

ADDENDUM 1**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS**

(arising from ScC-SC8)

**PROPOSAL FOR A CONCERTED ACTION FOR
LAHILLE'S BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN [TONINA OR BOTO]
(*Tursiops truncatus gephyreus*)
ALREADY LISTED ON APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION**

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.31.3.8

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP15

The Scientific Council recommends to adopt the proposal for a Concerted Action for the Lahille's bottlenose dolphin.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) noted that it has been engaged in the development of this Concerted Action and fully supported the proposal. They welcomed ongoing collaboration between the IWC, CMS, Range States and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the IWC Conservation Management Plan for Lahille's, which is now moving into its implementation phase, and the proposed CMS Concerted Action work together in a fully complementary and harmonised way, to avoid duplication and maximise effectiveness for the conservation of the subspecies.

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Cetacean Specialist Group stated that, like the Franciscana, the endangered Lahille's subspecies of bottlenose dolphin is also considered by the IUCN SSC Cetacean Specialist Group to be a priority species for conservation action. It is the subject of the first formal collaboration between the IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group and the IWC to apply CPSG planning processes and principles to a species or population that is the subject of an IWC CMP. This collaboration should support the objectives of the Concerted Action, and again foster greater synergy between the CMS, IWC and IUCN.

The COP-appointed Councillor for Marine Pollution thanked the proponents and expressed his strong support for the proposal. In addition, he noted that – as is regrettably all too typical for many populations of dolphins and porpoises living in coastal areas around the world – high levels of persistent pollution are reported in the tissues of these animals, including PCBs. In this case, reported levels are high enough to be compromising the health of the animals including their reproduction. This is touched on in the proposal, but the Councillor encouraged that in order to ensure the recovery of this subspecies, more attention should be paid to this important factor that is impairing their survival.