**MARINE NOISE**

UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.2.2/Rev.2

*(Prepared by the Aquatic Species WG and the COW)*

DRAFT DECISIONS

**MARINE NOISE**

***Directed to Parties***

14.AA Parties are requested to:

1. disseminate the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities* to all national departments involved in deciding on noise-generating activities and encourage their application;
2. through the Secretariat, inform the Scientific Council at the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee about experiences and lessons learned in the application of these Guidelines, and the need for additional guidance on assessment and mitigation of marine noise;
3. support the Secretariat in securing the external expertise required to update the Technical Support Information, prepare a gap analysis and identify further needed guidance, as well as to develop a report on available information on the impact of noise and the potential need for guidance regarding freshwater cetacean species;
4. make use of Technical Series No. 46 *Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BET) for Mitigating Three Noise Sources: Shipping, Seismic Airgun Surveys and Pile Driving* and bring it to the attention of appropriate regulatory bodies concerned with marine spatial planning and licencing processes relating to underwater noise-generating activities;
5. provide information on the implementation of Resolution 12.14 through National Reports.

***Directed to the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS***

14.BB The Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:

1. provide a peer review of the updated *Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities*;
2. prepare a gap analysis of guidance available from CMS and other forums and identify where further guidance is needed on mitigation of the effects of marine noise in order to address the needs of migratory species and their prey;
3. prepare a report on the state of knowledge of noise impacts and noise mitigation measures for CMS-listed freshwater mammal species and assess the need for specific guidance for freshwater habitats;
4. report to the Scientific Council at the 8th meeting of its Sessional Committee on the progress in implementing this Decision.

***Directed to the Scientific Council***

14.CC The Scientific Council is requested to:

1. provide advice to the Secretariat and Joint Noise Working Group as to where to focus efforts to support the implementation of mitigation measures;
2. provide advice on the future role of the Convention to ensure timely and effective guidance continues to be given to governments and other stakeholders, making use of and building upon related work in other forums;
3. consider the recommendations of the Joint Noise Working Group regarding the need for the development of further guidance on mitigation of the effects of marine noise, including on specific guidance regarding freshwater cetacean species, and facilitate their development accordingly, with a view to presenting any outputs to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
4. subject to the availability of external resources, in collaboration with the Joint Noise Working Group, and, where relevant, with competent national authorities, assess the application and effectiveness of existing guidance regarding impact of military sonar and other sound sources generated by military activities on migratory species and to investigate whether further guidelines may be needed to address and mitigate these impacts.

***Directed to the Secretariat***

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

1. share Technical Series No. 46 *Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Environmental Practice (BET) for Mitigating Three Noise Sources: Shipping, Seismic Airgun Surveys and Pile Driving* with other appropriate regional and international organizations to strengthen collaborative efforts to reduce underwater noise emissions;
2. facilitate an update of the *Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities*;
3. publish the updated *Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities* as a Technical Series to make it easily accessible to Parties and other stakeholders;
4. in collaboration with the Joint Noise Working Group, continue providing up-to-date information on the CMS website on marine noise to assist Parties and other stakeholders in effective mitigation of impacts of underwater noise on marine species;
5. support the Joint Noise Working Group in developing the requested reports and any further guidance on mitigation of the effects of marine noise, as required;
6. request information from Parties about experiences and lessons learned in the application of the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities*, and the need for additional guidance on assessment and mitigation of marine noise, in time for consideration by the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council.