**NAMMCO Working Group on User Knowledge in Management Decisions
Report from Telephone meeting 12 February 2004**

The Working Group on User Knowledge in Management Decisions held its first meeting by telephone on 12 February 2004, from 14:00 – 15:30. On line were Ulla Wang (Faroe Islands), Karen Motzfeldt (Greenland), Droplaug Ólafsdóttir (Iceland) Egil Ole Øen Chair (Norway), and Grete Hovelsrud-Broda and Charlotte Winsnes from the NAMMCO Secretariat.

1. Opening remarks and background information

Grete Hovelsrud-Broda, General Secretary to NAMMCO provided background information for the establishment of the Working Group. The Working Group emerged directly from the NAMMCO Conference on User Knowledge and Scientific Knowledge in Management Decsion-Making held in Reykjavik, Iceland 4 – 7 January 2003. The NAMMCO Council at its Twelfth meeting (NAMMCO/12) agreed that the Conference follow-up would be two-pronged. Firstly a short-term follow-up would be to compile and publish the presentations from the Conference along with a review of other management systems that involve user knowledge (or traditional knowledge) in the management decision-making process. Secondly a long-term follow-up would be to establish a Working Group under the Management Committee to continue to move the work forward. The Terms of Reference for the Working Group would be based on the recommendations and conclusions from the Conference. The Secretary noted that the Working Group would consider the Draft Terms of Reference at this meeting and present the final version to the Management Committee in March.

2. Election of Working Group Chair

Dr Egil Ole Øen (Norway) was elected as the Working Group Chair.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda as contained in Appendix 1 was adopted.

4. Appointment of rapporteur

The Secretariat was appointed as rapporteurs.

5. Review of available documents

The Secretary reviewed the available documents to the meeting, and drew particular attention to the report from the Conference contained in NAMMCO Annual Report 2002: 73-115.

6. Working Group members external to NAMMCO

The Working Group was asked to consider recommendation 3 from the 2003 User Knowledge Conference: *It is recommended that NAMMCO create an ad hoc committee to ensure the continuation of this work. This committee should also follow-up on the recommendations and developments in different areas. It would be helpful if others report to NAMMCO, and that the committee include people outside of NAMMCO member countries.* The Working Group **agreed** for practical reasons to wait until the Group is fully functional before inviting members from non-NAMMCO countries to participate.

7. Considerations of draft Terms of Reference
The Working Group **agreed** to the following terms of Reference:

The NAMMCO Working Group on User Knowledge in Management Decisions was established in 2003 under the NAMMCO Management Committee to follow up on the recommendations and conclusions from the 2003 NAMMCO Conference and on other developments on how user knowledge is incorporated into the management decision-making processes. One future goal of the Working Group is to develop procedures for how relevant groups and organisations outside of NAMMCO can report to NAMMCO on developments on this topic. The Working Group has the following Terms of Reference:

1. Develop procedures on how to make the management decision-making process transparent
2. Develop recommendations on how to build capacity among users for involvement in the process
3. Develop recommendations based on the Secretariat review, in the upcoming Conference Proceedings, of existing resource management systems on how to incorporate user knowledge in the management decision-making process at national levels
4. Consider the Scientific Committee's proposal [see background note below] for procedures on how to incorporate user knowledge into the Scientific Committee's deliberations, in light of the results from the 2003 Conference

Background note to ToR 4.: At its 8th meeting in Oslo in 1998, the NAMMCO Council recommended that the Scientific Committee should develop a strategy on how to incorporate the knowledge of marine mammal users in the advice provided by the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Secretary to NAMMCO, Daniel Pike prepared a proposal for discussion by the Scientific Committee at their 7th meeting in Greenland in April 1999 (see NAMMCO Annual Report 1999: 127 for the proposal text and discussion). The Management Committee at their meeting in September 1999 endorsed the Scientific Committee proposal. In 2000, the Management Committee endorsed the Secretariat proposal to hold a Conference on the topic, and the Secretariat was tasked with taking the lead in developing the Conference Programme. The Scientific Committee at its 9th meeting in October 2001, in response to the planned conference decided to place the process developed by the SC on hold pending further direction from the Council (NAMMCO Annual Report 2001: 15). At NAMMCO/11 February 2002, in Greenland the NAMMCO Council agreed to hold the Conference and noted that the Scientific Committee proposal would be considered after the Conference had taken place and the results and proceedings had been deliberated (NAMMCO Annual Report 2001: 31).

8. Future work plan
The Working Group **agreed** that the first step would be to collect the methods/ procedures used by the managers in each member country for how users are involved in the decision-making process (ToR **1.**). The Secretary explained that the report from the 2003 Conference contained relevant information on this topic. With respect ToR **2.**, the Working Group members were also asked to collect material on this topic from their respective countries. All information collected were to be forwarded to the Secretariat.

9. Other business

There was no other business.

10. Next meeting

The Working Group **agreed** to hold a brief telephone meeting on Tuesday 24 February 2004 at 14:00 Norwegian time to consider the Terms of Reference. The Working Group further **agreed** that it was imperative to have finalised the ToR for the Working Group prior to NAMMCO/13 2 – 4 March 2004.

11. Adoption of report

The report was adopted per correspondence on 24 February 2004.

Appendix 1

Agenda

1. Opening remarks and background information[1]

2. Election of Working Group Chair

3. Adoption of agenda

4. Appointment of rapporteur

5. Review of available documents

6. Working Group members external to NAMMCO[2]

7. Considerations of draft Terms of Reference[3]

8. Future work plan

9. Other business

10. Next meeting

11. Adoption of report

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[1] The General Secretary will provide some background information for the establishment of this Working Group. Background information is available in document NAMMCO/UKWG-1/2004/3 and NAMMCO/UKWG-1/2004/5

[2] Recommendation 3 from the User Knowledge Conference: *It is recommended that NAMMCO create an ad hoc committee to ensure the continuation of this work. This committee should also follow-up on the recommendations and developments in different areas. It would be helpful if others report to NAMMCO, and that the committee include people outside of NAMMCO member countries*

[3] The draft Terms of Reference is available to the Working Group as document NAMMCO/UKWG-1/2004/4