



# Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals



## 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee of the CMS Scientific Council (ScC-SC7)

*Bonn, Germany, 17 – 20 September 2024*

---

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC7/Doc.3/Annex/Part B

### **PROGRAMME OF WORK: AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION ISSUES**

	<b>Mandate</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expected Output</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Report to</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>Resolution / Decision number</i>	<i>Text of Resolution / Decision</i>	<i>Further short description of activity (if necessary)</i>	<i>List of outputs</i>	<i>Timeframe (year and/or meeting) (as per Res / Dec, if provided)</i>	<i>Name of lead person(s)</i>	<i>Names of other people involved</i>	<i>ScC, StC, COP (including session number)</i>	<i>Status of the activity</i>
<b>Aquatic Species Conservation Issues</b>								
<b>Bycatch and Other Fisheries-Induced Mortality</b>								
<i>Dec.14.33</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</i>							
	<i>a) identify regions where reviews of relative levels of bycatch of CMS-listed marine mammals and marine turtles in commercial and artisanal fisheries would be a priority and/or beneficial; collaborate with all relevant organizations including fisheries management bodies to develop regional reviews with a view to reducing the levels of bycatch of all CMS-listed marine mammals and turtles in commercial and artisanal fisheries; identify and prioritize fisheries and areas in which adverse impacts of bycatch are highest for CMS-listed marine mammals and turtles; cooperate with the relevant organizations, including fisheries bodies to develop the most appropriate bycatch mitigation measures for fisheries of highest priority; and develop appropriate bycatch mitigation measures with associated timebound action plans;</i>		Reviews / reports prepared on i) regions where reviews of relative levels of bycatch would be a priority and/or beneficial; ii) regional reviews with a view to reduce levels of bycatch; iii) fisheries and areas in which adverse impacts of bycatch are highest; iv) most appropriate bycatch mitigation measures for fisheries of highest priority; v) appropriate bycatch mitigation measures with associated timebound action plans.	ScC-SC8 document deadline		IOSEA AC, Barry Baker (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Collaboration with AC of IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU.
	<i>b) in collaboration with the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU and, if possible, the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and the Caribbean Environment Programme, review current knowledge about existing measures to reduce and mitigate bycatch of marine turtles for both commercial fisheries and artisanal fisheries, and make recommendations to Parties and the Signatory States of the IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU on the most effective and appropriate measures to reduce and mitigate bycatch, while ensuring that recommended measures do not act to the disadvantage of other CMS-listed marine species;</i>		Review prepared on current knowledge about measures to reduce and mitigate bycatch of marine turtles. Recommendations prepared on the most effective and appropriate measures to reduce and mitigate bycatch.	ScC-SC8 document deadline		IOSEA AC, Barry Baker (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Collaboration with AC of IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU.

