

NAMMCO



COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

*28 September 2021
Online Meeting*

REPORT



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1. SUMMARY

The Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM) held an online meeting on September 28, 2021. Present were Kathrine A. Ryeng (Chair) and Guro Gjelsvik (Norway), Guðni Magnus Eiríksson and Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), Amalie Jessen and Masaana Dorph (Greenland), Signar Petersen (Faroe Islands), and Charlotte Winsnes and Martin Binachon (intern) from the Secretariat.

Actions arising from the meeting:

- The Secretariat will shorten the document NAMMCO/CHM-recommendations before the next meeting
- The Chair will work on precisising the proposal for a second information video

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND REVIEWING DOCUMENTS

The Chair, Kathrine A. Ryeng, opened the meeting for comments to the agenda (NAMMCO/CHM-2021-02/01). The agenda was adopted as amended under AOB, and meeting documents reviewed (Appendix 1).

3. GENERAL INFORMATION UPDATES

To review and update information related to the work of the committee is a standard task of the CHM. The following overview documents are regularly updated either in connection with meetings or by correspondence intersessionally.

3.1 LIST OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND LIST OF REFERENCES

No new laws or regulations related to marine mammal hunting had come into force since the last meeting. However, Greenland informed that several executive orders (EO) were in the pipeline. A new EO on walrus, replacing the existing one from 2006, would soon be sent out for public consultation. The EO was based on NAMMCO recommendations and gave modifications on hunting areas and seasons. Secondly, an EO concerning small cetaceans (but not beluga and narwhal), and particularly harbour porpoises, was being drafted, and would also be sent out for public consultation in the near future. This EO is new and would establish quotas for some species of small cetaceans. Finally, the EO on beluga and narwhal was currently being reviewed modifying the hunting areas in East Greenland.

Regarding new publications related to marine mammal hunting, the Chair, on behalf of Norway, informed on two new publications.

The updated information is uploaded to the NAMMCO website.

3.2 OTHER

Members had been asked to update documents [NAMMCO/CHM-2021-02/02](#) Conservation Status Marine Mammal Stocks and [NAMMCO/CHM-2021-02/03](#) Hunting and Regulations in NAMMCO prior to the meeting.

No further updates were given on these documents, but Greenland informed that it has started developing a digital application in which hunters can report their catches (and other relevant information, such as struck and lost animals). The app will start with the reporting of caribou and muskox catches, but the aim is to gradually enlarge it to all quota-restricted species, including marine mammals. Greenland will continue to inform the CHM on the development of this app and hopes that the project will be introduced in full in 2023.

4. ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

Document [NAMMCO/CHM-recommendations](#) contained the overview of all recommendations from Expert Group Meetings and Workshops to member countries, and their responses, since 1999. The document is by default very comprehensive. It contains many recommendations pertaining to similar issues and the CHM had asked that the active recommendations be categorised under three main headings:

- Recommendations pertaining to struck and lost issues,
- Recommendations pertaining to the municipal rifle hunt in Greenland,
- Recommendations pertaining to training/education and safety issues for hunters.

The Secretariat had drafted document “Recurring Recommendations Grouped by Categories” which also included additional categories like monitoring, co-operation and data requirements. During the process of reviewing all remaining active recommendations with the aim of categorising and simplifying/clarifying the language, it had become evident that several recommendations were also duplicated within these categories.

The CHM reviewed and discussed the document, also giving feedback on follow up on some specific recommendations. On a more general level it was noted that some recommendations had been followed up by some, but not all, and as such were not active for every country any longer. However, recognising that most of the recommendations would be never-ending in the sense that they were of a general nature representing issues that are at the core of safe, efficient, and responsible hunting, it was agreed to task the Secretariat to look at the document with the aim of making it more concise and give suggestions on how it could best be used.

5. VIDEO PROJECTS – ONGOING AND PROPOSALS

An update was given by Iceland and the Secretariat on the information video on the safe handling of the whaling cannon with loader pusher shell, the harpoon, and the Whale grenade 99. The work is well underway and the actual filming onboard a hunting vessel has been done. Currently the editorial work remains including production of the voice over. The video will be presented to the Council Meeting in March and should be made available to the CHM long before that date.

In following up on the endorsement of Council for producing a series of training videos, the Secretariat had drafted a proposal for a second video, which would focus on optimal target locations and shooting angles in whale hunting. The Chair was proposed as project leader.

The CHM discussed funding for the project. It was noted that external funding must be governed by NAMMCO principles for external funding and approved by the Council. Recommendations to Council on possible external funders for any CHM project will be based on an agreed proposal from the committee

The CHM discussed the draft and the timing of initiating a new video while the first one was still under production. It was agreed to task the Chair and the Secretariat to develop a more detailed project description for the consideration of the CHM. To allow the Committee to make a better-informed decision for the 2nd video it was agreed to plan a designated meeting in which watching the final video would be the only item on the agenda.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting will be in mid-February 2022. The format was not yet decided, but the Committee expressed its support for a hybrid meeting, perhaps in conjunction with the CIO meeting in Copenhagen.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Faroe Islands gave information about the hunting of 1,400 white-sided dolphins on September 12, 2021. The Faroe Islands explained that the hunt went well and that the killing was executed relatively quickly considering the number of available hunters (43 minutes in total). The Faroe Islands explained with disappointment that the new lance developed for dolphins was not used because of a misunderstanding.

Norway informed the CHM that Valdimir, the beluga whale swimming along the Norwegian coast appears unhealthy these days.

8. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The report was adopted by correspondence on 28 October 2021.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS

AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda and review of documents
2. General information updates
3. Active recommendations and follow-up
4. Video projects – ongoing and proposals
5. Next meeting
6. Any other business

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NAMMCO/CHM-2021-02/01	Agenda and List of Documents
NAMMCO/CHM-2021-02/02	Conservation Status Marine Mammals Stocks
NAMMCO/CHM-2021-02/03	Hunting and Regulations in NAMMCO
NAMMCO/CHM-2021-02/04	Draft proposal for a video on optimal shooting in whale hunting
NAMMCO/CHM-recommendations	Overview of recommendations