



TWENTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

7 – 8 March 2018, Tromsø, Norway

DOCUMENT MC-05 PROPOSALS FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Submitted by: Secretariat

This document contains

This is a revised format of the “Proposals for Conservation and Management” table that has been used in previous years. The reasoning behind this new format is that it should make it easier to track the progress of new and old Proposals. If this new format works well, we propose to continue using this format, and will then plan to put the old Proposals into this new format.

This table includes the Proposals that were endorsed at NAMMCO-25, and in grey shading are recommendations from the SC that the MCs should consider at NAMMCO-26 (including both recommendations from the 2016 Scientific Committee that were not considered last year, and recommendations from the 2017 Scientific Committee meeting).

Action requested:

The Management Committees and Council are asked to review the Proposals and provide comments and/or endorsement.

Proposals for Conservation and Management: 2016 - 2017

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General – not associated to MCs agenda					
SC/23-2016, 11.2.2.	Greenland should streamline their reporting system (between Piniarneq and Særmeldingsskema), and investigate why the numbers are different between the reporting schemes.		[Not sure MCs or Council looked at this last year.]		
Ecosystem Approach					
SC/24-2017, 7.3	All information on the Mary River project should be presented to the JWG. Someone from the Fisheries Protection Division in Canada should attend the next NAMMCO-JCNB JWG in 2019. [GR and CA]				
SC/24-2017, 7.3	Cumulative effects should be considered when new shipping and icebreaking activities are proposed for narwhal and beluga habitat areas [GR]				
Multispecies approaches to management/Ecosystem Modelling					

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Environmental Issues					
SC/24-2017, 7.3	All information on the Mary River project be presented to the JWG. Someone from the Fisheries Protection Division in Canada should attend the next NAMMCO-JCNB JWG in 2019.				
SC/24-2017, 7.3		SC and WGs should add non-hunting impacts to their agendas.			
Marine Mammal – Fisheries Interactions					
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1	Norway should increase the reliability and the accuracy of the by-catch data in areas with high by-catch by increasing the number of vessels included in the CRF [NO]				
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1		Norway should improve species identification of by-caught seals. [NO]			
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1	Iceland should obtain by-catch rate for the cod fishery outside the April peak season [IS]				

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SC/23-2016, 6.1.1		Provide data on the fleet especially on the pelagic and semi-pelagic trawl fisheries including VHVO trawl (fleet composition, relative effort and by-catch information) to BYCWG. [FO]			
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1		Greenland should provide information on the reliability of BC reporting for all species. [GR]			
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		Revised by-catch analysis for harbour porpoise and seals should be presented to BYCWG [NO and IS]			
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Modify the design of the Coastal Reference Fleet selection process according to BYCWG recommendations. [NO]				
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		Collect jaws/photos of by-caught seals to improve species identification, and collect skin samples to inform genetic research. [IS]			

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SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Monitoring of the monkfish and Greenland halibut gillnet fishery in Iceland. [IS]				
	Fishing trips sampled for estimating by-catch rates be selected as randomly as possible, to ensure observer coverage is representative of various fishing behaviours [IS]				
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		A proper assessment of the by-catch risk in the various fisheries in the Faroe Islands should be undertaken [FO]			
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1 SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Add the selection of local marine mammal species to e-logbook design [FO]				
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Implement a reporting system for vessels below 15 GMT [FO]				
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		Review and present to the WG the data already collected by fishery observers on the monkfish fishery [FO]			
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Monitor vessels in the pelagic pair-trawl fisheries fleet with an				

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	electronic monitoring video system (EM) or onboard observers [FO]				
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Implement observer coverage in other fleets with potential for by- catch (see BYCWG) [FO]				
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Include documentation of marine mammal by-catch in the protocol of fisheries observers, as well as other standard characteristics of the fleet (effort, location, month, etc.) [FO]				
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		Review marine mammal by-catch reports made in fishery logbooks previous to 2016 [GR]			
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		Summarise and make available the data collected by fisheries inspectors regarding marine mammal by-catch events [GR]			
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Implement a reporting system similar to that mandated by the species- specific executive orders [GR]				

