



## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS**

This document contains the following:

- I. Report of the meeting of the Committee on Hunting Methods 19 February 2010 incl.
  - appendix 1: List of laws and regulations in NAMMCO member countries
  - appendix 2: List of references on hunting methods
- II. A summary of additional meetings and decisions made relating to the Committee of Hunting Methods in the period September 2009 to September 2010.

### **I. REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING 19 FEBRUARY 2010**

The Committee on Hunting Methods met on 19 February 2010 at the Faroese representation in Copenhagen. Present were Egil Ole Øen, chair, and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen, (Faroe Islands), Nette Levermann and Eigil Tofte Bjørvik (Greenland), Kristjan Loftsson and Eyþór Björnsson (Iceland) and Christina Lockyer and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

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

The Chair of the Committee, Egil Ole Øen, welcomed Committee members and especially those meeting for the first time: Eyþór Björnsson, Nette Levermann and Eigil Tofte Bjørvik. The Chair reviewed the terms of reference for the Committee followed by a round of presentations. The 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-February 2010-2), and laws and regulations in member countries (NAMMCO/HM-February 2010-3) were updated (see Appendices 1 and 2 of this report).

##### **Faroe Islands**

Olsen (Faroe Islands) reported that there had been no changes in regulation on pilot whale hunting. Only three drives had taken place last year. In addition there had been a few strandings of Bottlenose whale.

##### **Greenland**

Levermann (Greenland) reported that two new Executive Orders regulating marine mammal hunt had been issued - one on sealing protecting the harbour seal on an annual basis and one revising the existing executive order on beluga and narwhale. NAMMCO recommendations on weapons and ammunition have been acted upon and followed in the new regulations.

## **Iceland**

Björnsson (Iceland) gave a very thorough and detailed presentation of the present laws and regulations governing the minke- and fin whale hunts in Iceland. The Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture has given quotas for fin and minke whales for 2010. The Ministry has also issued new regulations for the hunting of whales.

## **Norway**

Ynnesdal (Norway) reported on the new Act of 19 June 2009 no. 97 on Animal Welfare replacing Act 20 December 1974 No 73 regarding animal protection and Act 19 April 2002 No 11 concerning the amendment of Act 20 December 1974 No 73 regarding animal protection. The name of the new Act is “the Animal Welfare Act” instead of “the Animal Protection Act” reflecting the idea to include respect for animals, which means that the intention of the Act is to promote both good animal welfare and respect for animals.

She furthermore reiterated that quota regulations on seal and whale hunting in Norway are revised every year, and this year’s regulations entail no real changes only clarifications.

### **3. Expert Working Group meeting to review and evaluate whale killing data for large whales**

The Expert Working Group (EWG) met in Copenhagen 17 – 18 February 2010 under the chairmanship of Egil Ole Øen. The report is presented in document NAMMCO/19/15.

The Council at its 18<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in September 2009, tasked the Committee on Hunting Methods to organise an Expert Working Group to review whale killing data giving the following terms of reference:

- *The NAMMCO Council requests the Committee on Hunting Methods to organise an expert group in February/March 2010 to undertake a review and evaluate the whale killing data submitted to NAMMCO by Japan in 2009, as well as data and information on recent and ongoing research on improvements and technical innovations in hunting methods and gears used for the hunting of large whales in NAMMCO countries.*

The aim of the EWG was to assess the presented whale killing data and give recommendations with respect to possible improvements. In addition to the data from Japan, Greenland, Iceland and Norway was asked to present data and information from their hunts of large whales.

All members of the EWG were invited in a personal capacity as experts in fields related to the issue of killing mammals. In addition to the invited experts, members of the Committee on Hunting Methods participated. Invited experts were: Dr Robert Suydam, Prof Lars Walløe, Dr Lars Folkow, Dr Carlos das Neves, whalers Gunnar Johannsson (Iceland), Leif Fontaine, Erneeraq Jeremiassen, and Axel Blytman (Greenland),

The meeting was successful with indebt and informed discussions. The deliberations resulted in specific recommendations for all countries and three recommendations of a more general character directed at NAMMCO.

The conclusions and recommendations from the EWG were agreed upon by consensus before the end of the meeting. The report from the EWG will be finalised well in advance of the Council meeting in September.

The Committee on Hunting Methods agreed to recommend the following follow up to Council:

- To convene a dedicated expert working group on the taking of small cetaceans in NAMMCO countries as well as Japan, Canada, USA and other relevant regions.
- To develop a handbook /manual for hunters giving relevant information *inter alia* on weapons, killing techniques and animal welfare.
- To organise a Workshop in 3- 4 years depending on when the necessary data are collected and available. The WS should deal with processing and presentation of data in a standardised form so that one may compare across hunts and regions.

