

**NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING  
Tórshavn, Faroe Islands  
9-12 November 2015**

**Start 9 November 09.00 hr**

**Draft Agenda**

Paper numbers in [ ].

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**
- 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEUR**
- 4. REVIEW OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS**

**4.1.** National Progress Reports [SC/22/NPR-F, -G, -I, -N, -C, -J, -R]

**4.2.** Working Group Reports

**4.2.1.** Large Whale Assessment [SC/22/15]

**4.2.2.** JCNB [SC/22/07] [also Secretariat will check if the Commission report is available for the SC meeting]

**4.2.3.** SPWG [SC/22/09]

**4.3.** Other reports and documents

**5. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

**5.1.** IWC [SC/22/13]

**5.2.** ASCOBANS [SC/22/06]

**5.3.** ICES [SC/22/12]

**5.3.1.** Joint ICES/NAFO/NAMMCO WGHARP

**5.4.** JCNB [SC/22/07]

**5.5.** Arctic Council [SC/22/14]

5.6. Other

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL / ECOSYSTEM ISSUES**

**6.1. Marine mammals-fisheries interactions (R-1.1.5, 1.1.8)**

**R-1.1.5 (standing):** *The Council encourages scientific work that leads to a better understanding of interactions between marine mammals and commercially exploited marine resources, and requested the Scientific Committee to periodically review and update available knowledge in this field.*

**R-1.1.8 (ongoing):** *In addressing the standing requests on ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, the SC is requested to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction. In the light of the distributional shifts seen under T-NASS 2007, the SC should investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional responses. See also 1.1.6 and 1.4.6.*

**6.1.1. Bycatch**

6.1.1.1. *Update on plans for WG*

**6.2. Multispecies approaches to management (R- 1.2.1, 1.2.2)**

**R-1.2.1 (ongoing):** *consider whether multispecies models for management purposes can be established for the North Atlantic ecosystems and whether such models could include the marine mammals compartment. If such models and the required data are not available then identify the knowledge lacking for such an enterprise to be beneficial to proper scientific management and suggest scientific projects which would be required for obtaining this knowledge.*

**R-1.2.2 (standing):** *In relation to the importance of the further development of multispecies approaches to the management of marine resources, the Scientific Committee was requested to monitor stock levels and trends in stocks of all marine mammals in the North Atlantic.*

**6.3. Economic aspects of marine mammal-fisheries interactions (New Request- R-1.4.7)**

**From NAMMCO/23 (pg. 75 [request number not in document]):**

**R-1.4.7 (NEW):** *The Scientific Committee is requested to review the results of the MAREFRAME ecosystem management project when these become available. In particular, the results should be reviewed with respect to the ongoing and standing requests on marine mammal interactions (R-1.1.0) and multispecies approaches to management (R-1.2.0).*

**6.4. Environmental issues (no active requests)**

**6.5. OTHER** (*no active requests*)

**7. SEALS AND WALRUS STOCKS - STATUS AND ADVICE TO THE COUNCIL**

**7.1. Harp Seal**

**7.1.1. Review of active requests (R-2.1.4, 2.1.10)**

*R-2.1.4 (standing): update the stock status of North Atlantic harp and hooded seals as new information becomes available.*

*R-2.1.10 (standing): provide advice on Total Allowable Catches for the management of harp seals and the establishment of a quota system for the common stocks between Norway and the Russian Federation*

**7.1.2. Update**

**7.1.3. Future work**

**7.2. Hooded seal**

**7.2.1. Review of active requests (R-2.1.4, 2.1.9)**

*R-2.1.4 (standing): update the stock status of North Atlantic harp and hooded seals as new information becomes available.*

*R-2.1.9 (ongoing): investigate possible reasons for the apparent decline of Greenland Sea stock of hooded seals; and assess the status of the stock*

**7.2.2. Update**

**7.2.3. Future work**

**7.3. Ringed seal**

**7.3.1. Review of active requests (R-2.3.1, 2.3.2)**

*R-2.3.1 (ongoing): stock identity, abundance estimate, etc.*

*R-2.3.2 (ongoing): effects of removals of ringed seals in Greenland*

**7.3.2. Update**

**7.3.3. Future work**

*7.3.3.1. Possible WG*

**7.4. Grey seal**

**7.4.1. Review of active requests (R-2.4.2)**

***R-2.4.2 (ongoing): abundance estimates all areas***

**7.4.2. Update**

**7.4.3. Future work**

**7.4.3.1. Coastal Seals WG**

**7.5. Harbour seal**

**7.5.1. Review of active requests (R-2.5.2)**

***R-2.5.2: conduct a formal assessment of the status of harbour seals around Iceland and Norway as soon as feasible***

**7.5.2. Update**

**7.5.2.1. Presentation from Japan**

**7.5.3. Future work**

**7.5.3.1. Coastal Seals WG**

**7.6. Bearded seal**

**7.6.1. Update**

**7.6.2. Future work**

**7.7. Walrus**

**7.7.1. Review of active requests (R-2.6.3)**

***R-2.6.3 (ongoing): effects of human disturbance, including fishing and shipping activities, in particular scallop fishing, on the distribution, behaviour and conservation status of walrus in West Greenland.***

