

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission

Report of the Second Meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Hunting Methods¹

Copenhagen, 20-21 September 1993

¹ This report of the NAMMCO Working Group on Hunting Methods does not necessarily reflect the views of the Council and should not be quoted without first consulting the Secretary of NAMMCO.

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1. Opening proceedings and participants

The Working Group met at the offices of the Greenland Home Rule Government, Copenhagen from September 20-21, 1993. The agenda is attached as Appendix 1. The meeting was convened by Amalie Jessen (Greenland) and attended by Hansi Kreutzmann (Greenland), Jústines Olsen (Faroe Islands) Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), and Egil Ole Øen (Norway).

2. Appointment of rapporteur

The Secretary was appointed as rapporteur.

3. The Working Group to date

The meetings and discussions which have taken place so far in the Working Group were reviewed. These included a preliminary meeting held in Tromsø in January 1993 and correspondence conducted between Working Group members since then.

4. Review of the document list

The Convener referred to the Working Group's aim of gathering documentation on hunting methods and regulations in respective NAMMCO member countries with the intention of compiling a list of this documentation. Iceland and Norway would undertake to provide further material. A preliminary reference list compiled chronologically and according to country is included as Appendix 2.

5. Review of the Draft Rules of Procedure¹

The Working Group discussed the formulation of Rules of Procedure for the Working Group on Hunting Methods. The Draft Rules of Procedure are attached as Appendix 3. The following points reflect Working Group discussions on specific aspects of the Draft Rules of Procedure and refer to the articles as set out in the Draft Rules of Procedure (Appendix 3).

I Terms of Reference

1. The Working Group discussed the aims and status of the Group. Members agreed with the interpretation that the Working Group had been initially established on an *ad hoc* basis with the intention of it developing into a permanent group which would function in an advisory capacity. It was noted that a permanent group dealing with hunting methods should aim to gather information on hunting methods, discuss developments and problems in hunting technologies and methodologies and address specific questions as they arise.

However, members also agreed that the status of the group was unclear in relation to the general Management Committee established by the Council. It was noted that the Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO referred to the establishment of an "*ad hoc*

¹ After reviewing this Report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods, the Council decided at its Fourth Meeting that the *ad hoc* Working Group should be made a permanent Working Group (ie not Committee) which reports directly to Council. The Rules of Procedure attached to this Report have been amended to refer to a Working Group. Likewise, references in the text of the Report have also been amended to refer to Working Group (rather than Committee, as was originally used).

Committee" on hunting methods, while the group has subsequently been defined as a Working Group.

Working Group members agreed that the terms of reference and work of the Group would be most appropriately defined in the form of a permanent independent Working Group which would report directly to the Council. In this regard the Working Group noted in particular the emphasis placed by the Council on the wide-ranging importance of the matter of hunting methods, as stated in the Report of the Second Meeting (Tromsø, January 1993): "The Council agreed that the question of hunting methods was a matter of relevance to NAMMCO on all levels - scientific, management and information."

2. *Ad hoc* Working Group members agreed that the permanent Working Group should have the scope to initiate discussions on matters its members considered important and relevant without it being necessary to seek Council approval before addressing such matters. It was also considered desirable for the Working Group itself to be able to initiate specific tasks where appropriate, subject to Council approval.

II Membership

3. *Ad hoc* Working Group members agreed that it was important that the Working Group itself decides on the outside expertise to be sought when necessary.

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2. The Working Group noted the need for guidelines for the Secretariat on the availability and distribution of data. The Working Group would follow guidelines on data availability relating to the Scientific Committee when such guidelines have been prepared.

6. Possible tasks of a permanent Working Group on Hunting Methods

The *ad hoc* Working Group discussed in more detail the kinds of issues which the permanent Working Group could address and the tasks it could perform in the future. It was agreed that the Working Group should be open to requests for advice on all matters for which its members could provide the appropriate expertise.

Some examples of the matters relevant to the Working Group which could be further addressed included:

- a comparative examination of levels of wastage of meat in connection with the use of grenade harpoons with two-claw harpoons used in minke whaling in Greenland and Norway, and four-claw harpoons used in fin whale hunting in Greenland. Greenlandic whalers had pointed out that there was more wastage of meat in the use of the grenade harpoon than the cold harpoon. This is not in accordance with Norwegian experiences and investigations on grenade harpoons over the years. The Committee will investigate the reasons for the different experiences of Greenlandic and Norwegian whalers in this regard;
- the production of a common manual with instructions for the use, operation and maintenance of harpoon guns;
- a comparison of parameters used for collecting data related to hunting methods.

Ad hoc Working Group members discussed the role of the Working Group on Hunting Methods as an advisory one, where members could raise issues for discussion in the group and, not least, seek to maintain an exchange of information between members.

