

**Report of the
NAMMCO Scientific Committee Working Group to plan NASS-95**

Trondheim, 2 December 1994

The meeting was held in the SAS Hotel in Trondheim, Norway on 2 December 1994. The meeting was convened by the Chairman of the Working Group, Finn Larsen. Present at the meeting were members of the NASS-95 Working Group, as well as a number of invited experts. A list of participants is contained in Appendix 1.

1. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks

The Chairman of the Working Group, Finn Larsen, welcomed Working Group members and other participants to the meeting. He expressed his appreciation in particular to those participants who had taken the time to stay on for the NASS meeting, or who had come to Trondheim especially, in order to share their expertise with the Working Group in their planning of NASS-95. He referred participants to the general terms of reference of the Working Group, and the NAMMCO Council's request to the Scientific Committee in July 1993 to "plan joint cetacean sighting surveys in the North Atlantic by coordinating national research programmes".

2. Adoption of agenda

The Agenda, which was adopted without amendment, is contained in Appendix 2.

3. Appointment of rapporteur

The Secretary of NAMMCO, Kate Sanderson, was appointed as rapporteur.

4. Review of available documents

The Report from the last meeting of the NASS-95 Working Group was distributed to Working Group members and invited participants, and is attached as Appendix 3. The report from the informal meeting to discuss g(10) which had been held earlier in the week, as well as the Norwegian minke whale survey planning meeting held just prior to the NASS-95 Working Group, provided further background for discussions at the present meeting.

5. Identification of priority species

Bloch (Faroes) reported that there was a proposal from the Faroes to include minke whales and remove bottlenose whales and bottlenose dolphins from the list of species identified as priority species for the Faroes. This raised worse questions as to the intentions of the Faroes with respect to NASS-95. Buckland suggested that if abundance estimates were required, the real priorities should be identified.