

## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN ACCOBAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SEMI-ENCLOSED FACILITIES

### Background:

As advised by the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and the Follow-up committee, the Meeting of the Parties considers establishing an ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee on semi-enclosed facilities, according to the present Terms of Reference (ToR).

### Objective:

Based on the best scientific evidence, the ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee on semi-enclosed facilities will provide guidance to interested Parties on all questions related to semi-enclosed facilities for cetaceans, taking into consideration the studies “*Taking of cetaceans, dolphinaria and quasi-dolphinaria: a legal analysis relating to ACCOBAMS Parties*” - [ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf 09](#) and « *Scientific perspective on “potential marine semi-enclosed facilities” in the ACCOBAMS Area* » - [ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf52](#).

The ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee will perform their activities based on these ToR, once approved by the Meeting of the Parties (MOP), and may receive further guidance from ACCOBAMS Parties through the Secretariat.

The Advisory Committee shall use electronic means for their communication, unless a situation arises that requires an on-site meeting.

Prior to making any commitment and/or to performing any function on behalf of ACCOBAMS, the Advisory Committee shall receive a written authorization from the ACCOBAMS Secretariat.

The Advisory Committee will present an activity report to each Meeting of the Scientific Committee and also to the following Meeting of the Parties, to be held in 2025.

### Composition:

The ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee on semi-enclosed facilities will be led by a member of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, who will be appointed by ACCOBAMS Parties during the MOP8.

The appointed Chair of the Advisory Committee will make proposals on the composition of the Advisory Committee, which will gather leading experts in different fields, such as:

- Ecology and behavior expertise on odontocetes, primarily on bottlenose dolphins;
- odontocete husbandry (e.g., food, medical care, handling, transportation);
- veterinary medicine focused on marine mammals;
- stranding, rescue, captive rehabilitation and release techniques and procedures;
- structural, functional and logistic aspects of the prospective hosting facility;
- ecological impact assessment of concerned marine environments;
- assessment of the economic sustainability of any proposed project and the operational costs of the center, once established;
- educational, awareness and research design;
- relationships with the main stakeholders.

The Advisory Committee members will serve in their expert capacity, and not as representatives of any organization or Country.

The composition of the Advisory Committee on semi-enclosed facilities will be circulated to all ACCOBAMS Parties.