



## Dear NAMMCO Committees

### **Ref.: Follow up of the NAMMCO Performance Review**

Council 27 established an *ad hoc* Working Group (PRWG) led by the Chair of Council, Kate Sanderson (Faroe Islands) to review and follow up on the recommendations introduced in the Report of the NAMMCO Performance Review (attached).

The PRWG met in Copenhagen in June 2019 to examine the over-arching conclusions of the Review Panel and decide on a way forward - see attached report. The PRWG now seeks the views of NAMMCO Committees and BYCELS on the recommendations specific to their areas of work. The Committees' views will represent an important input to the PRWG formulation of follow up actions to be forwarded to Council.

The PRWG would like to underline that the overall conclusions of the Performance Review (PR) were positive, and that NAMMCO is a well-functioning organisation, thanks to the Committees' input and work. There were, however, areas where NAMMCO could consolidate its work and performance. The PR report gives an excellent opportunity for reviewing working processes in NAMMCO and recommend and implement changes which would facilitate the workflow as well as the communication between NAMMCO's bodies.

The Committees are, therefore, requested to address the recommendations and issues forwarded to them (see specific recommendations below). In reviewing the recommendations, the Committees should

- a) **Consider the relevance of the recommendations.**
- b) **Identify any other related matters for which they may have suggestions for improvements to their work and working procedures,**
- c) **Propose ways for implementing the recommendations and improving processes, where relevant.**

The considerations and recommendations of the Committees should be clearly and thoroughly substantiated.

The Committees should consider their answer in the light of five general priorities identified by the PRWG (See Item 7 of the PRWG report for further details).

- 1) **High data quality and reliability** – as needed for high quality science, which is at the core of NAMMCO management, and referring both to data collection and reporting/sharing and the recurrent aim of reducing data gaps for ensuring the sustainable and precautionary management based on the best scientific evidence,
- 2) **Follow up on the advices provided by the Committees** – with the need of a clear, standardised and well described follow up process,
- 3) **Transparency** – referring to all processes and working procedures of the organisation and, particularly, the advice formulation process and the response from the member countries,
- 4) **Precautionary approach** – in the process of decision making and thereby also the management advice-generating process,
- 5) **Communication** – i.e. providing reliable information and raising awareness about the work of NAMMCO [with the website as the preeminent tool of communication and outreach of NAMMCO. The information contained should be complete, clear, updated and accurate].

The PRWG ask that these issues be dealt with by the Committees in the autumn 2019, so their response and input are available to the PRWG November meeting.

Thanks in advance for your input

  
Geneviève Desportes  
General Secretary  
Tromsø, 22 August 2019

**North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission**

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## Points specific to the Committee on Hunting Methods

Recommendations pertaining to the same issues and same PRWG comment have been grouped and coloured in the same shade of grey.

### Quality of data collection and reporting

The Panel has a general concern over a lack of standardisation in data collection, transmission and sharing, which is expressed in different recommendations.

General PRP Criteria	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>PRWG comments</b>	<b>Referred to:</b>
General PRP Criteria	<b>AREA 1 – CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF STOCKS</b>		
1.3/2.2 Data collection & sharing	<p><b>[PRP18-RC12]</b> The Panel <b>recommends</b> that the NAMMCO Council encourage Member Countries to agree to a standard format for reporting and to implement better reporting of Struck &amp; Lost data for inclusion in National Progress Reports and a future NAMMCO Catch database or in the current NAMMCO data spreadsheet.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Priority - Question of data quality: Strong attention to be given and action needed.</b></p> <p>Relates to quality of data collection and storage in all sectors. Question of data quality:</p> <p>It is also an organisational question.</p> <p>Reliable database necessary – priority action, with guidelines on data quality and sharing process.</p> <p>SC, CHM, BYCELS to provide input</p>	<p>MCs, SC, CHM, BYCELS // Parties</p>
	<p><b>[PRP18-RC13]</b> The Panel <b>believes</b> that NAMMCO is an important mechanism for improving the collection of data and data sharing in the region. It <b>recommends</b> that the Secretariat and the Chairs of relevant Committees work with other relevant IGOs (particularly the IWC) to avoid overlaps in deadlines and facilitate the data submission process (e.g. using similar systems).</p>		
	<p><b>[PRP18-RC18]</b> With regard to Struck &amp; Lost rates, the Panel <b>notes</b> that data is only available for approximately 1/3 of the marine mammal hunts conducted in the waters of NAMMCO member countries and <b>agrees</b> with the suggestion from the Scientific Committee that given the difficulty of obtaining such data, efforts should focus on those cases where more reliable struck and lost data are a priority for improving assessments that would make the most significant difference in terms of quota allocation. The Panel also <b>notes</b> the significant work done on this issue by the Committee on Hunting Methods including the preparation and distribution of a detailed document on this subject. However, the Panel <b>expresses concern</b> about the lack of an agreed standardised method and format to report struck and lost data and, as with the recommendations concerning bycatch and strandings above (PRP18-RC12 and PRP18-RC17), <b>recommends</b> that NAMMCO agrees, as soon as possible, to a standardised method and format to report struck and lost data.</p> <p>Because of the loss to the hunters when an animal is lost, in addition to issues of animal welfare, the Panel <b>recommends</b> that efforts to reduce Struck &amp; Lost and to get reliable and accurate data on struck and lost data be continued.</p>		
	<p><b>[PRP18-RC20]</b> Measures of hunting effort related to catches of some species could be obtained relatively easily from analyses of hunting licenses issued, logbooks and inspection and observation reports and interviews with hunters. The Panel <b>recommends</b> that ship strikes [and strandings] be reported more consistently.</p>		

