

**NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
24<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
Reykjavík, Iceland  
14-17 November 2017**

**Draft Agenda**

Paper numbers in [ ].

1. **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
3. **APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEUR**
4. **REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS**
  - 4.1. **National Progress Reports** [SC/24/NPR-F, -G, -I, -N, -C, -J, -R]
  - 4.2. **Working Group Reports**
    - 4.2.1. **Large Whale Assessment WG** [SC/24/11]
    - 4.2.2. **NAMMCO-JCNB JWG** [SC/24/13]
    - 4.2.3. **By-catch WG** [SC/24/12]
  - 4.3. **Other reports and documents**
    - 4.3.1. **Global Review of Monodontids** [SC/24/14]
    - 4.3.2. **SC Intersessional Report** [SC/24/11]
    - 4.3.3. **SMM Workshop Report** [SC/24/15]
5. **WORK PROCEDURES IN THE SC**
  - 5.1. **Updates from Council: NAMMCO/25**
    - 5.1.1. **External Experts – participation and funding**
    - 5.1.2. **Confidentiality of reports and documents**
    - 5.1.3. **New requests**
  - 5.2. **Abundance** [SC/24/05]
  - 5.3. **Catches**
    - 5.3.1. **Struck and lost** (R-1.6.4)

*R-1.6.4 The SC has recommended that catch statistics include correction for struck but lost animals for different seasons, areas, and catch operations. Council requested the SC and the Committee on Hunting Methods to provide advice on the best methods for collection of the desired statistics on losses. Council noted that this request, although brought up regarding walruses, not only pertains to walrus but to all species.*

  - 5.4. **Ideas for future meetings/furthering cooperation in SC**
    - 5.4.1. **Presentation:** Hannes Petersen: Evolution of the inner ear of whales and relation to sea sickness – how whales avoid getting sea sick as other mammals would (15 November, 9:00)
    - 5.4.2. **Development of a “super-tag”** [SC/24/17]
    - 5.4.3. **Genetics collaboration**
  - 5.5. **Guidelines for development of management advice in NAMMCO** [SC/24/16]
6. **COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**
  - 6.1. **IWC** [SC/24/07]
  - 6.2. **ASCOBANS** [SC/24/06]
  - 6.3. **ICES** [SC/24/08]
    - 6.3.1. **Joint ICES/NAFO/NAMMCO WGHARP**
  - 6.4. **JCNB**
  - 6.5. **Arctic Council** [SC/24/09]

## 6.6. Other

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL / ECOSYSTEM ISSUES

### 7.1. Marine mammals-fisheries interactions (R-1.1.5)

#### 7.1.1. Review of active requests

**R-1.1.5 (standing):** *The Council encourages scientific work that leads to a better understanding of interactions between marine mammals and commercially exploited marine resources, and requested the Scientific Committee to periodically review and update available knowledge in this field.*

#### 7.1.2. Consumption of resources by marine mammals

#### 7.1.3. By-catch [SC/24/12]

### 7.2. Multispecies approaches to management/Ecosystem Modelling (R-1.1.8, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.4.7)

#### 7.2.1. Review of active requests

**R-1.1.8 (ongoing):** *In addressing the standing requests on ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, the SC is requested to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction. In the light of the distributional shifts seen under T-NASS 2007, the SC should investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional responses. See also 1.1.6 and 1.4.6.*

**R-1.2.1 (ongoing):** *consider whether multispecies models for management purposes can be established for the North Atlantic ecosystems and whether such models could include the marine mammals compartment. If such models and the required data are not available then identify the knowledge lacking for such an enterprise to be beneficial to proper scientific management and suggest scientific projects which would be required for obtaining this knowledge.*

**R-1.2.2 (standing):** *In relation to the importance of the further development of multispecies approaches to the management of marine resources, the Scientific Committee was requested to monitor stock levels and trends in stocks of all marine mammals in the North Atlantic.*

