

## **Recommendation 2.2**

### **on pelagic gillnets in the ACCOBAMS Area**

Traditional or modified pelagic gillnets, whether drifting or not, are known to represent a major source of incidental mortality for cetaceans. The Scientific Committee is greatly concerned that such gear is still being widely used in the Agreement Area, notably in the southern Tyrrhenian Sea, Ligurian Sea and Provençal Basin, in contrast to mainstream international and national legislation. This is resulting in significant cetacean mortality in the Agreement Area (e.g., SC2/Inf 17), even in marine protected areas specially established for cetaceans.

Therefore, the Scientific Committee urges the Parties of ACCOBAMS to:

- ensure that their fishing operations are conducted in full accordance with the relevant existing regulations aimed at the mitigation of cetacean bycatch;
- ensure that their fishing effort, including pelagic drifting and non-drifting gillnets, be reported to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, as stated in Resolution 1.8 of the First Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Parties (Monaco, 2002);
- invite Riparian States to join the effort of the ACCOBAMS Parties in preventing further cetacean mortality in the Agreement Area, and to provide relevant information on fishing gear, particularly driftnets, and effort to FAO.