

**NAMMCO PLANNING COMMITTEE ON THE
TRANS NORTH ATLANTIC SIGHTINGS SURVEY (T-NASS)
WORKING GROUP IV
SHIPBOARD SURVEYS DEBRIEFING
Telephone meeting, 12 November 2007**

1. CHAIRMAN WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman expressed her profound disappointment at seeing that only two out of 7 Cruise Reports had been delivered to the TNASS Working Group in time for the meeting: the Faroes one and one of the Icelandic one. The first request for cruise report had been done by email on September 26. She reminded the delegates that T-NASS was a coordinated exercise under the auspices of NAMMCO, which had allocated special funding for the coordination. Big effort had also been put into it by the NAMMCO secretariat.

She underlined that the debriefing documents are an archive of information essential for the analysis and are an invaluable source of information for the future should NAMMCO again undertake the same kind of effort.

She questioned the delegates' will to cooperate within TNASS and suggested the question of coordinated effort should come on the agenda in the future. She reminded the delegates that the website had to be updated, a final Press Release had to be done, a preliminary report provided to the NAMMCO Council, as well as to the IPY umbrella project. Elementary input data fundamental to these activities were missing from most of the countries, although most of them were already conducting analysis and had the information at hands.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Due to the lack of submitted material the Chairman decided to deal only with points: 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 9, 10, 11 and 12, which was accepted.

3. APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEURS

Mario Acquarone volunteered to report from this meeting.

8. ANALYSIS STATUS AND PLANNING

8.2 Priority and deadlines for Analysis (also with reference to the T-NASS First Analysis Meeting, 2008 and the NAMMCO Scientific Committee Meeting, April 2008)

Iceland, Greenland and Norway reported that they will give highest priority to the production of new abundance estimates for minke whales (all) and fin whales (Iceland and Norway) to be presented at the next IWC meeting. The figures will be used within the IWC Revised Management Procedure and, in the case of minke whales, they will

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be included into the IWC Implementation Review. In order to be considered at the IWC meeting in Chile in May 2008 the working papers will have to be submitted by the end of February 2008. It was noted that the Icelandic aerial estimate for minke and fin whales would also be presented there. Greenland mentioned that they planned to present new abundance estimates for all the big whales to the IWC.

The chairman noted that the above mentioned IWC February deadline will fall before the next NAMMCO TNASS meeting (April 5-7, see point 12), meaning that the T-NASS data would be presented to the IWC before being presented to and reviewed by a NAMMCO forum.

The Faroe Islands reported that they will give highest priority to the production of abundance estimates for pilot whales. There are no external deadlines, but there was money in 2007 allocated to this analysis, so it should start in 2007. They will begin by looking at sighting distribution and will decide which analysis they will perform based on the type of distribution.

8.3 Plan for Analysis (Who does what and when?)

Iceland will in a first time analyze their shipboard data using standard Line Transect Analysis and will consider using BT analysis later. Thorvaldur Gunnlaugsson is in charge of this first type of analysis.

Greenland will also use standard Line Transect Analysis for their shipboard minke whale data and reported that they had very few primary sightings (about 20 minke whales and much less for other species) and therefore it was unlikely that they would produce reliable estimates for other species. Mads Peter was in charge of this analysis, which was well underway with preliminary estimate already produced.

Norway reported that they will start by analyzing minke whale data first and then proceed to fin whale data. The results of both species will be presented to the IWC.

The Faroes will cooperate with Iceland for the analysis. Iceland will be responsible for producing estimates from both minke and fin whale Faroese data, while the Faroes will take the lead for Pilot Whale data analysis. If they exist, pilot whale data from other areas than the Icelandic will also analyzed jointly with the Faroese. They would therefore be interested in knowing in which survey blocks there were pilot whale data. They were considering hiring an external analyst, probably someone from David Borchers' lab, as was done in the past.

8.4 Acoustic data check-up and analysis

The Chairman reported generally from the CODA debriefing meeting in St. Andrews and referred to the submitted material (SC/15/TNASS/35 and 36) for details.