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
	<i>c) in collaboration with the Advisory Committee of the Sharks MOU, review and appraise current data and knowledge regarding the levels of fisheries-induced mortality of CMS- and Sharks MOU-listed shark and ray species and to prepare recommendations on reducing fisheries-induced mortality;</i>	Undertake pilot studies as outlined in CMS/Sharks/MOS4/Do c.10.7 to assess overall fisheries induced mortality of sharks and rays in the Mediterranean and Eastern Central Pacific regions.	Pilot studies done and report prepared.	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Rima Jabado	Sharks MOU Advisory Committee (Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)	ScC-SC8, COP15	TOR in preparation by Sharks AC.
	<i>d) in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, ensure cross-referencing with seabird bycatch work, to ensure consideration of cross-taxa implications, and identify opportunities for further collaboration on addressing fisheries-induced mortality across taxa;</i>	Collaborate with BirdLife International in assessing seabird bycatch mitigation measures and their implication for other taxa.		ScC-SC8 document deadline	Barry Baker and Rima Jabado	(Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)	ScC-SC8, COP15	
	<i>e) to assess the experience gained from bycatch mitigation strategies of: marine mammals as developed for COP13, sharks and rays as developed for COP14, seabirds as developed by AEWA and the ACAP Seabird Bycatch Working Group in collaboration with CMS, and on marine turtles as developed as part of paragraph 14.33 b), and any new relevant scientific information which arises, prepare a synthesis report on all species and an update of Resolution 12.22 on Bycatch for COP15; and</i>		Reports and proposed amendments to Res.12.22	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Barry Baker and Rima Jabado	(Sec FP: Jenny Renell, Andrea Pauly, Ivan Ramirez, Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Dependent on funding.
	<i>f) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing Decisions 14.33 (a) - (c). [and d and e]</i>		COP15 document	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Barry Baker	(Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)	COP15	
<b>Res. 12.22</b>	<b>Bycatch</b>							
OP 16	<i>Invites the Scientific Council and the Working Group on Bycatch to recommend to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, concerted actions to be taken by Parties in respect of species listed in Appendices I and II that are affected by bycatch.</i>		Recommendation for Concerted Actions	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Barry Baker	(Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)	COP15	
OP 17	<i>Instructs the Scientific Council and the Bycatch Working Group to identify for each particular bycatch situation (gear type, species, fishing area and season) the most effective mitigation techniques, which should build upon and complement existing initiatives within the fisheries sector.</i>	Implemented through Dec.14.33 a) for marine mammals and b) for marine turtles; already implemented for sharks and rays guidance has	Most effective mitigation techniques identified for each particular bycatch situation (see Decision 14.33 a and b above)	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Barry Baker	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma and Jenny Renell)	COP15	Partially implemented for shark and rays.

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
		been developed already for COP14						
OP 18	<i>Requests the Scientific Council to consider any scientific and technical information submitted by Range States or other relevant bodies, relating to impacts on migratory species from bycatch, in particular CMS daughter agreements.</i>			Ongoing	Barry Baker	(Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)	For each SC meeting, as	
OP 20	<i>Requests the Secretariat, the Scientific Council and Parties to continue and increase efforts to collaborate with other relevant international fora and where appropriate the RFMOs, with a view to avoiding duplication, increasing synergies and raising the profile of CMS and CMS agreements related to aquatic species in these for a.</i>			Ongoing	Barry Baker	(Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)		
<b>Fish Aggregating Devices</b>								
Dec. 14.36	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</i>							
	<i>a) evaluate the relationship between FADs and marine debris and establish principles for best practice to avoid their loss, entanglement with marine wildlife, and beaching in corals, mangroves and other aquatic and coastal habitats, and that seek to reduce their contribution to plastic pollution. This should include liaison with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), further to their work on improving FAD design, and the relevant fisheries organizations;</i>		Relationship between FADs and marine debris evaluated. Principles established	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)		
	<i>b) consider a possible case study area looking at FADs as a source of marine debris, for example in the Mediterranean Sea, to:</i> <i>i. look at compliance with existing regulations,</i> <i>ii. recommend environmental management and control measures to avoid gear loss, and</i> <i>iii. explore ways of improving the environmentally sound retrieval of lost FADs; and</i>		Case study area considered	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)		
	<i>c) report to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the progress in implementing this Decision.</i>		COP15 document	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
<b>The Maltreatment and Mutilation of Seabirds in Fisheries</b>								
Dec. 14.40	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to keep the issue of the maltreatment of seabirds in fisheries under review in case any further instances of mutilation are brought to its attention.</i>			ScC-SC8 document deadline – only if something to report	Graeme Taylor	Party-appointed Councillors for SW Atlantic countries (Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	COP15 – only if something to report	
<b>Marine Pollution</b>								
Dec. 14.42	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</i>							
	<i>a) identify priority forms of pollution affecting CMS-listed marine species, avoiding overlap with Decisions 14.44-14.47 on Marine Noise and Decisions 14.221-14.222 on Light Pollution, and develop a review of these threats, including cumulative impacts, and identify localities where marine pollution and migratory marine species significantly intersect;</i>	Develop a review of threats to migratory marine species, from pollution.	Document developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	COP15	Dependent on funding.
	<i>b) seek to collaborate with relevant daughter Agreements, IWC, IMMA process for marine mammals, ISRA process for sharks and rays, and other fora where similar initiatives are being investigated;</i>			ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	COP15	
	<i>c) with regard to plastic pollution as outlined in 14.42 (a), carry out the work in conjunction with implementing Decision 14.225 on Plastic Pollution;</i>			ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue and other taxa teams)	COP15	
	<i>d) hold an expert workshop to identify priority species, populations and habitats for immediate action, based on findings of the review, and develop recommendations for consideration by ScC-SC8; and</i>	Organize workshop to discuss above report.	Priority species, populations and habitats identified	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	ScC-SC8, COP15	Dependent on funding.
	<i>e) in support of the workshop outlined in 14.42 (d), establish a steering group of appropriate experts to guide the focus, agenda and other modalities of the workshop.</i>		Steering Group established	During or after ScC-SC8	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	COP15	
Res. 12.20	<b>Marine Debris</b>							
OP 8	<i>Encourages the Scientific Council, with support from the Secretariat, to promote the prioritization of research into the effects of microplastics on the species ingesting them, and support research on the significance of colour, shape or plastic type on the likelihood of causing harm</i>			Ongoing		(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)		

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
OP 9	<i>Further encourages the Scientific Council to promote harmonization or standardization of protocols for the analysis of marine litter, including microplastics, in stranded organisms;</i>			Ongoing		(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)		
OP 11	<i>Requests that working groups established under the Scientific Council address the issue of marine debris where relevant, drawing on the work already undertaken by the Convention</i>			Ongoing		(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)		
OP 37	<i>Requests the Scientific Council, with support from the Secretariat, to further the Convention's work on the marine debris issue and investigate the feasibility of close cooperation with other biodiversity-related agreements by means of a multilateral working group</i>	See also Decision 14.33 Bycatch		Ongoing		(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)		
<b>Marine Noise</b>								
Dec. 14.45	<i>The Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS is requested, subject to the availability of external resources, to:</i>							
	<i>a) provide a peer review of the updated Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise-generating Activities;</i>		Updated review provided	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds & Vanesa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	Dependent on funding
	<i>b) prepare a gap analysis of guidance available from CMS and other forums and identify where further guidance is needed on mitigation of the effects of marine noise in order to address the needs of migratory species and their prey;</i>		Gap analysis prepared	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	<a href="#">Notification to Parties</a> sent on 03.06.2024 requesting inputs by 30.06, which will be provided as an Inf.doc.
	<i>c) prepare a report on the state of knowledge of noise impacts and noise mitigation measures for CMS-listed freshwater mammal species and assess the need for specific guidance for freshwater habitats; and</i>		Report prepared	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	Dependent on funding
	<i>d) report to the Scientific Council at the 8th meeting of its Sessional Committee on the progress in implementing this Decision.</i>		Report provided	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	
Dec. 14.46	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) provide advice to the Secretariat and Joint Noise Working Group as to where to focus efforts to support the implementation of mitigation measures;</i>		Advice provided		Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
	<i>b) provide advice on the future role of the Convention to ensure timely and effective guidance continues to be given to governments and other stakeholders, making use of and building upon related work in other forums;</i>		Advice provided	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
	<i>c) consider the recommendations of the Joint Noise Working Group regarding the need for the development of further guidance on mitigation of the effects of marine noise, including on specific guidance regarding freshwater cetacean species, and facilitate their development accordingly, with a view to presenting any outputs to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and</i>		Recommendations considered and further developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
	<i>d) subject to the availability of external resources, in collaboration with the Joint Noise Working Group, and, where relevant, with competent national authorities, assess the application and effectiveness of existing guidance regarding impact of military sonar and other sound sources generated by military activities on migratory species and to investigate whether further guidelines may be needed to address and mitigate these impacts.</i>		Assessment developed and recommendations provided	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
<b>Res. 12.14</b>	<b>Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species</b>							
OP 10	<i>Recognizes that the work done in relation to marine noise is rapidly evolving, and requests the Scientific Council, in collaboration with the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, to review and update these Guidelines regularly</i>		Recommendation	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
OP 23	<i>Requests the Scientific Council, supported by the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, to continue monitoring new available information on the effects of underwater noise on marine species, as well as the effective assessment and management of this threat, and to make recommendations to Parties as appropriate</i>		Recommendations developed	Ongoing	Mark Simmonds	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
<b>Reducing the Risk of Vessel Strikes for Marine Megafauna</b>								
Dec. 14.49	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</i>							
	<i>a) review the reports submitted by Parties through their National Reports on the implementation of Decision 14.48 (a) - (c) and make recommendations to Parties;</i>		Reports reviewed and recommendations made	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)	COP15	

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
	<i>b) collaborate with the IWC and International Maritime Organization (IMO) to identify areas where CMS-listed cetaceans are at high risk from vessel strikes, including by mapping shipping lanes against Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), develop advice on appropriate placement of re-routing measures, including area avoidance and/or the establishment of vessel speed restrictions for key cetacean habitats, and make recommendations to Parties;</i>		High risk areas identified, advice and recommendations developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	
	<i>c) assess the collision risk for further CMS-listed marine megafauna taxa that are likely to suffer from vessel strikes, and identify areas where conservation measures are most needed, also considering existing information about identified Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs) and future information about identified Important Marine Turtle Areas (IMTAs); and</i>		Collision risk assessed for most relevant marine megafauna and hot spots identified	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)		
	<i>d) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.</i>		COP15 document developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)	COP15	
<b>Deep-Seabed Mineral Exploitation Activities and Migratory</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.52</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</i>							
	<i>a) develop a report on the state of knowledge of the impacts of deep-seabed mineral exploitation activities on migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems, including identifying knowledge gaps that should be addressed;</i>		Report developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	<a href="#">Notification to Parties</a> sent on 03.06.2024 requesting inputs by 30.06., which will be provided as an Inf.doc.
	<i>b) based on the results of the above report, collaborate with the International Seabed Authority to share expertise, and develop such specific EIA guidance as may be required, in addition to any other relevant guidance available, which considers the impacts of deep seabed mineral exploitation activities on migratory species, their prey and their ecosystems; and</i>		Specific EIA and other relevant guidance developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	Dependent on funding
	<i>c) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.</i>			ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
<b>Marine Wildlife Watching</b>								
Dec. 14.55	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to availability of external resources:</i>							
	<i>a) develop a report to assess the long-term effects and biological significance of disturbances from boat-based and in-water interactions for all CMS-listed marine species, and make recommendations to Parties;</i>		Report developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	Dependent on funding
	<i>b) recommend in which areas activities should be strictly limited to boat-based activities from an increased distance for particularly vulnerable populations, and make recommendations to Parties;</i>		Recommendations provided	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	
	<i>c) investigate the desirability of developing guidance regarding the use of unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles, and other relevant technologies used around marine wildlife during recreational activities; and</i>		Recommendations provided	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	
	<i>d) report to the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this Decision.</i>			ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	
Res. 11.29 (Rev.COP12)	<b>Sustainable Boat-based Marine Wildlife Watching</b>							
OP 10	<i>Requests the Scientific Council, subject to availability of resources, to conduct periodic reviews of the state of knowledge of the impacts of boat-based wildlife watching activities on migratory species and to recommend refined and adjusted measures or guidelines as appropriate</i>		Periodic reviews conducted	Ongoing		(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	
<b>Important Marine Mammal Areas</b>								
Dec. 14.59	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to collaborate with the IUCN SSC/WCPA Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force to include data on CMS-listed marine mammals in the identification of IMMAs.</i>		<i>Data on CMS-listed marine mammals integrated in the identification of IMMAs.</i>	Ongoing	Vanesa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	
<b>Important Shark and Ray Areas (ISRAs)</b>								
Dec. 14.63	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to work with the IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group, in collaboration with relevant experts of regional fisheries management and advisory bodies, (specialist) groups from Regional Sea Conventions and the Sharks MOU Advisory</i>		Advice provided to IUCN SSC SSG	Ongoing	Rima Jabado	(Sec FP: Andrea Pauly)	COP15	

