



COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

14 March 2023

Online

REPORT



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0. SUMMARY

The Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM) met online 14 March 2023 from 13:00 to 15:00 CET.

Present were Ulla S. Wang (Faroe Islands), Naja Holm, Amalie Jessen, Niels Lyberth (Greenland), Kristján Loftsson and Elin B. Ragnarsdottir (Iceland), Guro Gjelsvik and Kathrine A. Ryeng (chair) (Norway), and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

Truls Soløy, chair of the Norwegian Small whale Union, had been invited to give a presentation on the minke whale hunt but was unable to participate.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

The Chair, Kathrine A. Ryeng, opened the meeting for comments to the agenda. The agenda was revised and adopted after deleting agenda item 6 presentation on the Norwegian minke whale hunt. Meeting documents were reviewed (Appendix 1).

2. GENERAL INFORMATION UPDATES

The committee reviews and updates information related to its terms of reference regularly. The following overview documents are updated either in connection with meetings or by correspondence intersessionally.

2.1 LIST OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND LIST OF REFERENCES

Laws and regulation

Greenland informed:

- New Executive Order on Walrus from October 2022
- Home Rule Act on Hunting from 1999 (last revised 2008) is under revision with changes pertaining to limitation on vessel size related to licenced (quota) hunts.
- Ongoing work to make an Executive Order for the hunting of small cetaceans with possible revision of the existing Executive Order on Narwhal and Beluga hunts.

Iceland informed:

- New regulation (917/2022) on monitoring the welfare of whaling which included the requirement of inspectors on whaling trips going from 10% to 100 %

Publications and references related to marine mammal hunting

Norway informed about 2 new publications:

- Low anthropogenic mortality of humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and killer (*Orcinus orca*) whales in Norwegian purse seine fisheries despite frequent entrapments (Bjørge, Moan, Ryeng and Wiig, 2022)
- Developments in the Quantitative Assessment of Welfare Outcomes in Hunted Mammals Subject to Shooting. (Smith and Ryeng, 2022)

The updated information has been uploaded to the NAMMCO website. Click [here](#) to see the laws and regulations currently listed on the NAMMCO website. Click [here](#) to see the list of references.

2.2 OTHER

Briefly discussing the two documents "Conservation Status Marine Mammal Stocks in NAMMCO" document (click [here](#)) and "Hunting Methods in NAMMCO" (click [here](#)) the CHM agreed that members should review these and submit their changes and updates to the Secretariat.

Norway informed that the use of electronic monitoring (Blue box) will cease and be replaced by electronic logbook reporting like is the general rule in fisheries. This change has come about for several reasons one being normalising whaling by regulating it on the same level as fisheries. The Blue Boxes are also “getting old” i.e., spare parts and components are difficult to find.

As part of the revamping of the NAMMCO website, finished in 2022, all committees had reviewed information related to their work. Discussing how to best quality check and update information going forward it was agreed that members would review the two before mentioned documents and the Secretariat would ensure updating the website accordingly. To redo the exercise of reviewing the whole website after just one year was not recommended.

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. ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS

The CHM reviewed all submitted data for 2022, noting the different hunts catches, quotas were applicable, hunting efforts, national inspection and monitoring efforts, by-catch, entanglement and stranding events. No special comments were made except:

Iceland informed that the new regulation mentioned under item 3.1 explained the high numbers of trips and hunts that had been inspected in 2022; inspectors had been onboard 38 hunting trips inspecting 69 hunts of the total catch of 148.

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. VIDEO PROJECT NO 2

The Chair presented the draft manuscript and informed that the development of the 2nd instruction video was underway. It is anticipated that it will be finalised before the summer.

5. WORK PLAN 2023 - 2024

The CHM reiterated the priorities from last year:

- An expert group meeting or workshop on the rifle hunt in Greenland - postponed until GL has sufficient resources to priorities the necessary work involved for such an undertaking to be successful.
- to continue the production of videos. A proposal could be to make a video on how to report and measure with reference to the following recommendation:
 - *train hunters to measure and report on strike location, detonation location and distance between the two to investigate reasons why NO has a higher IDR than GL in the minke harpoon hunt (EG-2010, 2015: GL)*
- 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.

Time did not permit a real 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 identify and agree on priorities for its future work.

6. NEXT MEETING

This agenda item was not discussed.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Winsnes informed that normally there would be a change of officers after the upcoming Council meeting, and following the rotation plan it will be Iceland that takes over the chair in CHM.

8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The report was adopted by correspondence 17 March 2023.

APPENDIX: AGENDA AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS

AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda and review of documents
2. General information updates
 - 2.1 List of law and regulations and list of references
 - 2.2 Other
3. Annual reporting from members
4. Video project no 2
5. Work plan 2023 - 2024
6. Next meeting
7. Any other business

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NAMMCO/CHM-2023-01/01	Agenda and List of Documents
NAMMCO/Database-2022	Submitted data from member countries