



## Dear NAMMCO Committees

### **Ref.: Follow up of the NAMMCO Performance Review**

Council 27 established an *ad hoc* Working Group (PRWG) led by the Chair of Council, Kate Sanderson (Faroe Islands) to review and follow up on the recommendations introduced in the Report of the NAMMCO Performance Review (attached).

The PRWG met in Copenhagen in June 2019 to examine the over-arching conclusions of the Review Panel and decide on a way forward - see attached report. The PRWG now seeks the views of NAMMCO Committees and BYCELS on the recommendations specific to their areas of work. The Committees' views will represent an important input to the PRWG formulation of follow up actions to be forwarded to Council.

The PRWG would like to underline that the overall conclusions of the Performance Review (PR) were positive, and that NAMMCO is a well-functioning organisation, thanks to the Committees' input and work. There were, however, areas where NAMMCO could consolidate its work and performance. The PR report gives an excellent opportunity for reviewing working processes in NAMMCO and recommend and implement changes which would facilitate the workflow as well as the communication between NAMMCO's bodies.

The Committees are, therefore, requested to address the recommendations and issues forwarded to them (see specific recommendations below). In reviewing the recommendations, the Committees should

- a) **Consider the relevance of the recommendations.**
- b) **Identify any other related matters for which they may have suggestions for improvements to their work and working procedures,**
- c) **Propose ways for implementing the recommendations and improving processes, where relevant.**

The considerations and recommendations of the Committees should be clearly and thoroughly substantiated.

The Committees should consider their answer in the light of five general priorities identified by the PRWG (See Item 7 of the PRWG report for further details).

- 1) **High data quality and reliability** – as needed for high quality science, which is at the core of NAMMCO management, and referring both to data collection and reporting/sharing and the recurrent aim of reducing data gaps for ensuring the sustainable and precautionary management based on the best scientific evidence,
- 2) **Follow up on the advices provided by the Committees** – with the need of a clear, standardised and well described follow up process,
- 3) **Transparency** – referring to all processes and working procedures of the organisation and, particularly, the advice formulation process and the response from the member countries,
- 4) **Precautionary approach** – in the process of decision making and thereby also the management advice-generating process,
- 5) **Communication** – i.e. providing reliable information and raising awareness about the work of NAMMCO [with the website as the preminent tool of communication and outreach of NAMMCO. The information contained should be complete, clear, updated and accurate].

The PRWG ask that these issues be dealt with by the Committees in the autumn 2019, so their response and input are available to the PRWG November meeting.

Thanks in advance for your input

  
Geneviève Desportes  
General Secretary  
Tromsø, 22 August 2019

**North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission**

+47 77687371; [nammco-sec@nammco.no](mailto:nammco-sec@nammco.no), [www.nammco.no](http://www.nammco.no) [facebook.com/nammco.no](https://facebook.com/nammco.no) [twitter.com/NAMMCO\\_sec](https://twitter.com/NAMMCO_sec)

## Points specific to the Committee on Inspection and Observation

### Quality of data collection and reporting

The Panel has a general concern over a lack of standardisation in data collection, transmission and sharing, which is expressed in different recommendations. Although these are more pertaining to the SC and the CHM, the more general ones also pertained to the CIO.

<b>AREA 1 &amp; 2 - CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF STOCKS &amp; HUNTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Comments PRWG</b>
<p><b>[PRP18-RC20]</b> Measures of hunting effort related to catches of some species could be obtained relatively easily from analyses of hunting licenses issued, logbooks and inspection and observation reports and interviews with hunters. The Panel <b>recommends</b> that ship strikes [and strandings] be reported more consistently.</p>	<p><b>Priority - Question of data quality: Strong attention to be given and action needed.</b></p> <p>Relates to quality of data collection and storage in all sectors.</p>
<p><b>[PRP18-RC25]</b> In particular, the Panel <b>suggests</b> that the use of a standard template, respects for deadlines, data collection, transmission to central administration, transmission of data from central administration to NAMMCO Secretariat, and creation and maintenance of appropriate NAMMCO databases, be considered.</p>	<p>Also, organisational question.</p> <p>Reliable database necessary – priority action, with guidelines on data quality and sharing process.</p>

### Committees' responsibility for the content of the website

The website is the preeminent tool for NAMMCO outreach to the outside world, its content must be accurate and reflecting the work of the committee. Although it is the Secretariat which prepare the content, the responsibility for its accuracy lies in the hands of the relevant committee.

