



Overview of Proposals for Conservation and Management: 2016 – 2017 – updated 150318

Advice Reference (Request Code; SC report, Item no.)	Proposal for Conservation & Management from MCC/Council	Recommendation for Research to inform management	Endorsement Code (e.g. 2018- 1, 2018-2)	Response from NAMMCO and member countries	Active? Completed? Standing?
General – not associated to MCs agenda					
SC/23-2016, 11.2.2.	Greenland should streamline their reporting system (between Piniarneq and Særmeldingsskema) and investigate why the numbers are different between the reporting schemes.		SC/23	Explanation of differences from Greenland at SC/23, and they are in the process of streamlining.	Completed at SC/23
Ecosystem Approach					
SC/24-2017, 7.3	Cumulative effects should be considered when new shipping and icebreaking activities are proposed for narwhal and beluga habitat areas [GR]		NAMMCO 26-2018		
Multispecies approaches to management/Ecosystem Modelling					
SC/24-2017		A small group from the SC will be organised to review the report of the MareFrame project and prepare a document for the next SC meeting.	NAMMCO 26-2018		
Environmental Issues					
SC/24-2017, 7.3	All information on the Mary River project be		NAMMCO 26-2018		

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	presented to the JWG. Someone from the Fisheries Protection Division in Canada should attend the next NAMMCO-JCNB JWG in 2019.				
SC/24-2017, 7.3		SC and WGs should add non-hunting impacts to their agendas.	NAMMCO 26- 2018		
Marine Mammal – Fisheries Interactions					
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1	Norway should increase the reliability and the accuracy of the by-catch data in areas with high by-catch by increasing the number of vessels included in the CRF [NO]		NAMMCO 26- 2018	is being discussed with the Directorate, and it may be able to increase CRF in problematic areas (SC/24)	
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1		Norway should improve species identification of by-caught seals. [NO]	NAMMCO 26- 2018		
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1	Iceland should obtain by- catch rate for the cod fishery outside the April peak season [IS]		NAMMCO 26- 2018		
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1		Provide data on the fleet especially on the pelagic and semi-pelagic trawl fisheries including	NAMMCO 26- 2018		

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		VHVO trawl (fleet composition, relative effort and by-catch information) to BYCWG. [FO]			
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1		Greenland should provide information on the reliability of BC reporting for all species. [GR]	NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		Revised by-catch analysis for harbour porpoise and seals should be presented to BYCWG [NO and IS]	NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Modify the design of the Coastal Reference Fleet selection process according to BYCWG recommendations. [NO]		NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		Collect jaws/photos of by-caught seals to improve species identification, and collect skin samples to inform genetic research. [IS]	NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Monitoring of the monkfish and Greenland halibut gillnet fishery in Iceland. [IS]		NAMMCO 26-2018		

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	Fishing trips sampled for estimating by-catch rates be selected as randomly as possible, to ensure observer coverage is representative of various fishing behaviours [IS]		NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		A proper assessment of the by-catch risk in the various fisheries in the Faroe Islands should be undertaken [FO]	NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/23-2016, 6.1.1 SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Add the selection of local marine mammal species to e-logbook design [FO]		NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Implement a reporting system for vessels below 15 GMT [FO]		NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		Review and present to the WG the data already collected by fishery observers on the monkfish fishery [FO]	NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Monitor vessels in the pelagic pair-trawl fisheries fleet with an electronic monitoring video system (EM) or onboard observers [FO]		NAMMCO 26-2018		

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SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Implement observer coverage in other fleets with potential for by-catch (see BYCWG) [FO]		NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Include documentation of marine mammal by-catch in the protocol of fisheries observers, as well as other standard characteristics of the fleet (effort, location, month, etc.) [FO]		NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		Review marine mammal by-catch reports made in fishery logbooks previous to 2016 [GR]	NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3		Summarise and make available the data collected by fisheries inspectors regarding marine mammal by-catch events [GR]	NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Implement a reporting system similar to that mandated by the species-specific executive orders [GR]		NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Include in the online reporting system for the hunters some kind of automatic validation [GR]		NAMMCO 26-2018		