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SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Include in the online reporting system for the hunters some kind of automatic validation [GR]				
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Validation of by-catch reporting data from the licensed hunters' online system against those from the buyers [GR]				
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Obtain improved data on the numbers of seals shot at fish farms. [NO and FO]				
NASS and other surveys					
SC/23-2016, 9.2		Surveys should be repeated more frequently in areas where declines have been observed			
SC/24-2017, 10.2		Next NASS survey should be in 2022-2023 [ALL]			
SC/24-2017, 10.2		Attempt to get trans-Atlantic coverage [ALL]			
SEALS and WALRUS					
Harp seals					
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2	Greenland Sea stock: A catch level of 26,000 [GR and NO]		NAMMCO/25		

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SC/23-2016, 7.1.2	White Sea/Barents Sea: catch level of 10 090 1 + animals. [NO and RU]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2 and WGHARP 2016		Obtain samples to evaluate reproductive rates for White Sea harp seals [NO and RU]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2 and WGHARP 2016		New aerial surveys be conducted to estimate pup production of harp seals in the White Sea\Barents Sea and NW Atlantic in 2017 and Greenland Sea in 2018 [NO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2 and WGHARP 2016		Staging surveys should be conducted during aerial surveys of all populations of harp seals. [NO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2 and WGHARP 2016		Satellite telemetry tagging studies in the White Sea\Barents Sea harp seal population [NO]	NAMMCO/25		
Hooded seals					
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2 and WGHARP 2016		Staging surveys should be conducted during aerial surveys of all	NAMMCO/25		

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		populations of hooded seals. [NO]			
Ringed seals					
SC/23-2016, 7.3.2		Satellite telemetry and collection of samples for genetics [GR]	(MC noted report, did not specifically endorse)		
SC/24-2017. 8.3.3		Convene a Ringed seal WG (possibly in conjunction with a Bearded Seal WG) in 2020/2021.			
Grey seals					
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		More frequent surveys, particularly in the areas of decline. [NO]			
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	In the Management Plan, the target population level should be evaluated as the levels are not based on any biological assessment [NO]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	In the Management Plan, the quota should be set to 0 when the population is at 70% of the target level instead of 50%.		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Management plans should include all sources of		NAMMCO/25		

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	mortality, not just the hunt [NO]				
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	A mechanism for consulting IMR on for example seal distribution when fish farms are being built should be required when management plans are revised. [NO]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Tagging of grey seal pups. [Rescinded at SC/24]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Complete the genetics study [NO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Reporting of all removals, incl. fish farms and commercial and recreational gillnet fisheries. [NO]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Management Plan should be developed including: the frequency of surveys, legislation of seal hunting and re-evaluation of the target population level objective with the new level being based on biological criteria. [IS]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	A complete survey should be conducted to obtain a		NAMMCO/25		

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	full, reliable abundance estimate [IS]				
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Reporting of all removals (e.g., by-catches, hunted seals, any other removals) [IS]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Pup production surveys at least 3 times [IS]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Tagging of pups for staging [IS]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Investigate whether the peaks in pupping differ in different areas around the country [IS]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Genetics samples should be collected and analysed [IS]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Develop a monitoring plan that includes regular assessments [FO]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Obtain minimum population estimates via haulout counts [FO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Obtain reliable and complete reporting of all removals (e.g., all companies operating fish farms need to report). [FO]		NAMMCO/25		

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SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Telemetry tagging studies [FO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Collect samples from animals shot at fish farms [FO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		A study using cameras to observe animals going in and out of caves [FO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Photo-ID study for a mark-recapture based population size [FO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/24-2017, 8.4.3		Research recommendations for Faroe Islands from CSWG in 2016 should be given a high priority. [FO]			
Harbour seals					
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2		Increase survey effort [NO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	Re-evaluate management units to ensure they are based on biological parameters. [NO]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	In the Management Plan, the target population level should be evaluated as the levels are not based on		NAMMCO/25		

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	any biological assessment [NO]				
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	In the Management Plan, the quota should be set to 0 when the population is at 70% of the target level instead of 50%. [NO]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	Management plans should include all sources of mortality, not just the hunt [NO]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	A mechanism for consulting IMR on for example seal distribution when fish farms are being built should be required when management plans are revised. [NO]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	Reporting of all removals, incl. fish farms and commercial and recreational gillnet fisheries. [NO]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2		Collect data from by- catches [NO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2		Survey of the entire population should be conducted as soon as possible, and every 2	NAMMCO/25		

