



## NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 29

13-15 September 2022  
Grand Hotel, Oslo & Hybrid

# MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR SEALS AND WALRUS

## DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

### 1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

#### Relevant documents for this meeting:

[NAMMCO/29/MC/05](#): Recent Proposals for Conservation and Management and Research Recommendations

[NAMMCO/29/MC/06](#): Summary of Requests from the NAMMCO Council to the Scientific Committee and Responses by the Scientific Committee

[NAMMCO/29/08](#): Report of the 28th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

The meeting will focus on:

- *Reviewing the new information on seal species and walrus provided by the Scientific Committee during its last meeting in 2022 (SC/28).*
- *Considering both the new and reiterated proposals for conservation and management and recommendations for research (with implications for Member Countries) made by SC/28.*
- *Considering updates from the member countries on the proposals for conservation and management measures*
- *Reviewing responses from SC/28 to active requests for advice and determining whether any requests maybe considered completed and closed.*

The MCSW is specifically asked to discuss and decide whether to:

- *endorse the SC proposals for conservation and management,*
- *endorse the SC recommendations for research (with financial implications)*
- *recommend to Council that the requests the SC considers answered be closed.*

## 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

## 3. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SEAL AND WALRUS STOCKS

### 3.1 HARP AND HOODED SEALS

NAMMCO/29/08, item 10.5

#### Active and standing requests:

- **R-2.1.4** (standing) to regularly update the stock status of North Atlantic harp and hooded seals as new information becomes available  
**Response:** SC/28 reiterated that the Joint ICES/NAFO/NAMMCO Working Group of Harp and Hooded Seals (WGHARP) will meet during autumn in 2023 to implement the new management tools, to discuss and include new data, and to develop new advice for the management of harp and hooded seals.
- **R-2.1.9** (ongoing) to investigate possible reasons for the apparent decline of Greenland Sea stock of hooded seals; and assess the status of the stock on basis of the results from the planned survey in 2007.  
**Response:** SC/28 recommends rephrasing as follows: to investigate possible reasons for the apparent decline of Greenland Sea stock of hooded seals; and assess the status of the stock.

#### Recommendation for research with implication for Member Countries:

- NO to carry out a survey of the harp seal pup production in the White Sea and adjacent Barents Sea waters (reiterated).

### 3.2 RINGED SEALS

NAMMCO/29/07, item 10.2

#### Active and standing requests:

- **R-2.3.1** (ongoing) to advise on stock identity of ringed seals for management purposes and to assess abundance in each stock area, long-term effects on stocks by present removals in each stock area, effects of recent environmental changes (i.e., disturbance, pollution) and changes in the food supply, and interactions with other marine living resources.”  
**Response:** SC/28 recommended rephrasing to include climate change as an environmental change alongside disturbance and pollution.
- **R-2.3.3** (ongoing) to convene a working group in 2022 with the aim of conducting a thorough review of the existing data and to go ahead with the assessment of stocks for which it was possible. If the data required for a full assessment of (some of) the stocks were not available, the WGs and the SC should identify, and prioritise, which specific data essential to their assessments are still needed.”  
**Response:** SC/28 agreed that to postpone until the NOAA review was completed. A small group (Lydersen & Rosing-Asvid, supported by the Secretariat) will review this and other initiatives and prepare a knowledge status review to inform the decision of the SC on how to proceed.

### 3.3 GREY SEALS

NAMMCO/29/07, item 10.4

#### Active requests:

- **R-2.4.2** (ongoing) to provide a new assessment of grey seal stocks throughout the North Atlantic.

**Response:** the Coastal Seals WG will meet in 2023.

### 3.4 HARBOUR SEALS

NAMMCO/29/07, item 10.3

#### Active requests:

- **R-2.5.2** (ongoing) to conduct a formal assessment of the status of harbour seals in all NAMMCO areas as soon as feasible".

**Response:** the Coastal Seals WG will meet in 2023.

### 3.5 BEARDED SEALS

NAMMCO/29/08, item 10.1

#### Active requests:

- **R-2.7.1** (ongoing) to convene a working group in 2022 with the aim of conducting a thorough review of the existing data and to go ahead with the assessment of stocks for which it is possible. If the data required for a full assessment of (some of) the stocks were not available, the WGs and the SC should identify, and prioritise, which specific data essential to their assessments are still needed.

**Response:** the Joint NAMMCO/CAFF Bearded seal WS scheduled to happen in 2022 has been postponed to 2023 (due to the Russia-Ukraine war), but as SC/28 found it important to progress with a status review, a 3 hrs online meeting will take place in November 2022 to get an overview of data and analysis for both ringed and bearded seals. (SC/28, 2022)

#### Recommendation for research with implication for Member Countries:

GL: prioritize the analysis of data on local abundance and make it available to the Bearded Seal WG (planned for March 2023).

#### Proposal for conservation and management

GL & NO: make catch data available in such a way that the origin of the catch can be attributed to smaller areas than those reported now (West and East Greenland and Svalbard).

### 3.6 WALRUS

NAMMCO/29/08, item 10.6

#### Active and standing requests:

- **R-2.6.3rev** (ongoing) provide advice on the effects of human disturbance, including fishing and shipping activities, tourism, hyper carbon explorational and mineral extractions on the distribution, behaviour and conservation status of walrus in Greenland.

**Response** SC reiterated the SC27 recommendation that a workshop to assess disturbance from the Baffinland/Mary River mine project be held and consider impacts on narwhals, beluga and walrus. This should not be limited to the Mary River mine project but include impacts from all mining activities

- **R-1.6.5** (standing) struck and loss rates should be subtracted from future advice on sustainable removals in Greenland, with the advice being given as total allowable landings.

*Consider if the request is completed given that SC/26 concluded that this was an established practice within NAMMCO since 2018.*

**4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**