



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

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THIRD MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS AND THEIR
HABITATS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION
Noumea, New Caledonia, 8 September 2012
Agenda Item 6.1

CMS RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING THE 10TH CMS CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES RELATED TO CETACEANS AND THEIR HABITATS IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

(prepared by the Secretariat)

1. In November 2011 the 10th CMS Conference of the Parties adopted a number of Resolutions of relevance or interest to the Pacific Cetaceans MOU. A brief discussion of each of provided for the benefit of Signatories.

Resolution 10.4: Marine Debris

2. [Resolution 10.4](#) highlights the negative impacts of marine debris on migratory species, caused by ingestion, entanglement and habitat degradation. CMS Parties are called upon to identify hotspots where marine debris accumulates and originates in each country and region, and collaborate to assess the impacts. They are encouraged to develop and implement national plans of action to address this problem, and to report available information on the amounts, impacts and sources of marine debris within their waters in their national reports. The CMS Scientific Council will identify knowledge gaps and best practice waste management strategies on ships and determine the need for the improvement or development of codes of conduct. The Secretariat will assist with collating information on the subject, also from other agreements.

Resolution 10.8: Cooperation between the Inter-governmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and CMS

3. [Resolution 10.8](#) recognizes the need for regular and thematic assessments of the status of biodiversity to provide decision-makers with the necessary information basis for adaptive management, and to promote the necessary political will for action addressing biodiversity loss in general and the loss of migratory species in particular. CMS Parties and Scientific Councillors are urged to communicate and liaise regularly with the national representatives in the IPBES to ensure that the needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species, especially those listed under CMS, are being adequately addressed by IPBES. The CMS Scientific Council is requested to undertake a review of needs and opportunities for improving the interface between science and policy in relation to the conservation and

sustainable use of migratory species, including the use of scientific assessments, and the potential role of migratory species as indicators of wider ecological change. The Scientific Council is requested to participate in relevant processes of IPBES, in collaboration with the scientific advisory bodies of other MEAs as appropriate.

Resolution 10.14: Bycatch of CMS-listed Species in Gillnet Fisheries

4. Prior to CMS COP10, an assessment of bycatch in gillnet fisheries was commissioned by CMS and conducted by Sextant Technology Ltd. from New Zealand. One of the findings was that gillnet fisheries are in fact too poorly documented for a detailed analysis to be produced or recommendations made. The study identified the twenty worst affected areas, as well as the forty species most exposed to risk from gillnet fishing. These included sea birds as well as cetaceans and sirenians, seals, sea otters, sea turtles and sharks. The assessment concluded that further research was urgently needed to be able to design effective mitigation measures and prioritize their implementation.

5. [Resolution 10.14: Bycatch of CMS-listed Species in Gillnet Fisheries](#) recognizes the magnitudes of the impact of gillnet fisheries and calls on CMS Parties to assess the risk of bycatch for migratory species in their territorial waters, and to identify and improve mitigation measures. The CMS Scientific Council is instructed to develop terms of reference for studies identifying the degree of interaction between gillnet fisheries and CMS-listed species. The Scientific Council is further called to identify the most effective mitigation techniques for each particular set of circumstances, which should build upon and complement existing initiatives within the fisheries sector. This information will be reviewed regularly in order to evaluate effectiveness and any effects on other taxa.

Resolution 10.19: Migratory Species Conservation in the Light of Climate Change

6. [Resolution 10.19](#) provides the building blocks for a new action plan for the next triennium. Areas where action is required under Resolution 10.19 include adaptation and mitigation, with Parties, non-Parties and other stakeholders called upon to further strengthen synergies in order to tackle the threat that climate change poses for animals on the move. CMS National Focal Points and the Scientific Councillors are requested to work closely with the UNFCCC Focal Points to address the needs of migratory species and to ensure that these are integrated into the national UNFCCC implementation. CMS is now preparing an action plan on climate change for the Convention, which will be led by Prof. Colin Galbraith, who was chosen for the new position of Appointed Councillor for Climate Change and is chairing the related Working Group under the Scientific Council.

Resolution 10.24: Further Steps to Abate Underwater Noise Pollution for the Protection of Cetaceans and Other Biota

7. [Resolution 10.24](#) reaffirms that there is a need for ongoing and further internationally coordinated research on the impact of underwater noise (including inter alia from offshore wind farms and associated shipping) on cetaceans, other migratory species and including their migratory routes and ecological coherence. The Resolution confirms the need for international, national and regional limitation of harmful underwater noise through management (including, where necessary, regulation). CMS Parties are urged to prevent adverse effects on cetaceans and on other migratory marine species and to develop appropriate regulatory frameworks or implement relevant measures to ensure a reduction or mitigation of man-made underwater noise. Environmental Impact Assessments are to take

full account of the effects of activities on cetaceans and to consider potential impacts on marine biota and their migration routes. The Resolution further recommends that CMS Parties use, as appropriate, noise reduction techniques for offshore activities and integrate the issue of anthropogenic noise into the management plans of marine protected areas where appropriate. The Secretariat is instructed to draw this Resolution to the attention of the governing bodies of the CBD, UNCLOS, UNEP (Regional Seas Programmes, Governing Council), IMO and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, and to keep those bodies informed of progress in implementing this Resolution.

Other Resolutions

8. Further information on CMS COP 10 resolutions can be found in the following documents to this meeting;

- *CMS/PIC/MOS3/Doc.6.2: The Role of Ecological Networks for Conserving Cetacean Habitat in the Pacific Islands Region* provides further information and recommendations on CMS Resolution 10.3: The Role of Ecological Networks in the Conservation of Migratory Species.
- *CMS/PIC/MOS3/Doc.6.3: Coordinating the Technical Work of CMS and the Pacific Cetaceans MOU* provides further information and recommendations on CMS Resolution 10.23: Concerted and Cooperative Actions and the cetacean species listed in this resolution, as well as Resolution 10.15: Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans which provides detail for Signatories to consider.

Action requested:

The Signatories, and where appropriate other meeting participants, are requested to *inter alia*:

- Take note of the Secretariat's report.
- Discuss, if appropriate, the relevance of any of the highlighted CMS COP10 Resolutions for consideration by the MOU, and instruct the Secretariat or Technical Advisory Group accordingly.