RESOLUTION 3.8

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION WITH THE GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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

Deeply concerned that by-catches are by far the primary anthropogenic cause of mortality for most cetacean populations in the Mediterranean Sea,

Aware that effective combat against illegal unregulated and unreported fishing, still occurring in the ACCOBAMS area, is a prerequisite for addressing relations between fisheries and cetacean conservation successfully,

Recognizing that ecosystem-based fishery management can offer a real framework for the conservation of cetaceans,

Firmly convinced that such concerns can be addressed only by close collaboration between relevant regional fisheries and conservation bodies,

Recalling:
- Resolution 2.21 on the assessment and mitigation of the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS area,
- Resolution 2.25 on prey depletion,
- Resolution 3.11 on the Conservation Plan for Black Sea cetaceans,
- Resolution 3.12 on by-catch, competitive interactions and acoustic devices, and
- Amendment Resolution 3.2 on the use of driftnets,

1. *Expresses* its satisfaction with the collaboration established with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean Sea (GFCM) in developing the ByCBAMS project for assessing and mitigating the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS area, and in particular the work done by the Scientific Advisory Committee's Sub-committee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems;

2. *Recognizes* that further strengthening of the relations between ACCOBAMS and GFCM is essential for implementation of the fishery-related measures of ACCOBAMS;

3. *Urges* the Secretariat to liaise with the GFCM Secretariat to find ways and means to strengthen their collaboration and, if relevant, to establish a memorandum of understanding to that end.