



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

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Report of the meeting of the Committee on Hunting Methods 7 – 8 March 2012 incl.

- appendix 1: List of laws and regulations in NAMMCO member countries
- appendix 2: List of references on hunting methods

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING 7 AND 8 MARCH 2012

The Committee on Hunting Methods met on 7 and 8 March 2012 at the Faroese representation in Copenhagen. Present were Egil Ole Øen, chair, Kathrine Ryeng and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen, (Faroe Islands), Kristjan Loftsson and Eypór Björnsson (Iceland), Amalie Jessen and Nette Levermann (Greenland), and Christina Lockyer and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat. Jessen did not attend 8 March.

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

The Chair of the Committee, Egil Ole Øen, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. Ryeng was introduced and welcomed as a new committee member from Norway. The draft agenda was adopted and Charlotte Winsnes acted as rapporteur.

2. Updates on hunting methods in member countries

The lists of references on hunting methods (NAMMCO/HM-March 2012-2), and laws and regulations in member countries (NAMMCO/HM-March 2012-3) were updated (see Appendices 1 and 2 of this report).

Faroe Islands

Olsen (Faroe Islands) reported that there had been a revision of the regulations on pilot whale hunting. The update has no bearing on the hunting methods but relate to the authorities legal right to prohibit people's access to participate in the hunt. Interference of any sort it be on land, in the air or at sea with the aim of hindering a drive hunt is not permitted

Greenland

Levermann (Greenland) reported on the following:

A revision of the Executive Order regulating the hunt on beluga and narwhal (No. 7 dated 29 March 2011) is finalized. Changes entail among other things regulation of the quota for leisure hunters to be limited to a total of 10% of the overall quota, the protection on the taking of calves has been lifted, specifications related to the hunt by netting and requirements on weapons and ammunition and on the reporting and collection of data.

Work is ongoing on a revision of the two Executive Orders on the hunting and protection of large whales, and the Committee will be notified when the revision is finalized.

Greenland had submitted data to the IWC Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues (IWC Document IWC/63/WKM&AWI9) at last year's meeting.

Iceland

Björnsson (Iceland) reported that there had been no new regulations for the hunting of fin and minke whales the last year.

Norway

Ynnesdal (Norway) reported that there had been no new regulations with respect to hunting of whales or seals the last year.

3. Expert Group meeting to assess the hunting methods for small cetaceans

The Expert Group (EG) met in Copenhagen 15 - 17 November 2011 under the chairmanship of Egil Ole Øen. Document NAMMCO/21/10 contains the report from the meeting.

The Council at its 19th annual meeting in September 2010 tasked the Committee on Hunting Methods with organising an Expert Group to assess the hunting methods for small cetaceans. The EG was given the following terms of reference:

- 1. Review and assess current hunting and killing methods for small cetaceans*
- 2. Review and assess information on recent and ongoing research on improvements and technical innovations in hunting methods and gear used for hunting of small cetaceans*
- 3. Review and assess time to death (TTD) data on the killing of small cetaceans*
- 4. Give recommendations with respect to possible improvements.*

The aim of the EG was to assess the presented data on hunting methods and give recommendations with respect to possible improvements. In addition to data from the NAMMCO member countries Greenland and the Faroe Islands, Canada and Japan presented data and information on their hunts of small whales.

All members of the EG were invited in a personal capacity as experts in fields such as veterinary medicine, statistics, physiology and biology specifically related to the killing of small cetaceans and animal welfare. The EG also consisted of hunters from Greenland, Canada and Faroe Islands, in addition to members of the Hunting Committee. The conclusions and recommendations from the EG were agreed upon by consensus before the end of the meeting.

The Committee on Hunting Methods agreed that the EG meeting had been very successful with indebt and informed discussions. Special acknowledgment was given to the participating hunters for their valuable and very informative inputs on the practical aspects of hunting. The Committee had always recognised and emphasised the importance of including both the theoretical and practical sides when discussing hunting methods and possible improvements. This EG meeting once again confirmed the value and necessity of this viewpoint.

The Committee acknowledged the significant work done by Justines Olsen in cooperation with the Faroese hunters in developing the spinal lance and the new blowhole hook used in the pilot whale hunt in the Faroe Islands. These improvements represent a significant progress through reducing TTD in the pilot whale drive hunt, and it recommended the use of this method in other drive hunts. It was noted that Japanese hunters already are trying out similar methods in their dolphin drive hunts.

