

NAMMCO



COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

*22 February 2022
Virtual Meeting*

REPORT



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1. SUMMARY

The Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM) held an online meeting on February 22, 2022. Present were Kathrine A. Ryeng (Chair), Guro Gjelsvik, Hild Ynnesdal, Guðni Magnus Eiríksson and Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), Amalie Jessen (Greenland), Signar Petersen (Faroe Islands) and Charlotte Winsnes and Josephine Schulze (intern) from the Secretariat. Egil Ole Øen participated during agenda item 5.

Actions arising from the meeting:

- The Secretariat will review and clarify the document [NAMMCO/CHM-2022-01/02 Grouping of similar recommendations](#)
- The Chair and Secretariat will work on the proposal for a second information video on shooting angle and on optimal target location

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

The Chair, Kathrine A. Ryeng, opened the meeting for comments to the agenda (NAMMCO/CHM-2022-02/22). The agenda was adopted as amended under AOB, and meeting documents reviewed (Appendix 1).

3. GENERAL INFORMATION UPDATES

To review and update information related to the work of the committee is a standard task of the CHM. The following overview documents are regularly updated either in connection with meetings or by correspondence intersessionally.

3.1 LIST OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND LIST OF REFERENCES

No new laws or regulations related to marine mammal hunting had come into force since the last meeting. However, Greenland informed that several executive orders (EO) were in progress. A new EO on walrus, replacing the existing one from 2006, is nearly finished and a new EO on small cetaceans excluding Narwal and Beluga is in the making. Further, a municipal EO around Nuuk humpback whales is underway to limit hunting in the fjord in support of tourism activities. The EO on narwhal and beluga will also be renewed in the near future to fit the new Management Areas in East Greenland.

Regarding new publications related to marine mammal hunting, the Chair, on behalf of Norway, informed about a new publication, that could be added to the list, although it is about bycaught animals. Additionally, Norway informed that two regulations regarding hunting are currently under revision and will be discussed at a later meeting.

The updated information has been uploaded to the NAMMCO website; [laws and regulations](#) and [references](#).

3.2 OTHER

Members had been asked to update the Conservation Status Marine Mammal Stocks document (click [here](#)) and Hunting and Regulations in NAMMCO (click [here](#)) prior to the meeting and inform any updates during the meeting.

4. REVIEW OF DATA 2021

[NAMMCO/Database-2021](#) contains the NAMMCO database up to and including 2021. The CHM reviewed and updated the database.

The CHM noted that the information generated by the data request were useful and informative, commenting on the following:

- Harp-, hooded-, bearded- and ringed seal pups were not targeted in Greenland, only independent seals are targeted. Greenland explained that long distances to areas where weaned pups are located is one explanation for this.
- Catch numbers are representative of the pandemic, especially noticeable for whale hunts in Iceland.

5. ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

Document [NAMMCO/CHM-recommendations](#) contained the overview of all recommendations from Expert Group Meetings and Workshops to member countries, and their responses, since 1999. The document is by default very comprehensive. It contains many recommendations pertaining to similar issues and is categorised under the following headings:

- Training and Education
- Reducing Struck and Lost
- Improve Minke Whale Rifle Hunt in Greenland
- Cooperation Hunters – Managers – Regulatory Measures
- Monitoring
- Data Requirements - Knowledge Gaps

The CHM reviewed and discussed the document, also giving feedback on follow up on some specific recommendations. On a more general level it was noted that some recommendations had been followed up by some, but not all, and as such were not active for every country any longer. Greenland informed that a course in grenade handling and harpoon canon maintenance is planned for this spring. Improving the minke whale rifle hunt in Greenland was discussed as a topic to be revisited in a future workshop or expert group meeting. Generally, Greenland noted that the ongoing challenge of staff changes would continue to result in very strict prioritising on how the resources were used, and this was not among the priorities. Iceland noted that some recommendations are followed up although the problem is not solved and never will be solved. E. g. the recommendations on identifying reasons for struck and lost in the minke whale hunts had been followed up through identifying what causes it, but one of the main reasons itself is not manageable (harpoon line cut on bones) thus this will continue to be a risk.

The CHM agreed that this continued to be a working document and tasked the Secretariat with reviewing the document and clarifying the concerned member country in each heading of the document.

6. VIDEO PROJECTS – ONGOING AND PROPOSALS

An update was given by Egil O. Øen and the Secretariat on the information video on the safe handling of the whaling cannon with loader pusher shell, the harpoon, and the Whale grenade-99. The video is based on the manual already published by NAMMCO. The video, nearly finalised with a first version with Norwegian voiceover, was screened during the meeting. The CHM congratulated Øen on the video and found it to be very well made, informative and to the point. Some minor comments and clarifications were noted. The CHM was informed that a translation into English was currently in progress. Greenland informed that the subtitles or the voice will be translated into Greenlandic.

The CHM briefly discussed the idea of developing a 2nd information video on optimal target location and shooting angle in whale hunting and agreed that this should be made as an animation film. The Chair and the Secretariat will make a proposal that will be presented to the CHM at the next meeting.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting will be in May or June 2022. The format was not yet decided, and the exact dates will be passed on through the Secretariat.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair noted that the previously agreed idea to invite hunters from different member countries to present and participate in a CHM meeting had not been followed up yet and suggested to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

9. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The report was adopted by correspondence on 8 March 2022.

APPENDIX: AGENDA AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS

AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda and review of documents
2. General information updates
3. Review of data 2021
4. Active recommendations and follow up
5. Video projects – ongoing and proposals
6. Next meeting
7. Any other business

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NAMMCO/CHM-2022-01/01	Agenda and List of Documents
NAMMCO/CHM-2022-01/02	Grouping of similar recommendations
NAMMCO/Database-2021	Submitted data from member countries
NAMMCO/CHM-recommendations	Overview of recommendations