



NORTH ATLANTIC MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

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

NAMMCO/23/11 EXTERNAL RELATIONS

NAMMCO/23/11-1	IWC 65 th Annual Scientific Committee meeting, 12-24 May 2014, Bled, Slovenia
NAMMCO/23/11-2	IWC 65 th Commission meeting and Sub-Committee meetings/ WG Whale killing and Associated Welfare Issues, 11-13 Sept. 2014, Bernardin, Potorož, Slovenia
NAMMCO/23/11-3	NASCO 31 st Annual Meeting, 3-6 June 2014, Saint Malo, France
NAMMCO/23/11-4	NEAFC 33 rd Annual Meeting, 10-14 Nov. 2014, London, UK
NAMMCO/23/11-5	NAFO 36 th Annual Meeting, 22-26 Sept. 2014, Vigo, Spain
NAMMCO/23/11-6	4 th Meeting of the Arctic Council SCTF, 30 Sept.-2 Oct. 2014, Tromsø, Norway
NAMMCO/23/11-7	IWC Workshop on Impacts of Increased Marine Activities on Cetaceans in the Arctic, 6-7 March 2014, Anchorage, USA
NAMMCO/23/11-8	UN-FAO Global Summit - Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth, 22-25 April 2014, The Hague, Netherlands
NAMMCO/23/11-9	4 th PAME Ecosystem Approach to Management Workshop: Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA), June 16-18 2014, Vancouver, Canada
NAMMCO/23/11-10	11th Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO-X), 1– 6 December 2014, Windhoek, Namibia
NAMMCO/23/11-11	Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN-5), 7 June 2014, Rome, Italy
NAMMCO/23/11-12	Thirty-first Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI 31), 9 – 13 June, Rome, Italy

NAMMCO/23/11-1

IWC 65th Annual Scientific Committee meeting, 12-24 May 2014, Bled, Slovenia

Jill Prewitt from the NAMMCO Secretariat attended the 65th (b) IWC Scientific Committee meeting held in Bled, Slovenia from 12-24 May 2014 as an observer. Many details of the IWC SC meeting are contained in the Observer's Report provided to NAMMCO by Lars Walløe (see NAMMCO SC report Appendix 4), therefore this report pertains more specifically to Prewitt's involvement in the meeting.

The 2014 meeting was Jill's first IWC Scientific Committee meeting and therefore was an excellent opportunity to meet the scientists involved in the IWC SC, and to re-establish connections with scientists in her relatively new role with NAMMCO. The meeting was also an important occasion to learn more about the procedures in the IWC SC, and how the work of the IWC SC relates to the work of the NAMMCO SC. This was particularly relevant in the sub-committees for Aboriginal Whaling Management Procedure (AWMP) and Revised Management Procedure (RMP).

In addition to participating in the meeting itself, attendance at the meeting also allowed for Jill to meet with colleagues affiliated with the Marine Mammals of the Holarctic meetings concerning cooperation on a future Global Review of Monodontids (GROM) symposium. Jill also met with Arne Bjørge, Robert Suydam and Olga Shpak of the GROM Steering Committee to discuss the planning for this symposium.

Jill was also able to facilitate the review of papers for *NAMMCO Scientific Publications* by meeting with potential reviewers that were attending the IWC SC meeting.

NAMMCO/23/11-2

IWC 65th Commission meeting and Sub-Committee/WG on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues 11-18 Sept. 2014, Slovenia

The 65th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) took place in Portorož, Slovenia from the 15-18 September 2014, with Sub-Committee and Working Group meetings from 11-13 September 2014.

This was the first meeting since the Commission agreed to move to a biennial schedule. The meeting was chaired by Jeannine Compton-Antoine (St Lucia).

Deputy Secretary, Charlotte Winsnes attended both the Sub-Committees/Working Group and the Commission meetings on behalf of NAMMCO.

Prior to the meeting NAMMCO had issued an Opening Statement agreed by correspondence among NAMMCO member countries.

NAMMCO had been invited to make a presentation of the hunting manuals in the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues on 11 September. The presentation was generally well received although Australia made an intervention stating that the issue had nothing to do with the agenda.

At the Commission meeting NAMMCO made one intervention under agenda item 13. Whale killing methods and associated welfare issues. The intervention pointed out that NAMMCO:

- is a fully competent international organisation for management of cetaceans under the UNCLOS,
- is based on the principle of sustainable utilisation of natural resources and coastal people's right to hunt whales and that whales are an abundant food resource given a sound and rational management regime,
- defines any given hunt as either sustainable or not sustainable in terms of biology and hunting methods, and there is consequently no place or rationale for need statements that only serve to humiliate a fellow member country,
- has always dedicated efforts and resources into the development and improvement of whaling equipment and capture techniques and hunters' safety.

