

**RESOLUTION 8.11**  
**CETACEAN POPULATION GENETICS**

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 also that the Scientific Committee of ACCOBAMS has recognized the need for institutions dedicated to the preservation of body parts from marine mammals of the ACCOBAMS Area, and that such Institutions should: a) promote non-invasive or post-mortal collection of samples from cetaceans living in the ACCOBAMS Area and adjacent waters; b) prepare such samples for long term storage; and c) distribute them to the community of marine mammal researchers,

Taking into consideration Recommendations from the ACCOBAMS Workshop on Data Collection on Cetacean Population Genetics, organized on September 2022,

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. *Invites* Partners conducting sample collection and research on population genetics to apply the ACCOBAMS Best Practices on Cetacean Population Genetics in their work and to regularly provide the Secretariat with relevant information to update the online cetacean sample database, as well as the list of suitable genetics laboratories and new scientific publications;
3. *Encourages* Parties to collect updated information regarding research results on population genetics and to include it in their National Report;
4. *Requests* the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat to:
  - a. review the process described in Resolution 4.18 on guidelines on the granting of exceptions to Article II, paragraph 1, for the purpose of non-lethal in situ research in the Agreement Area, especially regarding advices to be obtained from the Scientific Committee before the Party concerned decides whether to issue a research permit;
  - b. encourage research efforts on the gaps and priorities identified during the workshop, taking into account Appendix 1 of the ACCOBAMS Best Practices on Cetacean Population Genetics;
  - c. organize an online event to promote the diffusion of the databases and best practices to all interested stakeholders;
5. *Asks* the Scientific Committee to:
  - a. report on the work done on cetacean population genetics at the Ninth Meeting of the Parties;

- b. provide urgent advice on recommended procedures for individual identification and the origin of captive individuals using forensic genetics, especially in the Black Sea for bottlenose dolphins.