

RESOLUTION 6.12**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (MSFD) AND RELEVANT ECOSYSTEM APPROACH PROCESSES (ECAP)**

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

Acting upon Recommendation 10.11 of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee,

Recalling Resolutions 4.8 on the contribution from ACCOBAMS to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), 4.17 on the guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise on cetaceans in the ACCOBAMS area, 5.15 and 6.17 on addressing the impact of anthropogenic noise, and 6.13 on the ACCOBAMS Survey Initiative,

Recalling also the UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach Process (EcAP) aiming at managing human activities with a view to conserve natural marine heritage and protecting vital ecosystem services,

Taking into consideration document ACCOBAMS-SC10/2015/Doc24, Overview of the implementation of MSFD (regarding cetaceans) in the ACCOBAMS area and recommendations,

1. *Invites* Parties to respond to the questionnaire about cetaceans and the implementation of MSFD sent by the Permanent Secretariat on 26 September 2014;
2. *Asks* the Permanent Secretariat, in collaboration with RAC/SPA, to convene a workshop with scientists and monitoring officers of MSFD/ EcAP processes, to ensure (i) awareness on the importance of cetaceans as component of a good environmental status and (ii) coordination in national monitoring programmes within MSFD and EcAP processes;
3. *Asks* the Permanent Secretariat and the Scientific Committee to assist ACCOBAMS Parties, both European Union Member States and non-European Union Member States, in including cetaceans in relevant descriptors to the achievement of a good environmental status, such as biodiversity, food web, pollution, marine litters and underwater noise;
4. *Asks* the Permanent Secretariat and the Scientific Committee to assist ACCOBAMS Parties, both European Union Member States and non-European Union Member States, in integrating conservation action reflecting objectives, decisions, recommendations and information by ACCOBAMS within their national programme of measures, with a view to achieving a good environmental status under the MSFD and relevant EcAP Processes.