

RESOLUTION 2.21

ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION OF ADVERSE IMPACTS OF INTERACTIONS BETWEEN CETACEANS AND FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE ACCOBAMS AREA

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area:

On recommendation of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee,

Recalling that the Conservation Plan, which is fully part of the Agreement, requires the Parties to develop and implement measures to minimize adverse effects of fisheries on the conservation status of cetaceans,

Aware that to be effectively assessed and mitigated, man/cetaceans interactions should be handled not only with the ecological point of view but also with their socio-economical aspects,

Considering the efforts ongoing on this topic of several Countries and Intergovernmental Organisations,

Recalling

- Resolution 1.9 on International Implementation priorities 2002-2006 and in particular actions 2 and 3;
- Resolution 2.7, adopting a working program for 2005-2007,
- Resolution 2.12, on acoustic deterrent devices,

1. *Takes into account* the draft "Project for assessing and mitigating the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS Area " (MOP2/Inf 5) presented by the Secretariat;
2. *Agrees* to a special action program aimed to mitigate cetacean by-catches in the project area with the following objectives:
 - To collect historical data about the cetacean by-catch in the project area;
 - To provide assistance to national authorities at their request to enable independent observers to board fishing vessels;
 - **To collect data about the present cetacean by-catch in the project area;**
 - **To test the most appropriate mitigation measures;**
 - **To help Countries undertaking information campaigns for fishermen with special focus on the handling procedures in case of incidental catch of cetaceans;**
3. *Instructs* the Agreement Secretariat to establish and reinforce relations with relevant Organisations and in particular GFCM, Black Sea Commission, European Commission, COPEMED, ADRIAMED, MedSudMed, MEDISAMAK;
4. *Calls* upon Parties, Riparian States, and Range States, the International Organisations, the International Scientific Institutions and others to participate and support the ACCOBAMS works on man/cetaceans interactions;
5. *Urges* Parties to nominate one national organisation to serve as national vis-à-vis of the project and inform the Secretariat of this nomination;
6. *Calls* upon Multilateral and Bilateral sources of funding and in particular the European Commission to support ACCOBAMS activities on the base of the draft "Project for assessing and mitigating the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS Area".