



WORKING GROUP ON ENHANCING USER INVOLVEMENT IN NAMMCO DECISION MAKING

Adopted NAMMCO 30 – 30 March 2023

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Working Group on enhancing user involvement in NAMMCO decision making (UIWG) shall consider and give advice on how to best initiate, improve and strengthen users'ⁱ involvement in NAMMCO to produce better decisions and strengthen the legitimacy of decisions. This will involve finding best practices on how to co-produce 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.

The work of the UIWG shall *inter alia* take due account of challenges 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,

and, be guided by the importance of factors like:

- 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 lists of considerations are not exhaustive.

2. MEMBERSHIP

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

The UIWG 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 UIWG will be a standing working group and will report to the Management Committees.

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