NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP ON BY-CATCH
Videoconference
31 October 2018
Start time: 13:00 Norwegian time

Draft Agenda (Rev 281018)

1. OPENING REMARKS

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEURS

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

5. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS AND DATA

6. ICELAND

7. NORWAY

8. FAROE ISLANDS

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Review of implementation of recommendations 2017 and 2018-April
9.2 Recommendations for research
9.3 Other recommendations

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. ADOPTION OF REPORT

ANNOTATIONS

ToRs for that specific meeting

Review of – in order of priority and depending of time
- Icelandic by-catch in cod gillnet (both porpoises and seals)
- Norwegian by-catch estimate for the ten-year period 2006-2015
- Faroese update on progress in implementation of the WG recommendations from May 2017
- Parties updates on the collation of effort and by-catch reporting from foreign vessels fishing in national waters (recommendation from April 2018).

Agenda point 9.1

Recommendations from BYCWG 2017

NORWAY
Harbour Porpoise
BYCWG2017/NO/R1.
The ratio estimates as presented in SC/24/BYC/Info07 be preferred over the model-based approaches for reasons mentioned above.
Revisions per the Technical Comments listed in Appendix 1, and that these be addressed and endorsed prior to the Harbour Porpoise WG Assessment in late 2018.
Grey and Harbour Seals
BYCWG2017/NO/R2.
The ratio estimates as presented in SC/24/BYC/Info07 be preferred over the model-based approaches for reasons mentioned above.
Revisions per the Technical Comments listed in Appendix 1, and that these be addressed and endorsed prior to the Coastal Seals WG Assessment in 2019.
BYCWG2017/NO/R3. In in the mark-recapture estimation approach, analysts consider the implications of different age structures between the tagged, harvested sample and the by-catch sample.

ICELAND
Cod Fishery
BYCWG2017/IS/R5. The uncertainty around the estimates be re-evaluated, such as with a bootstrap approach. These revisions should be completed and endorsed by the group prior to the Harbour Porpoise WG Assessment meeting in 2018, and the Coastal Seals WG Assessment meeting in 2019.
BYCWG2017/IS/R6. Iceland conduct monitoring of the monkfish and Greenland halibut gillnet fishery, as by-catch has been observed in this type of gear in other areas.

FAROE ISLANDS
BYCWG2017/FR/R1. The WG recommends that in regards to by-catch reporting: 1.1. Add selection of local marine mammal species to e-logbook design, so species identification can be easily reported. 1.2 Implement a reporting system for vessels below 15 GMT, as also recommended by the previous BYCWG.
2. WG recommends that in regards to by-catch observation: 2.1 Improve reporting of by-catch on pelagic pair trawl fisheries by monitoring vessels in the fleet with an electronic monitoring video system (EM) or onboard observers. Electronic Monitoring might be more cost-effective than an observer scheme, particularly because only 5 vessels operate in the pelagic pair trawl

fishery, and likely only a few hours per fishing trip need to be observed and videoed. The use of the EM could also be rotational. These fisheries are difficult to observe due to the high volume of catch and the multi-vessel nature of the fishery, so attention must be given to where the observer or cameras are placed and to the stage of the haul. 2.2 Implement observer coverage in other fleets with potential for by-catch, such as the high vertical opening trawl fleet (6 vessels). 2.3 Review the data already collected by fishery observers on the monkfish fishery during an experimental monitoring of the fishery prior to 2015.

Recommendations from BYCWG 2018

ICELAND
BYCWG2018a/IS/R1. **Harbour porpoise – cod gillnet**
1.1 - Include the 2017 data from the April cod gillnet survey
1.2 - Explore the observer data from 2015 and 2017 – especially, check if observers recorded harbour porpoise bycatch in other months to check the assumption that porpoises are only "available" in May/June. It would also be helpful to determine the level of observer effort each month.
1.3 - Provide cod gillnet fishing effort by month. If the effort is very low in the months outside of April-June, then it is likely that the by-catch rate is low as well.
1.4 - Create a map for cod gillnet by-catch and effort like the one generated for lumpsucker net

BYCWG2018a/IS/R2. **Seals – cod gillnet**
2.1 - To provide a map of the fishing effort around Iceland by month to show whether there is high effort in the months outside of April. This would indicate if it is likely that there is bycatch in other months.
2.2 - Seals are by-caught in the lumpsucker fishery in other months, suggesting that they are present and available to be by-caught by the cod gillnet fishery outside of April. Iceland examine these data (i.e. look in which months the fishing fleet reports the by-catch; look whether/where seal presence and the cod gillnet fishery overlap in space and time).
2.3 - Explore for all species using a broader spatial and temporal scheme for stratifying (e.g., include area/region).

BYCWG2018a/IS/R3. Other fisheries
3.1 - Iceland provide more detail on the amount of observer effort in pelagic trawl fleets which would give more confidence in stating that there is no by-catch in the pelagic trawl fleet.
3.2 - There is also very high observer coverage in the mid-water trawl fleet (10 vessels), however the WG noted that in other areas it is very easy for observers to miss by-catch events in this type of fishery. Iceland should note this caveat when stating that there is little to no by-catch in this fishery.

BYCWG2018a/IS/R4. Lumpsucker fishery – recommendation for future work
4.1 - The analysis did not show a significant difference between randomly and non-randomly selected inspected vessels, however the data should be further explored. Specifically, whether the difference changes if the analysis uses number of by-catch events rather than number of individuals caught should be investigated (i.e., using a binomial analysis with "catch vs no-catch").

4.2 - It is helpful to continue selecting vessels randomly and keeping track of which vessels are selected randomly/non-randomly.

4.3 - The depth stratification would be improved with more consistent reporting, and an agreed consistent definition of how to report the depth.

4.4 - The stratification of management areas could be improved by examining the management areas with high by-catch versus low by-catch. This could be done by reducing the management areas to these 2 strata, and then by month or quarter. This is mostly a spring fishery (from March/April to July/August) and the by-catch is mainly March–May. Collating the data on fewer strata will both improve the estimate and its precision.

BYCWG2018a/IS/R5. Foreign fisheries

5.1 - Any information that is available on by-catch from foreign vessels be presented to the WG.

5.2 - Iceland provide a description of the coverage and by-catch reports, even if there is none, as it provides more evidence that there is little by-catch risk.

FAROE ISLANDS

BYCWG2018a/FR/R1. Faroese fisheries
Repetitions of BYCWG 2017 recommendations.

BYCWG2018a/FR/R2. Foreign fisheries
The WG recommended that any information on observers and reports of by-catch by foreign fleet be presented to the next BYCWG meeting.