

Report
of the
Inaugural meeting of the Council
of the
North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission

September 10-11, 1992

Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)

Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO, Tórshavn, September 10-11, 1992.

The meeting was opened in the Fisheries Laboratory in Tórshavn, where items 1 and 2 on the Agenda were held. The Agenda is contained in Appendix 1. Present were delegations from the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway, and observers from the governments of Canada, Japan, Russia. Also in attendance were representatives from the Foreign Ministry of Denmark, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the International Whaling Commission and a number of non-governmental organizations. Participants are listed in Appendix 2.

1. Opening address by Mr Atli P. Dam, Prime Minister, Faroese Home Government - delivered by the Minister of Fisheries, Mr John Petersen (Appendix 3).
2. The Legal and Political Position of NAMMCO
Lecture by Ambassador Guðmundur Eiriksson, Iceland (Appendix 4).

The meeting continued with Agenda items 3 - 21 in the administrative offices of the Faroese Government, Tinganes, Tórshavn.

3. Election of Chairman

Kjartan Hoydal, Faroe Islands, was elected Chairman for the subsequent term and two calendar years hence, up to and including 1994. Election of the Chairman for the following term of two calendar years would be held in 1994.

4. Appointment of Rapporteur

Kate Sanderson, Faroe Islands, was appointed as rapporteur.

5. Adoption of Agenda

The Provisional Agenda was adopted (Appendix 1).

6. Admission of Observers

The meeting admitted a number of observers from various organizations, who are listed in Appendix 2. Under this item, Mr Ohsumi, Japan, presented a statement on behalf of Mr Shima, Commissioner of Japan at the International Whaling Commission (Appendix 5).

Administration and Finance:

7. Establishment of Headquarters and Secretariat

Two Parties, Norway and the Faroe Islands, offered to house the secretariat and provide office facilities. A representative from the regional committee of Northern Norway referred to the interest and offer of support from regional authorities in Northern Norway with regard to the establishment of the Secretariat in their region. The Council agreed to accept the offer from Norway and establish the Secretariat in Tromsø.

The Chairman was entrusted to make a proposal for the announcement of vacancies for professional staff which is to be circulated to members of the Council for review. In the interim, it was agreed that Sidsel Grønvik would be responsible for the Secretariat, and she was assured of support from Norway in her activities.

8. Budget/Finance

A proposal for a budget was produced by a working group before the meeting (Appendix 6). It was agreed that the level of funding was acceptable and that the proportion of funding paid by each party was in order. The general areas covered by the proposed budget were agreed upon, but the specific requirements in each area would be further discussed and finalized at the next meeting.

Scientific Basis for Advice:

9. Establishing the Scientific Committee

The Council appointed a working group, convened by Jóhann Sigurjónsson, Iceland, and asked it to prepare proposals for points under Agenda item 9. The report of the Working Group is contained in Appendix 7.

The Council endorsed the suggestions made in the report of the Working Group and accepted the proposed structure of the Scientific Committee, as set out in the report, that:

"Each contracting party nominate up to three experts to the Scientific Committee. The principal task of the Committee will be to produce scientific advice requested by the Council, and secure that this advice is based on the best available scientific findings at any time. the Committee may also make proposals to the Council of important scientific tasks to consider for future work of the Committee."

It was agreed that members of the Scientific Committee should be appointed by the 1st of November, 1992 by

notification to the Chairman of the Council, who would then make arrangements for the election of Chairman of the Scientific Committee.

Further, the Council instructed the Scientific Committee to:

1) review the "List of Marine Mammal Stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean for Management under NAMMCO" (Appendix 8) and update the profiles for each species/stock;

2) review the basis for, and develop assessments necessary to provide the scientific foundation for conservation and management of the stocks relevant for management under NAMMCO;

3) review the data needs of the Scientific Committee.

10. Request for Scientific Advice

NAC has previously sent requests for scientific advice to ICES. These are listed in Appendix 9. It was agreed that these requests should carry over to NAMMCO. It was further agreed to delete from the request for advice on pilot whales in the north eastern Atlantic the following words:

"... and advice on catch levels inside safe biological limits."

11. Establishing and coordinating Management Committees

- a) Stocks and areas to be considered
- b) Rules of procedure

12. Advice on specific stocks

It was agreed that Agenda items 11 a) and b) and 12 should be postponed until the answers from the Scientific Committee regarding points 1, 2 and 3 in item 9 above have been resolved.

13. Hunting methods

The Council agreed that the question of hunting methods was a matter of relevance to NAMMCO on all levels - scientific, management and information. It was agreed to establish an ad hoc Committee chaired by Amalie Jessen, Greenland, with representatives from each member of the Council. The Committee will review hunting methods as required by the members of the Council and it will also include consideration of measures necessary to ensure the safety of those directly involved in hunting.

External relations:

14. Press meetings

The Council agreed to have an open policy towards the media and the Chairman was entrusted to inform the media of developments during the meeting.

15. Cooperation with ICES

It was agreed that NAMMCO should request from ICES basic scientific analyses on the working group level and that the working group reports should not be filtered through the ACFM system, but go directly to the Scientific Committee of NAMMCO for review.

16. Cooperation with other international organizations

NAMMCO has already established reciprocal observer status with the IWC and ICES. It was agreed to try to reach the same arrangement with NAFO, NEAFC, FAO, CITES and the Bonn Convention. It was agreed to inform CCMLR about the activities of NAMMCO at their forthcoming meeting. Further, the chairman was asked to investigate other organizations such as IUCN and UNEP and others with a view to establishing contacts with these organizations as appropriate.

17. Information strategies

Kate Sanderson, Faroe Islands, presented a proposal regarding the functions of the information officer in the NAMMCO secretariat, as well as for the establishment of a "NAMMCO information fund" to be financed in addition to the budget (Appendix 10). The representative from High North Alliance, Georg Blichfeldt, referred to the need for organized and well-financed information work on the inevitably controversial matter of marine mammal exploitation and described the kinds of information to which such a fund could contribute. The Chairman proposed to investigate the possibilities of subsidizing such an information fund with external funding. No decision was made on the proposal, but it was agreed that it should be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

18. Relations with Canada and Russia

The Council expressed its sincere hope that Canada and Russia would join the Commission in the not-too-distant future.