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
	<i>Committee, in a cost-effective and non-duplicative manner with the identification of ISRAs for CMS-listed shark and ray species, through sharing information and data and contributing to ISRA expert workshops.</i>							
<b>Seagrass Ecosystems</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.67</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to availability of resources, to:</i>							
	<i>a) provide technical support to Parties to identify an inventory of migratory species that use seagrass ecosystems and those that contribute to their functioning, the most important seagrass meadows for migratory species globally, the most important past and current threats to seagrass and drivers of seagrass degradation and loss, and the conservation actions necessary to reduce seagrass loss and restore it; and</i>		Technical support provided	Upon request		(Sec FP: Lauren Lopes)	COP15	
	<i>b) collaborate with the Dugong MOU and other intergovernmental organizations or initiatives such as UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the IUCN SSC Seagrass Specialist Group, to accelerate the process described in paragraph 14.67 (a).</i>			Ongoing		(Sec FP: Lauren Lopes)	COP15	
<b>Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.72</i>	<i>The Scientific Council, subject to the availability of external resources and where applicable with support from the Aquatic Mammals Working Group, is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) in cooperation with the IWC, quantify the contemporary whaling and aquatic wild meat takes of all CMS Appendix I-listed cetaceans in all regions, and make recommendations to Parties;</i>		Report and recommendations developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanessa Tossenberger	Mark Simmonds (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma, Jenny Renell)	COP15	Dependent on funding
	<i>b) in the context of threats from climate change, develop a report on the potential impacts that climate-induced migration will have on both the welfare and the conservation outcomes of affected cetacean species, and make recommendations to Parties;</i>		Report and recommendations developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanessa Tossenberger	Mark Simmonds (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma, Jenny Renell)	COP15	Dependent on funding
	<i>c) recommend the use of standard stranding and necropsy protocols, taking into account work done by ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and</i>			Ongoing	Vanessa Tossenberger	Mark Simmonds (Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	

	<b>Mandate</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expected Output</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Report to</b>	<b>Status</b>
	<i>the IWC, in order to help investigate the causes of mortality events;</i>							
	<i>d) develop a report about the monitoring, welfare and conservation of 'Out of Habitat' CMS-listed cetaceans, provide advice on appropriate responses to them, and make recommendations to Parties;</i>		Report and recommendations developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanessa Tossenberger	Mark Simmonds (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma, Jenny Renell)	COP15	Dependent on funding
	<i>e) synthesize research on the emerging understanding of how cetacean welfare can impact conservation outcomes, and make recommendations to Parties; and</i>		Report and recommendations developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanessa Tossenberger	Mark Simmonds (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	Dependent on funding
	<i>f) review the recommendations for potential future action by the Scientific Council as contained in UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.5.1b and make recommendations to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on priority actions to progress in the following intersessional period.</i>		Recommendations developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanessa Tossenberger	Mark Simmonds (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma, Jenny Renell)	COP15	Dependent on funding
<b>Role of Cetaceans in Ecosystem Functioning</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.74</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to, through the Aquatic Mammals Working Group, provide advice and input with regards to expanding the work on the role of cetaceans in ecosystem functioning in close collaboration with the IWC.</i>		Advice provided	Ongoing		(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	COP15	
<b>Action Plan for Cetaceans in the Red Sea Region</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.77</i>	<i>The Scientific Council, with support from the Aquatic Mammal Working Group, is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) provide advice on and input to the development of an Action Plan for cetaceans in the Red Sea region; and</i>		Advice provided	Upon request	Vanessa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)		
	<i>b) review the final draft Action Plan at the last meeting of the Sessional Committee before COP15 and make recommendations to Parties.</i>		Draft Action Plan reviewed	ScC-SC8	Vanessa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Jenny Renell)	ScC-SC8	
<i>Res. 14.9</i>	<b>Conservation priorities for cetaceans</b>							
<i>OP 6</i>	<i>Requests the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to continue and increase collaborative efforts with other relevant international fora, including the International Whaling Commission and its Scientific and Conservation Committees and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Cetacean Specialist Group, with a view to avoiding</i>			Ongoing	Vanessa Tossenberger	Mark Simmonds (Sec FP: Jenny Renell)		

