

**MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF THE
THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS**

The Committee on Hunting Methods held a telephone meeting on 19 November 2009 from 14:00 to 15:00. Online were Egil Ole Øen, Chair (Norway), Jústines Olsen, (Faroe Islands), Nette Levermann and Egil Tofte Bjørvik (Greenland), Kristjan Loftsson (Iceland), and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat. Ole-David Stenseth, Chair of NAMMCO Council where listening in to the meeting.

1. Opening procedure

The Chair of the Committee, Egil Ole Øen, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting and the draft agenda was adopted. Charlotte Winsnes was acting as rapporteur.

2. Expert Working Group on Japanese whaling killing data

Council at its last meeting tasked the Committee to organise an expert group with the following terms of reference:

The NAMMCO Council requests the Committee on Hunting Methods to organise a working 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 Committee discussed participation, programme, venue and dates for the Expert Group meeting and agreed on the following:

Venue & Dates:

17 – 19 February 2010 in Copenhagen. Egil Ole Øen will correspond with Ishikawa in Japan for final confirmation of these dates.

Programme:

Japan will present their killing data and Iceland and Greenland will be asked to give a presentation of their hunting methods with respect to Fin Whale, Minke Whale and Bowhead. Egil Ole Øen in cooperation with the Secretariat will put together a list of what kind of information and how much information is needed that will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Participation:

The Expert Group should not exceed 15 persons. The Committee members were asked to forward names of possible participants to the Secretariat within the next 14 days. Invitations should be distributed by mid December. In addition to members of the Committee itself the following experts were mentioned:

Dr Ishikawa – to present the Japanese data

Prof Lars Walløe – statistics

Prof Lars Folkow – diving physiology

Dr Siri Knudsen – central nervous system

Veterinary Jan Danielsson – practical experience through his work as inspector and observer onboard whaling vessels in Norway

Craig George – practical knowledge and experience regarding bowhead hunting

The Chair of the Committee in cooperation with the Secretariat will distribute the list of invited participants to the Committee of Hunting Methods by 7 December.

The allocated budget of NOK 60 000 shall cover invited participants not including Japanese participation.

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

Based on discussions at the last Committee meeting in April 2009 Justines Olsen – chair of the Workshop - had put down on paper some thoughts regarding the programme of the Workshop that had been circulated prior to the telephone meeting. The Committee agreed to postpone a full discussion of the programme to a face to face meeting but it was generally agreed to alter the focus of the programme from different species and hunting methods to product development and marketing. The different hunting methods for the various species have been described in detail in the reports from the Workshops held in 2002, 2004 and 2006, and need not be repeated in great length at the Workshop. It was decided that the Secretariat in cooperation with Egil Ole Øen will make a summary of this information that will be distributed prior to the next face to face meeting. Possibly this summary may be given as a background presentation at the Workshop.

It was agreed to convene the Workshop in week 4 in 2010 from 2 – 4 November 2010.

4. Next meeting

The next meeting will be in Copenhagen in week 7 back to back with the Expert Group meeting.

5. Approval of the Report

The report was approved by correspondence on 3 December 2009.