Closing Arrangements:

19. Report of the First Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO

The Council took note of the Draft Report of the First Meeting of NAMMCO.

20. Press Release

The Council adopted the Draft Press Release (Appendix 11).

21. Any other business

The Council thanked Sidsel Grønvik, both for her work as secretary of NAC and in the subsequent period during the establishment of NAMMCO.

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission

Inaugural Meeting of the Council
Tórshavn, 10-11 September, 1992

Agenda

Opening procedures:

1. Opening address by Mr Atli P. Dam, Prime Minister, Faroese Home Government *
2. The Legal and Political Position of NAMMCO
Lecture by Ambassador Guðmundur Eiriksson, Iceland *
3. Election of Chairman
4. Appointment of Rapporteur
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Admission of Observers

Administration and Finance:

7. Establishment of Headquarters and Secretariat
8. Budget/Finance

Scientific Basis for Advice:

9. Establishing the Scientific Committee
 - a) Membership
 - b) Rules of procedure
 - c) Invited specialists
10. Request for Scientific Advice

Management Advice:

11. Establishing and coordinating Management Committees
 - a) Stocks and areas to be considered
 - b) Rules of procedure
12. Advice on specific stocks
13. Advice on hunting methods

(* Public sessions)

External relations:

14. Press meetings
15. Cooperation with ICES
16. Cooperation with other international organisations
17. Information strategies
18. Relations with Canada and Russia

Closing Arrangements:

19. Report of the First Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO
20. Press Release
21. Any other business

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
Inaugural Meeting of Council

Tórshavn, 10 - 11 September, 1992

List of Participants

Faroe Islands:

John Petersen
Kjartan Hoydal
Kate Sanderson
Geneviève Desportes
Dorete Bloch
Jústines Olsen
Bogi Hansen
Karsten Hansen
Edith Lamhauge

Guests:

Óli Jákup Hentze
Dánjál Norðberg
Elias í Vági
Hanus Højgaard
Erhard Miðgerð

Greenland:

Einar Lemche
Amalie Jessen
Finn Kapel
Hansi Kreutzmann

Iceland:

Guðmundur Eiriksson
Kjartan Júlíusson
Halldór Árnason
Jóhann Sigurjónsson
Kristján Loftsson
Konráð Eggertsson
Óskar Vigfússon
Benedikt Valsson

Norway:

Jan Arvesen
Inger Lavik Opdahl
Stein Owe
Odd Gunnar Skagestad
Hallstein Rasmussen
Hild Ynnesdal
Arne Bjørge
Alf Håkon Hoel
Otto Gregussen
Sidsel Grønvik

Observers:

Japan:

Seiji Ohsumi

Canada:

Dan Goodman
Ken Brynaert

Russia:

Nikolai Startchenko

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark:

Henrik Fischer

Nordic Council of Ministers:

Johan Williams

ICC/ICCWC:

Les Lee Carpenter

High North Alliance:

Georg Blichfeldt

Inuvialuit Game Council:

Norman Snow
Andy Carpenter

Landsdelsudvalget, Nord Noreg:

Mortan Selnes

European Bureau for Conservation and Development:

Despina Symons

International Whaling Commission

Finn Kapel

Inaugural Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO

Tórshavn, 10th of September, 1992

Opening Address

by

Atli P. Dam
Prime Minister
Government of the Faroe Islands

- Delivered by John Petersen, Minister of Fisheries

Ambassadors, representatives of contracting parties,
observers, ladies and gentlemen -

It is a great honour to welcome you to the Faroes on the occasion of the first statutory meeting of NAMMCO, the new regional organisation for the management of marine mammals.

It was a most timely step our four countries took in Tromsø in 1990 when they established NAC, which has now been succeeded by NAMMCO. It shows that these four countries are not content to sit passively by and watch the framework for international cooperation on the management of whale stocks crumble under pressure from radical environmentalist and animal welfare groups. It shows that these four countries, who all have such a substantial interest in the rational utilisation of the living resources of the sea, work actively to safeguard the necessary cooperation on these matters in our region by establishing this organisation - an organisation which extends international cooperation to small cetaceans and seals, and which will have the necessary expertise to maintain cooperation on the great whales should the present international system break down.

We in the Faroe Islands see quite clearly that if the majority in the IWC continue on their present course, then the IWC cannot fulfil its statutory responsibilities and offer advice or make decisions on the rational utilisation of whales. This has become particularly evident to the Faroese authorities after the latest IWC meeting and the passing of a resolution on pilot whaling. Because of this, the Government of the Faroe Islands has initiated investigations into how we can free ourselves from the Convention on the Regulation of Whaling from 1946.

For the historically-minded, the cooperation of NAMMCO also has much older roots. The four founding parties, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and the Faroe Islands, cover most of the West Nordic area - an area which was an economic and cultural entity in the Middle Ages. I may add that these are countries with which the Faroes still have a very close relationship in fisheries and in many other areas. Although it could be said that the founding members of NAMMCO are almost "family", we

would like to see the organisation extended to include the entire North Atlantic area. We welcome, therefore, the observers from Canada and Russia, with whom we also have strong ties as regards fisheries. The wider international dimension is also underlined by the participation of Japan as observer. And the presence of observers from organisations representing hunters and fishermen makes it clear who has the fundamental interest in these matters.

Once again I welcome you all to the Faroe Islands. I wish the organisation and all those involved a successful start. I would also like to assure you that the political authorities in the Faroe Islands strongly support the aims and ideals of NAMMCO, and will contribute - as far as our abilities and resources allow us - to its important work.

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
Gudmundur Eiriksson

1. Introduction

1. By an Agreement signed at Nuuk on 9 April 1992 on cooperation in research, conservation and management of marine mammals in the North Atlantic the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway established the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO). The inaugural meeting of the Council of the Commission will be held in Thorshavn on 10 September 1992. This paper describes in summary fashion the background to the establishment of the organization, its structure and its legal and political status.

2. Background

2. The immediate background to the establishment of the organization can be found in the annual International Conferences on the rational utilization of marine mammals. Five such conferences have been held since 1988, bringing together countries which wish to emphasize a rational approach to marine mammal management, in contrast, for example, to the approach taken in recent years with respect to whales in the International Whaling Commission.

3. Further to discussions at these conferences the Ministries of Fisheries of the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway signed in 1990 in Tromsø a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in these questions.

