



## NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 29

13-15 September 2022  
Grand Hotel, Oslo & Hybrid

# MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR CETACEANS

<b>DOCUMENT 07</b>	<b>LETTER OF CONCERN FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Submitted by</b>	Secretariat
<b>Action requested</b>	To note and consider
<b>Background/content</b>	The last assessment of Narwhal in East Greenland concluded that narwhal stocks in 2 of the 3 managed areas are at risk to be extirpated by hunting in the next 5 years. This is the first time that a cetacean stock managed by NAMMCO faces extinction because of a lack of management action. This document provides a letter of concern from the Scientific Committee.

28. January 2022

Dear members of the NAMMCO Council and the Management Committee for Cetaceans

In connection with the 2022 Scientific Committee report, the SC would like to point your attention to the new assessment for narwhal in East Greenland. This assessment not only maintains the earlier advice of no catches in the area, but it strengthens the conclusion by calculating that there is a very large risk that the narwhal stocks in two of the three management areas are extirpated by hunting in less than five years if the current (2022) quotas are continued.

The assessment for the Ittoqqortoormiit area is the most data rich assessment that has ever been conducted by the NAMMCO SC for any stock of small cetacean. It estimates that there is no more than 207 (90% CI: 42-441) narwhal left in the area. For the Tasiilaq area, where it has been possible to obtain only a single survey estimate, the situation is more uncertain with a current abundance estimate of no more than 123 (90% CI:12-394) narwhal. For the management area around Kangerlussuaq, the estimate for 2022 is 260 (90% CI:142-442) individuals.

This is the first time that some of the cetacean stocks that are managed by NAMMCO face extinction because of a lack of management action. It is not for the SC to decide on management actions, but we find that it is our obligation to make the NAMMCO Council and the NAMMCO Management Committee for Cetaceans aware of this risk as soon as possible.

On behalf of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee



Bjarni Mikkelsen  
SC chair

Letter sent to Councillors:

Páll Nolsøe,  
Amalie Jessen  
Ásta Einarsdóttir  
Ole-David Stenseth

and

Ulla Svarrer Wang, chair of the Management Committee for Cetaceans