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SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Validation of by-catch reporting data from the licensed hunters' online system against those from the buyers [GR]		NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 7.1.3	Obtain improved data on the numbers of seals shot at fish farms. [NO and FO]		NAMMCO 26-2018		
NASS and other surveys					
SC/23-2016, 9.2		Surveys should be repeated more frequently in areas where declines have been observed	NAMMCO 26-2018		
SC/24-2017, 10.2		Next NASS survey should be in 2022-2023 [ALL]	Not endorsed	MCC recommends that the SC continue with the planning process with developing a proposed budget as the first priority, and that the timing of the survey will be discussed by NAMMCO once these budget estimates are presented (NAMMCO/26)	
SC/24-2017, 10.2		Attempt to get trans-Atlantic coverage [ALL]	NAMMCO 26-2018	SC should include Russia in these discussions (NAMMCO/26)	
SEALS and WALRUS					
Harp seals					
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2	Greenland Sea stock: A catch level of 26,000 [GR and NO]		NAMMCO/25	NO – recommended catch levels implemented	

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SC/23-2016, 7.1.2	White Sea/Barents Sea: catch level of 10 090 1 + animals. [NO and RU]		NAMMCO/25	NO- catch levels of 7,000 animals implemented (NAMMCO-26) (note: the remaining quota was allocated to Russia)	
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2 and WGHARP 2016		Obtain samples to evaluate reproductive rates for White Sea harp seals [NO and RU]	NAMMCO/25	No commercial catches, one taken for scientific purposes (not sure if they collected repro samples)	
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2 and WGHARP 2016		New aerial surveys be conducted to estimate pup production of harp seals in the White Sea\Barents Sea and NW Atlantic in 2017 and Greenland Sea in 2018 [NO]	NAMMCO/25	Greenland Sea survey planned for March 2018. White Sea survey postponed. NW Atlantic survey conducted in 2017. (NAMMCO-26)	
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2 and WGHARP 2016		Staging surveys should be conducted during aerial surveys of all populations of harp seals. [NO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.1.2 and WGHARP 2016		Satellite telemetry tagging studies in the White Sea\Barents Sea harp seal population [NO]	NAMMCO/25	Planned for 2018 (NAMMCO-26)	
SC/24, ITEM		WGHARP meeting be postponed to 2019	NAMMCO 26- 2018		
Hooded seals					

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SC/23-2016, 7.1.2 and WGHARP 2016		Staging surveys should be conducted during aerial surveys of all populations of hooded seals. [NO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/24, ITEM		WGHARP meeting be postponed to 2019	NAMMCO 26- 2018		
Ringed seals					
SC/23-2016, 7.3.2		Satellite telemetry and collection of samples for genetics [GR]	NAMMCO 26- 2018	Satellite tagging and genetics study ongoing (NAMMCO 26)	
SC/24-2017. 8.3.3		Convene a Ringed seal WG (possibly in conjunction with a Bearded Seal WG) in 2020/2021.	NAMMCO 26- 2018		
Grey seals					
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		More frequent surveys, particularly in the areas of decline. [NO]	NAMMCO 26- 2018	Norway plans to re-survey the areas where substantial decreases have been observed (e.g., Nordland) next year (2018) (SC/24)	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	In the Management Plan, the target population level should be evaluated as the levels are not based on any biological assessment [NO]		NAMMCO/25	IMR in discussions with the management authorities on evaluating the target population levels for both grey and harbour seals (SC/24)	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	In the Management Plan, the quota should be set to		NAMMCO/25	Will be implemented into the Management Plans (SC/24)	

