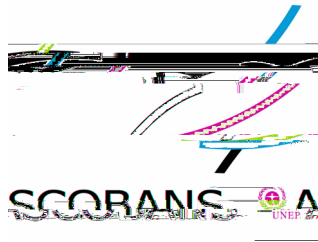


Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas

Secretariat provided by the Convention on Migratory Species



17 June 2022

Progress report on activities relevant to UNGA Resolution 76/72 Oceans and the Law of the Sea, undertaken within the framework of ASCOBANS

The UN Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas ([ASCOBANS](#), 1992) is a treaty with ten Parties¹ and seven non-Party Range States. ASCOBANS covers small toothed whales, dolphins and porpoises, with individual measures detailed in a Conservation and Management Plan annexed to the [Agreement](#) and in [Resolutions](#) adopted by each Meeting of Parties (MOP). Its secretariat is provided by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), itself a Multilateral Environmental Agreement under UNEP. Given the migration of these small cetaceans across national boundaries, ASCOBANS promotes close cooperation between countries and engagement with relevant stakeholders such as intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations. The goal is to achieve or maintain a favourable conservation status for small cetaceans throughout the Agreement Area.

Activities concluded under ASCOBANS between September 2021 and June 2022 have addressed a range of marine conservation and management issues relating to UNGA Resolution 76/72:

1. The following ASCOBANS Technical Series publications were released:

- Monitoring Cetacean Bycatch: An Analysis of Different Methods Aboard Commercial Fishing Vessels: The report reviews the different monitoring options that are available for obtaining counts of the number of cetacean bycatches that occur in European fisheries. Three methods were adjudged able to obtain these data: self-reporting by fishers, at-sea observers, and remote electronic monitoring (REM) systems with CCTV. Only a REM system with integrated satellite tracking, fishing activity sensors, and GPS was considered suitable for implementation.

Cetacean Bycatch: An Analysis of Different Methods Aboard Commercial Fishing Vessels. ASCOBANS Secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 74 pages. ASCOBANS Technical Series No.1.
- Cost-benefit Analysis of Technical Measures and Changes to Fishing Practices that have been trialled in the ASCOBANS region. The cost of implementation and pros and cons of each method are discussed in detail in the relevant sections. The report also reviews alternative

