

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AND DRAFT COMPOSITION OF AN ACCOBAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SEMI-ENCLOSED FACILITIES

Background

Semi-captivity has been an issue considered for several years by ACCOBAMS, which was addressed in particular in 2 reports: “*Taking of cetaceans, dolphinarium and quasi-dolphinarium: a legal analysis relating to ACCOBAMS Parties*” ([ACCOBAMS-MOP7/2019/Inf 09](#)) prepared by Prof. Tullio Scovazzi and Mrs. Ilaria Tani in 2017; and “*Scientific perspective on “potential marine semi-enclosed facilities” in the ACCOBAMS Area*” ([ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Inf52](#)) prepared by Joan Gonzalvo.

Based on the recommendations of the latter, the Eighth Meeting of the Parties to ACCOBAMS (MOP8) agreed that the Scientific Committee should establish an Advisory Committee on semi-enclosed facilities to provide guidance to interested Parties in relation to all questions related to semi-enclosed facilities.

Part I of this document contains the **Terms of Reference** for an Advisory Committee on semi-enclosed facilities that were presented to MOP8 in document ACCOBAMS-MOP8/2022/Doc29.

Part II of this document includes a **proposal on the composition** of this Advisory Committee prepared by Joan Gonzalvo in order to facilitate a decision on the issue during SC15 meeting.

PART I - 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.

PART II – DRAFT COMPOSITION OF AN ACCOBAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SEMI-ENCLOSED FACILITIES

The following experts are proposed as members of the ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee on semi-enclosed facilities (by alphabetical order):

Joan Gonzalvo

Joan Gonzalvo, born in Barcelona, is a Catalan biologist whose main research interest is the conservation of the marine environment and, more specifically, the study and conservation of marine mammals. He holds a Ph.D. in Biodiversity from the University of Barcelona. In 1999 he started his collaboration with the Tethys Research Institute. Since 2007, he is member of Tethys' Board of Directors. Between 2000 and 2005, Joan was a member of the Group for the Study and Conservation of Marine Mammals at the University of Barcelona. He has participated in a number of diverse projects involving work on dolphin-fisheries interactions, dolphin population estimates and behavioural studies with the aim of producing sound information to promote conservation action. For over two decades he has spent 1,000+ hours observing dolphin groups in their natural environment in different Mediterranean locations and has designed and executed numerous public awareness campaigns. Joan is experienced in research methods including ship-based, land-based and aerial surveys on cetaceans, individual photo-identification, behavioural sampling, remote biopsy sampling, cetacean dissection techniques and tissue sampling on stranded animals. During the last decade he has incorporated the Mediterranean monk seal as one of his main target species for the development of research and conservation activities. He is currently engaged in a project funded by the Monk Seal Alliance conducted in the Inner Ionian Sea Archipelago in western Greece. Recently he also acted as consultant of UNEP's Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC) for the updating of the Regional strategy for the conservation of monk seal in the Mediterranean.

He is regularly engaged in training and teaching young scientist wanting to gain experience in cetacean research. In addition, Joan has worked on a few occasions as consultant of the UNEP's Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) and for the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) on the preparation, among others, of National Action Plans for the Conservation of Cetaceans in Syria and Lebanon, respectively. More recently, he led the Update of the Action Plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean.

Between 2015-2019 he acted as Council member of the European Cetacean Society; since 2020 he is Chair of the ECS Council. He is member of the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS and in January 2020 became also member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Cetacean Specialist Group (CSG). Since 2006 his research is carried out mainly in western Greece, where he leads the Ionian Dolphin Project. He speaks Catalan, Spanish, English, Italian and Greek.

Frances Gulland

Frances Gulland currently serves as Chair of the US Marine Mammal Commission, having been appointed to that position by President Biden on May 4th 2022. In 2000, she joined the Commission's Committee of Scientific Advisors, and in 2011, was appointed to serve as one of three Commissioners and confirmed by the Senate. Dr. Gulland is a veterinarian specializing in marine mammal medicine. She is a Research Associate at the University of California, Davis, and worked for 25 years at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, California, where her focus was treatment of stranded marine mammals and research into the causes of disease in these animals. She received a veterinary degree from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, in 1984, and a Ph.D. in zoology in 1991. Dr. Gulland has served on a number of federal and state advisory panels, including the Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events, the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team, and California's Ocean Protection Council and Oiled Wildlife Care Network.

Lori Marino

Lori Marino is a neuroscientist and expert in animal behaviour and intelligence, formerly on the faculty of Emory University. Lori received her Ph.D. in biopsychology in 1995, and is internationally known for her work on the evolution of the brain and intelligence in dolphins and whales (as well as primates and farmed animals). She has published over 130 peer-reviewed scientific papers, book chapters, and magazine articles on marine mammal biology and cognition, comparative brain anatomy, self-awareness in nonhuman animals, human-nonhuman animal relationships, and the evolution of intelligence.

She is also an expert on marine mammal captivity issues such as dolphin assisted therapy and the educational claims

of the zoo and aquarium industry.

In 2001, she co-authored a ground-breaking study offering the first conclusive evidence for mirror self-recognition in bottlenose dolphins, after which she decided against further research with captive animals.

Lori is also the Founder and Executive Director of The Kimmela Centre for Animal Advocacy, which focuses on bridging the gap between academic research and scholarship and on-the-ground animal advocacy efforts.

She has appeared in several films and television programs, including the 2013 documentary *Blackfish* about killer whale captivity, *Unlocking the Cage*, the 2016 documentary on the Nonhuman Rights Project, and *Long Gone Wild*, the 2019 documentary that picks up where *Blackfish* left off and the work of the Whale Sanctuary Project begins.

Sandro Mazzariol

Sandro Mazzariol is a veterinary pathologist involved in coordinating the National Stranding Network in Italy. Since 2010, he has coordinated the definition of national guidelines for the intervention and rehabilitation of cetaceans stranded alive, and, as part of Cetaceans Strandings Emergency Response Team, he has supported and supervised most of the interventions on behalf of stranded animals.

He served as a member of the International Whaling Commission's Scientific Committee for several years, on the Scientific Committee of the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) to follow live and mass strandings procedures, and as a consultant to the Ministry of Health and Environment.

Sandro has authored or co-authored more than 33 scientific papers, along with chapters in several books, and lectures at the veterinary school of the University of Padova, and in several courses for graduate students dedicated to wildlife, animal welfare and ethics. He received his Ph.D. in veterinary public health from the University of Padova in 2006.

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara is a marine conservation ecologist who has been concerned for over 40 years with the advancement of knowledge of the natural history, ecology, behaviour, and taxonomy of marine mammals and cartilaginous fishes, has described a new species of manta ray, and published more than 230 scientific papers. During the past 30 years he has concentrated efforts on conservation, in particular through the development of marine protected areas and the identification of Important Marine Mammal Areas. In the early '90s he has spearheaded the creation of the first high-seas marine protected area, the Pelagos Sanctuary for Mediterranean Marine Mammals, established in 2002 by a treaty among France, Italy and Monaco. He has been responsible for the leading and management of governmental and private, national and international science and conservation organisations, including the Tethys Research Institute, the Italian Central Institute for Applied Marine Research (ICRAM), and the European Cetacean Society. Dr. Notarbartolo di Sciara is the Co-chair of the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force. He has chaired the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS from the beginning of the agreement until 2010, and currently serves as the COP-appointed Councilor for aquatic mammals at the Convention on Migratory Species. In 2009 he received the Knighthood in the Order of St. Charles from H.S.H. the Prince Albert II of Monaco (for more details: www.disciara.org).