

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Report of First Meeting
Tromsø, January 19, 1993

The Management Committee was established, with representatives present from all Member countries. The Chairman of the Council of NAMMCO was elected as Interim Chairman of the Management Committee.

The Management Committee decided not to propose any specific measures for conservation and management at its first meeting.

The Management Committee decided to recommend to the Council that the Scientific Committee provide the following advice:

1. -to assess the impact of marine mammals on the marine ecosystem, with special emphasis on the availability of economically important fish species;
2. -to review the basis for, and develop assessments necessary to provide the scientific foundation for conservation and management of the stocks relevant for management under NAMMCO.

This question could be addressed in parallel ways. Firstly, stock specific working groups could be established. Secondly, a working group on management procedures could also be established. This latter working group would consist of specialists in areas such as population dynamics and management models, as well as biologists with relevant knowledge of the species in question.

The Management Committee envisages that the Scientific Committee establish a working group on management procedures. The need for specific stock working groups, on the other hand, would depend on the way the Scientific Committee considered it best to address points 3-7 below.

3. Pilot whale

- to analyze the effects of the pilot whale drive hunt in the Faroe Islands on North Atlantic pilot whales (*Globicephala melas*), especially whether the numbers taken are consistent with sustainable utilization;

4. Northern bottlenose whale

- to undertake an assessment of the status of the northern bottlenose whale (*Hyperoodon ampullatus*) stock in the North Atlantic;

5. Harp and hooded seals

- to assess the stock size, distribution and pup production of harp seals in the Barents Sea and White Sea, and of harp and hooded seals in the Greenland Sea and the Northwest Atlantic;
- to assess sustainable yields at present stock sizes and in the long term under varying options of age composition in the catch;
- to provide advice on catch options in the White Sea/Barents Sea/Greenland Sea/and NAFO areas;
- to assess effects of recent environmental changes or changes in the food supply and possible interaction with other living marine resources in the areas;

6. Atlantic walrus

- to advise on stock identity for management purposes;
- to assess abundance in each stock area;
- to assess long-term effects on stocks by present removals in each stock area;
- to assess effects of recent environmental changes (ie disturbance, pollution), and changes in the food supply;

7. Killer whale

- to advise on stock identity for management purposes;
- to assess abundance in each stock area;
- to assess effects of recent environmental changes, changes in the food supply and interactions with other marine living resources in each stock area.

Greenland also indicated a long-term interest in the following species:

harbour seal, harbour porpoise, beluga and narwhal.

Greenland agreed to circulate to all Members a Draft Rules of Procedure for the Management Committee, which would in particular address the questions of chairmanship, observers and meeting arrangements.