



**AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION  
OF SMALL CETACEANS OF THE  
BALTIC, NORTH EAST ATLANTIC,  
IRISH AND NORTH SEAS**

ASCOBANS/AC30/Doc.1.2b/Rev.1

28 August 2026

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30<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Bonn, Germany, 1–3 September 2026  
Agenda Item 1.2

**PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND SCHEDULE**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat)*

Revision 1 adds and amends description under agenda items 3.1 *Bycatch*, 3.2 *Resource Depletion*, and 3.4 *Surveys and Research*, and updates document references where applicable.



# SCHEDULE FOR ASCOBANS AC30

| Time CEST   | Tuesday, 1 September 2026                                                                                                                                                                                               | Wednesday, 2 September 2026                                                                                                                                                            | Thursday, 3 September 2026                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:30-11:00 | 1. Opening of the Meeting<br>1.1. Welcoming Remarks<br>1.2. Adoption of the Agenda<br>1.3. Rules of Procedure<br>2. Opening of the Scientific Session<br>3. Topics included in National Reports<br>3.1. Bycatch         | 4.4. Lesser-known Species<br>5. Hunting of Cetaceans<br>5.1. Drive hunt in the Faroe Islands<br>5.2. ASCOBANS Position on Use of Data Derived from Deliberately Killed Small Cetaceans | 12. Adoption of the Action Points, Recommendations, and Decisions from the Scientific Session (cont.)<br>13. Close of the Scientific Session                                                      |
| 11:00       | Break 30min                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Break 30min                                                                                                                                                                            | Break 30min                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 11:30-13:00 | 3.1. Bycatch (cont.)<br>3.2. Resource Depletion<br>3.3. Marine Debris                                                                                                                                                   | 6. Species Action Plans<br>6.1. Jastarnia Plan<br>6.2. Western Baltic Conservation Plan<br>6.3. North Sea Plan<br>6.4. Common Dolphin SAP                                              | 14. Opening of the Institutional Session<br>15. Status of Accession and Acceptance of the Agreement's Amendment<br>16. National Reporting Form<br>16.1. National Reporting Overlaps               |
| 13:00       | Break 1h                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Break 1h                                                                                                                                                                               | Break 1h                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 14:00-15:30 | 3.1. Bycatch (cont.)<br>3.4. Surveys and Research<br>3.5. Use of Strandings Records                                                                                                                                     | 7. Relevant EU Policy Matters<br>8. Cooperation with other Bodies<br>8.1. Reports by the Sec, Parties & Partners<br>8.2. Dates of Interest 2026-2027<br>9. Publicity and Outreach      | 17. Financial and Administrative Issues<br>17.1. Administrative Issues<br>17.2. End-of-term Budget Report 2025<br>17.3. Mid-term Budget Report 2026<br>17.4. Activities Requiring Funding         |
| 15:30       | Break 30min                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Break 30min                                                                                                                                                                            | Break 30min                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 16:00-18:00 | 3.5. Use of Strandings Records (cont.)<br>3.6. Other<br>4. Reports back from other Working Groups<br>4.1. Shallow-water Mining and Small Cetaceans<br>4.2. Cetacean Culture<br>4.3. Marine Strategy Framework Directive | 10. Work Plan: Overview of Implementation<br>11. Any Other Scientific Issues<br>12. Adoption of the Action Points, Recommendations, and Decisions from the Scientific Session          | 18. Any Other Institutional Issues<br>19. Adoption of the Action Points, Recommendations, and Decisions from the Institutional Session<br>20. Dates and Venue of AC31<br>21. Close of the Meeting |

## PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND SCHEDULE

## DAY 1 – TUESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

09:30-18:00 CEST

| Time  | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                  | Documents                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Expected Outcomes                                        |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00 | <i>Registration will be open near the meeting room 1916, which is sign-posted at the venue. The venue is Langer Eugen building at the UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1, 53113 Bonn. Please bring your passport / national ID to gain access to the UN Campus via the front guard house.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |
| 09:30 | <b>1. Opening of the Meeting</b><br>The meeting will be opened at 09:30 CEST on Tuesday 1 September 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |
|       | <b>1.1. Welcoming Remarks</b><br><b>Andy Raine</b> , Executive Secretary of CMS and ASCOBANS, will give welcoming remarks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |
|       | <b>1.2. Adoption of the Agenda</b><br><b>Katarzyna Kamińska</b> , Chair of the Advisory Committee (AC), will invite the meeting to review the Provisional Agenda and the Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule, and to make any proposals for amendment prior to their adoption.<br>Late topics to be discussed under agenda item 11 and 18 (Any Other Scientific / Institutional Issues) may be suggested.<br>The establishment of working groups may be proposed at this point or as the relevant item is discussed. | <b>WPA50:</b> Organize Advisory Committee Meetings as scheduled, with papers circulated one month in advance of the meetings. | <a href="#">Doc.1.2a/Rev.1</a> Provisional Agenda<br><a href="#">Doc.1.2b/Rev.1</a> Provisional Annotated Agenda and Schedule<br><a href="#">Inf.1.2a/Rev.1</a> List of Documents<br><a href="#">Inf.1.2b/Rev.1</a> Provisional List of Participants<br><a href="#">Res.10.2/Rev.1</a> Work Plan 2025-2028 | Agenda adopted.<br>Working Groups established if needed. |
|       | <b>1.3. Rules of Procedure</b><br>The Rules of Procedure for the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee, adopted at AC29 (2025), remain in force unless an amendment is called for.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                               | <a href="#">Rules of Procedure for the AC</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                          |
|       | <b>2. Opening of the Scientific Session</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |

| Time  | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Documents                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Expected Outcomes                                                                                                                                             |
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| 09:30 | <p><b>3. Review of New Information on Topics included in the National Reports</b></p> <p>The Secretariat will present an overview of the 'High-level Summary of Key Messages' submitted in the 2025 ASCOBANS National Reports. Topics for 2025 reporting were designated as per Resolution 10.1.</p> <p>Participants will be given the opportunity to present new information, in addition to what was submitted in the National Reports.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>WPA71:</b> Make full use of the information submitted in order to assess progress in the implementation of the Agreement and make recommendations to Parties.</p> <p><b>WPA70:</b> Present to Parties, each year no later than 30 June, provided all reports have been received sufficiently in advance of that date, a compilation of Annual National Reports.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p><a href="#">Inf.3</a> Summary Compilation of the 2025 National Reports</p> <p><a href="#">NR.1-10</a> National Reports</p> <p><a href="#">Res.10.1</a> National Reporting 2025-2028</p>                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Note taken.</p> <p>Action Points / Recommendations suggested.</p>                                                                                          |
|       | <p><b>3.1. Bycatch</b></p> <p>The Secretariat will present a summary of the national reporting data.</p> <p>Participants will have the opportunity to present new information on the topic.</p> <p><b>Peter Evans</b>, Co-Chair of the Joint Bycatch Working Group (JBWG) of ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, will present its report. The AC is requested to review and endorse the Recommendations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the JBWG. Mr Evans will also present progress in work regarding conservation objectives.</p> <p><b>Justin Cook</b>, Invited Expert, will present a simulation study on removal rates consistent with the ASCOBANS conservation objective.</p> <p><b>Anne-Marie Svoboda</b>, the Netherlands, will present an update on the CIBBRiNA -project (Coordinated Development and Implementation of Best Practice in Bycatch Reduction in the North Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean Regions).</p> | <p><b>WPA9:</b> Review new information on bycatch and associated strandings, bycatch mitigation and monitoring measures, including remote electronic monitoring and any further new techniques as well as local initiatives, and fisheries effort. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.</p> <p><b>WPA11:</b> Continue to review ASCOBANS conservation objectives, and further develop a conservation management framework procedure. Make recommendations on appropriate triggers indicating when an environmental limit (the sum of all interactions within the environment that impact animals) is at risk of being reached or exceeded.</p> <p><b>AC29/AP14:</b> The Secretariat to discuss with the ACCOBAMS Secretariat the process of Parties endorsing the recommendations from JBWG.</p> | <p><a href="#">Doc.3.1a</a> JBWG Report</p> <p><a href="#">Doc.3.1b</a> JBWG2 Recommendations</p> <p><a href="#">Doc.3.1c</a> Simulation Study</p> <p><a href="#">NR.1-10</a> National Reports</p> <p><a href="#">Res.8.5 (Rev.MOP9)</a> Bycatch</p> <p><a href="#">Res.5.5</a> and <a href="#">Res.3.3</a> Incidental Take of Small Cetaceans</p> | <p>Note taken.</p> <p>JBWG2 Recommendations endorsed.</p> <p>Feedback provided on the simulation study.</p> <p>Action Points / Recommendations suggested.</p> |
| 11:00 | <b>Break 30 min</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                               |
| 11:30 | <b>3.1. Bycatch (cont.)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                               |

| Time  | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Documents                                                                                                                                                                                | Expected Outcomes                                         |
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|       | <b>3.2. Resource Depletion</b><br>The Secretariat will present a summary of the national reporting data.<br>Participants will have the opportunity to present new information on the topic.<br><b>Laetitia Nunny</b> , OceanCare, will present on how prey depletion can impact marine mammal welfare.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>WPA12:</b> Review new information on resource depletion and its impacts on small cetacean populations. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">NR.1-10</a> National Reports<br><a href="#">Inf.3.2</a> Starved<br><a href="#">Res.9.4</a> Food Availability and Resource Depletion                                          | Note taken.<br>Action Points / Recommendations suggested. |
|       | <b>3.3. Marine Debris</b><br>The Secretariat will present a summary of the national reporting data.<br>Participants will have the opportunity to present new information on the topic.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>WPA21:</b> Review new information on marine debris (ingestion and entanglement), including microplastics, and its impacts on small cetaceans. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <a href="#">NR.1-10</a> National Reports<br><a href="#">Res.9.3</a> Marine Debris                                                                                                        | Note taken.<br>Action Points / Recommendations suggested. |
| 13:00 | <b>Break 1 hour</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                           |
| 14:00 | <b>3.1. Bycatch (cont.)</b><br><b>Marie-Julie Roux</b> , ICES, will present an up-to-date overview and ongoing developments with ICES bycatch advice.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>WPA63:</b> Seek to collaborate with the ICES WGBYC, STECF established by the EU, the Regional Coordination Groups, the IWC Bycatch Mitigation Initiative, and other relevant organizations addressing bycatch.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                          | Note taken.                                               |
|       | <b>3.4. Surveys and Research</b><br>The Secretariat will present a summary of the national reporting data.<br>Participants will have the opportunity to present new information on the topic.<br><b>Julia Carlström</b> , Sweden, will present an update on SAMBAH-II project ( <b>Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic Sea Harbour Porpoise</b> )<br><b>Tim Taunitz</b> , Invited Expert, will present an update on CUMBIAH (Union for the Conservation Management of Harbour Porpoise Populations in the Baltic Sea and their Habitats). | <b>WPA31:</b> Review new information on population size, distribution, structure, life-history parameters and causes of any changes in the ASCOBANS Area of populations of small cetaceans. Make appropriate recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities.<br><b>WPA32:</b> Review new information on monitoring programmes relevant for small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.<br><b>WPA33:</b> Review new information on dedicated surveys and other research relevant for small cetaceans, their prey and their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties | <a href="#">NR.1-10</a> National Reports<br><a href="#">Res.5.7</a> Research<br><a href="#">Res.4.7</a> Populations<br><a href="#">Res.3.5</a> Monitoring, Status and Population Studies | Note taken.<br>Action Points / Recommendations suggested. |

