

Report of the Planning Group for the Conference on MMFS 16 January 2014

REPORT OF THE PLANNING GROUP FOR THE CONFERENCE ON MARINE MAMMALS AND FOOD SECURITY (CMMFS) Telephone Conference 16 January 2014

Members of the Planning Group for the Conference on Marine Mammals and Food Security (CMMFS) participated in a telephone meeting on 16 January 2014 from 14:00 – 15:20 hrs. Participating were Amalie Jessen, (Greenland), Einar Tallaksen, Ole-David Stenseth and Guri Mæle Breigutu (Norway), Hanna í Horni and Ulla Svarrer Wang (Faroe Islands), Christina Lockyer and Charlotte Winsnes (NAMMCO Secretariat). Iceland was unable to be represented at this meeting.

1. Opening remarks from the Secretariat

The idea of convening an international event focusing on marine mammal products and food security evolved from the Ministerial meeting and the subsequent NAMMCO Council meeting in Svølvær in September 2012. The draft agenda was compiled by the Secretariat in view of what had been discussed in connection with the planning process since then.

2. Establishment of the present group and election of chair

It was agreed to formally establish the present group as the Planning Group for the Conference on Marine Mammals and Food Security (CMMFS), it being understood that this was a working title for the Conference. Permanent participants would be Guri Mæle Breigutu (Norway), Amalie Jessen (Greenland), the person replacing Hanna í Horni (Faroe Islands), Ásta Einarsdóttir (Iceland) and the Secretariat. The Planning Group would be expanded when necessary to incorporate extra expertise.

Amalie Jessen was elected chair of the Planning Group.

3. Terms of reference

The Planning Group adopted the following draft terms of reference prepared by the Secretariat:

- 1. To look into the possibility of organizing an international event in 2015 that focuses on the use of marine mammal products in the context of global food security.*
- 2. To define the format of the event, the target audiences and the expected and desired outcome of the event.*
- 3. To develop a programme and identify speakers and set a date and venue for the event.*
- 4. To develop a budget, identify external funding possibilities and seek external funding.*
- 5. Given approval from Council, to organise and follow up the event.*

4. Time and venue in 2015

The Planning Group discussed time and venue and agreed that it was too early to finalise this. However, the group agreed to work towards convening the conference in the second part of 2015. It would be important to get an overview of other conferences/meetings taking place in 2015 before making a final decision on time

Several options were discussed on venue of the conference. Previous NAMMCO conferences have been held on Shetland (1995), Newfoundland (1997) and Iceland (2003). Of the NAMMCO member countries Greenland, Faroe Islands and Norway would be strong candidates, and looking outside NAMMCO, Brussels and Rome were mentioned as possibilities.

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5. Draft working paper: prospectus and programme

Document NAMMCO/CMMFS-January/2014/4 gave the last updated version of the working paper containing both a draft prospectus, conference objectives and programme. The working paper is based on all previous meetings and discussions related to the conference.

It was commented that the present draft programme was biased *pro* whaling/sealing, and that it would benefit from being more balanced. The group agreed to have a face to face meeting where the programme and content of the conference could be discussed in detail. In the interim members were tasked with supplying written comments to the working paper: prospectus, objectives and programme and to distribute this to all members.

Attention was drawn to the upcoming “Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth” being held in The Hague, Netherlands, 22 - 25 April 2014. Norway confirmed that they would attend but it was still uncertain by whom. www.globaloceansactionsummit.com

In general, all members were encouraged to share information of interest to the planning of the conference. Specifically, Amalie Jessen would contact Despina Symons at the European Bureau for Conservation & Development (EBCD) and Ole-David Stenseth would supply information on the 2015 Svalbard conference convened by University of Svalbard, the Marine Institute and the Ministry of Fisheries in Norway.

6. Budget

Document NAMMCO/CMMFS-January/2014/5 gave a preliminary budget for the conference. The budget was based on a two days’ conference with 50 participants and 14 invited speakers. It was emphasised that this was a very preliminary draft highlighting the main expenditures items and also main income sources.

The Planning Group agreed that the budget should reflect in kind expenditure and income related to the time used by members of the Planning Group.

The Secretariat reminded the group that NORAs deadline for application of funding is 3 March 2014, shortly followed by Nordic Council of Ministers in April 2014.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be a face to face meeting on Friday 28 February in Oslo hosted by the Ministry of Fisheries.

The report was adopted by correspondence 24 February 2014.