**7.7.2. Disturbance Symposium [report if available, otherwise general update]**

**7.7.3. Working Group- updated assessment Baffin Bay**

**7.7.4. Update**

7.7.4.1. *Status of recommendations from 2013 Walrus WG* [for information paper, past recommendations]

## **8. CETACEANS STOCKS - STATUS AND ADVICE TO THE COUNCIL**

### **8.1. Fin whale**

#### **8.1.1. Review of active requests** (R-3.1.7, 1.7.11, 1.7.12)

***R-1.7.11 (ongoing):*** *develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible*

***R-1.7.12 (ongoing):*** *Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters*

***R-3.1.7 amended (ongoing):*** *complete an assessment of fin whales in the North Atlantic and also to include an estimation of sustainable catch levels in the Central North Atlantic. NEW AMENDMENT : “While long-term advice based on the outcome of the RMP Implementation Reviews (with 0.60 tuning level) is desirable, shorter term, interim advice may be necessary, depending on the progress within the IWC. This work should be completed before the annual meeting of the SC in 2015.”*

#### **8.1.2. Large Whale Assessment WG** [SC/22/15]

#### **8.1.3. Update**

#### **8.1.4. Future work**

### **8.2. Humpback whale**

#### **8.2.1. Review of active requests** (R-3.2.4, 1.7.12)

***R-1.7.12 (ongoing):*** *Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters*

***R-3.2.4 (ongoing):*** *conduct a formal assessment following the completion of the T-NASS...In addition the Scientific Committee is requested 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.*

#### **8.2.2. Update** [SC/22/15]

#### **8.2.3. Future work**

### 8.3. Minke whale

#### 8.3.1. Review of active requests (R-3.3.4, 1.7.11, 1.7.12)

*R-1.7.11 (ongoing): develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible*

*R-1.7.12 (ongoing): Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters*

*R-3.3.4 amended(ongoing): full assessment, including long-term sustainability of catches, of common minke whales in the Central North Atlantic... assess the short-term (2-5 year) effects of the following total annual catches: 0, 100, 200 and 400*

#### 8.3.2. Update [SC/22/15]

#### 8.3.3. Future work

### 8.4. Beluga

#### 8.4.1. Review of active requests (R-3.4.9, 3.4.11)

*R-3.4.9 (ongoing): 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; narwhal added at NAMMCO 22*

*R-3.4.11 (standing): update the assessment of both narwhal and beluga*

#### 8.4.2. JCNB/NAMMCO WG report [SC/22/07]

#### 8.4.3. Disturbance Symposium [SC/22/08]

#### 8.4.4. Update

#### 8.4.5. Future work

8.4.5.1. *JCNB/NAMMCO JWG meeting- spring 2016*

8.4.5.2. *Global review of monodontids*

8.4.5.3. *Other*

### 8.5. Narwhal

#### 8.5.1. Review of active requests (R-3.4.9, 3.4.11)

**R-3.4.9 (ongoing):** 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; narwhal added at NAMMCO 22

**R-3.4.11 (standing):** update the assessment of both narwhal and beluga

## **8.5.2. Updates**

8.5.2.1. NAMMCO-JCNB JWG report [SC/22/07]

## **8.5.3. Future work**

8.5.3.1. Planning JCNB/NAMMCO JWG meeting (taken above in 8.5.3.1)

8.5.3.2. Global review of monodontids (taken above in 8.5.3.2)

8.5.3.3. Disturbance symposium (taken above in 8.5.3.3)

8.5.3.4. Other

## **8.6. Sei whale**

**8.6.1.** Review of active requests (R-3.5.3 amended, 1.7.12?)

**R-1.7.12 (ongoing):** Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters

**R-3.5.3 amended (ongoing):** assess the status of sei whales in West Greenland waters and the Central North Atlantic and provide minimum estimates of sustainable yield

**8.6.2.** Update

**8.6.3. Future work**

## **8.7. Bottlenose whale**

**8.7.1. Update**

**8.7.2. Future work**

**8.7.3. Abundance estimate?**

## **8.8. Killer whale**

**8.8.1. Review of active requests** (R-3.7.2)

**R-3.7.2 (ongoing):** review the knowledge on the abundance, stock structure, migration and feeding ecology of killer whales in the North Atlantic, and to provide advice on research needs to improve this knowledge. Priority should be given to killer whales in the West Greenland – Eastern Canada area.