| Time         | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Documents                                                                                                                                                                                | Expected Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                         |
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|              | <b>Lonneke IJsseldijk</b> , the Netherlands, will present on spatiotemporal and demographic variability in body condition of North Sea harbour porpoises.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | and other relevant authorities for further action.<br><b>WPA34:</b> Develop a mechanism to structurally fund SAMBAH and SCANS surveys on a regular basis.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|              | <b>3.5. Use of Strandings Records</b><br>The Secretariat will present a summary of the national reporting data.<br>Participants will have the opportunity to present new information on the topic.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>WPA36:</b> Review new information on the establishment and functionality of stranding networks, particularly the European strandings database, especially with a view to facilitating liaison and skill-sharing. Make recommendations to Parties and other relevant authorities for further action.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">NR.1-10</a> National Reports<br><a href="#">Res.8.10 (Rev.MOP9)</a> Stranding Response                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>15:30</b> | <b>Break 30 min</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>16:00</b> | <b>3.5. Use of Strandings Records (cont.)</b><br><b>Andrew Brownlow</b> will present an update on the development of the European marine strandings database.<br><b>Andrew Brownlow</b> and <b>Lonneke IJsseldijk</b> , Co-Chairs of the Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on Unusual Mortality Events (UME) and Mass Strandings Events (MSEs), will present the progress report of the IWG.<br><b>Lonneke IJsseldijk</b> , the Netherlands, will present an assessment of white-beaked dolphin strandings in the ASCOBANS Area 1990-2025. | <b>WPA37:</b> Continue monitoring new information on the causes of strandings and mortality of cetaceans, as well as best practice guidance on stranding responses and necropsies, and to make recommendations to Parties as appropriate.<br><b>WPA38:</b> Engage actively in the ongoing work on best practice guidelines for stranding events in the frameworks of the IWC and ACCOBAMS.<br><b>WPA41:</b> Standardize reporting procedures of Post-Mortem Examinations statistics, using the joint ASCOBANS/ACCOBAMS best practice on cetacean post-mortem investigation and tissue sampling.<br><b>AC29/AP18:</b> Parties are invited to provide The NL with relevant data on white-beaked dolphin strandings across the North Sea [...]. Preliminary results are expected to be presented at AC30 (2026). | <a href="#">Doc.3.5a/Rev.1</a> Report of the IWG on UMEs and MSEs<br><a href="#">Doc.3.5b</a> WBD Strandings Assessment<br><a href="#">Inf.3.5</a> Guidelines for Genetic Sampling of HP | Note taken.<br>Advice provided regarding the strandings database.<br>Work plan of the IWG endorsed.<br>Comments provided on the WBD report.<br>Action Points / Recommendations suggested. |
|              | <b>3.6. Other Matters</b><br>The Secretariat will present a summary of the national reporting data.<br>Participants will have the opportunity to present new information or comments important for the Agreement, difficulties in implementing the Agreement, or burning issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>WPA26:</b> Review new information on any other issues, including emerging issues posing a potential threat, and the impact they have on small cetaceans, their prey & their habitat. Make recommendations to Parties & other relevant authorities for further action.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <a href="#">NR.1-10</a> National Reports                                                                                                                                                 | Note taken.<br>Action Points / Recommendations suggested.                                                                                                                                 |

| Time  | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Documents                                                                                                           | Expected Outcomes                 |
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| 17:00 | <b>4. Reports back from other Working Groups</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                     |                                   |
|       | <b>4.1. Shallow-water Mining and Small Cetaceans</b><br><b>Penina Blankett</b> , Chair of the Working Group on Shallow water Mining and Small Cetaceans, will present the interim report of the WG.                                                                                                  | <b>AC29/AP29:</b> Parties will send the following [...], to assist the WG on its activities: a) Information regarding ongoing or planned shallow-water mining activities [...]. b) Confirmation on whether shallow-water mining activities have been included into national MSP. c) Links to scientific, peer-reviewed papers on shallow-water mining activities and their potential impacts on small cetaceans.                                    | <a href="#">Doc.4.1</a> Interim Report of the WG<br><a href="#">Res.10.7</a> Shallow-water Mining & Small Cetaceans | Note taken.<br>Feedback provided. |
|       | <b>4.2. Cetacean Culture</b><br><b>Laetitia Nunny</b> , Chair of the ACCOBAMS / ASCOBANS Working Group on Cetacean Culture and Social Learning, will brief the meeting.                                                                                                                              | <b>AC29/AP15:</b> [...] TOR: a) to consider the potential importance of social learning and culture for cetacean conservation in the [ACCOBAMS and] ASCOBANS region; b) review available information and seek to provide concrete recommendations; and c) to liaise as appropriate with the CMS Expert WG on Animal Culture.                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">Inf.4.2</a> Recent Publications on Cetacean Culture                                                     | Note taken.                       |
|       | <b>4.3. Marine Strategy Framework Directive</b><br><b>Sinéad Murphy</b> , Co-Chair of the Joint ACCOBAMS / ASCOBANS Working Group on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), will brief the meeting, and present the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Joint WG on MSFD. | <b>AC29/AP23:</b> The Joint ACCOBAMS / ASCOBANS WG on MSFD to undertake a review of ASCOBANS Parties' reports under Articles 8, 9, 10 of the Directive – covering the assessment of their waters, determination of GES, and the establishment of environmental targets – with particular focus on the integration of OSPAR & HELCOM indicators, as well as the incorporation of marine mammal indicators into the broader GES assessment framework. | <a href="#">Doc.4.3</a> Proposed Amendments to TOR                                                                  | Note taken.<br>TOR endorsed.      |
| 18:00 | <b>End of Day 1</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                     |                                   |

## DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2026

09:30-18:00 CEST

| Time  | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Documents                                                                                          | Expected Outcomes               |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 09:30 | <b>4. Reports back from other Working Groups (cont.)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                    |                                 |
|       | <b>4.4. Lesser-known Species</b><br><b>Mark Simmonds</b> , Chair of the IWG on Lesser-known Species, will brief the meeting. Mr Simmonds will also present the outcomes of the <i>ECS-ASCOBANS Workshop: Towards Meaningful Conservation Action for Risso's Dolphins in the North Atlantic</i> (20 April 2026).<br><b>Peter Evans</b> , Chair of the Workshop, will present the outcomes of the <i>ECS-ASCOBANS Workshop: Building Knowledge, Building Action: Atlantic White-sided and White-beaked Dolphins</i> (21 April 2026). | <b>WPA51:</b> Arrange for a special session dealing with a species selected by the previous meeting at each meeting of the AC, covering issues such as population status and structure, distribution, abundance, life history, threats and pressures, the conservation status and recommendations for research and conservation actions.<br><b>WPA53:</b> Organize workshops including at the annual conferences of the ECS on topics of priority interest to ASCOBANS, funding permitting.<br><b>AC28/AP9:</b> The Intersessional WG to organize a virtual meeting to discuss the following issues, and report to AC29: • Which species and populations in the agreement area require further attention, • Where the data gaps lie, and • How to take work on these populations and species forward in the ASCOBANS context. | <a href="#">Inf.4.4a</a> Report of ECS Workshop on Risso's                                         | Note taken.                     |
| 10:00 | <b>5. Hunting of Cetaceans</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                    |                                 |
|       | <b>5.1. Drive hunt in the Faroe Islands</b><br>The Secretariat will introduce this agenda item.<br>The AC will be requested to note the correspondence in <a href="#">Inf.5.1b</a> and provide advice on potential next steps, if any.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <a href="#">Inf.5.1a</a> Assessment of cetacean welfare<br><a href="#">Inf.5.1b</a> Correspondence | Note taken.<br>Advice provided. |
|       | <b>5.2. ASCOBANS Position on Use of Data Derived from Deliberately Killed Small Cetaceans</b><br>The Secretariat will introduce this agenda item.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <a href="#">Doc.5.2</a> Position                                                                   | Decision agreed.                |