The Committee tasked the Secretariat in cooperation with the chair to prepare a proposal for the consideration of Council at its next annual meeting in September 2010. The proposal will be distributed to Committee members for their approval prior to the Council meeting.

#### **4. 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.

As of February 2010 financial support has been secured from NORA (DKK 60 000) and the Norwegian Foreign Ministry (applied for NOK 110 000, positive reply but not given figure yet). In addition NAMMCO has allocated NOK 100 000. Nordic Council of Ministers rejected /turned down the WS application of NOK 100 000. In conclusion there is enough money to go ahead with the WS.

In addition to having been postponed one year due to financial uncertainties it had proven very challenging to come to grips with the content of this particular WS. Acknowledging the difficulties encountered in the planning of the WS, the Committee agreed to disband the old programme and start fresh again. Several options and ideas on focus, perspective and emphasis were discussed. One of the challenges identified was the internal differences between hunting nations with respect to the cultural and economical framework surrounding hunting and marketing of products. Hunting equipment varies considerably and also market structures and possibilities. For instance in Norway there is a very regulated system by which whale meat ends up in the shops after having been through several agencies and buyers. In Greenland on the other hand meat is distributed personally or end up at the local market "brættet" without having been handled by a third or fourth person or body. In some countries

utilised products from the hunt is primarily meat whereas others utilise as much as possible of the animal.

The Committee decided that it would be impossible to make a workshop that would be equally interesting to all hunting nations and regions since the backgrounds are so diverse and different. It was therefore decided to especially focus on the situation in Greenland. In order to facilitate the participation of a high percentage of hunters and industry from Greenland the meeting venue was changed to Greenland and Illulisat. The WS dates will tentatively be the same: 2 – 4 November 2010, depending on availability of hotel rooms and meeting room. Greenland will make enquiries as to possible meeting facilities in Illulisat, and report back to the Secretariat. English will still be the WS language and translation to/from Greenlandic will be the responsibility of Greenland.

The Committee agreed to focus on two main issues:

1. Maximising quality and quantity of products from different hunts: flensing techniques and hygiene requirements – structured by species (large whales, small whales and seals)
2. Product development – structured by product (oil/blubber, meat, skin, other artefacts)

Glenn Williams (NTI Inc.) who has accepted to act as co-chair will be informed of the changes to the programme and meeting venue.

The chair of the WS, Jústines Olsen, and the Secretariat, were tasked with developing the programme further based on the Committee's discussion.

## **5. Next meeting**

The next ordinary meeting in the Committee will be February/March 2011. In the intermittance the Secretariat will call for telephone meetings when necessary to plan the Workshop in November, and if needed organise a face to face meeting.

## **6. Approval of the Report**

The report was approved by correspondence on 10 May 2010.

## II. ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AND DECISIONS MADE IN THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2009 TO SEPTEMBER 2010.

The Committee on Hunting Methods held one telephone meeting on 19 November 2009 dedicated to the planning of the Expert Working Group meeting to review and evaluate whale killing data for large whales. The report from the Expert Group meeting is presented as NAMMCO/19/10.

Workshop on handling, processing and utilisation of hunted marine mammals (WS)  
Over the last year the Committee had realised that the goals of the WS were too ambitious, primarily because it was recognized that the framework and context within which hunting takes place in the various countries are so different. The idea to redefine and delimit the geographical scope to only one region was not optimal, and the Committee asked for guidance from Council. Subsequently the decision to cancel the WS was made by the Heads of Delegations in a meeting on 10 June, and the Secretariat was asked to formally contact the funding agencies and withdraw NAMMCO from the funds offered.

With reference to the report of the February meeting of the Committee on Hunting Methods (HMC), agenda item 3, Expert Working Group meeting to review and evaluate whale killing data for large whales, the HMC agreed to propose three recommendations as a follow up to Council from the Expert Working Group. The chair in cooperation with the secretariat was tasked with developing the actual proposals which is given below:

- *To convene a dedicated expert working group on the taking of small cetaceans in NAMMCO counties as well as Japan, Canada, USA and other relevant regions.*

It is suggested to hold the working group meeting in Copenhagen in spring 2011. It is anticipated that the WG will take two working days.

Participants will be by invitation only to experts with knowledge and experience in hunting, veterinary medicine, physiological and biological aspects connected to killing of marine mammals and animal welfare issues. The WG will critically discuss the presented whale killing data on small cetaceans and if necessary give recommendations on possible improvements.

