



## NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 31

### JOINT MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

*19 March 2024, 13:00-14:00  
Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík, Iceland*

#### **DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

Annotations are indicated in *blue italics*.

#### **1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS**

##### **Relevant documents for this meeting:**

NAMMCO/31/08: Report of the 30th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

NAMMCO/31/MC/05: Recent Proposals for Conservation and Management and Research Recommendations

NAMMCO/31/MC/06: Summary of Requests from the NAMMCO Council to the Scientific Committee and Responses by the Scientific Committee

NAMMCO/31/MC/07: Report of the WG on Enhancing User Involvement in NAMMCO Decision Making (UIWG)

*This joint meeting addresses issues of relevance to both the Management Committee for Cetaceans (MCC) and the Management Committee for Seals and Walrus (MCSW). It also addresses issues related to the Management Committees WG on Enhancing User Involvement in NAMMCO Decision Making (UIWG).*

The meeting will focus on:

- *Reviewing updates and responses to active requests for advice provided by the Scientific Committee during its last meeting in 2024 (SC/30).*
- *Considering both the new and reiterated proposals for conservation and management and recommendations for research (that have implications for stock assessment and require management action by Member Countries) made by SC/30.*
- *Considering updates from the member countries on the proposals for conservation and management measures discussed by MC 30.*

- *Determining whether any requests may be considered completed and closed or need to be renewed.*
- *Discussing the progress of the Working Group on Enhancing User Involvement in NAMMCO Decision Making (UIWG).*

*The relevant requests (and year they were formulated) are given under the respective agenda items.*

## 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

## 3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOSYSTEM PERSPECTIVE

### 3.1 MARINE MAMMAL–FISHERY INTERACTIONS

*NAMMCO/31/08, item 8.1.1, 8.1.2*

#### 3.1.1 Active Requests

- **R-1.1.5 (1997, standing)** *To periodically review and update available knowledge related to the understanding of interactions between marine mammals and commercially exploited marine resources.*
- **R-1.1.9 (2022, ongoing but not prioritised as of 2023)** *In addressing the standing request on ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction.*
- **R-1.1.10 (2022, standing as of 2023)** *In light of the distributional shifts seen under T-NASS 2007 and later surveys, the SC should investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional responses.*

#### 3.1.2 Response from SC/30

*R-1.1.5: The Working Group on By-Catch held its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting online in October 2023, and sent a request for data on fisheries and fisheries monitoring to NAMMCO member countries.*

*The SC recommended that Iceland provide an answer to the Secretariat’s request as soon as possible, so the WG can proceed with the data call. Iceland has now provided a response and the Secretariat is planning the next meeting of the WG. The Secretariat will send the official data call to the Parties after this WG meeting.*

*R-1.1.9: The SC acknowledges the request and will continue to monitor the development of ecosystem modelling approaches.*

*R-1.1.10: The results of the upcoming NASS 2024 survey will provide further insights relevant to changes in the spatial distribution of cetacean species. The SC recognises the value of such a spatial modelling exercise, but it will require dedicated effort and likely additional funding.*

#### 3.1.3 MCJ Discussion

### 3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

*NAMMCO/31/08, item 8.3*

#### 3.2.1 Active Request

- **R-1.5.3 (2016, standing as of 2023)** *To monitor the development of the Mary River Project and assess qualitatively or, if possible, quantitatively the likely impact and consequences on marine mammals in the area.*

#### 3.2.2 Response from SC/30

*R-1.5.3: Some answers to this request were provided by the Joint NAMMCO-JCNB Disturbance Workshop in December 2022. The SC recommended that the JWG follow up on further updates at its next meeting.*

### 3.2.3 MCJ Discussion

## 3.3 MULTISPECIES APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT AND MODELLING

*NAMMCO/31/08, item 9.2.1*

### 3.3.1 Active Requests

- **R-1.2.1 (renewed 2019, ongoing but not prioritised as of 2023)** *To consider whether multispecies models for management purposes can be established for the North Atlantic ecosystems and whether such models could include the marine mammal compartment. If such models and the required data are not available, then identify the knowledge lacking for such an enterprise to be beneficial to proper scientific management and suggest scientific projects which would be required for obtaining this knowledge.*
- **R-1.2.2 (1995, standing)** *In relation to the importance of the further development of multispecies approaches to the management of marine resources, to monitor stock levels and trends in stocks of all marine mammals in the North Atlantic.*

### 3.3.2 Response from SC/30

*R-1.2.1: SC members involved in multi-species ecosystem modelling projects will update the list of projects being carried out (provided to SC/27) for the next SC meeting, as well as information on the uncertainty or reliability of these models.*

*R-1.2.2: The SC monitors and reviews information on stock levels for all marine mammal species within the NAMMCO remit.*

## 4. UPDATE ON MEMBERS' RESPONSES TO PROPOSALS FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

*NAMMCO/31/MC/06*

## 5. PRESENTATION OF SC LONG-TERM PLAN FOR STOCK ASSESSMENT

- **R-1.6.8 (2023, ongoing)** *The SC is requested to prepare a tentative long-term plan (10–15 years) for the assessments of all the stocks within the remit of NAMMCO.*

## 6. WG ON ENHANCING USER INVOLVEMENT IN NAMMCO DECISION MAKING (UIWG)

### 6.1 REPORT OF THE UIWG

### 6.2 DISCUSSION AND GUIDANCE OF THE MCS

*Discuss workflow, ways forward, case studies within NAMMCO that should be examined first.*

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

*Should standing requests be renewed every 10 years in order to remain valid (in the same way that ongoing requests must be renewed)?*