

NAMMCO



COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

23 and 25 February 2021

Online meetings

REPORT



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Picture on 1st page "Hunter from Sisimiut" © Mads Pihl

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0. SUMMARY

The Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM) held online meetings 23 and 25 February 2021. Present were Guro Gjelsvik, Kathrine A. Ryeng (Chair) and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Guðni Magnus Eiríksson and Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), Amalie Jessen, Sofie Abelsen and Jesper Ødegaard Jakobsen (Greenland), Signar Petersen (Faroe Islands), and Charlotte Winsnes and Nicolai Lauri Pilgård Scherdin (Intern) from the Secretariat.

Actions arising from the meeting:

Secretariat

- Group and structure recommendations pertaining categories defined under item 3. together (with Chair)
- NAMMCO/Database – to include explanatory remarks on carry over systems (with GL, IS, NO)
- Develop a draft project proposal on video for discussion of the CHM before being forwarded to FAC and Council

Iceland and Greenland – deadline 8 March

- Update NAMMCO/CHM-2021-01/02 Conservation Status Marine Mammal Stocks and NAMMCO/CHM-2021-01/03 Hunting and Regulations in NAMMCO prior to the meeting.

Norway

- Consult with SC regarding management areas pertaining to pinnipeds
- Identifying a hunter to present either sealing or whaling operations at the next meeting or a special meeting

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND REVIEWING DOCUMENTS

The Chair Kathrine A. Ryeng opened the meeting, the agenda was adopted, and the meeting documents reviewed (Appendix 1). Document NAMMCO/CHM-2021-01/04 Proposal for a video project was added, to be presented under Any Other Business (agenda item 7).

2. 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.

2.1 UPDATES LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND REFERENCES

With reference to the overviews [laws and regulations](#) and [references](#) displayed on the NAMMCO website members had updated the information prior to the meeting.

Greenland informed the meeting that Parliament Act No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting is currently under revision for consideration during the next parliamentary session. It was also noted that the Ministry published a Note on whaling of large whales in 2020 which focussed on the reasons behind not reaching the quota.

No information on new references related to marine mammals in NAMMCO countries were given from the other member countries.

2.2 OTHER

Members had been asked to update documents [NAMMCO/CHM-2021-01/02](#) Conservation Status Marine Mammal Stocks and [NAMMCO/CHM-2021-01/03](#) Hunting and Regulations in NAMMCO prior to the meeting.

Not all updates had been submitted prior to the meeting and it was agreed that the remaining updates would be submitted to the Secretariat within Monday 8 March.

3. ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS

NAMMCO/Database-2020 contained the database up to and including the year 2020.

The CHM reviewed the submitted data from 2020 from member countries on catches and hunting efforts. The reporting followed the new guidelines adopted by Council in 2019.

Referring to the situation disclosed last year of entries being misleading or incorrect, the Secretariat informed that revisions had been made correcting the errors.

Generally, the importance of including adequate, explanatory remarks where information may be misunderstood was emphasised. This was especially noted for the data on quota and carry over numbers given the existence of many different systems that are not self-explanatory. The member countries will forward text to this extent to the Secretariat for inclusion in the document.

Noting inconsistencies regarding management areas as defined by the NAMMCO SC and the ones used by the Directorate pertaining to pinnipeds Norway committed to follow this up with the SC.

Iceland informed that the task of clarifying remaining uncertainties was ongoing and would hopefully be solved in the near future.

4. ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

Document NAMMCO/CHM-recommendations contained the overview of all recommendations to member countries and their responses generated from all Expert Group meetings and Workshops organised by the committee since 1999. The document, which is a working document, consists of three parts:

- Active recommendations with responses – consisting of only ongoing recommendations.
- All recommendations with responses – consisting of both the active and the closed and completed recommendations.
- Council response to CHM recommendations – represents a compilation of responses taken from the reports of Council meetings. The overview has never been discussed but has been tabled for information.

The CHM began the review process in February 2020 with the objective of identifying recommendations that were completed/closed and active. Completed included those recommendations that have not been, and will not be followed-up, in the foreseeable future because they are too comprehensive and resource demanding to be carried out. The active recommendations included both the ones that have been started and are pending additional action and those that have not yet been started but where the member country's intention is to follow it up within a foreseeable future.

The meeting acknowledged that all member countries had now reviewed all recommendations and went on to discuss those recommendations identified as active. During the discussion, some recommendations were closed as a result of clarifications or because they were viewed as not feasible or simply unrealistic taking the current resources and known plans for future research into consideration.

Comments to specific recommendations are included in the updated document found as ANNEX 1 to this report.

In relation to the recommendation from the EG meeting on large whales in 2010 on standardising TTD criteria across hunt, the CHM agreed to finalise the wording by correspondence.

Within the remaining active recommendations, the following overall categories were identified:

- 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 CHM tasked the Chair and the Secretariat to compile and structure those of the active recommendations belonging to one of the abovementioned categories together to simplify the overview for future reference.