4. The conclusion of the Agreement on cooperation in research, conservation and management of marine mammals in the North Atlantic was a formalization of the cooperation begun under the terms of the Tromsø Memorandum.

5. In its structure NAMMCO resembles the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) which served as a model for the negotiators.

6. Amongst the factors which influenced the parties in their work towards establishing NAMMCO, the following have been identified:

(a) dissatisfaction with the work of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which has not taken the necessary steps to revise the zero-catch quota for the commercial take of large whales;

(b) the lack of competence of the IWC to deal with small cetaceans (e.g. pilot whales) and the need for an effective forum for international cooperation on their conservation and management;

(c) the need for an organization dealing with marine mammals other than whales, such as seals;

(d) the general need to apply modern management principles, such as the ecosystem/multi-species approach, to marine mammals, which has proven impossible in organizations such as the IWC.

3. Structure of NAMMCO

7. The objective of the organization is found in article 2 of the Agreement, to "contribute through regional consultation and cooperation to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic"

8. The structure follows the model of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization. It consists of a Council, of which each party is a member, taking decisions by unanimous vote. The Council establishes Management Committees, with competence over individual stocks. The membership of the Committees is determined by the Council, to include those parties with an interest in the respective stock. Their decisions are also taken by unanimous vote of their members. A Scientific Committee is also established. It would not be expected to carry out research, but rather coordinate requests for scientific advice, including, where appropriate, from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in Copenhagen. Finally, a Secretariat is established. Final plans have not been made, but it is expected that it will consist of a full-time staff of two to three persons in the early stages. The seat of the Secretariat will be decided at the inaugural meeting.

4. Legal and political status

9. The drafters of the Agreement establishing NAMMCO took into account the various legal and political aspects which would have an impact on the effectiveness of its work, including developments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 and other general considerations, such as the relationship with other organizations.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

10. At early preparatory stages of the work of UNCED there was ample evidence of general anti-exploitation tendencies, particularly in the sphere of the living resources of the marine environment. For example, proposals were made for the establishment of a near-permanent moratorium on whaling. These attempts were effectively resisted at the final stages of the preparatory work. Indeed, they ran counter to the principle of sustainable development which was to be the main theme of the Conference, and which was, in the end, endorsed in the Rio Declaration adopted by the Conference.

11. In the relevant Chapter of Agenda 21, which was designed to set the framework for environmental activity in the future, the general principle of "sustainable use" of all living marine resources was set out (paragraph 17.79). In the negotiations, agreement was reached on the same wording as is found in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, allowing for an exemption from this general obligation for those States which do not choose to exploit marine mammals (paragraph 17.80). The role of international cooperation with respect to marine mammals was recognized in separate provisions (paragraphs 17.94 and 17.95), reading as follows:

"17.94 States recognize:

(a) the responsibility of the International Whaling Commission for the conservation and management of whale stocks and the regulation of whaling pursuant to the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling;

(b) the work of the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee in carrying out studies of large whales in particular, as well as of other cetaceans;

(c) the work of other organizations, such as the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Agreement on Small Cetaceans in the Baltic and North Seas under the Bonn Convention, in the conservation, management and study of cetaceans and other marine mammals.

17.95 States should cooperate for the conservation, management and study of cetaceans."

12. The provisions of subparagraph (c) of 17.94 were drafted to take account of the work of NAMMCO in the future.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982

13. By far the most important development in the law of the sea in recent years is the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982. While not yet in force, its provisions have had a normative effect on developments in all areas of marine affairs.

14. As far as the utilization of living resources is concerned the fundamental principle is the recognition of the sovereign rights of coastal States within their 200-mile exclusive economic zones.

15. The Law of the Sea Convention sets out in article 62 an objective of optimum utilization of the living resources in the exclusive economic zone.

16. The Convention recognizes marine mammals as one of the species of living resources to which a special regime is to apply. This is reflected in article 65, reading as follows:

"Nothing in this Part restricts the right of a coastal State or the competence of an international organization, as appropriate, to prohibit, limit or regulate the exploitation of marine mammals more strictly than provided for in this Part. States shall co-operate with a view to the conservation of marine mammals and in the case of cetaceans shall in particular work through the appropriate international organizations for their conservation, management and study."

17. A number of elements of this article need special mention. First, it recognizes that the objective of optimum utilization under article 62 need not be adhered to in regard to marine mammals. Secondly, in referring to the "competence of an international organization" the drafters were avoiding any recognition of a right of an international organization to infringe on the sovereignty of a coastal State in its exclusive economic zone. Thirdly, the article calls for international co-operation, and, specifically, with respect to cetaceans co-operation through an international organization. Fourthly, reference is made to an "appropriate" international organization, a characterization which may become increasingly significant. Fifthly, organizations are referred to in the plural, dispelling any illusions that any specific organization was identified. Fifthly, "international organizations" include regional organizations, as evidenced by the use, throughout the Convention, of the term "international organizations, whether global or regional". Finally, specific mention is made of "management" of cetaceans: the ability of an organization to take on a management role may thus be relevant in the assessment of its "appropriateness".

18. The drafters of the NAMMCO Agreement took the provisions of article 65 carefully into account in determining the structure of the organization.

General considerations

19. As noted above, organizations such as NAMMCO are recognized in Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Furthermore, through the work of the organization parties would be able to fulfil the obligations of cooperation laid down in the Law of the Sea Convention. Some more specific points need be addressed also.

Membership

20. The present parties to NAAMCO are the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway. The authorities of the Faroe Islands and Greenland participate in the Agreement on the basis of their competence in fisheries questions. Under article 10, other parties may sign the Agreement only with the consent of the existing Parties. Thus, it is not an Agreement open to all States. In admitting new parties, the existing parties would doubtless take into account the extent to which an applicant shared the objective set out in article 2 (see paragraph 7 above). The international reputation of the organization would thus be dependent on it carefully defining its competence so as not to infringe on the rights of non-parties with legitimate interest in its activities.

Competence

21. The organization is limited in its geographical scope to the North Atlantic Ocean. Principally, this would comprise those parts of the North Atlantic within the jurisdiction of the parties (and beyond that jurisdiction, supposedly, with respect to the nationals of the parties). This is, of course, an extremely vast area, providing adequate scope for management measures.

