



## NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 30

29-30 March 2023  
Rødbanken, Tromsø

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

<b>DOCUMENT 12</b>	<b>LIST OF PROPOSALS FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT, AND RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS TO PARTIES</b>
<b>Submitted by</b>	Management Committee for Cetaceans (MCC), the Management Committee for Seals and Walrus (MCSW) and the Joint Management Committee (MCJ)
<b>Action requested</b>	To adopt
<b>Background</b>	<p>This document contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New proposals for conservation and management approved by the Management Committees</li> <li>• New research recommendations to parties approved by the Management Committees</li> </ul>

## 1. NEW PROPOSALS FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

### 1.1 GREENLAND

#### Environmental issues

- *No ship anchoring should occur in Store Hellefiske Banke, off West Greenland, due to its importance as a feeding ground for many Arctic seabirds and marine mammal species.*
- *Greenland invites Canadian experts to participate in reviewing monitoring programs, plans and results of the Dundas mine in North-West Greenland.*
- *Due to the observed displacement of narwhals from Eclipse Sound caused by shipping traffic and associated ice breaking, future developments avoid shipping within narwhal summering aggregations.*

#### Narwhal

- *Because ship traffic causes significant disturbance to narwhals at distances from 0 to 20 km, while icebreaking can cause impacts at distances from 0 to 35 km, these values be used to establish buffer zones around narwhal summer aggregations and establish traffic corridors to protect migration routes and winter foraging grounds.*
- *Due to its importance as a feeding ground for many Arctic seabirds and marine mammal species, no ship anchoring should occur in Store Hellefiske Bank.*
- *Hunt management advice should account for the displacement and possible associated changes in fecundity and survival, both in disturbed summer aggregations, as well as in aggregations affected by the displaced animals.*

#### Beluga

- *Ship speed regulations of 8 knots be extended to south of the beluga migration route passing Cape York in September-October. This recommendation does not include a buffer around the timing of shipping.*
- *Any by-catch of belugas in East Greenland be documented in the Special Reports.*
- *In case of live by-caught belugas in East Greenland, all efforts be made to release the animal.*
- *Additional samples be taken from all dead by-caught belugas in East Greenland, and all caught belugas in West Greenland, besides the already mandatory information (date and location of the by-catch, sex, presence/absence of a foetus). This additional information includes skin biopsy sample, length, a tooth, girth measurements, and whether there is milk in the mammary glands of females.*
- *The documentation of hunter observations of belugas in East Greenland is collected in a structured manner, including photographs or video footage of the animals, information on where and when the sighting took place, and how many individuals were seen.*

#### Killer whale

- *Regulate the hunt of killer whales and restrict quotas in a precautionary way.*
- *Existing catch records be validated and reporting on catches (including struck and loss rates) be improved.*
- *Killer whales be included in existing mandatory reporting schemes.*

**NORWAY****Harbour porpoise**

- *Continue its efforts to reduce the by-catch of harbour porpoises which is deemed unsustainable.*
- *Assess the compliance of the fleet to the pinger regulations in Vestfjorden as a basis for evaluating the efficacy of the pinger mandate.*
- *Consider expanding the use of pingers to areas north and west of Vestfjorden.*
- *Due to the present unsustainable level of by-catch, consider the best way of ensuring that the mandatory use of pingers is enforced.*
- *Implement the use of REM systems in fishing vessels outside the CRF, to complement the by-catch data from the CRF.*

**2. NEW RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS TO PARTIES****2.1 ALL COUNTRIES****Killer whale**

- *To further sampling efforts, as well as further analyses of pollutant levels and genetic analyses to help determine stock structure.*

**2.2 FAROE ISLANDS****Harbour porpoise**

- *Support the creation of an App where users of coastal areas (i.e., fishers, recreational boats) can report observations, catch and by-catch of harbour porpoises.*
- *Initiate the collection of biological data on harbour porpoise.*

