



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 31

19–21 March 2024

Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík, Iceland

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DOCUMENT 09	REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS (CHM)
Submitted by	CHM / Secretariat
Action requested	To take note of the report To provide comments on the video and consider its approval To consider the proposed work plan
Background/content	

1. MEETINGS AND MEMBERS APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2024

Since the Council 30, the Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM) has held two connected meetings on the period from April 2023 to March 2024. The first meeting was held online on 26 February 2024, and was then extended to 4 March 2024 to finalise the discussions. The Chair of the CHM is Jóhann Ásmundsson (Iceland). As he is new to the Committee, these meetings were chaired by previous Chair Kathrine A. Ryeng (Norway).

Committee members:

- FO: Signar Petersen, Ulla Svarrer Wang
- GL: Amalie Jessen, Masaana Dorph
- IS: Jóhann Ásmundsson (Chair)
- NO: Guro Gjelsvik, Kathrine A. Ryeng

Secretariat: Naima El bani Altuna, Geneviève Desportes

2. REVIEW OF BACKGROUND AND STATUS OF CHM PER AUGUST 2023

The CHM **agreed** that the CHM background and status as per August 2023 prepared by Winsnes and Desportes was comprehensive and informative and presented a good overview of the work of the CHM. It advised that a time to death study conducted in Iceland on fin whales in 2014 be referred to the document.

The CHM **agreed** that the document could be made available on the NAMMCO website.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION UPDATES

The CHM reviewed and updated information related to its terms of reference regularly. The following overview documents are updated either in connection with meetings or by correspondence intersessional: [Laws and regulation](#), [Publications and references related to marine mammal hunting](#), [Conservation Status Marine Mammal Stocks](#) and [Hunting in NAMMCO member Countries](#)

4. VIDEO PROJECTS

Council 28 (2021) expressed its support for developing short videos focusing on various aspects of hunting with the aim of improving safety for hunters and animal welfare.

In 2021-2022, the CHM supervised the development of the [1st information video](#) focusing on the safe handling of the 50 mm Kongsberg whaling cannon with loaded pusher shell (cartridge), and the harpoon and the Whale grenade 99. The 1st video was finished in 2022 and produced in Norwegian and translated to English and Greenlandic.

4.1 SECOND INSTRUCTION VIDEO

The CHM reviewed the second instruction video for hunters, which is an animation video entitled "Large Whale Hunting: Target Area and Shooting Angle". The default English version of the video was presented for comments and potential adoption.

The group **agreed**:

- To propose the translation of the video into Greenlandic (as initially planned) and Norwegian (new proposal).
- To include optional English and Icelandic subtitles in the English version to increase the reach of the videos.
- To simplify the language used in the video in the translated versions, as the video currently has a scientific tone in its English version. This aims at making the content of the video more accessible to the target audience.

The Secretariat will be responsible for adding the subtitles to the file. The decision to proceed with the translation, including both subtitles and voiceover, is dependent on the budget allocation that the Council will provide for these efforts.

It was noted the need for an addition in the video regarding the rifle calibre used as back-up weapon in Greenland, which is 30-06 as indicated. The Secretariat will follow up on this and will correct the video accordingly. The corrections will be made on the video, the subtitles, and the translated versions of the voiceover.

4.2. THIRD INSTRUCTION VIDEO

The CHM discussed the proposed work plan suggested by the CHM in 2022 and 2023 concerning the continuation of video production. The CHM saw no need for an immediate initiation of a new video project.

The Committee **agreed** to postpone further video projects and to assess the reception of the current video first.

In the upcoming CHM meeting, the Committee plans to discuss the impact of the current videos and explore potential topics for new ones, including subjects like seal hunting, how to minimise struck and lost, and the recommendations provided by the EG.

5. FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5.1. ORGANISATION OF AN EXPERT GROUP MEETING/WORKSHOP

In 2023, the CHM reiterated to organise "an expert group meeting or workshop on rifle hunt in Greenland, although it was agreed to postpone the gathering until Greenland had sufficient resources to prioritise the necessary work for such an undertaking to be successful". This priority is based on the workplan for the CHM adopted by the Council 27 (2019), through which "[the CHM would hold] a back-to-back Expert Group Meeting/Workshop on hunting methods where the combined use of harpoon and rifle is not one weapon". This plan has been repeatedly postponed (CHM reports 2022, 2023).

Greenland reiterated that the necessary data is still unavailable, and that such data would need to be analysed for the workshop/Expert group meeting to be effective. Greenland does not see such workshop will take place in the foreseeable future, and therefore suggested not to hold such a workshop, also due to the fact, that Greenland is the only country having rifle hunt.

5.2. ADDRESSING STRUCK AND LOST (S&L) RATES OF WHITE-BEAKED DOLPHINS IN GREENLAND

The Secretariat informed the CHM that the Dolphin Working Group (October 2023) and Scientific Committee 30 (January 2024) noted the high S&L rates in the white beaked dolphin open-water rifle hunt in Greenland. Greenland is in the process of drafting a new Executive Order, set to be enacted by Spring 2024, through which reporting on S&L and catches will be made compulsory.

5.3. INVITING HUNTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING OF THE CHM MEETINGS

The CHM discussed the recommendation proposed in 2021, which advised inviting hunters to actively participate in CHM meetings.

The CHM **agreed** to invite a hunter representative to CHM meetings to provide insights and updates on specific hunting methods, as well as address crucial issues related to the activity, including their perspectives on challenges and opportunities.

The CHM discussed which hunter organisation could be invited to the next meeting. Greenland proposed to ask the KNAPK if they could be interested to participate in the next meeting. The Secretariat will verify the availability of funds for translation services to facilitate effective communication during the meeting.

6. COOPERATION WITH JAPAN ON WELFARE ISSUES

The Heads of Delegation have requested input from the CHM regarding potential collaboration with Japan on animal welfare issues. The Committee noted the importance of receiving an update from Japan on the status of recommendations provided by the EG in 2010 and 2015.

The Committee recognised the potential benefits of exchanging information between NAMMCO member Countries and Japan on the TTD and hunting procedures, including the types of weapons and equipment used, as well as the methods employed. The Committee was willing to follow up on this collaboration via email and will eventually schedule a meeting to further discuss this topic in detail.

7. PROPOSED WORKPLAN 2024-2026

Year	Activity/Task	Participants	Tentative date
2024	Update regulation and laws	CHM	<i>Continuously</i>
	Invite hunters to CHM meetings	CHM / Hunters	
	Exchange information with Japan on hunts	CHM / Japan	

	Review the catch data-base	CHM	Late May
2025	Update regulation and laws	CHM	<i>Continuously</i>
	Invite hunters to CHM meetings	CHM / Hunters	
	Evaluate (i.e., is it informative for hunters?) current video if possible	CHM	
	Discuss themes for a new video project		
	Review catch data-base	CHM	
2026	Update regulation and laws	CHM	<i>Continuously</i>
	Invite hunters to CHM meetings	CHM / Hunters	
	Supervise the making of a new video, if it is decided to continue	CHM	
	Review catch data-base	CHM	