



NORTH ATLANTIC MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

Twenty Third Meeting of the Council
3-5 February 2015, Reykjavik, Iceland

NAMMCO/14 COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

This document contains the following:

Report of the meeting of the Committee on Hunting Methods held 19 - 20 November 2014 including

- appendix 1: List of laws and regulations in NAMMCO member countries
- appendix 2: List of references on hunting methods

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

The Committee on Hunting Methods met on 19 and 20 November 2014 at the Greenlandic representation in Copenhagen. Present were Eyjólf Björnsson, Chair and Guðni Magnus Eriksson (Iceland), Egil Óli Óli, Kathrine Ryring and Hild Yngvold (Norway), Jonnes Olsen, Olafur Ingvál, Nete Laveenmann (Greenland), and Christina Lockyar and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

1. Introductory Remarks, Adoption of Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur

The Chair of the Committee, Eyjólf Björnsson, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. Björnsson could only participate on 19 November and the vice-chair, Nete Laveenmann, chaired the meeting on 20 November. The draft agenda was adopted and Charlotte Winsnes acted as rapporteur.

2. Updates on hunting methods in member countries

The lists of references on hunting methods (NAMMCO/14/November 2014-2), and laws and regulations in member countries (NAMMCO/14/November 2014-3) were updated (see Appendices 1 and 2 of this report).

Faro Islands

Olafur Ingvál (Faro Islands) informed the meeting that as of November only two since drives of pilot whales had taken place in 2014. In addition, a few bottlenose and sperm whales had stranded.

The whaling season attracted unusually high attention from anti-whaling activists. On three specific occasions, activists had interfered with the whaling activities, resulting in people being fined and deported out of the country. One specific incident, scheduled to go to court in March 2015, resulted in Sea Shepherd being accused of violating both the whaling regulations and the animal welfare law.

The drawing of the blade of the spiral harpoon described in the Executive Order on pilot whale hunting from 2013 has been revised with respect to the dimensions of the blade. Olsen also informed the meeting that 200 new blades are being produced in Japan and these will be distributed to all designated whaling bays in the beginning of 2015. Training of hunters based on the NAMMCO manual on pilot whale hunting will take place from January to March 2015. From 1 May 2015 it will be a requirement to use the spiral lance, and the old whaling knife is only allowed to be used after the whale is killed in order to bleed the animal.