

NAMMCO



COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

*3 October 2019
Copenhagen, Denmark*

REPORT



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0. SUMMARY

The Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM) met on 3 October 2019 at the Greenlandic Representation in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Present were Kathrine A. Ryeng (Chair) and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Guðni Magnus Eiríksson and Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), Nette Levermann (Greenland), Signar Petersen (Faroe Islands) and Bartal Kamban (NAMMCO intern) and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

Actions arising from the meeting

Secretariat

- Circulate word file with compilation of all text on website to members asap
- Initiating the work of the Planning group under agenda item 3.

All members

- Deadline 31 December: review all current text and information on the website
- When updating regulations and references online links to be given where these exist

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

The Chair Kathrine A. Ryeng opened the meeting, the agenda was adopted (appendix 1) and the meeting documents (appendix 2) reviewed noting that documents NAMMCO/CHM/CIO/BYCELS-2019-01 draft annual time schedule was redrawn. It was also noted that CHM had been presented with several background documents for information.

2. COMMITTEE ANNUAL ACTIVITY-MEETING SCHEDULE

CHM agreed that it would be beneficial to identify an annual time schedule of meetings and tasks. Among the considerations were issues like the deadline for annual reporting of data for CHM/CIO/BYCELS and meeting dates of Council, CIO and BYCELS.

Winsnes informed that the Scientific Committee is requesting a change of annual meeting schedule from November to spring. The issue will be forwarded to FAC for consideration at their upcoming November meeting, and depending on the outcome, will have effect on the Council meetings as of 2021. Furthermore, CHM was informed that CIO had agreed to propose 1 February as the deadline for submitting data from member countries.

CHM agreed to the following schedule for 2020:

2020

- 1 February deadline for submission of National Progress Reports from member countries.
- 8 – 11 February meetings of CIO/CHM/BYCELS, exact dates to be confirmed
- 16 – 19 March Council 28
- Skype meetings if needed

3. EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS (EGM)

Council 27 had endorsed the proposal to convene two events in 2020:

- An EGM on hunting efficiency of small cetaceans
- A Workshop or EGM on methods where the combined use of harpoon and rifle is not one weapon.

The EGM on small cetaceans was considered a follow up from the EGM held in 2011 and it would address members responses to recommendations given in that EGM in addition to reviewing possible new information on hunting methods for small cetaceans with special focus on hunting methods where death was not immediate, e.g. types of hunts requiring harpooning before killing in order not to lose the animal, or netting. Especially hunts where the Scientific Committee believed that knowledge of S&L data would benefit the assessment of the stocks (relevant species are narwhal and beluga).

The WS/EGM on methods where the combined use of harpoon and rifle was not one weapon pertained to all marine mammals. Given that the anticipation was that the two events would overlap in participation and content it was suggested that it was convened back to back.

Greenland had previously informed that they had collected the 2011 recommended data on struck and lost and TTD on narwhal and beluga but that analyses had not been carried out. CHM saw it as essential that these data be analysed, and that this information be presented at the EGM. In response to the recommendation to develop alternatives to netting Greenland had previously informed that this was not a priority. On the recommendation to develop regulations pertaining to equipment and hunting methods for small cetaceans it was noted that this had been done for narwhal and beluga not the other species.

The quality of and the collection of TTD data and struck and lost data are reoccurring topics for CHM. CHM has acknowledged that TTD estimates that are qualified by post-mortem investigations represents the most accurate TTD data. However post-mortem investigations are not feasible to carry out for all hunts due to e.g. remoteness of locations. CHM discussed the need in some cases to specify more clearly under which limitations data are assessed, i. e. what are the criteria for determining when to start measuring TTD? Drawing from the reference fleet in fisheries an idea might be to target one or two hunters to collect data under specific directions to get a better understanding of the TTD for a given hunt.

The EGM in 2011 recommended that the Faroes should carry out histologically investigation to find out if there are any damages from the use of the new blunt tipped hook and measure TTD from the first use of the blunt hook. The Faroes had previously informed that TTD is measured from the first use of the blunt hook. However, there was no information on the histological investigations. Petersen informed that he had started anatomical examinations of dolphins to measure the depth and width of the spine/foramen magnum to find out how the dolphin lance should ideally look. Currently there were few samples and no work had been initiated on developing a new blade for the spinal lance. He also informed that ordinary knives were often used in the dolphin drives.

