

RESOLUTION 6.9

FORMAT FOR NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS

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

Referring to Article VIII of the Agreement establishing the need to report regularly on the national implementation of the Agreement,

Considering that these reports should primarily focus on the obligations as defined in the Agreement itself,

Recognizing that a follow up of the implementation of Resolutions and Recommendations is part of the execution of the Agreement and has to be included in the national reports,

Considering that national reports should also deal with the constraints and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Agreement,

Also recognizing that information provided in the national reports will be necessary to determine whether ACCOBAMS is meeting its objectives,

Taking into account the functioning and user-friendliness of the online reporting system,

Recalling Resolution 3.7, inviting the Permanent Secretariat to liaise regularly with other relevant intergovernmental bodies in order to harmonize data and information collection and management,

Conscious that the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) are also revising their national reporting formats, and *recalling* related decisions, in particular CMS Resolution 11.2 on the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, and ASCOBANS Resolution 8.1 on National Reporting,

Recalling also Resolution 4.6 on the format for national implementation reports and the annexed Proposed Format for the On-line Reporting to ACCOBAMS,

Recalling that the Monitoring of the long term Strategy (Resolution 5.1) implementation progress will include regular monitoring of operational work programmes and resolutions implementation,

Recalling the recommendation by the First Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Follow up Committee to include in the National Report all the "general issues of implementation and follow-up" on which the Meeting of the Parties could request a report to be prepared by the Follow up Committee,

Desirous to further improve the functioning of the online reporting system by establishing a more flexible mechanism for gathering information,

1. *Requests* the Permanent Secretariat, in collaboration with the Scientific Committee, to complement the current On-line Reporting format with relevant elements, based on the priorities of the ACCOBAMS Work Programme for 2017-2019 and to present this amended format to the next Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Bureau, for approval;
2. *Decides* that, whenever appropriate, modifications to the Format for the On-line Reporting to ACCOBAMS shall be made by the Permanent Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Committee and after approval by the Bureau;

3. *Urges* Parties to regularly update on-line the information provided as soon as it is appropriate to do so and preferably every year;
4. *Invites* Parties to regularly report to each Meeting of the Parties on the results and possible improvements of the on-line reporting system;
5. *Recommends* that the Parties improve, on this matter, coordination between their ACCOBAMS National Focal Points and the Focal Points responsible for reporting to the Organizations listed in the Agreement preamble¹;
6. *Asks* the Permanent Secretariat to invite non-Parties within the Agreement area to report on a voluntary basis using the on-line format for implementation reports;
7. *Encourages* the Permanent Secretariat to exchange views with these relevant Organizations on the manner to ease reporting burdens by Parties;
8. *Decides* that the present Resolution amends Resolutions 1.8 and 3.7 and replaces Resolution 4.6.

¹ The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946; the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, 1976, its related protocols and the Action Plan for the Conservation of Cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea adopted under its auspices in 1991; the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979; the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982; the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992; the Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution, 1992; and the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted in 1984; as well as initiatives of *inter alia* the General Fisheries Commission for Mediterranean, the International Commission for Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean, and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.