

RESOLUTION 5.14

LIVE REMOVALS OF BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS IN THE BLACK SEA (*Tursiops truncatus*)

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

Recalling Article II, paragraph 1, of the Agreement, which provides that Parties shall prohibit and take all necessary measures to eliminate, where this is not already done, any deliberate taking of cetaceans,

Recalling Resolution 1.12 on the conservation of the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*),

Taking in consideration the Recommendations of the Scientific Committee,

Concerned that the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin is severely threatened, due to multiple anthropogenic pressures, and is classified as “endangered” under the IUCN Red List,

Aware of the obligations towards this species under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Barcelona Convention Protocol relating to Specially Protected Areas and Biological diversity in the Mediterranean,

Recognizing that domestic and international commercial trade in Black Sea bottlenose dolphin may increase the stress on its population,

Recognizing also that the trade pressure could impede the conservation measures taken by the range States in respect of this population,

Concerned that, besides the already high by-catch levels, recent reports indicate the continued live removal of specimens of Black Sea bottlenose dolphin,

Aware that the practice of taking live Black Sea bottlenose dolphins from the wild to trade them or to keep them in captivity constitutes a breach of the Agreement,

Aware also that this kind of activities constitute a breach of obligations arising from the other above mentioned treaties and are contrary to the objectives set by the Black Sea Conservation Plan for Cetaceans,

Stressing that *Tursiops truncatus* is included in Appendix II of the CITES and that a zero annual export quota has been established for live specimens from the Black Sea population of this species removed from the wild and traded for primarily commercial purposes,

1. *Invites* the Parties, and particularly the Black Sea riparian countries, to make every effort to strictly enforce the prohibition of deliberate taking of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins;
2. *Invites* also the Parties to reinforce the interdiction of the importation, exportation and re-exportation of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins from the Agreement area;
3. *Calls* upon other countries and especially other range states of Black Sea to implement the same measures;

4. Asks the Black Sea Parties, in coordination with the Black Sea Permanent Secretariat to carry out an assessment and an inventory of all specimens of bottlenose dolphins kept in captivity by means of genetic, morphological and photographic identification methods, to adopt appropriate measures to prevent the substitution of Black Sea bottlenose dolphins that die in captivity by others taken from the wild, and to present a report on this matters at the next Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Parties;
5. Asks the Secretariat to communicate this Resolution to the Black Sea Commission, to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and to the Secretariat of the CITES as well as to the Black Sea states which are not Parties to the ACCOBAMS.