

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

The Committee on Hunting Methods held a telephone meeting on 13 December 2007 from 14:00 to 15:00. Online were Egil Ole Øen, Chair and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen, (Faroe Islands), Ole Heinrich (Greenland), Kristjan Loftsson (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. The draft agenda was adopted with the addition of three items under Any Other Business. Charlotte Winsnes was acting as rapporteur.

2. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Copenhagen back to back with the Sub-Committee on Inspection and Observation on 13 and 14 February 2007. The meeting will be held at the Nordatlantensbrygge. Committee members were reminded to submit any updates on references and laws and regulations in member countries to the Secretariat.

3. Workshop on "Handling, processing and utilisation of hunted marine mammals"

In March 2007, the Council approved the Committee's idea to organise a workshop (WS) with the working title "Handling, processing and utilisation of hunted marine mammals" with the following terms of reference:

- To maximise the quality and quantity of products obtained from hunting through exchange of information regarding handling, processing and utilisation.
- To make recommendations which are relevant to the workshop topic.

The Committee discussed the suggested timing of the WS (first half of September 2008) and agreed that it would be difficult to keep this date considering other meetings planned for the same period (NAMMCO 17 and Norwegian/Russian Sealing meeting in late August). It was agreed to postpone the WS until the fall of 2009. The meeting venue will be decided upon at a later stage.

The following points were raised and briefly discussed under this agenda:

Steering Committee: The Committee on Hunting Methods will plan and organise the WS in consultation with possible resource persons.

Meeting venue: in a member country or Copenhagen?

Content and programme: Should the WS include all marine mammals or just seals and whales? Food security authorities are important players and must be part of the WS. Should the WS include both theoretical and practical aspects? A very brief introduction to hunting methods with respect to how they are done in different places as these have bearing on the meat quality, etc.

For each hunt, analyze and identify possible problems as seen from the various perspectives of the hunters and the food authorities with the aim of solving them to

maximise the market situation. Hunting of marine mammals results in production of food and related items and the revenue must be maximised and secured.

Participants: Hunters, experts, managers, market representatives, food security authorities from NAMMCO member countries, Japan, Canada, Chukotka, Alaska.

Finances: Must seek financial sponsorship outside of NAMMCO. Will approach NCM, ISI Greenland, NORA and similar.

4. Any other business

4.1 New Hunting Knife in the Faroe Islands

At its last meeting in January 2007 the Committee expressed its interest in receiving a report describing and evaluating the knife and the method of use as this would be beneficial to NAMMCO. It was recommended that such work be undertaken by the Faroe Islands.

Olsen reported that a document describing the results of the use of the new hunting knife for the killing of Pilot whales would be presented to the Committee for its evaluation in advance of its next meeting in February 2008.

4.2 Hunting methods for Bowhead whales

At the last IWC meeting in 2007, Greenland was allocated a quota of 2 Bowhead whales in 2009 and would like to discuss conceivable methods for hunting of Bowhead whales in Greenland at the next meeting in the Hunting Committee. Greenland will supply a background document to be distributed in advance of the meeting.

4.3 World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)

WSPA had approached NAMMCO with a request for various types of information and access to meeting documents related to the work of the HM Committee. The Secretariat had drafted a response that was presented to the Committee for its comments.

5. Approval of the Report

The report was approved by correspondence on 11 January 2008.