



TWENTY EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

17 - 19 March 2020

Oslo, Norway

DOCUMENT 08	REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS (CHM)
Submitted by	CHM
Action requested	<p>Take note of the report.</p> <p>Approve the revised concept and structure including budget, of an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) with scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve hunts where the animal is harpooned and shoot in separate sequences deploying two different types of weapons. In NAMMCO this would pertain to small cetaceans' hunts, the rifle hunt for minke whales, seal- and walrus hunts.
Background	<p>Council 27 had endorsed the proposal to convene two events in 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An EGM on hunting efficiency of small cetaceans as a follow up to the 2011 EGM A Workshop or EGM on methods where the combined use of harpoon and rifle is not one weapon. <p>They should be organised back to back due to overlap in participation and focus. NOK 100 000 tentative set aside on 2020 budget.</p>

CONTENT

This document consists of:

Summary of CHM activities March 2019 to March 2020 – *page 3*

Appendix 1; CHM report 3 October 2019 – *page 6*

Appendix 2: CHM report 9 February 2020 – *page 11*

1. MEETINGS AND MEMBERS

CHM has held two meetings: 3 October 2019 and 9 February 2020.

Committee members: Signar Petersen (the Faroe Islands), Nette Levermann (Greenland), Guðni Magnus Eiríksson and Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), and Kathrine A. Ryeng and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway).

Chair: Kathrine A. Ryeng

The next meeting is scheduled for 26-27 August 2020

2. OVERVIEW OF MAIN DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

2.1 WORKSHOP (WS)/EXPERT GROUP MEETING (EGM)

Council 27 had endorsed the proposal to convene two events in 2020:

- An EGM on hunting efficiency of small cetaceans as a follow up to the 2011 EGM
- A Workshop or EGM on methods where the combined use of harpoon and rifle is not one weapon.

CHM saw it as beneficial to combine the two events. The EGM on small cetaceans would address members responses to recommendations given in the 2011 EGM and review possible new information on hunting methods for small cetaceans. Special focus would be on hunting methods where death is not immediate, e.g. types of hunts requiring harpooning before killing in order not to lose the animal, or netting. The WS/EGM would have the same focus but be extended to also include large whales.

It was discussed whether it should be a WS making it transparent and open for all to attend or an EGM with participation by invitation only. Members held different views but concluded to recommend that it be organised as an EGM.

CHM urged Greenland to finalise the analysis of TTD data for beluga and narwhal prior to the EGM and recommended that the Faroe Islands undertake structured examinations and develop a spinal lance blade that will improve the dolphin hunt.

CHM agreed to recommend to Council to organise an EGM with:

The scope

- To improve hunts where the animal is harpooned and shoot in separate sequences deploying two different types of weapons. In NAMMCO this would pertain to small cetaceans' hunts, the rifle hunt for minke whales, seal- and walrus hunts.

Terms of reference

- Review and assess current hunting and killing methods,
- Review and assess information on recent and ongoing research on improvements and technical innovations in hunting methods and gear used for hunting,
- Review and assess updates on struck and lost and TTD data ref. recommendation in the EGM 2011 (narwhal & beluga),
- Discuss and recommend possible technical improvements.

Venue and time:

Maniitsoq or Ilulissat in 2021, probably late spring.

Possible experts were identified, and CHM underlined the importance of seeking expertise and experience from similar hunts outside of NAMMCO. As a first step it was agreed to look towards Canada and Alaska.

A revised budget will be presented to Council.

2.2 PANEL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

CHM had been asked by the Working Group (PRWG) reviewing and following up on the recommendations from the Performance Review Panel to address 13 recommendations. CHM reviewed and discussed the forwarded recommendations in their meeting on 3 October 2019 and the responses can be found in appendix 1, under agenda item 4.

In general CHM welcomed the Performance Review Panels assessment of its work and its role in NAMMCO, noting with appreciation that the Panel concluded that CHM “together with the approval of its recommendations by the Council and implementation of these recommendations by member countries is one of the key elements that have made NAMMCO a credible organization”.

