



Report Committee on Hunting Methods 31 January 2003

**Report of the Committee on Hunting Methods
Meeting Copenhagen, Denmark, 31 January 2003**

The Committee on Hunting Methods met on 31 January 2003 from 9:00 to 17:00 in the Home Office of the Faroe Islands in Copenhagen. Present were Jústines Olsen, Chairman, (Faroe Islands), Amalie Jessen and Kim Mathiasen (Greenland), Kristjan Loftsson (Iceland) Egil Ole Øen (Norway), and Grete Hovelsrud-Broda, and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

1. Introductory Remarks and 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/2003-3), and a list of references on hunting methods (NAMMCO/HM/2003-4), had been provided in advance. Updated versions are contained in Appendices 1 and 2.

Faroe Islands

Olsen (Faroe Islands) reported that there had been no changes in the regulation on pilot whale hunting. The infectious salmon anaemia that had been detected in the Funningsfjørður last year, and which led to the closure of the fjord as a whale bay to avoid spreading of the disease, had now been eradicated and all closed whaling bays had been opened.

Greenland

Jessen (Greenland) reported that revisions to the new hunting regulations have been postponed until this spring. An addition has been made to the regulations giving title to the rifle hunt, which will cover all types of joint hunting efforts. The rifle hunt has not previously been included in the regulations. In response to the NAMMCO observer's comments, after his observation activities for the Joint Control Scheme in 2001, that the winch onboard the observed whaling vessels were undersized, the Greenlandic government now requires a minimum size winch for catching large whales. The municipalities will be responsible for evaluating each individual winch. The government is undertaking a general revision of the Executive Order on large cetaceans. In response to a request from the hunters the government is organising an extra whaling course for those who did not yet attend such a course. Jessen further reported that a hunter has made a detailed drawing of the handheld harpoon that can be ordered from the shipyard in Qaqortoq. Most hunters still make their own harpoons. The hunters in Greenland are very satisfied with the new harpoon grenades, except for the price, which remains high. Jessen informed that the harpoon grenades are stored in four ammunition depots around Greenland and must be transported to the villages and towns. Both the storage and the transportation are costly. Egil Ole Øen (Norway) believed that the new Norwegian harpoon grenade, Whale grenade 99, in principle could be stored and transported in the same way as rifle ammunition. He recommended that Greenland contact Henriksen Mek. Verksted in Tønsberg, for a copy of its transport-regulations, which are based on the UN regulations on such storage and transportation. The first animal protection group has been formed in Greenland (Opik). The Executive Order on beluga, narwhal, walrus and other small cetaceans is under development. A hearing has been held and the Order is currently under consideration



by the Council on Hunting. A new Executive Order on seals and polar bears is under development, and revisions are under way with respect to an Executive Order on Hunting Licenses. Shooting tests, which includes weaponry, is being introduced in Greenland. It will be required that the hunters demonstrate some knowledge about hunting before they receive their hunting license. The hunters are currently paying a small fee (30 DKR) for their license and the government is planning to raise the prices substantially to reflect the administrative costs.

Iceland

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

Norway

Øen (Norway) reported that only a few adjustments had been made to the current government hunting regulations for marine mammals. A new Council on Hunting had been formed, with members from all relevant interest groups and government agencies. The Hunting Council is user oriented and financed by the government.

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

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 at the last meeting.

Recommendation 2: Olsen (Faroe Islands) informed the Committee that shooting tests on dead bottlenose whales had showed that calibre 458 round-nosed full metal jacket ammunition was satisfactory for killing such whales.

There were a number of recommendations pertaining to Greenland.

Recommendation 3a: Jessen informed the Committee that Greenland is waiting for the guidelines for standardising methods on how to perform the shootings tests on beluga and narwhal before the tests can take place (see also Item 6 in this report.)

Recommendation 3b: With respect to the development of objective descriptions of hunting methods, Jessen noted that this is also a question of resources. Such descriptions, to be all inclusive of the various hunting methods and regional variations in Greenland would be a major effort to produce. The descriptions would have to be created in co-operation with the hunters in the different regions of Greenland, and must be adapted to the different hunting methods. Jessen suggested that Greenland could start with a set of main points that would cover the different methods and the different regions. The Committee agreed to this idea and noted that such descriptions would also be an important contribution to the cultural history of Greenland.

