



MINUTES

Working Group on enhancing user involvement in NAMMCO decision making (UWIG)

Terms meeting 22 June 2023, 13:00 – 14:00 (ET)

Present:

Wu Sweener Wang, manager, Ministry of Fisheries (FO)

Messana George, manager, Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting (GA)

Mikael Pettersen, hunter representative, The Association of Fishers and Hunters in Greenland (NAFH)

Sandra Stenpakki, scientist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (FI)

John-Andri Henden, scientist, Marine Research Institute (NO)

Ngase Pettersen, whaler (NO)

Simon Fiw, user (NO)

Charlotte Wisnes, NAMMCO Secretariat

The meeting was called to formally establish the UWIG and to introduce the current members, appointed by the member countries. Documents to the meeting were a draft agenda prepared by the Secretariat and the Terms of Reference of the UWIG.

Acknowledging the importance of how to include user knowledge in management processes, and the recurrent, non-conclusive, discussions held over the years in various specialised working groups on how to address the topic, had urged NAMMCO (Council 29 [2022]) to establishment a dedicated Working Group.

The Working Group's overall objective is how to best address the imbalance that seems to be 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.

The UWIG should consist of relevant stakeholders, preliminary defined as hunters, managers, scientists, local inhabitants, representatives from fisheries and tourism industries and representatives with expertise on how to incorporate user knowledge in research and management processes.

Points of discussion and agreed actions:

- To select a chair and vice-chair at the next meeting.
- The overall objective is given by the ToR. However, it will be at the discretion of the UWIG to discuss and identify what the specific aim(s) should be and how one should go about reaching these. Important to have all stakeholders represented when discussing and deciding the aims.
- To use the term stakeholder and not user. A stakeholder is anyone involved with marine mammals and thus having an interest in the management of the resources, be it scientists, hunters, fishermen, managers, business operators (tourism, sales, transport), organisations and institutions, but not exclusively. A priori all types of information should be included.
- Membership should be extended, especially targeting missing stakeholders. Essentially two options were discussed to identify additional stakeholders, to contract a professional agent to undertake a formal stakeholder analysis or to do so internally in the UWIG. It was agreed to go for the last option and members agreed to prepare a list of possible additional members, be it resource persons or representatives of stakeholder associations/businesses to be discussed at the next meeting.
- The next meeting will be in the fall, date and time to be decided, but not before September.