



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 29

13-15 September 2022
Grand Hotel, Oslo & Hybrid

MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR CETACEANS

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 meeting will focus on:

- *Reviewing the new information on cetacean species 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.*
- *Reviewing responses from SC/28 to active requests for advice and determining whether any requests maybe considered completed and closed.*

The MCC 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 WHALE STOCKS

3.1 BELUGA

SC/28 reiterated the implementation of seasonal closures for the hunt of belugas in West Greenland, and also reiterated that no hunting of belugas be allowed at any time in the area south of 65 degrees North in West Greenland.

New Proposals for Conservation and Management:

- *Greenland keep belugas in East Greenland fully protected, as there is insufficient information to perform an assessment of belugas in East Greenland.*
- *Greenland document any by-catch of Belugas in East Greenland in the Special Reports.*
- *Greenland make all efforts to release belugas in the case of live by-caught animals.*

New Recommendations for Research:

- *Greenland conduct a summer survey of the High Arctic beluga population.*
- *In East Greenland, hunter observations of belugas be collected in a structured manner, incl. photo or video footage of the animals, where and when the sighting took place and how many individuals were seen.*
- *Greenland collect the following additional information from all dead (caught or by-caught) belugas: skin biopsy sample, length, tooth, girth measurements and presence of milk in the female's mammary glands.*

Further details on the recommendations for beluga given by the NAMCO-JCNB Joint Working Group (JWG), which met in December 2021, and the Ad hoc Working Group on Narwhals in East Greenland (NEGWG), which met in October 2021 can be found in pages 37-38 of the [SC28 report](#).

Active request:

- **R-3.4.11:** *“To update the assessment of both narwhal and beluga, noting that new data warrant such an exercise.”*
- **Response:** *SC/28 is planning a Disturbance Workshop in December 2022 to be held under the Joint WG on narwhal and beluga (SC/28, 2022)*

3.2 NARWHAL

SC/28 strongly reiterated an immediate reduction to 0 catches in all three management areas of East Greenland. A letter of concern from the Scientific Committee is provided as document NAMMCO/29/MC/07.

New Proposals for Conservation and Management:

- *Greenland reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change to protect narwhal's habitat.*
- *Greenland regulate shipping activities from large vessels (including cruise ships) in the summering ground along East Greenland to avoid negative impacts on narwhal populations.*

New Recommendations for Research:

- *Greenland collect life history data from non-depleted stocks of narwhals in W Greenland and Canada, to examine impact of climate change.*
- *Greenland undertake further research on stock structure and abundance in Smith Sound.*
- *Greenland conduct new survey in Melville Bay and Inglefield Bredning as soon as possible.*
- *Greenland establish a community-based biopsy programme of live narwhals to provide samples for stock structure analysis.*

- Greenland collect the following additional information from hunted narwhals (if a hunt goes ahead, despite recommendations of zero catches in East Greenland): a skin biopsy sample, type of animal (according to the 3 categories described by hunters), photograph of the back, girth measurements and presence of milk in the female's mammary glands.

Further details on the recommendations for narwhal given by the NAMCO-JCNC Joint Working Group (JWG), which met in December 2021, and the Ad hoc Working Group on Narwhals in East Greenland (NEGWG), which met in October 2021 can be found in pages 29-36 of the [SC28 report](#).

Active request:

- **R-3.4.11:** "To update the assessment of both narwhal and beluga, noting that new data warrant such an exercise."
- **Response:** SC/28 is planning a Disturbance Workshop in December 2022 to be held under the Joint WG on narwhal and beluga (SC/28, 2022)

3.3 NORTHERN BOTTLENOSE WHALE

Active request:

- **R-1.7.11 :** "To develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible once the survey has been completed, with the primary target species (fin, minke and pilot whales) as a first priority, and secondary target species as a second priority."
- **Response:** SC/28: Norway is progressing with the task, and sighting data from last year's survey will be added to the dataset, when a high number of bottlenose whales was sighted in the Jan Mayen area. (SC/28, 2022)

Does the MCC agree with the SC that this request for advice has now been answered and therefore recommend to Council that the request for advice be closed?

3.4 KILLER WHALE

SC/28 reiterated a previous proposal for management and conservation to Greenland, to regulate the hunt and restrict quotas in a precautionary way.

New Recommendations for Research:

- NAMMCO should become involved in the organisation of the North Atlantic part of the World Conference planned for April 2023 in Spain.

3.5 PILOT WHALE

New Recommendations for Research:

- Faroese complete the analyses of both the biological and the tagging data and forward them to the PWWG.

Active request:

- **R-3.8.6:** "To continue work to complete a full assessment of pilot whales in the North Atlantic and provide advice on the sustainability of catches, as soon as necessary further information becomes available, with particular emphasis on the Faroese area and East and West Greenland. In the short term, the SC was requested to provide a general indication of the level of abundance of pilot whales required to sustain an annual catch equivalent to the annual average of the Faroese catch in the years since 1997."
- **Response:** SC/28 agreed to reschedule the Pilot Whale Working Group Meeting for 2023 (initially planned for 2022), to allow the analyses of both the biological and the tagging data in the Faroes be duly completed. Availability of data for conducting an assessment on pilot

whale will be reviewed at the Harbour Porpoise Working Group Meeting in November 2022. (SC/28, 2022).

3.6 WHITE-BEAKED, WHITE-SIDED AND BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS

Active request:

- **R-3.9.6:** *“The SC was asked to carry out assessments of these species, but to date insufficient information has been available on stock delineation, distribution, abundance and biological parameters to initiate the work. The Committee was pleased to note that considerable progress has been made in the Faroes in describing the ecology and life history of white-sided dolphins and that information on white-beaked dolphins should be available from Iceland and Norway in about 2 years time. Abundance estimates are lacking in all areas except Icelandic coastal waters, and no information on stock delineation or pod structure is yet available. The SCANS survey planned for 2005/6 and coastal surveys planned for Norway (see 9.3) should provide information on distribution and abundance in some areas. The Committee endorsed the plan of the SC to proceed with the assessments once the above-mentioned studies have been completed, probably by 2007.”*
- **Response:** *SC/28 noted that a detailed review of the available information on Lagenorhynchus sp. in all member countries should be compiled with the help of the Secretariat and presented to SC29. (SC/28, 2022).*

3.7 HARBOUR PORPOISE

Active request:

- **R-3.10.1:** *“The Council noted that the harbour porpoise is common to all NAMMCO member countries, and that the extent of current research activities and expertise in member countries and elsewhere across the North Atlantic would provide an excellent basis for undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the species throughout its range. The Council therefore requested the SC to perform such an assessment, which might include distribution and abundance, stock identity, biological parameters, ecological interaction, pollutants, removals and sustainability of removals.”*
- **Response:** *SC/28 is planning a Harbour Porpoise Working Group (HPWG) meeting in November 2022 to proceed with the assessment for Norway. (SC/28, 2022)*

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS