

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

RECREATIONAL IN-WATER INTERACTION WITH AQUATIC MAMMALS
UNEP/CMS/COP12/DOC.24.2.5

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- Council agrees this is an emerging issue, important that it is brought to the attention of Parties.
- With reference to paragraph 41 of the report (Annex 1), in addition, it should be noted that the ACCOBAMS High Quality Whale Watching label is only given to operators that don't offer in-water interactions.
- Potential gap: swim-with programmes operating in international waters.
- The spreadsheet gathering information on such programmes should be updated as information becomes available.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

- Page 17, Resolution: 1st preambular paragraph:
 - Add clarification that scope of resolution refers to non-captive animals in wild settings.
- Page 19, Decision, paragraph 12.CC.
 - Include instructions for the Secretariat to facilitate the diffusion and updating of the database on in-water interactions developed by the Aquatic Mammals Working Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

- Recommended for adoption.