<b>AREA 7 – OUTREACH</b>	<b>Comments PRWG</b>
<p><b>[PRP18-RC7]</b> In preparing this review, the Panel found that some of the information about species and stocks that is included on the NAMMCO official website, is incorrect. The Panel was informed that the Scientific Committee has agreed to proof-read all scientific and technical information that is on the website. However, there is no formal procedure to carry out such an important task. Therefore, the Panel <b>recommends</b> that NAMMCO established a formal procedure to review and update the NAMMCO website regularly. The Panel <b>suggests</b> that all Committees, together with the Secretariat, periodically review and endorse their relevant sections, including all figures and tables.</p> <p>Therefore, the Panel <b>recommends</b> that NAMMCO established a formal procedure to review and update the NAMMCO website regularly. The Panel <b>suggests</b> that all Committees, together with the Secretariat, periodically review and endorse their relevant sections, including all figures and tables.</p>	<p>The website is the most important visibility and outreach tool of NAMMCO. Its content should be correct and updated. The Committees should be the guarantee of the quality of its content. The review of the content should be one of their recurrent tasks.</p> <p>FAC should established a review procedure.</p>

### Quality of the Observation and Inspection activities

The Panel provided some elements of reflection about the Inspection and Observation scheme, especially considering the price versus outcome. The CIO should comment on those and specifically on the possible use of alternative methods.

<b>AREA 3 – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT</b>		<b>Comments PRWG</b>
<p>General PRP criteria:</p> <p>3.1 Enforcement of hunting legislation</p>	<p><b>[PRP18-RC54]</b> NAMMCO and its members have established a two-part system for monitoring compliance with national laws... The other part is the "NAMMCO Observation Scheme". The Panel has not examined and did not comment on these programs. The other part is the "NAMMCO Observation Scheme". The Panel <b>is concerned</b> that the Observation Scheme does not provide benefits that are commensurate with its costs. Therefore, the Panel <b>recommends</b> that the Council use the ongoing review of the NAMMCO Observation Scheme as a catalyst for reform.</p> <p>The Panel <b>believes</b> that the first step in a reform effort should be to clearly define, in NAMMCO's overall Strategic Plan, NAMMCO's objectives for observing the hunts of marine mammals in NAMMCO's area. The Scheme currently establishes that its purpose "<i>is to provide a mechanism for NAMMCO to monitor whether decisions made by the Commission are respected.</i>" This purpose seems somewhat out of step with the NAMMCO Agreement as the Commission makes recommendations that are implemented at the discretion of the individual members. In establishing the objectives of the Observation Scheme, the Panel <b>urges</b> the Council to consider the costs of and benefits from the current scheme. To date, only two infractions have been reported in the 20 years that the Scheme has been in operation. It seems improbable that this accurately reflects the levels of compliance in NAMMCO's hunts. The cost of this effort has been 1.66 million NOK. The Panel <b>doubts</b> that the amount of hunting activity observed, along with the fact that hunters have advanced notice that particular hunts are being observed, allows for NAMMCO to obtain an accurate picture of how the hunt for a specific species in a particular manner occurs over time. The Panel <b>recognizes</b> that there may be benefits to NAMMCO that result from the fact that it monitors hunting activities. The Panel <b>believes</b> that those benefits quickly diminish and can become a liability if the mechanism for monitoring hunts is viewed as not providing an accurate portrayal of the hunts. If the Council determines that one of the objectives of the scheme is to obtain an accurate understanding of the level of compliance with national laws implementing NAMMCO recommendations, the Panel <b>believes</b> that significantly more resources will need to be devoted to the operation of the Observations Scheme.</p> <p>Given the many significant demands on the limited resources of the Commission, the Council <b>may consider taking</b> an alternative approach to compliance monitoring such as conducting regular audits of the inspection programs of each of the members and providing support for improving the functioning of those programs where appropriate.</p> <p>Finally, the Panel <b>recommends</b> that if the Commission is to continue to operate the Observation Scheme the Council explore ways of making the work done under the Observation Scheme more transparent. Currently, the only information on the NAMMCO website about the outcomes of the work under the scheme is contained in the reports of the CIO meetings. If the Council decides that continuing the operation of the Observation scheme is in the strategic interests of the Commission, it should also consider how to make the results of that work more easily accessible to stakeholders.</p>	<p>Ongoing review of the Observation Scheme.</p> <p>New part B has been adopted by CNL27, part A in review by CIO</p> <p>Now two folds: a) observation of hunting, b) implementation of advice by parties.</p> <p>Priorities of observation could be assigned in relation to hunting levels.</p> <p>Seek input from CIO on priorities, effort to reach objective, and alternative methods.</p> <p>CIO to increase transparency on website.</p>