

**NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON**

**HARBOUR PORPOISES**

*Copenhagen, 19-22 March 2019*

**DRAFT AGENDA**

1. CHAIRMAN WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
3. APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEURS
4. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS
   1. Harbour Porpoise Workshop Tromsø 2018
      1. Map of assessment units
      2. Topics covered & modelling/assessment method
      3. Conclusions & Recommendations
   2. Harbour Porpoise Working Group 2013
      1. Summary of Previous Work & Recommendations
5. Greenland assessment
   1. Stock identity
   2. Biological parameters
   3. Abundance estimation
   4. Catch numbers
   5. Population modelling & assessment
   6. Management advice
6. Norway assessment
   1. Stock identity
   2. Biological parameters
   3. Abundance estimation
   4. By-catch
      1. By-catch numbers
      2. Mitigation
   5. Population modelling & assessment
   6. Management advice
7. Iceland assessment
   1. Stock identity
   2. Biological parameters
   3. Abundance estimation
   4. By-catch
   5. Population modelling & assessment
   6. Management advice
8. Faroe Islands
   1. Stock identity
   2. Abundance estimation
   3. By-catch
   4. Population modelling & assessment
   5. Management advice
9. IMPACTS FROM ANTHROPOGENIC STRESSORS
10. KNOWLEDGE GAPS, FUTURE RESEARCH & RECOMMENDATIONS
    1. Recommendations for research
    2. Recommendations for conservation and management
11. OTHER BUSINESS
12. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT
13. CLOSING REMARKS

**Annotated Agenda**

1. CHAIRMAN WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS – Bjarni Mikkelsen
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

*General requests from the NAMMCO Council being addressed through the agenda of HPWG 2019:*

*R1.1.5*

*To periodically review and update available knowledge related to the understanding of interactions between marine mammals and commercially exploited marine resources.*

*R1.2.2*

*In relation to the importance of the further development of multispecies approaches to the management of marine resources, to monitor stock levels and trends in stocks of all marine mammals in the North Atlantic.*

*R3.10.1*

*The Council noted that the harbour porpoise is common to all NAMMCO member countries, and that the extent of current research activities and expertise in member countries and elsewhere across the North Atlantic would provide an excellent basis for undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the species throughout its range. The Council therefore requested the SC to perform such an assessment, which might include distribution and abundance, stock identity, biological parameters, ecological interaction, pollutants, removals and sustainability of removals.*

1. APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEURS
2. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS – Bjarni Mikkelsen
   1. Harbour Porpoise Workshop Tromsø 2018
      1. Map of assessment units
      2. Topics covered & modelling/assessment method - Philip Hammond
      3. Conclusions & Recommendations
   2. Harbour Porpoise Working Group 2013
      1. Summary of Previous Work & Recommendations

**Greenland**

- Given the recent discovery of large uncertainty in catches, the working group strongly recommends that Greenland provides a complete catch history including all types of underreporting of catches before any future attempts are made to conduct an assessment of harbour porpoises in West Greenland.

- The working group noted that TNASS2015 may provide a new abundance estimate for West Greenland and recommended that a new assessment not be considered until the outcome of this survey is known.

**Norway**

- The working group recommended that Norway compile enough information as possible about by-catch from other fisheries, and to look into the lumpfish fishery by-catch next.

- The group recommended that samples be collected from by-catch in Norway, to obtain data on sex ratio, reproductive status, age structure, diet, contaminants, *etc.* It would be challenging to gather carcasses for the whole coast; the group therefore suggested that efforts are focused on the Vestfjord area where most of the by-catch occurs.

- The working group recommended tagging of harbour porpoises in Norway to obtain information about behaviour for use in assessment. Movement data will be important also in light of changing environmental conditions (*e.g.*, food availability).

- The working group therefore strongly recommends that surveys to estimate abundance in Norwegian coastal and fjord waters are carried out. These surveys may start in the areas of highest by-catch (Vestfjorden).

- The working group recommends both tracking and genetics studies to clarify stock delineation. Reliance on genetics data alone is not enough because movements are needed to inform on mixing and dispersion of the animals on a management time scale.

**General recommendations for all areas**

- The group noted that the SCANS-III survey, scheduled for 2016, will conduct an experimental survey to investigate survey techniques in 2015, and cooperation between coordinators of SCANS-III and TNASS2015 is recommended.

1. Greenland assessment – Lars Witting, Nynne Lemming, Rikke Hansen, Mads Peter Heide-Jørgensen
   1. Stock identity – Morten Tange Olsen
   2. Biological parameters
   3. Abundance estimation
   4. Catch numbers
   5. Population modelling & assessment
   6. Management advice
2. Norway assessment – Nils Øien
   1. Stock identity
   2. Biological parameters
   3. Abundance estimation
   4. By-catch
      1. By-catch numbers
      2. Mitigation
   5. Population modelling & assessment
   6. Management advice
3. Iceland assessment – Thorvaldur Gunnlaugsson
   1. Stock identity
   2. Biological parameters
   3. Abundance estimation
   4. By-catch
   5. Population modelling & assessment
   6. Management advice
4. Faroe Islands – Bjarni Mikkelsen
   1. Stock identity
   2. Abundance estimation
   3. By-catch
   4. Population modelling & assessment
   5. Management advice
5. IMPACTS FROM ANTHROPOGENIC STRESSORS – Signe Sveegaard? Others? HPWS Report

*Specifically addressing request R1.5.4 from NAMMCO Council*

*Committed to furthering its ecosystem approach to the management of marine mammals, and recognising the range of anthropogenic pressures facing North Atlantic marine mammals associated with the climate and environmental changes taking place, the Council requests the SC to advise on the best process to investigate the effects of non-hunting related anthropogenic stressors on marine mammal populations, including the cumulative impacts of global warming, by-catch, pollution and disturbance.*

*SC 24 (see section 7.3.1 of report) recommended that to address this request:*

*“Upcoming/future working groups consider request 1.5.4, for example by adding non-hunting impacts to their agendas”.*

1. KNOWLEDGE GAPS, FUTURE RESEARCH & RECOMMENDATIONS
   1. Recommendations for research
   2. Recommendations for conservation and management
2. OTHER BUSINESS
3. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT
4. CLOSING REMARKS