



# MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR SEALS AND WALRUS

*19 March 2024*

*Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík, Iceland*

**REPORT**

© North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission

**Please cite this report as:**

NAMMCO-North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (2024). Report of the Meeting of the Management Committee for Seals and Walrus, March 2024.

Available at <https://nammco.no/management-committees-reports/>

**NAMMCO**

*nammco-sec@nammco.no,*

*www.nammco.no, www.facebook.com/nammco.no/, www.instagram.com/nammco\_org/*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>1. Chair’s Opening Remarks .....</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>2. Adoption of Agenda .....</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>3. Conservation and Management Measures for Seals and Walrus Stocks .....</b>          | <b>4</b>  |
| 3.1. Bearded Seal .....   | 4         |
| 3.2. Ringed Seal .....  | 5         |
| 3.3. Harbour and Grey Seals .....   | 7         |
| 3.4. Harp And Hooded Seals .....  | 9         |
| 3.5. Walrus .....   | 10        |
| <b>4. Update on Members’ responses to Proposals for Conservation and Management .....</b> | <b>11</b> |
| <b>5. Any other business.....</b>   | <b>11</b> |
| <b>6. Close of meeting .....</b>  | <b>11</b> |
| <b>7. Adoption of Report .....</b>  | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Appendix 1: Participant List .....</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Appendix 2: Joint List of Documents of the Management Committees .....</b>             | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Appendix 3: Agenda .....</b>   | <b>15</b> |

## 1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair of the Meeting of the Management Committee for Seals and Walrus (MCSW), Guro Gjelsvik (Norway), welcomed participants (listed in Appendix 1) to the meeting. She noted that NAMMCO Deputy Secretary Maria Garagouni would act as main rapporteur, with support from the Secretariat.

The Chair noted that all the meeting documents (see Appendix 2) had been made available on the NAMMCO website two weeks prior to the meeting. The Chair drew particular attention to the following documents as relevant for all agenda items:

- *NAMMCO/31/MC/05: List of Proposals for Conservation and Management and Recommendations for Research generated by the MCs at their 2023 meeting, with Responses from the Parties.*
- *NAMMCO/31/MC/06: List of Active Requests from the NAMMCO Council to the Scientific Committee, with Responses from the Scientific Committee.*
- *NAMMCO/31/08: Scientific Committee Report.*

The Chair noted that Parties had been invited to submit updates in writing on advances towards the implementation of previous proposals for conservation and management and recommendations for research in writing prior to the meeting, observing that Iceland had not provided updates. The received updates were reflected in document NAMMCO/31/MC/05.

It was also noted that all Parties had reported their latest catch statistics and that the updated numbers were available in the online NAMMCO catch database.

The Chair informed that this meeting would focus on:

- Reviewing the new information on seal species and walrus 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 (2023).
- Making recommendation to Council regarding whether any requests may be considered completed and closed or need to be renewed.
- Proposing to Council new requests to the Scientific Committee.

## 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda (Appendix 3), which had been circulated to participants on March 4<sup>th</sup>, was adopted without modification.

## 3. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SEALS AND WALRUS STOCKS

### 3.1. BEARDED SEAL

#### Active Requests to the Scientific Committee from the Council

- ***R-2.7.1 (renewed 2023, ongoing)*** to complete its review and assessment of bearded seals no later than 2024.

#### Updates from the Scientific Committee

The Chair invited Aqqalu Rosing-Asvid to present the updates from the SC.

In response to R-2.3.3, a NAMMCO Panarctic Bearded Seal Workshop was held online in March 2023, to assess the status and trends of the species throughout its range and identify threats and critical knowledge gaps. The SC recognised the difficulty in obtaining accurate abundance estimates of the species and that there are insufficient data available to conduct an assessment due to lack of abundance data and some uncertainty about stock delineation. The Bearded Seal Working Group meeting originally planned for 2024 will, as a result, be postponed.

### Recommendations from the Scientific Committee

#### *Recommendations for Research*

##### All Parties

- Make efforts to collect more samples and increase coverage for the circumpolar genetic analyses.
- Continue and expand screening for pathogens in bearded seals [concerns USA].

