

A map of the North Atlantic region, including parts of North America, Europe, and Iceland. A semi-transparent teal rectangle is overlaid on the map, containing the meeting information.

ANNUAL MEETING 31

19 MARCH 2024

Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík

DAY 1

NAMMCO



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ANNUAL MEETING 31

19-21 MARCH 2024

Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík

Council Meeting

(Chair: Jón Þrándur Stefansson)

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A map of the North Atlantic region, including parts of North America, Europe, and the Arctic, with a teal overlay. The text is centered on the map.

COUNCIL MEETING 31

19-21 MARCH 2024

Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík

Agenda Item 1

Opening procedures

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DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

(Version 120324)

Agenda Items	Document Reference
<p>1. OPENING PROCEDURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Welcome address by the Chair 1.2 Admission of Observers 1.3 Opening Statements 1.4 Adoption of agenda 1.5 Meeting Arrangements 1.6 Theme Session: “Welfare issues in marine mammal hunting” (Invited speakers: Kathrine Ryeng (DVM, IMR, NO) and Snjólaug Árnadóttir (Phd in Laws, RU, IS)) 	<p>NAMMCO/31/01, 02, 03</p>

Tentative Schedule for NAMMCO 31st Annual Meeting (19-21 March 2024)

	Bodies (venue if not hotel)	Tentative time period (GMT)	Participants	Tentative Agenda Items
Tuesday 19 March, Hotel Reykjavík Grand				
COUNCIL	Registration	8:30 - 08:50		Participants with name tags, visitors should be registered
	Council	09:00 - 10:15	Open to public	1 Opening 1.1 - 1.5
	Break	10:15 - 10:30		
	Council	10:30 - 12:00		1 Opening 1.6
	Lunch	12:00 - 13:00		
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES	MCJ	13:00 - 14:00	Participants	MCJ agenda: All, incl. UIWG report
	Break	14:00 - 14:10		
	MCSW	14:10 - 17:00		MCSW agenda: all (7 species)
	Break	17:00 - 17:10		
	MCC	17:10 - 18:00		MC agenda: 3.3, 4.1, 4.2 (2 species)
Hosted by Iceland	Icebreaker (informal)	18:15 -19:15	Participants	Hotel Reykjavík Grand



ANNUAL MEETING 31

19-21 MARCH 2024

Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík

10:15 – 10:30

Break

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COUNCIL MEETING 31

Theme session:

“Welfare issues in marine mammal hunting”

Kathrine A. Ryeng

IMR

Snjólaug Árnadóttir

Reykjavík University

Whaling and Animal Welfare under International Law

19 March 2024

Dr. Snjólaug Árnadóttir

snjolauga@ru.is





Whaling in Iceland

- Currently applicable law: The Whaling Act of 1949
- August 2022: Regulation on monitoring the welfare of animals during whaling
- June 2023: Regulation postpones whaling until 1 September
 - Hvalur hf. lodges a complaint with the Ombudsman who finds that it lacks proportionality as well as a sufficiently clear legal basis
- August 2023: Regulation on fin whales introduces new requirements relating to execution, whaling equipment, training for crew, reporting etc.



Working Group to Review the Regulation of Whaling

- Appointed by the Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries in February 2024
- To assess relevant administrative and international law with a view to updating the law on whaling
- Members of the Working Group:
 - Þorgeir Örlygsson
 - Aðalheiður Jóhannsdóttir
 - Árni Kolbeinsson
 - Snjólaug Árnadóttir
 - Trausti Fannar Valsson



Animals under International Law

- Three legal approaches to animals:
 - Species protection, e.g.
 - 1946 Whaling Convention
 - 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
 - 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
 - 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity
 - 2023 Agreement on Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
 - Animal welfare
 - Mostly domestic legislation and EU law
 - 1987 European Convention for the protection of pet animals
 - 2003 Revised European Convention on the Protection of animals during international transport
 - Animal rights
 - No international regulation
 - Some domestic legislation and case law, primarily in South America



Lack of International Regulation of Animal Welfare

- Subject matter primarily under territorial sovereignty
 - Not true of transboundary/migratory species
- Impasse in the development of the law on whaling because of the moratorium?
- Is there a legal vacuum for animal welfare in relation to whaling?
 - Relevance of state practice
 - Relevance of soft law
 - Role of 'elephant states' in developing the law





ANNUAL MEETING 31

20 MARCH 2024

Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík

DAY 2

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A light teal map of Iceland serves as the background for the entire page. The map shows the main island and surrounding smaller islands with a grid overlay.

ANNUAL MEETING 31

19-21 MARCH 2024

Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík

Council Meeting

(Chair: Jón Þrándur Stefansson)

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COUNCIL MEETING 31
Annual Progress Reports

Agenda item 2

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COUNCIL MEETING 31

Financial and Administrative Issues

Páll Nolsøe
FAC Chair

Geneviève Desportes
General Secretary

3.1 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)

Chair: Páll Nolsøe, Faroe Islands

- Since NAMMCO 30: 3 meetings (1 online, 2 physical).
- The FAC was tasked by the Council to prioritise discussing the structure of the Secretariat including the expertise and capacity needed to best fulfil the priorities and core work of the Commission.
- This, as well as the procedures behind the hiring of the new staff, was actually dealt with in Heads of Delegation meetings because it became part of a larger discussion on the future of NAMMCO and the coming priorities of the Commission.
- The focus of the Committee has been the finances of the Commission.

3.1 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)

Recommendation from the FAC to Council

- Approve the 2023 audited accounts
- Take note of the anticipated result 2024
- Adopt the 2025 draft budget
- Approve the 2026 forecast budget
- Recommend that the necessity for physical meetings contra virtual meetings continue to be carefully weighed by committees and subsidiary bodies, both from a financial and an environmental perspective.
- Following this line, recommend that the number of physically held Scientific Committee working groups continued being limited to four a year.



3.2 Audited accounts 2023

	CL29 budget 2023	Reallocation 2023 by CL 30	Accounts 2023
INCOME // CONTRIBUTIONS			
Contributions Faroe Islands	628,331	628,331	628,331
Contributions Greenland	628,331	628,331	628,281
Contributions Iceland	1,256,661	1,256,661	1,256,661
Contributions Norway	2,516,775	2,516,775	2,516,775
Income // Contributions	5,030,098	5,030,098	5,030,048
EXPENDITURE			
Staff related costs	3,184,856	3,120,095	3,481,251
Internship	195,400	195,400	98,918
Staff travel and subsistence	410,000	223,800	195,204
Meetings	255,000	178,600	182,983
Office rent	338,730	319,018	277,103
Office supply	180,000	180,000	187,945
Communication and outreach	100,000	150,000	120,106
Accounts and auditing	220,500	200,000	283,713
Observation Scheme	300,000	300,000	237,477
Committee for Hunting Methods	100,000	197,000	164,750
Scientific Committee	211,000	305,000	304,042
WG User knowledge		20,000	0
Capacity building	20,000	30,000	0
Other expenses	220,000	370,000	167,949
NASS	100,000	100,000	63,996
MINTAG	175,000	175,000	-
Total expenditure	6,010,486	6,063,913	5,765,437
OPERATING RESULT			
	-980,388	-1,033,814	-735,388
Financial revenue			76,144
Financial costs			-4,533
Financial commitment to NASS			-36,004
Financial commitment to MINTAG			-175,000
RESULT to/from Reserve		-1,033,814	-874,781
Total Reserve		2,127,992	2,127,993
Transfer to/from general reserve		-1,033,814	-874,781
NEW TOTAL RESERVE 31.12.23		1,094,178	1,253,212

Compared to the adopted NAMMCO 29 budget & NAMMCO 30 Reallocation

- *The result is better than expected in the adopted budget and reallocation.*
- *The operating balance is improved from estimated deficits of NOK 980,388 and NOK 1.033.814 respectively to a deficit of NOK 874,781*
- *The General Reserve 31.12.2023 is increased to NOK 1,253,212 from the expected 1,094,178 NOK*
- *Some of the negative discrepancies is explained by*
 - ✓ *An overpaid amount to the pension scheme due to change in staff (will be refunded in 2024) combined to higher officials' salary due to UN system fluctuation*
 - ✓ *Extra accounting and auditing costs due to changes in staff at NCO and accounting firm*
 - ✓ *Lower expenses incurred for the recruitment of the new deputy secretaries*

Recommendation to Council: Approve the accounts 2023

Audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers AS, 15 March 2023 in accordance with laws, regulations and auditing standards and practices generally accepted in Norway, including International Standards on Auditing (ISAs).

