

NAMMCO



COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

*14 October 2020
Online meeting*

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 an online meeting 14 October 2020. Present were Kathrine A. Ryeng (Chair) (Norway), Guðni Magnus Eiríksson and Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), Sofia Abelsen (Greenland), Signar Petersen (Faroe Islands), and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

Actions arising from the meeting:

Secretariat

- To quality check the database

Greenland and Iceland

- To quality check the website information

All members

- To review recommendations together with the Secretariat

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND REVIEWING DOCUMENTS

The Chair Kathrine A. Ryeng opened the meeting, the agenda was adopted (Appendix 1) and the meeting documents (Appendix 2) reviewed.

2. UPDATES LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND REFERENCES

The Faroe Islands informed that as of 1 January 2021 it is no longer allowed to kill seals around fish farms. This prohibition corresponds with legislation in Iceland and Norway.

Attention was drawn to the information on the website (<https://nammco.no/topics/laws-and-regulations/>) and members were encouraged to develop English summaries of main content for all listings.

No information on new references related to marine mammals in NAMMCO countries were given.

3. ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS

Document NAMMCO/CHM-2020-03/03 containing the NAMMCO database gave the reported 2019 data (2018 for non-quota species in Greenland) from member countries. The reporting, submitted in February 2020, followed the new guidelines adopted by Council in 2019.

The CHM reviewed the submissions and agreed that the identified data categories should continue to be included in the annual reporting. It was recognised that the requested data represented a lot of information that was not necessarily applicable for all species and hunts. However, it was argued to keep all categories with the idea that “more is better than less”, thus enabling the different committees to extract the information they needed in their work.

Scrutinising the data, it became clear that some of the entries were misleading or incorrect. For instance, under Iceland and catches of cetaceans, the number of struck and lost animals had not been entered in the respective column alongside number of catches female, male and unknown sex, but was included in the total catch inc. struck and lost animals. The outcome of this was that the numbers do not add up.

The Secretariat committed to go through the dataset and quality check all admissions ensuring the accuracy and logic of the entries.

4. WORKSHOP/EXPERT GROUP MEETING

The Ministry in Greenland had informed NAMMCO in late August that due to personnel changes and the COVID-19 situation it would not be able to allocate the required efforts to ensure a successful outcome of the meeting/workshop. The meeting, which was especially focused on Greenlandic issues, would be dependent on a comprehensive Greenlandic input, both in terms of data collection and analyses and also on the participation and commitment of hunters and other people with knowledge of the specific hunts and weaponry.

The Council-HoDs held a meeting 10 September where the situation was discussed. The meeting agreed to postpone the expert group meeting/workshop to a future time when Greenland would have the necessary resources available.

The CHM noted the information, and it was agreed that Greenland would report back to the committee when the situation was such that it would be feasible to convene the meeting/workshop.

The Faroe Islands reported that currently there existed only one modified spinal lance for use on dolphins. So far, no dolphin drives had occurred in 2020 and no tests had taken place.

5. ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

Document NAMMCO/CHM-2020-03/04 contained an overview of all recommendations to member countries and their responses generated from the Expert Group meetings and Workshops held by the committee.

The committee began reviewing the document at its February meeting with the objective of updating responses, discussing how to use the list and how to decide when a recommendation is no longer “active”. It was agreed that all recommendations should be marked as completed or active, and for the active ones a reason for non-completion should be noted.

The February meeting had reviewed the recommendations up to and including line number 63. To facilitate the process members had been asked to note the results pertaining to their recommendations and submit these to the Secretariat afterwards for compilation into one document. The described feedback had not been received.

The Committee for Inspection and Observation is reviewing the same list although for different reasons, and it was noted that also in this committee the progress was very slow. The CHM agreed that to ensure progress members would work intersessionally with the Secretary going over their “recommendations” before the next full meeting of the committee. In addition, the Secretary was tasked with grouping similar recommendations together to avoid duplication of recommendations. The new revised list containing all responses from members and the regrouping of recommendations would be considered at the next meeting.

6. WORKPLAN 2020-2021-2022

The following two items represented the remaining tasks on the identified workplan for 2020 - 2022:

- Finalising the video on handling Whale grenade 99 together with Henriksen Mek. Verksted.

The CHM was informed that initially Greenland and later the Secretary had been in contact with Henriksen Mek. Verksted and the responsible contact person there to explore the possibility of remaking the video incorporating revisions developed by the committee. Henriksen Mek. Verksted had not expressed any particular interest in taking this on.

Kristján Loftsson said that he found this strange, knowing the people at Henriksen Mek. Verksted. He offered to talk to Marie Gjone, who is handling these matters at Henriksen Mek. Verksted, to see if they would change their mind. The CHM agreed that it would be worth while to try to have this matter

finalized in line with the recommendations of the committee. As a side comment it was noted that the current video's detailed description of interior components and their functionality might create more confusion than clarity and as such not meeting the intention to show how to safely handle the grenade.

- Website – to quality check the content related to the CHM work had been identified as a follow-up of the Performance Review Panel recommendations adopted by Council.

The CHM had agreed that each member country should be responsible for going through the information that related to their hunts and countries. The Secretariat had compiled into one document all information for each of the members for their review. The Faroe Islands and Norway had submitted their input whereas Greenland and Iceland were still pending.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held online:

23 and 25 February 2021, 13:00 – 16:00 hrs Norwegian time.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The report was adopted online 6 November 2020.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS
2. UPDATES LIST OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND LIST OF REFERENCES
3. ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS
4. WORKSHOP/EXPERT GROUP MEETING
5. ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW UP
6. WORKPLAN 2020-2021-2022
7. NEXT MEETING
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

Doc. No.	Title	Agenda item
CHM/2020-03/01	Draft Agenda	1
CHM/2020-03/02	Draft List of Documents	1
CHM/2020-03/03	NAMMCO database – annual reporting	3
CHM/2020-03/04	Overview of recommendations from EGM/WS to member countries	5

FOR INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

Doc. No.	Title	Agenda item
	Report of previous meetings https://nammco.no/topics/committee-on-hunting-methods/	