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
	<i>duplication, increasing synergies and raising the profile of CMS and its cetacean-related agreements in these fora</i>							
OP 7	<i>Requests the Scientific Council to continue supporting its Aquatic Mammals Working Group chaired by the COP-appointed Councillor for Aquatic Mammals, and encourages participation of other Scientific Councillors, representatives of the scientific or advisory bodies of other CMS aquatic mammal agreements, and other relevant experts;</i>			Ongoing	Vanessa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)		
<b>Res. 11.22 (Rev.COP12)</b>	<b>Live Capture of Cetaceans from the Wild for Commercial Purposes</b>							
OP 4	<i>Requests the Secretariat and the Scientific Council to seek to enhance cooperation and collaboration with CITES and the IWC on small cetacean species targeted by live captures from the wild</i>			Ongoing	Vanessa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)		
<b>Res. 12.17</b>	<b>Conservation and Management of Whales and their Habitats in the South Atlantic Region</b>							
OP 5	<i>Requests the Secretariat and the Scientific Council to work with the Scientific and Conservation Committees of the International Whaling Commission to increase understanding of cetaceans' contribution to the functioning of marine ecosystems, including by co-hosting a workshop to review the existing data and research and identify opportunities to expand this work</i>	See Decisions 14.74-14.75		Ongoing	Vanessa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)		
OP 6	<i>Requests the Scientific Council to promote work to address key gaps in knowledge and future research directions to support the implementation of the Action Plan and other conservation measures in the South Atlantic area</i>	See Decisions 14.79-14.80		Ongoing	Vanessa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)		
<b>Single Species Action Plan for the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin (<i>Sousa teuszii</i>)</b>								
Dec. 14.84	<i>The Scientific Council through its Aquatic Mammals Working Group is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) support the Secretariat in the development of a simple reporting template designed to gather information on the implementation of SSAP;</i>		Reporting template developed	2024	Vanessa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8 / COP15	
	<i>b) review information provided by Parties on the implementation of the SSAP and prepare a brief summary and analysis; and</i>		Information reviewed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanessa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	

	<b>Mandate</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expected Output</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Report to</b>	<b>Status</b>
	<i>c) make recommendations on the further implementation of the SSAP to the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council prior to COP15.</i>		Recommendations developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanesa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
<i>Dec. 14.85</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) consider the information provided by Parties on the implementation of the SSAP, as well as the summary and analysis and the resulting recommendations of the Aquatic Mammals Working Group; and</i>		Information, analysis, recommendations considered	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanesa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
	<i>b) provide guidance on the further implementation of the Action Plan to COP15.</i>		Guidance provided	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanesa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
<b>Sirenians, Pinnipeds and Otters</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.090</i>	<i>The Scientific Council through its Aquatic Mammals Working Group is requested to, subject to the availability of resources:</i>							
	<i>a) review the regional threats for the CMS-listed aquatic mammals other than cetaceans, with priority given to species or populations not currently covered by CMS agreements and/or with a less favourable conservation status;</i>		Reports developed (species tbd)	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanesa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: tbc)	ScC-SC8	Dependent on funding
	<i>b) based on this assessment of threats and regional priorities, prepare detailed recommendations for these other aquatic mammal species for consideration by the Scientific Council; and</i>		Recommendations developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanesa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: tbc)	ScC-SC8	Dependent on funding
	<i>c) assess whether any additional sirenian, pinniped or otter species might meet the criteria for listing on the CMS Appendices I or II and might benefit from being so listed.</i>		Assessment developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanesa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: tbc)	ScC-SC8	
<i>Dec. 14.91</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to review the assessments of regional threats and resulting recommendations developed by the Aquatic Mammals Working Group and provide recommendations to COP15.</i>		Assessment and recommendations reviewed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Vanesa Tossenberger	(Sec FP: tbc)	COP15	
<b>Marine Turtles</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.94</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to, subject to the availability of external resources:</i>							

