

RESOLUTION 4.13**CONSERVATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SHORT-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN**

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

Taking in consideration the Recommendation of the Scientific Committee that has repeatedly drawn attention to the issue of conservation of the Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*),

Recalling that the Second Meeting of the Parties strongly welcomed the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea¹ through Resolution 2.20 and that the Third Meeting of the Parties urged Parties to implement it through Resolution 3.17,

Convinced that the conservation of the Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphin continues to be a matter of grave concern,

Conscious that prey depletion is a factor in short-beaked common dolphin decline, as witnessed in the waters of Kalamos, Western Greece, and as suspected on the basis of research in the Gulf of Vera, Spain,

Recalling that the Mediterranean population of the short-beaked common dolphin is listed on Appendix I of CMS, thus requiring strict protection under the Convention,

Taking into account the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Animals, which in 2003 listed the Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphin population as endangered,

Taking also into account the 2006 ACCOBAMS-IUCN Workshop for the Establishment of a Red List of Cetaceans in ACCOBAMS area, that gave an endangered status to the Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphin,

1. *Recalls* to Parties that the implementation of the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea is a high priority in the region;
2. *Thanks* the ACCOBAMS Partners, in particular Ocean Care and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS), for the development of the “Urgent Call” submitted to the Greek Government and various other stakeholders, highlighting the urgent need to take immediate conservation action to prevent the further decline and local disappearance of short-beaked common dolphins;
3. *Urges* Parties and *invites* Range States, taking into account, in particular, the need for international coordination and adequate funding:
 - to give all the necessary importance to implementing existing laws for the sustainable management of fisheries resources as well as the existing regulations on by-catch, including, in the case of European Union Member States, Council Regulation 1967/2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea;
 - to sanction illegal fishing with appropriate penalties;
 - to implement the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea, without prejudice to other international obligations;
 - to cooperate, with the support of the Secretariat, to ensure that the international concerns for short-beaked common dolphin be conveyed to the relevant European Union authorities, and appropriate

¹ ACCOBAMS.MOP2/2004/Doc49

strategies and funding opportunities be identified within the Marine Strategy Framework (European Union Directive 2008/56);

4. *Asks* the Agreement Secretariat to address States where there are critical habitats for Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphin to take immediate measures to ban fishing gear that cause decline and local disappearance of the species;
5. *Asks* the Scientific Committee to create a small Steering Committee, in collaboration with the ACCOBAMS Partners:
 - to facilitate the implementation of the priority actions of the Conservation Plan for short-beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea and to coordinate with the relevant authorities;
 - to obtain information on distribution and abundance of the species, particularly in the southern and eastern portions of the Mediterranean basin;
6. *Requests* the Agreement Secretariat:
 - to draw the attention of Parties to the problems posed by fishing activities;
 - to continue to participate at meetings relating to fisheries, such as those convened by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) or the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), in order to provide information on the impact of fishing activities on Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphins and encourage collaborative efforts;
 - to organise a workshop for the collaboration between ACCOBAMS and GFCM, with possible collaborations with FAO regional projects, focusing on both ecological and operational interactions;
 - to encourage the Parties, as appropriate in collaboration with the CMS Secretariat, to implement conservation action, consistent with the decisions taken so far and the listing of Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphins in Appendix I of the CMS;
 - to promote appropriate collaboration with the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols work programmes in order to identify support and implement activities and projects of common interest for the protection of the Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphin;
 - in cooperation with the Scientific Committee and GFCM, to identify appropriate measures to be applied to ensure the conservation of Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphins in critical areas;
7. *Decides* that the present Resolution replaces Resolutions 2.20 and 3.17.