

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

The Committee on Hunting Methods met on 25 and 26 November 2013 at the Greenlandic representation in Copenhagen. Present were Eyþór Björnsson (Iceland), chair, Kathrine Ryeng, Hild Ynnesdal and Egil Ole Øen (Norway), Jústines Olsen, (Faroe Islands), 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, Eyþór Björnsson, 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-November 2013-2), and laws and regulations in member countries (NAMMCO/HM-November 2013-3) were updated with additions from the Faroe Islands and Greenland. These updates are reflected in appendices 1 and 2 of this report.

Faroe Islands

Olsen (Faroe Islands) informed the meeting of the new Executive Order No 100 from July 5th 2013 on pilot whale hunting. The regulation describes in detail how the hunt should be carried out and organised, both before, during and after a catch. The authorised killing equipment is the spinal lance and the blowhole hook with rope of sisal or manila material. Furthermore a list of authorised whaling bays is included. It is anticipated that it will be a requirement for hunters to undertake a training course in the use of the blowhole hook and the spinal lance that will certify them as whale hunters. The courses will be held in 2014.

Whale catches in 2013

Pilot whales: 9 drives and a total of 968 animals caught

White sided dolphins: 1 drive and 430 animals caught

In addition there had been 2 sperm whale strandings in 2013.

Olsen reported that some hunters had produced their own spinal lances, but that for the future it would be a requirement that the authorities approve the spinal lances that are used in advance of a hunt.

The Committee welcomed the new Executive Order. The Committee furthermore strongly recommended that only the spinal lance as described in the NAMMCO Expert Group meeting on the killing of small cetaceans be accepted as the standard lance.

Greenland

Levermann (Greenland) informed the meeting that there were no new regulations pertaining to marine mammals in Greenland. Levermann also reported that Greenland

had set national quotas for large whales in 2013 based on the advice from the IWC Scientific Committee due to the developments in IWC where the Greenlandic quota proposal had been rejected at the last commission meeting. The quotas for 2013 for West Greenland: 178 Minke whales, 19 fin whales, 10 humpback whales, 2 bowhead whales and East Greenland: 12 Minke Whales.

There are 44 whaling boats with harpoon gun and 425 smaller boats in Greenland. In 2012 no bowheads had been caught. There are no quotas for small whales except for beluga and narwhal. Whale catches in 2012 were:

5 fin whale including 1 struck and lost

148 minke whale including 4 struck and lost in West Greenland and 2 in East Greenland

10 humpback including 3 struck and lost.

2 whales (1 fin whale and 1 humpback whale) were euthanized due to sassat and sickness. 2 humpback whales were by-caught of which one was not found again and one was euthanized.

The hunting period for 2012 was for fin whale and humpback whale from 1 January to 31 December and for minke whale and bowhead whale 1 April to 31 December.

One observation of a sperm whale stranding was made in 2012.

On request Levermann presented an overview of catch related data collected on large whales for 2005-2012 and reported annually to IWC. The Committee referred back to the NAMMCO Expert Group on killing of large whales and reiterated its recommendation that the same reporting form of TTD is used by all member countries. The overall assumption was that the presented Greenlandic data on TTD is biased high especially for those hunts where the TTD are estimated by the hunters and are not corrected by *post-mortem* examinations.

The Committee took note of the information presented by Greenland. The Committee suggested that future voluntary reporting of TTD data to the Committee should be modelled around the Norwegian manner of presenting this kind of data, and the Secretariat was tasked to find out exactly what this entailed.

Iceland

Björnsson (Iceland) reported that there had been no new regulations for the hunting of fin and minke whales the last year. For 2013 the following information was given:

49 minke whales were caught by 3 boats and no struck and lost was reported.

134 fin whales were caught by 2 vessels and 5 struck and lost had been reported. The quota for 2014 is 229 minke whales and 150 fin whales.

Iceland plan to record TTD in 2014.

The Committee took note of the information presented by Iceland.

Norway

Ynnesdal (Norway) reported that there had been no new regulations with respect to hunting of whales or seals the last year.

In 2013 4 sealing vessels had taken 15 939 harp seals (young and adult). In relation to the quota for 2013 which was set at 25 000 adult (one year plus) animals, the hunt counted 9 019 animals derived from the counting system in Norway where two young seals counts as one adult seal. For the minke whale hunt 17 vessels had caught 593 minke whales of a quota of 1 286. 5 struck and lost minke whales had been reported.

