

RESOLUTION 2.10

FACILITATION OF EXCHANGE OF TISSUE SAMPLES

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area:

Stressing that Parties decisions for efficient conservation measures must be based on the best available scientific information,

Recalling that:

- Article II, paragraph 3.e) of the Agreement invites the Parties to reinforce the collection and dissemination of information,
- The Conservation Plan, which is fully part of the Agreement and binds the Parties to:
 - o Develop systematic research programs on dead, stranded, wounded or sick animals, to determine the main interactions with human activities and to identify present and potential threats (paragraph 4.d),
 - o Develop the systems for collecting data on observations, by-catches, strandings, epizootics and other phenomena related to cetaceans (paragraph 5.a),
 - o Establish, as appropriate, a sub-regional or regional data bank for the storage of information collected (paragraph 5.e),

Recognizing that, to provide scientific sound bases, non-lethal sampling of cetaceans' tissues may be necessary,

Recalling also:

- Resolution 1.10 inviting Parties who are also Parties to the CITES to register competent laboratories with the CITES Secretariat, in application of the CITES Resolution Conf.11/15, implementing the exemption for scientific exchanges between their scientists and Scientific institutions as provided in article VII, paragraph 6 of this Convention, and,
- Resolution 2.8 concerning the granting of derogations provided in Article II and in particular the non-lethal sampling of live cetaceans tissues in the wild,

Aware of the need to enhance worldwide scientific collaboration with specialized laboratories for a better knowledge of cetaceans in ACCOBAMS area,

Convinced on the need to fully control international trade of endangered species belonging to wild life, in particular by the implementation of CITES,

1. *Urges* Parties to implement Resolution 1.10, and register at least one specialized competent Scientific Institution within the CITES Secretariat and inform ACCOBAMS Secretariat of this designation;
2. *Asks* Parties CITES management authorities to facilitate the granting of import permits for samples coming from the sea under an ACCOBAMS implementation program and, as far as necessary the subsequent exportations;
3. *Charges* the Secretariat to manage and make available an updated database listing including Scientific Institutions, the procedures to be implemented for such exchanges and the national CITES authorities competent to grant any relevant permits.