### Budget NOK 80 000

Travel and accommodation for invited experts (5 – 7 persons)

Meeting facilities

- *To develop a handbook /manual for hunters giving relevant information inter alia on weapons, killing techniques and animal welfare.*

It is suggested that an Editorial Committee be established with the aim of developing the handbook. The Editorial Committee should be a relatively small group comprised of the Chair of the HMC, hunters from the member countries and the Secretariat. The HMC will function as a review body for the Editorial Committee.

The idea of the handbook is that it shall function as a very practical manual for hunters with respect to killing of whales. A reference point is the handbook developed by Alaska some years back for their whale hunt which is reported as very useful by the hunters themselves. The manual will be placed onboard all hunting vessels and must be in the respective native languages. It is envisaged that the handbook will be made in one language and then translated to the other languages in the NAMMCO member countries. The handbook shall give basic but vital information on i.e. weapons and ammunition with respect to different species, hitting area by illustrations etc.

It is anticipated that it will be necessary to seek external funding for the development and production of the handbook. Tentatively it is suggested that NOK 100 000 be allocated from Council with the condition that a detailed budget will be developed during the coming months including a list of content for the handbook.

- ***To organise a Workshop in 3- 4 years depending on when the necessary data are collected and available. The WS should deal with processing and presentation of data in a standardised form so that one may compare across hunts and regions.***

It is suggested to postpone discussion and development of this follow up item to the next Council meeting.

**LIST OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN NAMMCO MEMBER COUNTRIES**  
(Updated February 2010)

**FAROE ISLANDS**

- Parliamentary Act      No 57 of 5 June 1984 on whale hunting  
                                  No 54 of 20 May 1996 amending Parliamentary Act on whale hunting  
                                  No 9 of 14 March 1985 on the protection of animals, as last amended by  
                                  Parliamentary Act No 60 of 30 May 1990  
                                  No 43 of 22 May 1969 on weapons etc. as amended by Parliamentary  
                                  Act No 54 of 12 May 1980  
                                  No 128 of 25 October 1988 on hare hunting
- Executive order            No 57 of 12 September 1969 on weapons etc.  
                                  No 19 of 1 March 1996 on exemption from protection of whales  
                                  No 126 of 23 June 1997 on protection of whales  
                                  No 46 of 8 April 1998 on pilot whaling  
                                  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  
                                  No 166 of 27 August 1993 on provisional authorisation of whaling bays  
                                  No 118 of 23 October 1996 on provisional authorisation of whaling bays  
                                  No 72 of 17 May 2000 on provisional authorisation of whaling bays  
                                  No. 87 of 20 September 2007 on protections of whales

**GREENLAND**

- Greenland Home  
 Rule Act                    No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting  
                                  No 11 of 12 November 2001 on revisions to Greenland Home Rule Act  
                                  No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting  
                                  No 9 of 15 April 2003 on revisions to Greenland Home Rule Act No 12  
                                  of 29 October 1999 on hunting  
                                  No 1 of 16 Mai 2008 on revisions to Greenland Home Rule Act No 12  
                                  of 29 October 1999 on hunting  
                                  No 25 of 18 December 2003 on animal welfare  
                                  No 29 of 18 December 2003 on nature protection
- Executive Order            No 26 of 24 October 1997 on extraordinary check and approval of  
                                  harpoon canons  
                                  No 22 of 19 August 2002 on trophy-hunting and fishing  
                                  No 20 of 27 November 2003 on hunting licenses for full time hunters  
                                  No 21 of 28 November 2003 on hunting licenses for part-  
                                  time and/or sport hunters  
                                  No 2 of 12 February 2004 on protection and hunting of beluga and  
                                  narwhal  
                                  No 21 of 22 September 2005 on protection and hunt of polar bears  
                                  No 20 of 27 October 2006 on protection and hunting of walrus  
                                  No 9 of 12 April 2009 on protection and hunting of large whales  
                                  No 10 of 17 April 2009 on reporting from hunting and strike of large  
                                  whales

Catch registration form (1993)

Greenland Parliament Regulations of 31 August 1959, ratified on 12 February 1960 on the protection of harbour seals (*Phoca vitulina*)

## ICELAND

Whaling Act no 26, May 3, 1949  
Regulation no 163, May 30, 1973 on whaling  
Regulation no 304, May 9, 1983 on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling  
Regulation no 239, May 10, 1984 on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling (cf. Regulation No 304/1983)  
Agreement no 9 of 26. June 1991 between Iceland and Spain on an international observer scheme for land-based whaling stations in the North Atlantic area.

## 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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