

Why NAMMCO?

The Agreement to establish NAMMCO was signed in Nuuk, Greenland on 9 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 walrus 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 times to death in many hunts
- Providing an international forum for reporting and discussing marine mammal hunting methods
- Strengthening coordination between the Parties' 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 Northern 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 struck and loss rates and further reducing times 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 blue growth.
- Contributing to the continued sustainable use of marine mammal resources.

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission

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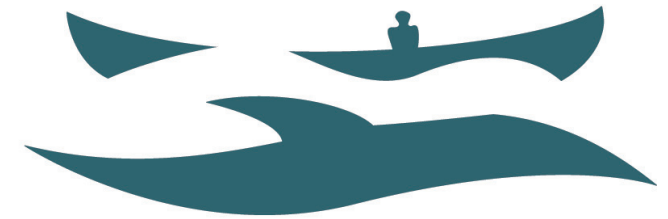
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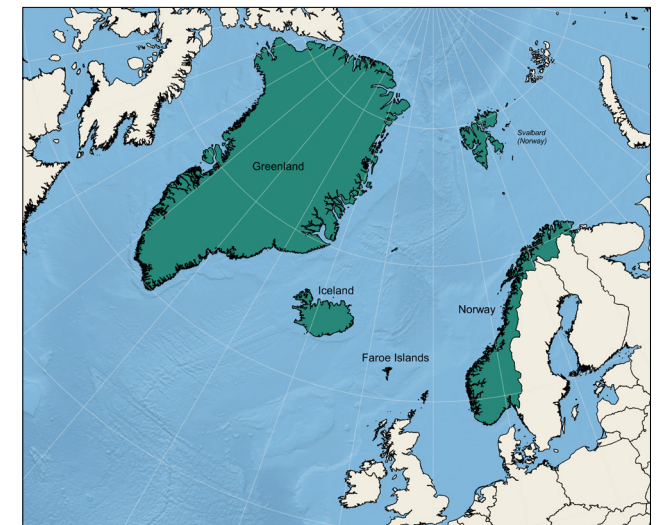
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NAMMCO



sustainable use
sustainable communities



1992 – 2017

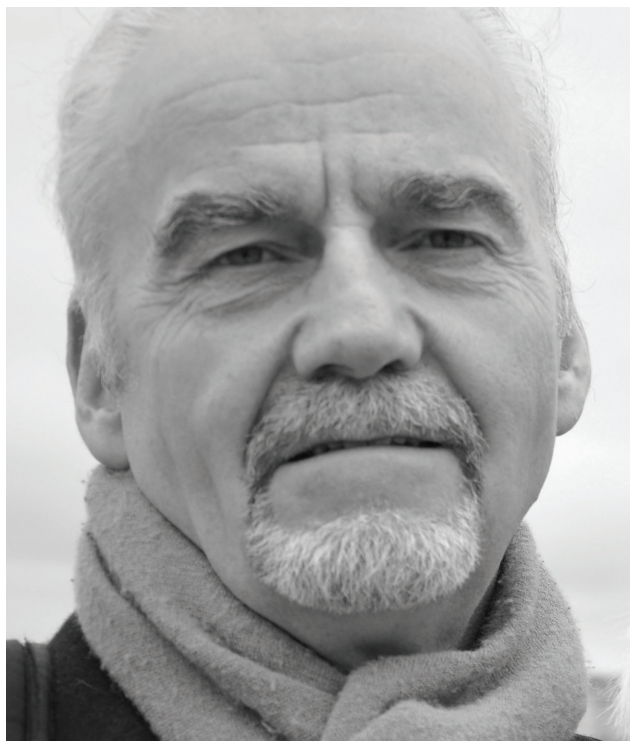
25 years

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

5 of the faces behind NAMMCO 1992

The first Chair of NAMMCO:

Kjartan Hoydal, Faroe Islands (1941-2016)



As Director of Fisheries from 1986 – 1996, Kjartan was a strong advocate for the need to ensure a rational balance in international cooperation on marine mammals, with respect for the rights of peoples to use their own resources and the importance of science-based regional approaches to resource management. He was one of the major driving forces behind the NAC memorandum of understanding and the establishment NAMMCO. Kjartan was the first chair of the Council (1992-1994) and the first chair of the Management Committee (1993-1994).

The first Chair of the Committee on Hunting Methods and the first chairwoman of the Council – active in NAMMCO since 1992:

Amalie Jessen, Greenland.



Working at the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Amalie ensured Greenland strong presence in NAMMCO. She was the first chair of the Committee on Hunting Methods (1992-1998) and was an important force behind the shaping and development of the Committee. She has since chaired the Council (1999-2004) and various committees. She is the only one who has participated continuously in the work of the Council since 1992. She also played an active role in the establishment of NAC.

The first Chair of the Scientific Committee:

Jóhann Sigurjónsson, Iceland.



Scientist at the Marine Research Institute, Jóhann had worked with whales at MRI since 1980. His expertise supported the process of establishing the scientific committee, its procedures, terms of reference and data needs for stock assessment. Jóhann was the first chair of the Scientific Committee (1992 to 1995).

A driving force behind the improvement of hunting methods and equipment:

Egil Ole Øen, Norway.



Former Prof. assoc. at the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, Egil Ole is a strong advocate of responsible hunting: safety, welfare in hunting, minimizing time to death (TTD) and struck and loss of animals. He invented

and had a major role in the development of the penthrith whale grenade, which is very efficient in killing large whales instantly or very rapidly, and the Blue Box, the sealed system continuously controlling hunting on Norwegian minke whalers.

He made a major contribution to setting up NAMMCO Inspection and Observation Scheme of whaling and sealing activities.

The first General Secretary:

Kate Sanderson, Faroe Islands.



Kate worked in the Faroese fisheries administration from 1986 together with Kjartan Hoydal, assisting the efforts of the founding countries to establish NAMMCO. She became the first General Secretary (1993-1998) and had

a leading role in establishing the Secretariat and shaping the organisation. Returning to the Faroese Foreign Service she continued to follow NAMMCO as head of the Faroese delegation and chair of the Council from 2004 to 2008.