

**DRAFT RESOLUTION 8.25**  
**Cetacean population genetics**

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

*Recalling* ACCOBAMS Resolution 3.9 “Guidelines for the establishment of a system of tissue banks within the ACCOBAMS area and ethical code”,

*Recalling* also that 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 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,

*Taking into consideration* Recommendations from the ACCOBAMS Workshop on Data Collection on Cetacean Population Genetics, organized on 2 September 2022 (online) and 20-21 September 2022 (online and in Monaco),

1. *Requests Parties:*

- (a) to take note of the report of the ACCOBAMS Workshop on Data Collection on Cetacean Population Genetics (20-21 September 2022, Monaco), as well as the associated ACCOBAMS Best Practices on Cetacean Population Genetics;
- (b) to collect updated information regarding:
  - tissue sample collection,
  - exchanges of samples,
  - research results (including publications),
  - genetic laboratories;
- (c) to update their National Report with the above information;
- (d) to get in touch with the National CITES Focal Points, ABS Nagoya Focal Points and Scientific Committee members, regarding clarifying and facilitating procedures of exchange of samples;
- (e) to provide the Secretariat with relevant national legislation and standard procedures for the exchange of samples (for example, under the Nagoya Protocol, or CITES permits);

2. *Requests the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat:*

- (a) to review the process described in Resolution 4.18 on guidelines on the granting of exceptions to Article II, paragraph 1, for the purpose of non-lethal in situ research in the Agreement Area, especially regarding advices to be obtained from the Scientific Committee before the Party concerned decides whether to issue a research permit;
- (b) to encourage research efforts on the gaps and priorities identified during the workshop, taking into account Appendix 1 of the ACCOBAMS Best Practices on Cetacean Population Genetics;
- (c) to organize an (online) event to promote the diffusion of the databases and best practices to all interested stakeholders (Partners, researchers, etc.);

3. *Asks* the Scientific Committee:
  - (a) to report on this issue every 3 years during ACCOBAMS Meetings of the Parties;
  - (b) to provide urgent advice on recommended procedure for individual identification and origin of captive individuals using forensic genetics, especially in the Black Sea for bottlenose dolphin.