



Doc.24.2.5 In-Water Interactions with Aquatic Mammals & Doc.24.4.5 Boat-based Wildlife Watching

CMS COP12 Regional Preparatory Workshop for Oceania

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MANILA PHILIPPINES

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Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals
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Doc.24.2.5 In-Water Interactions



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- At ScC-SC1, the Appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals brought the issue of “swim-with programmes” to the attention of the Council
- Doc.24.2.5 includes:
 - A report on the state of knowledge on the impacts of recreational in-water interaction with aquatic mammals, prepared as a collaborative effort by members of the Aquatic Mammals Working Group and external contributors and reviewers from both within and outside the CMS Family
 - a draft resolution
 - draft decisions



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- The report (Annex 1) concludes that:
 - “Swim-with programmes” are a fast-growing phenomenon worldwide and are likely to bring widespread disturbance to aquatic mammals, with potentially serious conservation consequences
 - The growth has outpaced science and policy
 - Concerns come from governments, environmental organizations and the industry itself
 - Sustainable regulation and management is required quickly before unsustainable practices become firmly established in many places



Doc.24.2.5 In-Water Interactions

- Draft Resolution (Annex 2):
 - Gives recognition to this threat to aquatic mammals
 - Urges the adoption of appropriate national measures to regulate such activities
 - Calls for research on effects and significance of these disturbances
- Draft Decisions (Annex 3):
 - Gather information on existing national legislation
 - Council to develop guidelines and recommended code of conduct for operators
 - Consider combining marine tourism work streams in coming intersessional period



Doc.24.4.5 Boat-based Wildlife Watching



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- CMS Resolution 11.29 requested the Scientific Council to develop guidelines on marine boat-based wildlife watching for different taxonomic groups
- Doc.24.4.5 contains:
 - Annex 1: Res.11.29 (Rev.COP12), amended to adopt the guidelines
 - Proposed new text is underlined
 - Text to be deleted is ~~crossed-out~~
 - Existing, already adopted, text should not be renegotiated
 - Annex 2: guidelines
 - Annex 3: draft decisions



Doc.24.4.5 Boat-based Wildlife Watching

- The guidelines (Annex 2) cover:
 - General considerations concerning boat-based wildlife watching, including the need for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), considerations about vessels, licensing/permits and other matters
 - Species-specific considerations for developing national guidelines for boat-based wildlife watching focusing on sirenians, pinnipeds, elasmobranchs, seabirds and marine turtles
 - Each species chapter outlines the specific risks, describes early indicators of disturbance, factors to consider, management considerations, guidelines and suggested thresholds
- The guidelines do not cover in-water interactions, such as “swim-with” or “dive-with” activities



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- Draft Decisions (Annex 3):
 - Gather information on existing national legislation
 - Consider combining marine tourism work streams in coming intersessional period
 - Collaborate with the International Whaling Commission to develop a joint IWC-CMS Whale Watching Handbook (to cover all cetacean watching from vessels)



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