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	0 when the population is at 70% of the target level instead of 50% [NO]				
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Management plans should include all sources of mortality, not just the hunt [NO]		NAMMCO/25	Management Plans will be amended to include text that requires reporting of all sources of removals, including direct hunt, by-catch, and removals at fish farms (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	A mechanism for consulting IMR on for example seal distribution when fish farms are being built should be required when management plans are revised. [NO]		NAMMCO/25	IMR is working on implementing a mechanism where they can be consulted on issues such as seal distribution when fish farms are being built, but thus far this has not been implemented (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Tagging of grey seal pups. [Rescinded at SC/24]	NAMMCO/25	Tagging of grey seal pups has not occurred. There is some indication that tagging may make the seals more vulnerable to by-catch in gill nets (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Complete the genetics study [NO]	NAMMCO/25	Samples have been collected for the genetics study, and the results have been used to divide the hunting areas into 3 parts (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Reporting of all removals, incl. fish farms and commercial and recreational gillnet fisheries. [NO]		NAMMCO/25	IMR has been in discussions with the Directorate on possibly implementing such a system (SC/24).	

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SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Management Plan should be developed including: the frequency of surveys, legislation of seal hunting and re-evaluation of the target population level objective with the new level being based on biological criteria. [IS]		NAMMCO/25	Development of an advisory management plan for the population is ongoing, which includes a re-evaluation of current target population level objective (based on biological criteria) (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	A complete survey should be conducted to obtain a full, reliable abundance estimate [IS]		NAMMCO/25	A new population estimate population is underway (2017) (SC/24)	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Reporting of all removals (e.g., by-catches, hunted seals, any other removals) [IS]		NAMMCO/25	New management plan includes development of a reporting system for seal hunting and increased effort in by-catch data collection (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Pup production surveys at least 3 times [IS]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Tagging of pups for staging [IS]	NAMMCO/25	Tagging for staging continues (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Investigate whether the peaks in pupping differ in different areas around the country [IS]	NAMMCO/25	Tagging for geographical differences in timing continues (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Genetics samples should be collected and analysed [IS]	NAMMCO/25		

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SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Develop a monitoring plan that includes regular assessments [FO]		NAMMCO/25	The development of a monitoring plan for grey seals in the Faroe Islands will await the outcome of the 2018 survey (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Obtain minimum population estimates via haulout counts [FO]	NAMMCO/25	Summer survey planned for 2018 (NAMMCO/26).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2	Obtain reliable and complete reporting of all removals (e.g., all companies operating fish farms need to report). [FO]		NAMMCO/25	...the numbers of grey seals shot at fish farms in FO are being monitored, numbers have not been validated yet, but preliminary numbers indicate a downward trend. (NAMMCO/26).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Telemetry tagging studies [FO]	NAMMCO/25	plans to deploy satellite tags on up to 8 seals during the 2018 survey (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Collect samples from animals shot at fish farms [FO]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		A study using cameras to observe animals going in and out of caves [FO]	NAMMCO/25	FO reported that this not a high priority (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.4.2		Photo-ID study for a mark-recapture based population size [FO]	NAMMCO/25	this option is likely too time-consuming and likely not achievable compared to a survey (SC/24)	
SC/24-2017, 8.4.3		Research recommendations for Faroe Islands from CSWG in 2016 should be given a high priority. [FO]	NAMMCO 26-2018		

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Harbour seals					
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2		Increase survey effort [NO]	NAMMCO/25	new survey cycle started in the south of Norway in 2016 and is projected to be completed by 2020 (SC/24)	
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	Re-evaluate management units to ensure they are based on biological parameters. [NO]		NAMMCO/25	Management units – new genetics data being collected, started in north, some analysis being done, some structuring seen, full results later (SC/24)	
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	In the Management Plan, the target population level should be evaluated as the levels are not based on any biological assessment [NO]		NAMMCO/25	IMR in discussions with the management authorities on evaluating the target population levels for both grey and harbour seals (SC/24)	
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	In the Management Plan, the quota should be set to 0 when the population is at 70% of the target level instead of 50%. [NO]		NAMMCO/25	Will be implemented into the Management Plans (SC/24)	
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	Management plans should include all sources of mortality, not just the hunt [NO]		NAMMCO/25	Reporting of removals- discussing with directorate, numbers from fish farms, also accepted by-catch estimate expected (SC/24)	
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	A mechanism for consulting IMR on for example seal distribution when fish farms are being built should be required		NAMMCO/25		

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	when management plans are revised. [NO]				
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	Reporting of all removals, incl. fish farms and commercial and recreational gillnet fisheries. [NO]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2		Collect data from by-catches [NO]	NAMMCO/25	Data from by-catches – some older data being analysed, depending on problems identified. Period of bounty on coastal seals, required to send jaws (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2		Survey of the entire population should be conducted as soon as possible, and every 2 years while population is below target level. [IS]	NAMMCO/25	Iceland aims to conduct censuses bi-annually while the population is below target level and hence the next harbour seal census is planned in 2018 (SC/24).	
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	All removals should be reported (e.g., hunting, by-catch, etc.) [IS]		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	A Management Plan should be developed including outlining the frequency of surveys and legislation of seal hunting [IS]		NAMMCO/25	advisory management plan for the Icelandic harbour seal population is being considered which includes a re-evaluation of current target population level objective, outlining of the frequency of censuses, development of a reporting system for seal hunting and increased effort in by-catch data collection (SC/24)	

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SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	The target population level objective should be re-evaluated and be based on biological criteria [IS]		NAMMCO/25	See above.	
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2		Reproductive rates should be collected [IS]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2		Continue to investigate the effects of disturbance from tourism, and possible mitigation [IS]	NAMMCO/25	Research on effects of tourism are continuing (NAMMCO/26).	
SC/23-2016, 7.5.2	The method of catching pups in nets should be investigated. In NAMMCO, killing methods should be immediate. This issue should be referred to the NAMMCO Hunting Committee.		NAMMCO/25		
Bearded seals					
SC/24-2017, 8.6.1		A Bearded Seal WG, possibly in conjunction with a Ringed Seal WG, should be convened in 2020.	NAMMCO 26-2018		
Walrus					
SC/23-2016, 7.7.3.1		New abundance estimates (from Baffin Bay, West Greenland,	NAMMCO/25		

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		and the southeast coast of Baffin Island) [GR]			
SC/23-2016, 7.7.3.1		Age-structure of catches [GR]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.7.3.1		Obtain catch statistics from Canada [GR/Sec]	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 7.7.3.1	Struck and lost rates. This is lowest priority for the assessment, however not having newer, reliable struck and lost rates will affect the quotas given.		NAMMCO/25	WGs should indicate when more reliable struck and lost (S&L) were a priority for improving the assessment and make the most significant difference in terms of quota allocation, so the collection of S&L data could be prioritised for these hunts... could then give recommendations on how to better obtain S&L data for the targeted hunts (NAMMCO/26).	
CETACEANS					
Fin whale					
SC/23-2016, 8.1	A catch limit of 161 fin whales in the WI area and 48 in EI/F area; this advice should be considered valid for a maximum of 8 years (2018 to 2025).		NAMMCO/25	MFRI gave this advice to Ministry (NAMMCO/26).	
SC/23-2016, 8.1		Samples from a wider geographical area to include in an existing	NAMMCO/25		

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		study on close-kin relationship			
SC/23-2016, 8.1		Gather information on the annual cycle of fin whales including overall movements and indications of possible breeding areas (e.g. applying satellite telemetry).	NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 8.1		Continued collection of biological samples for age, reproduction, etc. from whales caught off Iceland.	NAMMCO/25		
Humpback whale					
SC/24 - 2017	SLAs that are developed in the IWC be used for advice for large whales in Greenland.		Not endorsed		
SC/24-2017, 9.2	Annual strikes of no more than 25 humpback whales off West Greenland from 2019 to 2024. [GR]		Not endorsed, request was not answered		
SC/24-2017, 9.2		Research on possible movements of individuals between	NAMMCO 26- 2018		