**R-1.4.7 (ongoing):** *The Scientific Committee is requested to review the results of the MAREFRAME ecosystem management project when these become available. In particular, the results should be reviewed with respect to the ongoing and standing requests on marine mammal interactions (R-1.1.0) and multispecies approaches to management (R-1.2.0).*

#### 7.2.2. Updates

#### 7.2.3. Future work

### 7.3. Environmental issues (R-1.5.3, R-1.5.4)

#### 7.3.1. Review of active requests

**R-1.5.3:** *The Council requests the SC to monitor the development of the Mary River Project and assess qualitatively or if possible quantitatively the likely impact and consequences on marine mammals in the area.*

**R-1.5.4 (NEW):** *Committed to furthering its ecosystem approach to the management of marine mammals, and recognising the range of anthropogenic pressures facing North Atlantic marine mammals associated with the climate and environmental changes taking place, the Council requests the SC to advise on the best process to investigate the effects of non-hunting related anthropogenic stressors on marine mammal populations, including the cumulative impacts of global warming, by-catch, pollution and disturbance.*

**7.3.2. Global Review of Monodontids [SC/24/14]**

**7.3.3. Updates**

**7.3.4. Future work**

**8. SEALS AND WALRUS STOCKS - STATUS AND ADVICE TO THE COUNCIL**

**8.1. Harp Seal**

**8.1.1. Review of active requests (R-2.1.4, 2.1.10)**

*R-2.1.4 (standing): update the stock status of North Atlantic harp and hooded seals as new information becomes available.*

*R-2.1.10 (standing): provide advice on Total Allowable Catches for the management of harp seals and the establishment of a quota system for the common stocks between Norway and the Russian Federation*

**8.1.2. Update**

**8.1.3. Future Work**

**8.2. Hooded seal**

**8.2.1. Review of active requests (R-2.1.4 , 2.1.9)**

*R-2.1.4 (standing): update the stock status of North Atlantic harp and hooded seals as new information becomes available.*

*R-2.1.9 (ongoing): investigate possible reasons for the apparent decline of Greenland Sea stock of hooded seals; and assess the status of the stock*

**8.2.2. Update**

**8.2.3. Future work**

**8.3. Ringed seal**

**8.3.1. Review of active requests (R-2.3.1, 2.3.2)**

*R-2.3.1 (ongoing): stock identity, abundance estimate, etc.*

*R-2.3.2 (ongoing): effects of removals of ringed seals in Greenland*

**8.3.2. Update**

**8.3.3. Future work**

**8.4. Grey seal**

**8.4.1. Review of active requests (R-2.4.2)**

*R-2.4.2 (ongoing): abundance estimates all areas*

**8.4.2. Coastal Seals WG (2019)**

**8.4.3. Update**

**8.4.4. Future work**

**8.5. Harbour seal**

**8.5.1. Review of active requests (R-2.5.2)**

**R-2.5.2:** *conduct a formal assessment of the status of harbour seals around Iceland and Norway as soon as feasible*

- 8.5.2. Coastal Seals WG (2019)**
- 8.5.3. Update**
- 8.5.4. Future work**

**8.6. Bearded seal**

- 8.6.1. Bearded Seal WG (2019)**
- 8.6.2. Update**
- 8.6.3. Future work**

**8.7. Walrus**

- 8.7.1. Review of active requests (R-2.6.3, R-2.6.7, R-1.6.4, R-1.6.5)**

**R-2.6.3 (ongoing):** *effects of human disturbance, including fishing and shipping activities, in particular scallop fishing, on the distribution, behaviour and conservation status of walrus in West Greenland.*

**R-2.6.7 (NEW-NAMMCO 25):** *The SC is requested to provide assessments of, and advice on sustainable removals from, all stocks of walrus in Greenland covering the period from 2019 to 2023, with the advice for Qaanaaq starting in 2021.*

**R-1.6.4 (ongoing):** *The SC has recommended that catch statistics include correction for struck but lost animals for different seasons, areas, and catch operations. Council requested the SC and the Committee on Hunting Methods to provide advice on the best methods for collection of the desired statistics on losses.*