| Time  | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Documents                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Expected Outcomes |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
|       | The AC will be requested to discuss and decide whether to agree a position on the usage of data derived from deliberately killed small cetaceans in ASCOBANS context.                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |
| 11:00 | Break 30 min                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |
| 11:30 | 6. Species Action Plans                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |
|       | <b>6.1. Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan)</b><br><b>Ida Carlén</b> , Chair of the Jastarnia Group, will present an update on activities of the group, the most recent meeting (14-16 April 2026), and the progress report on the implementation of the Jastarnia Plan.                   | <b>WPA1:</b> Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Recovery Plan for Baltic Harbour Porpoises (Jastarnia Plan), establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan.    | <a href="#">Inf.6.1a</a> Jastarnia Plan Progress Report 2026<br><a href="#">Inf.6.1b</a> JG22 Action Points<br><a href="#">Res.8.3</a> Rev Jastarnia Plan, <a href="#">6.1</a> Jastarnia Plan, <a href="#">Res.9.2 (Rev. MOP10)</a> Baltic Proper HP | Note taken.       |
|       | <b>6.2. Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoises Population in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat (Western Baltic Conservation Plan)</b><br><b>Ida Carlén</b> , Chair of the Jastarnia Group, will present the progress report on the implementation of the WBBK Plan.                           | <b>WPA2:</b> Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the WBBK, establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan and promote the implementation of the Plan.            | <a href="#">Inf.6.2</a> WBBK Plan Progress Report 2026<br><a href="#">Inf.6.1b</a> JG22 Action Points<br><a href="#">Res.7.1</a> WBBK Plan                                                                                                           | Note taken.       |
|       | <b>6.3. Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea (North Sea Plan)</b><br><b>Peter Evans</b> , Chair of the North Sea Group, will present an update on activities of the group and the most recent meeting (13-14 April 2026), and the progress report on the implementation of the North Sea Plan. | <b>WPA3:</b> Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea, establish further implementation priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan [...] and promote the implementation of the Plan. | <a href="#">Inf.6.3a</a> NSP Progress Report 2026<br><a href="#">Inf.6.3b</a> NSG14 Priority Recommendations<br><a href="#">Res.10.3</a> Rev North Sea Plan, <a href="#">6.1</a> North Sea Plan                                                      | Note taken.       |
|       | <b>6.4. Species Action Plan for the North-East Atlantic Common Dolphin</b><br><b>Sinéad Murphy</b> , Co-Chair of the Common Dolphin Group, will provide an update on activities and the most recent meeting (13-14 January 2026).                                                                                  | <b>WPA4:</b> Evaluate progress in the implementation of the Species Action Plan for the NE Atlantic Common Dolphin, promote its ongoing implementation, establish further priorities, carry out the periodic review of the Plan.                               | <a href="#">Inf.6.4</a> CDG6 Recommendations<br><a href="#">Res.8.4 (Rev.MOP9)</a> Common Dolphins                                                                                                                                                   | Note taken.       |
| 13:00 | Break 1 hour                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                   |

| Time  | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Documents                                                                                                                               | Expected Outcomes                                      |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 14:00 | <b>7. Relevant EU Policy matters</b><br>The meeting will have an opportunity to discuss any relevant updates on implementation and development of the EU nature, marine, and fisheries policies relevant to ASCOBANS.                                                                  | <b>WPA60:</b> Identify priorities and complementarity and improve cooperation between ASCOBANS and institutions of the European Union.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                         |                                                        |
| 14:30 | <b>8. Cooperation with other Bodies</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                         |                                                        |
|       | <b>8.1. Reports by the Secretariat, Parties and Partners</b><br>The Secretariat will highlight key areas of collaboration with partners during the past year.<br>Parties and Partners will be invited to present their reports, taking into account any relevant Work Plan Activities. | <b>WPA8:</b> Request the IWC to report back on the progress on the Iberian HP.<br><b>WPA61:</b> Ensure close collaboration with the Secretariats and scientific advisory bodies of the CMS Family on all issues of mutual interest.<br><b>WPA62:</b> Seek to cooperate closely with relevant organizations on matters aligned with the objectives of ASCOBANS [...]<br><b>WPA64:</b> Work towards strengthening or establishing positive relationships with stakeholders, especially the fishing industry and European Advisory Councils.<br><b>WPA66:</b> Insofar as budgetary provisions and guidance by the AC allow for it, ensure proper representation at meetings of other relevant organizations. | <a href="#">Inf.8.1a</a> Reports from Relevant Meetings<br><a href="#">Inf.8.1b</a> Overview of CMS COP15 Outcomes Relevant to ASCOBANS | Note taken.                                            |
|       | <b>8.2. Dates of Interest 2026-2027</b><br>The Secretariat will seek feedback on the draft list of Dates of Interest.<br>The AC will be requested to inform about planned attendance to relevant meetings.                                                                             | <b>WPA65:</b> Compile a list of Dates of Interest and report back on issues relevant to ASCOBANS to each meeting of the Parties and Advisory Committee. This requires participants at meetings identified in the list to confirm their attendance by email to the Secretariat after the meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <a href="#">Doc.8.2/Rev.1</a> Draft Dates of Interest                                                                                   | Relevant meetings listed and representation indicated. |
|       | <b>9. Publicity and Outreach</b><br>The Secretariat will present its recent outreach report.<br>Parties and Partners will be invited to present their reports, taking into account any relevant Work Plan Activities.                                                                  | <b>WPA43:</b> Assess the need for information material on conservation issues facing small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS Area, and develop material as necessary.<br><b>WPA45:</b> Support annual celebration of the IIDBHP on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in May.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <a href="#">Doc.9</a> Outreach Activities<br><a href="#">Res.5.8</a> Educational and Promotional Activities                             |                                                        |