	<p><b>[PRP18-RC23]</b> The Panel <b>recommends</b> that hunting data gathered by NAMMCO continue to be shared among NAMMCO member countries as well as with relevant scientists from non-member countries and IGOs, as appropriate. To this end, the Panel also <b>recommends</b> the establishment of a proper searchable 'NAMMCO catch database' and development of the necessary data sharing procedures and confidentiality agreements. The Panel <b>stresses the importance</b> that the official 'NAMMCO catch database' contains the same data used by Member Countries for their assessment. Central databases are key for proper management of wild marine resources, particularly those on mortality data and abundance and distribution. Therefore, the Panel <b>believes</b> that NAMMCO <b>should</b> also consider any future NAMMCO catch database include all human-induced mortality (i.e., bycatch and ship strikes) and a sighting database. NAMMCO could explore the possibility to carry out these efforts in cooperation with other international organizations that are already managing similar databases (e.g. ICES, IWC, etc.).</p>	<p>to establish and maintain database.</p> <p>NAMMCO needs good data quality.</p> <p>Seek advice from SC and CHM on how to proceed for generating reliable catch &amp; S&amp;L data.</p> <p>Standardised data reporting.</p>	
	<p><b>[PRP18-RC25]</b> ... In particular, the Panel <b>suggests</b> that the use of a standard template, respects for deadlines, data collection, transmission to central administration, transmission of data from central administration to NAMMCO Secretariat, and creation and maintenance of appropriate NAMMCO databases, be considered.</p>		
<p>6.2 Efficiency &amp; cost effectiveness</p>	<p><b>[PRP18-RC87]</b> The Panel <b>is of the view</b> that a centralized database on stock assessments (abundance &amp; removal data) and for the evaluation of trends in hunters' safety and hunting efficiency, is fundamental to providing repeatability and consistency in analyses and <b>recommends</b> that NAMMCO develops such a database as soon as possible.</p> <p>It also <b>recommends</b> development of a procedure that specifies, among other things, the level of accessibility to data within and outside NAMMCO, the data quality control process, and deadlines for data submission, among other things.</p>		
	<p><b>[PRP18-RC39]</b> The Panel <b>finds</b> that NAMMCO has done a significant amount of work on minimizing harmful hunting activities particularly concerning reducing the number of animals that are Struck &amp; Lost and reducing the time to death of hunted animals. The Panel <b>recommends</b> that NAMMCO, through the CHM and other bodies, to continue this work and to try to identify other harmful hunting activities that can be mitigated.</p>	<p>Noted CHM to continue good work</p>	<p>CHM</p>