**R-1.6.5 (NEW-NAMMCO 25):** *Greenland requests that struck and loss rates are subtracted from future advice on sustainable removals in Greenland, with the advice being given as total allowable landings.*

- 8.7.2. Walrus Working Group (2018)**
- 8.7.3. Updates**
- 8.7.4. Future Work**

**9. CETACEANS STOCKS - STATUS AND ADVICE TO THE COUNCIL**

**9.1. Fin whale**

- 9.1.1. Review of active requests (R-3.1.7, 1.7.11, 1.7.12)**

**R-1.7.11 (ongoing):** *develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible*

**R-1.7.12 (ongoing):** *Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters*

**R-3.1.7 amended (ongoing):** *complete an assessment of fin whales in the North Atlantic and also to include an estimation of sustainable catch levels in the Central North Atlantic. While long-term advice based on the outcome of the RMP Implementation Reviews (with 0.60 tuning level) is desirable, shorter term, interim advice may be necessary, depending on the progress within the IWC. This work should be completed before the annual meeting of the SC in 2015. Amended at NAMMCO/24: The new amendment replaces the NAMMCO/23 amendment and reads: The SC is requested to complete an assessment of fin whales in the North Atlantic and also to include an estimation of sustainable catch levels in the Central North Atlantic. A long-term advice based on the new NASS2015 abundance estimate and the available results from the RMP Implementation Reviews (with 0.60 tuning level) is needed in 2016.*

- 9.1.2. Update**

### 9.1.3. Future work

## 9.2. Humpback whale

### 9.2.1. Review of active requests (R-3.2.4, 1.7.12)

**R-1.7.12 (ongoing):** Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters

**R-3.2.4-amended (ongoing):** conduct a formal assessment following the completion of the T-NASS...In addition the Scientific Committee is requested to investigate the relationship between the humpback whales summering in West Greenland and other areas and incorporate this knowledge into their estimate of sustainable yields of West Greenland humpback whales. **Amendment (NAMMCO/24):** adds the following text: “The SC is further asked to provide advice on future catch levels of humpback whales in West Greenland at different probability levels for a non-declining population evaluated over a 5 year period, similar to the procedure for the advice generated for beluga, narwhal and walrus. The advice should include the latest abundance estimate.”

### 9.2.2. Large Whale Assessment WG [SC/24/11]

### 9.2.3. Update

### 9.2.4. Future work

## 9.3. Common minke whale

### 9.3.1. Review of active requests (R-3.3.4, 1.7.11, 1.7.12)

**R-1.7.11 (ongoing):** develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible

**R-1.7.12 (ongoing):** Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters

**R-3.3.4 amended (ongoing):** full assessment, including long-term sustainability of catches, of common minke whales in the Central North Atlantic... assess the short-term (2-5 year) effects of the following total annual catches: 0, 100, 200 and 400. **Amended NAMMCO/24:** The SC is requested to complete assessments of common minke whales in the North Atlantic and include estimation of sustainable catch levels in the Central North Atlantic.

### 9.3.2. Update

### 9.3.3. Future work

## 9.4. Beluga

### 9.4.1. Review of active requests (R-3.4.9, 3.4.11, R-3.4.14)

**R-3.4.9 (ongoing):** provide advice on the effects of human disturbance, including noise and shipping activities, on the distribution, behaviour and conservation status of belugas, particularly in West Greenland; narwhal added at NAMMCO 23

**R-3.4.11 (standing):** update the assessment of both narwhal and beluga

**R-3.4.14 (ongoing):** The Council requests the SC to examine the data existing on beluga in East Greenland (sightings, strandings, by-catch and catch) and examine how this material can be used in an assessment process and advice on how this data can be improved.

