean hotspots in Europe and the Mediterranean, both in terms of diversity of species as for the abundance of priority species currently more vulnerable (Cañadas *et al.*, 2005). Maritime traffic

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<sup>100</sup> Complete report available at : <http://iwcoffice.org/meetings/shipstrikes10.htm>

in this region is also extraordinarily complex and new ferry and fast ferry lines have raised concern over the increased risk of collision with whales. For experimenting new technological measures to mitigate risk this site is of special interest given the positive momentum of cooperation between researchers, relevant authorities and the shipping sector as a result of the reconfiguration of the Traffic Separation Scheme of Cabo de Gata and the Notices to Mariners in the Strait of Gibraltar (Tejedor *et al.*, 2008). This task is currently being initiated in the context of the EC LIFE+ Nature project INDEMARES, coordinated by Spanish Ministry of the Environment, Rural and maritime Affairs (Fundación Biodiversidad).

(6) **The Canary Islands**, the Workshop reviewed data (see IWC/S10/SSW5.3) which indicated that deep diving species including sperm whales, pygmy sperm whales, pilot whales and beaked whales are the principal species affected by ship strikes (Carrillo and Ritter, 2008; Ritter, 2007). The Workshop further **recommended** that these populations should be considered as candidates for the development of a conservation management plan or plans to address the risk of ship strike, following the guidance provided in Donovan *et al.* (2008) and IWC/62/Rep. 4. The Workshop reviewed the limited current survey data and **recommended** that obtaining accurate estimates of abundance and distribution for these populations was a priority. Specific priority areas with respect to ship strikes were recognised as being the channel between Tenerife and La Gomera, the channel between Tenerife and Gran Canaria, the strait between Lanzarote and Fuerteventura (see Ritter, 2007, for details).

#### *8.1.1 Recommendations at scientific level*

The Workshop recognised the need to obtain data on distribution, abundance and population structure of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea and Canary Islands in order to be able to evaluate the conservation implications of ship strikes on mortality<sup>101</sup>. Accordingly the Workshop re-iterated its earlier **recommendation** (Item 5.4) that a consolidated and concerted effort be made, especially by Parties to ACCOBAMS, to obtain the necessary resources to ensure that the previously endorsed basin wide survey in ACCOBAMS waters is undertaken by the summer of 2012.

The Workshop **recommended** that additional data collection and risk assessments be conducted for the six priority areas named above (Item 8.1). It recognised that it may be more difficult to obtain the necessary abundance estimates around the Canary Islands as the population structure and geographical extent of these populations are poorly known. However, localised ship strikes may be of conservation significance to local populations, and surveys are needed to fill in current data gaps in the priority areas identified above (Item 5.4).

#### *8.1.2 Conservation measures*

As noted above, the lack of the necessary data on cetaceans and vessels along with the lack of agreed conservation objectives, means that it is not possible in most cases to carry out a full risk assessment, especially within the ACCOBAMS region. That being said, the available data do suggest certain priority areas where it may be prudent to instigate mitigation measures and a monitoring programme. For the Strait of Gibraltar, the Workshop reviewed the range of mitigation measures available and concluded that the most efficient option would be to reduce speed given the limited options for re-routing shipping traffic. However the Workshop also noted the practical difficulties that some vessels will encounter in transiting the straits at reduced speeds.

For the Pelagos Sanctuary, the Workshop noted that preparations are being made to submit the designation of the Sanctuary as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) under the IMO. The Workshop **endorsed** this process and recognised that this would need to be accompanied by specific measures to reduce ship strikes. The Workshop noted that several measures, including re-routing

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<sup>101</sup> Several documents have been submitted to the IWC, including IWC/61/CC16, Carrillo and Ritter (2008) and Ritter (2007).

and speed reductions measures may be beneficial once a thorough analysis of the newly available data had been completed (e.g. the Italian aerial survey programme), **stressing** the need for a carefully specified monitoring programme.

For the area southwest of Crete it was noted that this is a turning point for long distance traffic transiting the Mediterranean. The Workshop **recommended** that a full analysis of the available shipping and cetacean data is undertaken (and additional monitoring carried out including the basin wide survey) to confirm whether a small change in routing to avoid an apparent hotspot for sperm whales would be beneficial; this would add only a minor additional distance to the overall transit journey.

For the Canary Islands, the Workshop **recommended** the establishment of dedicated observers on fast and high speed ferries as well as according training and education efforts for observers and vessel crews (see Item 7.4). The need for speed reduction was discussed, and speed restrictions (e.g. to  $\leq 10$  knots) within existing SACs (Special Areas of Conservation) or identified small scale high risk areas (see map in Ritter, 2007) were **recommended** (see Item 7.2).

Furthermore, although re-routing might not be feasible in certain areas, it was **recommended** that approaches like route switching from different ports or other forms of experimental re-routing away from areas with high cetacean concentration should be conducted. Examples would be the current ferry transects from Tenerife to La Palma, La Gomera and Gran Canaria, respectively.

In light of the fact that new inter-island ferry connections are planned, the Workshop suggested that the adoption of the mitigation measures mentioned above, should be preconditions for operation.

The Workshop recognised that increased training measures for mariners, including expansion of the maritime training academy ship strike reduction training module<sup>102</sup> whilst not being a mitigation measure in its own right, nonetheless provided valuable opportunities to assist in the implementation of mitigation measures in the future.

### *8.1.3 Reporting*

The Workshop discussed methods to improve reporting of ship strikes. These were: (1) strengthening of existing strandings networks and (2) encouraging reporting of strikes to the IWC database. The Workshop **reiterated** that to obtain the most extensive datasets, measures should be taken to make reporting of ship strikes mandatory and that contracting parties to IWC and ACCOBAMS establish mechanisms to improve and give priority to the reporting of ship strikes, ultimately to the IWC database.

In particular, the Workshop **recommended** that mandatory reporting (especially for ferries) in the Canary Islands should be established as soon as possible; the Spanish and Canary Islands Governments are competent authorities for maritime traffic and conservation measures respectively. Additionally, the Workshop **recommended** that training schemes for mariners be expanded to include awareness of the need to report ship strikes, and that this be facilitated by making a link from the IMO environmental reporting section of its website direct to the IWC database.

In relation to strengthening of existing stranding networks, the Workshop proposed a series of actions in the two year work plan (Item 9) to increase their capacity and to introduce new necropsy techniques.

## **8.2 Other**

The Workshop discussed methods to enhance action on the part of states to both improve reporting of strikes and adopt appropriate mitigation measures. There was a brief discussion on the relevance of various national and international laws to assist in this regard, and the Workshop **recommended** that the ACCOBAMS and IWC Secretariats request contracting parties to provide information on

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<sup>102</sup> <http://www.ncro.noaa.gov/shipstrike/doc/mtr.html>



national legal statutes that may require Governments to take measures to reduce the risk of ships striking cetaceans.

## **9. PROPOSAL FOR A JOINT TWO-YEAR WORK PLAN TO ADDRESS SHIP STRIKE ISSUES**

As decided by the IWC and ACCOBAMS, a two-year work plan needs to be developed to reduce collision risks in the ACCOBAMS area. Both organisations have been working for several years on the issue of ship strikes. The following four actions are proposed, subject to endorsement by ACCOBAMS and IWC Parties at their forthcoming meetings of contracting Parties.

### **9.1 Development of a protocol for investigating and documenting ship strike injuries and mortalities in cetaceans**

Recognizing the benefits of collaboration across national boundaries and the need for consistent documentation of human interactions with cetaceans, the Workshop **recommended** that the IWC and ACCOBAMS Scientific Committees establish a Joint Stranding investigation Working Group to carry out the actions listed below.