22. The competence of the organization for management would be set out in decisions of the Council establishing Management Committees. The parties have developed a list of stocks of marine mammals which could potentially form the mandate of Management Committees. It is expected that the first of the Management Committees would deal with stocks of seals and small cetaceans.

Relationship with other organizations

23. Article 9 of the Agreement provides that it is without prejudice to obligations of the parties under other international agreements. Thus it is clear that they do not intend that the Agreement supersede or conflict with other agreements.

24. The relationship with the International Whaling Commission deserves special attention. In the event that NAMMCO adopts measures for large whales the potential for conflict exists with any measures in force under IWC auspices.

25. Iceland is no longer a member of the IWC and thus no conflict could arise. Norway is not bound by the existing zero-catch quota under the IWC, having made an objection to the relevant decision. Therefore, it may freely establish, independently of the IWC, catch quotas for whales applicable within its waters. It could make such determinations on the basis of recommendations of Management Committees under NAMMCO. The situation of the Faroe Islands and Greenland is different, since through the membership of Denmark, they are bound by the existing zero-catch quota of the IWC. (It would be possible for Denmark to withdraw from the IWC as regards either of them, as the Faroe Islands have proposed.) Unless the

situation is changed, they would not be able to take whales under a NAMMCO recommendation if it were inconsistent with an IWC decision. This would not, however, prevent them taking part in the work of Management Committees whose work would be directed at measures to be taken by Iceland or Norway.

Conclusion

26. The proposed activities of NAMMCO are fully consistent with the existing legal framework for the conservation and management of marine mammals. The international recognition of its work will depend, not on legal factors, but how effective it is in achieving its objectives and portraying to the international community an image of environmentally sound management.

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission Inaugural Meeting of Council

Tórshavn, 10 - 11 September, 1992

Statement by Japan

Thank you very much for inviting Japan to this meeting as an observer. It is my great pleasure to attend on behalf of Mr. Shima, the IWC Commissioner for Japan.

First of all, the Japanese Government greatly appreciates the endeavour taken by the related Governments in establishing NAMMCO.

The Japanese Government supports the establishment of this Commission. The object of this Commission is to contribute to the study, conservation and management of marine mammals through the regional cooperation of related Governments in the North Atlantic, and Japan considers that such a regional organization has an important role in maintaining the sustainable utilization of marine mammal resources, in studying the characteristics of marine mammals, and in underlining the regional nature of the fishery.

Furthermore, if an international organization rather than a regional organization manages marine mammal resources, then it will become almost impossible to exclude countries which have no affinities with, and which ignore the voices of the region, and which adopt irresponsible resolutions against scientific findings, as has been seen in the IWC.

Japan understands the background and reasons for Iceland's withdrawal from the IWC. The Faroese Government has also begun to examine similar steps recently, for which we have deep sympathy.

The Japanese Government hopes that NAMMCO will operate constructively, and Japan also hopes to maintain a close cooperative relationship with NAMMCO for the purpose of sustainable utilization of marine mammals, even though Japan is not directly a part of the region to which NAMMCO applies.

Japan believes that all marine mammals, including cetaceans, should be utilized sustainably. Although Japan is only an observer in NAMMCO, we wish to contribute regularly in the fields of scientific advice and the exchange of the information.

At this meeting NAMMCO begins to function in its cooperation on the management of marine mammal resources in the North Atlantic as a new regional organization, and Japan considers such an action will either force a normalization of the IWC or will dissolve the IWC in favour of a greater emphasis on regionalization.

It is our pleasure to inform you that the Japanese Government has recently decided that the 45th annual meeting of the IWC be held in Kyoto from 10th to 14th May next year. It is preparing to introduce the principle of sustainable utilization of marine living resources, including cetaceans, the position of whaling countries, and the food culture of whaling nations at the meeting.

We would like to request the cooperation of the NAMMCO governments at the meeting. We hope that Iceland sends many delegates to the forthcoming IWC meeting.

Finally, Japan expects that this inaugural meeting of NAMMCO will be successful, and hopes that NAMMCO advances well and effectively in the future.

Draft budget for NAMMCO 1993**Expenditure**

Staff:	DKR
Secretary of NAMMCO	290.000
Information Secretary	250.000
<u>Assistant</u>	<u>180.000</u>
Staff, total	720.000

Office expenses:	
Telephone, fax, mail	60.000
Equipment	100.000
Miscellaneous	30.000
Annual Meeting	50.000
<u>Travel</u>	<u>150.000</u>
Office, total	390.000

Information	
Printed material	200.000
<u>Distribution a. o.</u>	<u>100.000</u>
Information, total	300.000

Data:	
Equipment	100.000
<u>Maintenance, programs</u>	<u>100.000</u>
Data, total	200.000

Scientific Committee	
Invited experts	190.000
<u>Projects</u>	<u>200.000</u>
SC, total	390.000

Grand total 2.000.000

Income

Norway	1.000.000
Iceland	500.000
The Faroe Islands	250.000
Greenland	250.000
Grand Total	2.000.000

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Members: A. Bjørge (N), D. Bloch (F), G. Desportes (F), S. Grønvik (N), B. Hansen (F), F.O. Kapel (G), J. Sigurjónsson (I, chairman)

The Working Group met twice to:

1) discuss the structure of the Scientific Committee of NAMMCO, with special reference to the ideas that had been presented in the NAMMCO Council on this issue;

2) to list items of priorities and draft terms of reference for the Working Group in its later work to develop draft Rules of Procedures of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee, for thereafter further consideration and decision of the Council;

3) to determine time schedule for the Working Group task, and how this could be achieved.

1. PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF NAMMCO

Each contracting party nominate up to three experts to the Scientific Committee. The principal task of the Committee will be to produce scientific advice requested by the Council, and secure that this advice is based on the best available scientific findings at any time. The Committee may also make proposals to the Council of important scientific tasks to consider for future work of the Committee.

To meet this, the Scientific Committee will decide itself how it can achieve its goals, i.e. whether it will best be achieved through cooperation with other existing scientific fora, or whether it considers it necessary to propose establishment of designated standing Working Groups (under its auspices) composed of the necessary expertise to address the questions being raised by the Council. When appropriate, the Committee shall make

proposals to the Council for the invitation of external experts for participation in the Working Groups, or for study contracts to be arranged (partly or solely to be funded by NAMMCO), in order to strengthen the scientific work to be completed. The Scientific Committee shall make proposals of terms of reference of the Working Groups and evaluate the contents of their reports for later dissemination of the Scientific advice to the Council.

2. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR FURTHER WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP

Taking into account the above framework of the structure of the Scientific Committee, the Working Group shall develop draft Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Committee of NAMMCO, that addresses the following items:

A. Organizational aspects:

- (i) procedure for nomination of Scientific Committee members,
- (ii) election of Scientific Committee chairman/vice chairman (preferably decided by its members) and the length of terms,
- (iii) convening of meetings of the Committee, incl. decisions and process of defining Agenda,
- (iv) frequency of meetings,
- (v) establishment of Working Groups and appointment of Working Group conveners/chair,
- (vi) further procedures for the operation of Working Groups, incl. reporting of findings,
- (vii) procedure for inviting external participants.

B. OTHER ASPECTS

- (i) how decisions are reached,
- (ii) rights and obligations of member parties with respect to data handling and availability of national data in the possession of the NAMMCO Secretariat,
- (iii) procedures for handling data and reports submitted to the Committee or its Working Groups,
- (iv) procedure for reporting to the Council,
- (v) procedure for seeking advice or information outside NAMMCO,

- (vi) the Committee and its relationship with other scientific bodies,
- (vii) the Committee and public relations.

3. TIME SCHEDULE

The Working Group will continue this work by correspondence and the chairman will report the results in writing to the Chairman of the Council by 1 November 1992. Members of the Council may wish to nominate additional members of the Working Group. It would be preferable that such nominations would take place before the end of this month by direct correspondence with the chairman of the Group or the Council Chairman.

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
Inaugural Meeting of the Council
Tórshavn, 10 September, 1992

Marine Mammal Stocks in the North Atlantic

List of marine mammals in the North Atlantic relevant for management under NAMMCO prepared by Jóhann Sigurjónsson and Finn Larsen together with supplementary list of seals and four small cetacean species, prepared by researchers from the Greenland Fisheries Laboratory in Copenhagen.

**A list of marine mammals in the North Atlantic Ocean relevant for
management under the new NAMMCO agreement**

This document is a revised version of a document prepared during the NAC meeting in Copenhagen 28-29 January to help analysing what species of marine mammals would be relevant to manage under a new agreement between the NAC countries (NAMMCO). It was agreed that the document would be circulated by the NAC secretary to the member countries for comments and suggestions, and a final version would thereafter be distributed at the first NAMMCO Council meeting when establishment of Management Committees will be considered. The lists of marine mammals given in Tables 1 and 2 are only provisional and need to be carefully examined by scientists in each of the NAMMCO country and corrected according to the best available information. In several cases the information available on the distribution, migration and abundance of the species is not adequate for proper categorization in any of the tables and needs to be revised when new information becomes available.

Table 1 lists the species under consideration, where the criteria for inclusion is whether the species has been exploited (see International Whaling Statistics, Sandefjord) in the area in recent 20 years (or after 1971), by either any of the NAMMCO countries, Canada or The Republic of Russia, or is relevant in the context of alleged significant technical (e.g. destructive effects on fishing gear or fishing efficiency, by-catches) or biological interactions (e.g. as major consumers of animal life including commercially exploited fish species, or as potential competitors of more general ecological significance) in the respective countries EEZs, which might require specific management considerations. While the exploitation aspect is a rather straight-forward criteria to apply here, it should be noted that the interactions are usually not well known.

In the 'Distribution' column of Table 1, the countries where the species are known to occur (i.e. within their EEZ) are listed, based on information generally known to specialists in marine mammals (for the smaller species of cetaceans reference was also made to Klinowska, M (ed.). 1991: *Dolphins, porpoises and whales of the world*, The IUCN Red Data Book). Where available knowledge allows splitting-up of the species into geographical areas on the basis that the species can be divided into different "stocks" or management units, this has been done by dividing the species into two (western and eastern, i.e. west and east of Cape Farewell) or three (western: west of Cape Farewell; central: East Greenland-Iceland-Jan Mayen; eastern: Faroes-Norway) geographical areas. This split-up is however, made on strictly provisional basis and needs further consideration.

The countries involved in the harvest ('Countries of exploitation') and those that may have other management interests ('Interactions') are indicated in separate columns. Note that countries are not listed under the 'Interactions' column, if they are included as one of the countries of exploitation. The

'Interactions' column is thus not meant to be an exhaustive list of countries where technical/biological interactions for the species in question occur, but rather to indicate 'other' management interests for the country in question, if no direct takes occur.

Finally, the column 'Third country' lists the countries adjacent to any NAMMCO country (or Canada and The Republic of Russia), where a given species is also known to occur and may thus be subject of management measures by this third country (note that countries not adjacent to NAMMCO members, but where the species may occur during time of the year within their EEZ, are not included here).

Table 2 lists the species of marine mammals, which have not been subject for direct harvest in the NAMMCO countries, Canada or The Republic of Russia, but are known to either occur sporadically within the EEZ of any of these countries, or occurs sporadically or in unknown numbers in areas immediately adjacent to the EEZ of these countries. These are all small cetacean species.

Table 1. List of marine mammal species in the North Atlantic of joint interest¹⁾ to two or more of the countries Canada (C), Greenland (G), Iceland (I), The Faroe Islands (F), Norway (N) and The Republic of Russia (R). See also footnotes below.

Species	Latin name	Distribution ²⁾	Countries of exploitation	Interactions ³⁾	Third country	
Baleen whales⁵⁾						
N Atlantic right whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	C,G,I,F,N			USA, UK	
Bowhead whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	C,G,I,N,R			USA	
Blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	C,G,I,F,N		C,I,F	USA	
Fin	western central eastern	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	C,G	C,G		USA
			G,I,N	I	G,N	
			F,N	F	N	UK
Sei	western central eastern	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	C,G	G	C	USA
			G,I,N	I		
			F,N		N	UK
Minke	west central eastern	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	C,G	C,G,N		USA
			G,I,N	G,I,N		
			F,N,R	N	F	UK, Denm
Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	C,G,I,N,F	G	C,I,F,N	USA,UK	
Large odontocetes⁵⁾						
Sperm whale	<i>Physeter catodon</i>	C,G,I,N,F	C,G,I	N	USA,UK	

Table 1(cont.)

Species	Latin name	Distribution ²⁾	Countries of exploitation	Interactions ³⁾	Third country
Small odontocetes⁶⁾					
Northern bottlenose whale ⁷⁾	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	C,G,I,N,F	G,F,N	I	UK
Killer whale ⁸⁾	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	C,G,I,N,F	C,G,I,F,N		USA,UK
Long-finned pilot whale	west <i>Globicephala melas</i>	C,G G,I,F,N	G F,N	C I	USA UK
White-beaked dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	C,G,I,F N,R	G,F	C,I,N	USA,UK,Swe
White-sided dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	C,G,I,F,N	G,F	C,N	USA,UK,Swe
Bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	C,I,F,N	F		USA,UK,Denm
Harbour porpoise ⁴⁾	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	C,G,I,F,N,R	C,G,F	I,N	USA,UK,Swe
Narwhal	west <i>Monodon monoceros</i>	C,G G,I,N,R	C,G G,R		
Beluga	west <i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>	C,G, G,I,NR	C,G G,R		
Seals⁹⁾					
Ringed	west <i>Phoca hispida</i>	C,G G,I,N,R	C,G G,N,R	I	
Harbour ⁴⁾	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	C,G,I,F,N,R	C,G,I,F,N?		USA,UK,Swe
Grey ⁴⁾	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	C,G,I,F,N,R	C,I,F		USA,UK,Swe
Harp	west <i>Phoca groenlandica</i>	C,G G,I,N,R	C,G G,N,R	I	

Table 1 (cont.)

Species	Latin name	Distribution ²⁾	Countries of exploitation	Interactions ³⁾	Third country
Hooded west east	<i>Cystophora cristata</i>	C,G G,I,N,R	C,G G,N,R	I	
Bearded	<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>	C,G,I,N,R	C,G,N,R	I	
Walrus west east	<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>	C,G G,N,R	C?,G G,R?		

see footnotes next page

Footnotes:

- 1) 'joint interest': defined here as stocks that have recently (the last 20 years) been exploited or stocks that are believed to be subject for significant technical or biological interactions (cf. text).
- 2) distribution refers here to species entering the respective NAMMCO-country's EEZ (incl. Canada and The Republic of Russia) during at least part of its life cycle.
- 3) 'interactions' refers here to other interests when no exploitation within the respective country's EEZ occurs.
- 4) these species are probably stationary.
- 5) species regulated by the IWC.
- 6) species not regulated by the IWC, but see also 7) and 8) below. Beluga and narwhals are managed under bilateral agreements between Canada and Greenland.
- 7) this species is by some member states of the IWC claimed to be within the management competence of the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, while other member states have not accepted this view. The IWC set catch limits to zero with a PS classification.
- 8) this species is listed in the IWC Schedule, but no management decisions have been made by the IWC, while the IWC Scientific Committee has made some management recommendations (SMS stock with catch limit of 52 pending stock assessment). Norway voluntarily set a national catch limit of 52 for 1980, but no additional takes were permitted. Only live-capture takes permitted in the late 1970's and 1980's off Iceland.
- 9) All seals managed under agreements between one of the NAMMCO countries, Canada or The Republic of Russia, except the rather stationary harbour and grey seal stocks.

Table 2. List of small cetacean species in the North Atlantic not exploited by any NAMMCO country, Canada or The Republic of Russia, but occurring (though often seldom) within or adjacent to the EEZ of the respective countries (see abbreviations and footnotes in Table 1). None of the species regulated by the IWC or other multi-national authority.

Species	Latin name	Distribution area	Third country	Note
Risso's dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	C,N?	USA, UK,	deep waters mainly
Striped dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	C	USA,UK	south of ca 60°N
Common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	C,I,F,N	USA, UK, Denm	south of 61°N
False killer whale	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	C?,N	USA,UK	deep water, south
Beaked whales ¹⁾	fam. <i>Ziphiidae</i>	C,I,F,N	USA,UK	four species of <i>Mesoplodon</i> + <i>Z. cavirostris</i> , dist. not well known
Pygmy sperm whale	<i>Kogia breviceps</i>	C	USA,UK	dist. not well known

1) four species of the *Mesoplodon* sub-family, i.e. *M. bidens*, *M. densirostris*, *M. europaeus* and *M. mirus*, mainly off-shore.

Seals

Ringed seal (Phoca hispida)

Distribution, W. Atl.: C, G

E. Atl.: G, N, R

Exploitation: C, G, R

Interactions: - (?)

Stock identity: Young seals known to wander widely, adults considered "stationary" - degree of mixing between geographic regions unknown.

Status: Common, abundant species in the Arctic, but population size (millions ?) or trends unknown in most regions.

Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina)

W. Atl. harbor seal (P.v. concolor)

Distribution: C, G -USA

Exploitation: (C?) G

Interactions: C (G?)

Stock identity: Coastal, "stationary". Possible exchange between C(USA) and G unknown.

Status: C(USA), south of Labrador ca. 13.000 (1979), rare north of Labrador,

G unknown, probably rare (vulnerable ?).

E. Atl. harbour, common seal (P.v.v.)

Distribution: I, F, N - Swe, Den, Germ, Neth (Fr.), UK, Eire

Exploitation: -

Interactions: I?, F?, N?

Stock identity: Coastal, "stationary".

Status: I: large (30.000), possibly stable; F: small, trend not known; N: slightly reduced after 1988-epizootic;

Swa->Neth: reduced after 1988-epizootic (recovering ?);

UK-Eire: stable in most areas (total about 22.000).

Harp seal (Phoca groenlandica)

Distribution: W. Atl. (Newfdl.): C, G - (USA)

C. Atl. (Jan Mayen): G, N, I

E. Atl. (Wh. Sea): N, R - (NW Eur.?)

Exploitation: C, G, N, R

Interactions: C, G, N, (R?)

Stock identity: Seasonal movements between whelping patches and Arctic regions; young seals cross "stock boundaries", but degree of mixing of breeding animals considered low.

Status: W. Atl.: Appr. 2-3 mill., increasing since mid-1970s, according to circumstantial evidence, but recent scientific assessment insufficient.

C. Atl.: Appr. 1/4-1/2 mill., trend insufficient documented, possibly stable or increasing since early 1980s.

E. Atl.: < 1 mill, apparently increasing during 1970s, stable 1980-85, thereafter decreasing, but scientific evidence inconclusive.