In the following some items of relevance to NAMMCO are briefly mentioned. The full report from the meeting may be downloaded from the IWC homepage.

Schedule amendment re Greenlandic quotas

The proposal for quota including an updated need statement and a Resolution on aboriginal subsistence whaling were adopted. Substantial resources and efforts had been put down both inter-sessionally and in the meeting to negotiate a package deal with EU that finally succeeded to achieve the necessary 2/3 majority.

Greenland, having been denied their quota requested at IWC64 had subsequently issued national quotas in 2013 and 2014 in compliance with the 2012 request. Some Commission members unsuccessfully tried to get the meeting to report this as infraction.

The Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling WG proposed two main actions for the inter-sessional (1) to develop a proposal for a workshop to address high priority long term issues and (2) that a discussion document on the issue of local consumption and commercialism be developed. The proposed workshop is expected to take place in 2015, to *inter alia* develop a proposal for addressing those issues including a broad consideration of the issue of 'standardised need statements'.

Other proposed Schedule amendments

Proposals for establishment of a South Atlantic Sanctuary and small-type coastal minke whaling in Japan both failed.

Other proposed resolutions:

Monaco proposed a Resolution on highly migratory cetaceans, including small cetaceans that was adopted by simple majority. Norway and others voted against on the basis that many cetaceans are not highly migratory and most of the threats faced by cetaceans falls under national jurisdiction. Additionally many populations of small whales are already covered by national or regional regimes such as NAMMCO and ASCOBANS.

Ghana proposed a Resolution on food security that was redrawn in lack of consensus and it was agreed to work inter-sessionally with the aim of a consensus ruling in 2016. In discussion, the great importance of food security was recognised but members had differing views on how or if this should be directly addressed by the IWC.

Chile proposed a Resolution on civil society participation and transparency at the IWC that was adopted by consensus after much discussion and revision of the text. The main disagreement concerned possible NGO participation in the Scientific Committee.

A proposal for a Resolution on the Scientific Committee was adopted that works towards establishing a working group between the Conservation Committee and the Scientific Committee, secure steady funding for the work on small cetaceans and establish priorities for the work of the Scientific Committee. Japan and Norway pointed out that the Resolution should be referred to the Scientific Committee before adoption by the IWC, particularly as it involves the day-to-day work of that Committee.

New Zealand proposed a Resolution on whaling under special permit. With reference to the conclusion of the International Court of Justice that special permits granted by Japan in connection with JARPA II were not for the purposes of scientific research, the resolution would instruct the Scientific Committee to consider its criteria for the review of Special Permit research programmes in the light of the conclusions of the Court's judgement. The proposed Resolution requested that no further special permits for the take of whales should be issued until they have been reviewed by the Scientific Committee, and until the Commission has made recommendations on the basis of this advice. Japan stated that it recognised, and abided by, the decision of the ICJ. They noted, however, that the decision relates to the particular case of JARPA II and that it does not change the legal framework of the IWC. Others stated that the proposal could jeopardise future scientific research.

An inter-sessional working group on welfare had produced a proposal for new terms of reference for Whale Killing Methods & Associated Welfare Issues Working Group. However, some parties expressed concerns over underlying principles and the proposed widening of the scope of the current group. After extensive efforts by the UK, Norway and others it was agreed to a revise name "Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues" including Terms of Reference and an Action plan. The revision includes discussion of welfare questions related to strandings, ship strikes and whale watching.

The Icelandic and Norwegian whaling activities were criticised and both countries were asked to withdraw their reservations both in IWC and in CITES.

Iceland gave a final intervention stating that IWC remained a dysfunctional organisation that did not adhere to the intentions of the Convention.

New chair of the Commission is Bruno Mainini (Switzerland), vice-chair is Joji Morishita (Japan).

Comment

The Chair excelled in her capacity, and the meeting by IWC standards, was executed in an unusually constructive and non-rhetorical manner. Discussions showed no changes in block sentiments but through the professional leadership, this was never allowed to excel.

Several wanting more information on NAMMCO and its activities in general and the process with developing the hunting manuals, approached NAMMCO during the meetings.

NAMMCO/23/1213

NASCO 31st Annual Meeting, 3-6 June 2014, Saint Malo, France

Full reports from both the NASCO Council and Commission reports were received from the Faroe Islands. However, no summary was provided for either document. The reports are available at the Secretariat.

NAMMCO/23/11-4

NEAFC 33rd Annual Meeting, 10-14 Nov. 2014, London, UK

During the 33rd Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) held in London from 10 to 14 November 2014, Norway observed on behalf of NAMMCO and submitted this report.

NEAFC is the first regional fisheries management organisation in the world to undertake a second performance review. The independent expert panel presented its report on NEAFC's performance to the meeting. It was agreed to have an Extraordinary Meeting of NEAFC in to discuss the report in depth and how NEAFC should respond to the panel's various observations and proposals. While the report is largely very positive, it nevertheless identifies significant issues that need to be addressed, in particular concerning allocation of fishing opportunities.

NEAFC management measures will be in place for next year for a number of fish stocks. In addition to agreeing to management measures for several deep sea species, the meeting agreed on interim guidelines on the management of deep sea species. These guidelines establish a categorisation of deep sea species that is intended to assist in both the provision of scientific advice and in the development of management measures for deep sea species.

The fight against illegal fishing continues to be a priority for NEAFC. To this end, various control and enforcement measures are ongoing. These include the expansion of the scope of NEAFC's Port State Control. This will fully align the system, which is operated electronically, with the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement. NEAFC also continues to maintain its list of vessels that have been confirmed as engaging in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Such vessels are not authorised to enter a port in any of the Contracting Parties.

NEAFC has closed several areas to bottom fisheries to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems. New closures were added at the meeting, based on scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The request to ICES for future advice in this context was also amended to ensure that it is consistent with the objectives set in the Recommendation on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems that was adopted through a written procedure earlier this year. That Recommendation has been deemed a significant improvement to the previous measures, although they had also been deemed consistent with the relevant UN General Assembly resolutions and FAO Guidelines. In addition to closing some areas to bottom fishing, and authorising it in other areas, the Recommendation sets out clear procedures for bottom fishing in new areas. This includes pre-assessments, an encounter protocol and detailed rules on exploratory fisheries.

NEAFC has agreed to collective arrangement with the OSPAR Commission for the protection of the marine environment of the North East Atlantic. The aim is to strengthen cooperation between the two organisations, and the intention is to include other organisations that have legal competence regarding other activities. In particular, efforts will be made to present possible participation to the International Maritime Organisation and the International Seabed Authority.

NAMMCO/23/11-5

NAFO 36th Annual Meeting, 22-26 Sept. 2014, Vigo, Spain

Her follows the report from Iceland, the NAMMCO observer to the Annual Meeting of The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). The 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO was held 22nd to 26th of September 2014. It was hosted by the Governement of Spain in Vigo, Spain.

Ratification of amended NAFO Convention

At the time of the annual meeting six NAFO Contracting Parties had ratified the amended NAFO Convention. Other Members reported their progress to the meeting.

Implementation of recommendations from 2011 Performance Review

The status of implementation of the recommendations from the 2011 NAFO Performance Review Panel were reviewed. All constituent bodies continue to make progress and NAFO was pleased with work that has been and continues to be done.

Bottom fisheries and protection of VMEs

A review of closed areas for protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) was carried out this year and the current closures were extended until 2020. Two new closed areas were also adopted in the NAFO Area.

NAFO is a partner in the FAO VME Database project. Information on NAFO closed areas will contribute to a global review of the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolutions that request the protection of VMEs.

Status of stocks and TACs

Witch flounder in Div. 3NO was re-opened after a closure of 20 years. TACs and quotas were established for all other NAFO regulated stocks. In order to be precautionary a moratorium for the shrimp stock in Div. 3LNO has been agreed. The TAC for cod on the Flemish Cap was reduced by 5%. For redfish in Div. 3LN, a Harvest Control Rule has been agreed which forsees an incremental increase in TACs for the next 7 years, leading to exploitation at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) in 2021, subject to regular reviews.

Improving catch data

Measures were agreed upon to strengthen the scientific basis for management decisions, to increase compliance and to improve the quality of catch data it collects. Information collected on a tow-by-tow basis will be made available to scientists to enhance stock assessments and advice in the future.

NAMMCO/23/11-6

4th Meeting of the Arctic Council Scientific Cooperation Task Force (AC SCTF), 30 Sept.-2 Oct. 2014, Tromsø, Norway

The 4th meeting of the AC SCTF met in Tromsø, Norway from 30 September to 2 October. The meeting was attended by participants from the Arctic States, the Permanent Participants and accredited observers.

Deputy Secretary, Charlotte Winsnes attended on behalf of NAMMCO.

The AC SCTF was established at the Ministerial meeting in Kiruna in May 2013. Here the Ministers “agreed that cooperation in scientific research across the circumpolar Arctic is of great importance to the work of the AC, and establish a Task Force to work towards an arrangement on improved scientific research cooperation among the eight arctic states”.

The 1st meeting of the AC SCTF the main topics for discussion involved the International Polar Partnership Initiative, priorities in Arctic research, sharing of data, simplification of the movement of people and research logistics and funding of possible projects in the Arctic among other things. It was agreement to compare existing national priorities to see if there are common objectives and possible gaps.

The 2nd meeting reviewed the list of national priorities and made a list of shared priorities, concluding that negotiation of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) or other instrument could commence at the next meeting.

The 3rd meeting developed the text for a non-binding MoU. However, several delegations advocated for the development of a legally binding agreement to present to the Ministers in 2015.

At the 4th meeting the draft MoU was presented as a document. However it became clear that not all Arctic States had a mandate to negotiate a legally binding documents. The meeting emphasised the valuable and very positive work that had been carried out both now and at all the previous meetings in addressing issues like exchange of data, access to scientific infrastructure, simplification of movement of scientist and their equipment. Issues that are all related to the goal of enhancing scientific cooperation in the Arctic. Much discussion evolved around underlying issues like the scope of the agreement, issues related to customs and border regulations and the role of non-parties in relation to the agreement.

The meeting agreed to recommend to the SAOs that the Ministers prolong the mandate for the SCTF with the purpose of producing a legally binding agreement during the next U.S. chairmanship. The meeting adjourned after only two days.

NAMMCO/23/11-7

IWC Workshop on Impacts of Increased Marine Activities on Cetaceans in the Arctic, Anchorage, USA, 6-7 March 2014

The focus of this workshop was on increasing shipping and oil and gas activities specific to their potential impacts on cetaceans, their populations, and the ecosystem on which they depend. This workshop was held to facilitate an open dialogue amongst stakeholders on a number of relevant aspects of the issue of impacts due to increased marine activities on cetaceans in the Arctic, including: what research has been/is being conducted; what management measures have been/are being implemented; what knowledge gaps and concerns exist; and what information the IWC can provide to assist managers in preparing for these impacts.

Christina Lockyer, General Secretary of NAMMCO, participated in this workshop, and presented a poster explaining NAMMCO's goals and also specifically work being addressed on Arctic species of marine mammals in the North Atlantic sector of the Arctic. A4-size hand outs of the poster were distributed.

There were about 100 participants from intergovernmental organizations, national authorities, native and local authorities, affected communities, environmental organizations, industries and companies working within shipping and oil and gas, scientists and hunters. Representatives for the IMO and the Arctic Council were present. The first day of the workshop was very informative with a series of oral presentations structured into three panels:

1. Shipping Panel
2. Oil and Gas Panel
3. Indigenous Focuses on Increased Shipping and Oil and Gas-Related Activities Panel.

The second day was organised into two breakout group sessions (morning and afternoon) where the participants convened in small groups of about 10 to discuss specific questions regarding which aspects of disturbance constituted the greatest threats to cetaceans, and then, how the IWC could advance solutions and advise on problems of such threats. The final part of the second day was devoted to a presentation of the overall conclusions and recommendations which had been hastily drawn together from the breakout groups' reports. Perhaps because of the hasty compilation, the priorities appeared somewhat different to my own group's perspectives where we had considered oil spills and risks associated with discharge of ballast water among the potentially long-term and far-reaching threats to populations and the ecosystem; while the overall conclusions were that cetacean entanglement and noise pollution were the most important. However, the final report may reflect otherwise. One important matter was that it was

considered important for the IWC to begin dialogue with the Arctic Council, and try to seek observer status.

The workshop was useful in meeting participants from other backgrounds, and for gathering ideas for the NAMMCO Scientific Committee's proposed symposium on disturbance in the Arctic to monodontids and walrus. It seems that NAMMCO's link with the Arctic Council and its working groups through permanent observer status is potentially very useful, and is important. The Arctic Council not only has membership of all arctic countries, but also several indigenous organisations. The one big hole in the IWC workshop was the absence of Canada.

NAMMCO/23/11-8

UN-FAO Global Summit - Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth, 22-25 April 2014, The Hague, Netherlands

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth, convened and hosted by the Netherlands, in close cooperation with the UN (FAO), the World Bank, and the Governments of Grenada, Indonesia, Mauritius, Norway and the USA, was held at the World Forum, The Hague in the Netherlands, 22-25 April 2014. Christina Lockyer attended from the NAMMCO Secretariat and provided the report following.