##### Greenland

- Obtain tracking data from bearded seals tagged in Greenland and East Baffin Island to get information on stock structures (prioritised by SC/30).
- West Greenland and Melville Bay (key hunting areas) as major priority, to get abundance estimates [both by analysing existing data and collecting new data].

#### Comments from Parties

Greenland took note that there are insufficient data to conduct an assessment, and that the SC has postponed the upcoming WG for this reason. No other comments were made from the Parties.

#### MCSW Conclusion

The MCSW **endorsed** all the recommendations of the SC for bearded seals. Given the lack of sufficient data to conduct an assessment, which led to the deferral of the upcoming Bearded Seal WG, the SC should be requested to carry out an assessment of bearded seals as soon as possible once necessary data are available. The MCSW therefore **proposed** that Request R-2.7.1 be reformulated to “*to complete its review and assessment of bearded seals when the necessary data become available, and collect and analyse existing information*”. The MCSW **recommended** that member countries and other relevant parties make every effort to collect/analyse the data needed to carry out an assessment for bearded seals as soon as possible.

There were no new requests proposed concerning bearded seals.

## 3.2. RINGED SEAL

### Active Requests to the Scientific Committee from the Council

- **R-2.3.3 (renewed 2023, ongoing)** to complete its review and assessment of ringed seals no later than 2024.

### Updates from the Scientific Committee

In response to R-2.3.3, a NAMMCO Working Group on Ringed Seals (RSWG) met online in November 2023, with the aim of reviewing available data, delineating management areas, and conducting stock assessments if possible. Broad management areas were suggested based on telemetry data, namely Svalbard, East Greenland, and West Greenland–East Canada, but there might be finer-scale stock structure within these regions. Such is the case of the Kangia fjord seals, which are genetically and geographically distinct from other stocks, and should be treated as a separate ecotype. There were insufficient abundance estimates available to conduct stock assessments, but it is likely that changes in sea ice conditions will heavily impact this species.

## Recommendations from the Scientific Committee

### *Recommendations for Conservation and Management*

#### Greenland

- Validate catch numbers (prioritised by SC/30).

### *Recommendations for Research*

#### All Parties

- Use genetic and telemetry data only from adult ringed seals or nursing pups sampled during the breeding season for population structure studies (prioritised by SC/30).
- Conduct partial surveys of ringed seals (as index) (prioritised by SC/30).
- Ensure that efforts to determine population structure be continued (prioritised by SC/30).
- Carry out new studies to gain more insight on correction factors for ringed seal abundance estimates.
- Study the sensitivity of ringed seals to noise, particularly in areas of high ship traffic or tourism activities.

#### Greenland

- Carry out a new survey of the Kangia seals in spring 2024 to get a new abundance estimate (prioritised by SC/30).
- Monitor selected fjord systems with and without catches to assess the effects of hunting, disturbance, and climate change (prioritised by SC/30).
- Collect more telemetry and genetic data SW of Baffin Island and in Lancaster Sound to delineate the boundary between the MAs west of Greenland.
- Carry out aerial surveys to estimate ringed seal abundances in East Greenland.

### Comments from Parties

Greenland noted that the Kangia seals are genetically and geographically distinct from other ringed seals in the area, and as such, can be assessed and managed separately. Greenland informed that for this reason, from a management perspective, the Executive Order on protection and hunting of seals will need to be revised. However, this process will be temporarily put on hold until Greenland has received management advice after the recommended stock assessment.

Greenland also highlighted that ringed seals are one of the preferred food items in Greenland, and that the catches have been declining, starting around the time that the EU seal ban started being discussed (January 2006). Greenland therefore noted that other countries' regulations regarding the trade of seal products is likely a factor behind the decline in catches.

Greenland would like to assist in providing and validating catch numbers (as prioritised by SC/30).

### MCSW Conclusion

The MCSW **endorsed** all the recommendations of the SC for ringed seals. The SC should be requested to carry out an assessment of ringed seals as soon as possible once necessary data are available. The MCSW therefore **proposed** that Request R-2.3.3 be reformulated to *“to complete its review and assessment of ringed seals when the necessary data become available, and collect and analyse existing information”*. The MCSW **recommended** that member countries and other relevant parties make every effort to collect the data needed to carry out an assessment for ringed seals as soon as possible.