3.3 [Budget 2024], draft budget 2025, forecast budget 2026

- To leave open until the committees' workplans are adopted
- Have a first look, now including proposals from committees



	Budget 2024 (CL30)	Anticipated 2024 results with 2023 results	Draft budget 2025	Draft budget 2025 (with Reallocation) (CL30)	Forecast budget 2026
Income // Contributions					
Contributions Faroes	640,897	640,897	653,715	653,715	666,789
Contributions Greenland	640,897	640,897	653,715	653,715	666,789
Contributions Iceland	1,281,795	1,281,795	1,307,431	1,307,431	1,333,580
Contributions Norway	2,567,111	2,567,111	2,618,453	2,618,453	2,670,822
Income // Contributions	5,130,700	5,130,700	5,233,314	5,233,314	5,337,980
Expenditure					
Staff related costs	3,032,013	3,086,834	2,910,478	3,281,736	3,306,210
Internship	220,400	189,300	250,400	196,500	219,600
Staff travel and subsistence	270,000	270,000	200,000	130,000	210,000
Meetings	205,000	168,500	200,000	204,000	205,000
Office rent	334,969	295,917	351,717	310,712	326,248
Office supply	189,000	156,300	198,450	159,426	162,615
Communication and outreach	150,000	75,000	150,000	75,000	75,000
Accounts and auditing	210,000	250,000	220,500	220,500	230,000
Observation Scheme	0	0	100,000	0	250,000
Committee for Hunting Methods	200,000	30,000	200,000	225,000	50,000
Scientific Committee	222,000	150,000	244,000	295,000	155,000
WG User knowledge	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Capacity building	40,000	20,000	40,000	20,000	20,000
Other expenses (incl. Recruitment)	50,000	75,000	250,000	75,000	280,000
NASS*	150,000	150,000	180,000	180,000	150,000
Project overheads		-495,000		-25,200	-13,300
MINTAG**	180,000	180,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total expenditure	5,493,382	4,641,851	5,635,545	5,487,675	5,766,373
OPERATING RESULT	-362,682	488,849	-402,231	-254,361	-428,392
Total Reserve 01.01	1,094,178	1,253,211	731,946	1,742,060	1,487,699
Transfer to/from general reserve	-362,682	488,849	-402,231	-254,361	-428,392
New Total Reserve 31.12	731,496	1,742,060	329,715	1,487,699	1,059,307

3.4 Administrative Report 2023

Part one



3.4 Administrative Report 2023

NAMMCO Officers: new figures & moving chairs

NAMMCO Body	Chair (Member Country : Officer)	Term
Commission (NAMMCO)	IS: Jón Brándur Stefánsson	Post NAMMCO 30 – NAMMCO 32 (2025)
Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)	FO: Páll Nolsøe	Post NAMMCO 30 – NAMMCO 32 (2025)
Management Committee for Cetaceans (MCC)	GL: Masaana Dorph	Post NAMMCO 30 – NAMMCO 32 (2025)
Management Committee for Seals and Walrus (MCSW)	NO: Guro Gjelsvik	Post NAMMCO 30 – NAMMCO 32 (2025)
Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM)	IS: Elín Björg Ragnarsdóttir	Post NAMMCO 30 – NAMMCO 32 (2025)
	Jóhann Ásmundsson	From January 2024
Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO)	FO: Ulla S. Wang	Post NAMMCO 30 – NAMMCO 32 (2025)
Scientific Committee (SC)	GL: Aqqalu Rosing Asvid, Chair	Post SC 28 – SC 31 (2025)
	IS: Sandra Granquist, Vice-Chair	Post SC 28 – SC 31 (2025)
Working Group on By-catch, Entanglements and Live Strandings (BYCELS)	NO: Kathrine Ryeng	Post NAMMCO 30 – NAMMCO 32 (2025)

Scientific Committee: New figures 2023

- Bye bye
 - Mette Skern-Mauritzen (IMR, NO)
 - Tore Haug (IMR, NO)

- Welcome to
 - Sascha Schiøtt (GINR, GL)
 - John-André Henden (IMR, NO)
 - Ulf Lindstrøm (IMR, NO)

Committees' Focal Activities 2023

- FAC
 - Follows administrative and financial activities
 - Reviews draft budgets
 - Oversees the recruitment of new Secretariat staff

- SC
 - Responds to the request of the Council
 - Reviews status of species and stocks
 - Holds 6 WGs (CSWG, WGHARP, BYCWG, DWG, RSWG, NEGWG) & 2 WS (BS, JBS) and reviews conclusions
 - Quality-checks 2 website species pages (BW, GS)
 - A sub-group involved in MINTAG project
 - A sub-group involved in the preparation of NASS 2024

Committees' Focal Activities 2023

- CHM
 - Meets online on 14 March 2023
 - Updates the list of laws and regulations related to hunting marine mammals
 - Reviews 2022 Parties' hunting related data
 - Develops the 2nd information/training video (KR & CW)
- CIO
 - Works by correspondence in 2023
 - Supervises the plans for the 2023 observation activities (in Greenland)
 - Receives the reports of the observers who observed in GL in February-April 2023
 - Held the Observers' corps annual meeting on 4 May
- [BYCELS]
 - [Not called upon for advice in 2023]

NAMMCO Meeting 2023

Bodies		Committees' WG/EG
Heads of Delegations	5	
Finance and Administration Committee	3	
Management Committees	1	UIWG: 1
Committee on Hunting Methods	1	
Committee on Inspection and Observation	0	1 with Observers' corps
Council WG on BYCELS	0	
Scientific Committee	1	6 WG, 2WS MINTAG Steeting Group: 5 NASS 2024 Planing Group: 4

Activities of the Secretariat

- BIG CHANGES
- BUSY YEAR...
 - Organises new staff recruitment
 - Prepares overview documents to facilitate the turnover of staff
 - Introduces and trains new staff
 - Implements 3rd communication plan by working on the concept of a NAMMCO educational portal
 - GS visits Japan (MOFA, FAJ, ++) in December 2023 on JP's invitation (discussing opportunities for an increased collaboration)



Activities of the Secretariat

- Supports the organisation and coordination of NAMMCO meetings, incl. preparatory meetings with chairs, and ensure the reporting and editing
- Supports the NASS preparation
- Supports the MINTAG project and the dissemination of its results
- Updates website and species page
- Supervises NAMMCO super interns and follows up with their project
 - **Internship Program (since November 2017)**
 - So far 10 interns (SRB, NO, UK, DK, FO, DK, FR, DE, DE, CRO)
 - Provides the Secretariat with substantial additional human resources and often expertise, e.g., in technical and IT domains
 - Alleviates the workload for the permanent staff, especially in helping preparing meetings and in taking care of SOME
 - Brings life, ideas, energy, motivation, and creative input to the small SEC
 - Positive experience for both the interns (work of an IGOs) and the SEC



3.5 Proposal for a vocabulary amendment to RoPs of Council and Committees

- Consider adopting a gender-neutral standardisation of the RoPs of the Council and the Committees
 - have been used in recent years by the Secretariat in official documents and reports, as in any types of documentation.
 - older documents like the RoPs of the Council and the Committees do not use gender-neutral terms (e.g., the terms Chairman and Vice-Chairman are used instead of Chair and Vice-Chair)
- **The amendment would be strictly limited to changing the words and no other modifications would be made.**
- **Example provided for the result in the CHM RoPs**

*...The Committee shall elect from among its members a **Chair** and a **Vice-Chair**, who shall each serve for two years, after which time they may be re-elected...*



Agenda Item 3.6
Other business

Left Open until 3.3 is closed

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COUNCIL MEETING 31
Scientific Committee

Aqqalu Rosing-Asvid

Chair of the Scientific Committee

4.1 Report of the Scientific Committee



Scientific Committee 2024

- The 30th meeting of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee (SC) was held in person at the Marine & Freshwater Research Institute, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland 22 – 26 January 2024.
- Four observers attended from Japan and the meeting was observed by representatives of Canada (online)
- National progress reports from all NAMMCO countries and written reports from Japan and Makivvik Corporation were submitted.
- Observers from Japan also presented research activities on large and small cetaceans for the period 2021–2023, as well as results from recent telemetry studies.

SC activities in 2023

- **SC Working Group meetings**
 - Working Group on Coastal Seals, May 2023, Copenhagen.
 - Joint Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals, August 2023, Tromsø
 - Working Group on By-Catch, October 2023, online.
 - Technical Working Group on Genetics October 2023, online
 - Working Group on Dolphins, October 2023, Copenhagen.
 - Working Group on Ringed Seals, November 2023, online.
 - Ad hoc Working Group on Narwhal and Beluga in East Greenland, December 2023, Copenhagen.

SC activities in 2023

- **Workshops**

- The NAMMCO Panarctic Bearded Seal Workshop, March 2023, online.
- The ICES/NAFO/NAMMCO Benchmark Harp & Hooded Seal Workshop, May 2023, Copenhagen.

- **Other meetings**

- NASS 2024 Scientific Planning Committee, online and in person
- MINTAG Steering Group, online and in person

SC activities in 2023

- **NAMMCO Website review**
 - Species pages review in 2023:
 - Bowhead whale
 - Grey seal

SC activities in 2023

- **SC 30 highlights**

- **Updates from Council:** SC again expressed concern that the MCC was unable to reach consensus on the recommendation for zero catches of narwhal in East Greenland.
- **Management procedures:** The SC prepared a tentative long-term plan (10-15 years) for the assessments of all the stocks.
- **Traffic Light System for categorizing stocks:** The council has asked for a system for categorizing stock status in a way that reflects abundance, status of knowledge, and levels of removals. A proposal for such a system was discussed, but the SC found it easy to misinterpret, and did not see the need for this and seeks further clarification on the Council's request.

SC activities in 2023

- **SC 30 highlights**
 - Collaboration with Japan
 - **Ongoing:** The MINTAG project
 - **Currently collaborating on** describing/explaining what drive the distribution of baleen whales in Northeast Atlantic–Northwest Pacific Ecosystems.
 - **Proposal by SC 30: facilitate exchange and cooperation** between NAMMCO and Japanese scientists by establishing a joint travel fund rendering easier face-to-face meetings, as well as participation in fieldwork and projects.

SC activities in 2023

- **Work procedures:**

- **The SC endorsed the draft ToRs for the new Genetics Technical WG:**

- i) To review the genetic data, including stock structure, that will be used in NAMMCO's species assessments.

- ii) To serve as a consultation body on topics related to genetics for NAMMCO's working groups.

- iii) To detect data and knowledge gaps needed for the assessment of specific species or stocks and provide NAMMCO with advice on how to move forward to fill such gaps.



4.2 Adoption of priorities and work plan 2024-2026 // Proposed long-term assessment plan

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	6	2026	2032	2038
Killer Whale	9	2028	2037	2046

4.2 Adoption of priorities and work plan 2024-2026 // Proposed SC work plan

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) - online - 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 & debriefing 	<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



Agenda Item 4.3
Other business



ANNUAL MEETING 31

19-21 MARCH 2024

Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík

12:00 – 13:00

Lunch

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COUNCIL MEETING 31

NASS 2024 Updates

Guðjón Már Sigurðsson

Scientific Planning Committee (IS)

5.1 Planning of the surveys

North Atlantic Sightings Survey

- 6 Cetacean surveys conducted since 1987
- NASS 2024, 7th survey, will form a 37-year time series
- Aims:
 - Estimate abundance of each Country's target species
 - Estimate abundance of non-target species
 - Detect abundance trends & distribution shifts
- Coordination:
 - Scientific Planning Committee (SpC)
 - 2 external experts
 - 10 meetings (8 online) since 2020



FO



GL, IS, NO



GL, IS

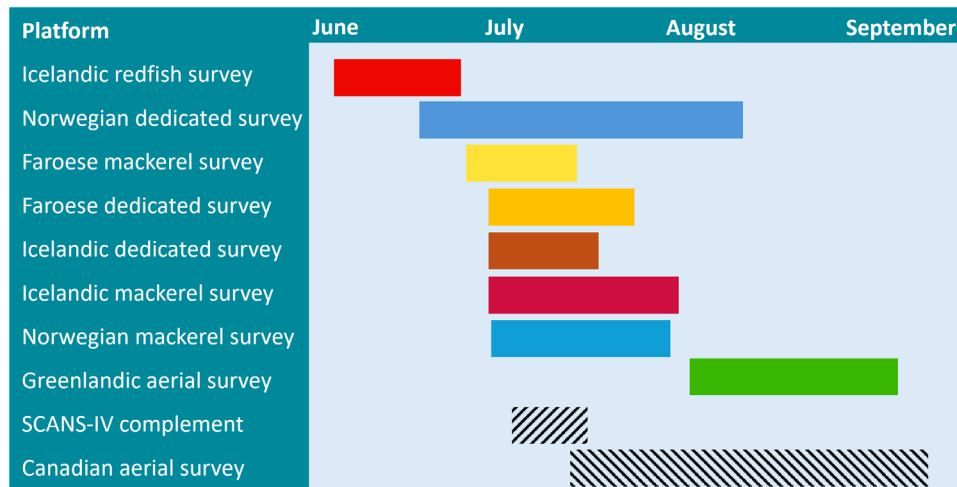
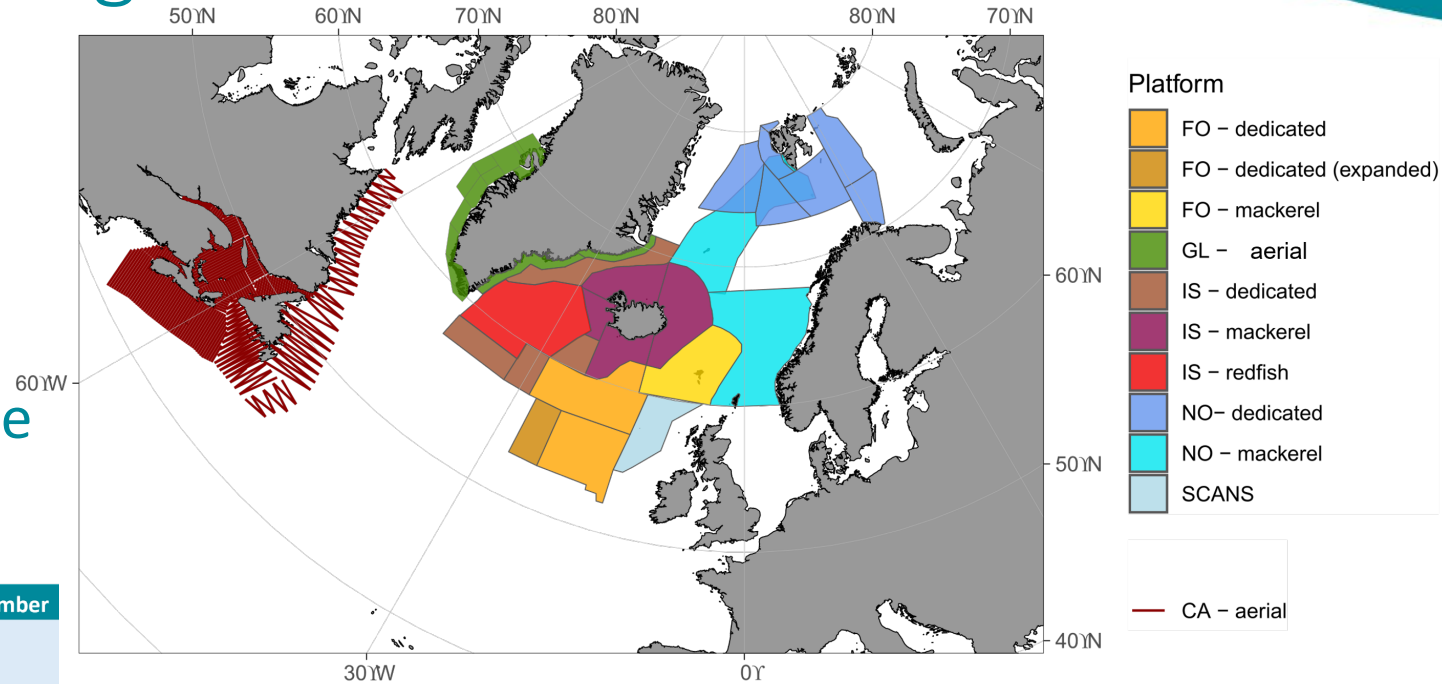


GL

5.1 Planning of the surveys

Summer 2024 Survey Design

- Dedicated vessels
- Opportunistic vessels
 - Allow more complete coverage



- Double-platform configuration
 - To correct perception bias

5.1 Planning of the surveys

Budget 2024

Expenses	NOK	Contributions	NOK
Coordination, meetings & contracted work	150,000	NAMMCO	150,000
Greenland aerial survey	6,800,000	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources	4,500,000
		Voluntary contribution - Norway	2,300,000
Iceland dedicated survey	11,100,000	Marine Research Institute - Iceland	9,000,000
		Voluntary contribution - Norway	2,100,000
Faroe Islands dedicated survey	2,250,000	Marine Research Institute - Faroe Islands	2,250,000
Faroe Islands mackerel survey	700,000	Voluntary contribution - Norway	700,000
Norway dedicated survey	9,000,000	Institute of Marine Research - Norway	9,000,000
Jan Mayen mackerel survey (2 legs)	2,200,000	Voluntary contribution - Norway	2,200,000
MINTAG deployments	1,200,000	Voluntary contribution – Norway	1,200,000
Abundance estimate of non-target species (FO, IS, NO)	600,000	Voluntary contribution – Norway	600,000

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COUNCIL MEETING 31

MINTAG Project

Martin Biuw

MINTAG Steering Group (NO)

MINTAG objectives

- Develop smaller and lighter satellite transmitter tagging systems than the ones existing on the market today.
- Specifically designed for the study of fast-swimming baleen whales, including blue, fin, minke, sei, Bryde's, and pilot whales.
- Three target species: fin, minke, and long-finned pilot whales.
 - Longer tag for fin whales, shorter version for the other two species
- Project partners: Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Japan & Norway

MINTAG Steering Group (hereafter StG)

- Oversees the project
- Reports to the NAMMCO Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)
- Members:
 - FO: B. Mikkelsen (FAMRI)
 - GL: **MP Heide Jørgensen (Project Leader)** and R. Guldborg Hansen (GINR)
 - JP: L. Pastene and K. Konishi (ICR)
 - IS: S. Granquist and S.D. Halldórsson (MFRI)
 - NO: C. Lydersen (NPI), N. Øien & M. Biuw (IMR)
- Other members: Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) and NAMMCO Secretariat (SEC)

Project progress, March 2023 – March 2024

- StG meetings:

Month Year	Activity	Participants	Description
October 23	StG 7 meeting to discuss the deployments during the summer of 2023	StG / Sec	Each partner presented the field efforts and the StG discussed potential solutions to the encountered problems. [10.10.23, online]
November 23	Summary of deployment in Skjervøy	StG / Sec / External Group	The external group, who deployed the remaining tags in Skjervøy, presented the performance of the field efforts. [28.11.23, online]
November 23	StG 8 meeting to be presented with the performance of the electronics of the tags	StG / WC / Sec	WC presented their experiments and results to test the tag performance. [28.11.23, online]
January 24	StG 9 meeting to decide on the new design and upcoming plans	StG / WC / Sec	The StG and WC met to decide upon the new tag design for the upcoming tagging season. [21-22.01.24, Hafnarfjörður, IS]

Project progress, March 2023 – March 2024

- Ballistics tests:

Month Year	Activity	Participants	Description
March 23	Ballistics tests	GL	Objective: to test the ballistics of the fin whale tag [28.03.23, DK]
June 23	Ballistics tests	GL / WC	Objective: to test the flight precision of the minke and fin whale tags during target shooting and to test the ballistics of a fin whale tag with only a 10 cm shaft. [28-29.06.23, DK]
September 23	Deployment tests	StG (GL) / WC	Objective: to test the deployment of dummy tags on fin whales at the whaling station in Iceland. [7-12.09.23, Hvalfjörður, IS]

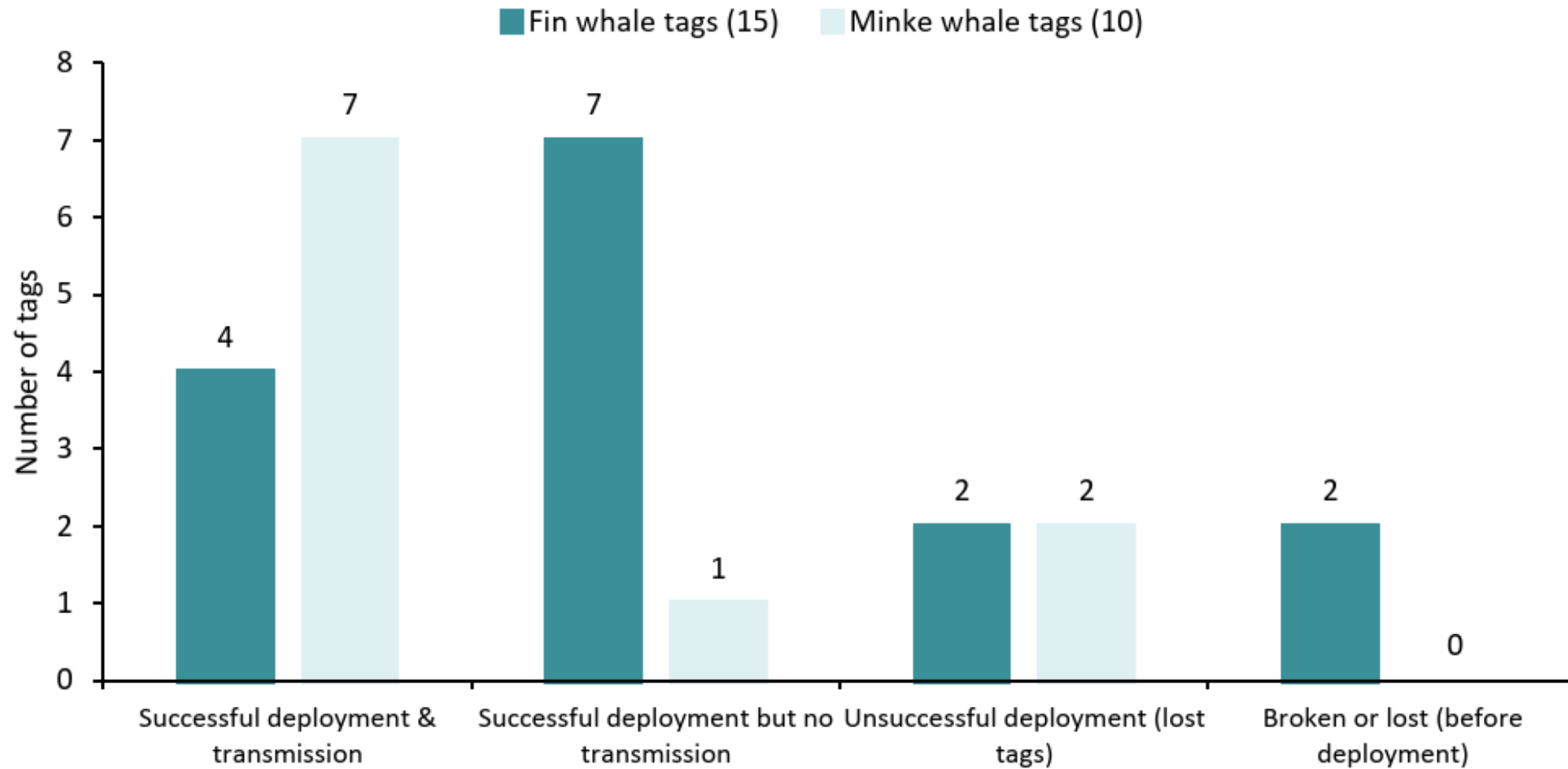
Project progress, March 2023 – March 2024

- Tag deployments:

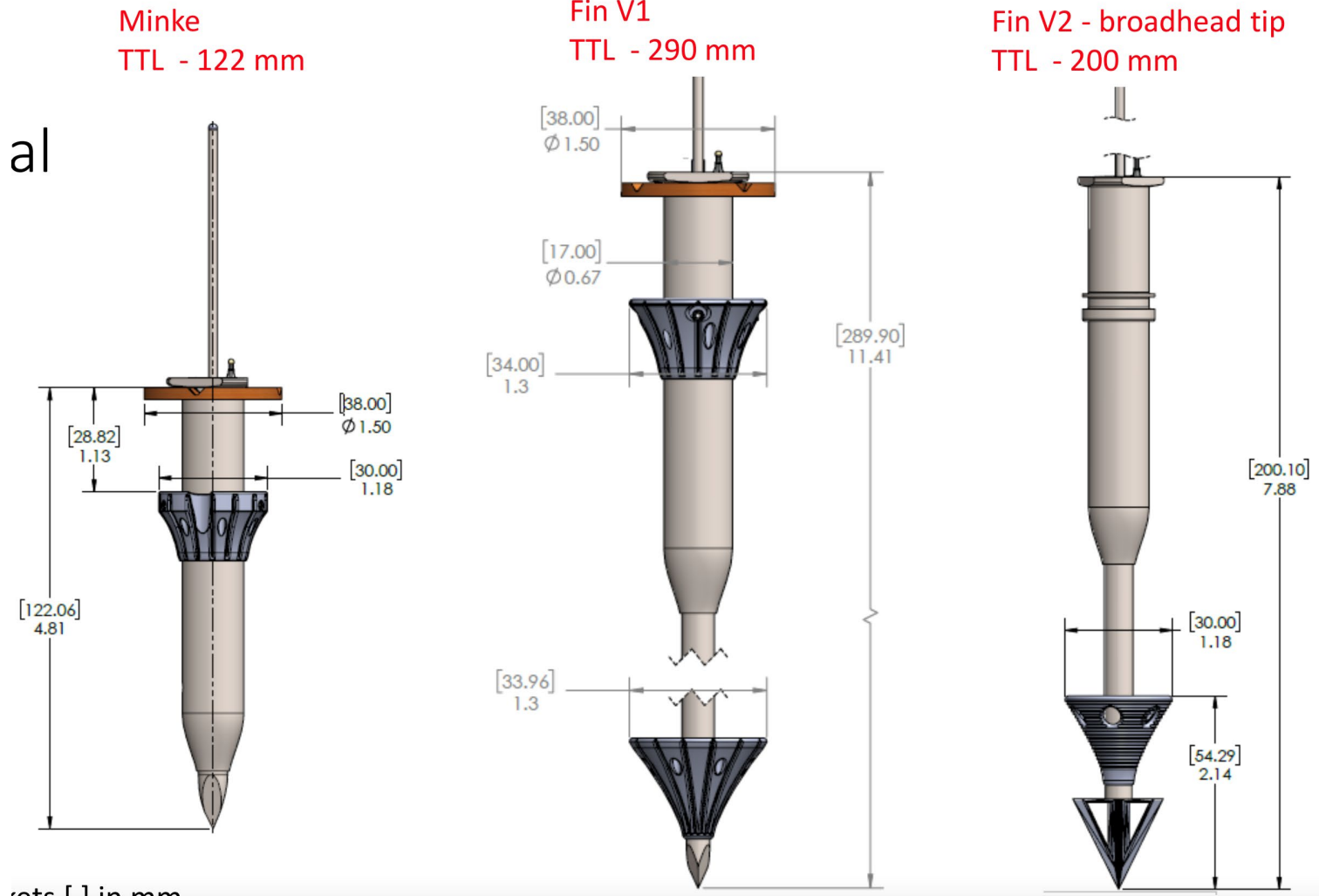
Month Year	Activity	Participants	Description
June 23	Tag deployment	JP	Deployment of five fin whale tags on fin whales [05-15.06.23, southern Okhotsk Sea, JP] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lost after deployment: 0/5 ▪ Transmitted location: 2/5
August 23	Tag deployment	GL	Deployment of five fin whale tags on fin whales [08-17.08.23, East Greenland, GL] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lost after deployment: 1/5 ▪ Transmitted location: 1/5
August-September 23	Tag deployment	NO	Deployment of three minke whale tags (MWT) on minke whales and one fin whale tag (FWT) on a fin whale. [15.08-15.09.23, Svalbard, NO] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lost after deployment: 0/3 (MWT), 1/1 (FWT) ▪ Transmitted location: 2/3 (MWT), 0/1 (FWT)
August – September 23	Tag deployment	NO	Deployment of one minke tag on a fin whales [31.08-20.09.23, Barents Sea, NO] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lost after deployment: 0/1 ▪ Transmitted location: 1/1



Deployment performance



Design evolution after test deployments



note: [] in mm

- Retention cone worked well when testing on whale carcasses.
- Initial long fin whale tag (30cm) did not consistently penetrate to its full length
- Shortened version with broad tip tested on humpback whales. Better penetration.
- Overall, poor performance in terms of retention and providing locations

Plans for 2024 – Tag development



- Further tag design changes were agreed at the StG 9 meeting in Jan 2024
- New tags currently being produced by the supplier (Wildlife Computers)
- 2024 will be another year of prototype testing, rather than full-scale deployment
- Focus on minke-whale tag only.

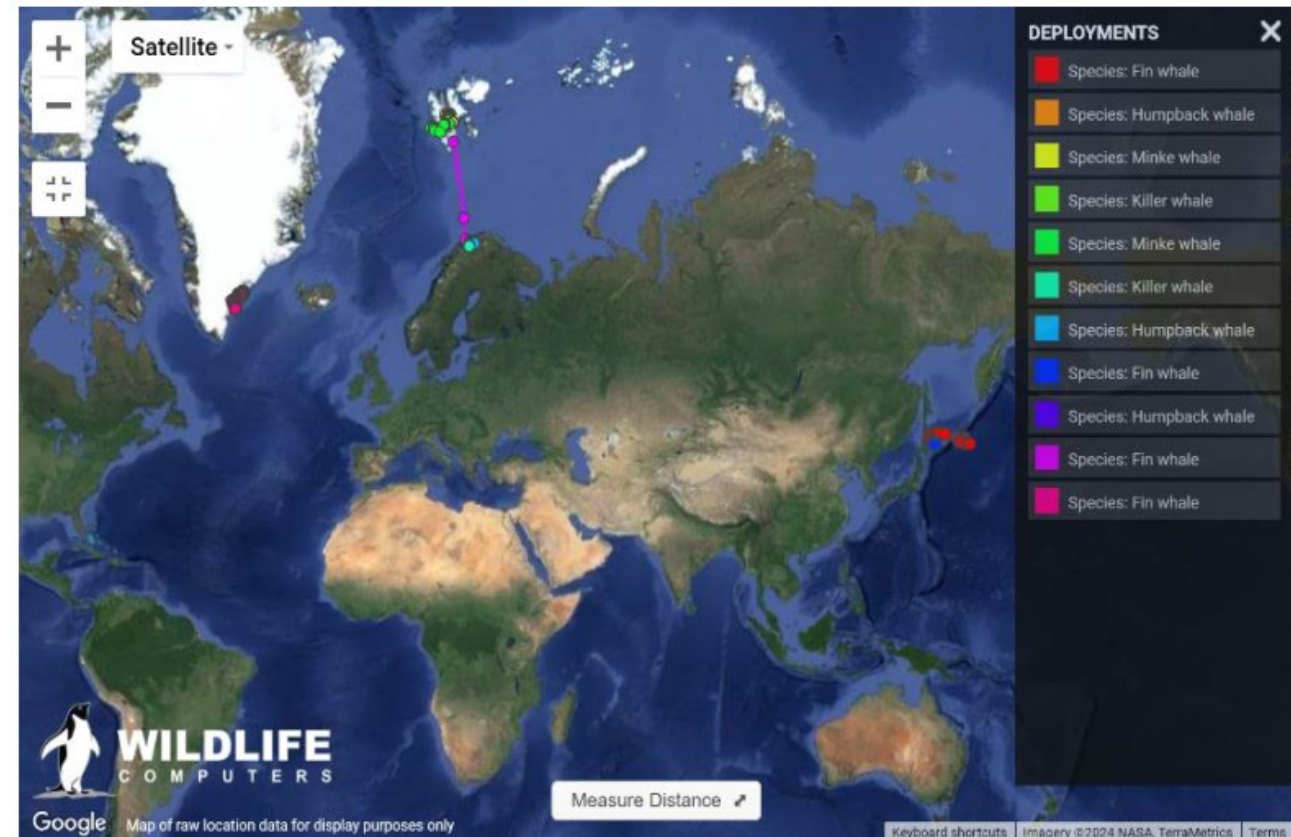
Plans for 2024 – Tag deployment

- Given that 2024 will be another experimental year, the StG decided to focus tagging efforts in areas with easier logistics and high density of target species, minke or fin whales.

Country	PI	Month*	Area	Target species	Tags needed
Japan	KK	April	North Pacific & Okhotsk Sea	Minke	10 (5 of each kind)
	KK	June to August		Baleen whales	
Norway	MB	Mid-May	Lofoten	Minke	10 (5 of each kind)
	MB	Mid-June (from 19/06) to mid-August	West Svalbard & Barents Sea	Minke and Fin	
	CL	Early July (from 07/07) to end of August	Svalbard	Fin	
Iceland	SG	Late July/August	Faxaflói or Akureyri	Minke	10 (5 of each kind)

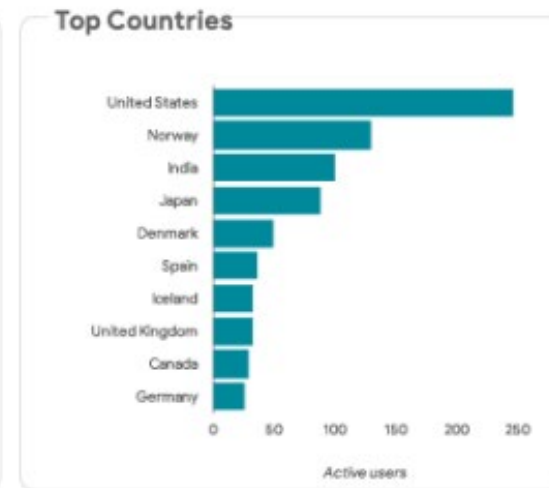
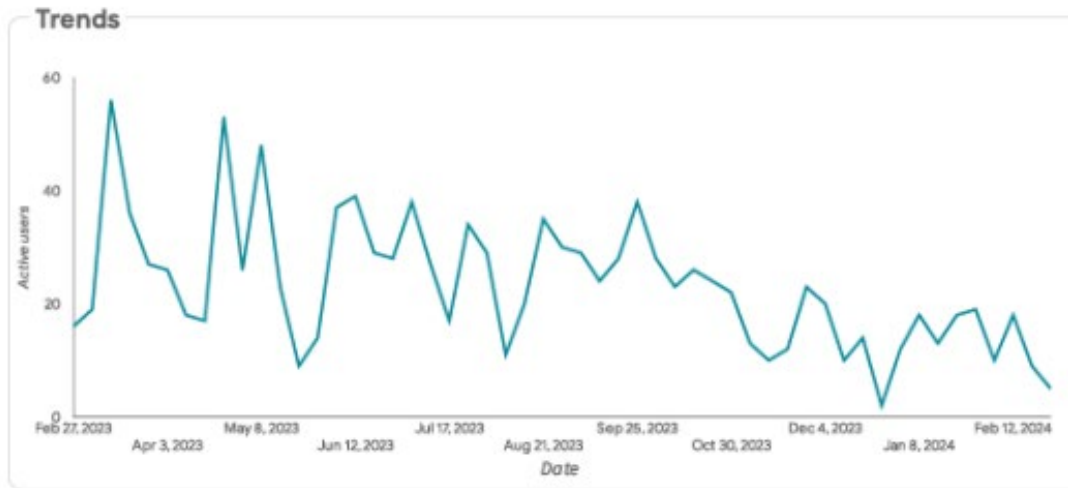
Project dissemination

- MINTAG website launched Nov 1st 2022
- Offers information on:
 - Project background and aim
 - Target species
 - Project partners
 - Participating institutes
 - StG (members & activities)
 - Timeline
 - Maps with tracks of tagged whales
 - Data archive and curation



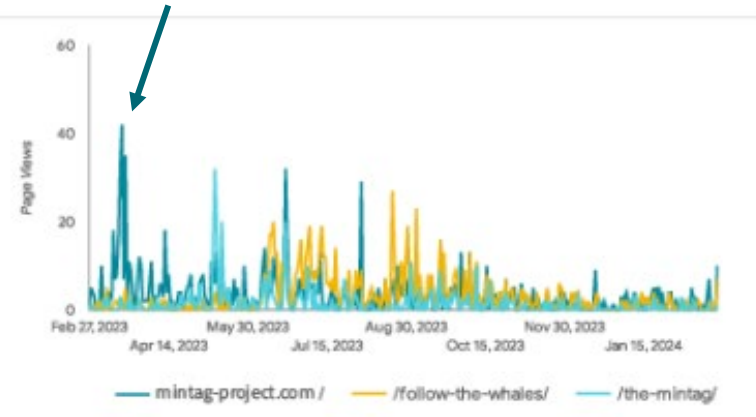
Project dissemination

MINTAG Website Report 27 Feb 2023 - 27 Feb 2024



Top Pages

Page path	Views	% Views	Active users
mintag-project.com/	1,273	35.0%	646
/follow-the-whales/	1,122	30.9%	402
/the-mintag/	506	13.9%	218
/activities/	361	9.9%	172
/about-us/	241	6.6%	136
/species/	127	3.5%	87
Grand total	3,633		