Assessment: Until 1985 NAFO and Norw.-USSR comm., Joint ICES/NAFO W.G. since 1989 (1985).

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Hooded seal (Cystophora cristata)

Distribution: W.Atl. (Nfdl. & Davis Str): C, G - (USA)
 C.Atl. (Jan Mayen): (G, N, (I), (R?)) - (WEur)

Exploitation: C, G, N, R

Interactions: - (?)

Stock identity: Seasonal movements between whelping patches, moulting areas, and feeding regions in the Arctic and N.Atl. Close connection between Nfdl. and Davis Strait whelping patches and Denmark Strait moulting area, but no scientific evidence of mixing with Jan Mayen/ Greenland Sea stock.

Status: W.Atl.: possibly increasing during 1960s and 1970s, present status unknown (estimate early 1980s appr. 325.000).

C.Atl.: possibly decreasing during 1950s and 1960s, thereafter stable or slightly increasing, present status uncertain (appr. 200.000).

Assessment: Until 1985 NAFO and Norw.-USSR comm., Joint ICES/NAFO W.G. since 1989 (1985).

Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus)

Distribution: W.Atl.: C - (USA)

E.Atl.: I, F, N, R - UK, Eire, (Fr), Swe, (Den)

Exploitation: (C?), I, (F?)

Interactions: C, I, N, (F?)

Stock identity: Young seals occasionally move widely, adults considered "stationary". W. and E.Atl. populations considered distinct, exchange between geographic areas in E.Atl. may occur.

Status: Increasing stocks in both W.Atl. (about 25.000, 1977) and E.Atl. (appr. 75.000, 1981), except the Baltic (less than 5.000, 1972).

Bearded seal (Erignathus barbatus)

Distribution: C, G, (I), N, R - (USA)

Exploitation: C, G, (R?)

Interactions: - (?)

Stock identity: Movements insufficiently documented, and it is not known whether discrete sub-populations exist in the N. Atl.

Status: Unknown (guesstimate for the Atl. population(s) indicate numbers to be counted in 100.000's).

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Atlantic walrus (Odobenus r. rosmarus)

Distribution: W.Atl.: C, G
E.Atl.: G, N, R

Exploitation: C, G,

Interactions: -

Stock identity: Seasonal migrations between C and G in the Baffin Bay area, perhaps also in the Davis Strait area. Migrations between Svalbard and Fr. Josef Land. Indications of sub-populations in the entire range.

Status: W.Atl.: > 10.000 in Canadian High Arctic (Baffin Bay not included); Baffin Bay populations unknown.

E.Atl.: E. Grl. guesstimate some thousands, Svalbard-Fr. Josef Land some thousands (?), Kara-Barents Seas few hundreds to thousand (?). In all areas population numbers are uncertain, but present population sizes are apparently much below historical levels.

Small cetaceans

White whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*)

Distribution, W. Atl.: C, G

E. Atl.: G, N, R

Exploitation: C, G, R

Interactions: ?

Stock identity: West Greenland and Canadian High Arctic white whales probably belongs to the same population, stragglers from Svalbard perhaps visit East Greenland, Barents Sea and White Sea populations are probably shared between Norway and Russia

Status: Canada-Greenland population 20.000-30.000 - evidence for a decline, East Greenland-Svalbard unknown but unlikely to exceed 10.000, Barents Sea-White Sea unknown but unlikely to exceed 30.000

Assessment: C, G: Joint Commission on Conservation and Management of Narwhal and Beluga, IWC

Narwhals (*Monodon monoceros*)

Distribution, W. Atl.: C, G

E. Atl.: G, N, (R)

Exploitation: C, G

Interactions: ?

Stock identity: West Greenland and Canadian High Arctic narwhals probably belongs to the same population, East Greenland and Svalbard are probably the same population

Status: Canada-Greenland population 20.000-30.000, East Greenland-Svalbard unknown

Assessment: C, G: Joint Commission on Conservation and Management of Narwhal and Beluga, IWC

Pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*)

Distribution, N. Atl.: C, G, I, FI, N, R, UK, USA

Exploitation: G, FI, N

Interactions: ?

Stock identity: Perhaps division between East and West Atlantic

Status: 100.000 - 700.000 in the North Atlantic.

Assessment: ICES 1991, IWC

Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

Distribution, N. Atl.: all coastal states in the North Atlantic

Exploitation: G, FI, N

Interactions: All coastal states with fishery activity

Stock identity: Probably several stocks but insufficient evidence for stock discrimination

Status: 500.000 to 1 million in the entire N. Atl., however, there are obvious changes in distribution and also signs of decline in some areas

Assessment: IWC

Northern bottlenose whale (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*)

DISTRIBUTION, W. Atl.: C, G; E. Atl.: G, I, F, N

EXPLOITATION: G, F, N

INTERACTIONS: I, G,F,N (in form of competition?).

STOCK IDENTITY: Unknown, but migrates between EEZs, probably not many 'stocks'.

STATUS AND ASSESSMENT: Has not been assessed since 1970's (by IWC), then disputed whether depleted or not, while IWC classification as PS. Estimates of abundance (NASS-87) indicate substantial numbers (ca 40,000) between Greenland, Iceland, Jan Mayen and Faroe Islands, particularly in the area northeast and east of Iceland towards the Jan Mayen Island. Limited exploitation.

Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*)

DISTRIBUTION, W. Atl.: C, G; E. Atl.: G, I, F, N

EXPLOITATION: C, G, I, F, N

INTERACTIONS: I, G,F,N (in form of competition?; fishing gear entanglements and gear damage).

STOCK IDENTITY: Unknown, but migrates possibly between EEZs, probably not many 'stocks', but local populations may be rather isolated. Aggregates at the coasts of Iceland and Norway during herring seasons, more dispersed during other seasons.

STATUS AND ASSESSMENT: Direct takes by Norway until 1970's, and on small scale by Greenland and the Faroes; live-captures by Iceland until late 1980's. Management competence disputed. No assessment, but reviewed by IWC in 1981. Photo-identification studies off Norway and Iceland, plus estimate of abundance from NASS surveys have added substantially to knowledge on distribution and stock size (5-10,000).

