

RESOLUTION 6.21

SPECIES CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

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

Acting upon Recommendation 10.8 of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee,

*Recalling Resolutions 1.8 on the establishment of a triennial national report format for the Agreement, 1.12 on the conservation of the Black Sea *Tursiops truncatus*, 3.7 on the ACCOBAMS online reporting system, 3.11 on the conservation plan for Black Sea cetaceans, 4.6 on the format for national implementation reports of the Agreement, 4.13 on the conservation of the Mediterranean short-beaked common dolphin, 5.12 on work towards a conservation plan for fin whales in Mediterranean Sea, 5.13 on the conservation of Cuvier's beaked whales in the Mediterranean, and 5.14 on the live removals of bottlenose dolphins in the Black Sea (*Tursiops truncatus*),*

Recognizing the importance of conservation plans to fulfil ACCOBAMS conservation objectives,

Aware of the need of structure and focus to ensure the development and effectiveness of such plans,

Noting that the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has developed a process for conservation management plans (CMPs) through its Scientific and Conservation Committees and that the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee has summarized the IWC approach in the context of the ACCOBAMS,

Taking into consideration document ACCOBAMS-SC10/2015/Doc16 & Doc18, draft terms of reference for an ACCOBAMS Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for fin whales in the Mediterranean Sea, with guidance for the general development of CMPs within the ACCOBAMS area,

Noting ACCOBAMS Resolution 8.4 on Conservation of Common Dolphins, which requests the development of a comprehensive conservation plan for the common dolphin in the eastern North Atlantic and invites ACCOBAMS to participate in the drafting process,

Taking note of the workshop, that took place in April 2016 in Ischia, Italy, on the 'Conservation and research networking on short beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea' under the patronage of ACCOBAMS, CMS, the IUCN Species Survival Commission and others,

1. *Takes note of the CMP template, as annexed to this Resolution, for new conservation management plans in the ACCOBAMS Area;*
2. *Encourages Parties to work towards CMP key components of which should include:*
 - support of national authorities,
 - involvement of stakeholders at an early stage of development,
 - recognition that conservation management plans complement existing measures without replacing them,
 - overview of present status of species,
 - clear and achievable objectives,
 - practical and prioritized mitigation actions,
 - regular monitoring and reporting,
 - clear governance structures to co-ordinate the engagement of key stakeholders;
3. *Establishes an ACCOBAMS CMP Correspondence Group, the mandate of which will be proposed by the Scientific Committee and submitted to the Bureau, and could also include representatives of IWC and Pelagos Agreement,*

to develop a draft CMP for fin whales, following the CMP template and taking into consideration the relevant stakeholders through a workshop;

4. *Asks* the ACCOBAMS CMP Correspondence Group to submit the draft CMP for fin whales for consideration at the Seventh Meeting of ACCOBAMS Parties;
5. *Requests* the Scientific Committee and encourages Range States to participate in the drafting process for a comprehensive conservation plan for the common dolphin in the eastern North Atlantic under development by ACCOBAMS;
6. *Asks* the Scientific Committee to review the findings of the workshop 'Conservation and research networking on short beaked common dolphins in the Mediterranean Sea' and identify follow-up activities, as appropriate;
7. *Calls upon* the Parties to support work on areas of special importance, population structure and ship strikes with respect to fin whales, as such work can produce important information for the development and subsequent implementation of a CMP;
8. *Asks* the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee to complete the Conservation Plan for the Bottlenose dolphin;
9. *Recommends* the review and possible revision of existing plans for ACCOBAMS species in the light of the CMP Template.

ANNEX

TEMPLATE FOR A CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Provide a general overview of the plan. This section should include:

- Why a CMP is needed: Scene setting for a CMP – including a brief description of the target population, its habitat, and threats that impact the population.
- An overall goal of the CMP which would act as the mission statement for the plan.
- An overview of how the CMP is structured and what is detailed in each section.
- A *Summary Table of High Priority Actions* could also be included. High priority actions usually fall into the following categories:
 - co-ordination (COORD);
 - public awareness and capacity building (PACB);
 - research essential for providing adequate management advice or filling in knowledge gaps (RES);
 - monitoring (MON); and
 - mitigation measures (MIT).

1. INTRODUCTION

This section should briefly address the following questions:

- Why is active management needed for the identified cetacean population, threat or critical habitat?
- Why is a CMP the most appropriate management tool to achieve the stated conservation objectives?

This section should include:

- The scope, context and policy setting of the CMP.
- A detailed map of the known distribution of the population/critical habitat
 - If a CMP is being designed for a particular threat the map should include an outline of the area where the threat is encountered by the target cetacean population.
 - If the CMP is being designed for a particular critical habitat, the map should include the extent of the critical habitat.
- This section should also reference any current or previous conservation management actions relating to the draft CMP including conservation plans, legislation as well as any relevant peer reviewed papers or related documentation.

1.1 Overall Objectives of the CMP

To maximise the success of a plan and ensure that required changes are identified promptly; the measurable short, medium and long-term objectives should be identified. Thus, the monitoring of the target population, human activities affecting it, mitigation measures, and the effectiveness of those measures is essential.

Objectives of a CMP will not only relate to the conservation of the population but also to the interests of relevant stakeholders.

Insert the overall short, medium- and long-term objectives of the CMP.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Insert a list of relevant international conventions, agreements and legislation and management arrangements that the plan may relate to. Supporting information can be contained on Appendices.

