

NAMMCO



COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

TELE MEETING REPORT

3 MAY 2016

@ North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission

**REPORT OF
THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS**

Telephone meeting: 3 May 2016, 14:00 – 15:15 hrs

Online: Nette Levermann (chair) and Amalie Jessen (GR), Hild Ynnesdal and Kathrine Ryeng (NO), Guðni Magnús Eiríksson and Kristjan Loftsson (I), Ulla Svarrer Wang (FO) and Geneviève Desportes and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

Background: Council at NAMMCO 24 tasked the Committee on Hunting Methods to discuss the following issues and give recommendations on how to best address these in NAMMCO:

- 1) to review its Terms of Reference and give suggestions on how best to deal with the animal welfare concerns related to by-catch, entanglements and strandings in the NAMMCO framework.
- 2) to organise a workshop on alternative methods for collecting standardised TTD data that are less expensive, thus making it easier to compare TTD between countries.
- 3) to review underlying reasons for struck and lost with the aim of decreasing the S&L rates.

Prior to the telephone meeting there had been a round of email discussions among other things giving rise to the agenda for the meeting.

1. Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Hunting Methods

1.1 With reference to Article II Membership in the RoP, each member country has up to two members in the Committee.

The limiting of national representatives originated from when the Committee's RoP had been first defined. This issue came up during the email correspondence questioning the rationale of limiting the participation to two in light of the workload of the Committee. Since 2012, three had been participating from Norway thus exceeding the RoP defined national representation. Noting the inconsistency, the rationale for not limiting the members to two was the work on the hunting manuals (finalised in February 2015) where the expertise of Egil Øen was fundamental. His participation in the Committee, and the fact that Norway exceeded the number of national representatives, was never a subject of discussion in the Committee but was later rationalised as falling under the category of external experts invited to help with specific tasks.

The Committee agreed on the importance of having sufficient resources available to accommodate and secure a committee's ability to do what is required of it. In view of the workload and activity level of the Committee, the idea of limiting national representatives at all seemed counterproductive and it was agreed to recommend revising the RoP accordingly.

The Committee furthermore recommended having a reference to the fact that, irrespective of number of representatives, each member country would have one vote in cases of disagreement on procedural or administrative matters. The advisory mandate of the Committee does not call for votes, i.e. possible disagreements would be reflected in the recommendation/advice given.

However should situations arise where a vote is called, the principle of one vote-one country should govern.

The Committee agreed to recommend to Council the following revision to the existing RoP:

II Membership

1. Each NAMMCO member country shall be represented *in the Committee and have one vote regardless of number of national representatives.*

1.2 With reference to Article I Terms of reference (ToR) of the Committee

The exiting ToR specifies the criteria the advice given should be based on. By an oversight, it does not mention animal welfare specifically. Taking into account the important role animal welfare concerns have played and continues to play in all the work and advice given by the Committee, it was agreed to include *animal welfare* in line with the other important factors: available scientific findings, technological developments, traditional knowledge, and hunters safety. Furthermore, the Committee agreed to also include *efficiency of hunting gears* to the existing wording.

The Committee agreed to recommend to Council the following revision to the existing ToR in the RoP:

I Terms of reference

1. The Committee shall, upon request from the Council or individual member countries, provide advice on hunting methods for those species of marine mammals relevant to NAMMCO member countries. The Committee shall ensure that such advice is based on the best available scientific findings, technological developments and traditional knowledge, with due consideration given to safety requirements, *animal welfare*, *efficiency in hunting gears* and efficiency of utilization.
2. **How to best address the issues of animal welfare concerns related to by-catch, entanglements and strandings**

The email discussion had revealed that there were consensus to not include these non-hunting related issues into the ToR of the Committee on Hunting Methods. The NAMMCO Agreement encompasses cooperation in research on marine mammals and their role in the ecosystem including effects of human activities (be it hunting or non-hunting related). The Committee agreed that it was both timely and important for the organisation to clearly reflect this fact. Animal welfare concerns, related to by-catch, entanglements and strandings should be addressed by NAMMCO.

There was agreement to recommend to Council to establish a new Committee or working group with the aim of dealing with all non-hunting animal welfare concerns. The discussion centred on whether this should be a committee or a working group and how to proceed from here.

The Secretariat had drafted a proposal for terms of reference for a new Committee. The draft ToR was built upon the ToR for the Committee on Hunting Methods, simply substituting the specifics of what kind of advice should be given.

I Terms of Reference

1. The Committee shall upon request from the Council or individual member countries, provide advice on *animal welfare issues related to non-hunting human induced activities, and live strandings, affecting marine mammals*. The Committee shall ensure that such advice is based on the best available scientific findings, technological developments and traditional knowledge, with due consideration given to safety requirements for humans.

The draft ToR was circulated just prior to the meeting and the Committee agreed to refer the discussion to a new telephone meeting in the near future. The Secretariat was tasked with finding a suitable date for such a meeting.

It was furthermore agreed that the remaining agenda items, 3 to 5, would be dealt with at the new telephone meeting:

3. **Organise a workshop on alternative methods for collecting TTD**
4. **Review Struck and lost**
5. **Date for a face to face meeting**

6. **Any other business**

There was no other business.

7. **Adoption of report**

The report was adopted by correspondence on 18 May 2016.

AGENDA AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS

AGENDA

1. RoP of HM

- **To increase the number of national representatives.**

It seems to be consensus on this, and the question is how many.

- **To revise the existing terms of reference for the HM to:**

2. To suggest how best to address the issues of animal welfare concerns related to by-catch, entanglements and strandings (Council wording).

3. Organise a workshop on alternative methods for collecting TTD

4. Review Struck and lost

5. Date for a face to face meeting

Please circulate possible dates/places on Monday to facilitate the discussion.

6. AOB