



Report of the Committee on Hunting Methods

The Committee on Hunting Methods met on 13 January 2004 from 9:00 to 17:00 in the Home Office of the Faroe Islands in Copenhagen. Present were Jústines Olsen, Chairman, (Faroe Islands), Ole Heinrich and Mads Brinck Lillelund (Greenland), Kristjan Loftsson (Iceland), Egil Ole Øen (Norway), and Grete Hovelsrud-Broda and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

1. - 3 Introductory Remarks, Adoption of Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur

The Chairman of the Committee, Jústines Olsen, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. In particular he welcomed the two new members from Greenland, Mr Heinrich and Mr Lillelund. The draft agenda was adopted and members of the Secretariat were appointed as rapporteurs.

4. Updates on hunting methods in member countries

The Chairman noted that the lists of laws and regulations in member countries (NAMMCO/HM/2004-3), and of references on hunting methods (NAMMCO/HM/2004-4), had been updated (see Appendices 1 and 2 of this report).

Faroe Islands

Olsen (Faroe Islands) reported that there had been no changes in the regulation on pilot whale hunting in the Faroe Islands this past year. Olsen informed the Committee of a project in which the pilot whale hunting method with the new knife had been video taped and will be shown to the Faroese hunters to illustrate how to use the new knife.

Greenland

Lillelund (Greenland) reported that the cost of hunting licenses have been increased from 30 to 50 DKR, for both categories of hunters. Small changes have also been made to the regulations on trophy hunting. The Nature Protection Act was implemented on 1 January 2004. One of the main goals of the Act is to ensure ecological sustainability. It is explicitly stated that the Act follows the precautionary principle. The Parliament is given the power to protect all wild fauna and flora (Article 3 paragraph 1 and 3). Fish, shellfish and invertebrate are indirectly included in the Act by being the prey of mammals and birds and as such can be protected through the Act (Article 5 paragraph 1, No. 6). The government can decide to protect animals not mentioned directly in the Act. Furthermore the Act gives the Parliament the right to regulate hunting methods (Article 7). The Act represents one of the ways by which the government responds to Greenland's international responsibilities.

Lillelund further reported that the Animal Protection Act would be implemented on 1 July 2004. The Act covers all animals, and states that animals should be to the fullest extent possible protected against pain, suffering, permanent damage and significant distress (Article 1 and 2). The Act further stipulates that animals shall be killed as

painlessly and quickly as possible, and death by drowning is only allowed for marine mammals (Article 13). It is the duty of the veterinarian to file a report to the police in cases when the Act is violated (Article 22).

Lillelund noted that two Executive Orders had been issued on small and large whales. One addresses the issue of the power block requirement on board whaling vessels, in response to a previous observation by a NAMMCO Observer that the winch onboard the observed whaling vessels were undersized.

The Executive Order on beluga and narwhal has gone through a full hearing process and is currently undergoing small adjustments. It will be discussed in the government early this year. The Executive Order on walrus, polar bears, seals and small cetaceans are expected to be completed in 2004. Quotas will be introduced on walrus, polar bears, beluga and narwhal.

In 2003, 131 whale grenades were sold in Greenland, and nine courses on how to handle the grenades and the harpoons were held for hunters. Lillelund noted that only the unused minke whale quotas for the rifle hunts are transferred to both the rifle and the harpoon hunt in 2003.

Iceland

Loftsson (Iceland) informed the Committee that scientific whaling of minke whales had taken place in 2003. The scientific whaling programme called for 100 minke whales to be caught. The Department of Fisheries decided that the scientific whaling programme should start on 15th August and last until the end of September. The quota was set at 38 minke whales, which corresponds to the number that was to be taken during August and September in the scientific whaling programme. The three whaling vessels involved caught 36 whales in that period. The method used is the same as in Norway, and because no whales have been hunted since 1985, Dr Øen was called in to hold a course in how to use the Norwegian grenade (Whale Grenade '99). The rifles used as secondary weapons or backup were the same calibre as in Norway (.375 and 4.58).

Norway

Øen (Norway) reported that a number of new adjustments had been made to the existing regulations on seal and whale hunting in the past year. He noted that regulation updates had been forwarded to the Secretariat. He reported that with the increasing interest in sports hunting of coastal seals, the Norwegian Hunting and Fishing Association (*Norges Jeger og Fiskerforbund*) in consultation with himself had jointly developed a poster recommending where on the seals the hunters should aim and shoot. Seal sports hunting is again increasing but hunters are no longer as familiar with seal hunting as they once were. Currently sport seal hunters must pass a shooting test designed for large terrestrial mammals.

Øen reported that only small adjustments had been made to the regulations of whaling. He informed the Committee that the new results for time to death shows that 8 of 10 animals are dead immediately and the remaining 20 percent die within a few minutes.

5. 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 3a: This pertains to Greenland, but the completion of this recommendation is awaiting guidelines on shooting tests on dead animals. The guidelines for standardising methods on how to perform the shootings tests must be completed before the tests can take place (see also Item 6 in this report.).