The declared background and focus of the Summit was to address the future question of how to feed 9 billion people on earth by 2050 in the context of blue growth. Such a challenge requires integrated response and urgent action in the face of economic crises, poverty, climate change – to name a few known problems, and to effect a transition to a sustainable, inclusive and resource efficient path, ocean health and productivity.

The meeting took the form of a first plenary half-day series of presentations and papers and reports by experts with panel discussions, followed by breakout working groups running concurrently in three separate sessions on

1. Balancing Growth and Conservation;
2. Private Sector and Social Equity;
3. ABNJ and EEZs.

Each group had a chair, co-chairs and expert presenters. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the first day. During the second and third days, these three groups continued their discussions and conclusions and recommendations, based on the comments and interventions made by participants. I participated in the WG 1 and offered an intervention concerning the focus on the ecosystem balance and sustainability – a point much stressed by the Summit, pointing out that the Summit was focusing almost exclusively on fish and largely ignoring other valuable resources in the food web such as algae (of interest in mariculture) and higher vertebrates such as seabirds and marine mammals. The latter are also taken worldwide in by-catch and discarded – a waste of potentially valuable protein and nutrition, but generally regarded as a non-traditional food resource. In most western countries, landing of many marine mammals is forbidden because of CITES regulations! I later pointed out – when the draft report was presented on the final day – that not all people and communities hold the same cultural attitudes regarding what constitutes food. Despite these interventions, they were not adequately reflected in the main report from the Summit, where all that could be found was mention of potential of non-traditional resources. I received much support for this view privately by several small states although none spoke publicly on this matter.

On day three, two sessions were held with new working groups, each chaired with input from experts. In session 4, the working groups were

4. Integrated Management of the Marine Environment;
5. Why Invest in the Ocean? Insights from Public, Private, and Multilateral institutions;
6. Public Partnerships for Transformation Action.

I participated in the WG 4, but did not add much to the discussion. In session 5 on day two, the working groups comprised

7. Creating the Conditions for Best Practice Community Management;

8. Financing the Transition to Sustainable Blue Economies m- the Potential for Blue Bonds;
9. Lessons from Effective Partnerships for Ocean Health.

In this session, I participated in WG 7. During this working group I intervened with a remark about the importance of recognizing traditional knowledge in communities. This point was well accepted and was incorporated in the final report, albeit as *local knowledge*.

Day three commenced with ministerial and official addresses, including the Dutch Minister for Agriculture, the Norwegian Minister for Fisheries, Prime Minister of Grenada, Minister of Environment and Water of the United Arab Emirates and the US Secretary of State. The last part of day three had concurrent session 6 with a further three working groups and two ministerial round tables, all running simultaneously. The working groups were

10. From Top-down to Bottom-up: Transitioning to Co-management of Local Fisheries;
11. Banking on Sustainable Fisheries and Healthy ecosystems;
12. Private Sector Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries.

Here, I chose to participate in WG 10. This was an interesting small group with experts from government, academia, active commercial fishermen and NGOs. Many different models for dealing with this issue were spoken about, with the conclusion that co-management is often a local and specific issue. While the round table groups continued, the plenary session convened to discuss “Pitches for Action”.

The last day focused on feedback from the Ministerial round table groups, and then followed the presentation of the draft Chair’s report from the Summit. This was the first time the participants had also seen the draft working group reports, and there was continuous discussion and interventions regarding the report. Those offering comments were requested to draft a form of words – which I also did, but it is clear that my words were not incorporated *verbatim* but watered down significantly. I do not know if those of others were similarly treated. The final amended report was not distributed until the meeting had ended.

In general the Summit was well organised and run, with opportunity to make comments. However, I reserve judgement on the final report. This report is in printed form at present and NAMMCO Secretariat holds a copy. An electronic version is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/crsvol186num3e.pdf> and general information can be found at <http://www.iisd.ca/oceans/goas2014/>

It seems however, that some comments relevant to NAMMCO were heeded as in the online summary of the Chair’s draft report - *Session Chair Hoogeveen then presented the draft Chair’s summary of the meeting, inviting delegates to provide comments and amendments. Delegates asked that the report also address, inter alia: non-fish marine species as food sources; partnerships; information sharing; plastic pollution prevention strategies; overfishing and its link to ineffective subsidy schemes; and invasive aquatic species.*

NAMMCO/23/11-9

4th PAME Ecosystem Approach to Management Workshop: Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA), June 16-18 2014, Vancouver, Canada

This report was prepared for NAMMCO by Erik Olsen, Institute of Marine Research, Norway

Organization and participation

This was the 4th workshop in a series organized by PAME to develop the ecosystem approach to management, this year focusing on integrated ecosystem assessments. Hein Rune Skjoldal (IMR – Norway) and Phil Mundy (NOAA – USA) co-chaired the meeting which had 14 physical and 3 remote (teleconference) participants from the USA, Canada, Norway, Russia, Japan and the NGOs: WWF, Ocean Conservancy, AMAP, Aleut Int. Organization.

