

OFFICIAL LETTER FROM ECS



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The present note serves to introduce the attached letter received from the Chairman of the European Cetacean Society (ECS), dated 26 July 2023.

During the Eighth Meeting of the Parties (MOP8), Parties adopted Resolution 8.3, which amended the Rules of Procedure of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee. As part of this amendment, the expert nominated by the ECS was excluded from the Scientific Committee, based on the ECS's legal status as a private association.

Subsequently, the Scientific Committee acknowledged the valuable contributions made by ECS to previous Committee meetings and emphasized the substantial added value that ECS could bring to future work. The Committee recommended that Parties reconsider the inclusion of ECS among the organizations invited to designate one representative as a member of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.

To support the evaluation of the new composition of the Scientific Committee, Dr. Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara was contracted to develop a proposal.

Regarding ECS, Dr. Notarbartolo di Sciara advised that ECS is a scientific society with NGO status, comprising over 500 members from more than 40 countries. He noted that ECS represents a significant reservoir of relevant expertise and that many current Committee members may have previously participated in ECS activities.

He suggested that the Bureau consider the inclusion of an ECS representative under Article 2.1, primarily based on financial considerations.

The Bureau agreed that the request submitted by the ECS Chair should be presented to the Ninth Meeting of the Parties (MOP9) for consideration.



Barcelona, 26 July 2023

Dear members of the ACCOBAMS Bureau,

During the MOP8, the Parties decided (Resolution 8.3) to exclude the European Cetacean Society (ECS) as a member to the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee. At the latest meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC15), its members commended the contribution of the ECS to the works of the previous SCs, emphasizing the substantial added value that ECS may bring to the future work of the ACCOBAMS SC. Moreover, the SC recommended that Parties reconsider the inclusion of the ECS amongst the organisations invited to designate one representative as a member to the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.

The ECS has had representation in the ACCOBAMS SC since the creation of the Agreement, ECS representatives have historically occupied relevant positions, acting in numerous occasions as tasks managers within the SC and have been always very active and committed to fulfilling the ACCOBAMS work plan. Currently, the ECS has a membership of 500+ marine mammal scientist and conservationist from 41 different countries. Consequently, we believe that an ECS representative poses a very interesting asset within the SC.

With this letter, we would like to convey to the distinguished members of the ACCOBAMS Bureau the ECS renewed interest in fully participating to the ACCOBAMS SC work. We hope that the Bureau will take this possibility under consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Gonzalvo PhD
European Cetacean Society - Chairman