

NORTH ATLANTIC MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

Report of the Meeting of the Management Committee for Cetaceans 4 February 2014, Reykjavik, Iceland

1. CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

Chair Ulla Svavert Wang welcomed all participants to the meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted, and the MC noted that agenda items 6-9 will be discussed during the Joint Session with the MC on Seals & Walrus.

3. APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEUR

Bill Dewitt (Scientific Secretary) was appointed as rapporteur, with the help of participants when needed.

4. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR WHALE STOCKS

For this agenda item, the Chair drew the attention of the MC to the following documents:

- NAMMCO/23/MC/3 (Past proposals for Conservation and Management)
- NAMMCO/23/MC/4 (Summary of Requests to the Scientific Committee)
- NAMMCO/23/5 (Scientific Committee Report, item 8 and ANNEX 1, ANNEX 2) and
- NAMMCO/23/5 (Recommendations to member countries 2014).

4.1 Fin whales

East-Greenland -Island stock

West Greenland

Faroe Islands

Requests by Council for advice from the Scientific Committee:

There is one active request to the Scientific Committee:

R-1.7 (NAMMCO/17-09-2008): The SC is requested to 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.

R-1.7.12 (NAMMCO/22 - 2014): Greenland requests the SC to give information on sustainable yield based on new abundance estimates expected from TNASS2013 for all large baleen whales in West Greenland waters (NAMMCO/22).

Update from the Scientific Committee:

Fin whale catches in Iceland had a very different distribution from previous years, with low catch rates on the traditional whaling grounds west of Iceland and the bulk of the total catch of 137 fin whales taken south of Iceland.

In 2013 a fin whale/blue whale hybrid was caught in the Irminger Sea west of Iceland. This is the 5th confirmed hybrid between these two species in Icelandic waters.