

# Joint Meeting of the Management Committees

*18 February 2021- Online meeting*

*09:00-12:00 Greenland*

*12:00-15:00 The Faroe Islands, Iceland*

*13:00-16:00 Norway*

## DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

- 1. CHAIRMAN WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**
- 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 3. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS**
- 4. PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOLLOW UP**

The Management Committees (MCs) are asked to respond to the recommendations from the Performance Review Panel (PRP) that have been identified as being of specific relevance to them by the ad hoc Working Group (PRWG). The response will be forwarded to the PRWG, which is led by the Chair of Council, Kate Sanderson (FO).

In a letter to the MCs from the PRWG (NAMMCO/MCJ-February-2021/03), the MCs are specifically asked to:

- a) Consider the relevance of the recommendations.*
- b) Identify any other related matters for which they may have suggestions for improvements to their work and working procedures,*
- c) Propose ways for implementing the recommendations and improving processes, where relevant.*

Document NAMMCO/MCJ-February-2021/04 summarises and categorises the relevant recommendations, identifying the following five issues (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5) for special attention of the MCs

### **4.1 Application of a precautionary approach (Issue 1 in document 04)**

With respect to a definition of a precautionary approach, the report of the PRP refers to Article 6 of the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement, including the application of precautionary reference points. The UN Fish Stocks Agreement referred to can be found NAMMCO/MCJ-February-2021/FI02.

The NUUK declaration (2017) stipulates the following:

*Recalling the general principles of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources enshrined in the 1992 Rio Declaration and reaffirming their commitment to*

*the rational management, conservation and responsible use of the living resources of the sea,*

...

*Reaffirm that the sustainable hunting of marine mammals as done in NAMMCO member countries is an environmentally responsible way of obtaining food resources in areas with few alternatives and supports food security in line with the principles endorsed at the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. It also increases the economic value of the marine environment, contributing to blue growth.*

Both these documents refer to the precautionary approach.

A short presentation (15 minutes) will be given by Dr Caterina Fortuna to introduce this issue, considering the meaning of adopting a precautionary approach to management and examples of how it has been applied in other organisations. A short (5 minute) video with Doug Butterworth explaining the benefit of harvest strategies is also provided as relevant background information for the discussion (NAMMCO/MCJ-February-2021/FI03).

For information documents NAMMCO/MCJ-February-2021/FI04, FI06, FI07 also provide relevant background information on harvest strategies, reference points, and control rules as used in a precautionary approach to fisheries management.

The MCs are specifically asked to consider the definition of a precautionary approach within NAMMCO, the need and approach to developing reference points for NAMMCO managed species/stocks, and how precaution is operationalised within the organisation.

#### **4.2 Prioritisation of assessment efforts (Issue 2 in document 04)**

The MCs are requested to discuss the recommendation that NAMMCO have a prioritisation plan for assessing/managing the different species and stocks. Document NAMMCO/MCJ-February-2021/05 provides an overview of the different species and management units considered by NAMMCO, and the information on the year in which they were last assessed.

It is proposed that one way to address this recommendation would be for the MCs to consider the relevance and possibility of developing some general rules for prioritising the assessments within NAMMCO. Some examples of such general rules for prioritisation may include:

- Hunted before non-hunted stocks
- Depleted or declining before healthy stocks
- Stocks under a certain level of abundance/agreed reference point
- Maximum time intervals between assessments (for hunted species)
- Data rich and data poor stocks

#### **4.3 Rebuilding plans for depleted stocks (Issue 3 in document 04)**

Currently NAMMCO does not have rebuilding plans for depleted (and/or extirpated) stocks and the MCs are asked to consider whether NAMMCO should develop such plans and if so, how and by whom this process should be carried out, as well as any important elements that should be included. This needs to include consideration of the appropriate relationship between scientists and managers in any articulation of rebuilding plans.

#### **4.4 Facilitating responses of the SC to requests for advice (Issue 4 in document 04)**

Based on the PRP recommendations that the MCs define clear management objectives, NAMMCO/MCJ-February-2021/05 has been circulated to all members in advance with a request to update it with referenced management objectives where these exist.

The MCs are requested to review the document and discuss the recommendation that MC provide clear management objective for all species.

A brief explanation of the role and importance of management objectives (in the context of fisheries management) is provided in NAMMCO/MCJ-February-2021/FI05 to help inform the discussion.

#### **4.5 MCs and SC: prerogatives and relationship (Issue 5 in document 04)**

In the response to this recommendation from the SC, it was proposed that one way forward on this issue would be to create graphics illustrating workflow and the process of generating management advice within NAMMCO, and to then accompany these visual representations with some text that clearly describes the different roles and responsibilities of the different actor groups within the organisation. This could specifically include the different matters of consideration addressed by the SC and the MC, which would help explain why these committees can reach differing conclusions regarding management advice. The MCs should discuss whether they agree with the SC that this would be a relevant and appropriate way to address this recommendation.

NAMMCO/MCJ-February-2021/06 & 07 are draft illustrations of how management advice is generated in NAMMCO prepared by the Secretariat. The MC is invited to provide feedback on these graphic illustrations as well as input on what would be important to include in any accompanying explanatory text.

The current Rules of Procedure for the MCs and the SC have been provided as meeting documents to help inform the discussion and amendments to these may also be proposed as a way to address this recommendation (NAMMCO/MCJ-February-2021/09 and 10).



## **5. OTHER SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS TO WORK & WORKING PROCEDURES**

In addition to considering the specific recommendations from the PRP, the PRWG also asked the MCs to identify any other matters for which they may have suggestions for improvements to their work and working procedures. Under this agenda item, the MCJ can propose any discuss any additional recommendations for improvements they may have.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**