

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

The Committee on Hunting Methods met on 22 and 23 January 2013 at the Greenlandic representation in Copenhagen. Present were Egil Ole Øen, chair, Kathrine Ryeng and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen, (Faroe Islands), Kristjan Loftsson and Eyþór Björnsson (Iceland), Nette Levermann (Greenland), 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 the Committee members to the meeting. 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-January 2013-2), and laws and regulations in member countries (NAMMCO/HM-January 2013-3) were updated (see Appendices 1 and 2 of this report).

Faroe Islands

Olsen (Faroe Islands) informed the meeting that the announced revision to the regulation on hunting methods was not yet in place. Experience from the last drives is that the spinal lance is widely used but in lack of a standardised version hunters make their own lance.

The Committee once again commended Justines Olsen for his work on the new lance and reiterated its recommendation that the standardised spinal lance with the design as presented and evaluated in the NAMMCO Expert Group meeting on small cetaceans held November 2011, should be the lance made mandatory for use in the Faroe Islands. Furthermore, training of hunters using the spinal lance should be made mandatory.

Greenland

Levermann (Greenland) informed the meeting that a revision of the Executive Order regulating the hunt on large whales is expected to be finalized in February 2013. The changes entail among other things regulation of hunting time and number as well as length of the vessels used for the hunt of humpback whales, requirement to inform the local wildlife officer about the whaling plans and times, and specification of rules for the sale of the products to the consumer.

Furthermore work has commenced on an update on the Greenland Home Rule Act on hunting from 1999 with later amendments. This will also require a review of all executive orders affected by this act.

Greenland submitted a revised White paper on Management and Utilization of Large Whales in Greenland (IWC/64/ASW/7) with a Note on the Greenlandic Needs Statement (IWC/64/ASW/8). Furthermore data to the IWC Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues (IWC Document IWC/64/WKM&AWI7) and a

note on the Progress on Conversion Factors for the Greenlandic Hunt (IWC/64/ASW/710) was submitted at last year's 64'th annual meeting in the International Whaling Commission.

Catch statistics from 2012 show that 10 humpback whales were taken and no bowhead whale hunting taken place. The time to death varies from instantaneous up to 20 – 25 minutes. The quota left on minke whale and fin whale was not reached. There is a system in place in Greenland that makes it possible to follow the grenade from the sale to when it is used. A higher degree of control effort will be put on this possibility in 2013.

The Committee took note of the information and reiterated the recommendation that Greenland and Iceland focus on analyses of time to death data and also how collection of data can be standardized.

Iceland

Björnsson (Iceland) reported that there had been no new regulations for the hunting of fin and minke whales the last year. In 2012 49 minke whales were caught and three whales were reported as struck and lost. No fin whale hunting had taken place in 2012.

Norway

Ynnesdal (Norway) reported that there had been no new regulations with respect to hunting of whales or seals the last year. In line with recommendations from the NAMMCO Expert Group on Large whales, time to death data had been collected in 2011 and 2012. The data are presently being analysed but preliminary results indicate that around 80% of the animals caught are killed instantaneous, thus confirming the findings from the research programme executed in 2000-2002.

The method of data collecting is well described and should be easily adaptable for other countries i.e. Iceland and Greenland. The processing and analysing of the data do however require specialised expertise.

In 2012 465 minke whales were caught including seven stuck and lost with a quota of 1286. 20 vessels were approved with 18 active vessels during the season. The hunting period is from 1/4-1/8, in total 5 months.

Initiated by the Norwegian authorities and mindful of the last accident in 2012, the Minke Whalers Association and Vessel owners are planning a seminar on safety and maintenance of harpoon canons used in Norway in Sandefjord prior to the next whaling season. It was noted that Greenland has in place exceptionally well functioning routines to ensure the safety when handling canons.

The Committee took note of the information presented by Norway.

In response to a suggestion from Greenland the Committee decided to include the following items as points of information for future meetings under this agenda item:

- Quotas
- Number of active hunting boats
- Catch numbers including struck and lost
- Hunting period
- Strandings
- Irregularities
- Others

3. Handbook/user manual

Presented under this agenda item were documents:

- NAMMCO/HM-January 2013-4 draft of manual on penthrite grenade
- NAMMCO/HM-January 2013-5 draft list of content pilot whale hunt Faroe Islands
- As background documentation:
- The original list of content penthrite grenade agreed by the Committee
- The NORA application for funding

Øen presented the draft manual on the penthrite grenade developed in cooperation by him and Winsnes at the Secretariat. The Committee agreed to the general content and structure of the manual with the addition of including a chapter on back-up weapons i.e. rifles and ammunition, and a more thorough foreword on the purpose of the manual and who the expected reader will be. It was also agreed that the Committee members would sign the foreword.

The Committee decided to extend the manual to also include country specific appendices listing additional equipment required onboard a whaling boat such as knives, boyos, pulling power for winches etc. Greenland and Island agreed to submit these lists to the Secretariat for inclusion in the manual.

Considerable time was given to go through the draft manual page by page editing text and deciding on illustrations. The use of the penthrite grenade in Island and Greenland, especially with respect to large whales, differs somewhat from the minke whale hunt in Norway. Island and Greenland are responsible for identifying the necessary amendments for these hunts and communicating this to the Secretariat.

Øen and the Secretariat were tasked with preparing a new final draft for presentation to the Committee based on the changes and comments deriving from the meeting.

The Committee discussed the presented draft content for the part of the manual describing the pilot whale hunt in the Faroe Islands developed by Olsen. It was agreed that Olsen in cooperation with the Secretariat would prepare a draft for the consideration of the Committee by June 2012. Levermann was tasked with preparing a draft on the collective rifle hunt and the rifle- and netting hunt for small cetaceans in Greenland as soon as possible.

Illustrations both drawings and photos were discussed and it was agreed that Levermann would be responsible for making photos of the canon and grenade used in Greenland including essential parts described in the text. Furthermore Greenland will be responsible for illustrations relating to the rifle and netting hunts. Olsen will be responsible for photos pertaining to the pilot whale hunt and Øen and the Secretariat will have the overall responsibility for illustrations pertaining to canons, the penthrite grenade and the anatomy chapter.

The deadline for the production of the total manual is February 2014 when it will be presented to the Council at its annual meeting. The Committee therefore agreed that all text should be in a more or less finalised form by June 2013, giving enough time for layout and translation during fall 2013.

The Committee welcomed the funding received from NORA and the Norwegian Ministry of foreign Affairs.

4. Election of officers

Eypór Björnsson (Iceland) was elected as chair for the period 2013- 2014. It was agreed that Greenland would be asked to fill the position as vice-chair for the period 2013 -2014. The Committee thanked the outgoing chair, Egil Ole Øen (Norway) for his efficient and professional chairmanship during the last eight years.

5. Next meeting

The next ordinary meeting in the Committee will be January/February 2014. However due to the ongoing work with the manual it is anticipated that there will be necessary to hold additional meetings dedicated to the manual before 2014.

6. Approval of the Report

The report was approved by correspondence on 18 February 2013.