Recommendation 3b: Lillelund (Greenland) noted that the development of objective descriptions of hunting methods is also a question of resources. The staff working on these issues in the Greenland Home Rule Government has increased and it is therefore more likely that these descriptions would be completed. At its last year's meeting the Committee noted the following:

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 (NAMMCO Annual Report 2002: 64).

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

Øen (Norway) informed the Committee that the producers would substantially reduce the price on the penthrite grenades next year. The price cut reflects the fact that the development costs have been paid off.

Recommendation 5: Lillelund (Greenland) informed the Committee that the new law on animal protection in Greenland would be implemented 1 July 2004.

6. 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 recommendations:

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

Olsen (Faroe Islands) noted that with respect to the first recommendation, Dr Øen and himself would prepare a draft set of guidelines to be presented to the Council at its Annual Meeting in March 2004 (NAMMCO/13).

With respect to the second recommendation the Committee reiterated its decision from last year that the harmonisation of weapons and ammunition would start with

seals. It was emphasised that seal-hunting methods is a central topic at the upcoming Workshop on Hunting Methods of Seals and Walrus (see next recommendation). With respect to the third recommendation see agenda item 7.

7. Workshop on Hunting Methods for Seals and Walrus, 7-9 September 2004.

At its 12th Meeting, in March 2003 the Council endorsed the recommendation from the Committee to hold a NAMMCO Workshop on Hunting Methods for Seals and Walrus.

The Terms of reference for the Workshop:

- To review existing seal and walrus hunting methods known.
- To evaluate methods used in seal and walrus 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 walrus and different seal species, considering variations in hunting methods.

The Committee held 3 telephone meetings for workshop planning purposes in 2003. The reports from these meetings are available in Appendix 3 of this report.

Charlotte Winsnes (NAMMCO Secretariat) presented an update of the preparations for the Workshop. The preliminary programme had been distributed in mid October, and she noted that there has been a very positive response to the Workshop. The programme has been translated into Greenlandic and the Home Rule Government is responsible for the distribution in Greenland. Furthermore, Nordic Council of Ministers has agreed to financially support the Workshop with NOK 150 000.

The Committee discussed various aspects of the Workshop including:

- In regard to possible financial support for the Workshop, it was decided that the Secretariat would follow up on contacts previously made with NORA (Nordic Atlantic Co-operation) and NTI (Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.).
- It was decided that NAMMCO should only sponsor the invited speakers who are not able to secure travel and accommodations from their own organisation, or who do not belong to any organisation.
- It was agreed that the programme should be flexible and allow for interested participants to give a presentation without having been invited in advance.
- It was decided to ask each presenter to bring a written version of his/her presentation. At a minimum this would be a summary or abstract of the presentation.
- It was decided to instruct the presenters to briefly mention the hunting regulations and requirements they have to contend with as hunters.

- It was decided to set aside sufficient time in the programme for clarifying questions and comments after each region and species.
- It was decided to prepare a letter of invitation to relevant groups and organisations, which would include an invitation to suggest speakers.
- The committee decided that the Secretariat would prepare a booklet containing the regulations and requirements from each country that would be made available to all participants.
- The Committee concluded that the meeting should be open to anyone who was willing to pay, including the media.
- The Committee would further discuss participants from Scotland, Namibia, and other countries.

The Committee further developed the draft programme for the Workshop.

8. Future Work of the Committee

The Committee agreed to hold a telephone meeting prior to NAMMCO/13, 2 - 4 March if needed.

The Committee also reiterated the invitation to the Management Committee on By-catch to forward questions or issues regarding killing methods of by-caught marine mammals.

The committee discussed the possibility of publishing proceedings from the three hunting method Workshops held by NAMMCO, and decided to return to this question after the completion of the current Workshop. The Committee agreed that these Workshops represents a significant amount of relevant and useful information, and that such proceedings would build upon the results from all three Workshops organised by Committee.

9. IWC Workshop on Killing Methods.

Egil Ole Øen (Norway) reported from the IWC Workshop on Killing Methods held 7-9 June 2003, in conjunction with IWC 55 in Berlin, Germany, where 25 papers from 9 member countries were presented. The Workshop Chair Dr Geraci was assisted by a small working group that laid out the strategy for the meeting beforehand and also met several times during the workshop, allowing the Chair to run a structured meeting. Dr Øen noted that this could be a useful strategy for the upcoming hunting methods workshop.

Dr Øen circulated the Chair's Summary from the Workshop to the Committee, which was an effort to move the issues forward at future meetings. Such a Chairs Summary would be useful for the NAMMCO Workshop as well. Øen noted that if Knud Nielsen is willing to Chair the NAMMCO Workshop, he could prepare a similar Executive Summary drawing on his experiences from chairing the previous two NAMMCO Workshops.

Dr Øen reviewed the papers presented at the IWC Workshop and noted that he and Siri Knudsen had presented 6 papers.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

11. Approval of the Report

The report was approved through correspondence on 8 February 2004.

