**Survey Planning WG Skype meeting- Faroes & Iceland**

18 March 2014, 11am Norwegian time

On the call: Gísli Vikingsson, Thorvaldur Gunnlaugsson, Geneviève Desportes, Bjarni Mikkelsen, Jill Prewitt

A small group met over Skype to discuss activities of the Survey Planning Working Group on 18 March 2014. The main discussion points are below:

* Funding
  + Iceland
    - Informally, it is likely that Iceland will share the costs of Jan Mayen with Norway
    - Testing of equipment and observer training in summer 2014 for the aerial survey in Iceland has been cancelled for this year due to lack of funds. Instead it will take place immediately before the survey in 2015.
  + Faroe Islands
    - Will not know until the end of 2014 whether the money will be allocated for the extension survey
    - The main problem with this is that there are not funds to buy and test the drone and helikite. May be able to shift money around to do this, but will be difficult
    - Tagging will continue, however, because they already have the tags

* + Methodology
    - A double platform methodology has been agreed for the shipboard survey, but a specific methodology has not been decided upon
    - Iceland will go for a full double platform methodology for the aerial survey, either by using a plane with room for a double set of independent observers or by using video/ camera
* Planning a meeting
  + Need to have agenda items/questions, and decide which of these can be answered via email and Skype, and which need an in-person meeting
  + Right now the main issues to discuss are 1) which double-platform survey methodology is best for the target species, and 2) equipment and software used
  + Can start with 2 Skype meetings- one for aerial, one for ship-based, with as points on the agenda a) update on the latest developments in terms of double platform survey methodology and equipment, b)identify the best double platform methodology for NASS target species, c) identify the most suitable software/equipment for NASS purposes.
  + Background for these meetings will be the report from the TNASS2 SPWG meeting in January 2012 (NAMMCO SC19/08), as well as the reviews available for this meeting on aerial (NAMMCO SC19 TNASS2/04) and shipboard (NAMMCO SC19 TNASS2/07) survey development.
  + For aerial survey Skype meeting, experts to include Phil Hammond, Debbie Palka, Dan Pike, someone from Greenland (Mads Peter?), Jack Lawson, Greg Donovan
  + For ship-based survey Skype meeting, experts to include Phil Hammond and Debbie Palka
  + Proposed dates: 27th or 28th March or 22, 23, 24 or 25 April
  + Depending on the timing & outcome of these Skype meetings, could try to schedule an in-person meeting in Copenhagen right before IWC SC meeting (5-6 May)
  + Also can hold a meeting in the fall
  + Jill will email these invited experts to ask about their availability and let the group know
  + Some of the meeting expenses of SC members can be paid by NAMMCO, depending on fund availability on the NASS 2014 budget
* Miscellaneous
  + With regards to acoustic, the group agreed that it was a good idea to propose to SCANS III/SMRU/OTHERS to deploy/test acoustic equipment from the NASS vessels, the analysis of the data being at their expense
  + It was also agreed that it was a good idea to propose to SCANS III to use the NASS vessels as test-platform for testing sightings survey equipment, as long as this do not compromise the NASS survey