WORKING GROUP ON BY-CATCH, ENTANGLEMENTS AND LIVE STRANDINGS (bycels)

*22 June 2020*

*online 13:00 hrs – 16:00 hrs Norwegian time*

**DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

1. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS**

The agenda and list of documents are found in NAMMCO/BYCELS-2020-01/01.

1. **DATABASE, DATA REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES**

NAMMCO-Database-updated May 2020 is the overall database with the submitted 2019 data from all member countries.

Members are asked to focus on by-catch, entanglements, strandings and ship strikes, and discuss if the data requested fulfils the needs of the Working Group. NAMMCO/BYCELS-2020-01/02 including appendix 1 gives some points from the Secretariat for consideration under this agenda item.

1. **STRANDING NETWORK**

BYCELS has previously developed guidelines on how to set up a stranding response network that also described what kind of information should be reported.

These guidelines, agreed at the last meeting and found in NAMMCO/BYCELS-2020-01/03, will be forwarded to Council 28.

Members are asked to consider displaying information on strandings including name of contact persons in member countries on the website.

1. **GUIDELINES**

The Secretariat was asked to draft a list highlighting safety issues for personnel trained to disentangling whales in Greenland, for the review of BYCELS. Reviewing existing material, the Secretariat propose that BYCELS review the IWC guidelines for response to entanglement events given in NAMMCO/BYCELS-2020-01/04 and identify the most relevant points for use in Greenland.

1. **FUTURE OF BYCELS**

Terms of reference for BYCELS:

1. *The Working Group shall upon request from the Council or individual member countries, provide advice on welfare issues related to by-catch, entanglement, and live strandings, affecting marine mammals. The Working Group shall ensure that such advice is based on the best available scientific findings, technological developments and traditional knowledge, with due consideration given to safety requirements for humans*
2. *Members of the Working Group may raise specific questions for discussion during meetings of the Working Group. The Working Group may make proposals to the Council for specific tasks to undertake within its terms of reference*
3. *Non-member governments with observer status in NAMMCO may request advice from the Working Group through the Council*
4. *The Committee may seek outside expertise if it considers this necessary and appropriate. The WG will nominate its Chair in agreement with FAC*

BYCELS are asked to consider the ToR, the achievements of BYCELS up to now and how it sees the future of the Working Group. NAMMCO/BYCELS-2020-01/02 (agenda item 2) is also tabled as an input for the discussion under this agenda item.

1. **NEXT MEETING**
2. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**List of documents**

NAMMCO/BYCELS-2020-01/01 Draft annotated agenda and list of documents

NAMMCO-Database-updated May 2020 NAMMCO database

NAMMCO/BYCELS-2020-01/02 Memo from the Secretariat on the database and future of BYCELS

NAMMCO/BYCELS-2020-01/02-Appendix 1 Suggestion for revisions of database

NAMMCO/BYCELS-2020-01/03 Guidelines for setting up stranding networks

NAMMCO/BYCELS-2020-01/04 IWC guidelines for disentanglement events