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		years while population is below target level. [IS]			
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	All removals should be reported (e.g., hunting, by-catch, etc.) [IS]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	A Management Plan should be developed including outlining the frequency of surveys and legislation of seal hunting [IS]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	The target population level objective should be re-evaluated and be based on biological criteria [IS]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2		Reproductive rates should be collected [IS]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2		Continue to investigate the effects of disturbance from tourism, and possible mitigation [IS]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	The method of catching pups in nets should be investigated. In NAMMCO, killing methods should be immediate. This issue should be referred to the NAMMCO Hunting Committee.		NAMMCO/25		

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Bearded seals					
SC/24-2017, 8.6.1		A Bearded Seal WG, possibly in conjunction with a Ringed Seal WG, should be convened in 2020.			
Walrus					
SC/23-2016, 7.7.3.1		New abundance estimates (from Baffin Bay, West Greenland, and the southeast coast of Baffin Island) [GR]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.7.3.1		Age-structure of catches [GR]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.7.3.1		Obtain catch statistics from Canada [GR/Sec]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.7.3.1	Struck and lost rates. This is lowest priority for the assessment, however not having newer, reliable struck and lost rates will affect the quotas given.		NAMMCO/25		
CETACEANS					

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Fin whale					
SC/23-2016, 8.1	A catch limit of 161 fin whales in the WI area and 48 in EI/F area; this advice should be considered valid for a maximum of 8 years (2018 to 2025).		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 8.1		Samples from a wider geographical area to include in an existing study on close-kin relationship	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 8.1		Gather information on the annual cycle of fin whales including overall movements and indications of possible breeding areas (e.g. applying satellite telemetry).	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 8.1		Continued collection of biological samples for age, reproduction, etc. from whales caught off Iceland.	NAMMCO/25		
Humpback whale					
SC/24-2017, 9.2	Annual strikes of no more than 25				

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	humpback whales off West Greenland from 2019 to 2024. [GR]				
SC/24-2017, 9.2		Research on possible movements of individuals between summering areas in the North Atlantic (e.g. satellite tagging, biopsies, photo-ID etc.). [ALL]			
Common minke whale					
SC/23-2016, 8.2	Annual catch of about 360 minke whales...for the Central North Atlantic medium area, and the advice of the WG of catch levels of 217 common minke whales from the CIC sub-area.		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 8.2		Collect age / sex / reproductive data [IS]	NAMMCO/25		
Beluga					
SC/23-2016, 8.4	Detailed information on the Mary River Project should be made available to the JWG		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 8.4	GINR should be consulted when projects		NAMMCO/25		

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	are in development, before final approval, or if the project plans change and/or develop further.				
SC/23-2016, 8.4		Satellite tagging to get information on movements and distribution. [GR]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/24-2017, 9.4		Genetic analysis for stock identity of the summer takes in Greenland. [GR]			
SC/24-2017, 9.4		More accurate, and recent, struck and lost data [GR]			
SC/24-2017, 9.4	(Re-iterate previous advice from 2005 and 2012): Seasonal closures (see SC report) [GR]				
Narwhal					
SC/24-2017, 9.5	Recognize the hunting areas in East Greenland, Tasiilaq, Kangerlussuaq and Ittoqqortormiit, as three separate management areas. [GR]				
SC/24-2017, 9.5	Catches of less than 10 narwhals in both				

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	Ittoqqortormiit and Kangerlussuaq. [GR]				
SC/24-2017, 9.5	the advice for the southern hunting areas applies only to Kangerlussuaq fjord. No catches south of 68°N. [GR]				
Killer Whale					
SC/23-2016, 8.8.2	Validation of catch data on a yearly basis [GR]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 8.8.3		Information on killer whales (e.g., catch statistics and abundance estimate) should be gathered with more speed in order for the SC to be able to monitor the hunt.	NAMMCO/25		
SC/24-2017, 9.8		A working document should be prepared for the next SC meeting which reviews all available information and current research on killer whales in the North Atlantic. [ALL]			
Long-finned pilot whale					

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SC/24-2017, 9.9		Satellite tagging during grinds be given a higher priority [FO]			
Harbour Porpoise					
SC/24-2016, 8.11.2.3	Catches should be validated, if possible, including assessing whether by-catches are included in the catch statistics. [GR]				
SC/24-2017, 9.11		Scientific samples should be taken from harbour porpoises caught in the Faroe Islands [FO]			
SC/24-2017, 9.11		Combined genetics analysis, with samples from all NAMMCO countries [ALL]			
Sperm whale					
SC/24-2017, 9.12		Abundance estimate should be calculated (if possible)			