

**NAMMCO**

***North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission***

**Seminar**

***Informed Opinion -  
on the hunting of marine mammals***

26 February 1994 - Hotel Saga.- Tromsø  
09.00 - 18.00

*The seminar is organised by the Secretariat of NAMMCO with support from the NAMMCO Fund*

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## ***Informed opinion on the hunting of marine mammals***

### **A special one-day seminar on information problems, needs and strategies**

26 February 1994 - Hotel Saga - Tromsø - 09.00 - 18.00

#### ***Seminar aims:***

- 1) *to provide those affected by "informed opinion" in the urban West - the marine mammal hunters, the administrators and the business people - with a forum for discussing problems, experiences and needs with regard to information on the hunting of marine mammals;*
- 2) *to involve representatives and specialists from a number of different sectors, such as business, the media and public relations, in a constructive discussion and exchange of ideas on information strategies for the future;*
- 3) *to discuss concrete ideas and specific proposals for future projects.*

#### ***Background:***

Most of those directly involved with the hunting and/or management of whales and seals are well aware of how public opinion in the urban West is "informed" on issues related to the use of marine mammals today. It is also clear that marine mammal management policy in many countries is itself largely informed by public opinion, which appears to be characterised by an increasing opposition to the concept of the hunting of wild animals, not least whales and seals, for whatever reason. This is particularly so in countries where the use of whales and seals for human consumption does not have the same economic, social or cultural significance as it does for the people of coastal communities around the North Atlantic and in other parts of the world.

The opposition to the hunting of marine mammals is by no means simply manifested as a difference in attitudes from one culture to the next. Whaling and sealing communities and nations have long been, and continue to be, faced with widespread and well-organised pressure campaigns aimed at stopping all hunting of marine mammals. Businesses have also been subjected to economic pressure for the marine mammal policies of their own countries, or of the countries from where their products derive. As a result, hunters, managers and business people alike have been forced to respond to the protest, criticism and misunderstanding of the issues by creating and implementing concerted information strategies to defend and protect their interests. These strategies have, however, rarely been coordinated either on national or international levels, and there have been few organised exchanges of views between those most directly involved.

We hope this seminar will provide for just such an exchange of views, and that it will also help to generate useful ideas for future information strategies and specific projects from which all involved may benefit.

## *Programme*

### *Seminar Chairman -*

Einar Lemche (Greenland Home Rule Government)

*9.00*

*Welcome and introduction*  
Kjartan Hoydal, Chairman of NAMMCO

### *Session 1) General background presentations - identifying the problems:*

*9.15*

Fred Pearce (UK), freelance journalist and author of *Green Warriors*:  
The Green movement and attitudes to sustainable harvesting of wildlife

*9.45*

Eugene Lapointe (Switzerland/Canada), former Secretary General of CITES:  
Information problems and needs in international fora

*10.15*

Klaus Barthelmess (Germany), whaling historian and researcher:  
Public opinion and marine mammal issues in Germany - problems and needs

*11.00*

*Discussion*  
*Coffee*

### *Session 2) Specific problems and strategies:*

#### *Whales -*

*11.30*

Mike Curley (Director, Faroe Seafood, UK):  
Dealing with a consumer boycott of Faroese fish in the UK

*11.45*

Louis Wilson (F.I.S.C. - Faroe Islands Solidarity Committee - UK):  
Citizen action against anti-whaling campaigns in the UK

*12.00*

Nils Ragnar Kamsvåg (Foreign Affairs Department, Oslo):  
Norwegian information policy and the resumption of minke whaling in Norway

*12.30*

*Discussion*  
*Lunch (Saga Hotel)*

### *Session 2) cont. Seals -*

*1.45*

Kristian Fleischer - (Managing Director, Great Greenland):  
Problems and needs promoting and selling seal products

*2.00*

Dan Goodman - (Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada):  
Information perspectives and the future of sealing in Canada

