

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA****1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The Meeting will open at 8:30 (CET), on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026, at the Nine Hotel in Tunis.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

- *Provisional Agenda - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc01*
- *Provisional Annotated Agenda - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc02*
- *Provisional Timetable - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc03*
- *List of Documents - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf01*
- *Provisional List of Participants - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf02*

The provisional agenda and timetable will be proposed for adoption under this item.

The Scientific Committee will be invited to review and adopt the proposed agenda and timetable.

**3. FUNCTIONING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE****3.1 Election of the Chair of the Scientific Committee 2026/2028**

- *Terms of Reference for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc04*

Pursuant to Resolution 9.4, at the first Meeting of the triennium, a Chair of the Scientific Committee shall be elected by and among the members of the Scientific Committee appointed under paragraph 1 of Article 2 of Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee (experts proposed by CIESM, IUCN, CMS, IWC and ECS and experts from regions).

The Scientific Committee will be invited to elect the Chair of the Scientific Committee for 2026-2028.

**3.2 Election of the Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee 2026/2028**

- *Terms of Reference for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc04*

Pursuant to Resolution 9.4, at the first Meeting of the triennium, a Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee shall be elected by and among the members of the Scientific Committee appointed under paragraph 1 of Article 2 of Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee (experts proposed by CIESM, IUCN, CMS, IWC and ECS and experts from regions).

The Scientific Committee will be invited to elect the Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee for 2026-2028.

**3.3 Designation of Task Managers of the Scientific Committee 2026/2028**

- *Terms of Reference of Scientific Committee Task Managers - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc05*
- *Work Programme 2026-2028 with priorities identified by Parties at MOP9 - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc07*

Pursuant to Resolution 9.4, the Scientific Committee is requested to designate, at its first Meeting of the triennium, four "Task Managers" amongst the experts designated as members to the Scientific Committee by CIESM, IUCN, CMS, IWC and ECS and experts from regions. Task Managers will be assigned with specific topics linked to the priorities set up by ACCOBAMS Parties in the Work Programme for the 2026-2028.

The Scientific Committee will be invited to designate four Task Managers amongst the experts designated as members to the Scientific Committee by CIESM, IUCN, CMS, IWC and ECS and experts from regions.

### 3.4 Update on the internal Scientific Committee Handbook

During their 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Scientific Committee agreed upon the value of drafting a “SC Handbook” in clear language that integrates the information from a variety of sources (*inter alia* Agreement text, Resolutions, SC reports, past practice etc.) to (1) elucidate the present role of the Scientific Committee and (2) document its current working practices and bring together in one place any agreed good practice Guidelines. Such a document has been found to be valuable in the context of the IWC. It should be considered a “living” document that is updated as methods and key advice is change with time.

SC16 also agreed that a small group under Greg Donovan will develop a draft SC Handbook.

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will invite Greg Donovan to inform the Scientific Committee about the development of the SC Handbook.

## 4. INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

### 4.1 Implementation of, and compliance with, ACCOBAMS Resolutions, and progress monitoring

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will invite the Secretariat to briefly present recommendations from the Fourth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow-up Committee and information regarding the implementation of Resolution 9.6.

According to Resolution 9.6.A, the Scientific Committee to consider this information in the relevant ACCOBAMS/IWC Conservation Management Plans.

### 4.2 Update on ongoing projects

#### 4.2.1 ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative

- *State of play of the ASI-II initiative- ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf03*

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will invite the Secretariat to present a comprehensive overview of developments related to the upcoming basin-wide survey, the ASI-II project, during the period 2023–2025, as well as to outline key upcoming developments.

#### 4.2.2 Projects under the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Funds

- *Establishing a cetacean tissue bank in Türkiye (CetaBankTR) - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf04*
- *Implementing ACCOBAMS best practices in post-mortem investigations on stranded and by-caught cetaceans from Romanian shore and ingested marine litter monitoring - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf05*
- *The Tunisian Dolphin Project, expanding the monitoring programme to the Gulf of Gabès - Second Midterm Report - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf06*

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will invite the Secretariat to briefly present an update on the projects currently funded under the ACCOBAMS Supplementary Conservation Fund.

#### 4.2.3 Other regional projects (Pelagos Consortium, GFCM...)

- *Mitigation of Elasmobranch Bycatch and Dolphin Depredation in Moroccan Waters - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf07*
- *Reduction and mitigation of the catch of elasmobranchs, sea turtles, and any other vulnerable species (e.g. marine mammals), incidentally captured by trawlers along Turkish coast - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf08*
- *Monitoring activities and mitigation measures for the reduction of dolphin depredation in small-scale fisheries - western Ionian Sea - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf09*

Some information regarding projects implemented in collaboration with the Secretariat will be provide to the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee will be invited to take note of the information presented and to provide comments and recommendations.

