

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

The Committee on Hunting Methods met on 8 and 9 October 2008 in the Faroe Islands Representation in Copenhagen. Present were Egil Ole Øen, Chair and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen, (Faroe Islands), Kristjan Loftsson (Iceland) and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat. Ole Heinrich (Greenland) was unable to be present.

1. Introductory remarks, adoption of agenda and review of documents

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

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

Based on previous meetings and discussions during this meeting the Committee agreed on the following:

- ❖ The Chair of the Workshop (WS) will be Jústines Olsen and Glenn William from Tunngavik Inc. in Nunavut will be asked to serve as co-chair. Williams will also be asked to be responsible for the drafting of the WS recommendations.
- ❖ The WS will be held in Sandefjord, Norway at Hotel Atlantic 3 – 5 November 2009.
- ❖ The WS programme will also include walrus. The preliminary programme resulting from the meeting discussions is attached as appendix 1.
- ❖ The Steering Committee for the WS will be the Hunting Committee. In addition Glenn Williams from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. will be asked to participate in the planning and implementation of the WS, as he did in the last two workshops.
- ❖ The WS will be open for all interested parties. The Secretariat will develop a preliminary first announcement to be presented at the next meeting.
- ❖ The WS will ask for a registration fee and the Committee left it up to the Secretariat to decide the size of this fee.
- ❖ The Committee agreed to sponsor the necessary representatives from Chukotka. The Alaska Eskimos will be offered a fixed amount to partially cover travel and accommodation.
- ❖ The Secretariat will seek external funding for the WS from NORA, Nordic Council of Ministers and others. NAMMCO has allocated NOK 100 000.

3. Expert group on best practices in sealing

In February 2008 Heads of Delegation forwarded a request to the Hunting Committee to identify the main issues for a possible workshop on best practises in sealing. In response the Committee suggested the convening of a smaller, more focused expert group that would focus on best applicable methods i.e. to critically assess the various hunting methods within their context. Council at its last meeting in September 2008 tasked the Hunting Committee with organising an expert group on best practises in sealing with the following terms of reference:

With reference to the Hunting Committee suggestion for how to proceed with the requested work to focus on best practices in sealing (NAMMCO/17/8, item 7.1), the Council agreed the following work plan and terms of reference:

- *The work should build upon the knowledge and experiences already gathered in previous workshops organised by the Committee and possible new developments emerging since the last workshop held in 2006.*
- *The work should be undertaken in a focussed group of specially invited experts with experience in seal hunting practices both from NAMMCO member countries as well as from other sealing nations and communities.*
- *The expert group will critically assess different seal hunting methods within their contexts, addressing such questions as:*
 - *The use of specific hunting methods and equipment in particular settings*
 - *Training requirements for hunters*
 - *Control and monitoring of hunting methods*
 - *Research needs to improve the basis for further assessment*
- *The expert group will develop recommendations on best practices based on state of the art in sealing today and identify where and how specific improvements can be made.*
- *As background information for the work of the expert group, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Hunting Methods Committee, will prepare a collation of relevant information and recommendations on seal hunting methods from previous NAMMCO workshops and other relevant and up-to-date sources of information on sealing practices.*
- *It is expected that the expert group will convene in the spring of 2009 and its conclusions presented to the Council at its next annual meeting.*

In preparation for the present meeting the Secretariat had prepared a draft information document consisting of a collation of relevant information and recommendations. This document will be presented to the expert group well in advance of their meeting and will serve as the main background information for the group's deliberations.

Based on the presented draft document the Committee discussed the structure and content and also agreed on the following allocation of responsibility pertaining to the further development of the information document (reference to pages in the draft document):

Chapter 1: Introduction; terms of reference, timeframe is the present decennium i.e. from year 2000, overview and rationale for the choice of geographical scope/choice of hunting methods described and assessed, catch figures should be given. (Secretariat)

Chapter 2: Anatomical and physiological characteristics of importance for killing efficiency page 2, Egil to edit.

Chapter 3: Hunting methods; description of hunting methods and regulations of importance for killing efficiency structured by region/country: Norway, Canada, Greenland, Russia, Iceland, Baltic region and UK. Pages 2 – 9 Hild to edit all and Egil to edit especially paragraph on UK page 7.

Chapter 4: Description of killing method; hakapik, firearms etc. Pages 9 – 20 Hild compare with chapter 3 and edit in order to avoid duplication, Justines edit pages 20 – 30 on evaluation of the killing methods etc.

Kristjan was tasked with making an overview over the use of different ammunition.

Chapter 5: Neurophysiological aspects pages 30 – 35 Egil to edit

Chapter 6: Conclusions and recommendations
Hild asked to have a look at pages 35 – 44 to avoid duplication, otherwise the Committee will come back to this part of the document in greater detail later.

The Secretariat will make a new revised version of the information document based on the Committee members input as described above that will be discussed at the next meeting. The deadline for submitting the inputs to the Secretariat was set to 27 October.

In addition the Committee agreed on the following:

- ❖ Egil Ole Øen will chair the meeting.
- ❖ The meeting will take place in week 9 (23 – 27 February) 2009 in Copenhagen at the Faroes Representation.
- ❖ It is anticipated that the meeting will take from 3 to 4 days.
- ❖ The expert group will consist of experts only with no stakeholder's representation. Invitations will be sent to the following persons in a personal capacity: Pierre Doust (Canada), Torsten Mørner (Sweden), Jan Danielsson (Sweden), Lasse Holm (Greenland), Department for Arctic Biology, University of Tromsø, Siri Knudsen (Norway), Lambooi (Netherlands) and one from Russia to be identified. In addition the committee members will participate.
- ❖ The Secretariat will contact the identified expert and report back at the next meeting whether they are able to accept the invitation or not.
- ❖ Tentative agenda for the expert group is:
 1. Welcome and Introduction
 2. Defining the criteria for best practices in killing related to
 - slaughterhouse
 - hunting
 - culling
 - euthanasia

3. Critically assess the various hunting and killing methods within their contexts, addressing issues such as.
 - use of specific hunting methods and equipment i.e hakapik, firearms, clubs and netting/trapping in particular setting
 - training requirements
 - control and monitoringGive recommendations on the different killing methods
 4. Research needs to improve the basis for further assessments
 5. Possible technical improvements and innovations
 6. Adoption of the report
- ❖ The Secretariat will investigate where to borrow a hakapik, slagkrok and a seal cranium for the use of the expert group.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Copenhagen 5 November 2008 from 09:00 – 15:00.

8. Approval of the Report

The report was approved through correspondence on 17 October 2008.