Topics

Implementations and plans for the Ecosystem Approach (EA) and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) in the Arctic Council, PAME, Russia, the Barents Sea, Bering Sea, and Beaufort Sea region were presented and discussed together with presentations on a new and effective mapping portal: the Alaska Ocean Observing System (<http://www.aos.org>). The Japanese participant Dr Takashi Kikuchi presented work by the Pacific Arctic Group (PAG: CAN, USA, JAP, CHI, RUS, KOR) on developing a Distributed biological observatory in the Bering – Beaufort – Arctic sea using a combination of buoys and ship (icebreaker) surveys.

Discussions

The discussions showed that the development of EA and IEA has progressed further in the Barents Sea region than in the Beaufort. There are large differences in terms of governance and development in the two regions, but they are bound together by oceanographic and climatic conditions. Cross-border cooperation on data-sharing (e.g. on beluga whale distribution) is better in the Barents region than in the Beaufort sea, which also has an unresolved maritime border between CAN and USA.

Of particular interest to NAMMCO

Iconic and threatened arctic marine mammals like bowheads and belugas were extensively referred to in the presentations and discussions as key ecosystem components to monitor and manage in EA / IEAs.

Main conclusions from WS

The main (official) summary conclusions from the WS were:

1. The Arctic Council and its working groups have laid an extensive foundation for the understanding and implementing of the EA in the Arctic.
2. Progress on EA/IEA in the Barents Sea has been considerable on national and international levels. The progress within the Beaufort is at an earlier stage of implementation.
3. It has become apparent that AMAP, CAFF, PAME and SDWG, all produce products in support of the implementation in the EA that are complementary and substantial synergy have been identified.
4. It is recognized that a wide range of environmental assessments activities related to IEA are conducted for a wide range of purposes among the members of the Arctic Council. There is a need to better understand how much integration is required for these assessments activities to be considered an IEA. And how such assessment can collectively contribute to an IEA.
5. The Beaufort Sea LME provides an important and timely opportunity to build international cooperation and understanding on the ecosystem approach to management (EA) and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA).
6. The Beaufort LME is recommended for development of a trans-boundary EA/IEA pilot project as suggested by the Kiruna declaration.
7. A pilot project would initiate a dialog and ultimately develop an Ecosystem Status Report for the Beaufort LME, working in concert with the AMAP AACA-C project.
8. A Barents – Beaufort LME comparative effort should be investigated based on oceanographic and climatic connections between these LMEs.
9. Continued cooperation between the Alaska Ocean Observing System and Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans by sharing data and metadata is strongly encouraged.
10. Establishing an online bibliographic resource to hold a prioritized set of key references on the science and policy of the Beaufort and Barents LMEs is recommended.

WS report

A full (draft) WS report is attached, and the final report will become available from the PAME website (www.pame.is)

NAMMCO/23/11-10

11th Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO-X), 1– 6 December 2014, Windhoek, Namibia

Here follows the report by Kristoffer Bjørklund, Norway, who represented NAMMCO at the 11th Annual Meeting of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO-XI) which took place in Windhoek, Namibia, during 1–6 December 2014, under the chairmanship of Marisa Kashorte (South Africa).

The member countries of SEAFO, Angola, Namibia, the Republic of South Africa, Norway, the European Union, Japan, and South Korea again confirmed their commitment to ensuring the sustainable utilization of living marine resources through active regional cooperation and science-based management decisions.

In addition to delegates from the Contracting Parties, the meeting was observed by the United States, as well as the following organizations: NAMMCO, CCAMLR, NAFO, and NEAFC.

The proceedings were devoted to reaching agreement on the total allowable catch level for the target species in the convention area. Agreement was reached for Orange Roughy, Afonsinos, and Pelagic Armourhead, and all of the decisions were in accordance with the recommendations from the Scientific Committee. The total allowable catch levels for Patagonian Toothfish and Deep Sea Crab were agreed upon in 2013, with duration of two years. Thus it was not to be agreed upon at the annual meeting in 2014. Furthermore, SEAFO agreed upon conversion factors for Deep Sea Crab, Pathagonian Toothfish, and Pelagic Armourhead, as well as new Harvest Control Rules for Alfonsinos, Deep Sea Crab, Patagonian Toothfish and Pelagic Armourhead.