The Committee endorsed the recommendation made by the EG on developing a manual for the Faroese pilot whale hunt.

The Committee noted with appreciation that Greenland has commenced work to improve data collection on struck and lost and TTD in beluga and narwhal hunting and encourage the continuation of this work.

The Committee endorsed all recommendation made by the EG, and especially appreciated the emphasis put on the importance of training. The development of a training manual for hunters is strongly recommended.

4. NAMMCO Handbook

The Council at its meeting in 2010 agreed in principal to produce a hunters' manual, and asked the Committee to further develop the idea and also present a more detailed budget for the total production of the manual.

The Committee discussed the development of the manual in its meeting in 2011. Target hunts were identified and the Committee agreed to make killing by Whale grenade-99 (penthrite grenade) a "pilot case". The pilot case together with a skeleton of the total contents of the handbook and the budget would be presented to Council at its next meeting.

Due to other commitments the work on the manual had been put on hold in 2011. The Committee revisited the issue at this meeting and reiterated what had been agreed in 2011. It was again underlined that the manual should to be very concise and concrete, with text held to a minimum and supplemented with drawings or photographic illustrations of good quality. The guiding principle should be to make everything as simple as possible without losing essential information. Furthermore the division of work was upheld – Egil Ole Øen and the Secretariat should produce a first draft of the pilot case for the consideration of the Committee before 1 June, and Greenland would supply the necessary illustrations.

The Committee agreed that the pilot case should be in Norwegian.

5. Review of Expert Group Meetings

An overview of all conclusions and recommendations arising from the three expert group meetings organised by the Committee was given in document NAMMCO/HM-March/2012-7. Member countries were asked to comment on and inform the Committee of possible follow ups of those conclusions and recommendations that pertained to hunts in their region. The recommendations from the Expert Group meeting on small cetaceans would not be dealt with in this meeting given that the report had just been finalised.

In the following where recommendations are quoted directly from the respective reports, the text is in cursive.

Expert Group on the best practices in the hunting and killing of seals held 2009

Recommendations:

Firearms

Firearms and ammunition used should have the capacity to achieve the intended effect.

Noting that new types of ammunition have been developed for hunting, the Expert Group recommends further studies on the use of ammunition for hunting seals of different species and age groups in order to determine their capacity to achieve the intended effect.

Hakapik

Different types of hakapiks and clubs are used and known to be effective tools to stun young seals. Factual information is required to explain the effectiveness of hakapiks and clubs as stunning tools, through evaluation of the force delivered in relation to the damage produced and the relative solidity of the skull, which may vary among species.

Bleeding out

The Expert Group recognizes the value of determining the duration (average and range) of bleeding in seals when axillary (brachial) blood vessels on both sides are cut, which represents the bleeding method currently and commonly used. This information should be available for different species as differences may exist. Other bleeding methods (e.g. carotid arteries and jugular veins) could also be investigated.

Comments:

Norway reported that no action had taken with respect to the recommendations, but that they are hoping to initiate studies on the use of ammunition and hakapik in the Norwegian seal hunt in the course of 2012. Greenland reiterated that the Executive Order on the hunting of seals that came in 2010 had incorporated requirements and recommendations evolving from this Expert group meeting.

The Committee reiterated the recommendations and encouraged Norway to follow up with studies in particular of ammunition and calibres used for seals.

Expert Group meeting to assess killing of large whales held in 2010

Recommendations

Norway

The Expert Group (EG) recommended a sampling of Time to Death (TTD) in the same way as was done in previous years so that the data are comparable – either on all boats or in a random sample of boats.

Comment:

Norway started the sampling process in 2011 and plan to conclude its sampling in 2012. The Committee acknowledged what had been done in 2011 and encouraged Norway to finalise the study in 2012.

Greenland

Minke whale - Harpoon hunt

The EG recommended Greenland to present the data and analyses in a statistically more informative way than is being done now.

It was furthermore recommended the organization of a practical training course for gunners. There should, as stated by the hunters, be a debriefing at the end of the season in order to exchange information and experiences from the season.

Minke whale - Rifle hunt

The EG recommended that experienced hunters should meet with less experienced hunters to exchange information. It is especially important to focus on where to aim the first shot and the aiming of the shot that kills the whale after the floats have been attached.

More data are needed with reference to the body position where the whale is hit and TTD. Norwegian anatomical figures of the position of the brain of minke whales can be used for training purposes and be handed out to the hunters.