Doug Gillespie (SMRU) has volunteered to check the quality and quantity of the TNASS Acoustic Data through random screening to better assess the need and possibility for detailed analysis. This was needed to find the right type and amount of funding for the analysis. The delegates agreed to send a copy of both the acoustics and

sighting database to Doug Gillespie at SMRU within the nearest future. Genevieve Desportes will re-con tact Doug to see how this could be best done and inform the delegates.

The Faroes noted that Phil Hammond (SMRU) had offered to include the Faroese acoustical data into the CODA data analysis. However he was not sure if this offer was sill valid and could not assess the timeframe for analysis. Also he thought that the Faroes data would be best analysed together with the other T-NASS data. He was ready to send the data for screening.

There was maybe some electrical noise on the Greenlandic recordings which might complicate or even impede any analysis. The Chairman noted that if Malene was not completely sure of the quality of the data, they could be sent to Doug, who had informed at the CODA meeting, that often parasite noise could be dealt with. Fernando Ugarte wondered if the data had not already been sent and will check with Malene what has happened with the Greenlandic acoustic data.

9. COOPERATION WITH CODA

9.1 Exchange of cruise reports between CODA and TNASS

The Chairman referred to an email round that had been sent to the delegates about the exchange of cruise reports and reported that she had received the agreement of Gisli Vikingsson and had not received any opposition to or negative comments about this exchange from others.

As agreed CODA has sent their Cruise Reports to NAMMCO (SC/15/TNASS/35) as well as the minute of the CODA debriefing meeting (SC/15/TNASS/36). CODA expected to receive the TNASS Cruise Reports and the minutes of the T_NASS debriefing minutes in the nearest future.

9.2 Coordinated Data Analysis with T-NASS

The Chairman reminded the delegates of CODA's renewed interest to continue cooperation with TNASS, especially for spatial analysis.

10 PRESS RELEASE AND INPUT TO WEB SITE

The Secretariat reminded the delegates that for the production of a press release and for input to the NAMMCO web site they should provide before the end of this week:

- The data of total planned and realised effort (missing for Greenland)
- A general map of the realised effort (missing for Greenland, the two Norwegian vessels and two of the Icelandic vessels)
- One map of the sightings for at least one species (preferably Fin Whale, missing for same as above).
- In case the Delegates cannot produce the maps themselves they have the option to send the Logger Database to the Secretariat.

11 OTHER ITEMS

All the Delegates agreed that they will make their Cruise Report available to the Secretariat before end of November 2007.

Iceland expressed interest in analyzing the TNASS Extension Surveys data, for minke and fin whale.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next TNASS Working Group meeting is tentatively set to April 5-7, 2008 in Reykjavik, back to back with the IWC Fin Whale WG meeting. Gisli Vikingsson has promised that he will give feedback before the end of the week about the dates of the IWC meeting.

It was proposed to invite the following external experts, besides the external member of the T-NASS working group (Hammond, Donovan and Palka)

- Hans Skaug
- Someone from David Borchert's lab
- Dan Pike (his status is to be defined: as Icelandic Scientist or as Invited Expert).

Appendix 1 - AGENDA (Part 1)

- 1. CHAIRMAN WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 3. APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEURS**
- 4. T-NASS OVERVIEW AND STATUS (by Geneviève Desportes)**
 - a. Budget
- 5. CRUISE EVALUATION PER PLATFORM ^c**
 - a. Platform and Equipment Preparation
 - b. Data Collection Procedures
 - c. Evaluation of Observers
 - d. Feedback from Observers
 - e. Completed Effort (amount and distribution)
 - f. Collected Data Quality (e.g. angle and distance)
 - g. Overall Evaluation
- 6. GENERAL EVALUATION**
 - h. Use of BT method
 - i. Cooperation with SMRU regarding equipment and guidelines
 - j. Cooperation with SMRU regarding land back-up during the cruise
 - k. Coordination between vessels
 - l. General T-NASS coordination
 - m. Other
- 7. DATA COLLECTED (number of sightings, tracks, duplicates)**
 - n. Target species:
 - i. Fin Whales
 - ii. Minke Whales
 - iii. Humpback Whales
 - iv. Pilot Whales

^c The Cruise Reports from each of the platforms should at least address the following points and should be circulated at the latest by 8:00 am UTC Monday 12 November 2007:

- modification to planned procedures (as described in observer guidelines)
- map of effort planned and achieved, including transect identification
- sightings distribution for the main species
- visual data obtained
- acoustic data obtained
- validation procedures both during the cruise and afterwards
- evaluation (w. description of main problems encountered)
- methodology
- data collection procedures
- observers
- platform suitability
- other.