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		summering areas in the North Atlantic (e.g. satellite tagging, biopsies, photo-ID etc.). [ALL]			
Common minke whale					
SC/23-2016, 8.2	Annual catch of about 360 minke whales...for the Central North Atlantic medium area, and the advice of the WG of catch levels of 217 common minke whales from the CIC sub-area.		NAMMCO/25	MFRI gave this advice to Ministry (NAMMCO/26).	
SC/23-2016, 8.2		Collect age / sex / reproductive data [IS]	NAMMCO/25		
Beluga					
SC/23-2016, 8.4	Detailed information on the Mary River Project should be made available to the JWG.		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 8.4	GINR should be consulted when projects are in development, before final approval, or if the project plans change and/or develop further.		NAMMCO/25		
SC/23-2016, 8.4		Satellite tagging to get information on	NAMMCO/25		

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		movements and distribution. [GR]			
SC/24-2017, 9.4		Genetic analysis for stock identity of the summer takes in Greenland. [GR]	NAMMCO 26- 2018		
SC/24-2017, 9.4		More accurate, and recent, struck and lost data [GR]	NAMMCO 26- 2018	WGs will indicate which hunts are priority, where S&L rates would improve assessment (SC/24).	
SC/24-2017, 9.4	(Re-iterate previous advice from 2005 and 2012): Seasonal closures (see SC report) [GR]		Not endorsed	Greenland has not implemented the recommended seasonal closures because it sees it as not sufficient to use seasonal closures to rebuild a stock that is not there, because of other non- hunting activities found in the areas, including fisheries activities.	
Narwhal					
SC/24-2017, 9.5	Recognize the hunting areas in East Greenland, Tasiilaq, Kangerlussuaq and Ittoqqortormiit, as three separate management areas. [GR]		Not endorsed	The MCC requested that the SC provide a description of the criteria that are used for defining the management units before they can endorse the advice of splitting the management units into 3, the catch advice for Ittoqqortormiit, Tasiilaq and Kangerlussuaq, and the advice for no catches south of 68°N, due to the severe effects the regulations can have on the local communities.	

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SC/24-2017, 9.5	Catches of less than 10 narwhals in both Ittoqqortormiit and Kangerlussuaq. [GR]		Not endorsed	See above	
SC/24-2017, 9.5	the advice for the southern hunting areas applies only to Kangerlussuaq fjord. No catches south of 68°N. [GR]		Not endorsed	See above	
Killer Whale					
SC/23-2016, 8.8.2	Validation of catch data on a yearly basis [GR]		NAMMCO/25	a quality review of the catch data that is provided by the hunters is performed yearly (NAMMCO/26).	
SC/23-2016, 8.8.3		Information on killer whales (e.g., catch statistics and abundance estimate) should be gathered with more speed in order for the SC to be able to monitor the hunt.	NAMMCO/25		
SC/24-2017, 9.8		A working document should be prepared for the next SC meeting which reviews all available information and current research on killer whales in the North Atlantic. [ALL]	NAMMCO 26-2018		

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Long-finned pilot whale					
SC/24-2017, 9.9		Satellite tagging during grinds be given a higher priority [FO]	NAMMCO 26- 2018		
Harbour Porpoise					
SC/24-2016, 8.11.2.3	Catches should be validated, if possible, including assessing whether by-catches are included in the catch statistics. [GR]		NAMMCO 26- 2018		
SC/24-2017, 9.11		Scientific samples should be taken from harbour porpoises caught in the Faroe Islands [FO]	NAMMCO 26- 2018		
SC/24-2017, 9.11		Combined genetics analysis, with samples from all NAMMCO countries [ALL]	NAMMCO 26- 2018		
Sperm whale					
SC/24-2017, 9.12		Abundance estimate should be calculated (if possible)	NAMMCO 26- 2018		