Comments harpoon hunt and rifle hunt minke whale

The impression is that the information exchange between experienced and less experienced hunters takes place and the Committee encourages the continuation of this very important aspect. Greenland has held courses on the use and maintenance of the harpoon canon, but have not organised practical training courses for gunners.

Bowhead

The EG recommended that shooting trials are set up to study the trajectory of the harpoon through the water and on this basis give advice on how to approach and where to aim at the whale.

Fin whale and bowhead

The EG agreed with Greenland's recommendation to increase the current penthrite charge for the fin and bowhead hunts and also to investigate a potential increase in the propellant charge.

Fin, humpback and bowhead

The EG recommended that the same modified penthrite grenade be used for the three large species – in fin, humpback and bowhead whale hunts.

It was furthermore recommended that hunters be trained to measure and report on strike location, detonation location and distance between the two.

Comment fin, humpback and bowhead

Greenland informed the Committee that shooting trials had been set up and that the hunters had been advised on how to approach the whales and where to aim at the whale. The Committee further noted that based on the experience gained in the last

couple of years of using grenades with different penthrite charges in Greenland and Iceland, the increased penthrite charge (45 g of penthrite) for the humpback and bowhead hunts in Greenland is an improvement. The Committee also took note of the new standard detonation depth of 110 cm.

In Greenland the hunters use 50 mm Henriksen Harpoon canons and the following 4 types of Whale grenade-99 exist:

Minke whale: 30 g penthrite-70 cm detonation depth - line 42 cm

Fin whale: 30 g - line 110 cm, 130 detonation depth

Following recommendations from the Expert group meeting a new grenade with 45 g of penthrite was introduced for the hunt of fin, bowhead and humpback whales in Greenland. Simultaneously the trigger rope was reduced from 110 cm to 90 cm which detonate the grenade at a depth of 110 cm.

Grenades are expensive and represent a substantial element in the overall economy of the hunt. In an interim period – until all the “old” grenades are used, the hunters of fin, bowhead and humpback whales will use what they have available. It will therefore take some years before all hunters use the new grenade.

6. Next meeting

The next ordinary meeting in the Committee will be January/February 2013. In the intervening interval the Secretariat in cooperation with the Chair will call for telephone meetings when necessary, and if a face-to-face meeting is needed this will be organised just prior to NAMMCO 21 in September 2012.

7. Any other business

Workshop on strandings

Greenland informed the Committee that they had organised a very successful workshop on stranded animals in January 2012 in connection with the annual meeting of the hunting and wildlife inspectors in Greenland. Dr Joseph Geraci had been invited and he gave both a series of lectures and also undertook practical training on dead seals.

Iceland informed the Committee that in 2005 Egil Ole Øen had been commissioned to produce a manual on handling and killing of stranded live whales. This manual which is in Icelandic can be found on <http://www.mast.is/flytileidir/dyraheilbrigdi/dyravernd/hvalreki>.

Definition of harpoongrenad

The Committee discussed various possible definitions of harpoongrenads without reaching a definite wording. The issue was raised by Øen who thanked the Committee for valuable input.

Workshop on data collection and statistics

The Expert Group on hunting methods for small cetaceans recommended that data be collected in a standardised manner so that it will be possible to make comparisons between hunts and development over time. Greenland noted that in order to accomplish this it would be necessary to educate personnel on how to collect data and

how to produce the statistics. The Committee on Hunting Methods emphasised the importance of this issue and encouraged member countries to cooperate on organising such a dedicated workshop.

8. Approval of the Report

The report was approved by correspondence on 10 April 2012.

LIST OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN NAMMCO MEMBER COUNTRIES