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
	<i>a) review, as far as feasible in collaboration with the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU) and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, relevant scientific information on conservation and threats to marine turtles in a region and species-specific context, including their vulnerability to climate change, the threats of plastic pollution and light pollution on post hatchlings, and the identification of habitats resilient to climate change as these habitats may require increased conservation effort over time; and</i>		Report developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline		IOSEA AC (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	Collaboration with AC of IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU. Requires funding
	<i>b) based on this review, develop new recommendations for the conservation of all species of marine turtle included in Appendix I or II of the Convention including on the preservation of the current nesting beaches and the identification of new nesting beaches, and collate current and innovative management options to mitigate the effects of climate change on nesting beaches, such as beach cooling and beach restoration projects, for presentation at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</i>		Recommendations / draft Resolution	ScC-SC8 document deadline		IOSEA AC (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	Collaboration with AC of IOSEA Marine Turtle MOU. Requires funding
<b>Single Species Action Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) in South-East Asia and the Western Pacific Ocean Region</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.99</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) consider the report received from the Steering Group on implementation of the Action Plan, as foreseen in CMS/IOSEA/Hawksbill-SSAP/Doc.8; and</i>		Report considered	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	
	<i>b) provide guidance on the further implementation of the Action Plan to COP15.</i>		Guidance provided	ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
<b>Freshwater Fish</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.112</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to:</i>							
	<i>a) update the review of freshwater fish found in UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.33;</i>		Review updated	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Zeb Hogan	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)		Dependent on funding

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
	<i>b) provide advice on the development of a multispecies action plan for freshwater fish to address the main threats to this group of species; and</i>		Advice provided	As requested	Zeb Hogan	(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)		
	<i>c) report to the Conference of Parties at its 15th meeting on the progress in implementing this decision.</i>			ScC-SC8 document deadline		(Sec FP: Melanie Virtue)	COP15	
<b>Aquatic Wild Meat</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.187</i>	<i>The Scientific Council, through its Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group, is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) develop criteria for considering if some Appendix II-listed sharks and rays should be included within the scope of the Working Group;</i>		Criteria and recommendations developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	AWM WG Chair (supported by Barry Baker)	Rima Jabado (Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma, Andrea Pauly)	ScC-SC8	
	<i>b) collect and present information about seabird harvests as aquatic wild meat in collaboration with the Task Forces on illegal take established by Resolution 11.16 (Rev.COP14);</i>		Report developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	AWM WG Chair (supported by Barry Baker)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma, Andrea Pauly)	ScC-SC8	
	<i>c) collaborate with the relevant IUCN Specialist Groups to present a case to the Scientific Council for the assessment of the migratory nature of crocodylians (Genera: Gavialis, Crocodylus, Mecistops, Caiman, Melanosuchus) and freshwater chelonians, and the relevance of CMS to their conservation and management, including whether or not they may fit the criteria for inclusion in the Appendices;</i>		Report and recommendations developed	2024/2025	AWM WG Chair (supported by Barry Baker)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	Requires funding
	<i>d) support, as capacity allows:</i> <i>i. studies of the human dimensions of aquatic wild meat use, which are critical for designing effective conservation and management programmes that favour sustainable over unsustainable uses, including:</i> <i>• contemporary and historical socio-cultural aspects of harvesting and consuming aquatic wild meat, including the role of taboo systems, to provide insights or management measures that can be respectful of the cultural practices of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities;</i> <i>• the drivers of the harvest and consumption of aquatic wild meat;</i> <i>• the nutritional roles aquatic wild meat</i>			Ongoing	AWM WG Chair (supported by Barry Baker)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	