*2.15*

Ivar Aune - (Aune, Bernhardt & Partner, Germany):  
Anti-fur activities in Germany - why seal doesn't sell

*Discussion*

**Session 3)      *Ideas and Projects - informal discussions (with coffee)***

**2.45**            Georg Blichfeldt - (High North Alliance):  
Comments on the seminar presentations and  
an introduction to the discussion session

**3.00**            *Discussion session*

*The third session of the programme is intended for informal discussion among seminar participants, with the input from the day's presentations having provided some background and specific case studies. If the main seminar proves too large a forum for constructive discussion, participants should be prepared to take part in one of two or three smaller discussion groups, to consider some of the following points:*

**1.      *Who ?***

- ☐      What is the information role and responsibility of:
  - governments
  - inter-governmental organisations (such as NAMMCO)?
  - the business sector?
  - NGOs
- ☐      How far can information work be coordinated between these different sectors?
- ☐      Is the business sector prepared to take a stand on the issues?

**2.      *What and How?***

- ☐      What kinds of information projects should be given priority?
- ☐      How can boycotts be dealt with / avoided?  
Do they pose a serious economic threat?
- ☐      How do we create better markets for sealskins?
- ☐      How can marine mammal issues be linked to broader discussions of wildlife use and conservation internationally?

**5.15**            *Summaries from discussion groups*

**5.45**            *Chairman's closing remarks*

**7.30**            *Dinner - Arctandria Restaurant*

### External Relations

Report from the Secretariat to the 4th Meeting of the Council, Tromsø, 24-25 February 1994

#### 1 Exchange of observers with other organisations and forthcoming meetings

##### 1.1 ICES

The 82nd Statutory Meeting of ICES will be held in St John's, Newfoundland, Canada 22-30 September 1994. An observer for NAMMCO should be appointed in good time. Particular attention is drawn to the planned Joint Committee Session on "Occurrence and Effects of Contaminants in Marine Mammals" (Marine Mammals Committee and Marine Environmental Quality Committee). Jóhann Sigurjónsson was NAMMCO observer at the 81st Statutory meeting in Dublin, September 1993.

Arne Bjørge, Chairman of the Marine Mammals Committee, is ICES observer at NAMMCO/4.

##### 1.2 IWC

The 46th Annual Meeting of the Commission will be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico 23-27 May 1994. Names of observers are to be notified by 15 April. Einar Lemche was NAMMCO observer at the 45th IWC meeting in Kyoto in 1993.

Ole Samsing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark, is observer for the IWC at NAMMCO/4.

##### 1.3 NAFO

The next meeting of the General Council of NAFO will be held in Canada in September 1994. NAFO's observer status at NAMMCO meetings has been delegated to Norway, with Hallstein Rasmussen as observer at last year's meeting.

Lisbeth W. Plassa, Directorate of Fisheries, Norway, is NAFO observer at NAMMCO/4.

##### 1.4 CITES - Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species

The CITES Secretariat was originally contacted in November, 1992 with an invitation from NAMMCO to exchange observers, but no reply was received. CITES was since re-contacted and the Secretariat has now responded positively to NAMMCO's suggestion to establish reciprocal observer relations.

NAMMCO is invited to send an observer to the forthcoming ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, to be held in Fort Lauderdale (USA) from 7 to 18 November, 1994. Names of observers should be notified by 1 July. CITES was unable to be represented with an observer at NAMMCO/4.

##### 1.5 CMS - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Correspondence has been maintained with Arnulf Müller-Helmbrecht of the CMS Secretariat in Bonn. An invitation is extended to NAMMCO to send an observer to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS in Nairobi, Kenya 7-11 June 1994. The deadline for notification of attendance is February.

CMS was unable to send an observer to NAMMCO/4.