- (1) Review existing protocols (such as those used in the USA or UK) and tools for determining the presence or role of human interactions in the stranding of cetaceans, with particular emphasis on ship strikes, developing consistent terminology, diagnoses, reporting, and evidence collection.
- (2) Identify, develop, review, and validate tools, techniques and/or methods to address key issues relative to stranding investigations such as: (i) time from death; (ii) role of injury in the death; and (iii) time of injury related to death and to promote the use of such validated tools to give a systematic diagnostic approach to the problem of mortalities due to human interaction, with particular emphasis on ship strikes.
- (3) Develop a tiered approach that addresses the various experience levels of network participants and the multidisciplinary approach required for a definitive diagnosis. The developed methodology will be addressed to participants at different levels in the stranding networks (volunteers, biologists, veterinarians, pathologists).
- (4) Develop and implement training using these agreed approaches and/or protocols (initial emphasis should be given to specific priority ACCOBAMS areas).
- (5) Build capacity in range states with no strandings programmes to include human interaction detection, documentation and reporting.
- (6) Plan and hold a range-wide stranding coordination meeting for ACCOBAMS members. This type of regional cooperation should become a model for other agreements between IWC and regional conservation bodies that require evaluation of human impacts on cetaceans.

### **9.2 Mediterranean basin wide survey in the summer of 2012**

Given the essential need for baseline data to assess potential effects of ship strikes and other anthropogenic threats to cetaceans, a consolidated and concerted effort must be made, especially by Parties to ACCOBAMS, to obtain the necessary resources to ensure that the previously endorsed basin wide survey in ACCOBAMS waters is undertaken by the summer of 2012. The IWC Scientific Committee will continue to supply scientific support.

### **9.3 Improved reporting to the IWC global ship strike database**

Given the identified need for ship strike data worldwide to be able to assess potential conservation problems, a strong commitment should be given by IWC and ACCOBAMS Parties to actively encourage reporting of ship strikes to the IWC global database. In this regard, the Workshop also

**recommended** that efforts be made to encourage IMO member states to make it mandatory to report ship strikes of cetaceans by vessels in their waters or under their flags. In addition, the Workshop **recommended** that governments should facilitate and develop mechanisms to ensure reporting of ship strikes by non-merchant vessels to the IWC database. It was noted that the IMO has sections on its website related to databases on environmental issues. A link to the IWC database on the IMO site would facilitate reporting. The Workshop **recommended** that IWC Secretary approach the IMO to discuss links between the web sites for both reporting and information dissemination.

#### **9.4 Development of appropriate modelling techniques to identify high priority areas**

The IWC and ACCOBAMS should obtain funding and organise a workshop of experts in cetacean and shipping distribution to agree on appropriate analytical and modelling techniques to facilitate the identification of potential 'hotspots' for more detailed future consideration.

#### **9.5 Review of progress**

The Workshop commends its recommendations to the IWC and ACCOBAMS for endorsement. Those organisations should develop a reporting mechanism to review progress on the implementation of the endorsed recommendations in a timely fashion.

(...)

## RESOLUTION 5.12

### WORK TOWARDS A CONSERVATION PLAN FOR FIN WHALES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Resolution 3.16 "Conservation of Fin Whales in the Mediterranean Sea",

*Taking in consideration* the Recommendations of the Scientific Committee,

*Aware* that fin whales in the Agreement area face a number of actual and potential anthropogenic threats, including collisions with vessels, chemical and acoustic pollution, entanglement in fishing gear and disturbance by ships and climate change,

*Aware* also that the Pelagos Sanctuary can be an important reference area for both research work and the development of appropriate mitigation measures that can then be applied to the full range of the fin whales in the Mediterranean,

*Considering* that there is a need for appropriate habitat use and distribution studies to describe fin whales' habitat preferences, to investigate the existence of critical habitats for this species and to aid implementation of management measures for ship traffic, fishing and whale watching,

*Relying on* the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative (Comprehensive cetacean population estimates and distribution in ACCOBAMS area), which can provide the collection and analysis of information on the distribution, abundance and threats to fin whales in the Agreement area,

*Looking forward* to the establishment of a Conservation plan for fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea,

*Stressing* the great importance of collaboration among research groups to forward conservation of fin whales within the Agreement area,

1. *Urges* the Scientific Committee to promote the work to elucidate the population structure and movements of fin whales in the Agreement area, in particular in areas not yet investigated and in collaboration with scientists of relevant countries, especially with respect to photo-identification, acoustics, telemetry and genetics, with a view to the establishment of a Conservation plan for fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea;
2. *Agrees* on a number of priority actions, that the Parties are invited to carry out in co-operation with the Scientific Committee, Pelagos, the IWC Scientific Committee, the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species and other relevant experts and research groups in the region such as:
  - a) the maintenance or establishment of long-term systematic programmes to monitor trends in abundance and shifts in distribution in selected targeted areas and in other areas of importance for fin whales such as:
    - the Gulf of Lion and in general the productive areas west of the Pelagos Sanctuary;
    - the Central Tyrrhenian Sea to the south of the Pelagos Sanctuary;

- the Strait of Sicily, particularly in late winter-early spring;
- the western Ionian Sea and possibly the southern Adriatic;
- the eastern Mediterranean Sea;

b) the use of existing photo-identification databases as a long-term management and conservation tool and, especially, to compare photo-identification data from the Strait of Gibraltar and western Mediterranean with data from the North Atlantic area;

c) the collection of information on fin whale population structure and movements, which can provide important information on destinations of fin whales in winter time and possible links with the wider North Atlantic;

3. *Asks* the Scientific Committee to work on the elaboration of a conservation plan for fin whales with the view to submit it to the next Meeting of the Parties;
4. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolution 3.16.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.13</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONSERVATION OF CUVIER'S BEAKED WHALES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Article II, paragraph 1, of the Agreement, which provides that Parties shall take co-ordinated measures to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for cetaceans,

*Recalling* Article 236 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which states: "The provisions of this Convention regarding the protection and preservation of the marine environment do not apply to any warship, naval auxiliary, other vessels or aircraft owned or operated by a State and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service. However, each State shall ensure, by the adoption of appropriate measures not impairing operations or operational capabilities of such vessels or aircraft owned or operated by it, that such vessels or aircraft act in a manner consistent, so far as is reasonable and practicable, with the said Convention",

*Aware* that the Mediterranean population of Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*) has been assessed as vulnerable in the IUCN's Red List and is frequently exposed to human activities involving the production of intense underwater noise,

*Given* the scientific evidence that military sonar has a negative impact upon Cuvier's beaked whales,

*Convinced* that events in which the underwater transmission of naval sonar has been linked to atypical mass strandings and deaths of Cuvier's beaked whales have occurred in the Mediterranean and that the production of intense underwater noise in areas identified as Cuvier's beaked whale habitat carries environmental implications and responsibilities,

*Recalling* that a number of initiatives have taken place to prevent mortalities of Cuvier's beaked whales resulting from the use of intense anthropogenic noise sources,

*Recalling* in particular that the NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE) developed in 2009 the document "NURC Marine Mammal Risk Mitigation Rules and Procedures" (hereinafter: NURC-Mammal Rules), which aims at limiting in the Mediterranean the risk of mass strandings and other impacts on Cuvier's beaked whales related to CMRE activities and states, *inter alia*, that "CMRE's precautionary policy is therefore to reduce the temporal and spatial interactions of sounds and beaked whales" and that "the risk mitigation of CMRE focuses on avoiding the habitat of beaked whales",

*Recalling and reconfirming* the importance of implementing marine mammals conservation actions defined within various international fora, such as the United Nations, the European Union, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North-East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas, including the Resolutions of the ACCOBAMS Meetings of Parties, in particular Resolution 4.15 (Marine protected areas of importance for cetacean conservation) and Resolution 4.17 (Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area),

*Referring* to the most recent information about Mediterranean areas that have been identified as hosting high concentrations of Cuvier's beaked whales,

*Considering* that the locations of mass strandings ( $\geq 2$ ) of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean are important additional indicators of areas of enhanced risk for such species,

*Taking specific note* of the report of the 7th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee where, since a large proportion of areas within the Mediterranean where depths are greater than 600 m are potential beaked whale habitats, it is recommended that, based on existing knowledge of noise disturbance thresholds, beaked whales should not be exposed to noise where received levels exceed a certain level and that a precautionary buffer around the preferred habitats mentioned should be applied to ensure that the noise threshold is not exceeded,

*Considering* the Recommendation on the conservation of Cuvier's Beaked Whales from the Scientific Committee, where "Areas of Special Concern for Beaked Whales" (ASC-BW) are identified,

