



## NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 29

13-15 September 2022  
Grand Hotel, Oslo & Hybrid

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

<b>DOCUMENT 15</b>	<b>UPDATE ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC SURVEY OF SELECTED CETACEANS NASS-2024 AND FUNDING</b>
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Action requested</b>	Take note
<b>Background/content</b>	A proposal for a North Atlantic Survey of Selected cetaceans in 2024 (NASS-2024) was compiled and presented at the previous meeting of the council as document NAMMCO/28/18. An application for funding to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), containing this proposal, was submitted by the Scientific Secretary in June 2022. A formal reply from the MFA has not been received so far.

## **1. PROPOSAL FOR A NORTH ATLANTIC SURVEY OF SELECTED CETACEANS (NASS-2024)**

The North Atlantic Sightings Surveys series (NASS, 1987-2015) provides 30-year trends in distribution and abundance for cetaceans in areas within the remit of NAMMCO management, the waters of Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. These trends are required to understand anthropogenic impacts, which is essential for conservation and management in times of climate and environmental changes. A proposal for a North Atlantic Survey of Selected cetaceans in 2024 (NASS-2024) was compiled by the NASS-2024 Scientific Planning Committee and presented at the previous meeting of the Council as document NAMMCO/28/18. This 2024 sightings survey will prolong and update this unique series and will be key to the development of sound and solid scientific and ecosystem-based management advice by NAMMCO.

### **1.1 UPDATES ON FUNDING**

An application for funding under the Arktis 2030 Grant scheme of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) was prepared by the Scientific Secretary (Albert Chacón) in June 2022. This application, containing a full description of the NASS-2024 project plan, can be found as document NAMMCO/29/FI07.

Upon advice from Norway, the Scientific Secretary submitted this application document to the Ministry of Fisheries (27<sup>th</sup> of June 2022), who later transferred it to the MFA for processing. As of August 2022, this application is still under consideration by the MFA and a formal reply has not been received so far.