

RESOLUTION 9.12

POPULATION STRUCTURE

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 Resolution 8.11 “Cetacean population genetics”,

Recalling also the need for institutions dedicated to the preservation of body samples or parts from marine mammals of the Mediterranean and Black Seas and adjacent waters, which should promote non-invasive or post-mortal collection of samples from cetaceans living in these waters, prepare such samples for long-term storage, as well as distribute them to the community of marine mammal researchers,

Recalling Recommendations from the ACCOBAMS Workshop on Data Collection on Cetacean Population Genetics (Monaco, September 2022),

Taking into account Recommendation 16.5 of the Scientific Committee on “Population structure”,

1. *Encourages* Parties to take note of the report of the ACCOBAMS Workshop on Data Collection on Cetacean Population Genetics, as well as the associated ACCOBAMS Best Practices on Cetacean Population Genetics;
2. *Encourages* Parties to:
 - collect updated information regarding research results on population genetics and to include it in their National Report;
 - register their scientific institutions following the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and/or the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya protocol) to facilitate scientific exchange of specimens needed to conduct taxonomic and species-conservation research, and to conduct wildlife forensic research;
3. *Urges* Parties to contact scientists and scientific institutions in the territory under their jurisdiction to facilitate greater understanding of the scientific exchange provisions of Article VII, paragraph 6, of the CITES and /or the requirements of the Nagoya Protocol on the non-commercial loan, donation or exchange of scientific specimens;

4. *Calls upon* Partners to conduct sample collection and research on population genetics, to apply the [ACCOBAMS Best Practices on Cetacean Population Genetics](#)¹ in their work and to regularly provide the Secretariat with relevant information to update the [online cetacean sample database](#)², as well as the list of [suitable genetics laboratories](#)³ and new scientific publications;
5. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolution 8.11.

¹ Please refer to document “ACCOBAMS Best Practices on Cetacean Population Genetics” https://accobams.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ACCOBAMS-BEST-PRACTICES-CETACEAN-GENETICS-ENGLISH_final-version.pdf

² Please refer to the document « Database of existing cetacean samples in the ACCOBAMS area » https://accobams.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/sample_database_population-genetics.pdf

³ Please refer to the document « Suitable genetics labs in the ACCOBAMS area » <https://accobams.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Suitable-genetics-labs-in-the-ACCOBAMS-area.pdf>