*Also considering* that in the whole of the Mediterranean Sea, besides areas of special concern for Cuvier's beaked whales, also in "areas of unknown risk" for Cuvier's beaked whale, effective mitigation measures should be applied to human activities identified as representing important risk factors for Cuvier's beaked whales, such as the use of intense sound sources,

1. *Agrees* that:

- a) Cuvier's beaked whales need special consideration, and
- b) the concept of areas of special concern in which noise would be mitigated should be enhanced;
- c) promotion of work that produces data to validate and improve the beaked whale distribution model in order to update and refine the delimitation of beaked whale preferred areas in the Mediterranean should carry on;

2. *Encourages* the Parties to:

- a) fully comply with Resolution 4.17 and report on its application to the Secretariat;
- b) inform the Secretariat and Scientific Committee of any atypical stranding events and to which degree the measures included in Resolution 4.17 were adhered to;
- c) include in mitigation requirements dedicated surveys and monitoring efforts of all potential beaked whale habitats with buffer zones around planned noise activities;
- d) consider effective mitigation requirements in national regulations (as outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Resolution 5.15);

3. *Calls on* the Parties to:

- a) assist in the future identification of critical habitat and encourage the noise producers to use the identified areas as management tools to plan their activities;
- b) consider the implementation of protected areas for Cuvier's beaked whales;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat
  - a) to bring the recommendation of the Scientific Committee to the attention of relevant international and regional instruments in the Agreement area to assist in the conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales;
  - b) to assist Countries in need of capacity building to implement monitoring activities on the presence of Cuvier's beaked whales;
5. *Requests* the Noise Working Group in collaboration with Parties, non-Parties, as well as NATO and other stakeholders as necessary to develop implementable measures to reduce impacts of intense noise activities within areas identified as of special concern for consideration by the next Meeting of the Parties;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, to convene a workshop on ways to mitigate cumulative and synergistic impacts of noise together with other anthropogenic threats on Cuvier's beaked whales, subject to available funding.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.14</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LIVE REMOVALS OF BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS IN THE BLACK SEA (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Article II, paragraph 1, of the Agreement, which provides that Parties shall prohibit and take all necessary measures to eliminate, where this is not already done, any deliberate taking of cetaceans,

*Recalling* Resolution 1.12 on the conservation of the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*),

*Taking in consideration* the Recommendations of the Scientific Committee,

*Concerned* that the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin is severely threatened, due to multiple anthropogenic pressures, and is classified as “endangered” under the IUCN Red List,

*Aware* of the obligations towards this species under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Barcelona Convention Protocol relating to Specially Protected Areas and Biological diversity in the Mediterranean,

*Recognizing* that domestic and international commercial trade in Black Sea bottlenose dolphin may increase the stress on its population,

*Recognizing also* that the trade pressure could impede the conservation measures taken by the range States in respect of this population,

*Concerned* that, besides the already high by-catch levels, recent reports indicate the continued live removal of specimens of Black Sea bottlenose dolphin,

*Aware* that the practice of taking live Black Sea bottlenose dolphins from the wild to trade them or to keep them in captivity constitutes a breach of the Agreement,

*Aware also* that this kind of activities constitute a breach of obligations arising from the other above mentioned treaties and are contrary to the objectives set by the Black Sea Conservation Plan for Cetaceans,

*Stressing* that *Tursiops truncatus* is included in Appendix II of the CITES and that a zero annual export quota has been established for live specimens from the Black Sea population of this species removed from the wild and traded for primarily commercial purposes,

1. *Invites* the Parties, and particularly the Black Sea riparian countries, to make every effort to strictly enforce the prohibition of deliberate taking of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins;
2. *Invites* also the Parties to reinforce the interdiction of the importation, exportation and re-exportation of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins from the Agreement area;



3. *Calls* upon other countries and especially other range states of Black Sea to implement the same measures;
4. *Asks* the Black Sea Parties, in coordination with the Black Sea Permanent Secretariat to carry out an assessment and an inventory of all specimens of bottlenose dolphins kept in captivity by means of genetic, morphological and photographic identification methods, to adopt appropriate measures to prevent the substitution of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins that die in captivity by others taken from the wild, and to present a report on this matters at the next Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Parties;
5. *Asks* the Secretariat to communicate this Resolution to the Black Sea Commission, to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and to the Secretariat of the CITES as well as to the Black Sea states which are not Parties to the ACCOBAMS.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.15</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* that Article II of the Agreement requires the Parties to apply conservation, research and management measures to the assessment and management of human–cetacean interactions, on the basis of the precautionary principle,

*Reaffirming* that anthropogenic marine noise is a form of pollution, caused by the introduction of energy into the marine environment, that can have adverse effects on marine life, ranging from disturbance to injury and death,

*Recalling* Resolution 4.17 to which the Guidelines to Address the Impact of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area are annexed,

*Considering* that Resolution 4.17, *inter alia*, directed the Working Group established in Resolution 3.10, in cooperation with the Secretariat, the Scientific Committee and Parties, to further develop the above mentioned Guidelines, with the aim of testing the application of the Guidelines in particular areas to make them implementable by the Parties and operators, and to report about progress made in implementing this Resolution to the next Meeting of Parties,

*Considering* UNEP/CMS Resolution 10.24 “Further steps to abate underwater noise pollution for the protection of cetaceans and other migratory species” adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Tenth Meeting (Bergen, 20-25 November 2011),

*Noting* the 2013 Scientific Committee Report of the International Whaling Commission, and the emphasis it has placed on reducing the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise, including by Marine Spatial Planning and the use of time-area closures and quieting technologies,

*Mindful* that the International Maritime Organization’s draft voluntary guidelines for reducing noise from commercial vessels have been forwarded to the Marine Environment Protection Committee for adoption at its March 2014 meeting in London,

*Aware* of the additional ongoing work on noise undertaken within, *inter alia*, the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) decision XI/18 on the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, the important scientific synthesis on the impacts of underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/12) that was prepared for the sixteenth meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Whaling Commission, the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, the European Union, the Barcelona Convention Offshore Protocol (Pollution from Exploration and Exploitation), Pelagos, the NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE), the United States Marine Mammal Commission, the United States National Marine Fisheries Service, the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and other governmental and nongovernmental Organizations,

*Also aware* of the European Parliament's proposal to amend "Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment" that now includes research and exploration of mineral resources,

*Appreciative* of the organisations and bodies who have supported ACCOBAMS to address this issue including the Cluster Maritime Français, the European Cetacean Society, the joint ACCOBAMS/ASCOBANS Noise Working Group for the work done during the triennium 2011-2013 and for the preparation of documents presented to the Meeting of the Parties, and the scientists and experts who volunteer their expertise to the Noise Working Group,

*Taking into consideration* the Recommendations of the Scientific Committee and its decisions to appoint a consultant to provide a bibliographic synthesis and to consult with noise producers,

*Aware* that such documentation helps to clarify the guidelines and can provide a basis from which to develop a methodological guide that can facilitate their implementation,

1. *Invites* the ACCOBAMS Parties to take into consideration in their future work to implement the Guidelines to Address the Impact of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area the documents:

- ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc.22 (Anthropogenic noise and marine mammals: review of the effort in addressing the impact of anthropogenic underwater noise in the ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS areas), which includes Noise Working Group comments;
- ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc.23 (Implementation of underwater noise mitigation measures by industries : Operational and economical constraints), which includes Noise Working Group comments;
- ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc.24 (Methodological Guide: "Guidance on underwater noise mitigation measures"), which does not yet include Noise Working Group comments and will be further elaborated;

2. *Urges* relevant national and international bodies to develop norms and standards that define methodologies and protocols to measure noise and evaluate the impact of noise on marine life;

3. *Urges* relevant national and international bodies to require the application of best practice to eliminate or reduce anthropogenic noise;

4. *Calls* on ACCOBAMS to play a full part in the activities outlined in articles 2 and 3 above;

5. *Calls on* the Parties to consider in their national legislation the requirements of mitigation protocols articulated in ACCOBAMS Res.4.17 and in CMS Resolution 10.24, in particular by:

