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# **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN ACCOBAMS WORKSHOP TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION ON CETACEAN POPULATIONS GENETICS IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN ACCOBAMS WORKSHOP TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION  
ON CETACEAN POPULATION GENETICS IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA**

Presented by Pauline Gauffier, Expert

**Issue:** Improve data collection on cetacean population genetics in the ACCOBAMS Area

**1. Action requested**

The Scientific Committee is invited to:

- a. **comment and agree** the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for an ACCOBAMS workshop to Improve data collection on cetacean population genetics

**2. Background**

The 2020-2022 ACCOBAMS Program of Work (Resolution 7.6) foresees that the Secretariat and the Scientific Committee should improve data collection on cetacean population genetics in the ACCOBAMS Area, in particular by organizing regional trainings on data collection and analysis.

The following draft ToR for an ACCOBAMS workshop to improve data collection on cetacean population genetics were prepared taking into account:

- the ACCOBAMS Resolution 3.9 “Guidelines for the establishment of a system of tissue banks within the ACCOBAMS area and ethical code” where the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS has recognized the need for Institutions dedicated to the preservation of body parts from marine mammals of the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Such Institutions, from now onward identified as Tissue Banks, should a) promote non-invasive or post-mortal collection of samples from cetaceans living in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and adjacent waters; b) prepare such samples for long term storage; and c) distribute them to the community of marine mammal researchers

- the IWC DNA data quality and genetic analyses guidelines:

<https://iwc.int/private/downloads/Fiu84d3xhzlh1GQPLCNjDA/dna-guidelines.pdf>  
[Guidelines for genetic data analysis \(2018\)](#)

## **DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN ACCOBAMS WORKSHOP TO IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION ON CETACEAN POPULATIONS GENETICS IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA**

### **Objective of the workshop**

The 2020-2022 Working Programme foresees that the Secretariat and the Scientific Committee should improve data collection on cetacean population genetics in the ACCOBAMS Area, by :

- organizing regional trainings on data collection and analysis (Capacity Building)
- establishing Guidelines / Best Practices

A better collaboration between tissue banks is also encouraged in order to facilitate sample exchanges for joint analysis.

In view of this objective, a workshop is proposed to address *inter alia* the following questions:

1. Existing tissue banks in the ACCOBAMS area
2. Priority species or areas where samples should be collected (i.e. no samples currently available) and what could be feasible (strandings, sloughed skin, biopsies, fecal samples...),
3. Updating [Resolution 3.9](#) (GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF TISSUE BANKS WITHIN THE ACCOBAMS AREA AND ETHICAL CODE) : is there a need to produce new Guidelines / Best Practices?
4. How the [IWC DNA data quality and genetic analyses guidelines](#) can be useful for the ACCOBAMS experts?
5. What kind of capacity building, regarding Population structure, is needed in the ACCOBAMS Area?

### **Workshop composition**

Pauline Gauffier (leader)  
Léa David  
Simone Panigada  
Denis Ody  
Celine Tardy  
Morgana Vighi  
Martine Berubé  
Ada Natoli  
Sandro Mazzariol  
Patricia Gonzalbes  
Ana Schleimer

### **Tentative date and place**

Online half-day meeting, followed by a 2 days presential workshop, in September 2022, in Monaco.