

Progress Report on Activities relating to Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea undertaken within the Framework of CMS and ASCOBANS

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

1. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Secretariat of which is provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), continues not only to be actively engaged in many global and regional species-specific activities,

participation in conservation activities

- to enhance national, regional and international cooperation

More information including the meeting report can be accessed on the MOU website (www.sharksmou.org).

Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS)

7. The Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) is a legally-binding regional instrument concluded under CMS. The UNEP/CMS Secretariat provides its secretariat services. The Secretary-General of the UN acts as Depository for the Agreement.

8. The 7th Meeting of the Parties to ASCOBANS was held in the United Kingdom in October 2012 (MOP7) and passed resolutions on a new Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the Western Baltic, the Belt Sea and the Kattegat, the impact of chemical pollution on small cetaceans, research and conservation priorities in the western part of the Agreement Area, as well as a comprehensive work plan for the Agreement. This includes continuing the specialized work on cetacean by-catch, pollution, marine debris, underwater noise, other forms of disturbance, population changes, and management of marine protected areas for cetaceans. New work areas include the effects of underwater unexploded ordnance and its removal, as well as appropriate responses to small cetaceans at risk in dangerous circumstances. The report of MOP7 is available on the ASCOBANS website (www.ascobans.org).

9. The 20th Meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC) will be held in Warsaw, Poland, from 27-29 August 2013. The AC has established numerous intersessional working groups in order to address all matters in the Agreement's work plan.