



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 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


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Tromsø, 22 August 2019

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Points specific to the BYCELS WG

Data quality and reliability

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 BYCELS WG.

AREA 1 & 2 - CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF STOCKS & HUNTING ACTIVITIES	PRWG comments
<p>[PRP18-RC13] The Panel believes that NAMMCO is an important mechanism for improving the collection of data and data sharing in the region. It recommends that the Secretariat and the Chairs of relevant Committees work with other relevant IGOs (particularly the IWC) to avoid overlaps in deadlines and facilitate the data submission process (e.g. using similar systems).</p>	<p>Priority - Question of data quality: Strong attention to be given and action needed.</p> <p>Relates to quality of data collection and storage in all sectors.</p>
<p>[PRP18-RC25] ...In particular, the Panel suggests 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, an organisational question.</p> <p>Reliable database necessary – priority action, with guidelines on data quality and sharing process.</p> <p>SC, CHM, BYCELS to provide input to establish and maintain database.</p> <p>NAMMCO needs good data quality.</p> <p>Standardised data reporting.</p>

Communication: 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 prepares the content, the responsibility for its accuracy and completeness lies in the hands of the relevant committee.

AREA 7 – OUTREACH	PRWG comments
<p>[PRP18-RC7] 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 recommends that NAMMCO established a formal procedure to review and update the NAMMCO website regularly. The Panel suggests that all Committees, together with the Secretariat, periodically review and endorse their relevant sections, including all figures and tables.</p> <p>Therefore, the Panel recommends that NAMMCO established a formal procedure to review and update the NAMMCO website regularly. The Panel suggests 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>