### *1.6 ASCOBANS - Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas*

Correspondence and copies of reports have been exchanged with the interim secretary of ASCOBANS in Cambridge, Christina Lockyer. The Agreement was ratified by Denmark on 29 December and will officially come into effect on 29 March. Copies of the report of the preliminary meeting of ASCOBANS held in Cambridge in October are available from the Secretariat. NAMMCO will be invited to send an observer to the first full meeting of range states to be held in Sweden in late September (final details not yet available).

The interim secretary was not able to attend NAMMCO/4.

### *1.7 FAO - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*

FAO has been kept informed of NAMMCO meetings and invitations have been extended to send observers. It has not however been possible for FAO to send observers to NAMMCO meetings to date.

### *1.8 IUCN - International Union for the Conservation of Nature*

The IUCN Secretariat in Gland was initially approached for information on membership requirements. After corresponding with the Director General, Martin Holdgate, an invitation was extended to NAMMCO to send an observer to the 19th General Assembly in January in Buenos Aires. The Director General also expressed interest in NAMMCO's suggestion to establish working relations. The Secretary attended the General Assembly in Buenos Aires from 17-22 January. An observer's report is attached as Appendix 1.

An invitation was extended to IUCN to attend NAMMCO/4 but no further notification has been received.

### *1.9 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Canada*

An invitation to attend NAMMCO/4 was extended to the newly formed Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (Iqaluit, Northwest Territories, Canada). NAMMCO's invitation was discussed at the first meeting of the Board which was held recently, and a reply has been received from the Interim Chairman, who expresses interest in establishing contact and exchanging information with NAMMCO.

## **2. Observers' reports**

The Secretariat notes that written reports have not been received from NAMMCO observers to IWC, ICES or NAFO, and requests advice as to whether the Council requires written reports from appointed observers in the future.

## **3. Marine mammals and the principles of sustainable utilization**

At the third meeting of the Council in Reykjavik, 1-2 July 1993 (item 17, point 3), the Secretariat was instructed to gather information on: "other meetings, conferences and working groups of relevance to NAMMCO in which issues related to marine mammals and the principles of sustainable utilization of living resources were being further discussed and developed" and to report back to the Council at its next meeting.

Since the last meeting of the Council a number of meetings have taken place where issues related to both specifically to marine mammals as well as in general to the principles of sustainable utilization of living resources have been discussed. However, time has not allowed for the production of a full report on these meetings and discussions. A brief outline is presented below, and the Secretariat will continue to follow

developments and compile relevant documentation with the view to preparing a comprehensive report later in the year.

No doubt the most significant discussions of the principles of sustainable utilization have gone on within the IUCN, specifically with the work of the Species Survival Commission's Specialist Group on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species, which formulated a text of guidelines for the 19th General Assembly of IUCN. This is discussed in Appendix 1 - observer's report from the IUCN General Assembly, Buenos Aires, January 1994.

ISI - Indigenous Survival International - held its 7th General Assembly in Sisimiut, Greenland, 14-18 August 1993. A number of resolutions were passed related to marine mammals and sustainable utilization. Amalie Jessen is the member for Greenland of the ISI Steering Committee.

The 5th World Wilderness Congress was held in Tromsø 27 September - 3 October 1993. This was organised to coincide with the 1st Northern Forum Conference. The overriding theme of the Wilderness Congress was "Wild Nature and Sustainable Living in Circumpolar Regions" and discussions in general revolved around defining the concept of wilderness from different perspectives. The programme included a symposium entitled "Arctic Wildlife and Whaling: Conflicts in Management", with a one-day workshop on whaling, consisting of a series of lectures focused mainly on the resumption of commercial minke whaling in Norway, and concluding with a panel discussion and debate on the issues.

The Northern Forum also organised a session entitled "Management of Living Marine Resources - towards new regimes" which dealt with both fisheries and marine mammal management issues.

The European Bureau for Conservation and Development organised a conference in Brussels 29-30 November, 1993 entitled "Responsible Wildlife Resource Management"; to which the Secretary was invited to give a lecture on NAMMCO. Other presentations included the specific examples of kangaroo, elephant and seal management; as well as more general papers dealing with issues of sustainable use, animal welfare and cultural and biological diversity.

