

DRAFT RESOLUTION 8.7
NETCCOBAMS

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

Taking into consideration Recommendation 14.10 “NETCCOBAMS” of the 14th meeting of the Scientific Committee,

Recognizing that the NETCCOBAMS online platform [available at the link: <https://hub.sinay.ai/accobams/home>¹] is a source of valuable information on pressures and threats for cetaceans,

1. *Encourages* Parties to support the further development and improvement of NETCCOBAMS and invites Parties to report relevant activities through NETCCOBAMS;
2. *Welcomes* the establishment of an expert Working Group including scientists, managers, stakeholders and Parties, acting under the following Terms of Reference, for it to guide and provide oversight on:
 - (a) the selection and incorporation of appropriate validated data and information, including conditions of uploading and use²,
 - (b) analytical tools to be used for the various datasets,
 - (c) appropriate visualisation approaches (including those relevant to Cetacean Critical Habitats) and associated advice to Parties and other relevant subjects on the interpretation of outputs, and
 - (d) the future development of the NETCCOBAMS online platform (with a view to, *inter alia*, taking into account other threats and facilitating data entry and validation) to assist in the provision of conservation advice on cetaceans and their habitats, with priority given to developing a module for automatic identification system (AIS) data analysis by providing information in a specific selected area using the results of existing projects or online platforms (such as type of vessel, density, speed, waiting time, etc.) and taking account of data collected and reported under Resolution 8.18 on “Ship Strikes”;
3. *Requests* the Working Group to report on its work to the Ninth Meeting of the Parties;
4. *Recommends* that:
 - (a) relevant stakeholders (including ACCOBAMS Partners and industry bodies) be encouraged by both the Parties and the Secretariat to submit relevant data and information on cetaceans, and on anthropogenic activities to NETCCOBAMS (according with the Working Group’s advice), with a view to improving the value and application of the online platform in the provision of management advice over time,
 - (b) the NETCCOBAMS Working Group liaise with the Joint Noise Working Group regarding (i) the definition of potential quantitative targets in terms of reduction of risk; (ii) improvements in the robustness of model outputs (incorporating model uncertainty, *in situ* verification at selected sites); and (iii) the development of new features including simulated scenarios of noise (and risk) reduction in response to potential mitigation approaches to evaluate their likely effectiveness,

¹ To create a NETCCOBAMS account, please contact the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.

² Such as validated abundance and habitat maps, Partner’s reports, documentation on the work of ACCOBAMS and its Committees, Parties and Partners.

- (c) the NETCCOBAMS Working Group liaise with the other relevant Working Groups when the platform will implement additional features;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to disseminate information on the value of the NETCCOBAMS online platform (including its contribution to achieved mitigation measures) to national and international *fora*, managers and stakeholders (such as shipping companies, port authorities and the International Maritime Organization), with a view to increase the visibility of the work done in this context, and to encourage the platform's utilization, and the submission of data.