

The 4th Meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee
(Monaco, 5-8 November 2006)

RECOMMENDATION ON THE CONSERVATION PLAN FOR BLACK SEA CETACEANS

The preparation of a Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans was one of the priorities assigned at the 1st Meeting of the Parties (Monaco, 2002; Resolution 1.9, Action 6). The 1st draft of the Plan was considered at the 3rd Meeting of the Scientific Committee (Cairo, 2005) while a further draft was discussed and supported in general and in most details by participants of the Round Table on the Conservation of Black Sea Cetaceans (Istanbul, May 2006).

At its 4th meeting in Monaco, the Scientific Committee adopts and commends the 3rd, substantially improved, version of the Plan, prepared under the auspices of the ACCOBAMS Permanent Secretariat and the Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission.¹

Consequently, the Scientific Committee **recommends** that the ACCOBAMS Parties and the Parties to the Bucharest Convention (through the Black Sea Commission) endorse its views of the Plan and :

- (1) agree that it should form an integral component of discussions of the Black Sea regional and national strategies, plans, programmes and projects concerned with the protection, exploration and management of the Black Sea environment, biodiversity, living resources, marine mammals, and cetaceans, in particular; and
- (2) facilitate the implementation of all actions proposed in the Plan such that they are completed as soon as possible and preferably within the next five years;

In particular, it **urges** that those actions which require coordinated effort and full institutional support from the ACCOBAMS Secretariat, the Black Sea Commission and the concerned individual Governments are addressed as a matter of urgency. These are:

- (1) completion of the basin-wide survey;
- (2) establishment of a regional bycatch network integrated with a regional stranding network; and
- (3) continue to work towards the establishment of a marine protected areas network.

¹ Birkun A., Jr., Cañadas A., Donovan G., Holcer D., Lauriano G., Notarbartolo di Sciarra G., Panigada S., Radu G., and van Klaveren M.-C. 2006. Conservation Plan for Black Sea Cetaceans. ACCOBAMS, Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area. 49 pp.