



## **Report of the Committee on Hunting Methods Telephone Meeting 10 January 2002**

The Committee on Hunting Methods met by telephone on 10 January 2002 from 13:00 to 14:45 Norwegian time. On line were Jústines Olsen, Chairman, (Faroe Islands), Amalie Jessen (Greenland), Kristjan Loftsson (Iceland) and Egil Ole Øen (Norway), Grete Hovelsrud-Broda, and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat. Siri K. Knudsen (Norway) who was rapporteur during the Sandefjord Workshop in November 2001 was invited to attend the meeting.

### **1. Adoption of Agenda**

The Chairman of the Committee, Jústines Olsen, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted and members of the Secretariat were appointed as rapporteurs.

### **2. Updates on hunting methods in member countries**

A list of laws and regulations in member countries (NAMMCO/HM/2002-3), and a list of references on hunting methods (NAMMCO/HM/2002-4), had been provided in advance. Updated versions are contained in Appendices 1 and 2.

#### **Faroe Islands**

Olsen (Faroe Islands) reported that there had been one change in the regulation on pilot whale hunting. Infectious salmon anaemia had been detected in the Funningsfjørður, which led to the closure of the fjord as a whale bay to avoid spreading of the disease. Olsen further reported that the blunt hook used in the long-finned pilot whale hunt now is available for hunters in all whaling bays. He informed that the new knife, which was tested last year, has been changed so it is safer and easier to use than the former version of the new knife. Olsen explained that he would test the new knife during the next long-finned pilot whale hunting season. He also noted that the Pilot Whalers Association regularly is arranging meetings with the hunters, where the authorities have opportunities to keep the hunters informed of the latest developments regarding hunting. Olsen noted that the website on whaling and hunting methods should be included on the list of reference on hunting methods.

#### **Greenland**

Jessen (Greenland) reported that the Greenland Home Rule Government is working on updating the regulations on large whales, beluga, narwhal and walrus. In addition, she informed the Committee that a new legislation on seal hunting and hunting of other small cetaceans is proceeding. The 1999 hunting law was revised in the autumn of 2001. Jessen would forward the new regulations to the Secretariat.

#### **Iceland**

Loftsson (Iceland) informed the Committee that he had nothing to report from Iceland.

#### **Norway**

Øen (Norway) reported that new government regulations for coastal seal hunting had been developed. These would be forwarded to the NAMMCO Secretariat. Øen expected that the new regulations for whaling would be forthcoming later in the year. He noted that the publications and

references for the most recent work on hunting methods that had been presented to the International Whaling Commission would be forwarded to the NAMMCO Secretariat for inclusion in the list of references on hunting methods.

### **3. Recommendations from the Workshop on Hunting Methods, 9-11 February 1999**

At the last meeting of the Committee in Copenhagen in August 2000, it was decided that the follow-up of the recommendations from the NAMMCO Workshop on Hunting Methods held in Nuuk in 1999 would also be an item at this meeting. The Chairman asked the members to present the status of each country's follow-up to the recommendations from the 1999 Nuuk workshop that were not reported on at the last meeting.

Olsen (Faroe Islands) informed the Committee that the two recommendations pertaining to Faroe Islands had been implemented.

1. Olsen reported that the new blunt hook for securing the animals in the long-finned pilot whale hunt has been produced and is now widely available for all hunters.
2. Olsen reported that the proper rifle and ammunition for killing stranded northern bottlenose whales were now available.

There were a number of recommendations pertaining to Greenland.

3a. Jessen informed the Committee that the Department of Fisheries, Hunting and Settlements would delay the tests of pointed and blunt ammunition on whale carcasses for determining the best ammunition for use in the hunt, until guidelines for standardising methods for shooting tests of different weapons and ammunition were completed.

Jessen reported that there had been no developments with respect to the other recommendations.

Recommendations under 4, Baleen whale hunting, pertaining to Greenland:

4c. Jessen reported that there are 9 old harpoon grenades left in the stores in Greenland and that these are being phased out. The new type of harpoon grenades is now available in all the KNI Pilersuisoq stores.

4d. Jessen reported that the work on improving the harpoons is continuing, but that currently the exact status is not updated due to the location of the development in the Ummannaq region.

5. Jessen informed the Committee that work on developing an animal protection law in Greenland is delayed but proceeding. The Department of Fisheries, Hunting and Settlements is involved in the hearings of the work.

### **4. Report from the Workshop on Ballistics Sandefjord 13 -15 November 2001**

The Workshop on Marine Mammals: Weapons, Ammunition and Ballistics were held in Sandefjord 13 – 15 November 2001. The Committee had held six telephone meetings for planning purposes.

The Committee discussed the Report draft from the Workshop on Marine Mammals: Weapons, Ammunition and Ballistics. The changes to the report text and the recommendations are reflected in the final version of the Workshop Report. The Committee will present the Workshop report to the Council at NAMMCO/11 in Ilulissat for approval. See Item 5 in this report for recommendations for future work on topics addressed at the workshop.

## **5. Future Work of the Committee**

1. The Committee noted that the Sandefjord workshop advised the Committee to develop guidelines for methods used to undertake more controlled and standardised studies of the effect of different weapons and ammunition on different species (see Recommendation 3.). The Committee recommends that these guidelines be developed.

2. The Workshop in Sandefjord noted the need for harmonisation of weapons and ammunition types for different species, with due consideration to the variations of the hunting conditions in the NAMMCO member countries (see Recommendation 4). The Committee recommends that such harmonisation take place, and that the process includes hunters' experience in combination with the necessary scientific studies. The Committee further recommends that in this respect the weapons and ammunition requirements in the different countries be examined.

3. The Committee agreed that its future work would focus more on seals and seal hunting, and that a workshop on this topic might be held in 2003 - 2004.

## **6. Any other business**

There was no other business.