



NAMMCO COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

REPORT

Telephone meeting: 2 June 2016, 14:00 – 15:00 hrs

Online: Nette Levermann (chair) and Amalie Jessen (GR), Hild Ynnesdal and Kathrine Ryeng (NO), Guðni Magnús Eiríksson (I), Ulla Svarrer Wang (FO) and Geneviève Desportes and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

Background: Council at NAMMCO 24 tasked the Committee to discuss the following issues and give recommendations on how to best address these in NAMMCO:

- 1) to review its Terms of Reference and give suggestions on how best to deal with the animal welfare concerns related to by-catch, entanglements and strandings in the NAMMCO framework.
- 2) to organise a workshop on alternative methods for collecting standardised TTD data that are less expensive, thus making it easier to compare TTD between countries.
- 3) to review underlying reasons for struck and lost with the aim of decreasing the S&L rates.

At the last telephone meeting 3 May parts of issue 1 were discussed while the rest was postponed to the present meeting.

1. OPENING PROCEDURE

The chair, Nette Levermann, welcomed the participants. The agenda was adopted and meeting documents reviewed.

2. REPORT FROM THE MEETING 3 MAY.

With reference to the report from the meeting 3 May, the Committee reiterated the following three recommendations to Council:

- to revise the RoP with reference to paragraph II Membership, article1, with the following text:
Each NAMMCO member country shall be represented in the Committee and have one vote regardless of number of national representatives.
- to revise the ToR of the RoP to include the words animal welfare and efficiency in hunting gears, now reading:
The Committee shall, upon request from the Council or individual member countries, provide advice on hunting methods for those species of marine mammals relevant to NAMMCO member countries. The Committee 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, *animal welfare, efficiency in hunting gears* and efficiency of utilization.
- to establish a new Committee or Working Group to address all non-hunting animal welfare concerns.

3. How to best address the issues of animal welfare concerns related to by-catch, entanglements and strandings

There was consensus that the new body should be a Committee and not a Working Group. The Committee also agreed to recommend to Council the following ToR (based on the ToR of the Hunting Committee):

Terms of Reference

1. The Committee shall upon request from the Council or individual member countries, provide advice on *animal welfare issues related to non-hunting human induced activities, and live strandings, affecting marine mammals*. The Committee 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 for humans.
2. Members of the Committee may raise specific questions for discussion during meetings of the Committee. The Committee may make proposals to the Council for specific tasks to undertake within its terms of reference.
3. Non-member governments with observer status in NAMMCO may request advice from the Committee through the Council.

The Committee agreed to not limit the ToR to the specific issues of animal welfare concerns related to by-catch, entanglements and strandings, but rather widen the ToR to make it general and able to encompass situations not foreseen today.

It was emphasised that safety for humans (for instance rescue personnel in entanglement situations) has priority over animal welfare concerns.

4. ORGANISE A WORKSHOP ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR COLLECTING TTD

NAMMCO 24 tasked the Committee to address the following issue:

to organise a workshop on alternative methods for collecting standardised TTD data that are less expensive, thus making it easier to compare TTD between countries.

The Committee should give suggestions as to how these issues could best be dealt with in NAMMCO and where applicable the proposed activities should include a budget.

The Committee agreed that this agenda item would be best dealt with in a face-to-face meeting. To provide for an informed discussion the Secretariat was asked to prepare a background document describing the various methods and how collection of TTD takes place today for different species. The document should be circulated well in advance of the meeting.

5. REVIEW STRUCK AND LOST

NAMMCO 24 tasked the Committee to address the following issue:

to review underlying reasons for struck and lost with the aim of decreasing the S&L rates.

The Committee should give suggestions as to how these issues could best be dealt with in NAMMCO and where applicable the proposed activities should include a budget

The Committee agreed to ask the Secretariat to prepare a background document giving an overview of S&L today in preparation for an in debt discussion at the next face-to-face meeting. Member countries should submit a small report as input to the background document on various aspects of S&L based on a list of questions developed by the Secretariat. The document will also include a list of references.

6. DATE FOR A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING

The Committee agreed to hold a meeting in Copenhagen on 18 October.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues were raised under this agenda item:

NL reported on

- Participation in the IWC/NOAA Workshop: *Global Assessment of Large Whale Entanglement and Bycatch Reduction in Fishing and Aquaculture Gear*, Portsmouth, May 2016. The report will be available in the autumn 2016. References used at the workshop will be shared with the Committee by “One drive” link or other method.
- Asked if any NAMMCO member land planned to participate at the IWC Workshop on welfare in South Africa, May 2016. Norway had participated in previous welfare workshop, but would not be present in South Africa.
- NOAA had a hearing on a revision to the Marine Mammal Protection Act regarding fishery export and by-catch issues, which several NAMMCO member countries have taken part in. The US will ask for a document from fisheries having marine mammal bycatches above US standards. The document should describe the fisheries, bycatch issues and prevention for bycatch for any country wishing to export fisheries products to the US.
- David Mathilda will hold a disentanglement course in Greenland in June 2016 for wildlife officers and fishermen/whalers.

GD informed about the NAMMCO By-catch Working group meeting held in February 2016. The report will be circulated to the CHM members.

GE informed that they had held a training course for minke whale hunters in April before the season started.

8. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The report was adopted by correspondence on 22 August.