There were no new requests proposed concerning ringed seals.

### 3.3. HARBOUR AND GREY SEALS

#### Active Requests to the Scientific Committee from the Council

- **R-2.4.2 (renewed 2019, ongoing)** to provide a new assessment of grey seal stocks throughout the North Atlantic.
- **R-2.5.2 (renewed 2019, ongoing)** to conduct a formal assessment of the status of harbour seals in all NAMMCO areas as soon as feasible.

#### Updates from the Scientific Committee

The Chair invited Sandra Granquist to present the updates from the SC on the subject of coastal seals.

In response to R-2.4.2 and 2.5.2, the Coastal Seals Working Group (CSWG) met in May 2023, with the aim of assessing harbour and grey seal stocks across the North Atlantic. Preliminary results from genetic and tracking studies suggest that the current harbour seal Management Areas in Norway should be redefined. In Iceland, the harbour seal population has experienced a threefold decline since 1980. Various management measures have been put in place in an effort to maintain the population above 12,000 animals. The main mortality risk is by-catch, and tourism is a growing source of disturbance to harbour seals in Iceland. In Greenland, harbour seals only occur in a few small populations and hunting thereof has been banned since 2010. However, some animals are still shot accidentally or taken as by-catch in gillnets. In this regard, harbour seal populations in Greenland are currently being monitored, and hunters are being interviewed to report by-catch. Some grey seal populations in Norway have experienced a severe decline in recent years, likely due to by-catch in the monkfish fishery, while others remain stable or increasing. Grey seal numbers have also declined in Iceland over the past decades, while in the Faroe Islands they are expected to increase following the 2021 ban on harvesting.

The WG noted that NAMMCO 30 adopted 8 principles for the precautionary management of marine mammal stocks within the remit of NAMMCO. According to principles 2 and 3, stocks should be at least at 60% of their equilibrium level, or increasing, for a hunt to be allowed. However, the WG acknowledged that the equilibrium abundance is unknown and currently impossible to determine for many seal stocks in the NAMMCO countries, due to the lack of long-term records or reliable historical information.

#### Recommendations from the Scientific Committee

##### *Recommendations for Conservation and Management*

##### All Parties

- Complete an assessment for coastal seals in each of the NAMMCO member countries as soon as the necessary data are available.

##### Faroe Islands

- Determine management objectives for the grey seal population in line with the NAMMCO precautionary principles.

##### Greenland

- According to NAMMCO principles, harbour seal stocks should be at least at 60% of the equilibrium level before any hunting can take place. As the equilibrium level is unknown for all Greenland populations the MSY-level could be used, as it is a close proxy to 60% that can be achieved in a shorter term than the equilibrium level.
- If a harbour seal colony is the closest neighbour to a formerly significant but now abandoned breeding/moulting site, no hunting should be allowed until after the neighbouring breeding/moulting site has been recolonised and an assessment can show that a certain level of catch can be sustainable.

- All known harbour seal populations should be allowed to increase.

#### Iceland

- Put forward a management plan for both harbour and grey seals, which should include: Re-evaluation of the target population level objective with the new level being based on biological criteria; When setting catch levels, consider total anthropogenic removals (including direct hunt and by-catch); Biennial surveys for both species.
- Make legislation on seal hunting species-specific.
- Continue efforts to reduce by-catch.
- Further develop mitigation measures to reduce anthropogenic disturbances from tourists on harbour seals. Consider restricting access for people to important areas for harbour seals during the breeding period.

#### Norway

- Management plans should take total anthropogenic removals into account.

### ***Recommendations for Research***

#### All Parties

- To estimate sustainable removal levels for each stock of grey and harbour seals (*prioritised by SC/30*).
- Support the development of a Europe wide population model for grey seals through data provision and cooperation.
- Support a joint effort to deliver samples for genetic analysis of grey seals to improve knowledge on population structure and status.

#### Faroe Islands

- Continue the summer counts for abundance estimations of grey seals, and conduct monitoring of haul-out and breeding sites as well as additional tracking.

