

PROPOSAL FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING GROUP ON USERS INVOLVEMENT IN NAMMCO

BACKGROUND

Council 29 (2022) agreed to establishment a Working Group on User Knowledge based on the following considerations.

“From points raised during the council meeting and previously by various parties, it seems there is imbalance between how purely scientific information and information derived from various stakeholders are used in assessment and management approaches for marine mammals in the NAMMCO context.

While the topic of how to include user knowledge in management processes has been raised in various specialised working groups, it seems this topic is of sufficiently broad relevance as to warrant a separate working group to specifically address how best to include user knowledge in management and decision-making processes.

Such a working group should consist of relevant stakeholders (such as hunters etc) as well as, managers, and scientists with expertise on marine mammal management and, more importantly, representatives with expertise in how to incorporate user knowledge in research and management processes.”

A small *ad hoc* drafting group was established to draft a proposal for the Terms of Reference (ToR) for NAMMCO’s work on users’ involvement. The proposal will be presented to the next Council meeting 29 and 30 March, and the MCC are asked to comment on the proposal before it is presented for adoption by Council.

The Group has consisted of:

Ulla S. Wang (FO), Masaana Dorph (GL), Sandra Granquist (IS) and Arne Bjørge (NO). Geneviève Desportes and Charlotte Winsnes participated from the Secretariat. The group met online 15 February and agreed on the text below.

DRAFT

Working Group on Enhancing users¹ involvement and engagement in NAMMCO decision making

Terms of Reference

To consider and give advice on how to best initiate, improve and strengthen users’ involvement in NAMMCO to produce better decisions and strengthen the legitimacy of decisions. This will involve finding best practices on how to co-produce /co-create knowledge by stakeholders (users, scientists, managers) to obtain the best ecosystem-based management of marine mammals and their use by the societies that utilise them.

¹ Users include hunters and any other users of the resource such as local inhabitants, representatives from the fisheries and tourism Industries and others.

The WG should *inter alia* consider and address the following issues/topics:

The challenge represented by:

- Different cultures & worldviews
- Diverging approaches to knowledge
- Lack of shared language & terminology
- Uneven power relations
- Limited funding usually attributed to the collection of users knowledge

The importance of:

- Patience and time
- Trust & confidence building
- Humility & respect
- Common objectives & shared terminology
- Documenting user & local knowledge
- Regular interactions & contact
- Formal and informal meeting sites
- Long term perspective, e.g., long term sustainability of management decisions
- Long term stability of initiatives

The WG should present concrete recommendations on how to advance the work and how to monitor the progress.

Membership

The WG will be comprised of members appointed by the member countries that combined should represent/cover:

- Users' – (that can be nominated by organisations) with at least one representative from each member country
- Natural- and social scientists, including experts on indigenous knowledge and rights in international processes
- Managers

The WG may seek outside expertise when this is considered necessary and appropriate.

RoP

The WG shall elect from among its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair, who shall each serve for 2 years, after which time they may be re-elected. The WG will be a standing WG and will report to the Management Committees.