

Notification 2022/013

12 September 2022

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

DECISIONS RELATED TO AQUATIC SPECIES FOR POTENTIAL ACTION BY PARTIES

With reference to [Decisions](#) from the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to CMS, the Secretariat wishes to highlight the following Decisions related to aquatic species. Each of these is directed to Parties for potential action:

Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs)

- Decision 13.56 a): Parties may request support from the Scientific Council to make use of the identified IMMAs posted on the [website](#) of the IUCN Joint SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force.
- Decision 13.57 b): Parties are encouraged to support scientific research about the habitats of marine mammals and other migratory species on the high seas.

Dugongs

- Decision 13.56 c): Parties may request advice from the Scientific Council on the scientific merits of including regional populations of Dugong dugon on Appendix I of CMS.

Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise

- Decision 13.58 a): Disseminate the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities* annexed to [Resolution 12.14](#) to all national departments involved in deciding on noise-generating activities.
- Decision 13.58 b): Parties are requested to inform the Scientific Council about experiences and lessons-learned in the application of the *CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities* (annexed to [Resolution 12.14](#)), and the need for additional guidance on assessment and mitigation of marine noise.

Bycatch

- Decision 13.61: Parties that manage fisheries with identified marine mammal bycatch problems are urged to implement effective bycatch mitigation measures for marine mammals, and to this end, may wish to consult the following guidance:
 - the Hamilton and Baker (2019) assessment, available as [UNEP/CMS/COP13/Inf.11](#)
 - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Technical [Guidelines to reduce bycatch of marine mammals in capture fisheries](#), and

<http://www.cms.int/en/news/notifications>

- the Leaper and Calderan (2018) study of methods used to reduce risks of cetacean bycatch and entanglements ([CMS Technical Series Publication No. 38](#)).
- Decision 13.63 a) i): Parties may request the Secretariat to commission national or regional reviews to determine relative levels of bycatch of all CMS-listed marine species in commercial and artisanal fisheries.
- Decision 13.63 a) ii): Parties may request the Secretariat to identify and prioritize fisheries and areas in which adverse impacts of bycatch are highest for CMS-listed marine species.
- Decision 13.63 a) iii): Parties may request the Secretariat to organize regional workshops to identify appropriate bycatch mitigation measures for fisheries of highest priority.

Chondrichthyan Species (Sharks, Rays, Skates and Chimaeras)

- Decision 13.73 b): Parties may request the Secretariat to provide technical support to assist Parties in drafting adequate national legislation to support the implementation of Article III (5) of the Convention regarding the prohibition of the taking of Appendix I-listed chondrichthyan species.

Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes

- Decision 13.74 a): Parties are requested to submit information on the implementation of the *Best Practice Guidelines relating to the Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes* (annexed to [Resolution 11.22 \(Rev.COP12\)](#)) via the National Report process.
- Decision 13.74 b): Parties may request the Secretariat to provide assistance to Parties to amend their national legislation, in line with recommendations contained in the *Best Practice Guidelines relating to the Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes*.

Conservation and Management of Whales and Their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region

- Decision 13.85: Parties are requested to report on progress in implementing the [Action Plan for the Protection and Conservation of South Atlantic Whales](#), including monitoring and efficacy of measures taken, to the Conference of the Parties at each of its meetings.

Kindly note that requests for technical support, for example, can be made at any point.

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