

NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE 29

WG MEETING ON BEARDED AND RINGED SEALS

16th of November 2022, Online, 14:00-17:00 CET

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

At its 28th meeting, the NAMMCO Scientific Committee asked their bearded and ringed seal specialists to hold a meeting in 2022 to discuss:

- Bearded seals in the NAMMCO area
 - o data availability, needs and prioritization for conducting a review/assessment [with CAFF, March 2023] – *In other words: make sure that we are ready*
- Ringed seals in the NAMMCO area
 - o Review relevant progress brought by the 2022 US NOAA regular review in the framework of the Endangered Species Act as well as the 2019 Canadian Review
 - o Attempt of defining management areas
 - o Data availability, needs and prioritization for conducting a review/assessment of the NAMMCO area

The present meeting should be seen as a preparatory meeting to the joint CAFF-NAMMCO bearded seal WS in March and to decide how to go ahead with the ringed seal.

1. Chairman welcome and opening remarks
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Appointment of rapporteurs
4. Available information on bearded seals in the NAMMCO countries and adjacent areas

4.1. Available data and findings

4.1.1. Stock identity

4.1.1.1. Defining tentative management areas ('TMA')

4.1.1.2. How many of these TMAS are shared

Question: do we need to involve 'neighbours' and which to conduct a reliable NAMMCO 'assessment' after the joint CAFF-NAMMCO bearded seal WS?

4.1.2. Biological parameters

4.1.3. Abundance estimates

Question: Do the data at hand matches the TMA? Otherwise, how to proceed?

4.1.4. Removals (catch and by-catch)

Question: who is preparing the catch statistics for the joint CAFF-NAMMCO WS in March?

4.1.5. Impacts from other anthropogenic stressors

Question: do we have qualitative data or quantitative one that could be used?

4.2. Data gaps to be filled (with prioritization) before the joint CAFF-NAMMCO WS in March

5. Available information on ringed seals in the NAMMCO countries and adjacent areas

5.1. Available data and findings

5.1.1. Stock identity

5.1.1.1. Attempt of defining tentative management areas (TMA)

5.1.1.2. How many of these TMA are shared?

Question: do we need to involve 'neighbours' and which to conduct a reliable NAMMCO assessment

5.1.2. Biological parameters

5.1.3. Abundance estimates

Question: Do the data at hand matches the TMA? Otherwise, how to proceed?

5.1.4. Removals (catch and by-catch)

Question: who will take the lead in preparing the catch statistics?

5.1.5. Impacts from other anthropogenic stressors

Question: do we have qualitative data or quantitative one that could be used ?

5.2. Data gaps to be filled and prioritization for conducting an assessment

5.3. Plans for the ringed seal assessment

Question: How, when and who?

6. Other business

7. Meeting close

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

SC/29/ BS-RSWG/01: Draft annotated agenda and document list

SC/29/BS-RSWG/02: Scherdin and Desportes. Bearded seal review. Revised version

SC/29/ BS-RSWG/FI01: Cameron et al. 2010. Status review of bearded seal.

SC/29/BS-RSWG/FI02: Kelly et al. 2010. Status review of ringed seal.

SC/29/BS-RSWG/FI03: COSEWIC. 2019. COSEWIC assessment status report on the ringed seal.

For information: Requests for information to the SC from the Council

R-2.3.1.: 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 climate change) and changes in the food supply, and interactions with other marine living resources.

R-2.3.3/Ringed seals & R-2.7.1/Bearded seals: 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. Anyone more?