| Time         | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Documents                                                                                                | Expected Outcomes                                     |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>WPA47:</b> Take advantage of attendance at other fora to give presentations or make information available on topics related to ASCOBANS.</p> <p><b>WPA48:</b> Consider the report provided by NGOs on ideas for education and outreach work for ASCOBANS.</p> |                                                                                                          |                                                       |
| <b>15:30</b> | <b>Break 30 min</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                       |
| <b>16:00</b> | <p><b>10. ASCOBANS Work Plan: Overview of Implementation</b></p> <p>The Secretariat will present an overview of progress made on implementation of the ASCOBANS Work Plan 2025-2028 to date.</p> <p>The AC will be invited to review the document, and to provide additional updates and advice where required.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <a href="#">Doc.10</a> Overview of Implementation                                                        | Note taken. Advice provided.                          |
|              | <p><b>11. Any Other Scientific Issues</b></p> <p>Any topics flagged for discussion during agenda item 1.2. will be addressed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                       |
|              | <p><b>12. Adoption of Action Points, Recommendations, and Decisions of the Scientific Session</b></p> <p>The Secretariat will present a draft list of Action Points, Recommendations, and Decisions generated at the meeting, for review and adoption.</p>                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>In-session:</b> Draft List of Action Points, Recommendations, and Decisions of the Scientific Session | Action Points, Recommendations and Decisions adopted. |
| <b>18:00</b> | <b>End of Day 2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                          |                                                       |

### DAY 3 – THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

09:30-18:00 CEST

| Time  | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Documents                                                                                       | Expected Outcomes                                           |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:30 | <b>12. Adoption of the Action Points, Recommendations, and Decisions of the Scientific Session (cont.)</b><br>The Secretariat will present a draft list of Action Points, Recommendations and Decisions generated at the meeting, for review and adoption.                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>In-session:</b> Draft List of Action Points and Recommendations of the Scientific Session    | Action Points, Recommendations and Decisions adopted.       |
|       | <b>13. Close of the Scientific Session</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |                                                             |
| 11:00 | <b>Break 30 min</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |                                                             |
| 11:30 | <b>14. Opening of the Institutional Session</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |                                                             |
|       | <b>15. Status of Accession and Acceptance of the Agreement's Amendment</b><br>The Secretariat will brief the meeting on the status of access and acceptance of the Agreement's Amendment (extension area).<br>Parties that have not yet formally accepted the Amendment will be invited to inform the meeting on the progress made. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |                                                             |
|       | <b>16. National Reporting Form</b><br>The AC will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the National Report form.                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>WPA67:</b> Identify and, where possible, address any issues that Parties might encounter regarding the compilation of the National Report.                                                                                                                             | <a href="#">Inf.16</a> 2025 NR form<br><a href="#">Res.10.1</a> National Reporting 2025-2028    |                                                             |
|       | <b>16.1. National Reporting Overlaps</b><br><b>Siri Elmegaard</b> , Chair of the Intersessional Working Group (IWG) on National Reporting Overlaps, will present the report of the IWG.<br>The AC will be requested to consider endorsing the report of the IWG and its recommendations, and the accordingly updated NR form.       | <b>WPA68:</b> Review overlaps in national reporting with other reporting obligations (e.g. MPAs to EMODNet, noise and bycatch to ICES) and identify if any topics in ASCOBANS National Reports can instead be accessed in such databases to avoid duplication of efforts. | <a href="#">Doc.16.1</a> Review of Overlaps between ASCOBANS NR and Other Reporting Obligations | Endorsing the report considered, incl. its recommendations. |
| 13:00 | <b>Break 1 hour</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |                                                             |