#### Greenland

- Continue the monitoring of the three known harbour seal populations, together with local hunters.
- Regularly check on previously used harbour seal breeding/moulting sites.

#### Iceland

- Continue efforts to develop population models for both species, assess whether data on biological parameters (e.g., historical population size, changes in carrying capacity over time) from other areas can be used for this, and collect data on biological parameters from Icelandic seals to the extent that it is necessary (*prioritised by SC/30*).
- Continue investigating habitat use of both species using satellite telemetry to help evaluate co-occurrence with fisheries and risk of by-catch.
- Carry out biannual surveys of grey seals.

#### Norway

- Improve knowledge on by-catches by collecting data on species, genetics, and age by collecting jaws from by-caught seals in the reference fleet.
- Collect data on by-catches in recreational fisheries.
- Conduct further tracking studies of coastal seals along the Norwegian coast, to obtain better knowledge on seal movements.
- Continue efforts to implement the Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) system on Norwegian vessels to estimate drop-out rates and supplement existing by-catch data.



- Complete the analysis of DNA samples from harbour seal pups in Norway to help determine stock structure and propose more scientifically based management units.

The SC also recommended that the ToRs should incorporate a specific point in the future regarding the determination of sustainable levels of removals.

Additionally, the SC recommended that Request R-2.4.2 be reformulated to match the language of R-2.5.2 and specify that North Atlantic refers to NAMMCO areas in this context, as follows: *“to provide a new assessment of grey seal stocks in all NAMMCO areas.”*

### Comments from Parties

Greenland noted that the presentation suggested that the harbour seal hunt has nearly extirpated the Greenlandic stock, and raised the question whether other factors might have contributed to this situation. Specifically, Greenland questioned whether it is entirely certain that hunting alone is responsible for the near extirpation of the Greenlandic stock. In response to this, the SC Chair clarified that, while the West Greenland stock is nearly extirpated, the situation in East Greenland differs, although it is a more challenging area to carry out seal surveys. The SC believed that hunting was the primary factor in the decline of the West Greenland stock. Notably, one of the last remaining sites in the region has experienced a significant decline, with only about one pup being produced per year. Prior to the ban on hunting in 2010, the price of skins was also a contributing factor to this sharp decline in harbour seals, due to extensive use of seal skin in national clothing and the difficulty in capturing seals in sufficient numbers. Greenland reiterated that harbour seals have been protected since 2010, yet there is no apparent (strong) recovery in their population.

The MCSW discussed whether there is a need for better guidelines on which recommendations the SC should forward to the MCs, given the large list of recommendations for coastal seals. The Secretariat clarified that the scientists should use different prioritisation systems to that of the MCs (e.g., best recommendation, next best recommendation), and that the SC’s recommendations should be made following scientific criteria, irrespective of their feasibility. Iceland suggested prioritising those suggestions referring to stocks that are in more critical condition.

### MCSW Conclusion

The MCSW **endorsed** all the recommendations of the SC for harbour and grey seals but highlighted the need for a prioritisation. The MCSW referred the task of prioritising the most pressing recommendations to the CSWG. The MCSW **agreed** with the recommendation by the SC to reformulate R-2.4.2.

Both requests for harbour and grey seals remain ongoing and no new requests were proposed.

## 3.4. HARP AND HOODED SEALS

### Active Requests to the Scientific Committee from the Council

- **R-2.1.4 (2003, standing)** to regularly update the stock status of North Atlantic harp and hooded seals as new information becomes available.
- **R-2.1.9 (revised 2022, ongoing)** to investigate possible reasons for the apparent decline of Greenland Sea stock of hooded seals; and assess the status of the stock.
- **R-2.1.10 (revised 2019, standing)** to provide advice on the total allowable catches for the management of harp seals.

### Updates from the Scientific Committee

The Chair invited Rosing-Asvid to present the updates from the SC on the subject of harp and hooded seals.

As a response to the three requests, a Benchmark Workshop for Harp and Hooded Seals was held in May 2023, with the goal of evaluating proposed developments to the assessment models currently

used for these species. Following this, the Joint ICES/NAFO/NAMMCO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals met in August 2023, to review recent survey and life history data and examine harvest scenarios. The assessment models proved highly sensitive to prior assumptions and could not be used to explore harvest scenarios. Other methods, however, might be used to inform sustainable harvest levels until the model has been further improved. The SC agreed that the reasons behind the decline in hooded seals in the Greenland Sea remain unresolved. Pollutants and predators might be contributing factors, but this needs to be confirmed with data.

## Recommendations from the Scientific Committee

### *Recommendations for Research*

#### All Parties

- Efforts should continue to obtain reproductive samples. These are required for use in the population model.

#### Norway

- Tag more harp and hooded seals in the Greenland Sea and the Denmark Strait, and reanalyse satellite tagging data from the past for both species (prioritised by SC/30).
- Conduct new pup aerial survey of harp seals in the White Sea (Action by 2024).
- Satellite imaging studies should be undertaken of the White Sea/Barents Sea harp seal population during the pupping season, to suggest possible re-distribution of the seals outside traditional whelping patches (Action by 2025).

### Comments from Parties

During the discussion, Greenland expressed a concern about the introduction of uncertainty for the users when a new assessment model is developed, as it may not align well with the needs of the users. Greenland asked the SC what the new model presented would mean regarding removals. Rosing-Asvid responded by mentioning the Canadian approach of using a threshold, specifically 70% of the maximum equilibrium abundance, above which a free hunt is allowed and below which a management plan needs to be put in place. Rosing-Asvid also clarified that it seems unlikely that hunting is solely responsible for the observed decline, and that the use of the new model may not necessarily have significant implications for Greenland.

Norway shared information about a new pup aerial survey of harp seals in the White Sea currently being conducted by Russian colleagues, with the estimate expected to be available in 2025.

### MCSW Conclusion

The MCSW **endorsed** all the recommendations of the SC for harp and hooded seals.

The MCSW **agreed** that R-2.1.4 and R-2.1.10 remained standing and that R-2.1.9 remains ongoing. No new requests were formulated for harp and hooded seals.

## 3.5. WALRUS

### Updates from the Scientific Committee

The Chair invited Rosing-Asvid to present the updates from the SC on walrus.

The analysis of the survey conducted in 2022 in West Greenland is pending and a new survey in the North Water area is scheduled for spring 2025. The planned Walrus Working Group meeting is postponed until 2026, at which time the analysis of new and existing survey data from Greenland will have been completed. Survey results and catch data will also be requested from Canada, to complement the information needed for a robust stock assessment, as the two stocks in West Greenland (Baffin Bay and West Greenland–Southeast Baffin Islands) are shared with Canada. The mining activity in Wolstenholme Fjord (Northwest Greenland) is currently on hold and, therefore, not

impacting walruses in the area. There is an ongoing telemetry study and a camera collecting data in the North Water area. In Norway, the analysis of camera surveillance and tracking data is underway, and some of these results will be presented at SC/31.

## **Recommendations from the Scientific Committee**

### ***Recommendations for Conservation and Management***

#### Greenland

- Consider the advice from the 2018 assessment valid until a new assessment is carried out in 2026.

#### *Advice endorsed by NAMMCO 27 (2019)*

- Total allowable landings: Northwest 79; West 74; East 17;
- Protect haul-out sites in regular use through creating an exclusion zone;
- Establish dialogue between managers and hunters on methods for collecting S&L data;
- Report struck and lost in the “Særmeldingsskema”.

#### **Comments from Parties**

Greenland expressed concern about the decision of the SC to postpone the assessment to 2026, as the advice was due in 2018 for West and East Greenland and in 2020 for Qaanaaq area. However, Greenland noted that the previous advice could be used until new advice is given. Greenland further shared that a new Executive Order concerning the hunting and protection of walruses was introduced in 2022. This order protects haul-out areas and promotes enhanced structures for reporting struck and lost walruses. Furthermore, Greenland noted the challenges in communicating with Canada regarding management matters.

#### MCSW Conclusion

The MCSW **endorsed** the recommendation of the SC for walrus. No new requests were proposed.

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

There were only four proposals for Conservation and Management forwarded to Parties by MC 30, all four directed to Greenland and relating to walrus. Updates were provided for all proposals. No comments were made from the other Parties.

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Greenland informed that they have received communication from the EU Commission regarding an upcoming fitness test on the ban of seal products. The specifics of the fitness test, including its content and Greenland’s involvement, had not been disclosed at the time of the MCSW meeting, but the process was underway. The EU regulations theoretically offer “Inuit and other indigenous communities” exemptions, provided several conditions are fulfilled and these products are accompanied by an official document attesting their origin. Greenland (as well as Nunavut and the Northwest Territories of Canada) has been appointed as a certifying body. However, despite the latest two evaluations, the trade status in Greenland has remained unchanged.

## **6. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chair thanked the participants for their attendance and contributions. The participants thanked the Chair for his chairing and Garagouni for her reporting.

## **7. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

A draft of the report was provisionally adopted on 21 March 2024. This was later finalised by correspondence and adopted on 5 April 2024.

## APPENDIX 1: PARTICIPANT LIST

### MEMBER COUNTRIES

#### Faroe Islands

Ragnar Jacobsen  
The Pilot Whalers Association  
[Ragnar-j@olivant.fo](mailto:Ragnar-j@olivant.fo)

Esmar Joesen  
The Pilot Whalers Association  
[Esmar@gmf.fo](mailto:Esmar@gmf.fo)

Bjarni Mikkelsen  
Faroe Marine Research Institute  
[bjarnim@hav.fo](mailto:bjarnim@hav.fo)

Páll Nolsøe (C)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Culture  
[palln@ummr.fo](mailto:palln@ummr.fo)

Ulla Svarrer Wang  
Ministry of Fisheries  
[ulla.svarrer.wang@fisk.fo](mailto:ulla.svarrer.wang@fisk.fo)

#### Greenland

Masaana Dorph  
Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting  
[mado@nanog.gl](mailto:mado@nanog.gl)

Amalie Jessen (C)  
Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting  
[amalie@nanog.gl](mailto:amalie@nanog.gl)

Niels Lyberth  
Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting  
[NILY@nanog.gl](mailto:NILY@nanog.gl)

#### Iceland

Jóhann Ásmundsson  
Directorate of Fisheries  
[johann.asmundsson@fiskistofa.is](mailto:johann.asmundsson@fiskistofa.is)

Guðjón Már Sigurðsson  
Marine and Freshwater Research Institute  
[gudjon.mar.sigurdsson@hafogvatn.is](mailto:gudjon.mar.sigurdsson@hafogvatn.is)

Jón Þrándur Stefansson (Chair)  
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries  
Department of Fisheries  
[jon.stefansson@mar.is](mailto:jon.stefansson@mar.is)

Þorvarður Atli Þórsson (C)  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
[thorvardur.thorsson@utn.is](mailto:thorvardur.thorsson@utn.is)

#### Norway

Martin Biuw  
Institute of Marine Research  
NO-9296 Tromsø  
[martin.biuw@hi.no](mailto:martin.biuw@hi.no)

Guro Gjelsvik  
Directorate of Fisheries  
[guro.gjelsvik@fiskeridir.no](mailto:guro.gjelsvik@fiskeridir.no)

Guro Kristoffersen Lysnes  
Directorate of Fisheries  
[gulys@fiskeridir.no](mailto:gulys@fiskeridir.no)

Petter Meier (C)  
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries  
[petter.meier@nfd.dep.no](mailto:petter.meier@nfd.dep.no)

Kathrine A. Ryeng  
Institute of Marine Research  
[kathrine.ryeng@hi.no](mailto:kathrine.ryeng@hi.no)

Truls Soløy  
Norwegian Small Whalers Association  
[post@kvallaget.com](mailto:post@kvallaget.com)

#### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Sandra M. Granquist (SC Vice Chair)  
Marine and Freshwater Research Institute  
[sandra.magdalena.granquist@hafogvatn.is](mailto:sandra.magdalena.granquist@hafogvatn.is)

Aqqalu Rosing-Asvid (SC Chair)  
Greenland Institute of Natural Resources  
[aqro@natur.gl](mailto:aqro@natur.gl)

## OBSERVER GOVERNMENTS

### Denmark

Lars Thostrup  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
[lartho@um.dk](mailto:lartho@um.dk)