In addition, new guidelines defining fisheries research were adopted. And in a continued response to the UN's call for regulations of bottom fisheries to protect sensitive marine ecosystems, amendments to SEAFO's existing conservation measures on bottom fishing activities in VMEs were agreed upon.

The next Annual Meeting of the SEAFO will be held in Swakopmund during 30. November–4. December 2015.

NAMMCO/23/11-11

5th meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN-5), 7 June , Rome, Italy

RSN-5 was held in Rome, Italy, over two sessions, on Saturday 7 June and Friday 13 June 2014. Mr Andrew Wright from the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) chaired the meeting. 31 regional fishery bodies (RFBs) were represented and Charlotte Winsnes attended from NAMMCO.

The RSN is an informal conference of RFB Secretariats in the margins of COFI, convened to discuss issues of common interest and on the operations and efficiency of RFB secretariats in general. The views expressed during a meeting may not represent views of the organisation concerned and are without prejudice to the views of the members or contracting parties of the RFBs represented.

The following main issues were addressed: (for the full report see <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4210e.pdf>)

Review of forthcoming COFI 31 agenda items relating to RFBs/RFMOs

Agenda items discussed included: the SOFIA 2014 report, securing sustainable small-scale fisheries (SSFs), global and regional processes and instruments, instruments combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and guidelines on traceability and catch documentations. There was also substantive discussion concerning the need for a more robust and consistent interface between FAO and RFBs/regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) both at COFI and in the inter-sessional period. It was concluded that the RSN Chairperson should give an intervention on behalf of the RSN at COFI 31 to request closer and more regular engagement between FAO and the RFBs/RFMOs.

RSN responses to the application of Blue Growth

All RFBs had been asked to contribute data on how the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) was being applied within their organizations. The BGI is FAO's response to the Rio+20 meeting in 2012, calling for, "a world that is committed to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency." The compiled information was presented in a summary report and the subsequent discussion covered a wide

range of subjects, which reflected the three pillars of the BGI: integrated, sustainable and socio-economically sensitive fisheries management. It was concluded that many linkages already existed between RFB mandates and activities and the BGI, and that these could be built upon to create a policy interface that would enhance both RFB activities and implementation of the BGI at the regional level. The similarities between the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and the BGI as means to implement sustainable development was noted. The meeting recognized that the BGI might be an important political initiative and result in an increased mobilization of funds. It was also noted that they were both ultimately methods to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Presentations of issues relevant to RFBs

David Morgan from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) gave a presentation on “CITES and international trade in commercially-exploited aquatic species.” CITES is an intergovernmental agreement that stands at the intersection between trade, the environment and development. With 180 parties, it regulates the international trade in some 35,000 species, including many hundreds of commercially exploited aquatic species. With its principles of legality, sustainability and traceability, it offers the possibility of acting as a complementary management tool for RFBs/RFMOs. Mr Morgan concluded that the CITES Secretariat welcomed the opportunity to enhance the working relationship between RFBs, the RSN and CITES.

Simon Brockington from the International Whaling Commission (IWC) gave a presentation entitled “Large whale entanglement in debris and fishing gear: understanding and responding nationally, regionally and globally”. The IWC’s work to date has taken place in association with the global specialist entanglement response network and has been focused on responding to individual entangled whales. The next phase is to address prevention and Mr Brockington sought the views of the RSN on how the IWC and RFBs could best work together to solve this problem and manage the issue of prevention. The meeting highlighted the nexus between prevention and the work of several RFBs/RFMOs to recover lost or abandoned fishing gear. Solutions suggested by the RSN included designing fishing less susceptible of entanglement, ensuring the traceability of fishing gear, instituting sanctions for unreported lost fishing gear, and developing workshops on the issue. Finally, some RSN members raised concerns over the noxious political climate of the whaling issue and the difficulty of raising the subject at international meetings.

Darius Campbell from the Oslo Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) gave a presentation on “Strengthening Cooperation between Regional Fisheries Bodies and the Regional Seas Bodies.” OSPAR is a legal instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the Northeast Atlantic. The Convention is managed by the OSPAR Commission, which is a regional seas programme and an IGO, composed of 16 contracting parties covering five maritime areas and regions. The Commission adopt decisions that are legally binding on the contracting parties. The main objectives of OSPAR include prevention and elimination of pollution; protection of the maritime area against the adverse effects of human activities; safeguarding human health and conserving marine ecosystems; and, where practicable, restoration of marine areas. The focus of the discussion was on possibilities for collaboration between RFBs and regional seas programmes. NEAFC shared its experience of working with OSPAR noting that the key was the ability to maintain its differences while still cooperating.

Anne Christine Brusendorff from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) gave a presentation entitled “Best available science to support sustainable resource management. The presentation looked at the ICES process for producing scientific advice as well as the ICES approach to integrated ecosystem assessments. In subsequent discussion, there was broad consensus among RSN members that the scientific advice administered by ICES meets a very high standard of quality and comprehensiveness and that ICES represents an exemplary scientific advisory body.

Mr Simon Funge-Smith gave a presentation entitled, “Inland fisheries: hidden treasures or a lost cause?” Inland fisheries produce 11.6 million tonnes, constituting 13 percent of the global fish supply, most of which is consumed and traded locally. 27 countries produce 90 percent of the global inland fish catch. Discussion following the presentation focused on the underestimation of the value of inland fisheries in developing countries. It was also noted that although inland fisheries had been given a standing item on the COFI agenda for years, very little action was taken by FAO on the issue.

A final presentation was given by the representative of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS), who spoke on its forthcoming initiatives and meetings. In the subsequent discussions, it was noted that several RFBs felt that the density of technical language in UNDOALOS information requests made it difficult to provide adequate responses. The RSN requested that UNDOALOS attempt to simplify the language of these requests in order to receive more robust and targeted responses.

Election of chairperson and vice-chairpersons

Mr Stefan Asmundsson (NEAFC) was elected new Chairperson of RSN. Mr Yugraj Yadava (BOBP-IGO) was elected to continue as First Vice-Chairperson and Mr Kaitira Ibrahim Katonda (Lake Tanganyika Authority, LTA) continued as Second Vice-Chairperson.

13 June – session two of RSN-5 (not attended by Charlotte Winsnes)

In the second session of RSN, the members conducted a review of the COFI 31 meeting and raised issues of concern arising from the COFI meeting. Most RSN members felt that the RFBs were marginalized within the COFI 31 meeting. The RSN reiterated its desire to seek closer liaison with FAO, an increased role in the planning of the COFI agenda and in the COFI proceedings, and during the inter-sessional period. It was agreed that the RSN chairperson, Mr Andrew Wright, should send a letter to Árni M. Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (ADG FIAQ). This letter would be based largely on the statement that he made in the COFI 31 plenary on behalf of the RSN, but it would also include input from the discussion at the second session of RSN-5, and the question of who would replace Ms Lugten as Secretary of the RSN.

Comment

Marine mammals as species are peripheral to the discussions of this network. However the RSN is the only FAO arena where NAMMCO is meeting as a permanent participant. It represents a very useful network, and an opportunity every second year to be updated on the main concerns in fisheries management worldwide.

NAMMCO/23/11-12

FAO Committee on Fisheries 31st session (COFI 31), 9 – 13 June, Rome, Italy

The Session was chaired by Mr Jóhán H. Williams (Norway) and attended by 110 Members of the Committee and one Associate Member, by observers from five other FAO Member Nations, the Holy See, representatives from six United Nations (UN), Specialized Agencies of UN and related organizations and observers from 65 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations.

Charlotte Winsnes attended the first one and a half day of the meeting on behalf of NAMMCO. Agenda items addressed during this time were the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) 2014 publication and securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

SOFIA 2014

Most Members were encouraged by the results in SOFIA 2014. Some expressed cautious optimism with regards to the stock status and others remained concerned. They also emphasized the need for further measures to rebuild the stocks. There were requests to include more detailed information on the status of specific stocks, including data on fleet capacity and addition of socio-economic data, with a strong call to add regional information and perspectives. Members called for disaggregating data in future editions, suggested that specific topics be emphasized or added, and requested that assessments on some stocks and species be updated and corrected. FAO had developed new web-based questionnaire on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code). This had increased the response rates substantially, making it possible to develop a more thorough and reliable analysis. The Committee recommended to further develop the web-based system, and it was underlined to continue to supporting developing countries in the implementation of the Code and related instruments.

Sustainable small-scale fisheries

The Committee endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). The Committee welcomed FAO's

proposal for a Global Assistance Programme (GAP) for implementation of the SSF Guidelines and recommended to further develop the GAP in a participatory manner.

Other issues discussed were:

- instruments combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (VGFSP)
- the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA)
- efforts to effectively implement the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards
- inland fisheries
- fish trade
- aquaculture
- FAO's Blue Growth Initiative (BGI)
- FAO's new Strategic Objectives as a basis for focusing FAO's work in fisheries and aquaculture

For the full report <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ML770e.pdf>

Comment

This was the first time NAMMCO was represented at COFI meetings. It is an arena for networking, informing about NAMMCO and its work and giving interventions that may be worthwhile attending occasionally.