





1. *Strongly reiterates* that bycatch in fishing gear is a widespread and significant threat to cetaceans across the entire Agreement area;
2. *Urges* the Parties to develop an improved understanding of bycatch levels as soon as possible, in order to allow ACCOBAMS conservation objectives to be met and related implementing measures to be enhanced;
3. *Reiterates its concern* that the use of drift nets that are not in compliance with relevant legal provisions continue to cause mortality of several species of cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS Area, and *urges* that national legislation regulating such fishing gear be timely implemented and enforced by Parties;
4. *Urges* Parties to ensure that their national legislation is in full accordance with the relevant treaties and regulations and that transgressors are sanctioned by penalties of sufficient gravity to deter violations, including accessory measures, such as confiscation of illegal nets, in accordance with national legislations;
5. *Notes* that programmes of compensation for dismissal of driftnets and reconversion of fishing vessels may be useful in promoting compliance with the rules on driftnets, as well as the use of modern technologies aimed at tracing the use of driftnets;
6. *Notes with appreciation* the information provided by several National Focal Points on the legal tools and measures applied under the Parties' jurisdiction to enforce the ACCOBAMS provisions on the drift nets ban;
7. *Encourages* those Parties that have not yet provided the above information to do so as soon as possible;
8. *Mandates* the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, in collaboration with the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee, to continue liaising with relevant regional fisheries management organizations in order to provide a common definition of the technical characteristics of drift nets that pose a major threat to cetaceans, and to report on that matter at the Ninth Meeting of Parties.