- seeking to ensure that Environment Impact Assessments (EIAs) take full account of the effects of activities on cetaceans;
- implementing the recommended use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BEP) in their efforts to reduce or mitigate marine noise pollution;
- integrating the issue of anthropogenic noise into the management plans of marine protected areas;

6. *Underlines* that the information to be provided within EIAs should include specific details that mirror those articulated in the 'Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area;

7. *Mandates* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, to continue coordinating with other international bodies in order to help Parties in implementing mitigation measures;

8. *Welcomes* the proposal to extend the Noise Working Group to the CMS, and agrees with the Term of Reference presented in Document ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/Doc29;

9. *Adds* to the Terms of Reference for the Noise Working Group, as presented in Document ACCOBAMS-MOP5/2013/29, the following activities:

- continue the study on the extent and temporal variability of the habitat of species that are known to be particularly vulnerable to man-made noise (e.g., *Ziphius cavirostris*), in order to ensure that more data are made available, to increase the model's robustness and to compare different algorithms for best results;
- further develop the documents referenced in paragraph 1 above according to available knowledge and to report about progress made to the next Meeting of Parties;

10. *Requests* the co-chairs to coordinate their work in order to optimize the outputs of the Working Group;

11. *Decides* that the present Resolution supplements the Resolution 4.17.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.16</b> <b>FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS FOR 2014-2016</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Article IX, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the text of the Agreement, stating that the Parties shall determine the scale of contributions to the Budget and that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt a Budget by consensus,

*Acknowledging* with appreciation:

- the financial support and the contributions in kind provided by the Government of H.S.H. the Prince of Monaco for the Agreement Secretariat,
- the voluntary contributions provided by the Governments of France and Monaco, and co-financings from RAC/SPA, MedPAN, IUCN and from the NGOs "Ocean Care" and "Whales what Else" during the triennium 2011-2013,
- the support from Partner Organisations for Agreement activities,

*Stressing* the importance of the payment by all Parties of the contributions due to the Budget of the Agreement,

1. *Takes note* with satisfaction of the audited accounts for the period 2011-2013 presented by the Secretariat;
2. *Agrees* to transfer, if appropriate, some unspent balance of previous triennium fund (including some 2011-2013 unpaid pledges that could be received in 2014-2016) to the Supplementary Conservation Fund, as stated in Resolution 5.5, and *mandates* the Bureau to set the amount to be transferred on the basis of recommendations by the Secretariat;
3. *Agrees* to provide financial support for the participation to the ACCOBAMS Meetings of the Parties of delegates (one delegate by Country) from Countries with middle and low incomes, as classified by the World Bank in July 2013 and as listed in Annex 5 to the present Resolution excluding Countries in arrear of more than three years of contribution to the Trust Fund;
4. *Adopts* the Budget for 2014-2016, as in Annex 1 to the present Resolution;
5. *Confirms* that Parties shall contribute to the Budget, in accordance with Article III, paragraph 8 (e), of the Agreement, at the scale agreed upon by the Meeting of the Parties;
6. *Agrees* to the scale and amounts of contributions of Parties to the Agreement as listed in Annex 2 to the present Resolution and to the application of that scale to new Parties *pro rata* of the remaining annual financial exercise;
7. *Considers* the Resolution 5.2 of the Meeting of the Parties on the Work Programme for the period 2014-2016 and *invites* the Secretariat to consult with the Bureau on funding priorities;

8. *Requests* Parties, in particular those that pay the minimum contribution, to consider paying for the entire triennium in one instalment at the beginning of the period;
9. *Further requests* Parties to pay their contributions as promptly as possible, but in any case no later than at the end of March of the year to which they relate;
10. *Recommends* that Parties provide additional support to Countries in need of capacity building and assist them in implementing the Agreement throughout the triennium 2014-2016;
11. *Invites* Parties, Range States and Organisations to consider the feasibility of providing adequate personnel for the Secretariat;
12. *Also invites* States that are not Parties to the Agreement as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental Organisations and other possible donors to consider contributing to the implementation of the Agreement on a voluntary basis;
13. *Asks* the Parties that have unpaid pledges to pay their pending contributions within a reasonable time, at the latest two to three months after the end of 2013, in order to close the budget for the 2011-2013 triennium, as soon as possible;
14. *Encourages* individual Parties and Range States, when allocating funds for ACCOBAMS related research, to take into account the priorities of the ACCOBAMS Work Programme and asks, as appropriate, for the advice of the Scientific Committee in identifying activities that:
  - a) are most directly in accord with the conservation priorities identified in Resolutions adopted by the Parties, in particular the Work Programme and
  - b) will directly assist the Scientific Committee in its priority work;
15. *Approves* the terms of reference for administration of the Agreement Budget for the period 2014-2016, as set out in Annex 3 to the present Resolution, as well as the guidelines for the acceptance of financial contributions, as set out in Annex 4, provided that no voluntary contribution shall entail any present or future financial liability for the Agreement Trust Fund without the prior consent of the Parties or the Bureau;
16. *Entrusts* the Secretariat to explore the availability of appropriate additional funds to support the implementation of the Agreement.

## **ANNEXES**

**Annex 1:** Budget 2014 -2016

**Annex 2:** Annual contributions of Parties to the Trust Fund of ACCOBAMS

**Annex 3:** Terms of reference for administration of the Budget

**Annex 4:** Guidelines for accepting voluntary financial contributions

**Annex 5:** Eligibility for funding to attend the Meetings of the Parties to ACCOBAMS

**ANNEX 1**  
**Budget 2014 - 2016**

		2 014	2 015	2 016
<b>Administration and general management</b>				
<b>10</b>	<b>General management</b>			
<b>110</b>	<b>Administrative staff</b>			
1 101	Executive Secretary	20 600	20 600	20 600
1 102	Administrative Assistant	39 500	39 500	39 500
1 103	Fund management controller	2 000	2 000	2 000
1 104	Assistant	-	-	-
<b>120</b>	<b>Administrative support</b>			
1 201	Coordination Units	10 000	10 000	10 000
1 202	Translators	1 600	1 600	1 600
1 203	Reviewers	-	-	-
1 204	External Assistance	10 000	10 000	10 000
<b>130</b>	<b>Travels</b>			
1 301	Secretariat staff	17 000	17 000	15 000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100 700</b>	<b>100 700</b>	<b>98 700</b>
<b>140</b>	Bank fees	500	500	500
<b>150</b>	Hospitality	1 000	1 000	1 000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1 500</b>	<b>1 500</b>	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Total administration and general management</b>		<b>102 200</b>	<b>102 200</b>	<b>100 200</b>
<b>Total administration and general management for the triennium 2014 - 2016</b>		<b>304 600</b>		

		2 014	2 015	2 016
<b>Institutional Meetings</b>				
<b>210</b>	<b>Meeting of the Parties</b>	-	5 000	55 000
<b>220</b>	<b>Scientific Committee</b>	24 000	24 000	-
<b>230</b>	<b>Bureau</b>	6 000	6 000	10 300
<b>240</b>	<b>Regional Workshops<sup>[1]</sup></b>	-	40 000 <sup>[1]</sup>	-
<b>250</b>	<b>Follow-up Committee Meeting</b>	-	-	5 000
<b>Total institutional Meetings</b>		<b>30 000</b>	<b>(75 000) 55 000</b>	<b>70 300</b>
<b>Total institutional Meetings for the triennium 2014 - 2016</b>		<b>155 300</b>		

[1] 20 000€ will be covered by external funding



		2 014	2 015	2 016
<b>Support to Conservation actions</b>				
<b>51</b>	<b>Capacity building</b>	<b>10 000</b>	<b>20 000</b>	<b>5 000</b>
	Assistance to Countries			
<b>52</b>	<b>Human-cetacean interactions / Emergency situations</b>	<b>15 000</b>	<b>25 000</b>	<b>5 000</b>
	Collisions			
	Interactions with fisheries			
	Pollution impacts			
<b>53</b>	<b>Habitats / Research and monitoring</b>	<b>15 000</b>	<b>25 000</b>	<b>5 000</b>
	Monitoring cetaceans status			
	Conservation plans			
	Marine Protected Areas			
<b>54</b>	<b>Public awareness / Dissemination of information</b>	<b>15 000</b>	<b>15 000</b>	<b>15 000</b>
	Databases management			
	Public awareness			
<b>55</b>	<b>Project assistant</b>	<b>39 300</b>	<b>39 300</b>	<b>39 300</b>
<b>Total conservation actions</b>		<b>94 300</b>	<b>124 300</b>	<b>69 300</b>
<b>Total conservation actions for the triennium 2014 - 2016</b>		<b>287 900</b>		