2.3 WEBSITE – QUALITY CHECK

As part of the follow up to recommendations see 2.2. above CHM had agreed to a 3-step process to ensure the quality of the content on the website:

1. To review all current text and information related to CHM on the website by 31.12.2019.
2. To have review of new information on the website as a standard agenda item for the annual meeting of the committee. If needed this may also be done by correspondence intersessionally
3. To consider how to make the work of CHM more visible

With regards to step 1, Norway and the Faroe Islands have reviewed the information whereas Greenland and Iceland have not.

With regards to step 3, a proposal to develop an overview of legislative calibre and ammunition pertaining to different hunts, both what is used and if there are recommendations based on shooting studies to use different types.

2.4 WORKPLAN 2020-2021

2020

Meeting 26-27 August

- Assess the quality and functionality of the requested annual data input
- Planning the EGM on hunting efficiency to be held in 2021
- Finalise the video on handling the Whale grenade 99 – Winsnes will contact Henriksen Verksted
- Review document 07 – categorise into active (ongoing, pending) and completed (including if it is decided that the recommendation will not be followed up)

2021

- Planning and organise the EGM
- Follow up unresolved issues from 2020

2.5 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

The overview document NAMMCO/CHM-2020-01/07 lists all recommendations to member countries arising from EGM and WS and endorsed by the committee and Council, and responses from member countries.

CHM began reviewing all recommendations noting if one was completed or still active. Noting that several were still standing and presumably still valid, motivated a discussion on the rationale of undertaking new initiatives when member countries did not have the resources available to follow up. No conclusion was reached but CHM saw it was pertinent to have a dialogue and discussion around such fundamental questions.

This review process will continue.

2.6 UPDATE ON REGULATIONS AND REFERENCES

The listing of laws and regulations on marine mammals in members countries has been published on the website. The listings are linked to the original law/regulation text with translations where available or otherwise with unauthorised summaries in English. This work is ongoing in the sense that a few summaries are lacking. Likewise, the list of references is online and has links to the various papers/articles. Many of the references are IWC meeting documents that are not easily available, and CHM has agreed that IWC documents should be linked back to 2011.

2.7 DATABASE, DATA REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

CHM has discussed and finalised the annual data requirements pertaining to catch, stuck and lost, hunting periods, methods and effort to mention some. CHM see the 2019 reporting as trial year and will assess the functionality of the identified data categories prior to the 2020 reporting.

1 February was set as the annual deadline.

On the issue of developing a database with the Secretariat it was emphasised that the important part is to collect standardised data that allow comparisons between countries.

Appendix 1: Report of the CHM meeting 3 October 2019

The Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM) met on 3 October 2019 at the Greenlandic Representation in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Present were Kathrine A. Ryeng (Chair) and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Guðni Magnus Eiríksson and Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), Nette Levermann (Greenland), Signar Petersen (Faroe Islands) and Bartal Kamban (NAMMCO intern) and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

Actions arising from the meeting

Secretariat

- Circulate word file with compilation of all text on website to members asap
- Initiating the work of the Planning group under agenda item 3.

All members

- Deadline 31 December: review all current text and information on the website
- When updating regulations and references online links to be given where these exist

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

The Chair Kathrine A. Ryeng opened the meeting, the agenda was adopted (appendix 1) and the meeting documents (appendix 2) reviewed noting that documents NAMMCO/CHM/CIO/BYCELS-2019-01 draft annual time schedule was redrawn. It was also noted that CHM had been presented with several background documents for information.

2. COMMITTEE ANNUAL ACTIVITY-MEETING SCHEDULE

CHM agreed that it would be beneficial to identify an annual time schedule of meetings and tasks. Among the considerations were issues like the deadline for annual reporting of data for CHM/CIO/BYCELS and meeting dates of Council, CIO and BYCELS.