The lectures given at the Symposium entitled "The Role of Wildlife Use in Shaping Local Culture", hosted by the Institute of Cetacean Research in Tokyo (8-10 February 1994) also presented several different case studies of wild resource management on local levels, including the examples of sea turtles in Nicaragua, marine mammals in Greenland and Canada, whaling in Indonesia, elephants and other wildlife in Zimbabwe, and fur seals in the Pribilof Islands.

In general it can be said that in many of these fora and discussions, differences in basic definitions of the generally-accepted and widely-used terminology are often at the heart of the issue, in particular with respect to the such key words as conservation, management, sustainability, and even use. These terms are being defined by the contexts in which they are used - an important factor to bear in mind in future discussions in international fora.

## Report on External Relations - Appendix 1

### **The 19th General Assembly of IUCN - the World Conservation Union,**

#### Observer's report

Buenos Aires, 17-26 January 1994

Following an invitation to NAMMCO from the Director General of IUCN, and after consultation with the Chairman of NAMMCO, the Secretary, Kate Sanderson, attended the IUCN General Assembly in Buenos Aires from 17-22 January as observer for NAMMCO.

#### **1. IUCN - background and structure**

The IUCN (World Conservation Union), established in 1948, is one of the oldest international conservation organisations, with a membership comprised of over 60 States, as well as government agencies, international and national non-governmental organisations, and affiliate members, which together make up a membership of some 650. In 1980 the IUCN launched its "World Conservation Strategy", and this was followed up in 1991 with the release of a new strategy entitled "Caring for the Earth - A Strategy for Sustainable Living", with recommended actions for creating and maintaining a sustainable society. The theme of the 19th General Assembly was "Caring for the Earth and its People".

Membership is divided into three categories: A, B or C. State members and government agencies are A members. States have three votes each in the General Assembly, while government agencies have one of the three votes of their State, or one vote if they are independent members. National and international non-governmental organizations are B-members. National NGOs have one vote each, while international NGOs have two votes, C members (affiliates) are observers only.

It is not possible for inter-governmental organisations such as NAMMCO to become full voting members. IUCN has working and observer relations with a range of other organisations, including the IWC. The question of establishing working relations between NAMMCO and the IUCN was raised in a letter to the Director General in November 1993, who replied in early January that the matter would be taken up in the Council after the General Assembly. The next meeting of the Council is at the end of May, 1994.

Other than its members in the General Assembly forum, the Union is comprised of the Council, the Secretariat (based in Gland, Switzerland), regional and national offices, and the following 6 Commissions: Species Survival Commission; Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas; Commission on Environmental Law; Commission on Environmental Strategy and Planning; Commission on Ecology and Commission on Education and Communication.

Chairs of the Commissions, regional councillors, the President and Treasurer are elected by the General Assembly. The Council is made up of the 24 regional councillors, (3 for each of the 8 geographical regions), the President, Treasurer, five co-opted councillors and the Chairs of the Commissions. The Council meets at least once a year.

The President of the IUCN for the next triennium (1994-96), elected at the General Assembly, is Dr Jay Hair (USA), who replaced Sir Shridath Ramphal (Guyana). The Director General as from April 1994 is Ambassador David McDowell (New Zealand), who takes over from Dr Martin Holdgate (UK).



## 2. The 19th General Assembly

The 19th General Assembly began with a preliminary session on Monday, January 17 and an opening ceremony in the evening. Proceedings continued on 18 and 19 January with plenary discussions on the work of the various commissions, the proposed guidelines on sustainable use (see 2.1 below), the mission statement of IUCN and the election of regional councillors and a new president. Voting on resolutions took place in the second week from 24 - 26 January. Points 2.1 - 2.3 below outline briefly some aspects of proceedings of the General Assembly which are of particular relevance to NAMMCO.