7. Next meeting/any other business

It was agreed to hold a brief meeting prior to the next Council meeting to review the final report and

make any further amendments which may be considered necessary. It was also agreed to finalize a preliminary documentation list to be included with the Working Group report at the next meeting of the Council in January or February 1994.

NAMMCO/WG-HM2 - Appendix 1

Agenda

1. Opening procedures
2. Appointment of rapporteur
3. The Working Group to date
4. Review of the document list
5. Review of Draft Rules of Procedure
6. Possible tasks of a Committee on Hunting Methods
7. Next meeting/Any other business

NAMMCO/WG-HM2 - Appendix 2

Preliminary List of Documents on Hunting Methods

Faroe Islands

- Hoydal, K., Recent Changes to Faroese Legislation on Whaling, Paper presented to the IWC/38 Humane Killing Working Group, Malmö, 1986.
- Faroe Home Government, Response from the Danish Government on the Methods used in the Faroese Pilot Whale Hunt, submitted to IWC/40, 1988.
- Comments from Denmark on IWC44/HKW/9, "Humane Killing Aspects of the Pilot Whale Hunt in the Faroe Islands", IWC Document IWC/45/HK2, 1993.

Greenland

- Greenland Home Rule (GHR), Hunting Methods including the Cold/Warm Harpoon Question, IWC Document TC/39/AS 2, 1987.
- Petersen, Robert, Communal Aspects of Preparation for Whaling, of the Hunt Itself and of the Ensuing Products, 1987.
- GHR, Denmark's Answers to the Remaining Questions stated in Document IWC/39/19 "Report of the Humane Killing Working Group", Annex 4, IWC Document TC/40/HK 3, 1988.
- GHR, Implementation of the Detonating Grenade Harpoon in Greenland's Whaling on a Experimental Basis, IWC Document TC/40/HK 4, 1988.
- GHR, Arfanniariaaserput - Our Way of Whaling, 1988.
- Dahl, J., The Integrative and Cultural Role of Hunting and Subsistence in Greenland, *Inuit Studies*, 13(1): 23-42, 1989.
- GHR, Introduction of the Detonating Grenade Harpoon in Greenland Whaling on a Experimental basis, IWC Document TC/41/HK 2, 1989.
- GHR, Introduction of the Detonating Grenade Harpoon in Greenland on an Experimental Basis, IWC Document TC/42/HK 1, 1990.
- GHR, Greenland Licenses for Hunting Minke Whales with Rifles, IWC Document TC/42/HK 2, 1990.
- Josefsen, E, Cutter Hunting of Minke Whale in Qaqortoq (Greenland): Case Study, IWC Document TC/42/SEST 5, 1990.
- Larsen, S. E. and Hansen, K. G., Inuit and Whales at Sarfaq (Greenland): Case Study, IWC Document TC/42/SEST 4, 1990.
- Caulfield, R. A, Qeqartarsuarmi arfanniarneq: Greenland Inuit Whaling in Qeqartarsuaq Kommune, West Greenland, IWC Document TC/43/AS 4, 1991.
- GHR, Designation of Types of Rifles in Greenland, IWC Document TC/43/AS 1, 1991.
- GHR, Introduction of the Detonating Grenade Harpoon in Greenland, 1991, IWC Document TC/43/HK2, 1991.
- GHR, Introduction of the Detonating Grenade Harpoon in Greenland, 1992, IWC Document TC/44/HK1, 1992.
- Rosing, J., Havets Enhjørning, 19xx.
- Jessen, A., Modern Inuit Whaling in Greenland, 1992.
- GHR, Greenland Action Plan on Whale Hunting Methods, 1992, IWC Document TC/45/HK3, 1993.

Iceland

- Lambertsen, Richard H. and Moore, Michael J., Behavioral and post mortem observations on fin whales killed with explosive harpoons with preliminary conclusions concerning killing efficiency: report to the International Whaling Commission from the Icelandic Whales research laboratory, 1 November, 1983, IWC Document TC/36/HK 3.
- Rowell, Harry C., Assessment of harpooning as a humane killing method in whales: A report to the International Whaling Commission, 1979.
- Øen, Egil Ole, Progress Report on Penthrate as Detonating Charge for 90 mm Harpoons, IWC Document TC/39/HK 4, 1987.

