



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 29

*13-15 September 2022
Grand Hotel, Oslo & Hybrid*

JOINT MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

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

This joint meeting addresses issues of relevance to both the Management Committee for Cetaceans (MCC) and the Management Committee for Seals and Walrus (MCSW). The meeting will focus on:

- Considering new proposals for conservation and management and recommendations for research (with implications for the Member Countries) made by the Scientific Committee during their meeting in 2022
- Determining whether any requests for advice may be considered completed and closed
- Discussing issues related to User Knowledge within NAMMCO

The relevant requests and responses from the SC are given under the respective agenda items.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. UPDATE ON MEMBERS RESPONSES TO PROPOSALS FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

3.1.1 Precautionary Approach with focus on depleted stocks

Request R.1.6.7

The SC is requested to explain how and at what level the precautionary approach is, or can be, integrated into advice provided by the SC for use in conservation and management, with a particular focus on depleted stocks.

Response from SC

SC/27 had tasked the JWG to initiate the development of a principle-based approach for the sustainable management of small and/or depleted stocks. The JWG 2021 drafted 7 such principles incorporating a precautionary approach that were presented to the SC. The SC welcomed the effort by the JWG and agreed that these principles provide good reference points for further discussions.

3.2 ECOSYSTEM PERSPECTIVE

3.2.1 Bycatch

Request 1.1.5

To periodically review and update available knowledge related to the understanding of interactions between marine mammals and commercially exploited marine resources.

Response from SC

SC/28 received updated by-catch estimates for harbour porpoise, harbour and grey seals for the Norwegian commercial coastal gillnet fisheries and recommended that the BYCWG continue and progress in its assessments of the by-catch risks in the different fisheries, with the aim of reviewing advances at the next SC meeting.

Request R-1.1.8

In addressing the standing requests on ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction. In the light of the distributional shifts seen under T-NASS 2007, the SC should investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional responses.

Response from SC

Split in two separate requests:

1. *In addressing the standing requests on ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction.*
2. *In the light of the distributional shifts seen under T-NASS 2007, the SC should investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional responses.*

Previous recommendations for Research reiterated by the Scientific Committee

SC/28 reiterated that:

- *Norway should continue to improve the monitoring of by-catch rates and accurate species identification through the implementation of REM systems, habitat preference models, and photographs.*
- *Norway and Iceland present a revised by-catch analysis for harbour porpoise and seals to the BYCWG.*

- *Iceland collect jaws/photos of by-caught seals to improve species identification, and collect skin samples to inform genetic research.*

New Recommendations for Research with implications for member countries

- *In the Norwegian CRF, the collection of the lower jaw of seals becomes a mandatory terms in the boat contract.*
- *Iceland encourage collecting DNA samples and taking photos of by-caught seals in 2022 to validate inspector reports and calculate rate of misidentification by fishermen.*
- *Iceland support the analysis of DNA samples to assess rates of species misidentification through the provision of necessary funding*

Previous Proposals for Conservation and Management reiterated by the Scientific Committee

SC/28 reiterated that:

- *Iceland monitor the monkfish and Greenland halibut gillnet fishery.*

New Proposals for Conservation and Management

- *Iceland include a field for target species in the logbook as well as other ways to distinguish these coastal and offshore (cod and Greenland halibut) fisheries for monitoring by-catch.*

3.2.2 Environmental issues

Request 1.5.3

To monitor the development of the Mary River Project and assess qualitatively or if possible, quantitatively the likely impact and consequences on marine mammals in the area.

Response from SC

SC/28: A workshop will be held in December 2022 by the JWG to assess the anthropogenic impacts on marine mammals (species in focus: narwhal, beluga, walrus) of activities associated to both the Mary River project in Canada as well as mining activities in Wolstenholme Fjord.

3.3 MULTISPECIES APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT AND MODELLING

Request 1.2.1

To consider whether multispecies models for management purposes can be established for the north Atlantic ecosystems and whether such models could include the marine mammals' compartment. If such models and the required data are not available, then identify the knowledge lacking for such an enterprise to be beneficial to proper scientific management and suggest scientific projects which would be required for obtaining this knowledge.

Response from SC:

SC/28: A review of ecosystem models that include the marine mammal component was presented at SC28. The SC agreed that a workshop to assess from a marine mammal perspective the model portfolio available for the North Atlantic was desirable but postponed its planning to the next meeting of the SC.

Request 1.5.4

Committed to furthering its ecosystem approach to the management of marine mammals and recognising the range of anthropogenic pressures facing North Atlantic marine mammals associated with the climate and environmental changes taking place, the Council requests the SC to advise on the best process to investigate the effects of non-hunting related anthropogenic stressors on marine mammal populations, including the cumulative impacts of global warming, by-catch, pollution and disturbance.

Response from SC

SC/28 answered this request by reiterating from SC/24 (2018) that all WGs systematically include Other [than removals] anthropogenic impacts as an agenda item in their consideration.

4. USER KNOWLEDGE

Relevant documents

[NAMMCO/29/MC/08](#) User Knowledge : « food for thought » for NAMMCO.

At the last meeting all Parties agreed that further work should be done to advance on this topic and that the inclusion of user knowledge is required to ensure that decisions are based on the best available knowledge. It was seen as critical that local people have an opportunity to be involved in decision-making if management advice is to be followed, and it was agreed that further work on this topic should be carried out within the MCJ.

In the interim, due to other commitments no advances have been made under the auspices of the MCJ. To progress the Secretariat tasked Martin Binachon, NAMMCO intern the last half of 2021, to look into examples of how user knowledge has been collected in a structured and systematic way, and also to look at examples of research projects where user knowledge has been an integrated part.

Binachon will present the papers to the meeting. The MCJ is expected to clarify how to progress with this topic.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS