

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR
SEALS AND WALRUS**

4 February 2015, Reykjavik, Iceland

1. CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair, Hild Ymsundal, Norway, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted noting that agenda items 6. Trade issues changed place with agenda item 5, and that items 6, to 9, would be discussed in a joint session with the Management Committee for Cetaceans. The report from the joint session is part of this report. The meeting documents were reviewed. Agenda and list of documents are contained in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

3. APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEUR

The Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

4. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SEAL STOCKS

The Chair drew attention to the following documents:

- NAMMCO/23/MC/3 summarizing past proposals for conservation and management and responses to these
- NAMMCO/23/MC/4 summarizing past requests to the Scientific Committee and responses.
- NAMMCO/23/MC/5 listing recommendations to member countries in 2014.

There were no new proposals for conservation and management to member countries or recommendations to member countries arising from the meeting.

The vice-chair of the Scientific Committee, Ties Haug, presented the information on seal and walrus stocks from the Scientific Committee report (NAMMCO/23/5) under each species.

4.1 Harp Seals

In 2014 Greenland had agreed to send a new request to ICES in order to finalize the assessment on the Northwest Atlantic stock, because the results from the last surveys in 2013 had not been ready, and therefore not been dealt with at the last WGHARF meeting in August 2013.

Greenland had sent a request to ICES that somehow had not been received in the right department. The WG on harp and hooded seals had therefore not discussed this request at its last meeting in November 2014. SC will have to discuss the issue once a response has been received.

Request to Council for advice from the Scientific Committee

R-2.1.4 - NAMMCO/12-2003 (standing): to regularly update the stock status of North Atlantic harp and hooded seals as new information becomes available.