

## **NAMMCO Scientific Committee Working Group on Management Procedures**

*Report of meeting in Copenhagen, 13 - 14 October 1997*

### **1. Opening remarks and terms of reference**

The Chairman, N. Øien, welcomed the participants (Appendix 1), and M. P. Heide-Jørgensen explained the practical arrangements for the meeting which was held in the offices of the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources in Copenhagen.

The meeting was arranged to answer a request from the Council to the Scientific Committee, dated 4 March 1997, to provide scientific advice on the following matter prior to the next meeting of the Council: "In the light of the new survey abundance results the Scientific Committee is requested to undertake an assessment of the status of the Central North Atlantic Minke Whale stock, including to evaluate the long term effects of past and present removal levels on the stock."

Preparations for the meeting had been arranged by correspondence and included review of stock structure, biological parameters and abundance estimates of minke whales in the North Atlantic, as well as population modelling.

### **2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda as adopted is given in Appendix 2.

### **3. Appointment of rapporteur**

M.P. Heide-Jørgensen was appointed to assist the Chairman as rapporteur.

### **4. Review of available documents and reports**

The Working Group had received several working papers as listed in Appendix 3 to assist in discussions.

## **5. The Central North Atlantic minke whale stock**

### **5.1 Stock structure**

North Atlantic minke whales have been divided into four management stocks by the International Whaling Commission (Donovan 1991): (1) the Canadian East coast stock; (2) the West Greenland stock; (3) the Central stock and (4) the Northeastern stock. During the IWC Scientific Committee's development of the Revised Management Procedure these stock areas were considered medium areas and further divided into small areas (IWC 1994). The Central medium area was divided into an East Greenland coastal area (CG), a coastal Icelandic area (CI), an area around Jan Mayen (CM) and finally the waters south of Iceland (CI'). Most of the studies presented on North Atlantic minke whale stock structure refer to these divisions and these are therefore shown in Figure 5.1.1.