Winsnes informed that the Scientific Committee is requesting a change of annual meeting schedule from November to spring. The issue will be forwarded to FAC for consideration at their upcoming November meeting, and depending on the outcome, will have effect on the Council meetings as of 2021. Furthermore, CHM was informed that CIO had agreed to propose 1 February as the deadline for submitting data from member countries.

CHM agreed to the following schedule for 2020:

2020

- 1 February deadline for submission of National Progress Reports from member countries.
- 8 – 11 February meetings of CIO/CHM/BYCELS, exact dates to be confirmed
- 16 – 19 March Council 28
- Skype meetings if needed

3. EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS (EGM)

Council 27 had endorsed the proposal to convene two events in 2020:

- An EGM on hunting efficiency of small cetaceans
- A Workshop or EGM on methods where the combined use of harpoon and rifle is not one weapon.

The EGM on small cetaceans was considered a follow up from the EGM held in 2011 and it would address members responses to recommendations given in that EGM in addition to reviewing possible

new information on hunting methods for small cetaceans with special focus on hunting methods where death was not immediate, e.g. types of hunts requiring harpooning before killing in order not to lose the animal, or netting. Especially hunts where the Scientific Committee believed that knowledge of S&L data would benefit the assessment of the stocks (relevant species are narwhal and beluga).

The WS/EGM on methods where the combined use of harpoon and rifle was not one weapon pertained to all marine mammals. Given that the anticipation was that the two events would overlap in participation and content it was suggested that it was convened back to back.

Greenland had previously informed that they had collected the 2011 recommended data on struck and lost and TTD on narwhal and beluga but that analyses had not been carried out. CHM saw it as essential that these data be analysed, and that this information be presented at the EGM. In response to the recommendation to develop alternatives to netting Greenland had previously informed that this was not a priority. On the recommendation to develop regulations pertaining to equipment and hunting methods for small cetaceans it was noted that this had been done for narwhal and beluga not the other species.

The quality of and the collection of TTD data and struck and lost data are reoccurring topics for CHM. CHM has acknowledged that TTD estimates that are qualified by post-mortem investigations represents the most accurate TTD data. However post-mortem investigations are not feasible to carry out for all hunts due to e.g. remoteness of locations. CHM discussed the need in some cases to specify more clearly under which limitations data are assessed, i. e. what are the criteria for determining when to start measuring TTD? Drawing from the reference fleet in fisheries an idea might be to target one or two hunters to collect data under specific directions to get a better understanding of the TTD for a given hunt.

The EGM in 2011 recommended that the Faroes should carry out histologically investigation to find out if there are any damages from the use of the new blunt tipped hook and measure TTD from the first use of the blunt hook. The Faroes had previously informed that TTD is measured from the first use of the blunt hook. However, there was no information on the histological investigations. Petersen informed that he had started anatomical examinations of dolphins to measure the depth and width of the spine/foramen magnum to find out how the dolphin lance should ideally look. Currently there were few samples and no work had been initiated on developing a new blade for the spinal lance. He also informed that ordinary knives were often used in the dolphin drives.

Based on the above CHM agreed that there was not enough new information to benefit organising a new EGM on small cetaceans. At the same time CHM underlined the importance of investigating alternatives to the present method of killing animals with harpoon and rifle. The majority of the small cetaceans' hunts in NAMMCO are carried out by this method thus CHM concluded:

- to combine the two events and focus on methods to improve animal welfare in hunts for all marine mammals where harpoon and rifle is not one weapon, i.e. all small cetaceans, seals and minke whales.

Draft (ToR):

- Review and assess current hunting and killing methods,
- Review and assess information on recent and ongoing research on improvements and technical innovations in hunting methods and gear used for hunting,
- Review and assess updates on TTD data ref. recommendation in the EGM 2011,
- Discuss and recommend possible technical improvements.

To find or develop a method/weapon that will combine harpooning and rifle into one device has been discussed several times over the years without any concrete results. CHM was also of the opinion that had a quick and easy solution existed it would have been in operation by now. From experience developing new weapons requires both significant use of time and financial resources.