FAROE ISLANDS

Parliamentary Act	<p>No 57 of 5 June 1984 on whale hunting</p> <p>No 54 of 20 May 1996 amending Parliamentary Act on whale hunting</p> <p>No 9 of 14 March 1985 on the protection of animals, as last amended by Parliamentary Act No 60 of 30 May 1990</p> <p>No 43 of 22 May 1969 on weapons etc. as amended by Parliamentary Act No 54 of 12 May 1980</p> <p>No 128 of 25 October 1988 on hare hunting</p>
Executive order	<p>No 57 of 12 September 1969 on weapons etc.</p> <p>No 19 of 1 March 1996 on exemption from protection of whales</p> <p>No 126 of 23 June 1997 on protection of whales</p> <p>No 46 of 8 April 1998 on pilot whaling</p> <p>No 107 of 21 November 1989 on authorisation of whaling bays, as amended by executive order No 64 of 11 May 1992, executive order No 127 of 27 August 1992, executive order No 141 of 23 June 1993, executive order No 34 of 24 March 1994 and executive order No 94 of 31 May 2001</p> <p>No 166 of 27 August 1993 on provisional authorisation of whaling bays</p> <p>No 118 of 23 October 1996 on provisional authorisation of whaling bays</p> <p>No 72 of 17 May 2000 on provisional authorisation of whaling bays</p> <p>No. 87 of 20 September 2007 on protections of whales</p> <p>No 72 of 6 June 2011 on amendment of executive order No 46 of 8 April 1998 on pilot whaling</p>

GREENLAND

Greenland Home Rule Act	<p>No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting</p> <p>No 11 of 12 November 2001 on revisions to Greenland Home Rule Act</p> <p>No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting</p> <p>No 9 of 15 April 2003 on revisions to Greenland Home Rule Act No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting</p> <p>No 1 of 16 Mai 2008 on revisions to Greenland Home Rule Act No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting</p> <p>No 25 of 18 December 2003 on animal welfare</p> <p>No 29 of 18 December 2003 on nature protection</p>
Executive Order	<p>No 26 of 24 October 1997 on extraordinary check and approval of harpoon canons</p> <p>No 22 of 19 August 2002 on trophy-hunting and fishing</p> <p>No 20 of 27 November 2003 on hunting licenses for full time hunters</p> <p>No 21 of 28 November 2003 on hunting licenses for part-time and/or sport hunters</p> <p>No 7 of 29 March 2011 on protection and hunting of beluga and narwhal</p> <p>No 21 of 22 September 2005 on protection and hunt of polar bears</p> <p>No 20 of 27 October 2006 on protection and hunting of walrus</p> <p>No 11 of 16 July 2010 on protection and hunting of large whales (<i>Under revision, expected approval April 2012</i>)</p> <p>No 12 of 16 July 2010 on reporting from hunting and strike of large whales (<i>Under revision, expected approval April 2012</i>)</p> <p>No 16 of 12 November 2010 on protection and hunting of seals</p>

Catch registration form (1993-present) “*Piniarneq*”

ICELAND

Law No 26, May 3, 1949 on whaling
No 40, June 1, 1979 on amendments to Law No 26/1949 on whaling
No 23, April 17, 1991 on amendments to Law No 26/1949 on whaling (cf. Law No 40/1979)
No 92, July 1, 1991 on amendments to Law 26/1949 on whaling (cf. Law No 40/1979 and 23/1991)

Regulation No 163, May 30, 1973 on whaling
No 304, May 9, 1983 on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling
No 239, May 10, 1984 on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling (cf. Regulation No 304/1983)
No 862, October 17, 2006 on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling (cf. Regulation No 304/1983 and 239/1984)
No 822, September 14, 2007, on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling (cf. Regulation No 304/1983, 239/1984 and 862/2006)
No 456, May 19, 2008, on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling (cf. Regulation No 304/1983, 239/1984, 862/2006 and 822/2007)
No 58, January 27, 2009, on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling (cf. Regulation No 304/1983, 239/1984, 862/2006, 822/2007 and 456/2008)
No 263, Mars 9, 2009 on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling (cf. Regulation No 304/1983, 239/1984, 862/2006, 822/2007, 456/2008 and 58/2009)
No 359, April 6, 2009 on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling (cf. Regulation No 304/1983, 239/1984, 862/2006, 822/2007, 456/2008 58/2009 and 263/2009)
No 414, April 29, 2009 on the ban on whale hunting in specific areas.

Minke waling licenses Rules in the licenses for minke whaling.

NORWAY

Act of 29 May 1981 No 38 Relating to Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats (the Wildlife act)
Act of 27 March 1999 No 15 Relating to the Right to Participate in Fisheries and Hunting
Act of 6 June 2008 No 37 The Marine Resources Act
Act of 19 June 2009 No 97 Animal Welfare

Executive Orders from the Department of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs:

31 March 2000 Regulation of the practice of hunting minke whales.
11 March 2003 Regulation of the practice of hunting seals in the West Ice and the East Ice

The Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs and the Directorate of Fisheries issues each year executive orders relating to the participation and governing of the hunt of Whales and Seals.

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