



## NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 29

13-15 September 2022  
Grand Hotel, Oslo & Hybrid

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

13-15 September 2022

<b>DOCUMENT 09</b>	<b>REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS (CHM)</b>
<b>Submitted by</b>	CHM/Secretariat
<b>Action requested</b>	To take note of the reports and consider the forwarded recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal for to make a 2<sup>nd</sup> instruction video</li> <li>• Proposed Work plan</li> </ul>
<b>Background/content</b>	This document consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summaries of the work of the CHM March 2021 – September 2022</li> <li>• Appendix 1: Proposal for the 2<sup>nd</sup> instruction video</li> </ul>

## 1. MEETINGS AND MEMBERS MARCH 2021 – SEPTEMBER 2022

CHM meetings and reports:

- [28 September 2021](#)
- [22 February 2022](#)
- [10 May 2022](#)

Committee members:

- FO: Ulla Svarrer Wang, Signar Petterson
- GL: Masaana Dorph, Amalie Jessen, Niels Lyberth
- IS: Guðni Magnús Eiríksson, Kristjan Loftsson, Elin B. Ragnarsdottir
- NO: Guro Gjelsvik, Kathrine Alberte Ryeng, Hild Ynnesdal

Chair: Kathrine Alberte Ryeng

## 2. OVERVIEW OF MAIN DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

The discussions and considerations informing the recommendations reflected below are found in the reports from the meetings – linked under item 1 above.

### 2.1 ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS

A new comprehensive system for annual reporting from Parties was introduced in 2020. The objective was to develop a procedure whereby the Parties submitted, once a year, all the data required for the committees to carry out their tasks as efficiently as possible. It was also an attempt to standardise the entries in the database to enable comparisons between countries and activities.

The new reporting system did not meet the expectations and the added workload for the Parties had increased significantly. Too many “non-functional” data categories had been introduced primarily based on a “nice to know” rather than “need to know” basis. The diversity of target species, hunting methods, national regulations and praxis resulted in an abundance of requests for input of data that were not relevant for all members.

The reporting system has now been revised taking into consideration the data needed for committees to meet their mandates and also taking into considerations priorities put forward by the Parties.

### 2.2 INSTRUCTION VIDEOS FOR MARINE MAMMAL HUNTERS

#### 2.2.1 1st Instruction video

The CHM supervised and provided input to the development of the 1<sup>st</sup> information video focusing on the safe handling of the 50 mm Kongsberg whaling cannon with loaded pusher shell (cartridge), and the harpoon and the Whale grenade 99. Egil Ole Øen was contracted as advisor and main contributor to the making of the video. The development of the manuscript and editing of the film was done as a cooperation between the filmmaker, Relevant Film, Egil Ole Øen and Winsnes from the Secretariat. Filming on location was carried out during one day at MS Marie in Midtsun in late September 2021. The video has so far been produced in two versions, English and Norwegian. A Greenlandic version is underway. The English and Norwegian versions are accessible on the website.

#### 2.2.2 Proposal for a 2<sup>nd</sup> video

The Council 28 expressed their support for developing short videos focusing on various aspects of hunting with the aim of improving safety for hunters and animal welfare. The CHM is currently recommending producing a 2<sup>nd</sup> instruction video focusing on the importance of target location and the

shooting angle in the large whale hunts. The proposal including a tentative budget of NOK 200 000 is contained in Appendix 1.

### 2.3 ACTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW UP

In February 2020 the CHM initiated a review process whereby all recommendations from all Expert group meetings (EGM) and Workshops (WS) were classified as either completed/closed or still [active](#). The process revealed that several recommendations were of a similar nature and were repeated by the different EGMs and WGs just with a slightly different wording. The overview of recommendations thus became longer and less manageable than necessary. These recurring recommendations have now been grouped 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 also recognised that other recommendations are not followed up due to lack of necessary resources, others 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 in propeller or on bones) thus this will continue to be a risk.

### 2.4 FUTURE PRIORITIES

Discussing future priorities, the CHM agreed on the following main activities:

- Continue to produce videos with topics arising from recommendations such as e.g.
  - hunters be trained to measure and report on strike location, detonation location and distance between the two to investigate reasons for why NO has a higher IDR than GL in the minke harpoon hunt (EG-2010, 2015: GL)
- Revisit the issue of the rifle hunt in Greenland (standing recommendation, approved by Council 27 in 2019) as soon as possible. The proposal was to focus on hunting methods where death was not immediate, e.g., types of hunts requiring harpooning before killing in order not to lose the animal, within the format of an EG/WS. This is a resource dependent recommendation, and it was postponed in 2019 in wait of enough resources, both time and money, had been secured to follow through with this.
- Look at the ballistics and use of leadfree bullets for marine mammal hunts. EU is working on a regulation to prohibit the use of lead bullets. Concerns the seal hunts in NAMMCO.

Finally, the CHM discussed and agreed that outsourcing work (i.e., carrying out work under NAMMCO control and funding) could be considered to advance pending work.

The CHM plan to invite hunters to meetings to inform and update the members on specific hunting methods and essential issues related to the activities.

### 2.5 UPDATE ON REGULATIONS AND REFERENCES

The CHM reviews and updates information related to the work of the committee on an annual basis through the following overview documents, uploaded to the website:

[Laws and regulations](#), [References](#) i.e., papers/articles related to marine mammals hunting, overview of the [Conservation Status Marine Mammal Stocks](#) and [Hunting and Regulations](#) in NAMMCO.

## **2.6 WORKPLAN 2022-2023**

### **2022**

- Produce the 2<sup>nd</sup> training video on optimal shooting angle and target place given approval from the Council

### **2023**

- Monitor annual reporting from member countries
- Finalise the 2<sup>nd</sup> training video

## APPENDIX 1

### Proposal to produce a 2<sup>nd</sup> instruction video on target sites and shooting angle in the large whale hunts

Council 28 endorsed the idea to produce short, professionally made training videos for hunters for free and easy access on [www.nammco.org](http://www.nammco.org).

NAMMCOs work towards improving marine mammal hunting methods is unique to NAMMCO and an area in which we have world leading expertise. Training, experience, and transfer of knowledge have been identified as prerequisites to safe and responsible hunting practices. Previously (2011-2014) NAMMCO has developed instruction manuals to aid hunter training and knowledge transfer, resulting in three manuals: one on whale hunts deploying harpoon guns with explosive grenades, one on small cetacean hunts using rifles and harpoons or lances, and one on the pilot whale hunt in the Faroe Islands.

Having information available in both written and visual forms is extremely important for effectively communicating with multiple audiences and people with different learning styles. Given the visual nature of our current culture (i.e., the prevalence of TV, films, and online videos as a means of communication), having information available in short video form is also likely to be both popular and effective.

The aim is that these videos clearly communicate which factors are essential to ensure successful hunts. The format will be a combination of animation, illustrations, and filmed footage. It was also envisaged to not exclusively look at hunts carried out by NAMMCO member but include where possible other hunting countries in line with the importance NAMMCO puts on cooperation and knowledge sharing not only between, but also beyond its Member Countries.

The first video supplemented the manual (<https://nammco.no/hunting-manuals/>) and showed the safe handling of the 50 mm Kongsberg whaling cannon with loaded pusher shell (cartridge), the harpoon and the Whale grenade 99. The current proposal will represent the 2<sup>nd</sup> in this series of training videos.

#### Proposal

Generally, for hunting of large whales with explosive grenades the Expert Group meeting on large whales (2015) strongly emphasised that successful and rapid kills are dependent on both equipment, target area and the angle of the shot i.e., to shoot the animal from the side towards the thorax.

The general aim is to achieve optimal animal welfare outcomes in large whale hunting through visualising best practice and the optimal use of equipment for increasing *instant death rate* (IDR) and decreasing *time to death* (TTD) in marine mammal hunts.

Specifically, this proposal focusses on different elements/sequences when using whaling cannon and the explosive grenade in large whale hunts and the rifle as a back-up weapon.

Three aspects will be highlighted:

1. Target area and shooting angle

The design of the explosive grenade is such that the hunter should preferably aim at the thorax from the side of the animal.

- aiming at target area (give anatomical directions – display optimal area)
- shooting angle: 45 – 135° relative to the animal's longitudinal axis

2. Assessing the effect of the shot

- Reaction to the shot
- IWC criteria

3. Back-up rifle
  - Caliber and ammunition
  - Target organ – brain – localization in situ

When rifles are used as a backup weapon the bullet trajectories change when traveling through water. Therefore, it is important to not shoot the animal before the head has surfaced. The video must therefore communicate the importance and significance of comprehending the relationship of ballistics to achieving successful and effective hunting.

The target audience are hunters using harpoon grenades to kill large whales in NAMMCO member countries and other interested regions. The video is envisaged as consisting of animations and existing live footage.

### **Participation and funding**

It is proposed that the current chair of CHM, Dr Kathrine A. Ryeng lead the project in liaison with the Secretariat. Likewise, it is suggested that Dr Egil Ole Øen is asked to participate in the project with his expertise.

### **Main steps:**

- Identify and contract production company. This involves producing the video with English voiceover.
- Develop screenplay/manuscript
- Screening of preliminary video by the CHM
- Finalising the video

### **Preliminary budget frame – lump sum of NOK 200 000**

- Contract Dr Egil Øen: NOK 20,000
- Contract production company:  
1<sup>st</sup> minute NOK 40 000, after that NOK 20 000 per extra minute
- Tentative time schedule: Start after the Council meeting with the aim of presenting the video to Council 30 in March/April 2023
- Miscellaneous lump sum NOK 20 000

The budget covers a 7-minute video with English voiceover. Voiceover in other languages is not included. The price estimation is based on quotes from 3 different production companies offering these services.

It is difficult to estimate how many minutes will be needed to cover the content described in the proposal. The time needed and thus the cost will also depend on the number of species that the video shall cover.