Financial update

Committed and received funding from the project partners

PARTNERS' PLANNED and COMMITTED FUNDING 2021-2026 by 03 March 2024

Country	Total Funding	Funding 2021		Funding 2022		Funding 2023		Funding 2024		Funding 2025		Funding 2026	
		Agreed	Received	Agreed	Received	Agreed	Received	Agreed	Received	Agreed	Received	Agreed	Received
Faroe Islands	159,000	85,000	85,000	74,000	74,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenland	484,000	40,000	137,950	234,000	134,850	70,000	69,950	70,000	70,000	-	-	-	-
Iceland (MRI)	50,000	-	-	50,000	49,950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	2,737,500	595,000	595,000	910,000	910,000	700,000	700,000	332,500	150,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Japan	6,129,500	545,000	545,000	1,813,000	1,813,000	1,963,000	1,430,408	1,645,500	113,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
NAMMCO direct	755,000	50,000	50,000	150,000	150,000	175,000	175,000	180,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total Direct	10,315,000	1,315,000	1,412,950	3,231,000	3,131,800	2,908,000	2,375,358	2,228,000	433,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Secretariat in kind	-	-	54,815	-	115,215	-	86,905	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		1,315,000	1,467,765	3,231,000	3,247,015	2,908,000	2,462,263	2,228,000	0	433,000	0	200,000	0

Funds only transferred to the MINTAG konto in 2022

This includes what was left on the Japanese account at the end of 2022 (503,755NOK), what was received in 2023 (903,916NOK) & interests received in 2023 (22,737NOK)

Financial update

Budgeted cost for the tag development and expenses incurred in 2022 and 2023

ITEMS	BUDGET (NOK)		EXPENSES 2022 (NOK)	EXPENSES 2023 (NOK)
	WC products / US \$	Expected expenses at 240722 /NOK (9.97)		
Development costs, incl. dummy tag for testing in 2022 and 2023, and related carriers, as well 25 V0b prototype tags and 5 V0B carriers	105,000	1,046,850	1,022,258	
	105,000	1,046,850		827,122
Purchase of 5 extra carriers	2,000	19,940		
Purchase 225 V1 tags	438,750	4,374,338		
Purchase 85 carriers w. biopsy sampler	34,000	338,980		
ARTS guns (see Figure 3)		60,000	59,174	
Argos cost**		2,794,500		15,738
Scientists to test sites/carcasses		150,000	128,696	30,875
Meeting with WLC			19,853	
Freight, customs, brokerage		50,000		
Project administration & dissemination (meetings, reporting, dissemination, website maintenance)		620,000	245,858	190,449
Database + website (direct costs)		390,000	2,612	1,019
Project workshop		200,000		
Total		11,091,458	1,478,451	1,065,204

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COUNCIL MEETING 31

Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM)

Jóhann Ásmundsson
CHM Chair

Katharine A. Ryeng
CHM member

7.1 Report of the Committee on Hunting Methods

Review of background documents

- Overview of laws and regulations related to marine mammals in NAMMCO countries
- Overview of references on hunting
- Overview of conservation status of marine mammal stocks in NAMMCO countries
- Overview of hunting methods in NAMMCO countries

7.1 Report of the Committee on Hunting Methods

Addressing 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 likely 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 and should inform about the S&L rates

7.1 Report of the Committee on Hunting Methods

Future work of the CHM: (1) Organisation of an expert-group meeting / workshop on rifle hunt in Greenland

- Has been on the agenda for couple of years now (adopted by the Council 27 in 2019).
- Still, due to lack of data and other logistical issues, it cannot be expected that such a task would result in meaningful outcome in the foreseeable future.

7.1 Report of the Committee on Hunting Methods

Future work of the CHM: (2) Inviting hunters to participate in CHM meetings

- The CHM discussed the recommendation proposed in 2021, which advised inviting hunters to actively participate in (part of the) CHM meetings.
- The CHM **agreed** to invite hunter representatives 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's organisation could be invited to the next meeting. Greenland proposed to ask the KNAPK if they could be interested to participate. To facilitate effective communication during the meeting, the Secretariat will identify the cost for translation services.

7.1 Report of the Committee on Hunting Methods

Future work of the CHM: (3) Potential collaboration with Japan on animal 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 all MM hunting types and procedures, including types of weapons, equipment and method used, as well as TTD, related hunter training, and hunt monitoring.

7.2 Presentation of the 2nd training video

Council 28 (2021) expressed its support for developing short videos

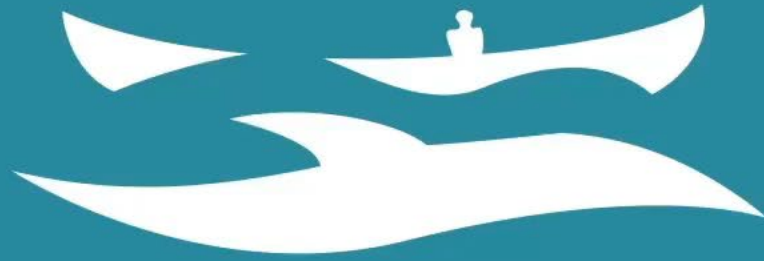
- The 1st video was finished in 2022 and produced in Norwegian and translated to English and Greenlandic.

The 2nd video was completed in February 2024.

Click here



NAMMCO



Large whale hunting
Target area and shooting angle

7.2 Presentation of the 2nd training video

CHM recommends:

- The translation of the video into Greenlandic and Norwegian.
- Including optional English and Icelandic subtitles to the English version to increase the reach of the videos.
- Simplifying the language used in the video in the translated versions. This aims at making the content of the video more accessible to the target audience.
- Postponing further video projects until the reception of the current videos is evaluated.

7.3 Adoption of priorities and work plan 2024–2026

2024	2025	2026
Update information on regulations and laws	Update information on regulations and laws	Update information on regulations and laws
Review the catch & hunting data-base (data 2023)	Review the catch & hunting data-base (data 2024)	Review the catch & hunting data-base (data 2025)
Invite hunters to CHM meetings	Invite hunters to CHM meetings	Invite hunters to CHM meetings
Exchange information with Japan on hunts (type, training, monitoring)	Exchange information with Japan on hunts (type, training, monitoring)	
Evaluate reception of current videos if possible (i.e., is it informative for hunters?)	Evaluate reception of current videos if possible (i.e., is it informative for hunters?)	
	If videos considered useful: Discuss themes for a new video	Supervise the making of a new video

Next meeting: May 2024



Agenda Item 7.4
Other business

NAMMCO



COUNCIL MEETING 31

Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO)

Ulla S. Wang

CIO Chair



8.1 Report of the Committee on Inspection and Observation

- Meeting held online on 22 February 2024

Review of background and status of CIO per July 2023 discussed

- The CIO **agreed** that the Review was comprehensive and informative and presented a good overview of the work of the CIO

Information meeting with observers in May 2023

- The observers' feedback was useful
- CIO **recommends** that regular (annual) meeting be organised with Observers, as they allow to get a feedback on how the OA should be conducted



8.2 Observation activities (OA) in 2025

Lessons learnt

- Observation Activities in 2023
 - 2 observers in Greenland - did not observe any hunt related both to serious weather challenges and to communication with hunters and a lack of trust toward the observers.
 - The CIO postponed further discussion on these observer reports and the issues encountered to a next meeting, when all delegations will be present
- CIO **agreed** – a need for an information campaign for hunters and local community on the NAMMCO observation scheme ahead of any future OA, aiming to overcome communication barriers
- CIO **agreed** – to carry consultations with all relevant parties – observers, hunters, local authorities to understand how each party envisions successful OA, what are the needs and how the current format of the OA should be improved.

