



## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

*26 March 2020, Online with Teams*

### DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Adoption of agenda**
- 3. Financial and Administrative Matters**
  - 3.1. Approval of audited accounts 2019
  - 3.2. Adoption of draft budget 2021
  - 3.3. Amendment of Rules of Procedure
  - 3.4. Development of Financial Rules
  - 3.5 Proposed new timing of Scientific Committee and Annual Meetings
- 4. Amendments to Scientific Committee Workplan for 2020-2022**
  - 4.1 Joint NAMMCO/ICES seal modelling [workshop](#)
  - 4.2 Working Group on Narwhal in East Greenland
  - 4.3 Ringed and bearded seal working groups
- 5. Amendments to Committee on Hunting Methods Workplan for 2020-2022**
- 6. Rescheduling NAMMCO 28**
- 7. Arrangement of Council work in 2020**
  - 7.1. Issues for decision by correspondence
    - 7.1.1. Committee on Inspection and Observation
      - Amended Guidelines to Section B of the Observation Scheme
      - Proposed list of nominated observers
      - Scope of activities in 2021
    - 7.1.2. External relations
      - Draft MOU with OSPAR
  - 7.2. Other matters
- 8. Communication**
- 9. Any other business**

## ANNOTATIONS

### **Item 3.2 Adoption of draft budget 2021**

The draft budget is based, [among other things](#), on the CHM organising in 2021 an EG with an extending scope requiring an increased budget compared with the allocation in the 2020 adopted budget.

### **Item 3.3 Amendment of Rules of Procedure**

The FAC is proposing changes to the RoPs of all committees regarding the deadline for circulation of documents ahead of meetings, with the same procedures being proposed for all NAMMCO bodies. See NAMMCO/28/18.

### **Item 3.5 Proposed new timing of Scientific Committee and Annual Meetings**

FAC recommends that the annual Scientific Committee meeting and Annual Meeting of the Commission both be held in the first half of the year, with the Scientific Committee meeting a minimum of 2 months prior to the Annual Meeting (e.g. SC in February; AM in April/May).

### **Item 4 Amendments to Scientific Committee Workplan for 2020-2022**

The Council is asked to endorse the following additions to the Scientific Committee workplan adopted at NAMMCO/27, as reflected in the report of the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SC in 2019.

#### **4.1 Joint NAMMCO/ICEC seal modelling [workshop](#)**

The Scientific Committee agreed with the conclusion of the Working Group on harp and hooded seals that it was important to revise and improve the seal population assessment model and that NAMMCO should convene a workshop in 2020 in cooperation with ICES dedicated to this. ICES offered to cover the costs of the Chair and some invited experts, and NAMMCO would also cover the cost of some of the needed expertise. ([SC 26 report](#), item 8.1.2, p. 30)

#### **4.2 Working Group on Narwhal in East Greenland**

The Scientific Committee recognised that the issue of narwhal in East Greenland is a particularly complex and sensitive one and noted that there were a range of recommendations for research stemming from the Ad hoc Working Group on Narwhal in East Greenland (NEGWG). On the basis of this, the SC recommended that a new meeting of the WG be scheduled for 2021. ([SC 26 report](#), item 9.5.2, p. 44)

#### **4.3 Ringed and bearded seal working groups**

In the endorsed workplan from SC/25 (2018) it was proposed that ringed seal and bearded seal working group meetings be run back to back in 2021. SC/26 has however proposed to delay both meetings, due to ongoing studies and analyses and difficulties associated with producing reliable abundance estimates in the near term. ([SC 26 report](#), item 8.3.2, p. 32)

Both the Performance Review Panel and the Performance Review Working Group, with regard to supporting a precautionary approach, have recommended that these working groups not be further postponed. The General Secretary proposes therefore that the Council task the Scientific Committee to convene these working groups in 2022 to conduct a thorough review of the existing data. If the necessary data for conducting an assessment

of (some of) the stocks is not available, the WGs and the SC should identify and prioritise which data essential to the different stock assessments are still required.

#### 5. Amendments to Committee on Hunting Methods Workplan for 2020-2022

The CHM proposes to postpone the planned EG to 2021, combine two events into one with an increased budget from NOK 100 000 to NOK 238 500, and define the scope as follows: To improve hunts where the animal is harpooned and shot 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.

#### 6. Rescheduling NAMMCO 28

Based on the recommendation from the FAC meeting on 20 March 2020 to reschedule NAMMCO/28 to the spring of 2021, the Secretariat has suggested alternative dates in late April /early May. A decision should be made on final dates in order to secure the venue in Oslo without forfeiting the costs already paid for March, and in order for future planning and rescheduling of other related activities to continue.

#### 7. Arrangement of Council work in 2020

##### 7.1.1. Committee on Inspection and Observation

The scope of NAMMCO Observation activities in 2021 will be discussed by the Committee on Inspection and Observation at a [video](#) meeting scheduled for [April](#) 2020. Their proposal for 2021 should be considered prior to the next Annual Meeting to allow the Secretariat time to plan and coordinate activities well enough in advance.

##### 7.1.2. External relations

The Chair and the Secretariat are currently working on a **Draft MOU with OSPAR**, which is modelled on the simple approach taken between OSPAR and NASCO. It is proposed that this be agreed by correspondence in the near future as a proposal from NAMMCO to forward to OSPAR.

#### 8. Communication

It is suggested that a general update on rescheduled activities due to COVID-19 and main decisions taken so far by Members in lieu of the Annual Meeting should be posted on the NAMMCO website. A link to this information on the website could also be posted to NAMMCO's Facebook profile.

### LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Please be aware that the documents have different origins, three are new to this meeting (COUNCIL/2020-02/xx), two are NAMMCO/28 documents (NAMMCO/28/xx), one is FAC document (FAC/2020-01/3rev) [on the file name, the document number comes first]

Reference	Title	Agenda item
COUNCIL/2020-01/01	Annotated agenda and list of documents	all
COUNCIL/2020-01/02	2019-2020 Report of the FAC	3, 4, 5
COUNCIL/2020-01/03	Overview NAMMCO budgets 2020-2021	3.2
NAMMCO/28/05	Audited accounts 2019	3.1
NAMMCO/28/18	Proposed changes to RoPs regarding deadlines for submitting meeting documents	3.3
FAC/2020-01/3rev	Committees Workplans	4