



Meeting of the Planning Group on Marine Mammals and Food Security

15 January 2015, Greenland Representation, Copenhagen

Participants: Amalie Jessen (GR), chair, Åsa Einarsdóttir, (I), Ernst Olsen (FO), Genevieve Desportes, Christina Lockyer and Charlotte Winsnes (as the secretariat).

1 & 2. Opening remarks for the Chair and adoption of the agenda

The chair welcomed the participants to the meeting. Guri Brettings (N) was prevented from participating at the last minute. The agenda was adopted and Charlotte Winsnes acted as rapporteur.

3. Status as of 31.12.2014

The Chair gave a short summary of the background and reason for the present meeting. The Ministerial meeting in 2012 recommended NAMMCO to work towards a stronger focus on marine mammals as a food resource – in general and specifically in relation to the issue of food security. A planning group was formally established at NAMMCO 22 in February 2014. Initially the idea was to organize a conference or an event. However, at the meeting in February 2014 the concept of the project was changed. The new idea was to develop a communicational tool that can be used to promote the idea of marine mammal as a healthy, ecologically, abundant, underutilized food resource. The project would consist of two main parts. Firstly, to produce a background document that would highlight the different aspects like stock status, health aspects, ecological aspects, food security in relation to human population growth etc. Secondly to communicate the message. The second part would encompass both development of how best to communicate/formulate the message and also thoughts on where to present this message.

The project applied for money both from NORA and NMR, and received funding from the latter. In June NORA declined with the explanation that the project seemed to be too ambitious within the presented budget.

The decline from NORA and especially more pressing work priorities both in the Secretariat and among the members of the planning group has prevented activity on the project up until now. During the summer and fall 2014 scattered and random information was circulated without any actions being taken before now.

Many food related initiatives both locally, nationally and regionally are and have been surfacing for some time (New Nordic mat, Bioeconomy). Engagement is growing and there are conferences, festivals and other activities that celebrate and promote local food resources making it a good timing to introduce marine mammals as an undeveloped food resource.

4. Rethinking the project

Based on the present situation the Committee reconsidered the project and reconfirmed its commitment to the project as defined in the February meeting; i.e. to develop a communicational tool as described under agenda item 3.above. The Committee proceeded to discuss how to best approach the two different parts of the project.