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- v. Harbour Porpoises
 - o. Other species
 - p. Acoustic data
- 8. ANALYSIS STATUS AND PLANNING**
- q. What is possible with the data collected? (e.g. standard Line Transect Analysis, BT method)
 - r. Priority and deadlines for Analysis (also with reference to the T-NASS First Analysis Meeting, 2008 and the NAMMCO Scientific Committee Meeting, April 2008)
 - s. Plan for Analysis (Who does what and when?)
 - t. Acoustic data check-up and analysis
- 9. COOPERATION WITH CODA**
- u. Exchange of cruise reports
 - v. Coordinated Data Analysis with T-NASS
- 10. PRESS RELEASE AND INPUT TO WEB SITE**
- 11. OTHER ITEMS**
- 12. NEXT MEETING.**

NB Items 5. - 7. not considered because of insufficient documentation available 12 November 2007.

Appendix 2 - LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Telephone meeting, 12 November 2007

Doc. No.	Agenda	Title
SC/15/TNASS/24		Report from the 3 rd Planning Meeting – St. Andrews
SC/15/TNASS/25	1	List of Participants
SC/15/TNASS/26	2	Draft Agenda
SC/15/TNASS/27		List of Documents
SC/15/TNASS/28	4	T-NASS Overview (by Geneviève Desportes)
SC/15/TNASS/29	5, 6, 7	Missing - Cruise Report ^d from Arni Fridriksson II (by Gisli Víkingsson)

^d The Cruise Reports from each of the platforms should at least address the following points and should be circulated at the latest by 8:00 am UTC Monday 12 November 2007:

- modification to planned procedures (as described in observer guidelines)
- map of effort planned and achieved, including transect identification
- sightings distribution for the main species

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SC/15/TNASS/30	5, 6, 7	Cruise Report ^e from Venus - Genevieve Desportes and Sverrir D. Halldórsson.
SC/15/TNASS/31	5, 6, 7	Missing - Cruise Report ^e from Jákup B (by Thorvaldur Gunlaugsson) – a former preliminary version had been uploaded by the Secretariat
SC/15/TNASS/32	5, 6, 7	Cruise Report ^e from Thor Chaser - Bjarni Mikkelsen
SC/15/TNASS/33	5, 6, 7	Missing – Cruise Report ^e from Tulugaq (Jakob Rye)- - a simple Logbook for the Tulugaq had been uploaded by the Secretariat
SC/15/TNASS/34	5, 6, 7	Missing – Cruise reports ^e from Ulvos and Havsøl (by Niels Øien). An en email message reporting on the cruise had been uploaded by the Secretariat
SC/15/TNASS/35	9	CODA Cruise Reports (Collated)
SC/15/TNASS/36	9	CODA Debriefing Report - minutes
SC/15/TNASS/O2		T-NASS Cruise Leader Guide
SC/15/TNASS/O3		T-NASS Observer Guide
SC/15/TNASS/O4		LOGGER Manual for CODA and T-NASS 2007
SC/15/TNASS/O5		Validation Manuals
SC/15/TNASS/O6		Acoustic Manual
SC/15/TNASS/O7		Forms and Sheets

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- visual data obtained
 - acoustic data obtained
 - validation procedures both during the cruise and afterwards
 - evaluation (w. description of main problems encountered)
 - methodology
 - data collection procedures
 - observers
 - platform suitability
 - other

A NOTE ABOUT THE T-NASS AERIAL TELEPHONE DEBRIEFING

Telephone meeting, 13 November 2007

The T-NASS Aerial Survey Debriefing telephone meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 13 November 2007 14:00 UTC was cancelled by the Chairman due to the paucity of documents available for discussion. Only the Icelandic report from Dan Pike was received, and the Canadian and Greenlandic reports were missing.

5.6

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