[Please note that the below are examples only]

2.1 International Conventions and Agreements

2.2 National Legislation and Management Arrangements

2.2.1 Participating Range State A

National legislation with respect to the population of X whales

2.2.2 Participating Range State B

National legislation with respect to the population of X whales

2.2.3 Participating Range State C

National legislation with respect to the population of X whales

2.2.4 Participating Range State A

Area X Fisheries Management Plan

2.2.5 Participating Range State B

Marine Protected Area X Operational Management Plan

3. GOVERNANCE

3.1 Coordination of a CMP

As a CMP may cover a large geographical area and involve several jurisdictions, it is important to establish an appropriate management structure for the CMP that identifies key stakeholders, their roles and responsibilities and the interaction between them during the development, implementation and review stages of the plan.

Insert an outline of the governance framework under which the CMP would be conducted, from the development stage through to the implementation and review stages.

3.2 Timeline for a CMP

Identify the various stages of a CMP with tasks and indicative timings for each stage as well as outlining which parties may be involved with the tasks identified.

4. SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND

4.1 Biology, Status and Environmental Parameters

Insert concise background information on the nominated population(s), including:

- population structure;
- abundance and population trends;
- distribution, migration and movements; and
- basic biology (feeding, reproduction and survivorship).

Identify any knowledge gaps that exist in current data.

4.2 Critical Habitats

If habitats are identified that are deemed as critical for the recovery and/or protection of a target cetacean population, the extent of these habitats and the purposes that they are used for should be outlined here.

4.3 Attributes of the Population to be Monitored

The ultimate success or failure of any CMP depends on improvements in the conservation status of the target population(s) – this can only be achieved by monitoring. Depending on the objectives of the CMP and the nature of the threats a population faces, a variety of candidate ‘attributes’ of the population can be considered for monitoring over time, to determine the success of the overall plan and/or individual actions and to amend the CMP where necessary.

This section should include a description of the attributes of the population that will be monitored (e.g.: abundance (relative and/or absolute), reproductive rates, survivorship, health, prey status, range) and an evaluation of the feasibility of detecting trends with current methods given that changes occur (e.g. using power analyses).

5. THREATS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND MONITORING

5.1 Identification of Threats

This section should provide a summary of the known or suspected threats (both direct and incidental) to the nominated cetacean population/critical habitat. This should be summarised in tabular form (such as that seen below) but should also include a discussion of each explaining the rationale behind the summary. Where appropriate, reference should be made to actions within the CMP. Note: the first five columns in the table will form part of the nomination process.

Table: Summary of actual and potential threats to the nominated population.

Actual/Potential Threat	Cause or related activity	Evidence	Possible Impact	Priority for Action	Relevant Actions	Party Responsible
Directly lethal threats						
<i>e.g. Entrapment in set nets</i>	<i>Set net fishing</i>	<i>Strong</i>	<i>Mortality +/- or serious injury</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>RES-01</i>	<i>Participating Range States</i>
<i>e.g. Entanglements in Other Types of Fishing Gear</i>						
Sub-lethal threats						
<i>e.g. Noise, pollution, etc.</i>						

5.2 Mitigation Measures and Monitoring

This section should include identified mitigation measures to address key threats and how the mitigation measures will be monitored. For example:

5.2.1 *Entrapment in Set Nets*

Undertake the following mitigation measures (MIT-01, 02, 03) and the following monitoring measures (MON-01, 02) to facilitate the conservation of species A in the area designated XYZ.

Undertake the following public awareness raising measures PACB-01, 02 to promote the conservation of species A in the area designated XYZ.

5.2.2 *Entanglements in Other Types of Fishing Gear*

6. ACTIONS

These form the key component of any CMP. While there may be overlap, these can generally be incorporated under the following categories:

- co-ordination (COORD);
- public awareness and capacity building (PACB);
- research essential for providing adequate management advice or filling in knowledge gaps (RES);
- monitoring (MON); and
- mitigation measures (MIT).

It is important that actions be realistic and effective. They should be well specified (usually 1-2 pages for each action) and generally include the following information, where relevant:

- (1) Description (including concise objective, threats to which relevant and how, rationale, target data or activity, method, implementation timeline);
- (2) Actors (responsible for implementation and relevant stakeholders);
- (3) Evaluation (actors responsible);
- (4) Priority (importance to the plan and feasibility);
- (5) Costs (where appropriate).

7. SUMMARY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS

Insert a tabular summary of all actions here, referring to the 1-2 page detailed summaries (see above). In addition, include here an implementation strategy or designate responsibility for developing and implementing an implementation strategy along with a Management Framework.

Outline how the actions will meet the short, medium or long term objectives of the plan.

7.1 **Stakeholder Engagement, Public Awareness and Education**

Insert here a strategy and information on stakeholder engagement, public awareness and any education activities that will be undertaken during the CMP implementation stage (e.g. via websites, meetings etc.).

7.2 Reporting Process

A CMP should be considered a living document and once the implementation stage begins, a process of reporting and review is essential to determine how well the CMP is meeting its overall objectives and implementation timelines and milestones.

Insert process for reporting on CMP progress to the IWC (including a timeframe).

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

As a CMP should be based upon best scientific knowledge and guided by the principles and practices of adaptive management, it is important for a CMP to identify any published works relevant to effective implementation of the plan.

Insert bibliography here.

9. APPENDICES

Insert additional background and contextual information in appendices. For example, the original CMP nomination could be supplied here.