Based on the above CHM agreed that there was not enough new information to benefit organising a new EGM on small cetaceans. At the same time CHM underlined the importance of investigating alternatives to the present method of killing animals with harpoon and rifle. The majority of the small cetaceans' hunts in NAMMCO are carried out by this method thus CHM concluded:

- to combine the two events and focus on methods to improve animal welfare in hunts for all marine mammals where harpoon and rifle is not one weapon, i.e. all small cetaceans, seals and minke whales.

Draft (ToR):

- Review and assess current hunting and killing methods,
- Review and assess information on recent and ongoing research on improvements and technical innovations in hunting methods and gear used for hunting,
- Review and assess updates on TTD data ref. recommendation in the EGM 2011,
- Discuss and recommend possible technical improvements.

To find or develop a method/weapon that will combine harpooning and rifle into one device has been discussed several times over the years without any concrete results. CHM was also of the opinion that

had a quick and easy solution existed it would have been in operation by now. From experience developing new weapons requires both significant use of time and financial resources.

In order to facilitate and make sure that the necessary information is available and to ensure that all required fields of knowledge are represented before a final decision is made on how to proceed with such an endeavour CHM agreed to establish a planning group consisting of: Nette Leverman, Signar Petersen, Kathrine Ryeng and Charlotte Winsnes.

It was agreed as a starting point the PG should:

- look to Canada/Nunavut, Caribbean, Russia (enquire if interested and with respect to which species/hunting methods)
- identify scope (all species – only some)
- Identify experts
- Identify time and venue

CHM agreed that tentative dates for convening a WS would be November 2020 or spring 2021. PG will meet online or via email correspondence and report to the next CHM meeting in February 2020.

CHM also agreed to recommend that the Faroes continue the examinations pertaining to the dolphin drive hunt and that Greenland analyse the collected data on small cetaceans.

4. PANEL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Group (PRWG) reviewing and following up the recommendations from the Performance Review Panel is seeking the views of NAMMCO subsidiary bodies on the recommendations specific to their areas of work. These inputs will represent an important input to the PRWG formulation of follow up actions to be forwarded to Council.

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-03/03 contained the letter from PRWG requesting BYCELS to address recommendations related to the committee. Additional documents considered under this agenda item were NAMMCO/PRWG19-01: the full report of the Performance Review Panel and NAMMCO/PRWG19-01: the report of the June meeting of the PRWG.

PRWG had asked the CHM to consider the following when addressing the forwarded recommendations:

- the relevance of the recommendations,
- inform of further issues they have identified specifically related to specific recommendations but also in general within the work of their committee,
- propose ways for implementing the recommendations and improving processes if relevant.

Recommendation identification key PR18-RCXX reads Performance Review 2018-recommendation number. The text given below includes summaries of the recommendation and the PRWG's comments to the recommendations.

4.1 PR18-RC12, PR18-RC13, PR18-RC18, PR18-RC20, PR18-RC23, PR18-RC25, PR18-RC87

The recommendations related to the question of standardising data reporting from Parties to the Committees, ensuring data quality and storage. It also recommended working with other relevant IGOs (IWC) to avoid overlaps in deadlines and facilitate the data submission process.

PRWG comment: The priority is to ensure a reliable database (storage of data) with guidelines on data quality and sharing.

CHM response:

- a) CHM found all recommendations highly relevant except for PR18-RC20 which belonged to BYCELS

- b) CHM emphasised the importance of safe storage of data with suitable platform to ensure standardisation, continuity and accessibility.
- c) CHM drew attention to the already ongoing work undertaken by the committee to standardise annual reporting of data from Parties by extending the national progress reports to also include data from CIO/CHM/BYCELS in addition to SC. This work entails identification of which data should be submitted and in what format, one annual deadline for data submission and how and in which form the submitted data can become publicly available on the website.

4.2 PR18-RC50 AND PR18-RC51

Recommendations emphasised the need for CHM to continue its efforts to understand reasons for the different TTD and IDR rates in different hunts with the aim of improving these.

PRWG comment: Ongoing and one of the issues that future EGM will address.

CHM response:

- a) CHM found the recommendations highly relevant, and noted that this is part of the Committees ToR
- b) Nothing noted
- c) CHM will address these concerns in future EGM/WS, and new actions to be taken was envisaged to result from such EGM/WS. Monitoring and following up on previous recommendations to members is an ongoing task that encompasses this issue.

4.3 PR18-RC52 AND PR18-RC53

Recommendations to continue to define better methods for collecting data from all hunts on the occurrence of struck and lost (S/L) events and the circumstances surrounding those events. These efforts should continue in cooperation with SC and should also respond to the recommendations from the various workshop and expert group meetings.

PRWG comment: no specific comment given.

CHM response:

- a) CHM found the recommendations relevant
- b) CHM noted the need for member countries to improve the focus of and collection of S/L. CHM noted that it will continue to pursue the problem for all hunted marine mammals in NAMMCO and particularly related to hunts where:
 - data on S/L is not available
 - the data quality is not very high
 - hunts identified by SC where accurate S/L are especially importance for assessmentsCHM also agreed that when identifying target hunts considerations of a cost-benefit ratio should be made
- c) CHM pointed to the ongoing NORDECO project initiated by KNAPK in Greenland. The project looks at stimulating incorporation of local knowledge in decision-making. NAMMCO has been invited to participate in the project, and Fern Wickson from the Secretariat will attend a meeting in Nuuk in December. CHM has been asked by SC to give input on how to achieve reliable reporting from hunters. CHM emphasised that the fundament for reliable reporting would be reciprocal trust among the actor's hunters and scientists. A 1st step could be to establish a dialogue forum between hunters and scientists/managers to build trust and make a fundament for reliable reporting. Such a forum will also enhance NAMMCOs aim at involving user knowledge more. CHM recommended investigating if this could be developed into a pilot study financed through NORDECO with focus on struck and lost issue. Perhaps to be financed/incorporated to NAMMCOs part of the NORDECO

4.4 PR18-RC62

Recommendation considered the need for improving NAMMCO's transparency by including translating relevant legislation to English for the website

PRWG Comment: does CHM find this useful and if so, should it be full text or synopsis?

CHM response:

- a) CHM found the recommendation relevant
- b) Nothing noted
- c) CHM noted that this has been on the list of things to do for some time now, but that this will now be prioritised as one of the current interns' tasks. Questions of how, Ynesdal agreed to investigate the question of how unauthorised translations of legal text should be dealt with – Ongoing - already translated regulations will be made available on the website.

Translations that are not authorised - summaries of content - what to do with them – Hild to check for NO, Gudni will check for IS, GL send summaries from White paper.

Key documents are already in English and available on the website

4.5 PR18-RC7

Recommendation to establish a formal procedure to review and update the NAMMCO website regularly. It was suggested that Committees together with the Secretariat periodically reviewed and endorsed their relevant sectors.

PRWG comment: The website is the most important visibility and outreach tool of NAMMCO. Its content should be correct and updated. The Committees should be the guarantee of the quality of its content. The review of the content should be one of their recurrent tasks.

CHM response:

- a) CHM considered the recommendation highly relevant
- b) No further issues were identified
- c) CHM agreed to recommend the following 3-step process for its work to ensure the quality of the content on the website:
 - 1. to review all current text and information related to CHM on the website.
 - 2. make reviewing new information on the website a standard agenda item for the annual meeting of the committee. If needed this may also be done by correspondence intersessional
 - 3. consider how to make the work of CHM more visible

CHM agreed finalise step 1 by 31 December 2019. Members were tasked with reviewing all text on the website with the understanding that they would have the overall responsibility for the information pertaining to the species and hunts taking place in their respective countries. The Secretariat had made an overview of all links related to CHM. To facilitate the editing process further Levermann volunteered to compile all exiting information into a word file that would be circulated to CHM and the Secretariat as soon as possible after the meeting.

4.6 GENERAL COMMENT

CHM welcomed the Performance Review Panels assessment of its work and its role in NAMMCO. It was noted with appreciation that the Panel concluded that CHM “together with the approval of its recommendations by the Council and implementation of these recommendations by member countries is one of the key elements that have made NAMMCO a credible organization”.

5. DATABASE, DATA REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

CHM in cooperation with BYCELS and CIO had recommended to Council to synchronise the submission of standardised data from all committees. The proposal, endorsed by Council 27, was to extend the current National Progress Report to include the required annual data reporting from all committees.

Document NAMMCO/CHM/CIO/BYCELS-2019-02 contained the previously identified data requirements, and CHM discussed and finalised the relevant parts (hunting effort, catches, stuck and lost). CHM agreed to use the categories and format as defined in document “*NPR data reporting (Country) Year*” for the reporting of 2019. The data NAMMCO request are not complex but the quality of the data is important and thus standardisation is essential.

CHM also discussed the deadline for submission of the data. Currently the deadline for NPR is 1 March. However, taking into consideration that all required data would be available and accessible by 1 February making it possible to schedule meetings from early February as opposed to one month later, CHM agreed to propose 1 February as the annual deadline.

The issue of developing a database with the Secretariat as depository had not been discussed by Council 27. CHM underlined that the important part is to collect standardised data that allow comparisons between countries. The specific platform where the data are stored should be defined at some stage but the essential issue for the committee is the quality and accessibility of the data.

5.1 UPDATE ON REGULATIONS AND REFERENCES

Documents NAMMCO/CHM-2019-02/04 List of laws and regulations marine mammals and NAMMCO/CHM-2019-02/05 List of references on hunting methods had been circulated prior to the meeting Norway had proposed a structure to make the references more accessible and it was agreed that this structure would be the standard for all members.

CHM has previously agreed that the list of references should have links to the various papers/articles. Many of the references are IWC meeting documents that are not easily available, and CHM discussed how to deal with this. It was agreed that IWC documents should be linked back to 2011 and generally that available links online should be included.

CHM agreed that in future member countries will include links when updating the list.

The list of regulations will also be updated with links and English version were these exists alternatively informal English summaries will be provided.

6. INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Greenland informed that the revised text for the video on the handling of the Walegrenade’99 had been sent to Henriksen Mekaniske Verksted. Levermann would inform CHM as soon as she heard back with respect to the costs of making a new texted video.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held back to back with CIO and BYCELS in the period 8-11 February in Reykjavik, Iceland. Exact date to be confirmed after consultation with BYCELS and CIO.

8. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The report was adopted by correspondence on 2 December.

APPENDIX 1 - AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS
2. COMMITTEE ANNUAL ACTIVITY-MEETING SCHEDULE
3. EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS
4. PANEL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS
5. DATABASE, DATA REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES
6. UPDATE OF REGULATIONS AND REFERENCES
7. INFORMATION FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES
 - 7.1. Video on handling of Whale grenade 99
8. NEXT MEETING
9. ADOPTION OF REPORT

APPENDIX 2 - LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

Doc. No.	Title	Agenda item
CHM/2019-02/01	Draft Agenda	1
CHM/2019-02/02	Draft List of Documents	1
CHM/2019-02/03	Letter from Working Group on Performance Review follow up (PRWG)	4
CHM/2019-02/04	List of laws and regulations	6
CHM/2019-02/05	List of references on hunting methods	6
NAMMCO/PRWG19-01	Report of the PRWG meeting June	4
NAMMCO27-2019	Report of the Performance Review Panel	4
NAMMCO/CHM/CIO/BYCELS-2019/01	Draft annual time schedule – not prepared	2
NAMMCO/CHM/CIO/BYCELS-2019/02	Data needs all committees	5
CHM/2019-02/06	Overview of CHM related information on nammco.org	4

For Information Documents

Doc. No.	Title	Agenda item
CHM/2019-02/FI01	Report of previous meetings https://nammco.no/topics/committee-on-hunting-methods/	
CHM/2019-02/FI02	Oremus et all. <i>Resumption of traditional drive hunting of dolphins in the Salomon Islands in 2013</i>	3
CHM/2019-02/FI03	Report of EGM on small cetaceans 2011 https://nammco.no/topics/expert-group-meetings/	3