

**MINUTES FROM THE TELEPHONE MEETING OF THE
THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS**

The Committee on Hunting Methods held a telephone meeting on 2 November 2010 from 14:00 to 15:15. Online were Egil Ole Øen, Chair and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen, (Faroe Islands), Nette Levermann and Eigil Tofte Bjørvik (Greenland), Kristjan Loftsson and Eyþór Björnsson (Iceland), and Christina Lockyer and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

1. Opening procedure

The Chair of the Committee, Egil Ole Øen, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting and the draft agenda was adopted. Charlotte Winsnes was acting as rapporteur.

2. Follow up from NAMMCO 19

As background information to this agenda item the Rules of Procedure for the Committee had been circulated in advance of the meeting together with the updated response from the Council with respect to the deliberations and recommendations from Council regarding the work of the Hunting Committee at NAMMCO 19.

2.1 Expert Group meeting on small cetaceans

One of the recommendations from the Expert Group meeting held in February 2010 on assessing the whale killing data for large cetaceans was to convene a similar expert group on small cetaceans. The Hunting Committee endorsed this recommendation and put it forward for the consideration of the Council at NAMMCO 19.

The Council welcomed the recommendation and supported it in principle, tentatively allocating NOK 80 000 to the activity on the 2010 budget. However, the Council asked the Committee to report back when the detailed planning was more advanced as this might have budgetary consequences for the consideration of the Council.

To accommodate a more time-efficient process with respect to the publication of a finalized report from such a meeting, the Committee agreed that it would be more cost-effective both in terms of money and time to convene a 3-day meeting. With 3 days at hand there should be enough time to finalize the main text of the report before the end of the meeting. It was further agreed to aim for a meeting in November 2011 to give sufficient time for planning and securing the relevant expertise. Tentative dates were set at 15 – 17 November 2011 in Copenhagen. The meeting language will be English with no organized translation services.

Hunting of small cetaceans takes place in the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Canada, USA, Japan and the Russian Federation (Chukotka). The Expert Group will represent a unique opportunity for these regions to present their data on killing of small cetaceans for the review and assessment by independent experts. Discussion as to which kind of data should be presented was briefly raised and will be followed up by e-mail correspondence in the Committee and be on the agenda at the next face-to-face meeting. A preliminary invitation to present their data should go out before the end of 2010. A prerequisite for

participation from Chukotka would be that funding must be sought from additional sources.

Experts in the fields of hunting of small cetaceans, veterinary medicine, physiology and biology related to the killing of small cetaceans and animal welfare issues will be invited in a personal capacity. Presently it was foreseen that the number of invited experts should be around 5 – 7 persons. In addition the participating regions would be allowed to have a number of persons in their delegations.

The Committee agreed to forward proposals for participants and experts to the Secretariat by Monday 22 November 2010. The Chair of the Committee in cooperation with the Secretariat will prepare and distribute the list of invited participants to the Committee of Hunting Methods shortly after.

The Committee agreed on the following time-schedule:

22 November: Members forward names on participants and possible experts to the Secretariat.

December: Distribute a preliminary invitation to regions to find out possible interest, and report back to Council on the status.

2.2 Handbook/manual

This agenda item was postponed to the next face-to-face meeting.

4. Next meeting

The next meeting will be in Copenhagen in week 4 (25, 26 and 27 January 2011) back to back with the Committee on Inspection and Observation.

5. Approval of the Report

The report was approved by correspondence on 22 November 2010.