### 2.1 *Draft Guidelines on the Ecological Sustainability of Consumptive and Non-Consumptive Uses of Wild Species*

The 18th IUCN General Assembly in Perth 1990 unanimously passed a resolution calling for the development of guidelines for the sustainable use of wild species. This led to the establishment of two different but related bodies which have been addressing the tasks outlined in the resolution. These are the Sustainable Use of Wildlife Programme (SUWP), which was established within the IUCN Secretariat by the Director General. The Programme is based in Washington, with Dr Steve Edwards as Director. The other, set up by the Chair of the Species Survival Commission, is the Specialist Group on Sustainable Use (SGSU), chaired by Robert and Christine Prescott-Allen (Canada). These bodies have been responsible for the formation of a draft set of criteria and guidelines for sustainable use of wild species. After three years of work and extensive international review by a large number of people, the final draft was reviewed and amended by the IUCN Council, resulting in the General Assembly document entitled: the "Guidelines for the Ecological Sustainability of Nonconsumptive and Consumptive Uses of Wild Species". The discussion of these "Guidelines" was one of the major features of proceedings in Buenos Aires in January.

The Specialist Group on Sustainable Use met in Buenos Aires just prior to the General Assembly to consider the application of sustainable use criteria to particular case studies, as well as to consider the four resolutions on the draft Guidelines. Doubts and criticisms were raised by members of the Specialist Group concerning the final draft of the Guidelines, and many were of the opinion that they should be further refined and tested on real use cases before they could be adopted.

This was also the main thrust of discussions and presentations in the General Assembly Workshop on the Sustainable Use of Living Natural Resources (20-21 January), which was attended by the NAMMCO observer. A number of papers were presented which outlined different case studies of the use and management of wild species, and discussions were focused largely on the appropriateness of the draft guidelines as related to these and other case studies. The two-day session ended with a specific discussion of the resolutions presented to the General Assembly on the draft guidelines, and it was already clear from this discussion that there was strong feeling that it would not be appropriate to adopt the Guidelines without further amendments and refinements. A small working group was set up to produce a compromise resolution.

The final resolution on the Guidelines which was adopted by the General Assembly commended the work already done in drafting the guidelines, but put off their adoption, calling for further refinement and testing in the field over the next triennium. This was considered a valuable result of the meeting. The draft text as it stood contained a number of inconsistencies and was considered too specific for application in all cases. The Specialist Group on Sustainable Use will now continue its work and undertake to further refine the Guidelines before the next General Assembly in three years time.

## 2.2 *Whaling resolutions*

Three resolutions on commercial whaling were submitted to the General Assembly, as well as two on the proposed Southern Ocean whale sanctuary. Wherever possible, the IUCN seeks consensus resolutions resulting from compromise between the proponents of resolutions on similar issues. The IUCN Secretariat had, prior to the General Assembly, consolidated into one text the three quite different commercial whaling resolutions, which had been submitted by the International Council for Environmental Law (ICEL), Greenpeace International, and the European Bureau for Environment and Development (EBCD). The same was done with the two resolutions on the Southern Ocean whale sanctuary proposed by WWF (UK) and the International League for the Protection of Cetaceans.

During the meeting in Buenos Aires, the three proponents of the commercial whaling resolutions met to discuss the possibility of a compromise text. Despite several attempts, this did not prove feasible. A meeting was then arranged by the Resolutions Drafting Committee, at which the first of the three resolutions (by ICEL) was used as the basis text, to which elements of the other two resolutions were added. This drafting meeting was open to any interested parties other than the proponents themselves, and was therefore also attended by the NAMMCO observer, and well as representatives from State members such as Denmark (Greenland), Australia, the Netherlands and the UK.

