

RESOLUTION 4.24
ACCOBAMS STRATEGY (PERIOD 2013-2023)

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

Recalling Article III, paragraph 8, sub-paragraphs a), b) and c) of the ACCOBAMS;

Considering that the effectiveness of ACCOBAMS and of the resolutions adopted within the ACCOBAMS framework would be strengthened by an elaboration of a long-term Strategy for ACCOBAMS, covering the period 2013-2023,

Convinced that this Strategy will be in line with developments occurring in other relevant fora, such as the United Nations General Assembly, Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the European Union,

1. *Agrees* that the vision for ACCOBAMS Strategy for period 2013-2023 is that cetacean populations in the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area will be moving towards favourable conservation status¹, expressed as healthy populations and habitats with minimised adverse human impacts; and that this will be promoted through active regional cooperation facilitated by ACCOBAMS ”;
2. *Mandates the Secretariat to:*
 - prepare, in close consultation with the Bureau and Scientific Committee, preliminary analysis of effectiveness of ACCOBAMS, and
 - organise a working group to prepare a draft Strategy in support of the vision and using the preliminary analysis as basis for this Strategy. The working group will be opened for the participation of all focal points and partners and it will be active through exchange of e-mails, if necessary meetings, and coordinated by a facilitator to be identified by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and the Chair of the Scientific Committee. The facilitator will report about the progress made in the elaboration of the Strategy and its content to the meetings of the Scientific Committee and Bureau;
3. *Decides* that the draft Strategy (2013-2023) shall be examined for approval by the Fifth Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Parties.

¹ The EU Habitats Directive provides a definition of favourable conservation status.