

Why NAMMCO?

The Agreement to establish NAMMCO was signed in Rook, Greenland on 8 April 1992 by the current members of the Commission, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway. It evolved from a 1990 memorandum of understanding establishing the North Atlantic Committee (NAC) for Cooperation on Research on Marine Mammals. NAMMCO represented a new forum for cooperation on the conservation and science-based management of marine mammals and their sustainable use. It provided an alternative to the inability of the International Whaling Commission to agree on rational, science-based management of large cetaceans (baleen and sperm whales). NAMMCO also filled the gap in conservation and management for smaller whales, seals and otterfish in the region, which had not previously been covered by any international agreements.

Some Achievements

- Establishing an Inspection and Observation Scheme for the hunting activities of its parties
- Facilitating the training of marine mammal hunters
- Significantly improving hunting methods and reducing bycatch to death in many birds
- Providing an international forum for reporting and discussing marine mammal hunting methods
- Strengthening coordination between the Faroe marine mammal research communities and enhancing the understanding of the place and role of marine mammals in the ecosystem
- Facilitating regular cetacean population monitoring
- Regularly assessing marine mammal stocks in the North Atlantic
- Developing a new and innovative management procedure for narwhals
- Proposing management measures, the implementation of which has had a positive effect on the targeted stocks.

Future Challenges

- Assessing the full range of anthropogenic impacts on marine mammals and their cumulative effect and enhancing the ecosystem approach to marine mammal management
- Continuing to ensure the sustainable management of marine mammals in the light of the complex consequences of climate and environmental changes
- Continuing to improve hunting methods by better understanding and reducing the direct and bycatch rates and further reducing bycatch to death
- Better communicating the diversity of marine mammal stocks and the large differences in their conservation status, some endangered and some thriving
- Better communicating that marine mammals are environmentally responsible food resources and that their sustainable use is in line with efforts to ensure fish growth
- Contributing to the continued sustainable use of marine mammal resources.

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NAMMCO



**sustainable use
sustainable communities**



1992 – 2017

25 years

**of regional cooperation on marine
mammal conservation and
management**