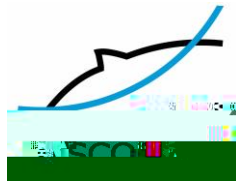
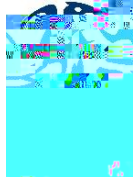




# Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas



## Progress Report on Relevant Activities Undertaken within the Framework of ASCOBANS for the United Nations Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

### Introduction

The Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) is a treaty concluded under the United Nations Environment Programme. Its secretariat is provided by the Convention on Migratory Species, itself a Multilateral Environmental Agreement under the United Nations Environment Programme. ASCOBANS has been in force since 1994 and has ten Parties<sup>1</sup> to date.

ASCOBANS covers small toothed whales, dolphins and porpoises, with individual measures



pressures, the most significant of which is bycatch. Chemical pollution and noise disturbance are also major anthropogenic pressures. This group was established in line with ASCOBANS Resolution 8.4 on the Conservation of Common Dolphin. The Steering Group developed a draft plan ASCOBANS Species Action Plan for the North-East Atlantic Common Dolphin, summarizing necessary conservation activities and next steps. The action plan is currently being finalized, following a public consultation process. (*A/RES/73/124 sections X, XI, XIII*)

**6. Workshop on harmonization of the best practices for necropsy of cetaceans and for the development of diagnostic frameworks**

During AC24, two different protocols/best practices for the postmortem analyses on cetaceans were presented. The two initiatives, developed independently