



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Secretariat provided by the United Nations Environment Programme



16TH MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Bonn, Germany, 28-30 June, 2010

UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.11

Agenda Item 13.3b

FOLLOW-UP OF CMS RESOLUTION 9.09 ON MIGRATORY MARINE SPECIES

(Prepared by the CMS Secretariat)

1. The Resolution on Migratory Marine Species adopted at the 9th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CMS in December 2008 (Resolution 9.09) calls for various actions from both the CMS Secretariat and the Scientific Council.
2. The Resolution was passed due to the concern of Parties that marine species such as cetaceans, marine turtles, seabirds and migratory fish face a variety of threats that put cumulative and often synergistic pressure on the populations. Of particular concern in this respect are the environmental changes to the Arctic region due to climate change, which can have grave consequences for migratory marine species occurring there.

Secretariat Actions

3. Resolution 9.09 (para. 2) endorses the Revised Secretariat Programme to Implement CMS Resolution 8.22: Human-Induced Impacts on Cetaceans. The work to finalize the *Programme of Work for Cetaceans* is ongoing in collaboration with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCCS). Significant progress has been made on the substantive areas of the report including:
 - a) A summary of regions and listed impacts;
 - b) A review of the extent to which CMS and CMS cetacean-related Agreements are addressing listed impacts, including ship strikes, through their threat abatement activities; and
 - c) A review of the extent to which IMO, IWC SC and CC, OSPAR, UNICPOLOS and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme are addressing listed impacts, including ship strikes, through their threat abatement activities.
4. The final stage of the review and the draft *Programme of Work for Cetaceans* will be completed in the second half of 2010, including an analysis of listed impacts and threat abatement that will be sent to IMO, IWC SC and CC, OSPAR, UNICPOLOS and UNEP for their individual input and comment. The review and draft *Programme of Work for Cetaceans* will then go to the CMS Standing Committee for consideration.
5. Paragraph 3 suggests that linkages and synergies are increased within the CMS Family by, among other things, promoting joint priorities and sharing of technical expertise. It is worth noting in this respect that the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of

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the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) at their last Meeting (MOP6, 16-18 September 2009, Bonn, Germany) decided on by-catch and disturbance by noise as strategic priorities for the Agreement in the current triennium (2010-2012).

6. Both issues harmonise well with the priorities for marine conservation which the Parties to CMS have set through Resolution 9.18 on By-Catch and Resolution 9.19 on Ocean Noise Impacts. These issues are also seen as priorities for the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Areas (ACCOBAMS). The Secretariat team responsible for supporting the implementation of these Resolutions and gathering of relevant information from Parties and partners also services the ASCOBANS Secretariat as well as the two cetacean-related MoUs (Pacific Cetaceans MoU and Western African Aquatic Mammals MoU), thereby guaranteeing an optimal flow of information. A regular dialogue with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat is also maintained. UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.12 provides more detail on possible synergies with respect to the work on marine noise carried out under CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS.

7. ASCOBANS sees outreach and education as key tools for promoting the conservation objectives of the Agreement and ensuring the support of the public and special interest groups, such as fishermen. The ASCOBANS Secretariat team already collaborates with the CMS Information Unit in this respect.

8. Some further consideration will be given to avenues for increasing the sharing of technical expertise between the marine mammal Agreements and MoUs.

9. In order to aid the Council in its task (para. 4 (c)) to review the latest available information on the current and predicted conservation status, in relation to the possible consequences of climate change, of all Arctic migratory marine species listed in the CMS Appendices, the Secretariat has made an attempt to extract this information for the use of the Council (Annex 1). In the case of some bird species, for example the members of the genus *Gavia*, the available information did not allow a conclusive result whether or not they occur also in coastal regions and should thus be included in the list. Guidance from the Council on how to amend the list is welcome.

10. Once the list in Annex 1 is approved, the Secretariat will approach GRID Arendal, CAFF and other relevant bodies to gather information on the current and predicted conservation status of these species. Advice of partner organizations will also be sought on the need for listing additional Arctic migratory marine species on the CMS Appendices. This information will be made available to the Council.

11. More information on climate change impacts as a threat to migratory species is also contained in UNEP/CMS/ScC16/Doc.8.

Scientific Council Actions

12. Resolution 9.09 (para. 1) urges the Scientific Council to identify priority issues, species and habitats in the marine sphere requiring intervention by CMS in the next decade, such as listing on the CMS Appendices, selecting for concerted or cooperative action, the conclusion of new agreements and the development of specific action plans.

13. A good starting point for such an assessment may be the review of climate change vulnerability of migratory species carried out by the Zoological Society of London, which is tabled under item 8 of the agenda. The marine species included in this desk study include 6 marine turtle, 9 cetacean, 2 other marine mammal, 4 fish and 7 bird species.