Norway

- Øen, E.O., Progress Report on Studies to increase the Efficiency of Killing Methods in Norwegian Small- Type Whaling, IWC Document SC/34/0 10, 1982.
- Killing Times of Minke Whales in the Norwegian Coastal Whaling in the 1981 and 1982 Seasons. *Nord. Vet.-Med.* 35, 314-318: 1983.
- Electrical Whaling - A Review. *Nord. Vet.-Med.* 1983, 35: 319-323.
- Progress report on research to develop more humane killing methods in Norwegian whaling, IWC Document TC/35/HK 1, 1983.
- Progress report on research in 1983-84 to develop more humane killing methods in Norwegian whaling, IWC Document TC/36/HK 1, 1984.
- The Use of Drugs in Whaling. Rep., IWC Document TC/36/HK 2, 1984.
- Progress report on research in 1984-85 to develop more humane killing methods in Norwegian whaling, IWC Document IWC/37/19, 1985.
- Chemical Immobilization and Marking of Minke Whales. A Report of Field Trials in 1988, IWC Document SC/41/NHMi 10, 1989.
- A Review of Attachment Techniques for Radio Transmitters to Whales, 1990, in *North Atlantic Studies - Whaling Communities*, Vol. 2, Nos 1 & 2, ed. E. Vestergaard, Aarhus Universitet, 1990: 82-84.
- Trials of Chemical Immobilization of Minke Whales with Etorphine Hydrochloride in 1989, IWC Document SC/42/NHMi 16, 1990.
- A new VHF-Transmitter for Minke Whales, IWC Document SC/42/NHMi 17, 1990.
- The Norwegian Hunt of Minke Whales: Hunting of Minke Whales with Modified Cold Harpoons in 1983, IWC Document IWC/44/HKW 1, 1992.
- The Norwegian Hunt of Minke Whales: Description and Analysis of the Minke Whale Hunt with Cold Harpoons in the 1981, 1982 and 1983 Seasons, IWC Document IWC/44/HKW 2, 1992.
- The Norwegian Hunt of Minke Whales: Hunting Trials using 20mm High-Velocity Projectiles in 1982, IWC Document IWC/44/HKW 3, 1992.
- The Norwegian Hunt of Minke Whales: A Norwegian Penthrate Grenade for Minke Whaling. Description of the Model and Developmental Work, IWC Document IWC/44/HKW 4, 1992.
- Norwegian Penthrate Grenade for Minke Whales: Hunting Trials with Prototypes of Penthrate Grenades in 1984 and Results from the 1985 and 1986 Seasons, IWC Document IWC/44/HKW5, 1992.
- A new Penthrate Grenade for the Subsistence Hunt of Bowhead Whales by Alaskan Eskimos. Developmental Work and Field Trials in 1988, IWC Document IWC/44/HKW 6, 1992.
- Hunting Methods for Minke Whales in Norway. Report from the 1992 Scientific Catch, IWC Document IWC/45/HK 1, 1993.
- Norwegian Penthrate Grenade for Minke Whales: Results from the 1992 Season, 1993.
- Avliving av strandet Hval, *Nor. Vet. Tidsskr.* 105, p. 748-749, 1993.

..... Avliving av standet Hval, *Nor. Vet. Tidsskr.* 105, p. 845-846, 1993.

NAMMCO/WG-HM2 - Appendix 3

Rules of Procedure for the Working Group on Hunting Methods

I Terms of Reference

1. The Working Group 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 Working Group 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 and efficiency of utilization.
2. Members of the Working Group may raise specific questions for discussion during meetings of the Group. The Working Group may make proposals to the Council for specific tasks to undertake within its terms of reference.
3. Non-member governments with observer status in NAMMCO may request advice from the Working Group through the Council.

II Membership

1. Each NAMMCO member country shall be represented by up to two Working Group members.
2. The Working Group shall elect from among its members a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, who shall each serve for two years, after which time they may be re-elected.
3. The Working Group may also seek outside expertise when the Working Group considers this to be necessary and appropriate.

III Observers

1. Attendance of observers shall not be permitted at the meetings of the Working Group on Hunting Methods unless otherwise decided by the majority of the Working Group and approved by the Council.

IV Meetings

1. The Working Group shall meet at least once a year, preferably prior to the annual meeting of the Council, unless otherwise decided by the Council. Additional meetings may be held when judged necessary by the Working Group and approved by the Chairman of the Council.
2. A provisional agenda for the Working Group shall be compiled by the Chairman and distributed to Working Group members no later than 30 days prior to the meeting in question. Comments or suggestions for revision of the provisional agenda shall reach the Chairman no less than 10 days prior to that meeting.
3. The Chairman shall, in consultation with other members of the Working Group and the Secretary of NAMMCO, seek to ensure that key documentation of relevance to the provisional

agenda is available at the beginning of each meeting.

V Report

1. A draft report shall be presented for consideration before the end of the Working Group meeting. The final report of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat as required by the Working Group and transmitted to all members of the Council as soon as possible after the meeting.
2. The report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods shall be made available by the Secretariat to anyone who so wishes, according to guidelines set by the Working Group and subject to approval by the Council.

VI Amendment of Rules

1. Proposals for amendment of these Rules of Procedure shall reach the Chairman of the Council not less than 60 days prior to the Council meeting at which the matter is to be discussed. The Chairman of the Council shall transmit these proposals through the Secretariat to the Members of the Council not less than 30 days prior to that meeting.

