



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP13/Doc.28.1.3

19 September 2019

Original: English

13th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Gandhinagar, India, 17 - 22 February 2020
Agenda Item 28.1

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONCERTED ACTION
FOR THE
ATLANTIC HUMPBACK DOLPHIN (*Sousa teuszii*)***

Summary:

Sea Shepherd Legal has submitted the attached report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*), UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 12.3.

*The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CMS Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CONCERTED ACTION
FOR THE ATLANTIC HUMPBAC DOLPHIN (*Sousa teuszii*)**

UNEP/CMS/ CONCERTED ACTION 12.3

1. CONCERTED ACTION

Title: Concerted Action for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (*Sousa teuszii*)

Document number: UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 12.3

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 12th Meeting (Manila, October 2017).

2. REPORTING ORGANIZATION: SEA SHEPHERD LEGAL (SSL)

Sea Shepherd Legal (SSL) is a nonprofit, public interest, environmental law firm committed to saving marine wildlife by enforcing, strengthening, and developing protective laws, treaties, policies and practices worldwide. The SSL team consists of multiple attorneys supported by allies including scientific advisors, investigators, law school environmental programs, and government officials. We work together to effectively protect marine wildlife and habitats across the globe.

SSL works on a multitude of projects in furtherance of its mission. Key focus areas that are particularly relevant to this proposal include enhancing regulatory protections for marine species and habitats, combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and reducing bycatch.

3. TARGET SPECIES

Class: Mammalia

Order: Cetartiodactyla

Infra-Order: Cetacea

Family: Delphinidae

Genus: *Sousa*

Species: *Sousa teuszii*

4. PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES

Identify inconsistencies in the level of protection ensured by different Range States

SSL has been conducting a legislation gap analysis for confirmed Range States. To date, SSL has reviewed the laws in eight Range States (Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal, and Togo) in four specified legal categories (Wildlife, Fisheries, Marine Conservation, Maritime Jurisdiction) – looking for laws that were potentially protective of Atlantic Humpback Dolphins or that were at least relevant to their management by the Range States. Based upon this research, SSL is finalizing a country report for Gabon assessing the protectiveness of the current legal regime with regard to Atlantic Humpback Dolphins and providing recommendations for addressing identified potential gaps in coverage.

Encourage Range States to implement a ban on targeted fishing

SSL's planned work implementing this element of the Concerted Action is principally planned to be conducted in connection with the Conservation Policy Meeting of Range States (TBA). However, in conjunction with its March 2019 workshop in Gabon, SSL discussed the risks facing the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin with Gabonese national parks (ANPN) personnel and other government officials. During the workshop, SSL also presented about the importance of saving this dolphin. Of note, several management plans for Gabon's new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) disclose that the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin is present within the MPA boundaries – with estimates of the local

population at around 200. In those plans, Gabon recognizes its responsibility for managing an important segment of the overall population as well as the transboundary threats facing the species on Gabonese/Congolese border.

Delays or Difficulties in Implementation

SSL has compiled a large volume of translated laws from the French-speaking Range States that still needs to be incorporated into country reports. While a considerable amount of work remains to be completed, SSL is presently working to increase its capacity by adding additional personnel to assist in a timely completion of the country reports.

5. CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL CONCERTED ACTION (IF ANY)

At this time, SSL is not aware of any significant changes to the original Concerted Action for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin.

6. REFERENCES (if any).

7. ACTION

SSL recommends to the Parties that they renew the Concerted Action for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin. A number of important activities remain to be completed, including the legal gap analysis, the formation of a Steering Committee among stakeholders (governmental, NGO, Secretariat) of the Range States of the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin, and the convening of a Conservation Policy Meeting of Range States. Accordingly, the Concerted Action should be extended into the following triennium to accommodate this significant ongoing work.