In order to facilitate and make sure that the necessary information is available and to ensure that all required fields of knowledge are represented before a final decision is made on how to proceed with such an endeavour CHM agreed to establish a planning group consisting of: Nette Leverman, Signar Petersen, Kathrine Ryeng and Charlotte Winsnes.

It was agreed as a starting point the PG should:

- look to Canada/Nunavut, Caribbean, Russia (enquire if interested and with respect to which species/hunting methods)
- identify scope (all species – only some)
- Identify experts
- Identify time and venue

CHM agreed that tentative dates for convening a WS would be November 2020 or spring 2021. PG will meet online or via email correspondence and report to the next CHM meeting in February 2020.

CHM also agreed to recommend that the Faroes continue the examinations pertaining to the dolphin drive hunt and that Greenland analyse the collected data on small cetaceans.

4. PANEL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Group (PRWG) reviewing and following up the recommendations from the Performance Review Panel is seeking the views of NAMMCO subsidiary bodies on the recommendations specific to their areas of work. These inputs will represent an important input to the PRWG formulation of follow up actions to be forwarded to Council.

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-03/03 contained the letter from PRWG requesting BYCELS to address recommendations related to the committee. Additional documents considered under this agenda item were NAMMCO/PRWG19-01: the full report of the Performance Review Panel and NAMMCO/PRWG19-01: the report of the June meeting of the PRWG.

PRWG had asked the CHM to consider the following when addressing the forwarded recommendations:

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

Recommendation identification key PR18-RCXX reads Performance Review 2018-recommendation number. The text given below includes summaries of the recommendation and the PRWG's comments to the recommendations.

4.1 PR18-RC12, PR18-RC13, PR18-RC18, PR18-RC20, PR18-RC23, PR18-RC25, PR18-RC87

The recommendations related to the question of standardising data reporting from Parties to the Committees, ensuring data quality and storage. It also recommended working with other relevant IGOs (IWC) to avoid overlaps in deadlines and facilitate the data submission process.

PRWG comment: The priority is to ensure a reliable database (storage of data) with guidelines on data quality and sharing.

CHM response:

- a) CHM found all recommendations highly relevant except for PR18-RC20 which belonged to BYCELS
- b) CHM emphasised the importance of safe storage of data with suitable platform to ensure standardisation, continuity and accessibility.

- c) CHM drew attention to the already ongoing work undertaken by the committee to standardise annual reporting of data from Parties by extending the national progress reports to also include data from CIO/CHM/BYCELS in addition to SC. This work entails identification of which data should be submitted and in what format, one annual deadline for data submission and how and in which form the submitted data can become publicly available on the website.

4.2 PR18-RC50 AND PR18-RC51

Recommendations emphasised the need for CHM to continue its efforts to understand reasons for the different TTD and IDR rates in different hunts with the aim of improving these.

PRWG comment: Ongoing and one of the issues that future EGM will address.

CHM response:

- a) CHM found the recommendations highly relevant, and noted that this is part of the Committees ToR
- b) Nothing noted
- c) CHM will address these concerns in future EGM/WS, and new actions to be taken was envisaged to result from such EGM/WS. Monitoring and following up on previous recommendations to members is an ongoing task that encompasses this issue.

4.3 PR18-RC52 AND PR18-RC53

Recommendations to continue to define better methods for collecting data from all hunts on the occurrence of struck and lost (S/L) events and the circumstances surrounding those events. These efforts should continue in cooperation with SC and should also respond to the recommendations from the various workshop and expert group meetings.

PRWG comment: no specific comment given.

