



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 IFCELS 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 advice 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 preeminent 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



Genevieve Desjardins
General Secretary
Tromsø, 22 August 2019

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission