

**NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE 30**

**RINGED SEALS WORKING GROUP**

**Agenda 1<sup>st</sup> meeting**

*16 November 2023, 16:00–19:00 CET, Video conference*

- 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks from the Chair**
- 2. Adoption of agenda**
- 3. Appointment of rapporteurs**
- 4. Establishment of management areas**
  - 4.1. Genetics
  - 4.2. Movement data
  - 4.3. General discussion: Do we have sufficient knowledge to define management areas?
- 5. Available hunting statistics in each management areas**
- 6. Available abundance data in each management area**
- 7. Are there alternative ways of evaluating abundance and status?**
- 8. How to proceed in assessing the status**
- 9. Recommendation**
- 10. Next meeting?**

# Agenda 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting

*27 November 2023, 16:00–19:00 CET, Video conference*

**11. Are there alternative ways to evaluating abundance and status?** (item 7 in original agenda)

**12. How to proceed in assessing the status** (item 8 in original agenda)

- 12.1. Approval of the updated management areas based on previous discussion
- 12.2. Svalbard
- 12.3. East Greenland
- 12.4. West Greenland
- 12.5. Kangia ringed seal
- 12.6. Regularity of abundance surveys and assessments for each specific case (species/stock)

**13. Other anthropogenic stressors**

- 13.1. Global warming
- 13.2. By-catch
- 13.3. Pollution
- 13.4. Disturbance
- 13.5. Others

**14. Review of the recommendations**

**15. Other business and closing remarks**

For information:

This meeting has been convened to contribute to answering **request R-2.3.3.** from the NAMMCO Council: *“to convene a working group with the aim of conducting a thorough review of the existing data and to go ahead with the assessment of stocks for which it was possible. If the data required for a full assessment of (some of) the stocks were not available, the WGs and the SC should identify, and prioritize, which specific data essential to their assessments are still needed.”*

***Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Ringed Seals are:***

1. To define the management areas based on genetics and/or telemetry if possible.
2. To review which data (especially abundance, survey data and hunting statistics) are available in each management area.
3. To define whether there any areas for which an assessment can be conducted.
4. To describe what kind of data that are lacking for management area with insufficient data.
5. To discuss whether there are alternative methods to carry out abundance surveys for assessing the stock status of ringed seals.