As no agreement could be reached on a final compromise text at this meeting either, it was agreed that the individual paragraphs of the final consolidated resolution should be voted on separately by the General Assembly. This included an operative paragraph, similar in the original ICEL and EBCE resolutions, urging the IWC to adopt the Revised Management Procedure and finalize the Revised Management Scheme and incorporate this into the IWC Schedule. This operative paragraph was voted down, although not by a large majority.

Previous General Assemblies of IUCN have adopted resolutions by consensus calling for the continuation of an indefinite moratorium on commercial whaling. Although the resolution on commercial whaling adopted by the 19th General Assembly was similar in nature to previous IUCN resolutions, it was significant that more rational, science-based views of whaling were reflected in resolutions proposed by IUCN members (ie EBCE and most of the original ICEL text). This meant that the resulting resolution had to be voted on paragraph by paragraph, as consensus could not be reached on the issue. It seems, however, that communication and organisational problems on the part of the IUCN Drafting Committee hampered the process and caused confusion when voting took place.

The consolidated resolution urging support for the establishment of a whale sanctuary in the Southern Ocean was also adopted, (and was not voted on), although the State members of Canada and Denmark, as well as some Inuit NGO representatives, stated that they would not have supported the resolution had it been put to the vote.

## 3. **In general**

It is clear that the discussions and policy formation taking place within the IUCN are of relevance to the conservation and management aims of NAMMCO. In particular, much work is being done towards refining the concepts of conservation and sustainable use, and this work will continue over the next three years until the 20th General Assembly, when the further revised guidelines for sustainable use are expected to be adopted. Rational, science-based approaches to the sustainable use of wild species, including marine mammals, are finding support among a growing number of IUCN members. However, it is also clear that more information and active input is required to ensure that such approaches are central to discussions of the conservation and management of living natural resources in the IUCN in the future.

## PRESS RELEASE

Fourth Meeting of the Council - Tromsø, 24 - 25 February 1994

The Council of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission - NAMMCO - held its fourth meeting in Tromsø, Norway, 24 - 25 February 1994. The Commission has as its objective to contribute through regional consultation and cooperation to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. It is established by an international agreement between the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway, and a permanent Secretariat has recently been established in Tromsø.

The fourth meeting of the Council was attended by delegations from the member countries. Observers from Canada, Denmark, Japan and Russia were present. In addition, observers from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) participated at the meeting. Observers from a number of non-governmental organizations were also present.

The Council expressed its satisfaction with the work of its Scientific Committee. Amongst the main tasks of the Scientific Committee last year were to provide advice on the status of six species of North Atlantic marine mammals and its review and consideration of current marine mammal management schemes with particular reference to the North Atlantic. The Committee initiated planning for a large-scale North Atlantic cetacean survey scheduled in 1995.

The Council requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work on management procedures and especially to look at the problems involved in the procedures developed in the International Whaling Commission known as the Revised Management Procedure.

The Council expressed its satisfaction with the working arrangements which have been established with a number of other international organizations and agreed that NAMMCO should take an active role at the international level in promoting the principles on which its work is based.

The Council received a report on the activities of the NAMMCO Fund. The aim of the Fund is to support projects which contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the rational and sustainable utilization of marine mammals.

The Council discussed the reports of the Working Groups on Inspection and Observation and Hunting Methods and agreed that these working groups should continue their deliberations.

At its meeting the Council approved the selection of a logo for the organization from the 119 contributors to the NAMMCO logo competition. The creator of the selected logo is Bárður Jákupsson from the Faroe Islands, who is the winner of the prize of NOK 10,000.

The Council agreed to hold its next meeting in February 1995.

# NAMMCO INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Fourth Meeting of the Council, Tromsø, 24-25 February 1994

## 1. Scientific Committee

Amongst the main tasks of the Scientific Committee last year were to provide advice on the status of six species of North Atlantic marine mammals and to review and consider current marine mammal management schemes with particular reference to the North Atlantic. The Committee initiated planning for a large-scale North Atlantic cetacean survey scheduled in 1995.

