



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 28

22-25 March 2021

Online

JOINT MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Relevant Documents for this Meeting:

NAMMCO/28/MC/05: List of Proposals for Conservation and Management and Recommendations for Research, with Responses from the Parties.

NAMMCO/28/MC/06: List of Active Requests from the NAMMCO Council to the Scientific Committee, with Responses from the Scientific Committee.

NAMMCO/28/08: Summary of the Scientific Committee Reports from 2019 & 2021.

This joint meeting addresses issues of relevance to both the Management Committee for Cetaceans (MCC) and the Management Committee for Seals and Walrus (MCSW). The meeting will focus on:

- a) *Considering new proposals for conservation and management and recommendations for research (with implications for the Member Countries) made by the Scientific Committee during their meetings in 2019 and 2021,*
- b) *Determining whether any requests for advice may be considered completed and closed,*
- c) *Discussing issues related to User Knowledge within NAMMCO.*

2. Adoption of Agenda

3. Work Procedures in NAMMCO

3.1. Struck and Lost

Request for Advice Considered Answered by the SC

Does the MCJ agree with the SC that this request for advice has now been answered and therefore recommend to Council that the request be closed?

Request R-1.6.4: "To provide advice on the best methods for collection of the desired statistics on losses, as SC recommended that catch statistics include correction for struck but lost animals for different seasons, areas, and catch operations."

SC26 reiterated that it views the best methods for collecting data on struck and lost include: investing in good time series of surveys and having independent observer programs on selected hunts for different seasons, areas and catch operations. With this answer it considered this request complete.

3.2. Reporting to the NAMMCO Database

SC26 noted that a searchable online catch database is now available on the NAMMCO website and emphasised the importance of Member Countries notifying the Secretariat of any amendments in catch data to ensure that up to date information is always available.

New Proposals for Conservation and Management

- Member Countries inform the NAMMCO Secretariat of any and all revisions of catch statistics taking place at a national level (e.g., revisions of historical data or revisions after submission of national progress reports).
- Member Countries validate all data (direct catch, by-catch or other) before submitting it to formal databases and repositories.

3.3. Development of Management Advice

Request for Advice Considered Answered by the SC

Does the MCJ agree with the SC that this request for advice has now been answered and therefore recommend to Council that the request be closed?

Request R-1.5.4: “To conduct a review of the management procedures used by the Committee for generating management advice (RMP, AWMP, Bayesian assessment, Hitter Fitter, etc). The Committee should advise on which procedure is the most suitable for each species (or category of species) with the data that is currently available, while also meeting the management principles of NAMMCO. The Committee should further advise where additional data could allow for more suitable management procedure(s) to be implemented.”

SC26 provided a written review in response to this request (available in [section 5.7 of the SC26 report](#)). This review describes the difference between stock assessments and management procedures, outlining key methods of each. The SC noted that the management advice provided by the NAMMCO SC is currently based on a suite of management procedures and assessment models developed and tuned to the knowledge available. The SC agreed that it was appropriate to continue using existing management procedures (e.g., the RMP and AWMP) for those species where they have been implemented. For all other species, it recommended the continued use of stock assessment approaches using population dynamics models for generating advice on sustainable harvest levels. On the basis of this response, the SC sees its work on this request as complete.

3.4. Assessments and Advice on Small Stocks

After reviewing the assessment of narwhal in East Greenland, SC26 recommended that NAMMCO develop guidance on a principle-based approach to generating harvest advice for small stocks. SC27 then noted that this would also be relevant for other species.

New Proposal for Conservation and Management

- NAMMCO develop guidance on a principle-based approach for how to manage and provide harvest advice for small stocks.

At its meeting on 18 February 2021 to respond to the Performance Review Working Group, the MCJ recommended that a request be made to the SC to clarify NAMMCO’s precautionary approach to management through the development of harvest strategies (including stock-specific reference points and harvest control rules).

4. Marine Mammal - Fisheries Interactions

For Information - Endorsed By-catch Estimates & Published FAO Guidelines

The MCJ is informed that the SC has now endorsed marine mammal by-catch estimates from the lump sucker gillnet fishery in Iceland (as recommended by the By-Catch Working Group).

The work continues to progress but still needs to be finalised for the cod gillnet fishery in Iceland and for coastal seals in the Norwegian cod and monkfish gillnet fisheries.

The MCJ is also notified that the FAO has now published its “Guidelines to prevent and reduce bycatch of marine mammals in capture fisheries” as part of its Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. NAMMCO was involved in helping to draft these guidelines, which are available as for information document NAMMCO/28/MC/FI03.

New Proposal for Conservation and Management

- Since self-reporting is an insufficient basis for quantifying by-catch, additional sources of information (e.g., independent observation) should always be sought.

5. Environmental Issues

5.1. Mary River Mine

Canada has been invited to give an update on the Mary River mine project at the Council meeting. A popular summary of phase 2 of the project from Baffinland has also been provided as for information document NAMMCO/28/MC/FI.

SC27 endorsed a recommendation from the Joint Working Group on narwhal and beluga that a workshop on disturbance from the Mary River Mine be organised and include impacts on narwhal, beluga and walrus. The SC has, however, asked the JWG to provide more specific terms of reference of this workshop at its next meeting.

New Recommendation for Research

- An expert workshop be held to review the impacts of noise disturbance on hunted populations of narwhals, belugas, walrus and seals from shipping connected to the Baffinland mine.

5.2. Other Non-Hunting Related Anthropogenic Stressors

In discussing ecosystem-based approaches to management, SC27 noted the difficulties in obtaining reliable information to assess the impact on marine mammals from noise disturbance and made the following recommendation to the NAMMCO parties.

New Proposal for Conservation and Management

- Member Countries ensure the availability of relevant information from seismic surveys to allow for proper sound estimation to meet research and management needs.

6. User Knowledge in Management Decision-Making

The work now taking place in Greenland to develop a new executive order on the collection and use of hunters’ knowledge in decision-making processes, as well as the complexities and disagreements between scientific and user knowledge in the case of narwhal in east Greenland, create an important opportunity to discuss and continue developing the way NAMMCO includes user knowledge in its advisory and decision-making processes.

The NAMMCO Secretariat has participated in a project on integrating local knowledge in international management advice (see NAMMCO/28/MC/FI04 for project description). In a workshop for this project, opportunities for strengthening how local and user knowledge is included in the decision-making and advisory processes of NAMMCO were presented and discussed. A summary of the suite of options available to NAMMCO for strengthening the presence and role of user knowledge in the organisation is presented in working document NAMMCO/28/MC/07.

Parties are invited to consider how NAMMCO currently includes user knowledge. They may discuss additional actions/activities that could be worth exploring further, or having explicated in more detail, and/or the appropriate avenues for discussions on this topic to take place.

7. Any Other Business