Recommendation 3c: Jessen further reported that the hand held harpoon had been developed, drawings made and it could be ordered for manufacturing at the shipyards in Greenland.

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



Recommendation 4c: Jessen reported that more stores than KNI Pilersuisoq sell weapons and ammunition in Greenland.

Recommendation 4d: The Committee noted that Greenland's extensive work on improving the harpoon canons used in minke whaling had been acknowledged at the Workshop in Sandefjord in 2001, and congratulated Greenland on its efforts.

Recommendation 5: Jessen informed the Committee that the new law on animal protection in Greenland had been out to public hearing in the fall of 2002, and will be considered by the legislators in the spring of 2003.

5. Update on the Recommendations from the Workshop on Ballistics Sandefjord 13 -15 November 2001

At its 11th meeting in Ilulissat, Greenland in February 2002, the Council agreed to the Committee's following recommendations:

1. To develop guidelines for methods used to undertake more controlled and standardised studies of the effect of different weapons and ammunition on different species.
2. To harmonise weapons and ammunition types for different species with due considerations to variation in hunting conditions in the different countries.
3. To focus on seals and seal hunting.

With respect to the **first** recommendation, the Committee decided after a lengthy discussion that Egil Ole Øen and Jústines Olsen would prepare a draft set of guidelines to be presented to the Council at its Annual Meeting in March.

With respect to the **second** recommendation the Committee agreed that the harmonisation of weapons and ammunition would start with seals, and would be a topic at the planned Workshop on seal hunting methods (see next recommendation).

With respect to the **third** recommendation the Committee decided to recommend to the NAMMCO Council that NAMMCO hold the Workshop on Seal Hunting Methods early September 2004, in Tromsø, Norway. The Committee **agreed** to the following Draft Terms of Reference for the Workshop:

- To review existing seal hunting methods known.
- To evaluate methods used in seal hunting in relation to killing efficiency and struck and lost rates
- To examine possibilities for technical innovation and further enhancement of efficiency and safety of hunting methods, with a view to providing recommendations for improvement, where relevant, and
- If possible, determine minimum requirements for safe and efficient killing of different seal species, considering variations in hunting methods.

The Committee **agreed** that the Workshop should be as inclusive as possible and include all forms of sealing in all NAMMCO member countries, and if possible Russia, Nunavut, NWT and other parts of Canada, Sweden, Scotland, Finland, Namibia and Alaska including the Pribilof Islands. The Committee **agreed** that the budget must include funding for interpreters



and also a standard fee for the presenters. The presenters will be asked to consider issues such as struck and loss rates in relation to the different seasons, a description of the hunt, weapons and ammunition used, a general evaluation of the methods used, problems and advantages of the hunting methods, laws and regulations and training. The hunters would also be encouraged to bring visual materials such as videos of their hunting activities. The Committee **agreed** to charge the Secretariat with finding collaborators and sponsors for the Workshop.

6. Future Work of the Committee

The Committee **agreed** that their future work would focus more on seals and seal hunting methods. Furthermore an ad hoc working group was established (Olsen and Øen) to develop guidelines for "Shooting trials for verification of ballistic properties of different types of ammunition pertaining to penetration abilities into the skulls of different species of whales". The Committee also raised the issue of the killing methods of by-caught marine mammals, and invited the Management Committee on Bycatch to forward a request on this topic.

7. Representation at the IWC Workshop on Killing Methods.

Egil Ole Øen informed the Committee on the developments in the IWC Workshop on Killing Methods and noted that the next Workshop will be held 7-9 June, in conjunction with IWC 55 in Berlin this year.

8. Election of Officers.

Jústines Olsen was re-elected as Chairman for another two-year period. Egil Ole Øen was re-elected as vice-chairman for the same period.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Approval of the Report.

The report was approved through correspondence on 19 February 2003.