14. Further, the Council may wish to consult the recently published 2010 edition of Prof. Boris Culik's Review of Toothed Whales (available online at http://www.cms.int/reports/small_cetaceans/index.htm), which includes the most recent scientific findings on the distribution, migration, behaviour and threats to this group of cetaceans, as well as recommendations which additional species or populations should be considered for listing on the CMS Appendices.

15. Resolution 9.09 (para. 2) details through Annex 1, *Revised Secretariat programme to Implement CMS Resolution 8.22: Adverse Human-Induced Impacts on Cetaceans*, a timeline of work between the Secretariat and the Scientific Council. Although further delays have been incurred, this work is now foreseen to be completed in the second half of 2010. The Council is requested to nominate Councillors who wish to be involved in this work as it goes forward.

16. The following additional activities are requested of the Scientific Council in Resolution 9.09 (para. 4):

- a) Commencing work towards the species priorities identified in Resolution 9.02, which include sharks, sturgeons, Pacific marine turtles and cetaceans in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.
- b) Seeking avenues for research and dialogue with other relevant organizations and bodies, such as the CBD, UNEP, UNFCCC, FAO, RFMOs and other fisheries-related bodies, the IWC and, with respect to Arctic marine species, CAFF. Issues of common interest and thus opportunities for collaboration should be identified and dialogue intensified.
- c) Reviewing the latest available information on the current and predicted conservation status, in relation to the possible consequences of climate change, of all Arctic migratory marine species listed in the CMS Appendices.
- d) Considering whether additional Arctic migratory marine species might warrant listing on the CMS appendices.
- e) Considering existing initiatives and research relating to ongoing conservation efforts for marine migratory species, such as the establishment of ecologically representative marine protected area networks and an integrated approach to coastal and marine management.
- f) Facilitating the review of existing data on southern populations of shark species to assist Parties with listing proposals to be submitted to CMS COP10 and further COPs.
- g) Reporting the findings with respect to Arctic migratory marine species to the 10th Conference of the Parties.

Action requested:

- (a) Review the list of Arctic migratory marine species listed in the CMS Appendices (Annex 1) and provide guidance on any necessary amendments.
- (b) Identify marine priority issues, species and habitats for intervention by CMS in the next decade, including the possible listing of additional Arctic and other migratory marine species on the CMS Appendices.

- (c) Decide how to facilitate intersessional work on the issues identified above in preparation of the 17th Scientific Council Meeting and the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties.
- (d) Nominate Councillors to share in the completion of the work under CMS Resolution 8.22: Adverse Human-Induced Impacts on Cetaceans.

**LIST OF MARINE/COASTAL SPECIES ON THE CMS APPENDICES
WITH AT LEAST PART OF THEIR RANGE WITHIN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE**

Cetaceans

- *Balaena mysticetus*, Bowhead whale
- *Balaenoptera borealis*, Sei Whale
- *Balaenoptera musculus*, Blue whale
- *Balaenoptera physalus*, Fin whale
- *Delphinapterus leucas*, Beluga
- *Globicephala meals*, Long-finned pilot whale
- *Hyperoodon ampullatus*, Northern Bottlenose whale
- *Lagenorhynchus acutus*, Atlantic White-sided dolphin
- *Lagenorhynchus albirostris*, White-beaked dolphin
- *Megaptera novaeangliae*, Humpback whale
- *Monodon monoceros*, Narwhal
- *Orcinus orca*, Killer whale
- *Phocoena phocoena*, Harbour porpoise
- *Physeter macrocephalus*, Sperm whale

Seals

- *Phoca vitulina*, Harbour seal
- *Halichoerus grypus*, Grey seal

Birds

- *Branta bernicla*, Brent goose
- *Bucephala clangula*, Common goldeneye
- *Calidris alba*, Sanderling
- *Calidris alpina*, Dunlin
- *Calidris canutus*, Red knot
- *Calidris ferruginea*, Curlew sandpiper
- *Calidris maritima*, Purple sandpiper
- *Calidris minuta*, Little stint
- *Calidris temminckii*, Temminck's stint
- *Calidris tenuirostris*, Great knot
- *Clangula hyemalis*, Long-tailed duck
- *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, Spoon-billed sandpiper
- *Haliaeetus albicilla*, White-tailed eagle
- *Melanitta nigra*, Common scoter
- *Mergus merganser*, Gooseander, Common merganser
- *Mergus serrator*, Red-breasted merganser
- *Numenius borealis*, Eskimo curlew
- *Phalaropus fulicarius*, Grey phalarope
- *Polysticta stelleri*, Steller's eider
- *Somateria mollissima*, Common eider
- *Somateria spectabilis*, King eider
- *Sterna albifrons*, Little tern

- *Sterna paradisaea*, Arctic tern
- *Tringa erythropus*, Spotted redshank
- *Tringa glareola*, Wood sandpiper
- *Tringa nebularia*, Common greenshank
- *Tringa totanus*, Common redshank

Fish

- *Cetorhinus maximus*, Basking shark
- *Lamna nasus*, Porbeagle
- *Squalus acanthias*, Spiny dogfish