



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 30

29-30 March 2023

Rødbanken, Tromsø

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DOCUMENT 09	REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS (CHM)
Submitted by	CHM/Secretariat
Action requested	To take note of the report
Background/content	

1. MEETINGS AND MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 2022 – APRIL 2023

The CHM has held one meeting, 14 March 2023, since Council 29.

Committee members:

- FO: Ulla Svarrer Wang, Signar Petterson
- GL: Masaana Dorph, Amalie Jessen, Niels Lyberth
- IS: Kristjan Loftsson, Elin B. Ragnarsdottir
- NO: Guro Gjelsvik, Kathrine Alberte Ryeng

Chair: Kathrine Alberte Ryeng

2. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The CHM reviews and updates information related to the work of the committee on an annual basis through the following overview documents, uploaded to the website:

[Laws and regulations](#), [References](#) i.e., papers/articles related to marine mammals hunting, overview of [Conservation status of stocks in NAMMCO](#) and [Hunting Methods in NAMMCO](#).

Norway informed that the use of electronic monitoring (Blue box) in the minke whale hunt will cease and be replaced by electronic logbook reporting in line with the praxis for fisheries.

The Faroes informed that in relation to the dolphin hunts, redesigned spinal lances were now placed in different whaling bays with the purpose of testing its suitability.

3. REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS

The CHM reviewed the submitted data pertaining to 2022 on catches, quota, hunting effort and national inspection efforts, by-catch, entanglement and stranding events.

Iceland commented that the high number of inspected hunting trips in the fin whale hunt was a result of a new regulation that came into force in the summer of 2022 requesting a 100% inspection coverage.

Norway commented that in 2022 most whales were hunted along the Norwegian coast and the Varangerfjord area and not around Svalbard.

With reference to the two reported stranding events of Northern Bottlenose whales in the Faroes it was noted that these bays seem to be reoccurring stranding locations without having any explanation as to why.

4. INSTRUCTION VIDEOS FOR MARINE MAMMAL HUNTERS – THE 2ND VIDEO

The Council 28 expressed their support for developing short videos focusing on various aspects of hunting with the aim of improving safety for hunters and animal welfare. The first such video was produced in 2022 focusing on safe handling of the harpoon cannon and explosive grenade. In September 2022, Council approved the recommendation to produce a 2nd instruction video. This video will focus on the importance of target location and the shooting angle in the large whale hunts.

The work has started, and it is anticipated that the video will be finalised before the summer 2023.

5. WORKPLAN 2023 - 2024

The CHM did not have a thorough discussion of the work plan, except that for 2023 it is anticipated that the 2nd video will be finalised, and the CHM will continue to discuss priorities for its future work. The discussions on future priorities will have as its starting point the priorities agreed in 2022:

- to continue the production of videos.
- possible EU regulation to prohibit the use of lead bullets (poisonous, especially so when exposed to water). Looking into the ballistics and use of leadfree bullets for marine mammal hunts.
- invite hunters to participate in CHM meetings to inform and update the members on specific hunting methods and essential issues related to the activity like their views on challenges and opportunities.

The plan to organise an expert group meeting or workshop on the rifle hunt in Greenland will be pending until Greenland is in a situation where it is feasible to carry out the analysis required for the success of such a meeting.