| Time  | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Documents                                                                                                   | Expected Outcomes                                                    |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14:00 | <b>17. Financial and Administrative Issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                             |                                                                      |
|       | <b>17.1. Administrative Issues</b><br>The Secretariat will present its report to the Advisory Committee. The AC will be invited to decide whether to use a National Coordinator designation form, and to advise whether ASCOBANS should develop a manual for National Coordinators.                                                                                                                   | <b>WPA58:</b> Report on budgetary and administrative issues to the AC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">Doc.17.1</a> Admin Report 2025-2026                                                             | Advise provided.                                                     |
|       | <b>17.2. End-of-term Report on Budgetary Issues 2025</b><br>The Secretariat will present its report to the Advisory Committee.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>WPA58:</b> Report on budgetary and administrative issues to the AC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">Doc.17.2</a> End-2025 Budget Report                                                             | Note taken. Comments provided.                                       |
|       | <b>17.3. Mid-term Report on Budgetary Issues 2026</b><br>The Secretariat will present its report to the Advisory Committee.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>WPA58:</b> Report on budgetary and administrative issues to the AC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">Doc.17.3</a> Mid-2026 Budget Report                                                             | Note taken. Comments provided.                                       |
|       | <b>17.4. Activities Requiring Funding</b><br>The Secretariat will inform the meeting the financial needs for the implementation of activities agreed or suggested by the Advisory Committee and in the Work Plan scheduled for the next year.<br><br>The AC will be invited to prioritise the activities that require funding.<br><br>The AC will also be invited to pledge funds for the activities. | <b>WPA57:</b> Prepare for each meeting of the Advisory Committee, and for MOP, an overview of activities requiring funding.<br><b>WPA56:</b> Issue call for project proposals when instructed to do so by the MOP or the AC, and conduct consultation on prioritization to the next meeting.<br><b>WPA59:</b> Encourage Parties and partner organizations to provide voluntary contributions, and seek new sources of funding for projects prioritized by the AC or for outreach initiatives. | <a href="#">Doc.17.4</a> Activities Requiring Funding<br><a href="#">Res.10.2/Rev.1</a> Work Plan 2025-2028 | Priority order for activities agreed. Funding pledged to activities. |
| 15:30 | <b>Break 30min</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                             |                                                                      |
| 16:00 | <b>18. Any Other Institutional Issues</b><br>Any topics flagged for discussion during agenda item 1.2. will be addressed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                             |                                                                      |

| Time         | Agenda Item                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Related Work Plan Activity / AC Action Point                                                                                  | Documents                                                                                       | Expected Outcomes                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
|              | <b>19. Adoption of the Action Points, Recommendations, and Decisions of the Institutional Session</b><br>The Secretariat will present a draft list of Action Points, Recommendations and Decisions generated at the meeting, for review and adoption.                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                               | <b>In-session:</b> Draft List of Action Points and Recommendations of the Institutional Session | Action Points, Recommendations, and Decisions adopted. |
|              | <b>20. Dates and Venue of the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee</b><br>Parties will be invited to make offers for hosting the 31 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC31) in 2027.<br>The AC will be invited to give guidance on potential dates, to be considered in conjunction with other meetings listed in Doc.8.2. | <b>WPA50:</b> Organize Advisory Committee Meetings as scheduled, with papers circulated one month in advance of the meetings. | <a href="#">Doc.8.2/Rev.1</a> Draft Dates of Interest                                           | Host for AC31 identified and dates agreed.             |
| <b>18:00</b> | <b>21. Close of the Meeting</b><br>The meeting is expected to close by 18:00 on Thursday 3 September 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                 |                                                        |