		2 014	2 015	2 016
<b>Total administration, meetings and conservation</b>		<b>226 500</b>	<b>281 500</b>	<b>239 800</b>
<b>Total budget for the triennium 2014 - 2016</b>		<b>747 800 €</b>		

**ANNEX 2**  
**Annual contributions of Parties to the Trust Fund of ACCOBAMS**

	UN scale for 2014 -2016	ACCOBAMS Key 2014 2016	Annual Contributions 2014 - 2016
<b>Albania</b>	0,01	0,11	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Algeria</b>	0,137	1,45	<b>3 142</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	0,047	0,50	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	0,126	1,33	<b>2 890</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	0,047	0,50	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Egypt</b>	0,134	1,42	<b>3 073</b>
<b>France</b>	5,593	25,98	<b>64 769</b>
<b>Georgia</b>	0,007	0,07	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Greece</b>	0,638	6,74	<b>14 632</b>
<b>Italy</b>	4,448	25,98	<b>64 769</b>
<b>Lebanon</b>	0,042	0,44	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Libya</b>	0,142	1,50	<b>3 257</b>
<b>Malta</b>	0,016	0,17	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Monaco</b>	0,012	0,13	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Montenegro</b>	0,005	0,05	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Morocco</b>	0,062	0,66	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Portugal</b>	0,474	5,01	<b>1 0871</b>
<b>Romania</b>	0,226	2,39	<b>5 183</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	0,1	1,06	<b>2 293</b>
<b>Spain</b>	2,973	22,40	<b>55 619</b>
<b>Syria</b>	0,036	0,38	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Tunisia</b>	0,036	0,38	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Ukraine</b>	0,099	1,05	<b>2 270</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>249 268</b>
<b>747 804 € round down to 747 800 €</b>			

**ANNEX 3**  
**Terms of reference for administration of the Budget**

1. The terms of reference for administration of the Budget of ACCOBAMS shall refer to the financial years beginning 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
2. The Budget shall be administered by the Executive Secretary.
3. The Budget shall be administered according to these Terms of Reference.
4. The financial resources of the Budget shall be derived from:
  - (a) Contributions from the Parties according to Annex 2, as well as contributions from new Parties, and
  - (b) Voluntary contributions from Parties, contributions from States not Party to the Agreement, other governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental Organisations and other sources.
5. All contributions to the Budget shall be paid in Euros.
6. With regard to contributions from States that become Parties after the beginning of the financial period, the initial contribution (from the first day of the third month after the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or accession, until the end of the financial period) shall be determined *pro rata* on the basis of the contributions of other Parties according to the adopted scale of assessments and depending on the remaining annual financial exercise.
7. Contributions for all Parties throughout the triennium 2014-2016 are calculated on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessments applicable for 2013, with the modifications needed to adapt it to the ACCOBAMS Parties.
8. The contributions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Contributions shall be paid into the following account:

<i>Account holder</i>	<i>Swift code</i>	<i>IBAN code</i>
ACCOBAMS	CFMOMCMX	MC 02 1273 9000 7001 0702 3000 M76

9. For the convenience of the Parties, the Executive Secretary shall notify as soon as possible the Parties to the Agreement of their assessed contributions for each of the years of the financial period.

10. Contributions received into the Budget and not immediately required for financing activities shall be invested at the discretion of the Executive Secretary, and any generated income shall be used to implement the Agreement.
11. The Budget shall be audited by a fund management controller.
12. The Budget estimates of income and expenditures for each calendar year of the financial period shall be prepared in Euros and submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement.
13. The estimates for each calendar year covered by the financial period shall be divided into sections and objectives of expenditure, be specified according to Budget lines, be consistent with the programmes of work to which they relate, and be accompanied by information as may be required by or on behalf of the contributors.
14. The proposed Budget, including all the necessary information, shall be dispatched by the Secretariat to all Parties at least 90 days before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting of the Parties.
15. The Budget shall be adopted by consensus at the Meeting of the Parties.
16. With the authorization of the Bureau, the Secretariat of the Agreement can make transfers from one Budget line to another.
17. Should the Secretariat anticipate a shortfall in resources over the financial period, the Secretariat shall consult the Bureau about its priorities for expenditure.
18. Commitments against the resources of the Budget may be made only if they are covered by sufficient income.
19. A secured fund is created, equivalent to thirty per cent of the administrative Budget.
20. At the end of each calendar year of the financial period, the Secretariat shall submit the accounts of the year to the Bureau. These shall include details of actual expenditure and comparisons with the original provisions for each Budget line.
21. The Secretariat shall give the Bureau an estimate of proposed expenditures for the coming year simultaneously with, or as soon as possible after the communication of the accounts and reports referred to in the preceding paragraphs.

22. The Secretariat shall present the audited accounts for the financial exercises to the Meeting of the Parties.
23. The present terms of reference shall be implemented by the Executive Secretary.

**ANNEX 4**  
**Guidelines for accepting voluntary financial contributions**

**1. General Rules**

No voluntary contribution, gift or donation for a specific purpose may be accepted if incompatible with the policies and aims of the Agreement or the CMS.

**2. Approval of donors**

- 2.1 Donors who are not governmental Institutions of Parties or Economic Integration Organisations or riparian States not Party to the Agreement, must be approved as such by the Bureau before their contributions are accepted by the Secretariat.
- 2.2 Sources known to have been involved in interests or activities which conflict with the aims of the Agreement or the CMS and any Organisation or individual who has deliberately brought, or might bring, the Agreement into public disrepute, shall be excluded. The same shall apply where there is a risk that this source might try to influence the decisions of any organ of the Agreement where in the opinion of the Scientific Committee, this source has, or has had in the past, an environmentally unfriendly attitude.

**3. Acceptance of voluntary contributions**

- 3.1 Voluntary contributions shall only be accepted when the purpose is consistent with the policies and aims of the Agreement.
- 3.2 No voluntary contributions shall have an immediate or ultimate financial liability for the Agreement Trust Fund without the prior consent of the Parties or the Bureau.
- 3.3 All monetary contributions shall be paid in freely convertible currency; exceptions may, however, be made for special projects if the currency in question can effectively be used.
- 3.4. Voluntary contributions in kind may be accepted, provided that they are used to cover activities approved by the Meeting of the Parties. These may include inter alia, direct or indirect involvement in a joint project, free office accommodation, equipment, or the secondment of staff.

## **ANNEX 5**

### **Eligibility for funding to attend the Meetings of the Parties to ACCOBAMS**

Based on the scale of middle and low incomes, from the World Bank in July 2013, the Secretariat is authorised to cover, upon budget availability, the travel and accommodation fees of the representatives of the following Parties for the Meetings of the Parties of ACCOBAMS (one delegate/Party):

Albania  
Algeria  
Bulgaria  
Egypt  
Georgia  
Lebanon  
Libya (eligibility pending the settlement of unpaid pledges)  
Montenegro  
Morocco  
Romania  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Tunisia  
Ukraine

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.17</b> <b>LIST OF RESOLUTIONS INTO FORCE</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* that in the five Meetings of the ACCOBAMS Parties held so far a number of Resolutions having a normative character have been adopted and that some of them have explicitly replaced the previous ones on the same subject,

*Considering* that it would be useful to draw a list of Resolutions having a normative character which have not been subsequently replaced,

*Desirous* to establish a fully transparent and efficient procedure for the evaluation of project proposals,

1. *Approves* the list of Resolutions having a normative character which have not been subsequently replaced, as in the Annex to this Resolution.