White-beaked dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus albirostris*)

DISTRIBUTION: C, G, I, F, N, R

EXPLOITATION: G, F, I

INTERACTIONS: C, G, I, F, N (in form of competition?; net entanglements).

STOCK IDENTITY: Unknown, but rather coastal, although it likely migrates between EEZs.

STATUS AND ASSESSMENT: Has never been assessed by any organization, but new information on distribution and abundance is available (NASS-surveys), indicating stock abundance in the range of roughly 30-80,000. Small catches, while net entanglements may be significant.

Atlantic white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*)

DISTRIBUTION: C, G, I, F, N

EXPLOITATION: G, F

INTERACTIONS: C, G, I, F, N (in form of competition?; net entanglements).

STOCK IDENTITY: Unknown, but less coastal and more southern distribution than *L. albirostris*; migrates probably between EEZs.

STATUS AND ASSESSMENT: Has never been assessed by any organization, but new information on distribution and abundance is available (NASS-surveys), indicating stock abundance in the range of roughly 50-100,000. Small catches, while net entanglements may be significant.

Minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)

DISTRIBUTION, W. Atl.: C, G; E. Atl.: G, I, F, N, R

EXPLOITATION: C, G, I, N

INTERACTIONS: C, G, I, F, N (in form of competition?)

STOCK IDENTITY: At least three biological 'stocks', west of Cape Farwell, E Greenland/Iceland/Jan Mayen, and northeastern stock. Extensive migrations between EEZs and in the high seas.

STATUS AND ASSESSMENT: Assessed by IWC (in 1990), estimated abundance in excess of 100,000 (western less than 5,000, excl. Canada; Central around 28,000; northeastern around 80,000). At present IWC management for all NAMMCO countries, except Iceland. Development of IWC RMP near completion for this stock group. Recent commercial catches by Norway and Iceland, and aboriginal/subsistence takes by Greenland.

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
Inaugural Meeting of Council, 1992

List of requests for advice to ICES from NAC

The North Atlantic Committee for Cooperation on Research on Marine Mammals has requested ICES to :

- provide an overview of the current state of knowledge of the dependence of marine mammals on the fish and shrimp stocks and the interrelations between these compartments.

- consider whether multispecies models for management purposes can be established for the North Atlantic ecosystems and whether such models could include the marine mammals compartment. If such models and the required data are not available then identify the knowledge lacking for such an enterprise to be beneficial to proper scientific management and suggest scientific projects which would be required for obtaining this knowledge.

- [provide] ... an assessment of the state of the pilot whale in the north eastern Atlantic, based on the information sampled from the Faroese drive fishery and the NASS sighting surveys, and advice on catch levels inside safe biological limits.

- in the multispecies context ... to address specific questions related to the Davis Strait ecosystem such as

- the apparent increase in the harp seal stocks
- its influence on the economically important shrimp and cod stocks
- the impact of the fisheries on marine mammals, particularly harp seals
- the southward shift of minke whale distribution in recent years, and
- observed changes in oceanographical conditions after the 1970's

and to the East Greenland-Iceland-Jan Mayen area interactions between capelin stocks, fishery and marine mammals.

- describe the possible pathways of radioactive material from blowouts and leakage in existing nuclear power plants, leakage from dumped material and possible accidents in planned re-cycling plants in the northern part of Scotland into the food-web of the North Atlantic and hence into the top predators like marine mammals

- review the contaminant burden (especially organochlorines) in marine mammals in the North Atlantic and evaluate the possible sources of these contaminants

NAMMCO Inaugural Meeting of Council, 1992

NAMMCO and information coordination
Proposal from the Faroe Islands1. Information officer in the NAMMCO secretariat

The information officer in the NAMMCO secretariat would be responsible for:

a) Public relations:

- producing and distributing information concerning NAMMCO, in particular its scientific basis, relations with other bodies, and in general its aims and functions as an organisation concerned with the rational utilisation of marine mammals in the North Atlantic;

b) Contacts:

- establishing a network of contacts with other organisations also concerned to safeguard and promote the rational utilisation of living resources;

- establishing and maintaining contact with the international media and monitoring their presentation of issues relevant to NAMMCO's aims. Pinpointing publications and individuals who can contribute to an open and rational discussion of issues relating to NAMMCO;

c) Coordinating the NAMMCO Information Fund (see below)

d) Presenting a report of activities to the annual meeting of NAMMCO

2. NAMMCO Information Fund

An Information Fund should be established with financial contributions from each contracting party equal to 25% of their proportional funding of NAMMCO, as set out in the Draft Budget, but in addition to this Budget. This would be:

Norway:	KR 250.000
Iceland:	KR 125.000
Greenland:	KR 62.500
Faroese:	KR 62.500

	500.000

The Fund would be open for application for interested individuals and organisations whose requests for funding contribute in a significant way to the understanding and promotion or study of the management and rational utilisation of marine mammals, and which can be seen to be of benefit to the aims and functions of NAMMCO.

A committee would be set up with a representative from each contracting party. The committee would be responsible for reviewing and approving applications.

The information officer in the NAMMCO secretariat would be responsible for the coordination and administration of the Information Fund and the presentation of a report to the annual meeting.

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)

Inaugural Meeting of Council

Tórshavn, 10 - 11 September, 1992

PRESS RELEASE

The inaugural meeting of the Council of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) was held on 10-11 September 1992 in Tórshavn in the Faroe Islands. The organization was founded under an Agreement signed in Nuuk, Greenland on 9 April 1992. The members are the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway. Also attending as observers were representatives from Canada, Denmark, Japan, Russia, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and a number of non-governmental organizations.

The organization elected as its first Chairman for a two-year term Mr Kjartan Hoydal of the Faroe Islands and agreed to establish its secretariat in Tromsø, Norway. It agreed on an initial annual budget of 2 million DKK to cover activities related to administration, information and scientific cooperation.

The Council agreed to working procedures for its Scientific Committee and decided it should review the basis for, and develop assessments necessary to provide the scientific foundation for the conservation and management of the stocks relevant for management under NAMMCO.

The Council agreed to continue its existing relations with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the IWC, and decided to seek reciprocal observer status with other relevant fisheries organizations.

Canada and Russia were invited to join NAMMCO as members.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in Tromsø 19 - 20 January 1993.

The Council expressed its appreciation for the hospitality shown during the meeting and thanked the Government of the Faroe Islands for hosting it.