

NAMMCO DATABASE: REPORTING OF CATCHES, BY-CATCHES, ENTANGLEMENTS/ENTRAPMENTS, STRANDINGS, SHIP STRIKES

Memo from the Secretariat (2006/06)

NAMMCO needs/wants to report data for the outside (gallery) to underline its transparency and the transparency of its member countries regarding anything related to marine mammals. At the same time, the "owners" of the data do not want to report data with an accuracy which would allow others to use (and eventually publish) the data.

Defining the purpose of the reporting, i.e., what shall be done with the data and what is the aim of reporting and making public a certain type of data must be clarified before one can define which type of data should be reported and in which detail and format. Three possible scenarios are:

- Only for the "gallery" (transparency, response to an international trend – like e.g. the increased interest to strandings, etc.)
- To be used by a NAMMCO committee – then for which use?
- A combination of both

In November 2005, the new extended excel sheets were circulated to all members requesting their input for the annual reporting of data. The response differed from members, including one using the 2006 template, and also noting that the new extended request for data were too comprehensive and therefore need to be revisited.

The Secretariat has reviewed the database after the first year with the extended reporting requested from member countries and the less extended response. The following gives some ideas and suggestions for improving the reporting. The members also talked as an input to discuss the future tasks of WHOIS, under agenda item XX.

2. SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS TO THE CURRENT NAMMCO DATABASE

NAMMCO/WHOIS-2020-01/02 appendix 2 gives the suggested revisions to the excel database.

2.1 GENERAL

To simplify and make reporting less cumbersome we propose to remove the Latin name from all sheets and instead have a separate sheet containing a list of species with English name, Latin name and codes in FO, GL, IS and NO.

2.2 CATCH DATA

These are at the core of NAMMCO's existence (sustainable use of marine mammals) and are presumed by NAMMCO to be accurately and reliably reported. Until now, the SC has not used the database in its assessment, but other committees (OIRA, OIC) use it. The data is not reported in great detail, mostly numbers and rarely by sex and age.

In an attempt to reconcile the needs for the general reporting (gallery) and the needs of all NAMMCO subsidiary bodies (BACC's, SC, OIRA, OIC) and in particular to enable the SC to use the common database as their base case database, it has been agreed that member countries should do the catch reporting by management areas, as defined by the SC. This was not done by most members in 2013.

2.3 DATA ON HUNTING METHODS AND EFFORT AND NATIONAL CONTROL EFFORT

For the 2009 reporting by members few have actually submitted the requested information. The question is why and should be addressed by OIRA and OIC respectively.