

Forwarded for the Consideration of Council by the Management Committee for Cetaceans (MCC), the Management Committee for Seals and Walrus (MCSW) and the Joint Meeting of the Management Committees (JMC):

1. NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESEARCH

CETACEANS

Beluga

- New surveys for beluga to be carried out in Somerset Island in the summer and West Greenland in the winter.
- A half day workshop to be held (in connection with a JMC meeting) to exchange information on effective tagging practices for belugas.

Norwal

- Abundance estimates in East Greenland to be reviewed by the JCM of the next JMC. *Greenland* investigate ways to improve reporting of user observations to inform future assessments.
- *Greenland* recognize and include the negative impact of climate change on norwalts in management decision-making on all stocks.

Harbour Porpoise

- All assessment areas provide samples to support a multidimensional investigation into population structure and stock identity and allow for all datasets to be merged into a common analysis.
- New surveys for harbour porpoises to be carried out in NAMMCO areas, and particularly off Iceland since the last dedicated survey there was now over 12 years old.
- *Greenland* conduct follow up research to investigate how widespread underreporting of catches is in the Polynesian system.
- *Iceland and Norway* carry out tagging and tracking studies to help answer questions about stock identity and the appropriate management units.
- *Faroe Islands* work to obtain reliable removal data, update abundance survey, and conduct tagging studies to provide the information required to perform an assessment.

PIPINGITIS

Harp seal

- New aerial surveys of harp seal pups in the Greenland Sea to be carried out in 2022.
- *Greenland* continue its efforts to obtain reproductive samples, particularly in years when an aerial survey is completed.

Hooded seal

- New aerial surveys of hooded seal pups in the Greenland Sea to be carried out in 2022.

Harbour seal

- *Greenland* enhance efforts to identify new breeding and moult sites for harbour seals (particularly in West Greenland) using most feasible methods in the different areas.
- *Greenland* complete the collection and analysis of DNA samples from harbour seal pups to help determine stock structure and propose more scientifically based management units.