

Notification 2020/011

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24 August 2020

## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE SAFE AND HUMANE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF BYCAUGHT SMALL CETACEANS FROM FISHING GEAR**

The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS) is pleased to announce the publication of issue No. 43 of the CMS Technical Series: *Guidelines for the safe and humane handling and release of bycaught small cetaceans from fishing gear*, at present available in English only.

It can be accessed on the CMS website under <https://www.cms.int/en/publications/technical-series>.

These Guidelines have been financed by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) specifically with the intention of supporting initiatives to address cetacean bycatch, including those by CMS, its associated regional agreements, [ASCOBANS](#) (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas) and [ACCOBAMS](#) (Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area), and the International Whaling Commission ([IWC](#)). They are intended to help fisheries managers at any level, as well as others working with fisheries, to improve sustainability with best-practice methodology on the safe and humane handling and release of small cetaceans accidentally caught in fishing gear. As such, they serve to support the implementation of [Resolution 12.22 Bycatch](#).

Experts associated with the CMS Scientific Council, the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee and the IWC Scientific Committee have peer-reviewed the publication. An earlier version had been published as UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.29.

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