



WORKING GROUP ON BYCATCH

Through the adoption of Resolution 6.16, ACCOBAMS Parties requested “the Permanent Secretariat, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, to develop a joint working group with ASCOBANS on bycatch, and to explore opportunities for linking this with other relevant initiatives, including the Bycatch Initiative established under the International Whaling Commission”.

A first draft version of the Terms of Reference for a “Joint Bycatch Working Group of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS” was revised by the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee during its 11th Meeting (Monaco, 7-9 February 2017). These draft Terms of Reference were then presented and further elaborated during an expert workshop on bycatch organized by ASCOBANS on 22-23 February 2017 in Bonn. Then, they were finalized by the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee and by the Chair of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.

The Terms of Reference foresee the following composition of the Working Group: *“This Working Group will be comprised of members and observers of the scientific and advisory bodies of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS. The current ASCOBANS Bycatch Working Group will cease to exist once the Joint Working Group is established. In the interest of generating the best possible advice for Parties, the working group may decide that it is necessary to add additional group members. External experts (including those from non-Party Range States) may be added with the agreement of the Secretariats and the Co-Chairs.*

The Group will nominate and elect two Co-Chairs from among the members, advisers as well as observers of the advisory bodies of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS. The combined expertise of the Co-Chairs should cover the ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS areas. In line with the practice in many other working groups, the Co-Chairs will serve for a term of three years, after which an election will be called. The Co-Chairs are eligible for re-election.”

In coordination with the Chair and Vice-Chair/Task Manager for Interactions with Fisheries of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, current members of the ACCOBAMS Task group for Interaction with fisheries (<http://www.accobams.org/main-activites/working-groups/>) have been invited to serve the JBWG. In parallel, the ASCOBANS experts have been nominated for the ASCOBANS area.

This document is composed of the final version of the Terms of Reference for a Joint Bycatch Working Group of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS (JBWG) – [Part 1](#). The second part includes the list of the Members of the JBWG – [Part 2](#).

PART 1 - TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A JOINT BYCATCH WORKING GROUP OF ACCOBAMS AND ASCOBANS

Joint Bycatch Working Group composition

This Working Group will be comprised of members and observers of the scientific and advisory bodies of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS. The current ASCOBANS Bycatch Working Group will cease to exist once the Joint Working Group is established. In the interest of generating the best possible advice for Parties, the working group may decide that it is necessary to add additional group members. External experts (including those from non-Party Range States) may be added with the agreement of the Secretariats and the Co-Chairs.

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Joint Bycatch Working Group *modus operandi*

The Working Group will generally operate by using the “ASCOBANS Advisory Committee Workspace” (workspace.ascobans.org) for its discussions. Where appropriate (and funding permitting) face-to-face meetings may take place and some tasks may be contracted out.

Joint Bycatch Working Group tasks

The Working Group will address the mandates of relevant Resolutions of the two organizations, such as [ACCOBAMS Res 2.12](#), [ACCOBAMS Res 2.13](#), [ACCOBAMS Res 2.21](#), [ACCOBAMS Res A/3.1](#), [ACCOBAMS Res 3.8](#), [ACCOBAMS Res 4.9](#), [ACCOBAMS Res 6.16](#), [ASCOBANS Res.8.5](#), [ASCOBANS Res.5.5](#) and [ASCOBANS Res.3.3](#), as well as any relevant Resolutions still to be passed. It will present reports on progress and new information relevant to the respective region to each meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, as appropriate. In providing its advice, the working group will liaise as necessary with other relevant bodies and fora, including working groups of the two Agreements, the CMS Bycatch Councillor, the ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species, the IWC Scientific Committee, the IWC bycatch initiative, HELCOM, OSPAR, FOMLR - Advisory Group on the Environmental Aspects of the Management of Fisheries and other Marine Living Resources (Black Sea Commission), NAMMCO, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and NGOs active in the field.

With respect to the areas and species covered by the agreements, the working group is asked to:

- 1) collate and prepare an overview of scientific information¹ relevant to bycatch of affected cetacean species,
- 2) review available information on IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) fishing, recreational fishing, identification of bycatch risk areas, fishing techniques and gears applied in both agreement areas related to bycatch;
- 3) contribute to the assessment process of the EU-MSFD criteria and/or UNEP-MAP EcAp, and associated targets;
- 4) review and provide updates on bycatch mitigation measures currently available or under development and their effectiveness, using existing sources;
- 5) prepare an overview of national and international legislation and other measures relevant to the monitoring and management of cetacean bycatch, and include an overview of actions taken to deliver on ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS obligations;
- 6) prepare, as appropriate, and in coordination with ICES WGBYC, advice on:

¹ Related to abundance and management units, including population dynamics.

- a. target setting including potential conservation and user objectives², in accordance with the policies of the two Agreements;
 - b. monitoring cetacean bycatch and fishing operations;
- 7) provide technical support as required to facilitate dialogue with relevant bodies that have certification schemes, such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), by actively contributing to the assessment of relevant fisheries with respect to cetacean bycatch;
 - 8) comment on requests for information or advice received through the Secretariats;
 - 9) report back to ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and ASCOBANS Advisory Committee meetings, and where appropriate provide input intersessionally to other relevant meetings or working groups under the two Agreements.

² See for example Hall, M.A. and Donovan, G.P. 2001. Environmentalists, Fishermen, Cetaceans and Fish: Is There a Balance and Can Science Help to Find it? Chapter 14, pp. 491-521 In: Marine mammals: biology and conservation Eds PGH Evans and J.A Raga. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, New York.

PART 2 – MEMBERS OF THE ACCOBAMS-ASCOBANS JOINT BYCATCH WORKING GROUP

(in alphabetical order)

NAME	AFFILIATION
Arne BJØRGE	Institute of Marine Research - Research Group of Marine Mammals, Norway
Penina BLANKETT	Ministry of the Environment, Finland
Patricia BRTNIK	German Oceanographic Museum, Germany
Ida CARLÉN	Coalition Clean Baltic, Sweden
Léa DAVID	EcoOcéan Institut, France
Sarah DOLMAN	Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), United Kingdom
Greg DONOVAN	International Whaling Commission, United Kingdom
Nicolas ENTRUP	OceanCare, Switzerland
Peter EVANS	Sea Watch Foundation / School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University, United Kingdom
Kerstin GLAUS	OceanCare, Switzerland
Tilen GENOV	Morigenos - Slovenian Marine Mammal Society, Slovenia
Joan GONZALVO	Tethys Research Institute, Italy
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Nicola HODGINS	Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), United Kingdom
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Sigrid LUEBER	OceanCare, Switzerland
Kelly MACLEOD	Joint Nature Conservation Committee, United Kingdom
Sinéad MURPHY	Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology - Marine and Freshwater Research Centre, Ireland
Houssine NIBANI	Association de Gestion Intégrée de Ressources (AGIR), Morocco
Ayaka Amaha OZTÜRK	Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV)/Faculty of Aquatic Sciences, Istanbul University, Turkey
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Aviad SCHENIN	Israeli Marine Mammals Research & Assistance Center (IMMRAC), Israel
Anne-Marie SVOBODA	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Directorate Nature & Biodiversity, Netherlands
Stephanie TACHOIRES	Agence Française pour la Biodiversité, France
Marguerite TARZIA	International Whaling Commission, United Kingdom
Jose VINGADA	Portuguese Wildlife Society (SPVS), Portugal