### 4.3 NETCCOBAMS

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will invite the experts in charge of the development of NETCCOBAMS to present a progress report on the implementation of the platform.

According to Resolution 9.8, the Scientific Committee to review and update the Terms of Reference of the expert Working Group on NETCCOBAMS.

## 5. CONSERVATION ACTIONS

### 5.1 Reporting by Scientific Committee Experts from Regions

- Role of experts from regions - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc06

Pursuant to the Rules on the Scientific Committee, *“the experts from regions shall work together to provide a report to the meetings of the Scientific Committee on the conservation status of cetaceans and relevant activities in their respective region”*.

They will be invited to briefly report on update regarding conservation status of cetaceans and relevant activities in their respective region.

Moreover, during its Sixteenth Meeting (SC16, Barcelona, Spain, December 2024), the Scientific Committee recommended drafting of a **single triennial report** in the year before the MOP following the template presented in Document **06**.

The Scientific Committee will be invited:

- to take note of the information presented by ER and to provide comments and recommendations
- to agree on the format of the report proposed in Doc06

### 5.2 Knowledge about state of cetaceans

- Work Programme 2026-2028 with priorities identified by Parties at MOP9 - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc07

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will invite the Secretariat to present Document **07** which has been based on Annex 6 of Resolution 9.5 (Work Programme and budget 2026-2028), and on relevant conservation Resolutions with the objective of specifically identifying the activities to be carried out by the Scientific Committee and facilitating the monitoring and reporting of Work Programme implementation.

For each sub-agenda item, the Scientific Committee will be invited to complete the section *“Objectives to be achieved before SC18”* by identifying a concrete activity to be implemented prior to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee in Autumn 2027.

#### 5.2.1 Cetacean population estimates and distribution

- State of play of ASI-II - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf03

#### 5.2.2 Population structure

#### 5.2.3 Monitoring cetacean’s status (including CMPs and Black Sea post war plan)

- Terms of reference for an ACCOBAMS expert workshop on the post-war plan for black sea cetaceans - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc08

Under this agenda item, experts from the Black Sea will be invited to present some draft ToR for the future workshop on the Post-war plan for Black Sea cetaceans.

#### 5.2.4 Functional stranding networks and responses to emergency situations

Under this agenda item, the co-chairs of the ACCOBAMS Emergency Task Force for Stranding will be invited to report on new stranding events.

### **5.3 Human pressures on cetaceans**

- Work Programme 2026-2028 with priorities identified by Parties at MOP9 - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Doc07

#### **5.3.1 Interaction with fisheries / aquaculture**

#### **5.3.2 Anthropogenic underwater noise**

#### **5.3.3 Vessel strikes**

#### **5.3.4 Cetacean watching**

#### **5.3.5 Marine litter & chemical and biological pollution**

#### **5.3.6 Climate change**

#### **5.3.7 Captivity related issues**

- Letter of concern from the ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee on Semi-enclosed facilities regarding two Dolphin refuges / Sanctuaries in Italy and Greece - ACCOBAMS-SC17/2026/Inf10

The Chair of the ACCOBAMS Advisory Committee on Semi-enclosed Facilities will be invited to inform the Scientific Committee regarding two initiatives presented as Dolphin Refuges / Sanctuaries in Italy and Greece.

### **5.4 Area-based measures for cetacean conservation**

### **5.5 Cetacean culture**

## **6. COLLABORATIONS**

### **6.1 Sub Regional Coordination Units**

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will invite the representatives of the Mediterranean Sub Regional Coordination Unit (SPA/RAC) and of the Black Sea Sub Regional Coordination Unit (Black Sea Commission Permanent Secretariat) to inform the Scientific Committee about activities of interest.

The Scientific Committee will be invited to take note of the information presented.

### **6.2 ACCOBAMS Partners**

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will invite ACCOBAMS Partners to present relevant activities in line with ACCOBAMS objectives.

The Scientific Committee will be invited to comment and to take note of the activities implemented by ACCOBAMS Partners.

### **6.3 Other Organisations**

The Chair of the Scientific Committee will invite any other Organizations to present relevant activities in line with ACCOBAMS objectives.

The Scientific Committee will be invited to comment and to take note of the activities implemented by other Organisations.

**7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Any other relevant issue, not addressed in the previous agenda items, could be raised.

**8. DATE AND VENUE OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

The Secretariat will inform the Meeting about the proposed date and venue for the Eighteenth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.

**9. ADOPTION OF CONCLUSIONS**

A compilation of main conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Scientific Committee for adoption.

**10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Chair of the Scientific Committee at 18:00 pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026.