

WORKING GROUP ON BY-CATCH, ENTANGLEMENTS AND LIVE STRANDINGS (BYCELS)

4 October 2019, Greenland Representation, Copenhagen: 09:00 hrs – 17:00 hrs

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

Chair Guðni Magnús Eiríksson will open the meeting for comments to the agenda, (NAMMCO/BYCELS-2019-01/01) and review the meeting documents, (NAMMCO/BYCELS-2019-01/02).

2. COMMITTEE ANNUAL ACTIVITY-MEETING SCHEDULE

NAMMCO/CHM/CIO/BYCELS-2019/01 is prepared by the Secretariat and proposes an annual meeting schedule.

Elements for consideration: annual reporting of requested data for CHM/CIO/ BYCELS, dates of Council, CIO, CHM meetings, observation scheme

3. PANEL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Group (PRWG) reviewing and following up the recommendations from the Performance Review Panel is seeking the views of the NAMMCO Committees and BYCELS on the recommendations specific to their areas of work.

NAMMCO/BYCELS-2019-01/03 (circulated to all members 23 August) defines the task assigned to the BYCELS and provides the list of recommendations related to the committee. Other documents for consideration under this agenda item are:

NAMMCO/PRWG19-01/Final Report

NAMMCO27-2019/Report of the Performance Review Panel

BYCELS is requested to address the recommendations and issues forwarded to them, considering:

- a) the relevance of the recommendations,
- b) inform of further issues they have identified specifically related to specific recommendations but also in general within the work of their committee,
- c) propose ways for implementing the recommendations and improving processes if relevant.

The Committees' views will represent an important input to the PRWG formulation of follow up actions to be forwarded to Council.

3.1 Recommendation pertaining to area 7 in document NAMMCO/BYCELS-2019-02/03 on procedure for website updating

The website is the most important visibility and outreach tool in NAMMCO. Procedures for ensure accurate and updated information should be developed. Committees should be the guarantee of the quality of its content through a review of content. One proposal to ensure this may be to include such a review as a standing agenda item once a year.

3.2 Recommendations pertaining to area 1 and 3 in document NAMMCO/BYCELS-2019-02/03 on data quality

This recommendation deals with data storage, data quality and data sharing. BYCELS has already started this process and the item will be dealt with under agenda item 4.

4. DATABASE, DATA REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

COUNCIL 27 endorsed the recommendation of extending the current NPR to include the annual data reporting from CHM/CIO/BYCELS.

NAMMCO/CHM/CIO/BYCELS-2019/02 represents the excel file describing the committees data needs. The current document is based on what has been agreed by the committee up to Council 27.

Current deadline for submission of NPR is 1 March. To accommodate CHM/CIO/BYCELS it is suggested to change this to 1 February. This would then place the annual meeting of CHM somewhere in February.

On the issue of developing a proper database with the Secretariat as depository, Council did not discuss it and no decision was taken.

BYCELS is expected to finalise the description and categories of data that member countries will be requested to submit and agree on deadline for annual submission of the data.

5. GUIDELINES

BYCELS has agreed to develop guidelines on

- How to euthanise live stranded animals
- How to take samples from stranded animals
- How to disentangle in the Arctic

NAMMCO/BYCELS-2019-01/04 is a draft text prepared by Kathrine Ryeng and Charlotte Winsnes on euthanising live stranded animals. The text is based on the Norwegian guidelines – see below.

No guidelines have been developed for sampling of stranded animals but attention is drawn to ASCOBANS best practice and also the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme - <http://www.strandings.org/>.

Background documents:

- BYCELS/2019-01/FI02: ASCOBANS: Best practice on cetacean post-mortem investigations and tissue sampling.
- BYCELS/2019-01/FI03: Norwegian Directorate for Fisheries: Dyrevelferdsmessig forsvarlig håndtering av levnedde strandet hval, hval i oppdrettsmerder og hval viklet inn i fiskeredskaper i sjøen.

NAMMCO/BYCELS-2019-01/05 is a draft text prepared by Kathrine Ryeng and Charlotte Winsnes on disentanglement in the Arctic.

6. STRANDING NETWORK

The Secretariat was tasked to look at how existing stranding networks are set up and working.

There are several networks in place e.g.

JOHNA in New Zealand <https://www.projectjonah.org.nz/>,

CSIP in the UK <http://ukstrandings.org/>,

Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme, <http://www.strandings.org/>.

Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program Marine in the US

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-life-distress/marine-mammal-health-and-stranding-response-program>

IWC <https://iwc.int/strandings-initiative>

NAMMCO/BYCELS-2019-01/06 is a draft on how to set up stranding networks and what to report and where to store the data.

Background documents:

- BYCELS/2019-01/FI04: British Divers Marine Live Rescue guidance stranded animals
- BYCELS/2019-01/FI05: IWC Workshop “Harmonising Global Strandings Response” 7 December 2019, Barcelona aim to synergise existing initiatives in marine mammal emergency response and to identify what is required to coordinate, support, enhance and globalise the response to strandings.

7. NEXT MEETING

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS