

## 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 (MCJ):

### 1. NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESEARCH

#### CETACEANS

##### Beluga

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

##### Narwhal

- *Abundance estimates in East Greenland be reviewed by the JCNB at the next JWG. Greenland investigate ways to improve reporting of user observations to inform future assessments.*
- *Greenland recognise and include the negative impact of climate change on narwhals 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 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 Piniarneq 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 removals data, update abundance survey, and conduct tagging studies to provide the information required to perform an assessment.*

#### PINNIPEDS

##### Harp seals

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

##### Hooded seals

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

##### Harbour seals

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

## 2. REQUESTS FOR ADVICE CONSIDERED ANSWERED AND CLOSED

### CETACEANS

- *Request R-1.7.12: To give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS-2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters.*
- *Request R-3.2.4: To conduct a formal assessment of humpback whales following the completion of the T-NASS. In addition, to investigate the relationship between the humpback whales summering in West Greenland and other areas and incorporate this knowledge into their estimate of sustainable yields of West Greenland humpback whales.*
- *Request R-3.4.9: To provide advice on the effects of human disturbance, including noise and shipping activities, on the distribution, behaviour and conservation status of belugas, particularly in West Greenland.*

### PINNIPEDS

- *Request R-2.3.2: To advise on what scientific studies need to be completed to evaluate the effects of changed levels of removals of ringed seals in West and East Greenland.*
- *Request R-2.6.8: Provide assessments, and advice on, the sustainability of allowing walrus hunt all year round in Greenland on all stocks.*

### GENERAL

- *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.*
- *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), 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, further advise where additional data could allow for more suitable management procedure(s) to be implemented.*