CHM response:

- a) CHM found the recommendations relevant
- b) CHM noted the need for member countries to improve the focus of and collection of S/L. CHM noted that it will continue to pursue the problem for all hunted marine mammals in NAMMCO and particularly related to hunts where:
 - data on S/L is not available
 - the data quality is not very high
 - hunts identified by SC where accurate S/L are especially importance for assessments
 CHM also agreed that when identifying target hunts considerations of a cost-benefit ratio should be made
- c) CHM pointed to the ongoing NORDECO project initiated by KNAPK in Greenland. The project looks at stimulating incorporation of local knowledge in decision-making. NAMMCO has been invited to participate in the project, and Fern Wickson from the Secretariat will attend a meeting in Nuuk in December. CHM has been asked by SC to give input on how to achieve reliable reporting from hunters. CHM emphasised that the fundament for reliable reporting would be reciprocal trust among the actor's hunters and scientists. A 1st step could be to establish a dialogue forum between hunters and scientists/managers to build trust and make a fundament for reliable reporting. Such a forum will also enhance NAMMCOs aim at involving user knowledge more. CHM recommended investigating if this could be developed into a pilot study financed through NORDECO with focus on struck and lost issue. Perhaps to be financed/incorporated to NAMMCOs part of the NORDECO

4.4 PR18-RC62

Recommendation considered the need for improving NAMMCO's transparency by including translating relevant legislation to English for the website

PRWG Comment: does CHM find this useful and if so, should it be full text or synopsis?

CHM response:

- a) CHM found the recommendation relevant
- b) Nothing noted
- c) CHM noted that this has been on the list of things to do for some time now, but that this will now be prioritised as one of the current interns' tasks. Questions of how, Ynesdal agreed to investigate the question of how unauthorised translations of legal text should be dealt with – Ongoing - already translated regulations will be made available on the website.

Translations that are not authorised - summaries of content - what to do with them – Hild to check for NO, Gudni will check for IS, GL send summaries from White paper.

Key documents are already in English and available on the website

4.5 PR18-RC7

Recommendation to establish a formal procedure to review and update the NAMMCO website regularly. It was suggested that Committees together with the Secretariat periodically reviewed and endorsed their relevant sectors.

PRWG comment: 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.

CHM response:

- a) CHM considered the recommendation highly relevant
- b) No further issues were identified
- c) CHM agreed to recommend the following 3-step process for its work to ensure the quality of the content on the website:
 1. to review all current text and information related to CHM on the website.
 2. make reviewing new information on the website a standard agenda item for the annual meeting of the committee. If needed this may also be done by correspondence intersessional
 3. consider how to make the work of CHM more visible

CHM agreed finalise step 1 by 31 December 2019. Members were tasked with reviewing all text on the website with the understanding that they would have the overall responsibility for the information pertaining to the species and hunts taking place in their respective countries. The Secretariat had made an overview of all links related to CHM. To facilitate the editing process further Levermann volunteered to compile all exiting information into a word file that would be circulated to CHM and the Secretariat as soon as possible after the meeting.

4.6 GENERAL COMMENT

CHM welcomed the Performance Review Panels assessment of its work and its role in NAMMCO. It was noted with appreciation that the Panel concluded that CHM "together with the approval of its recommendations by the Council and implementation of these recommendations by member countries is one of the key elements that have made NAMMCO a credible organization".

5. DATABASE, DATA REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

CHM in cooperation with BYCELS and CIO had recommended to Council to synchronise the submission of standardised data from all committees. The proposal, endorsed by Council 27, was to extend the current National Progress Report to include the required annual data reporting from all committees.

Document NAMMCO/CHM/CIO/BYCELS-2019-02 contained the previously identified data requirements, and CHM discussed and finalised the relevant parts (hunting effort, catches, stuck and lost). CHM agreed to use the categories and format as defined in document “*NPR data reporting (Country) Year*” for the reporting of 2019. The data NAMMCO request are not complex but the quality of the data is important and thus standardisation is essential.

CHM also discussed the deadline for submission of the data. Currently the deadline for NPR is 1 March. However, taking into consideration that all required data would be available and accessible by 1 February making it possible to schedule meetings from early February as opposed to one month later, CHM agreed to propose 1 February as the annual deadline.

The issue of developing a database with the Secretariat as depository had not been discussed by Council 27. CHM underlined that the important part is to collect standardised data that allow comparisons between countries. The specific platform where the data are stored should be defined at some stage but the essential issue for the committee is the quality and accessibility of the data.

6. UPDATE ON REGULATIONS AND REFERENCES

Documents NAMMCO/CHM-2019-02/04 List of laws and regulations marine mammals and NAMMCO/CHM-2019-02/05 List of references on hunting methods had been circulated prior to the meeting Norway had proposed a structure to make the references more accessible and it was agreed that this structure would be the standard for all members.

CHM has previously agreed that the list of references should have links to the various papers/articles. Many of the references are IWC meeting documents that are not easily available, and CHM discussed how to deal with this. It was agreed that IWC documents should be linked back to 2011 and generally that available links online should be included.

CHM agreed that in future member countries will include links when updating the list.

The list of regulations will also be updated with links and English version were these exists alternatively informal English summaries will be provided.

7. INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Greenland informed that the revised text for the video on the handling of the Walegrenade’99 had been sent to Henriksen Mekaniske Verksted. Levermann would inform CHM as soon as she heard back with respect to the costs of making a new texted video.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held back to back with CIO and BYCELS in the period 8-11 February in Reykjavik, Iceland. Exact date to be confirmed after consultation with BYCELS and CIO.

9. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The report was adopted by correspondence on 2 December.

Appendix 2: Report of the CHM meeting 9 February 2020

The Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM) met on 9 February 2020 at the Directorate of Fisheries in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland. Present were Kathrine A. Ryeng (Chair) and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Guðni Magnússon and Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), Nette Levermann (Greenland), Signar Petersen (Faroe Islands) and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

Actions arising from the meeting

Secretariat

- Re video on handling the Whale grenade 99 – contact Henriksen Verksted
- To review the list of recommendations with the aim of identifying those that relates To the planned EGM

Chair, GL and Secretariat

- To formulate a proposal for the EGM including budget for the upcoming Council meeting in March

FO

- To undertake structured examinations and develop a spinal lance blade that will improve the dolphin hunt, preferably before the EGM.

GL

- To finalise the analysis of TTD data from beluga and narwhal prior to the EGM
- To reach out to contacts in Canada, and the Caribbean in cooperation with the Secretary
- To quality check information on the website as soon as possible

IS

- To quality check information on the website within the end of February

All members

- To develop English summaries of main content for all laws and regulations where these are lacking

10. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

Chair Kathrine A. Ryeng opened the meeting. The agenda was adopted (appendix 1), and the list of documents (appendix 2) were reviewed.

11. UPDATES OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND LIST OF REFERENCES

Iceland acting on the advice from NAMMCO has regulated the seal hunt. The declining abundance of grey and harbour seals combined with insufficient catch reporting have been of concern. The new regulation makes catch reporting obligatory and hunters must have a license. The regulation prohibits killing of seals around fish farms and salmon river mouths and prohibits commercial trading with seal products.

CHM questioned the rationale for banning commercial trade considering that the quota or license will be set based on sustainability of the population.

Norway informed that the regulation on the coastal seal hunt had been amended to accommodate requirements put forward by the US in relation to the MMPA (Marine mammals protection Act). It is now prohibited to hunt seals near aqua plants. A regulation on whale watching has been approved that prohibits activity that displace whales from their natural habitat, prohibits whale watching closer than 0.2 nautical miles from fishing vessels or fixed gear and prohibits swimming, diving or paddling closer than 0.4 nautical miles from fishing vessels or fixed gear.

Greenland is revising the executive order (EO) on walrus and the revised EO is expected to come into force in 2020. Levermann also informed that all laws and regulations are available online on www.lovgivning.gl, and all annual *Piniarneq* booklets are available on www.businessingreenland.gl. There are ongoing efforts to update the webpage of the Ministries with more information and data becoming available electronically.

