

NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE 29

PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS ON BEARDED AND RINGED SEALS

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

Background:

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
 - data availability, needs and prioritization for conducting a review/assessment [with CAFF, March 2023]
- Ringed seals in the NAMMCO area
 - 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
 - Attempt of defining management areas
 - Data availability, needs and prioritization for conducting a review/assessment of the NAMMCO area

AGENDA

- 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
 - 4.1.2. Biological parameters
 - 4.1.3. Abundance estimates
 - 4.1.4. Removals (catch and by-catch)
 - 4.1.5. Impacts from other anthropogenic stressors
 - 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?

5.1.2. Biological parameters

5.1.3. Abundance estimates

5.1.4. Removals (catch and by-catch)

5.1.5. Impacts from other anthropogenic stressors

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

5.3. Plans for the ringed seal assessment

6. Other business

7. Meeting close

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?