### Japan

Ryotaro Hashigushi  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
[ryotaro.hashiguchi@mofa.go.jp](mailto:ryotaro.hashiguchi@mofa.go.jp)

Joji Morishita  
Fisheries Agency of Japan  
[joji\\_morishita090@maff.go.jp](mailto:joji_morishita090@maff.go.jp)

Yuta Yasuda  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
[yuta.yasuda@mofa.go.jp](mailto:yuta.yasuda@mofa.go.jp)

### United States of America

Elizabeth Phelps  
US Department of State  
[PhelpsE@state.gov](mailto:PhelpsE@state.gov)

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)  
Observer:  
Kári Fannar Lárusson, [kari@caff.is](mailto:kari@caff.is)

International Whaling Commission (IWC)  
Observers (online):  
Iain Staniland, [iain.staniland@iwc.int](mailto:iain.staniland@iwc.int)  
Martha Rojas Urrego, [martha.rojas@iwc.int](mailto:martha.rojas@iwc.int)

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Association of Fishers and Hunters in  
Greenland (KNAPK)  
Observers:  
Henning Dalager, [ningdalager@gmail.com](mailto:ningdalager@gmail.com)  
Mikael Petersen, [mipe@knapk.gl](mailto:mipe@knapk.gl)

Makivik Corporation  
Observers:  
Adamie Delisle-Alaku, [vpdewr@makivik.org](mailto:vpdewr@makivik.org)

World Conservation Trust (IWMC)  
Observers (online):  
Eugène Lapointe, [elapointe@iwmc.org](mailto:elapointe@iwmc.org)  
Nikolas Sellheim,  
[sellheim.consulting@gmail.com](mailto:sellheim.consulting@gmail.com)

## NAMMCO SECRETARIAT

Geneviève Desportes (General Secretary)  
[genevieve@nammco.org](mailto:genevieve@nammco.org)  
+47 950 21 228

Naima El bani Altuna (Deputy Secretary)  
[naima@nammco.org](mailto:naima@nammco.org)  
+47 405 89 541

Maria Garagouni (Deputy Secretary)  
[maria@nammco.org](mailto:maria@nammco.org)  
+47 939 56 283

Marina Metić (Intern)  
[intern@nammco.org](mailto:intern@nammco.org)  
+47 967 45 583

## APPENDIX 2: JOINT LIST OF DOCUMENTS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

| Reference         | Title  | Agenda item    |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| NAMMCO/31/08      | Scientific Committee Report  | MCJ, MCC, MCSW |
| NAMMCO/31/MC/01   | Joint list of Documents for the Management Committees  | MCJ, MCC, MCSW |
| NAMMCO/31/MCJ/02  | Draft Annotated Agenda Joint Meeting of the Management Committees (MCJ)  | MCJ            |
| NAMMCO/31/MCC/03  | Draft Annotated Agenda Management Committee for Cetaceans (MCC)  | MCC            |
| NAMMCO/31/MCSW/04 | Draft Annotated Agenda Management Committee for Seals and Walrus (MCSW)  | MCSW           |
| NAMMCO/31/MC/05   | List of Proposals for Conservation and Management and Recommendations for Research generated by the MCs at their 2023 meeting, with Responses from the Parties | MCJ, MCC, MCSW |
| NAMMCO/31/MC/06   | List of Active Requests from the NAMMCO Council to the Scientific Committee, with Responses from the Scientific Committee                                      | MCJ, MCC, MCSW |
| NAMMCO/31/MC/07   | Report of the WG on User Knowledge   | MCJ            |
| NAMMCO/31/MC/08   | List of Participants   | MCJ, MCC, MCSW |

MC: Management Committee

MCJ: Joint Meeting of the Management Committees

MCC: Management Committee for Cetaceans

MCSW: Management Committee for Seals and Walruses

## **APPENDIX 3: AGENDA**

**1. Chair's opening remarks**

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**3. Conservation and Management Measures for Seals and Walrus Stocks**

3.1 Bearded Seal

3.2 Ringed Seal

3.3 Harbour and Grey Seals

3.4 Harp and Hooded Seals

3.5 Walrus

**4. Update on members' responses to Proposals for Conservation and Management**

**5. Any other business**