



MINUTES

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

Teams meeting 22 June 2023, 13:00 – 14:00 CET

Present:

Ulla Svarrer Wang, manager, Ministry of Fisheries (FO)

Masaana Dorph, manager, Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting (GL)

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

Sandra Granquist, scientist, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute (IS)

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

Bjarne Pettersen, whaler (NO)

Simon Five, sealer (NO)

Charlotte Winsnes, NAMMCO Secretariat

The meeting was called to formally establish the UIWG 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 UIWG.

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 UIWG 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 selection 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 UIWG 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, sellers, buyers), organisations and institutions, list not exhaustive. 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 UIWG. 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.