**White-beaked, White-sided and Bottlenose dolphins**

- *Age determination from random teeth samples from different periods of time should be added to the age structure information on *Lagenorhynchus acutus*.*
- *Investigate any changes in age structure over different years to resolve whether some cohorts are underrepresented in the samples.*
- *Complete the analyses of life history parameters.*
- *Together with Greenland, collect data for genetic analyses and make sure they are integrated within the current European genetic analyses for *Lagenorhynchus* sp. coordinated by ASCOBANS.*

**Pilot whale**

- *Given the high number of available data (2000+), 150+ teeth samples collected randomly in 2013-2022 should be aged and the corresponding reproductive data analysed to obtain a long-term trend in life history parameters.*
- *Collect and analyse genetic samples together with Iceland and Greenland, to get better knowledge on stock identity.*
- *Investigate the potential relationship between pollutants and life history parameters of pilot whales between the first sampling period (1986-1989) and the present one (2013-2022).*

## 2.3 GREENLAND

### Narwhal

- *Conduct tagging studies to determine impacts of shipping in Baffin Bay.*
- *Obtain biological samples (brains, organs etc.) and morphometrics from the narwhal winter hunt in Disko Bay and the spring hunt in other areas of West Greenland.*

### White-beaked, White-sided and Bottlenose dolphins

- *Increase effort in collecting samples for genetic analysis.*
- *Prepare catch statistics separating both species, where possible.*

### Walrus

- *(High priority) The regional aerial survey of the east side of Smith Sound be the minimum area that should be covered for monitoring walrus abundance and distribution. Surveys should occur in April, annually during the first 3 years of production, to allow detection of any substantial changes.*
- *The satellite imagery of Wolstenholme Fjord be collected annually to determine walrus density, and eventually walrus counts if <30 cm resolution imagery becomes available.*
- *The telemetry data on walrus habitat use, distribution and migration patterns be combined with a study of benthos covering the foraging areas in Wolstenholme Fjord to improve the assessment of the relative importance of the potential foraging area impacted by the mining operation (disturbance and siltification).*

## 2.4 ICELAND

### Harbour porpoise

- *Generate the best back-calculated by-catch estimates (i.e., a time series going back to the beginning of the fishery) for the upcoming Icelandic assessment.*

### White-beaked, White-sided and Bottlenose dolphins

- *Provide a table with the by-catch information available for each Lagenorhynchus species.*

## 2.5 NORWAY

### Harbour porpoise

- *Increase tagging efforts to inform on movements, distribution, and stock delineation of harbour porpoise in Norwegian waters.*
- *Collect more biological samples to increase the life history information feeding the population models.*
- *Look into potential by-catch of porpoises in recreational fisheries to potentially include recreational fisheries in future by-catch estimates.*
- *Include by-catch data from larger (>15m) vessels into the by-catch estimates used for the assessment.*
- *Look into the effects of ghost nets on harbour porpoise mortality dynamics and, if a concern, increase efforts in removing ghost nets in areas of high porpoise density.*
- *By-catch estimates be back-calculated as far back as possible (e.g., until 1970) using landings and included in future assessments.*

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS NOT FORWARDED TO PARTIES DUE TO LACK OF CONSENSUS

#### 3.1 GREENLAND

##### Narwhal

- *To implement an immediate reduction to 0 catches of narwhals in all three management areas of East Greenland. **(Strongly reiterated)***
- *Catch limits for West Greenland provided by the JWG be followed.*

##### Beluga

- *Implement seasonal closures for the hunt of belugas in West Greenland. **(Strongly reiterated)***
- *Make sure no hunting of belugas be allowed at any time in the area south of 65 degrees North in West Greenland. **(Strongly reiterated)***
- *Keep belugas in East Greenland fully protected, as there is insufficient information to perform an assessment of belugas in East Greenland. **(Strongly reiterated)***

##### Harbour porpoise

- *Implement the management advice given on harbour porpoise in West Greenland (i.e., no more than 2900 total removals, i.e., including an assumed quota for unreported individuals).*