5. WORKPLAN 2021-2022

The following was discussed not covered by agenda items above:

- Finalising the video on handling Whale grenade 99.

At the last meeting Loftsson had volunteered to investigate the possibilities of finalising the animation video produced by Henriksen Verksted. After consultations with among others with Dr Egil Ole Øen (co-developer of the grenade) and Henriksen Verksted he recommended to disregard the video altogether. As has previously been noted, the video gives a very technical and detailed description of interior components and their functionality. This might create more confusion than clarity and even represent a danger as it could potentially be an enticement for inexperienced hunters to disassemble a grenade, which was not detonated.

Alternatively, Loftsson proposed filming the entire process and all the different steps encountered when using the grenade from unpacking the grenade to loading, arming and firing it. Concretely it is suggested to take advantage of a planned training course in spring 2021 where Egil Ole Øen will show the different steps during practical shooting tests. It would require the involvement of professional filmmakers, but all the relevant equipment will be in place. It was acknowledged that for the video to be of use for all relevant member countries it requires subtitles or voice over in all relevant languages.

The CHM welcomed the idea and asked Loftsson to draft his proposal for the consideration of the CHM. It was noted that if the filming should take place this spring, the project must be approved by the Council at the upcoming meeting in March. Based on a draft proposal circulated by Loftsson on 24 February, the CHM agreed to task the Secretariat to further develop the proposal for consideration of the CHM before forwarding it to the FAC and Council.

Greenland commented that they are planning a course on the grenade for hunters and distributors in December 2021 where such a video would be a valuable input. Currently the course holders are using an older version of a video supplied with written information.

- Website – quality check follow-up of Performance Review Panel recommendations adopted by Council.

The CHM noted that all members had submitted their input and that this review of the content related to the work of the CHM on the website was finalised. The Secretariat will now update the website accordingly.

- Proposal to utilise the online meeting platform to invite hunters from the member countries to inform how a particular hunt is conducted in practice.

Initially this bullet point created some confusion before it was clarified that the proposal pertained to meetings of the committee. Recognising the wealth of information contained in reports from Workshops and Expert Group meetings, it was emphasised that generation shifts have occurred and will continue to happen. Especially for new members of the committee it would presumably be helpful to learn from hunters how they execute and carry out hunts.

The CHM agreed that the online meeting platforms represented an interesting avenue for new ways of acquiring information and conducting meetings. It was acknowledged that it might not be feasible to get input from all hunts taking place in NAMMCO due to technical and translation challenges. To advance on this suggestion it was agreed to task Norway with identifying a hunter to present either sealing or whaling operations at the next meeting or a special meeting. The final practicalities would be taken by correspondence.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is planned for the fall 2021, final dates to be decided.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Document NAMMCO/CHM-2021-01/04 contained a proposal from the Secretariat on production of short training videos.

The idea presented was to produce a series of short professional training videos for hunters. These would be made easily accessible on the NAMMCO website. All videos would have an English version as well as versions in the native language of the hunters (FO, GL, IS, NO). The videos would illustrate technical information on the weapons and their use and maintenance in a clear and engaging manner. This would be done with a combination of animation, illustrations, and filmed footage. To be user friendly, the video(s) should be short, professionally produced, and cover different aspects of hunting operations.

NAMMCO member countries have put and continues to put substantial effort into improving hunting methods, both from the perspective of the hunters and the authorities. The videos, as the manuals before them, could become an integrated part of the hunters' training courses. Having this information available in both written and visual forms is extremely important for effectively communicating with multiple audiences and people with different learning styles. Given the visual nature of our current culture (i.e., the prevalence of TV, films, and online videos as a means of communication), having information available in short video form is arguably also likely to be both popular and effective. Extending this project to include other hunting nations would also emphasise / underline the importance NAMMCO puts on cooperation and knowledge sharing not only within, but also beyond its member countries.

The CHM found the proposal interesting and agreed that the video discussed under agenda item 5 would be incorporated as the first of videos as described in the proposal. It was also noted that this project – a series of videos – would be a long-time project where the content of future videos would be discussed as appropriate.

The financial implications of the proposal were not discussed as this will be a natural aspect of any future video production.

8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The report was adopted in a short meeting 25 February 2021. A change for clarification was made on 3 March 2021.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda

1. Adoption of agenda and review of documents
2. General information updates
3. Annual reporting from members
4. Active recommendations and follow-up
5. Workplan 2021-2022
6. Next meeting
7. Any other business

List of documents

NAMMCO/CHM-2021-01/01	Agenda and List of Documents
NAMMCO/CHM-2021-01/02	Conservation Status Marine Mammals Stocks
NAMMCO/CHM-2021-01/03	Hunting and Regulations in NAMMCO
NAMMCO/CHM-2021-01-04	Proposal on production of short training videos
NAMMCO/Database-2020	NAMMCO Database
NAMMCO/CHM-recommendations	Overview of recommendations