**ANNEX**  
**LIST OF RESOLUTIONS HAVING A NORMATIVE CHARACTER WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REPLACED**

N°	Title	Status
1.2	Establishment of the Permanent Secretariat for the Agreement on the conservation of cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area	In force and partially amended by Resolution 4.2
1.4	Establishing the sub regional co-ordination unit for the Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area	In force
1.5	Establishment of the sub regional co-ordination unit for the Black Sea	In force
1.7	Establishment of a supplementary conservation grants fund	In force
1.8	Establishment of a triennial national report format for the Agreement on the conservation of cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area	In force and partially amended by Resolution 4.6
1.10	Cooperation between national networks of cetacean strandings and the creation of a database	In force
1.12	Conservation of the Black Sea <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> : bottlenose dolphin	In force
1.14	Adopting a logo for the Agreement, and conditions for its use	In force and partially amended by Resolution 4.21
2.2	Strengthening links with UNEP and CMS	In force
2.10	Facilitation of exchange of tissue samples	In force
2.11	Facilitation of scientific research campaigns and programs	In force
2.12	Guidelines for the use of acoustic deterrent devices	In force
2.13	Pelagic gillnets	In force and partially amended by Amendment/Resolution 3.1
2.16	Assessment and impact assessment of man-made noise	In force and partially amended by Resolutions 4.17 and 5.15
2.21	Assessment and mitigation of the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS area	In force and partially amended by Resolution 4.9
2.22	Relation with IUCN	In force
2.23	Education strategy and programs	In force
2.25	Prey depletion	In force
2.28	On the promotion of photo-identification activities	In force
2.30	Recognising the important role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in cetacean conservation	In force
3.6	Procedure for submission of projects	In force and partially amended by Resolution 5.5
3.7	ACCOBAMS online reporting system	In force and partially amended by Resolution 4.6
3.8	Strengthening collaboration with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean	In force

3.9	Guidelines for the establishment of a system of tissue banks within the ACCOBAMS area and the ethical code	In force
3.10	Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals in the ACCOBAMS area	In force and partially amended by Resolutions 4.17 and 5.15
3.11	Conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans	In force
3.13	Dolphin interaction programmes	In force
3.19	IUCN red list of cetaceans in the Mediterranean and Black Seas	In force
3.20	Guidelines on the release of cetaceans into the wild	In force
3.22	Marine protected areas for cetaceans	In force and partially amended by Resolution 4.15
3.23	Commercial whale-watching: towards a label	In force
3.25	Cetacean live stranding	In force
3.28	Support to the Secretariat	In force and partially amended by Resolution 4.2
A/3.1	Amendment of the Annex 2 to the Agreement on the conservation of cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area related to the use of driftnets	In force
4.2	Approval of the Headquarter Agreement with the Host Country	In force
4.6	Format for national implementation reports of the Agreement	In force
4.7	Commercial cetacean-watching activities in the ACCOBAMS area	In force
4.8	Contribution from ACCOBAMS to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive	In force
4.9	Fisheries interactions with cetaceans	In force
4.11	Population structure studies	In force
4.13	Conservation of the Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphin	In force
4.14	Climate change	In force
4.15	Marine Protected Areas of importance for cetacean conservation	In force
4.16	Guidelines for a coordinated cetacean stranding response	In force
4.17	Guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area	In force and partially amended by Resolution 5.15
4.18	Guidelines on the granting of exceptions to Article II, paragraph 1, for the purpose of non-lethal in situ research in the Agreement area	In force
4.19	Model measures for the conservation of cetaceans	In force
4.20	Strengthening the status of ACCOBAMS Partners	In force
4.21	ACCOBAMS logos: conditions for use	In force

4.24.	ACCOBAMS Strategy (period 2013-2023)	In force
A/4.1	Amendments: Extension of the ACCOBAMS geographical scope	In force
5.1	ACCOBAMS long term strategy 2014-2025	In force
5.2	Work programme 2014-2016	In force
5.3	Scientific Committee	In force
5.4	ACCOBAMS Follow-up Procedure	In force
5.5	Procedure for the ACCOBAMS calls of proposals for projects to be funded under the Supplementary Conservation Fund	In force
5.6	Staff Regulations	In force
5.7	Rules of Procedure for the Bureau	In force
5.8	Rio + 20: perspectives for the ACCOBAMS	In force
5.9	ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative	In force
5.10	Commercial Cetacean Watching in the ACCOBAMS Area	In force
5.11	Ships Strikes on Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea	In force
5.12	Work towards a Conservation Plan for Fin Whales in the Mediterranean Sea	In force
5.13	Conservation of Cuvier's Beaked Whales in the Mediterranean	In force
5.14	Live removals of bottlenose dolphins in the Black Sea ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> )	In force
5.15	Addressing the impact of Anthropogenic Noise	In force
5.16	Financial and administrative matters for 2014-2016	In force
5.17	List of Resolutions into force	In force

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.18</b> <b>TRIBUTE TO ORGANISERS</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* the offer of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the Fifth session of the Meeting of Parties, which was accepted by the Meeting of the Parties at its Fourth session with great appreciation,

*Appreciating* of the effort undertaken in the organisation of the current session of the Meeting of the Parties by the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and its financial support to facilitate the preparation,

*Aware of* the significant effort required in preparing and organizing the present session of the Meeting of the Parties,

1. *Expresses* its gratitude for the invaluable support of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Institutions having contributed to this event and the Agreement's Secretariat for the arrangements made to provide an excellent venue and facilities for the Fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties;
2. *Congratulates* the Agreement Secretariat on the excellent preparation for the present session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement;
3. *Expresses* its appreciation to all the support of the Extended Bureau and the Scientific Committee which contribute to the preparation of the Meeting of the Parties.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION 5.19</b> <b>TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ACCOBAMS</b></p>
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*The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:*

*Recalling* Article IV of the Agreement regarding the Secretariat of the Agreement,

*Highlighting* the crucial role of the Executive Secretary in implementing the Agreement in the service of the Parties,

1. On the occasion of the conclusion of her activity, *pays warm* tribute to the enthusiastic and inspiring dedication of Mme Marie-Christine Grillo-Compulsione, the Interim and then the First Executive Secretary of ACCOBAMS, to her great skill in the field of marine biodiversity, her readiness to serve and the outstanding momentum she has given to the development and international recognition of the Agreement since 1996;
2. *Acknowledges* her highly successful promotion of the interests of the Agreement, helping ACCOBAMS extend its influence within the other inter-governmental bodies and establishing successful collaboration with so many partners; and in addition;
3. *Thanks* the Principality of Monaco for the support extended to ACCOBAMS through making its Executive Secretary available.

## **ANNEX XII: Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Parties**

## **RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

### **PURPOSE**

#### **Article 1**

1. These rules of procedure shall apply to any Session of the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation on Cetaceans of the Black sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area, convened in accordance with article III of the Agreement.
2. Insofar as they are applicable, these rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any other meeting held in the framework of the Agreement on the Conservation on Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area.

### **DATE AND PLACE OF MEETINGS**

#### **Article 2**

1. Ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties shall be held at intervals of not more than three years.
2. The Meeting of the Parties shall take place in the country chosen by the previous Meeting of the Parties on the basis of a formal invitation that should have been issued to this effect by the responsible authority of that country. If more than one Party issues an invitation to host the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, and two or more invitations are maintained after informal consultations, the Meeting of the Parties shall decide on the venue of the next session by secret ballot.
3. If no invitation has been received, the Meeting of the Parties shall be held in the country where the Secretariat has its seat, unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat of the Agreement or the Secretariat of the Convention.
4. Extraordinary sessions of the Meetings of the Parties shall be convened by the Agreement Secretariat on the written request of at least two thirds of the Parties.

### **DELEGATES, CREDENTIALS, OBSERVERS**

#### **Article 3**

##### **Representatives**

1. A Party to the Agreement (hereafter referred to as a "Party"<sup>1</sup>) shall be entitled to be represented at the Meeting by a delegation consisting of a Head of Delegation and such Alternative Representatives and Advisers as the Party may deem necessary.
2. The Representative of a Party shall exercise the voting rights of that Party. In his/her absence, an Alternative Representative of that Party shall act in his place.

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<sup>1</sup> See Articles I, paragraph 3.i), and XIV of the Agreement. A Party is a State which has deposited with the Government of the Principality of Monaco its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in due time before the Meeting.

3. States or regional economic integration organizations that have ratified, accepted or approved the Agreement or have signed it without reservations in respect of ratification, acceptance or approval or have acceded to it are represented at the Meetings of the Parties and exercise their voting rights, even though the Agreement has not yet entered into force for them.
4. Logistic and other limitations may require that no more than four delegates of any Party be present at a plenary session. The Secretariat shall notify Parties, observers and other participants of any such limitations in advance of the Meeting.

#### **Article 4** **Credentials**

1. The Representative or any Alternative Representative of a Party shall, before exercising the voting rights of the Party, have been granted powers by, or on behalf of, a proper authority, such as the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the head of an executive body of any regional economic Organization, enabling them to represent the Party at the Meeting and to vote.
2. Such credentials shall be submitted to the Secretariat of the Agreement at the beginning of the Meeting.
3. A Credentials Committee of not more than five representatives shall examine the credentials and shall report thereon to the Meeting. Pending a decision on their credentials, delegates may participate provisionally in the Meeting.
4. If credentials are submitted in a language other than one of the working languages of the Meeting (French and English), they shall be accompanied by a suitable translation into one of these two languages to permit their efficient validations by the Credentials Committee.

#### **Article 5** **Observers**<sup>2</sup>

1. The United Nations, its Specialized Agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and any State not a Party to the Agreement may be represented at the Meeting by observers
2. Any Body or Agency technically concerned *inter alia* with the conservation of cetaceans and fisheries management, which is either:
  - a) an international Agency or Body; or
  - b) an international non-governmental Agency or body, or a national governmental Agency or body; or
  - c) a national non-governmental Agency or Body which has been approved for this purpose by the State in which it is located;and which has informed the Secretariat of the Agreement of its desire to be represented at the Meeting by observers, shall be permitted to be represented unless, for those referred to in paragraph 2b and 2c, at least one-third of the Parties present object.

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<sup>2</sup> See Agreement, Article III, paragraph 4



3. Bodies and Agencies desiring to be represented at the Meeting by observers shall submit the name of their representatives and in the case of Bodies and Agencies, referred to in paragraph 2b and 2c, of this Article, evidence of the approval of the State in which they are located, to the Secretariat of the Agreement prior to the opening of the Meeting.
4. Logistic and other limitations may require that no more than two observers from any non-Party State, Body or Agency be present at the Meeting. The Secretariat shall notify Parties, observers and other participants of any such limitations in advance of the Meeting.

## **AGENDA**

### **Article 6**

1. The Secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each Meeting, in consultation with the Convention Secretariat and the Sub Regional Coordination Units.
2. The provisional agenda of each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall include, as appropriate:
  - a) Items arising from the articles or the Annexes of the Agreement;
  - b) Items, the inclusion of which has been decided at a previous Meeting or which emanate from decisions taken at a previous Meeting;
  - c) Items referred to in paragraph 6 of the present article;
  - d) Any item proposed by a Party, the Scientific Committee or the Secretariat.
3. The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Bureau, include any item that has been proposed by a Party and has been received by the Secretariat after the provisional agenda has been produced, but before the opening of the Meeting, in a supplementary provisional agenda.
4. The Meeting of the Parties shall examine the provisional agenda together with any supplementary provisional agenda. When adopting the agenda, it may add, delete, defer, or amend items. Only items, which are considered by the Meeting of the Parties to be urgent and important, may be added to the agenda.
5. The provisional Agenda for an extraordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties shall consist only of those items proposed for consideration in the request for this session. The provisional agenda and any necessary supporting documents shall be distributed to the Parties at the same time as the invitation to the extraordinary session.
6. Any item of the agenda of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, consideration of which has not been completed at the session, shall be included automatically in the agenda of the next session, unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

## **DOCUMENTS**

### **Article 7**

- a) The documents for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, as per Article 6 paragraph 5 and proposals received from the Parties, as per Article 12 of the Rules of Procedure, shall be distributed to the Parties in the two working languages by the Secretariat at least sixty days before the opening of the Meeting.

## **BUREAU**

### **Article 8**

1. At opening session of each ordinary Meeting, the acting Chairperson, or in the absence of the Chairperson, a representative of the same Party or in its absence the Head of the Delegation of the host country of the Meeting of the Parties, shall preside until the Meeting of the Parties has elected its Chairperson.
2. At the commencement of the first sitting of each ordinary Meeting<sup>3</sup>, a Chairperson and a maximum of four Vice Chairpersons shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the Meeting, based on informal consultations conducted by the Secretariat.
3. The Chairperson shall participate in the Meeting in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. The Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent the Party in the Meeting and to exercise the right to vote.
4. If the Chairperson and/or one of the Vice-Chairpersons resign or are otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of the office, a representative of the same Party shall be named by the Party concerned to replace the said officer for the remainder of that office's mandate.
5. For the purpose of the Meeting of the Parties and the Meeting of the Bureau, and throughout session, one of the Vice Chairpersons will be Reporter.

## **RULES OF ORDER AND DEBATE**

### **Article 9**

#### **Powers of Presiding Officer and Vice-Presiding**

1. In addition to exercising powers conferred elsewhere in these Rules, the Presiding Officer shall at plenary sessions of the Meeting:
  - a) open and close the session;
  - b) direct the discussions;
  - c) ensure the observance of these rules;
  - d) accord the right to speak;

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<sup>3</sup> See Agreement, Article VI, paragraph 1

- e) put questions to the vote and announce decisions;
  - f) rule on points of order; and
  - g) subject to these Rules, have complete control of the proceedings of the Meeting and the maintenance of order.
2. The Presiding Officer may, in the course of discussion at a plenary session of the Meeting, propose to the Meeting of the Parties:
- a) time limits for speakers;
  - b) limitation of the number of times the members of a delegation or the observers from a State not a Party, body or agency may speak on any question;
  - c) the closure of the list of speakers;
  - d) accord the right of reply to any delegate after the closure of the speakers;
  - e) the adjournment or the closure of the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion; and
  - f) the suspension or adjournment of the session.
3. Without prejudice to Article 8, paragraph 4, for the debates the Presiding officer may be supply by the Vice-Presiding.

**Article 10**  
**Seating, Quorum**

- 1. Delegations shall be seated in accordance with the alphabetical order of the names of the Parties in the French language.
- 2. A quorum for plenary sessions of the Meeting shall consist of more than one-half of the Parties having delegations at the Meeting. No plenary session shall take place in the absence of a quorum.

**Article 11**  
**Right to Speak**

- 1. The Presiding Officer shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak, with precedence given to the delegations of the Parties.
- 2. A delegate or observer may speak only if called upon by the Presiding Officer, who may call a speaker to order if the remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
- 3. A speaker shall not be interrupted except on a point of order. The speaker may, however, with the permission of the Presiding Officer, give way during their speech to allow any delegate or observer to bring complement on a particular point in his speech.

4. The Chairperson of a committee or working group may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that committee or working group.

## **Article 12**

### **Submission of Proposals for Amendment of the Agreement and its Appendices**

1. As a general rule, subject to any provisions of the Agreement itself,
  - a) proposals shall have been communicated at least 150 days before the session to the Secretariat, which shall have circulated them to all Parties in the working languages of the Meeting<sup>4</sup>,
  - b) proposals arising out of discussion of the foregoing may be discussed at any plenary session of the Meeting provided copies of them have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the session.
2. The Presiding Officer may also permit the discussion and consideration of urgent proposals arising after the period prescribed with the subparagraph a) of this Article provided that they relate to proposed amendments which have been circulated in accordance with the subparagraph b) of this Article and that their consideration will not unduly inhibit the proceedings of the Meeting. The Presiding Officer may, in addition, permit the discussion of motions as to procedures, even though such motions have not been circulated previously.
3. After a proposal has been adopted or rejected by the Meeting it shall not be reconsidered unless a two-thirds majority of the Representatives participating in the Meeting so decide. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider a proposal shall be accorded only to a delegate from each of two Parties wishing to speak against the motion, after which the motion shall immediately be put to the vote.