### 9.4.2. NAMMCO-JCNB JWG March 2017 [SC/24/13]

### 9.4.3. Global Review of Monodontids [SC/24/14]

### 9.4.4. Update

### 9.4.5. Future work

**9.5. Narwhal**

**9.5.1. Review of active requests (R-3.4.9, 3.4.11)**

*R-3.4.9 (ongoing): provide advice on the effects of human disturbance, including noise and shipping activities, on the distribution, behaviour and conservation status of belugas, particularly in West Greenland; narwhal added at NAMMCO 23*

*R-3.4.11 (standing): update the assessment of both narwhal and beluga*

**9.5.2. NAMMCO-JCNB JWG March 2017 [SC/24/13]**

**9.5.3. Global Review of Monodontids [SC/24/14]**

**9.5.4. Update**

**9.5.5. Future work**

**9.6. Sei whale**

**9.6.1. Review of active requests (R-3.5.3 amended, 1.7.12)**

*R-1.7.12 (ongoing): Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters*

*R-3.5.3 amended (ongoing): assess the status of sei whales in West Greenland waters and the Central North Atlantic and provide minimum estimates of sustainable yield*

**9.6.2. Update**

**9.6.3. Future work**

**9.7. Bottlenose whale**

**9.7.1. Update**

**9.7.2. Future work**

**9.8. Killer whale**

**9.8.1. Review of active requests (R-3.7.2)**

*R-3.7.2 (ongoing): review the knowledge on the abundance, stock structure, migration and feeding ecology of killer whales in the North Atlantic, and to provide advice on research needs to improve this knowledge. Priority should be given to killer whales in the West Greenland – Eastern Canada area.*

**9.8.2. Update**

**9.8.3. Future work**

**9.9. Pilot whale**

**9.9.1. Review of active requests (R-1.7.11, 3.8.6)**

*R-1.7.11 (ongoing): develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible*

*R-3.8.6 (ongoing): complete a full assessment of pilot whales in the North Atlantic and provide advice on the sustainability of catches...with particular emphasis on the Faroese area and East and West Greenland. In the short term...provide a general indication of the level of abundance of pilot whales required to sustain an annual catch equivalent to the annual average of the Faroese catch in the years since 1997*

**9.9.2. Update**

**9.9.3. Future work**

**9.9.3.1. Pilot Whale WG (2019)**

**9.10. Dolphins**

**9.10.1. Review of active requests (R-3.9.6)**

*R-3.9.6 (ongoing): assessments of dolphin species*

**9.10.2. Update**

**9.10.3. Future work**

**9.11. Harbour porpoise**

**9.11.1. Review of active requests (R-3.10.1)**

*R-3.10.1 (ongoing): comprehensive assessment of the species throughout its range*

**9.11.2. Updates**

**9.11.3. By-Catch WG [SC/24/12]**

**9.11.4. HPWG 2018**

**9.11.5. Future work**

**9.12. Sperm whale**

**9.12.1. Update**

**9.12.2. Future work**

**9.13. Bowhead whale**

**9.13.1. Review of active requests (R-1.7.12)**

*R-1.7.12 (ongoing): Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters*

**9.13.2. Update**

**9.13.3. Future work**

**9.14. Blue Whales**

**9.14.1. Update**

**9.14.2. Future work**

**10. SURVEYS (R-1.7.11, 1.7.12)**

*R-1.7.11 (ongoing): develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible*

*R-1.7.12 (ongoing): Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters*

**10.1. Abundance Estimates WG (2018)**

**10.2. Plans for future surveys**

**11. NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS**

**11.1. Monodontid age estimation**

**11.2. NASS and Beyond...**

**11.3. Animal Welfare Protocols**

**12. FUTURE WORK PLANS**

**12.1. Scientific Committee**

**12.1.1. 2018 Meeting**

*12.1.1.1. 25 year SC Jubilee*

*12.1.1.2. Timing*

**12.2. Working groups/Symposia/Other meetings**

**12.2.1. 2018**

**12.2.2. 2019**

**13. BUDGET**

**13.1. Spending in 2017 [SC/24/10]**

**13.2. Budget for 2018**

**14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**14.1. Election of officers?**

**15. MEETING CLOSURE**

**15.1. Acceptance of report**

**15.2. Closing remarks**