



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

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ScC-SC6 CRP 9.2.1/Rev.1

EFFECTS OF MARINE POLLUTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

(Prepared by the COP-appointed Councillor for Marine Pollution and the Secretariat)

Summary:

As requested by ScC-SC5, the COP-appointed Councillor for Marine Pollution has prepared a paper entitled 'Migratory species and marine pollution: a brief overview of issues'. This document provides a summary of the paper, and presents draft Decisions for consideration by COP14.

EFFECTS OF MARINE POLLUTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Background

1. Following the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13), there were five Resolutions in effect that relate to marine pollution:
 - Resolution [13.5](#) *Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife*
 - Resolution [12.20](#) *Management of Marine Debris*
 - Resolution [12.14](#) *Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and other Migratory Species*
 - Resolution [10.15 \(Rev.COP12\)](#) *Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans*
 - Resolution [7.3 \(Rev.COP12\)](#) *Oil Pollution and Migratory Species*
2. COP13 established the new position of COP-appointed Councillor for Marine Pollution. At its 5th meeting in 2021, the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council agreed a work programme on marine pollution which would include: “Preparation of a document with appropriate background information and [...] draft decisions for further work [...] focused on the following: marine debris (including fish aggregating devices (FADs)), evidence of the effects of persistent organic pollutants on marine migratory species, and nutrient pollution”.
3. The issue of FADs is presented in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.1.2](#). This document provides a summary of a report that was prepared to address the other areas related to marine pollution under the Scientific Council’s work programme as described above. The report, entitled ‘Migratory species and marine pollution: a brief overview of issues’, can be found in Annex 1 of this document.
4. Also of relevance to this topic is a new report: [Best Available Technology \(BAT\) and Best Environmental Practice \(BEP\) for Mitigating Three Noise Sources: Shipping, Seismic Airgun Surveys, and Pile Driving](#), Weilgart L (2023), CMS Technical Series No. 46. The report was launched on World Oceans Day, 8 June 2023.

Discussion and analysis

5. The report, ‘Migratory species and marine pollution: a brief overview of issues’, provides a brief introduction to the variety of types of marine pollution affecting marine wildlife, with particular reference to marine debris, persistent organic pollutants and nutrients.
6. The report is intended to help identify potential future work on pollution by the Convention. It includes brief consideration of the main sources of pollution, work conducted to date by CMS, and the role of other international bodies that seek to directly manage pollution and how CMS might effectively complement this.
7. The report covers the types of pollution identified in the Scientific Council mandate, as well as some other categories, in anticipation of a wider discussion about where CMS might best focus its efforts and how it could most effectively address these issues.
8. The primary role of CMS in addressing marine pollution is to complement the actions by other international bodies that deal directly with source reduction or, in some cases, the control of the release of pollution. Draft Decisions contained in Annex 2, propose such complementary actions for CMS Parties, the Scientific Council and the Secretariat.

Recommended actions

9. The Conference of the Parties is recommended to:
 - a) take note of the report contained in Annex 1 of this document;
 - b) adopt the draft Decisions contained in Annex 2 of this document.

MIGRATORY SPECIES AND MARINE POLLUTION: A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF ISSUES

NB: The annex is presented in a separate file [here](#)

DRAFT DECISIONS

MARINE POLLUTION

Directed to Parties

14.AA Parties are requested to:

- a) When developing conservation plans for migratory marine species, integrate the need to address the threats of marine pollution, by
 - i. considering ~~pollution-induced threats to~~ the survival, health and welfare of the taxa concerned, including effects on reproduction;
 - ii. ~~helping to describe~~ing and publicizeing the threats ~~from pollution to~~ affected populations, species and their habitats ~~(thereby increasing knowledge and encouraging appropriate actions to address and mitigate pollution, including at source);~~ and
 - iii. developing ~~science-based~~ actions to address ~~pollution~~ threats ~~that take~~ing account of feeding, breeding and migratory grounds;
- b) Identify habitats and populations affected by chronic pollution threats, for example from legacy pollutants, and identify actions to mitigate such threats;
- c) Set up rapid-response systems to effectively deal with acute pollution problems, such as a chemical, oil or plastic pellet spills;
- d) Report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing the Decision.

Directed to the Scientific Council

14.BB The Scientific Council shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) Identify priority forms of pollution affecting CMS-listed marine species and dDevelop a review of these se threats ~~from all forms of pollution to CMS-listed marine species,~~ including cumulative impacts, and identify localities where marine pollution and migratory marine species significantly intersect;
- b) Hold an expert workshop to identify priority species, populations and habitats for immediate action, based on findings of the review, and develop recommendations for consideration by ScC-SC8.
- b)c) In support of the workshop outlined in 14.BB b), establish a steering group of appropriate experts to guide the focus, agenda and other modalities of the workshop.

Directed to the Secretariat

14.CC The Secretariat shall, subject to the availability of external resources:

- a) Support the Scientific Council in developing the review, ~~and in~~ convening the associated workshop and establishing the steering group foreseen in Decision 14.BB;
- b) Seek enhanced cooperation and coordination with other UN bodies and multilateral environmental agreements, including bodies that will be set up under the jurisdiction

of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) and the international plastics treaty currently being negotiated.