

NAMMCO



ANNUAL MEETING 31

Joint meeting of the
Management Committees

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3. Environmental and Ecosystem Perspective

3.1 Marine mammal-Fishery Interactions

3.1.1 Active Requests

- *R-1.1.5 (standing, 1997) To periodically review and update available knowledge related to the understanding of interactions between marine mammals and commercially exploited marine resources.*

3.1.2. Response from SC/30 to R-1.1.5:

- In response to this request the SC has established a By-catch WG





3. Environmental and Ecosystem Perspective

3.1 Marine mammal-Fishery Interactions

- The Working Group on By-Catch held its 8th meeting online in October 2023
- ToRs of the WG (as defined by SC/21):
 - i) Identify all fisheries with potential by-catch of marine mammals;
 - ii) Review and evaluate current by-catch estimates for marine mammals in NAMMCO countries;
 - iii) If necessary, provide advice on improved data collection and estimation methods to obtain best estimates of total by-catch over time.
- Until now, the WG has focussed on ToR ii
- The WG was asked by SC/28 to proceed with ToR i and determine how best to assess the risk of marine mammal by-catch in fisheries taking place in the waters of NAMMCO and for which there are no by-catch estimates and no or limited by-catch monitoring.
- The aim will be to define the *individual* exposure to being by-caught (defining the population consequence of by-catch is within the remit of the species and assessment WGs).



3. Environmental and Ecosystem Perspective

3.1 Marine mammal-Fishery Interactions

- The following procedure has been identified:
 1. Further information on the nature and precise protocol of monitoring programs be collected as a prior from each country to be able to formulate a more specific formal data call
 2. Send a formal data call to fishery departments of NAMMCO member countries.
 3. Seek a cooperation with ICES
- The WG agreed that the NAMMCO Secretariat contact the respective Fisheries Departments of the member countries to request the following information as a first step:
 1. Is there a *fleet register*, sorted by: *port*, *vessel size* or *gear type*
 2. Are *recreational vessels* registered/licensed and is there information on their *gear type* and *fishing effort/number of trips*
 3. At what *spatial resolution* is fishing effort recorded, sorted by *vessel size*
 4. What data are available for *smaller vessels* (i.e., those under 12 m in Norway, under 15 GT in Faroe Islands, under 90 GT in Greenland)
 5. Are there records of the number or percentage of *foreign vessels* operating in the national fishing areas
 6. What *monitoring programs* exist, and what is the *objective of each program*, e.g., policing or counting protected species by-catch the *monitoring protocol*, i.e., precisely what is being monitored and how.
- **To progress with the request, 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.
- Update: 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.



3. Environmental and Ecosystem Perspective

3.1 Marine mammal-Fishery Interactions

Active Requests

- ***R-1.1.9 (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 (standing, split from R-1.1.8 in 2022)*** *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.*

Response from SC/30 to R-1.1.9:

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

Response from SC/30 to 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. Environmental and Ecosystem Perspective

3.2 Environmental issues

3.2.1 Active Request

- *R-1.5.3 (standing, 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.*

Response from SC/30 to 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. Environmental and Ecosystem Perspective

3.3 Multi species approach to management and modelling

Active Request

- ***R-1.2.1 (ongoing, R-2019, 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.*

Response from SC/30 to 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.



3. Environmental and Ecosystem Perspective

3.3 Multi species approach to management and modelling

Active Request

- ***R-1.2.2 (standing, 1995)*** *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.*

Response from SC/30 to R-1.2.2:

- The SC monitors and reviews information on stock levels for all marine mammal species within the NAMMCO remit



4. Members' responses to Proposals

Proposals forwarded to Greenland:

- Environmental Issues
 - Conservation and Management: 1 (update provided)



5. SC long-term plan for stock assessment

- **R-1.6.8 (2023, ongoing)** states that “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. [...]”

Species	Frequency (years)	Assessment year		
Walrus	5	2026	2031	2036
Ringed Seal	5	2029	2034	2039
Bearded Seal	5	2027	2032	2042
Beluga and Narwhal (West Greenland)	5	2025	2030	2035
Narwhal (East Greenland)*	3	2026	2029	2032
Pilot Whale	5	2025	2030	2035
Dolphin	5	2028	2033	2038
Harbour Porpoise	7	2026	2033	2040
Large Whales (Fin and Minke)	7	2025	2032	2039
Harp and Hooded Seals	2	2025	2027	2029
Coastal Seals (grey and harbour seals)	6	2026	2032	2038
Killer Whale	9	2028	2037	2046



5. SC work plan 2024–2026

2024	2025	2026
<p><u>WG and WS meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG on By-Catch - Genetics WG 	<p><u>WG and WS meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large Whale Assessment WG - Pilot Whale WG - Abundance Estimate WG - WG on Harp and Hooded Seals - JWG NAMMCO-JCNB 	<p><u>WG and WS meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harbour porpoise WG - Coastal Seals WG - Walrus WG - Narwhal in East Greenland WG (pending MCC decision) - Abundance Estimate WG
<p><u>Other meetings and activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NASS 2024 SpC: meetings online & in person - MINTAG StG: online meetings - MINTAG: deployment field work and analysis - NASS 2024 surveys 	<p><u>Other meetings and activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MINTAG StG: online meetings - MINTAG: deployment field work and analysis 	<p><u>Other meetings and activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MINTAG StG: online meetings - MINTAG: deployment field work and analysis



6. WG on Enhancing User Involvement in NAMMCO Decision Making (UIWG)

- NAMMCO Council 29 (2022) endorsed the recommendation by the MCJ to create a specialized working group to improve stakeholder involvement to acknowledge the importance of including diverse knowledge systems in management processes.
- The NAMMCO WG on enhancing User Involvement in NAMMCO Decision Making (UIWG) have held three online meetings (June 2023, January and March 2024).
- The UIWG participants agreed that a tentative workplan could not be made yet, as the UIWG needs to discuss further the workflow, organization, and structure of the group before outlining a comprehensive workplan.
- It has been agreed that **the approach shall be species and country specific**