

RESOLUTION 2.13
PELAGIC GILLNETS

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

Aware that traditional or modified pelagic gillnets, whether drifting or not, are known to represent a major source of incidental mortality for cetaceans,

Recalling that the Conservation Plan, which is fully part of the Agreement, requires the Parties to develop and implement measures to minimize adverse effects of fisheries on the conservation status of cetaceans and, in particular, that no vessel shall be allowed to keep on board, or use for fishing, one or more drift nets whose individual or total length is more than 2.5 kilometers,

Concerned that such gear is still being widely used in the Agreement Area, in contrast to mainstream international and national legislation,

Noting that such gear is resulting in significant cetacean mortality in the Agreement Area, even in Marine Protected Areas especially established for cetaceans,

Considering the efforts ongoing on this topic of several Intergovernmental Organisations in particular FAO, ICCAT and the European Community,

Recalling:

- Resolution 1.9 on International Implementation priorities 2002-2006 and in particular actions 2 and 3,
- Resolution 1.8 on national reports,
- Resolution 2.7, adopting a working program for 2005-2007,
- Resolution 2.12, on the Guidelines for the use of acoustic deterrent devices,
- Resolution 2.21 on assessment and mitigation of man/cetacean interactions,

1. *Urges* Parties 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 on pelagic drifting and non-drifting gillnets, be reported to the ACCOBAMS Secretariat;

2. *Invites* 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.