## **Article 13**

### **Point of Order**

1. During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may rise to a point of order, and the Presiding Officer in accordance with these Rules shall immediately decide the point of order. A delegate may appeal against any ruling of the Presiding Officer. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote, and the decision of the Presiding Officer shall be maintained unless a majority of the Representatives present and voting otherwise decide. A delegate rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.
2. The following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the Meeting:
  - a) to suspend the sitting;
  - b) to adjourn the sitting;
  - c) to adjourn the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion;
  - d) to close the debate on the particular subject or question under discussion.

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<sup>4</sup> See Agreement, Article X, paragraph 2

## **VOTING**

### **Article 14**

#### **Methods of Voting**

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 4, paragraph 1, each delegation shall have one vote. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with the number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties. In such case, the member States of such organizations shall not exercise their right individually<sup>5</sup>.
2. Representatives of Parties which are three or more years behind in paying their subscriptions on the date of the opening session of the Meeting of the Parties shall not be eligible to vote. However, the Meeting of the Parties may allow such Parties to continue to exercise their right to vote if it is satisfied that the delay in payment arises from exceptional circumstances.
3. The Meeting shall normally vote by show of hands, but any Representative may request a roll-call vote. The roll-call vote shall be taken in the French alphabetical order. The Presiding Officer may require a roll-call vote on the advice of the tellers where they are in doubt as to the actual number of votes cast and this is likely to be critical to the outcome.
4. All votes in respect of the election of officers or of prospective host countries for the next Meeting shall be by secret ballot and, although it shall not normally be used, any Representative may request a secret ballot for other matters. If seconded, the question of whether a secret ballot should be held shall immediately be voted upon. The motion for a secret ballot may not be conducted by secret ballot.
5. Voting by roll-call or by secret ballot shall be expressed by "Yes", "No" or "Abstain". Only affirmative and negative votes shall be counted in calculating the number of votes cast.
6. Procedural decisions are taken by a simple majority.
7. If votes are equal, a second vote shall be taken. If the vote is also equal, the motion or amendment shall not be carried.
8. The Presiding Officer shall be responsible for the counting of the votes and shall announce the result. Tellers appointed by the Secretariat may assist the Presiding Officer.
9. After the Presiding Officer has announced the beginning of the vote, it shall not be interrupted except by a Representative on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The Presiding Officer may permit Representatives to explain their votes either before or after the voting, and may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations.

### **Article 15**

#### **Majority**

Except where otherwise provided for under the provisions of the Agreement, these Rules or the Terms of Reference for the Administration of the Trust Fund, all votes on procedural matters relating

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<sup>5</sup> See Agreement, Article III, paragraph 5.

to the forwarding of the business of the Meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast, while all other decisions shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

#### **Article 16**

##### **Procedure for Voting on Motions and Amendments**

1. A delegate may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for such division, the motion for division shall be voted upon first. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be accorded only to a delegate from each of two Parties wishing to speak in favour of and a delegate from each of two Parties wishing to speak against the motion. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or amendment that are subsequently approved shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal or the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.
2. When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Meeting shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all amendments have been put to the vote. When, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes or revises part of that proposal.
3. If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Meeting shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Meeting may, after voting on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

#### **Article 17**

##### **Elections**

1. If in an election to fill one place no candidate obtains the required majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken restricted to the two candidates obtaining the largest number of votes. If in the second ballot the votes are equally divided, the Presiding Officer shall decide between the candidates by drawing lots.
2. If in the first ballot there is a tie amongst candidates obtaining the second largest number of votes, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two.
3. In the case of tie amongst three or more candidates obtaining the largest number of votes in the first ballot, a special ballot shall be held amongst them to reduce the number of candidates to two. If a tie then results amongst two or more candidates, the Presiding Officer shall reduce the number to two by drawing lots, and a further ballot shall be held in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article.

#### **Article 18**

##### **Election of Members of the Follow-up Committee**

1. The election of members of the Follow-up Committee shall be held by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection by one Party, the Meeting of the Parties decides on the members by consensus without taking a ballot.

2. Before the elections begins, the Chairperson shall appoint two tellers from among the delegates. He/she shall hand to them the list of States Parties and of organizations and institutions having the status of ACCOBAMS Partners (hereinafter referred to as “ACCOBAMS Partners”) entitled to vote, as well as the lists of candidates nominated respectively by States Parties and ACCOBAMS Partners.
3. The Secretariat shall prepare voting papers with the list of candidates nominated by States Parties and shall distribute them to the States Parties entitled to vote.
4. The Secretariat shall prepare voting papers with the list of candidates nominated by ACCOBAMS Partners and shall distribute them to the ACCOBAMS Partners entitled to vote.
5. Each delegation shall cast its vote by encircling the names of those candidates (three in the case of States Parties and two in the case of ACCOBAMS Partners) for whom it desires to vote.
6. The States Parties and the ACCOBAMS Partners shall deposit their voting papers in the ballot box according to the roll call made by the Chairperson in the alphabetical order.
7. The tellers shall proceed to count the voting papers and to read the names encircled under the supervision of the Chairperson.
8. Voting papers on which more names have been circled than there are seats to be filled shall be considered invalid.
9. The candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected up to the number of seats to be filled.
10. If there still remain seats to be filled, there shall be another round of voting.
11. If two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes and, as a result, the number of these candidates is greater than the remaining number of seats to be filled, there shall be an additional round of voting restricted to those candidates who obtained the same number of votes. If in this additional round of voting two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, the Chairperson shall draw lots among them.
12. After each round of voting the Chairperson shall announce the results.

## **SECRETARIAT**

### **Article 19**

1. The Agreement Executive Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. The Secretariat shall provide and direct the staff as required by the Meeting of the Parties.

### **Article 20**

1. The Secretariat shall<sup>6</sup> :
  - a) Arrange for interpretation at the Meeting;

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<sup>6</sup> See Article IV of the Agreement.

- b) Prepare, receive, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents which will be useful during the Meeting;
- c) Draft the report of the Meeting, under the guidance of the Reporter, for consideration by the Bureau first and for final approval by the Meeting of the Parties;
- d) Make and arrange for keeping of sound recordings of the Meeting;
- e) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Meeting
- f) Publish and circulate the official documents which result from the Meeting;
- g) Generally perform all other work that the Meeting of the Parties may require.

## **LANGUAGES AND RECORDS**

### **Articles 21**

#### **Official and Working Languages**

- 1. French and English shall be the official and working languages of the Meetings.
- 2. The official documents of the Meeting shall be distributed in those two languages.
- 3. Speeches made in any of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working language.

### **Article 22**

#### **Other Languages**

- 1. A delegate may speak in a language other than a working language. He shall be responsible for providing interpretation into a working language, and interpretation into the other working language may be based upon that interpretation.
- 2. Any document submitted to the Secretariat in any language other than a working language shall be accompanied by a translation into one of the two working languages, this translation being trustworthy.

### **Article 23**

#### **Report**

- 1. The report of the Meeting shall be circulated to all Parties in the official languages of the Meeting.
- 2. Committees and working groups shall decide upon the form in which their report shall be presented.



## **PUBLICITY OF DEBATES**

### **Article 24**

#### **Plenary Sessions**

All plenary sessions of the Meeting shall be open to the public, except that in exceptional circumstances the Meeting may decide, by a two-thirds majority of Representatives present and voting, that any single session be closed to the public.

### **Article 25**

#### **Sessions of Committees and Working Groups**

As a general rule, sessions of committees and working groups shall be limited to the representatives and to observers invited by the Chairpersons of the committees or working groups.

## **THE BUREAU, OTHER COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

### **Article 26**

1. During the Meeting of the Party, the Bureau and the Reporter of the Meeting shall meet as often as necessary on request of his Chairman.

### **Article 27**

#### **Credentials Committee and Working Groups**

1. In addition to the Credentials Committee, the Meeting of the Parties may establish working groups as may be necessary to enable them to carry out their functions. They shall define the terms of reference and composition of each working group, the size of which shall be limited according to the number of places available in assembly rooms.
2. The Meeting of the Parties may decide that any such working group may meet in the period between ordinary Meetings.
3. The Credentials Committee and each working group shall elect their own officers.
4. Insofar as they are applicable, these Rules shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of committee and working groups; however interpretation may not be provided in sessions of the committee and working groups.

## **AMENDMENT**

### **Article 28**

These Rules may be amended as required by decision of the Meeting.