	Mandate	Activity	Expected Output	Timeframe	Lead	Contributors	Report to	Status
	<p><i>provides, the strengths and weaknesses of alternatives, and the health risks from both;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• food security and safety of aquatic wild meat use;</i></li> </ul> <p><i>ii. increased quantitative assessments of consumption and trade in aquatic wild meat to better understand demand and trade pathways;</i></p> <p><i>iii. increased efforts to assess the efficacy of existing legislation with regard to specific aquatic wild meat uses, and the degree to which enforcement capacity alone can address unsustainable aquatic wild meat harvests;</i></p> <p><i>iv. implementation of environmental education programmes to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of migratory megafauna, and laws concerning them;</i></p> <p><i>v. analysis of the extent of discard cases and their impact on the availability of aquatic wild meat;</i></p>							
	<p><i>e) encourage the establishment of networks of appropriate experts to foster collaborative efforts to develop regional action plans for reducing unsustainable aquatic wild meat harvests; and</i></p>				AWM WG Chair (supported by Barry Baker)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)		
	<p><i>f) ensure dissemination of information on its work on aquatic wild meat and the resulting recommendations by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. sharing information with the International Whaling Commission and participating in future Small Cetacean Subcommittee meetings with a focus on aquatic wild meat;</i></li> <li><i>ii. continuing to provide advice to the CMS Secretariat to input to the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management;</i></li> <li><i>iii. extending collaboration to include COMFAUNA, CIMFAUNA, the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme, and the WILDMEAT Project;</i></li> <li><i>iv. supporting efforts for coordination between CMS and CITES for improved regulation and sustainable management of trade in aquatic wild meat species;</i></li> <li><i>v. publishing consolidated papers in their individual expert capacity about aquatic wild meat harvests and drawing these to the attention of the Scientific Council.</i></li> </ul>				AWM WG Chair (supported by Barry Baker)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)		

	<b>Mandate</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expected Output</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Report to</b>	<b>Status</b>
<i>Dec. 14.188</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) consider the recommendations of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group submitted to the 7th meeting of the Sessional Committee and address any matters requiring broader Scientific Council attention; and</i>							
	<i>b) consider the recommendations of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group submitted to the 8th meeting of the Sessional Committee and provide advice to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.</i>		Draft Decisions developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	AWM WG Chair (supported by Barry Baker)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
<b>Res. 12.15</b>	<b>Aquatic Wild Meat</b>							
<i>OP 1</i>	<i>Requests the Scientific Council to establish a thematic Working Group dealing with aquatic wild meat, to provide expert advice to the CMS Parties, to collaborate with relevant organizations such as the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and to coordinate science and policy participation with the relevant Memoranda of Understanding concluded under CMS, and consulting with the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS) as relevant</i>	See also Decisions 14.187-14.188		Ongoing	Barry Baker	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)		
<i>OP 4</i>	<i>Requests the Working Group, subject to availability of resources, to report its findings and any proposals for future work through the CMS Scientific Council to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties</i>	See also Decisions 14.187-14.188		Ongoing		(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	
<b>Action Plan to Address Aquatic Wild Meat Harvests in West Africa</b>								
<i>Dec. 14.191</i>	<i>The Scientific Council, through its Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group, is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) support the Secretariat in the development of a simple reporting template designed to gather basic information on the implementation of the Action Plan;</i>		Reporting form developed	2024	AWM WG Chair (supported by Barry Baker)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	
	<i>b) review information provided by Parties on the implementation of the Action Plan and prepare a brief summary and analysis; and</i>		Summary and analysis prepared	ScC-SC8 document deadline	AWM WG Chair (supported)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	

	<b>Mandate</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expected Output</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>Report to</b>	<b>Status</b>
					by Barry Baker)			
	<i>c) make recommendations on the further implementation of the Action Plan at the last meeting of the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council prior to COP15.</i>		Recommendations developed	ScC-SC8 document deadline	AWM WG Chair (supported by Barry Baker)	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	ScC-SC8	
<i>Dec. 14.192</i>	<i>The Scientific Council is requested to:</i>							
	<i>a) consider the information provided by Parties on the implementation of the Action Plan, as well as the summary and analysis and the resulting recommendations of the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group; and</i>			ScC-SC8 document deadline	Barry Baker	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)		
	<i>b) provide guidance on the further implementation of the Action Plan to COP15.</i>		Guidance provided	ScC-SC8 document deadline	Barry Baker	(Sec FP: Heidrun Frisch-Nwakanma)	COP15	