



Marine mammals in the purview of NAMMCO

According to the Article 2 of the Agreement on Cooperation in Research, Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic (April 9, 1992; NAMMCO Agreement)

The objective of the Commission shall be to contribute through regional consultation and cooperation to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic.

In accordance to Article 2, all marine mammal species in the North Atlantic, exploited or protected, are within the remit of NAMMCO, as there is no reference to the protection or exploitation status in the agreement.

For reference, it should be noted that polar bears were not included, as the species was covered by another international agreement at the inception of NAMMCO.

However, the work of NAMMCO generally and specifically of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee has very much focussed on the exploited species and stocks, although during cetacean sightings surveys, any marine mammal sightings are recorded.

The list below provides the protection status of all marine mammals by Member Countries.

	Cetaceans		Seals and walrus	
	Hunting allowed	Protected	Hunting allowed	Protected
Faroes	<i>With restriction on areas, time periods and methods:</i> Long-finned pilot whale White-sided dolphin White-beaked dolphin Bottlenose dolphin Harbour porpoise	All other cetacean species	Grey seals (only resident sp.) around fish farms	None
Greenland	Bowhead whale (quota) Fin whale (quota) Humpback whale (quota) Minke whale (quota) Narwhal (quota) Beluga (quota) Killer whale Pilot whale Bottlenose whale White-sided dolphin White-beaked dolphin Harbour porpoise	All other cetacean species	Walrus (quota) Hooded seal Harp seal Ringed seal Bearded seal	Grey seal Harbour seal And for all seal species: lactating female and pup pair, pups with lanugo hair ('white-coats')
Iceland	Fin whale (quota) Minke whale (quota)	All other cetacean species	Grey seal Harbour seal (two only resident sp.)	None
Norway excl. Svalbard	Minke whale (quota)	All other cetacean species	<u>Pack ice hunt</u> Harp seal (quota) Hooded seal (quota – set to 0 since 2007) <u>Coastal stocks</u> Grey seal (quota) Harbour seal (quota) Permission can be granted during special time periods: Ringed seal Harp seal	Other seal species
Svalbard	Minke whale (quota)	All other cetacean species	<i>With restriction on time periods:</i> Bearded seal, allowed 01/02-27/04 + 05/06-30/11 Ringed seal, allowed 01/02-20/03 + 20/05 – 30/11	Walrus All other seal species <i>During breeding season:</i> Bearded seal Ringed seal