RESOLUTION 3.25
CETACEAN LIVE STRANDING

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

Aware of the work on live stranding undertaken inter alia by participants in the ACCOBAMS rescue workshop (November 2006) and that the clear intention of such activities is the safe release to the wild of such animals;

Recognizing that data from rescue attempts is vitally important for improving knowledge and that records should be kept and results shared among rescue networks;

Recalling the conclusions adopted by the Scientific Committee at its fourth meeting on live stranding;

1. Invites range States to act on the recommendations of the Scientific Committee in conducting live stranding activities in the Agreement area;

2. Recommends the establishment of an advisory panel for ACCOBAMS rescue activities and a veterinary group, as suggested by the Scientific Committee;

3. Also invites the Scientific Committee to promote information on rescue activities;

4. Further recommends that the Secretariat and the Parties explore the following options:
   - establishment of an ACCOBAMS-wide rescue network;
   - provision of annual reports on rescue activities to a central body, such as the Mediterranean Database on Cetaceans (MEDACES);
   - further analysis of rescue capacity in the ACCOBAMS area, followed by efforts to make rescue coverage comprehensive;
   - development of an ACCOBAMS rescue triage;
   - establishment of a network of expert veterinarians to provide help and advice to each other and to the ACCOBAMS rescue network,
   - involvement of zoos and aquaria in rescue activities, as appropriate, within their logistic frameworks and infrastructures, without exposing such animals for public display and/or display for commercial purposes; and
   - increasing the numbers of trained volunteers and other rescue workers through appropriate training events (noting that there might be national requirements for licensing rescue workers);

5. Charges the Scientific Committee, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the focal points, to develop comprehensive guidelines on live strandings;

6. Further invites Parties to report to the next Meeting of the Parties about progress made in implementing this Resolution.