TTD data have been collected in 2011 and 2012 on minke whales. This data will be presented in 2014. In 2013 Norway has been sampling TTD on seals and it is anticipated that these data also will be presented next year.

The Committee took note of the information presented by Norway.

3. Handbook/user manual

Presented under this agenda item were documents:

- NAMMCO/HM-November 2013-4 draft of manual Part A on canons and penthrite grenade – Norwegian version
- NAMMCO/HM-November 2013-5 draft of manual Part B on pilot whale hunt Faroe Islands – English version
- NAMMCO/HM-November /2013-6: draft of the User's manual Part C on the Greenlandic netting and rifle hunt of small whales – English version
- NAMMCO/HM-November /2013-7: draft English version of the part A with canons and grenade.

The Committee went through and finalised document 5 on pilot whaling - all corrections are found in appendix 3 to this report. There was a discussion in the meeting regarding adding a glossary to the manual with respect to anatomical expressions. This was later dismissed by correspondence with the rationale that there are no good “non anatomical” terms for these expressions.

The Committee also discussed document 4 on canons and grenades and all corrections are found in appendix 4. In general the Committee decided that each country would be responsible for including country specific appendices to the manual, it being equipment required onboard a whaling boat such as knives, boyos, pulling power for winches etc. The presented manual has a photo of a Norwegian whaling vessel and it was agreed that the Icelandic and Greenlandic versions should have a cover photo reflecting hunts of the country in question.

The Committee also decided that the English version of document 4 is a technical exercise and that this will be the responsibility of the Secretariat.

Levermann agreed to submit a draft on Greenlandic netting and rifle hunt by the end of December for the review of the Committee. The deadline for the production of the total manual is February 2014 when it will be presented to the Council at its annual meeting. It is therefore imperative that all parts of the manual are finalised by the end of January.

The Chair of the Committee in cooperation with the Secretariat will assess if there is a need for a face to face meeting before the manual is presented to Council, or if it will suffice to finalise the manual by correspondence.

The total manual including all translations consists of the following 3 parts and will be available at the NAMMCO homepage for downloading by member states and others:

Manual on canons and grenade:

- Håndbok for vedlikehold og bruk av våpen og utstyr for fangst av bardehvaler i NAMMCOs medlemsland. (Norwegian version canons and grenade)
- Instruction manual for the use and maintenance of weaponry and equipment deployed in whaling in NAMMCO member countries. (English version of above)
- Icelandic version of canons and grenades
- Greenlandic version of canons and grenades

Manual on pilot whaling:

- Instruction manual on Pilot whaling (English version)
- Leiðbeining fyri avlíving av grindahvali (Faroese version of above)

Manual on Greenlandic netting and rifle hunt small whales:

- Instruction manual on Greenlandic netting and rifle hunt of small whales (English version)
- Greenlandic version of above

The Secretariat will prepare a paper copy of the English versions for presentation to Council. The Secretariat was asked to look into the cost of printing the manual in hard copies with or without waterproofed paper.

It was reiterated that it is the Committees responsibility to develop the manual in English and that it will be the member countries responsibility to translate the manual into the national languages. Member countries are responsible for how and in which form they will distribute the manual to the national hunters. The Committee strongly recommended that member countries initiate procedures to ensure that all whalers or whaling boats have a manual and also that there are some requirements in stalled to make sure that the whalers actually read the manual before going hunting.

The Committee also recommended that NAMMCO take the responsibility of printing a set for all member countries. It is anticipated that Norway will need 20, Iceland 10, Faroes 1000 and Greenland between 2000 and 5000 copies for the small whale manual and 50 copies for the large whale manual. It was recommended that Council ask the Secretariat to look into possible funding for the printing of this first set.

4. Next meeting

The next ordinary meeting in the Committee will be January/February 2015. However if

necessary in order to finalise the manual see agenda item 3, the Committee will meet prior to NAMMCO 22.

5. Any other business

Levermann informed the Committee of an accident with a harpoon canon in Kangaamiut in the end of May 2013. Both the canon and the breechblock had been thoroughly examined afterwards without finding anything wrong.

6. Approval of the Report

The report was approved by correspondence on 23 December 2013.