## Diverse comments, compliments and recommendations from the Panel

AREA 2 – HUNTING ACTIVITIES			
2.1 Status of safety & animal welfare issues	<p><b>[PRP18-RC42]</b> The Panel <b>is of the view</b> that NAMMCO has given a high priority and expended considerable human and financial resources to its work on the safety, efficiency and animal welfare issues in all hunting activities under its purview and that outputs from Committee on Hunting Methods, including those from the workshops and Expert Group Meetings, have been substantial. The Panel <b>is of the view</b> that the work of the Committee on Hunting Methods together with the approval of its recommendations by the Council and implementation of these recommendations by member countries is one of the key elements that have made NAMMCO a credible organization.</p> <p>The Panel <b>recommends</b> that the work of the Committee on Hunting Methods should continue as new information related to weaponry and hunting methods becomes available and, as the Council deems appropriate in relation to other NAMMCO priorities.</p>	Noted (on-going)	CHM
2.4 Adoption of advice on HMs & transcription in legal instruments	<p><b>[PRP18-RC50]</b> Based upon the information provided, the Panel <b>concludes</b> that NAMMCO has identified increasing IDR and minimizing TTD as goals.</p> <p>The Panel also <b>concludes</b> that while members have made significant improvements in IDR/TTD in many of the harpoon grenade whale hunts, there are still differences, some of which are significant, among the rates for these hunts and there <b>is still room for improvement</b>. To improve performance on these metrics, NAMMCO <b>needs to</b> continue its efforts to understand the reasons for the different rates in different hunts.</p>	Noted - In progress. One of the issues that the PRWG expects to be dealt with by the upcoming CHM Expert Group.	CHM
	<p><b>[PRP18-RC51]</b> The Panel <b>also shares the concerns</b> that have been expressed by the CHM and others about the IDR/TTD and struck and lost rates for the rifle hunt of minke whales in Greenland. The evidence suggests that this hunt, by its nature, can never have "<i>an acceptable IDR/TTD rate</i>" and that its Struck &amp; Lost rate will remain "<i>unacceptably high</i>". In addressing these limitations, Greenland must also take into account the apparently increased reliance on this hunt for the meat that it produces.</p>	PRWG expects this issue at least partly addressed by upcoming EG?	CHM // GL
	<p><b>[PRP18-RC52]</b> The information reviewed by the Panel also demonstrates that NAMMCO has focused on gaining an understanding the number of animals that are Struck &amp; Lost in various hunts and the cause of these events to reduce the level of Struck &amp; Lost animals. For large whales, the data demonstrate that the number of animals Struck &amp; Lost is low and that NAMMCO members have made progress in reducing those numbers. However, for small cetaceans, it is not possible to assess whether efforts to reduce the number of animals that have been struck and lost have, to date, had any impact. The requisite data is not available, or its quality is not very high.</p> <p>The Panel <b>recommends</b> that the CHM and the Scientific Committee continue to work to define better methods for collecting data from all hunts on the occurrence of Struck &amp; Lost events and the circumstances surrounding those events. These efforts should continue to respond to the recommendations from the various workshop and expert group meetings. This Information is useful for providing better assessments, with reduced levels of uncertainty, and developing hunting guidance that reduces these occurrences.</p>	Seek comments from CHM	CHM
	<p><b>[PRP18-RC53]</b> The Panel <b>encourages</b> the CHM to continue its practice of working with people representing a wide range of interests, including hunters, on these issues.</p>	Noted Good work to be continued	CHM

## Transparency

Transparency is one of NAMMCO priorities

AREA 5 – INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION			
5.1 Transpare ncy	<b>[PRP18-RC62]</b> Given the above comments, the Panel <b>considers</b> that <b>NAMMCO’s transparency requires improvements</b> ; this could include a translation of key documents in English (e.g., relevant legislation), which should be available on the website.	Need CHM comments, useful for CHM’s work? Synopsis or more?	CHM // Parties

## Communication: Committees’ responsibility for the content of the website

The website is the preeminent tool for NAMMCO outreach to the outside world, its content must be accurate and reflecting the work of the committee. Although it is the Secretariat which prepares the content, the responsibility for its accuracy and completeness lies in the hands of the relevant committee.

AREA 7 – OUTREACH			
1.1 Status of marine mammal stocks	<b>[PRP18-RC7]</b> In preparing this review, the Panel found that some of the information about species and stocks that is included on the NAMMCO official website, is incorrect. The Panel was informed that the Scientific Committee has agreed to proof-read all scientific and technical information that is on the website. However, there is no formal procedure to carry out such an important task. Therefore, the Panel <b>recommends</b> that NAMMCO established a formal procedure to review and update the NAMMCO website regularly. The Panel <b>suggests</b> that all Committees, together with the Secretariat, periodically review and endorse their relevant sections, including all figures and tables.	<p>The website is the most important visibility and outreach tool of NAMMCO.</p> <p>Its content should be correct and updated. The Committees should be the guarantee of the quality of its content. The review of the content should be one of their recurrent tasks.</p> <p>FAC should established a review procedure.</p>	CNL, FAC, SC, CHM, CIO, BYCELS, Sec