



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 30

JOINT MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

*2 March 2023, online
14:00-17:00 CET*

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Relevant documents for this meeting:

NAMMCO/30/MC/05: Recent Proposals for Conservation and Management and Research Recommendations

NAMMCO/30/MC/06: Summary of Requests from the NAMMCO Council to the Scientific Committee and Responses by the Scientific Committee

NAMMCO/30/08: Report of the 29th 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 2023
- 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. WORK PROCEDURES IN NAMMCO

3.1 PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH

NAMMCO/30/08, item 13.1

Active Request

- **R.1.6.7 (ongoing):** 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.

The HoDs (meeting January 2023) asked the SC's to:

- Advice on how to prioritize the assessment of marine mammal species.
- Provide advice on whether NAMMCO needs within a precautionary framework some rules on regularity of surveys, assessments, etc.

From SC/29

Recommendations for conservation and management

- Eight principles for integrating a precautionary approach in NAMMCO's management of stocks:
 1. Anthropogenic removals of marine mammals should be assessed for sustainability.
 2. Sustainable management actions should be to maintain or restore stocks at levels ideally above 60% of their equilibrium in the absence of anthropogenic removals, disturbance and resource competition.
 3. Stocks that are depleted below 60% should be managed to increase so that they can recover to the 60% level in a reasonable time period. For example, by having total removals that ensure at least a 70% probability of increase.
 4. Stocks that are small (<1000 individuals, unless there are more than 400 reproductive age females in the population) should be fully protected from exploitation unless a data-based assessment is able to recommend a sustainable hunt.
 5. Management decisions should be based on the best available science, which may include hunter and user data and observations.
 6. Where the best available science is insufficient the precautionary approach shall be widely applied, particularly for small stocks. With greater uncertainty more caution is required.
 7. Acknowledging that halting all hunting of a stock may not be sufficient to promote recovery of a depleted or small stock, additional management actions should be considered.
 8. All species assessments should include data requirements for future assessments.
- To use the following criteria, without any order of priority, when prioritising the assessment of stocks with removals:
 - ✓ Stocks with concerning population status.
 - ✓ Stocks for which no assessment has been conducted.
 - ✓ Assessments should be conducted at a minimum of every 5-10 years, or more frequently if there is concern on population status.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOSYSTEM PERSPECTIVE

4.1 BYCATCH

NAMMCO/30/08, item 9.1.1, 9.1.2

Active Requests

- **R-1.1.5** (standing) *To periodically review and update available knowledge related to the understanding of interactions between marine mammals and commercially exploited marine resources.*

From SC/29

Iceland and the Faroes Islands are asked to answer the preliminary request regarding their fisheries data so that the BCWG can proceed with the data call.

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

NAMMCO/30/08, item 9.3

- **R-1.1.10** (ongoing) *In the light of the distributional shifts seen under T-NASS 2007 and later surveys, the SC should investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional responses (Part from former R-1.1.8)*
- **R-1.5.3** (ongoing) *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.*
- **R-1.5.4** (ongoing): *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.*

From the SC/29

Request 1.1.10: SC underlined that there were several studies documenting these distributional shifts and hunters had also documented similar species shifts and changes. SC is thus asking MC for a clarification on the status of the request – answered or becoming a standing request.

Request 1.5.3 was addressed in connection with the Disturbance WS – see item 4.2.1.

Request 1.5.4 the SC recommended that MCs consider this request answered as impact of non-hunting anthropogenic stressors will remain a standard agenda item in all WG meetings.

4.2.1 NAMMCO-JCNB Joint scientific Working Group (JWG) Disturbance Workshop

A short presentation will be given on the Disturbance Workshop. Recommendations arising from the Workshop are being dealt with under Narwhal section in the MCC.

4.3 MULTISPECIES APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT AND MODELLING

NAMMCO/30/08, item 9.2.1

- **R-1.1.9** (ongoing) *asks the SC “In addressing the standing request on ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction”. (Part from former R-1.1.8)*
- **R-1.2.1** (ongoing) *asks the SC “To consider whether multispecies models for management purposes can be established for the North Atlantic ecosystems and whether such models*

could include the marine mammal 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.

From the SC/29

Because the best-known ecosystem models are focused on fish and using these models for marine mammals is considered extremely difficult at the moment, the SC recommended that responding to both requests 1.1.9 and 1.2.1 should not be considered a priority and request the guidance of the MCJ on this.

5. USER KNOWLEDGE

NAMMCO/30/MC/08 Draft Terms of reference for a Working Group on User Knowledge.

The MCs are asked to review the draft ToR and give their comments before the ToR are presented to Council for consideration and adoption.

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

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS