



**CONVENTION ON  
MIGRATORY  
SPECIES**

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14<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 23 - 28 October 2023  
Agenda Item 27.5.1b

**COMPILATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS THAT COULD BE DIRECTED  
TO THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AT COP14 AND FUTURE COPS**

*(Prepared by the Secretariat based on UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf. 27.5.1a)*

Summary:

This information document contains recommendations of the *Review to Support the Development of a Second CMS Cetacean Programme of Work (2024-2035)* (UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf. 27.5.1a) that could be directed to the Scientific Council at COP14 or future COPS.

**COMPILATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS THAT COULD BE DIRECTED TO THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AT COP14 AND FUTURE COPS**

1. Decision 13.81 a) requested the Aquatic Mammals Working Group (AMWG) to undertake a review of the implementation of the Cetacean POW to date, prepare a gap analysis and identify priorities to be addressed, leading to a revision of the Cetacean POW. The resulting document can be found in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Inf.27.5.1a A Review to Support the Development of a Second CMS Cetacean Programme of Work \(2024-2035\)](#).
2. Since the review contains far more potential activities for the Scientific Council than can realistically be addressed in one triennium, the Secretariat proposes that at future COPs it is used again to see which actions might be brought to the attention of the Scientific Council and COP for the next triennium. To assist in this, the Secretariat has edited potential decisions directed to the Scientific Council and compiled all of them into this document.
3. Some activities recommended for the Scientific Council have been included in the draft Resolution and draft Decisions contained in [UNEP/CMS/COP14/Doc.27.5.1 Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans](#), and some others have been included in other relevant COP14 documents. These are reflected below as well for completeness.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Entanglement, bycatch, and prey depletion</b>	Develop a report to quantify the contribution of bycatch and other fisheries-related mortalities of CMS-listed cetaceans to trophic downgrading and the health and function of marine ecosystems, and make recommendations to Parties.	
<b>Hunting</b>	With support from the Aquatic Wild Meat Working Group, quantify the contemporary whaling and aquatic wild meat takes of all CMS Appendix I-listed cetaceans in all regions and make recommendations to Parties.	Covered by draft Decisions in <a href="#">COP14/Doc.27.5.1 Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans</a>
<b>Climate change</b>	a) Investigate the impacts of mass die-offs of cetaceans linked to the presence of algal toxins, and make recommendations to Parties; b) 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; c) Develop a report about 'climate-proofing' protected areas dedicated to marine mammals, and make recommendations to Parties.	b) Covered by draft Decisions in <a href="#">COP14/Doc.27.5.1 Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans</a>
<b>Marine debris</b>	Building on the work done by ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and the International Whaling Commission	

	(IWC), develop a report about incidences and physiological impact of marine debris pollution on CMS-listed cetaceans, and make recommendations to Parties.	
<b>Chemical pollution</b>	a) Develop a report about impacts of chemical pollution on CMS-listed cetaceans, and make recommendations to Parties; b) Develop a report on the impact of chemical pollution in cetaceans on human health, and make recommendations to Parties.	a) Covered by draft Decisions in <a href="#">COP14/Doc.27.2.1 Effects of Marine Pollution on Migratory Species</a>
<b>Noise</b>	With support from the Joint Noise Working Group of CMS, ACCOBAMS and ASCOBANS, undertake a review of loud noise sources in the marine environment, include suggestions for mitigation, and make recommendations to Parties.	Covered by draft Decisions in <a href="#">COP14/Doc.27.2.2 Marine Noise</a>
<b>Vessel strikes</b>	Identify areas with high risk of vessel strikes for all CMS-listed cetaceans, including by mapping shipping lanes with Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs), develop a report about appropriate re-routing measures, including area avoidance and/or the establishment of vessel speed restrictions for key cetacean habitats, and make recommendations to Parties.	Covered by draft Decisions in <a href="#">COP14/Doc.27.2.3 Vessel Strikes</a>
<b>Live captures</b>	Develop a report quantifying the extent of live capture operations of CMS-listed cetacean species, addressing both the welfare and conservation of targeted individuals, populations and species, and make recommendations to Parties.	
<b>Disturbance and harassment</b>	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 cetaceans, and make recommendations to Parties; 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.	Covered by draft Decisions in <a href="#">COP14/Doc.27.3.1 Recreational In-Water Interactions</a>
<b>Disease</b>	In order to help investigate the causes of mortality events, taking into account work done by ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS and the IWC,	

	<p>a) Identify and recommend the use of standard stranding and necropsy protocols;</p> <p>a) Consider the need for a global database to record such incidents and make recommendations accordingly.</p>	<p>a) Covered by draft Decisions in <a href="#">COP14/Doc.27.5.1</a> <i>Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans</i></p>
<b>Deep-sea mining</b>	<p>a) Develop a report on the state of knowledge of the impacts of deep-sea mining on cetaceans and other migratory species, identify information gaps that need to be addressed before informed decisions regarding deep-sea mining can be made, and make recommendations to Parties;</p> <p>b) Develop a report assessing whether deep-diving CMS-listed cetacean species are adequately covered by requirements for Environmental Impact Assessments related to deep-water mining approvals, and make recommendations to Parties</p>	<p>Covered by draft Decisions in <a href="#">COP14/Doc.27.2.4</a> <i>Deep-Sea Mining</i></p>
<b>'Out of habitat' cetaceans and climate migrants</b>	<p>Develop a report about the monitoring, welfare, and conservation of 'Out of Habitat' cetaceans, provide advice on appropriate responses to them, and make recommendations to Parties.</p>	<p>Covered by draft Decisions in <a href="#">COP14/Doc.27.5.1</a> <i>Conservation Priorities for Cetaceans</i></p>
<b>Habitat degradation</b>	<p>a) Provide advice on how to progress the conservation and management of critical sites and ecological networks for CMS-listed cetaceans by taking into account the relationship between areas of importance to cetaceans and other areas which may be ecologically linked to them;</p> <p>b) Conduct an assessment of habitat viability for all CMS-listed cetaceans, incorporating insights on aspects of sociality as contained in the advice from the Expert Working Group on Animal Culture and Social Complexity, and make recommendations to Parties.</p>	<p>a) Possible link to IMMA process?</p>