Winsnes informed that an overview of all applicable laws and regulations in original language were given on the website (<https://nammco.no/topics/laws-and-regulations/>). Where official legal translations to English or Danish exist, they are included. CHM was reminded that it has previously agreed for the purpose of transparency to develop English summaries of main content for all listings.

12. ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS

In 2019 the Council decided to extend the annual national progress reporting to include standardised data requirements from all committees and subsidiary bodies and not only the Scientific Committee. The Secretariat had circulated an email to this extent with the agreed deadline of 1 February.

CHM like CIO saw the reporting for the year 2019 as a trial year to assess if the identified data categories were functional and if needed to make improvements and decide on follow up actions.

Only Iceland and the Faroe Islands had submitted their reports within the deadline. Greenland suggested a few revisions to the new data collection template, but CHM agreed to postpone the discussion until all reports were available.

13. WORKSHOP (WS)/EXPERT GROUP MEETING (EGM)

At the last meeting CHM noted the lack of new information to benefit organising an EGM on small cetaceans. CHM reiterated the importance of exploring possible alternatives to the hunting methods where death was not immediately, e.g. types of hunts requiring harpooning before killing in order not to lose the animal. Also acknowledging that the majority of the small cetaceans' hunts in NAMMCO are carried out by this method, CHM had concluded:

- to combine the two events and focus on methods to improve animal welfare in hunts for all marine mammals where harpoon and rifle is not one weapon, i.e. all small cetaceans, minke whales, seals and walruses.

Nette Levermann, Signar Petersen, Kathrine Ryeng and Charlotte Winsnes had been tasked to form a planning group to work intersessional and report back to CHM. The group was never scheduled to meet, and instead the Chair and the Secretary had prepared NAMMCO/CHM-2020-01/06 as background for this agenda item.

CHM discussed the format, whether this should be a WS or an EGM, or a combination of the two. EGMs dealing with assessment of killing methods considering inter alia time to death data have been smaller events. Participation of experts (veterinarians, biologist, statisticians and hunters) have been by invitation only to secure the presence of relevant expertise. Workshops dealing with hunting and killing methods but on a different level have typically attracted a larger group of people as these have been open for all interested parties. The transparency aspect of the WS has been viewed as valuable and important towards the outside world.

Members held different opinions regarding format but concluded that it should be organised as an EGM.

The idea of an EGM originated from recommendations from the 2010 EGM on small cetaceans. Greenland informed they had collected the recommended data on TTD for narwhal and beluga. However, analysis remains to be done before an assessment can be carried out. Reference was also made to the Faroe Islands examinations initiated by Petersen, pertaining to the spinal lance not being optimal for the dolphin hunt in the Faroe Islands.

CHM urged Greenland to finalise the analysis prior to the EGM and the Faroe Islands to undertake structured examinations and develop a spinal lance blade that will improve the dolphin hunt.

CHM agreed to recommend the following:

The scope

- To improve hunts where the animal is harpooned and shoot in separate sequences deploying two different types of weapons. In NAMMCO this would pertain to small cetaceans' hunts, the rifle hunt for minke whales, seal- and walrus hunts.

Terms of reference

- Review and assess current hunting and killing methods,
- Review and assess information on recent and ongoing research on improvements and technical innovations in hunting methods and gear used for hunting,
- Review and assess updates on S/L and TTD data ref. recommendation in the EGM 2011 (narwhal & beluga),
- Discuss and recommend possible technical improvements.

Invited Experts – preliminary not excluding others

- Mads Peter Heide Jørgensen together with technician expert on developing tagging devices for marine mammal hunts in Greenland
- Egil Ole Øen
- Forsvarets forskningsinstitutt (Norway)
- Henriksens verksted
- Pierre-Yves Daoust
- Lars Walløe
- Hunters covering the focus hunts
- Robert Suydam

CHM underlined the importance of seeking expertise and experience from similar hunts outside of NAMMCO. As a first step it was agreed to look towards Canada and Alaska. Chukotka, Japan and Caribbean states would also be possible participants.

Greenland has close cooperation with Canada and the territories on many hunts and Levermann with the aid of the Secretariat agreed to reach out to contacts in Canada, and the Caribbean.

Budget

NOK 100 000 has been allocated as a lump sum in 2020. The expenses are related to the number of invited experts paid by NAMMCO and will have to be revised when the list of participants is finalised. NAMMCO will cover the external experts while member countries normally cover the costs of their respective hunters. Generally, CHM considered that the EGM is arranged for the benefit of hunters and thus their participation should not be covered by NAMMCO.

Time and venue

Given that these are all hunts that take place in Greenland CHM agreed to recommend holding it in Maniitsoq or Ilulissat in 2021, and tentatively in the second quarter or whatever season is best for the hunters in questions.

Concluding, CHM tasked the Chair in cooperation with Levermann and Winsnes to formulate a proposal including budget for the upcoming Council meeting in March. The proposal will basically be what has been agreed above but with a more realistic budget. If needed a skype meeting will be held prior to Council to finalise the proposal.

For inspiration look at previous WS/EGM at <https://nammco.no/topics/expert-group-meetings/>

14. WEBSITE – QUALITY CHECK

CHM referred to the agreed 3-step process to ensure the quality of the content on the website:

4. To review all current text and information related to CHM on the website by 31.12.2019.
5. To have review of new information on the website as a standard agenda item for the annual meeting of the committee. If needed this may also be done by correspondence intersessionally
6. To consider how to make the work of CHM more visible

With regards to step 1, Norway and the Faroe Islands have reviewed the information pertaining to the species and hunts taking place in their respective countries, Greenland informed that other tasks (annual data reporting) had priority and Iceland committed to submit their input within the end of February.

With regards to step 2 CHM clarified that this represented a way of reminding CHM on its responsibility for quality checking the information displayed on the web.

With regards to step 3 members were encouraged to look at the existing information also from a communication point of view (format, layout, accessibility on the site) keeping in mind that the website was created in 2016.

One proposal was to develop an overview of legislative calibre and ammunition pertaining to different hunts, both what is used and if there are recommendations based on shooting studies to use different types.

15. WORKPLAN 2020-2021

CHM has agreed that the main criteria for future work should be: *To focus on hunts where animal welfare aspects are highlighted in recommendations and where improvements are important and possible.*

CHM agreed on the following workplan:

2020

Finalise EGM proposal for Council 28

Meeting 26-27 August

- Assess the quality and functionality of the requested annual data input
- Planning the EGM on hunting efficiency to be held in 2021
- Finalise the video on handling the Whale grenade 99 – Winsnes will contact Henriksen Verksted
- Review document 07 – categorise into active (ongoing, pending) and completed (including if it is decided that the recommendation will not be followed up)

2021

- Planning and organise the EGM
- Follow up unresolved issues from 2020

16. ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

Document NAMMCO/CHM-2020-01/07 presented an overview of recommendations to member countries arising from EGM and WS and endorsed by the committee and Council, and responses from member countries.

CHM agreed to go through all recommendations and give input on whether this is completed or still active preferably with a reason noted.

The process was started during the meeting and recommendations up to and including number 63 were covered. To facilitate the process members were responsible for noting the results pertaining to their recommendations and submit these to the Secretariat afterwards for compilation into one document.

Looking at the recommendations from 1999 onwards, noting that many were still standing and presumably still valid, spurred a discussion around the rationality of using resources on new initiatives when member countries did not have the financial or political power to follow up. No conclusion was reached but CHM agreed that it was pertinent to have a dialogue and discussion around such fundamental questions.

CHM agreed to that it would be important to review the list of recommendations with the aim of identifying those that relates to the planned EGM. Winsnes in cooperation with the Chair will provide this overview for the next meeting.

17. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on 26-27 August in Copenhagen.

18. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The report was adopted by correspondence on 28 February 2020.