**8.8.2. Update**

**8.8.3. Future work**

**8.9. Pilot whale**

**8.9.1. Review of active requests (R-3.8.3, 3.8.4, 3.8.5, 3.8.6, 1.7.11)**

**R-1.7.11 (ongoing):** develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible

**R-3.8.3 (ongoing):** to develop a proposal for the details of a cost-effective scientific monitoring programme for pilot whales in the Faroes

**R-3.8.4 (ongoing):** methodology and the coverage of T-NASS take into account the need for reliable estimates for pilot whales. In addition, priority should be given to the analysis of data on pilot whales after the completion of T-NASS

**R-3.8.5 (ongoing):** assess the status of long-finned pilot whales in West Greenland waters and provide minimum estimates of sustainable yield

**R-3.8.6 (ongoing):** complete a full assessment of pilot whales in the North Atlantic and provide advice on the sustainability of catches...with particular emphasis on the Faroese area and East and West Greenland. In the short term...provide a general indication of the level of abundance of pilot whales required to sustain an annual catch equivalent to the annual average of the Faroese catch in the years since 1997

**8.9.2. Update**

**8.9.3. Future work**

**8.10. Dolphins**

**8.10.1. Review of active requests (R-3.9.6)**

**R-3.9.6 (ongoing):** assessments of dolphin species

**8.10.2. Update**

**8.10.3. Future work**

**8.11. Harbour porpoise**



**8.11.1. Review of active requests (R-3.10.1)**

*R-3.10.1 (ongoing): comprehensive assessment of the species throughout its range*

**8.11.2. Update**

*8.11.2.1. Status of recommendations from 2013 HPWG*

*8.11.2.2. Updates on catch/bycatch reporting and numbers*

**8.11.3. Future work**

**8.12. Sperm whale**

**8.12.1. Update**

**8.12.2. Future work**

**8.13. Bowhead whale**

**8.14. Review of active requests (R-1.7.12)**

*R-1.7.12 (ongoing): Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters*

**8.14.1. Update**

**8.14.2. Future work**

**8.15. Blue Whales**

**8.15.1. Update**

**8.15.2. Future work**

**9. SURVEY PLANNING (R-1.7.11, 1.7.12)**

*R-1.7.11 (ongoing): develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible*

*R-1.7.12 (ongoing): Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2015 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters*

- 9.1. NASS Debrief [Cruise reports & Debriefing report]
- 9.2. Plans for analysis/presentation of abundance estimates (WG)
- 9.3. Plans for future surveys
  - 9.3.1. Timing
  - 9.3.2. Coordination
  - 9.3.3. Ideas for improving planning for next NASS
- 9.4. Issues regarding trends/abundance/distribution of marine mammals in the North Atlantic
- 9.5. Publications from TNASS-07
- 9.6. Other updates
- 9.7. Future work

## 10. NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- 10.1. Monodontid age estimation
- 10.2. Next volume?

## 11. DATABASES ON ABUNDANCE AND CATCHES

- 11.1. Abundance [SC/22/05]
- 11.2. Catches

## 12. WORK PROCEDURES IN THE SC

- 12.1. Involvement of the Vice-Chair
- 12.2. Guidelines for chairing the SC [SC/22/19]
- 12.3. New meeting procedures
- 12.4. Other suggestions
- 12.5. Use of NAMMCO documents

## 13. FUTURE WORK PLANS

- 13.1. Scientific Committee
  - 13.1.1. 2016 Meeting (Greenland)
- 13.2. Working groups
  - 13.2.1. Coastal Seals
  - 13.2.2. JCNB/NAMMCO
  - 13.2.3. ICES/NAFO/NAMMCO WGHARP
  - 13.2.4. Bycatch- data reviewed in ICES WGBYC or NAMMCO WG?

13.2.5. Others?

13.3. **Other matters**

14. **BUDGET**

14.1. **Spending in 2015 [SC/22/11]**

14.2. **Budget for 2016/2017**

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

15.1. **Election of officers?**

16. **MEETING CLOSURE**

16.1. **Acceptance of report**

16.2. **Closing remarks**