The Council requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work on management procedures. The Scientific Committee has established a Working Group on Management Procedures with the following terms of reference:

"to review management procedures in general, including to review the main systems that are developed in various fora and provide an assessment of their parameters on the basis of how they would be applied in individual cases."

It was agreed that the Working Group should be given the following future tasks:

- 1) With respect to the northern bottlenose whale, the Scientific Committee should undertake the necessary modelling of the species as suggested in the Committee's report. While completing this task, the objectives used shall as far as possible be compatible with the RMP-like approach (Revised Management Procedure) discussed in the report.
- 2) It was noted that the RMP could be an appropriate starting point in some future management cases. Therefore, taking into account the discussion in the Working Group and Scientific Committee, further development of RMP-like systems should be carried out.

## 2. Working Group on Hunting Methods

The role of the Working Group on Hunting Methods is to provide advice on hunting methods for those species of marine mammals relevant to NAMMCO member countries. The Group shall ensure that such advice is based on the best available scientific findings, technological developments and traditional knowledge, with due consideration given to safety requirements and efficiency of utilization.

Amongst the issues to be dealt with by the Working Group are the following:

- A comparative examination of levels of wastage of meat in connection with the use of grenade harpoons with two-claw harpoons used in minke whaling in Greenland and Norway, and four-claw harpoons used in fin whale hunting in Greenland.
- The production of a common manual with instructions for the use, operation and maintenance of harpoon guns.
- A comparison of parameters used for collecting data related to hunting methods.

### 3. Working Group on Inspection and Observation

The Management Committee reviewed the report of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation. The management Committee decided to charge the Working Group to carry out further work according to the following specific recommendations contained in its report:

- 1) The Working Group agreed to recommend that a standard NAMMCO checklist be formulated for inspectors. This could, for example, be along the lines of the Norwegian fisheries inspection report form: "Report on Inspection of Fishery in Norwegian Areas of Jurisdiction".
- 2) The Working Group agreed to recommend that a common system be used for recording data on the number and species of seals taken in respective NAMMCO member countries. This should be confined to simple data, such as is required in the annual catch reports for various hunted species in Greenland.

It was also decided to request the Working Group to pursue the development of a common inspection scheme for minke whaling in the North Atlantic, with reference to the following list of basic elements:

- check of hunting equipment (quality control)
- report beginning of hunt (departure, discovery of whale)
- report the catch from sea
- report intended landing destination of the catch
- check that exploding grenades have been used
- register number of shots in the logbook - whether successful or not (explain reason for failed shot)
- licences for catcher boats.

The Working Group would also consider other aspects mentioned in the report.

### 4. External relations

Since its establishment in 1992, the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission has established working relations with a number of other international organizations such as ICES, IWC, and NAFO. At its fourth meeting held in Tromsø, 24-25 February 1994, the Council of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission agreed to continue these relations in order to further its objective to contribute through regional consultation and cooperation to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. The Council agreed that the organization should take an active role in promoting the principles on which its work is based.

In its review of the activities related to the management and conservation of marine mammals undertaken by other organizations, the Council expressed its agreement with some resolutions adopted at the 19th General Assembly of the IUCN. Resolutions related to sustainable marine fisheries, marine pollution and the by-catch of marine mammals in fisheries, and fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic, among others, are based on the principles of sustainable use of resources and are consistent with the objectives of NAMMCO. The Council noted however

that the resolution on commercial whaling adopted by the IUCN contains a number of elements contradictory to the principles of sustainable use and international law.

Similarly, the Council expressed its concern that continuation of the zero-catch limit for commercial whaling by the IWC, despite the development of a Revised Management Procedure and scientific advice that certain whale stocks could be harvested on a sustainable basis, contradicts the principle of sustainable use adopted at the Rio Earth Summit. The Council of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission also expressed its view that certain proposals for the establishment of a circumpolar sanctuary in the Antarctic by the IWC would contravene the principles of sound resource management.