8.2 Observation activities - general

Increasing cost efficiency

- Discussed alternatives to make OA more cost efficient and the CIO **recommends**:
 - To reduce regularity
 - To allow national/local observers (because of the opportunistic character of many hunts)
 - To explore new observation methods (e.g., drones)

Dissemination of results

➤ CIO **recommends**:

- (1) The overall results of the OA be made more transparent and accessible on the website, instead of constituting only a few lines in the Reports of the Council
- (2) An updated overview of the results, compiling all the years, be made easily available on the website

8.2 Observation activities (OA) - 2025 & 2026

Scope and range of OA in 2025: the CIO recommends

- The funds planned for 2025 be reallocated to 2026, fundings are combined, with the goal of conducting more comprehensive OA in 2026
- The OA efforts in 2026 be the same as the planned OA 2023: WGL, target beluga, narwhal and walrus hunt
 - given the lack of success of OA in 2023
 - based on the rationale behind the 2023 OA, with hunts never observed

8.3 Priorities and work plan 2024–2026

2024	2025	2026
CIO meeting (May/June & Fall)	CIO meeting (Spring & Fall)	CIO meeting (Spring & Fall)
Developing a communication plan and communication material (Spring – Autumn)	Participating to the meeting of the Faroese Pilot Whaling Association (March)	
Meeting with observers (May/June)	Meeting with observers (May/June)	Meeting with observers (May/June)
Participating to the meeting of the Norwegian Small Whalers Association (November/December)	Define the plan for the OA in 2026 Supervising the preparation of the 2026 OA	Supervising the preparation of the 2026 OA
Meeting with KNAPK-Greenland and with Icelandic whalers/sealers		
		Reviewing the observer reports

*In blue: activities related to carry consultations with hunters and spread the information about NAMMCO’s Observation Scheme



Agenda Item 8.4
Other business

ANNUAL MEETING 31

19-21 MARCH 2024

Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík

15:00 – 15:10

Break

NAMMCO



#NAMMCO31
intern@nammco.org

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COUNCIL MEETING 31

Environmental Questions & Ecosystem Approach to Management

Agenda item 10

- Importance of environmental questions to NAMMCO
- Its commitment to progress towards an ecosystem approach to management which was reiterated in the Nuuk Declaration in 2017:
 - An integrated approach that incorporates the entire ecosystem, including humans, into resource management decisions, and should be guided by an adaptive management approach, i.e, a robust decision making in the face of uncertainty, with an aim to reducing uncertainty over time via system monitoring and learning from doing.

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COUNCIL MEETING 31
External Relations

Geneviève Desportes

General Secretary

Administrative Report 2023

Part two



11.1 Cooperation with non-member countries

Highlights 2023: Japan

- Long-term relation since NAMMCO establishment in 1992
- Multi-year scientific cooperation established in June 2021 with the MINTAG project: identifying movement patterns and stock structure of lesser-known species, as they are essential to the reliable management of stocks
- Letter of Intent (LOI) signed in March 2023 to formalise and facilitate such project-based cooperation
- GS invited to Japan by MOFA and FAJ in December 2023 to discuss which opportunities should be considered for strengthening and extending the cooperation and identify fields relevant to developing cooperative projects (scientific and others)

11.2 Cooperation with international organisations

Highlights 2023

- Arctic Council (*pause in activities*) // CAFF
 - Organising & postponing a joint panarctic WS on bearded seals to review the status of the different stocks and conservation issues – finally NAMMCO WS
- ICES
 - Joint Workshop on Seal Modelling (WKSEALS, May 2023)
 - ICES/NAFO/NAMMCO Working Group on harp and hooded seals (WGHARP, August 2023)
- ASCOBANS
 - Participating in AC28
 - Informing about the venue of the Dolphins WG and its participants
 - Communicating Report

11.2 Cooperation with international organisations

Highlights 2023

- Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea - NCLOS
 - Jointly organised the 5th Marine Mammal Student Symposium on 24 February 2023
- Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network - RSN
 - Attending meetings
 - Contribution to the RSN magazine
 - Responses to questionnaire on specific subjects related to fisheries



Agenda Item 11.3
Other business

NAMMCO



COUNCIL MEETING 31
**Communication and
Outreach**

Naima El bani Altuna
Deputy Secretary

Marina Metić
Intern

Administrative Report 2023

Part three



12.1 Website

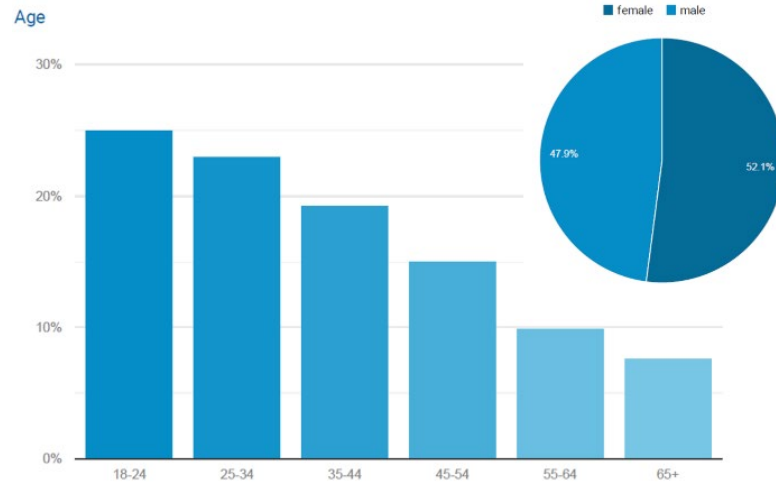
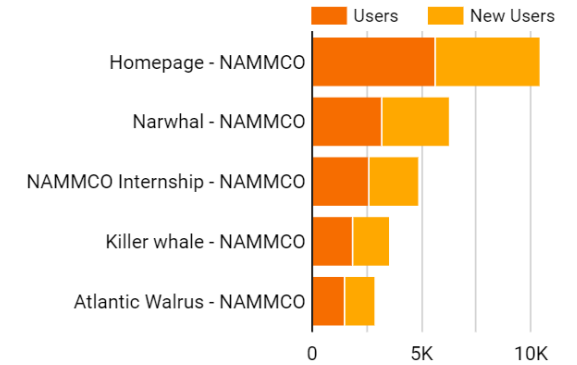
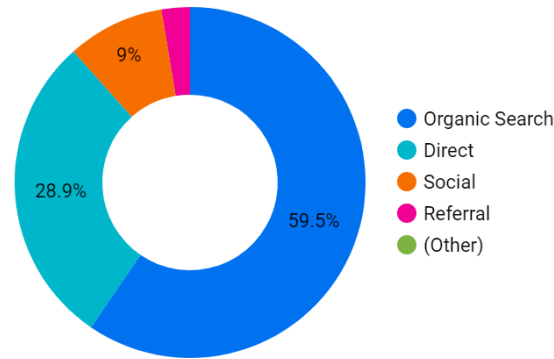
Update on *nammco.org*

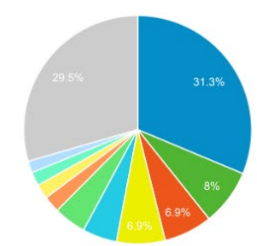
- SC reviewed two species
 - bowhead whale (will be updated early 2024)
 - grey seal (updated July 2023)
- New species page: Common dolphin
- News on the website
 - announcements on the publication of Committees' and Working Groups' reports
 - new articles published by the Scientists in NAMMCO groups
 - announcements of NAMMCO events
 - arrival and presentation of new Secretariat's staff
- 31 news items were published
- 1 blog posts on interns' experience.

12.1 Website

Activities on *nammco.org*

Unique users	
2019: (1 Jan – 31 Dec)	19,747
2020: (1 Jan – 31 Dec)	16,410
2021: (1 Jan – 31 Dec)	25,854
2022: (1 Jan – 31 Dec)	33,183
2023: (1 Jan – 31 Dec)	36,654

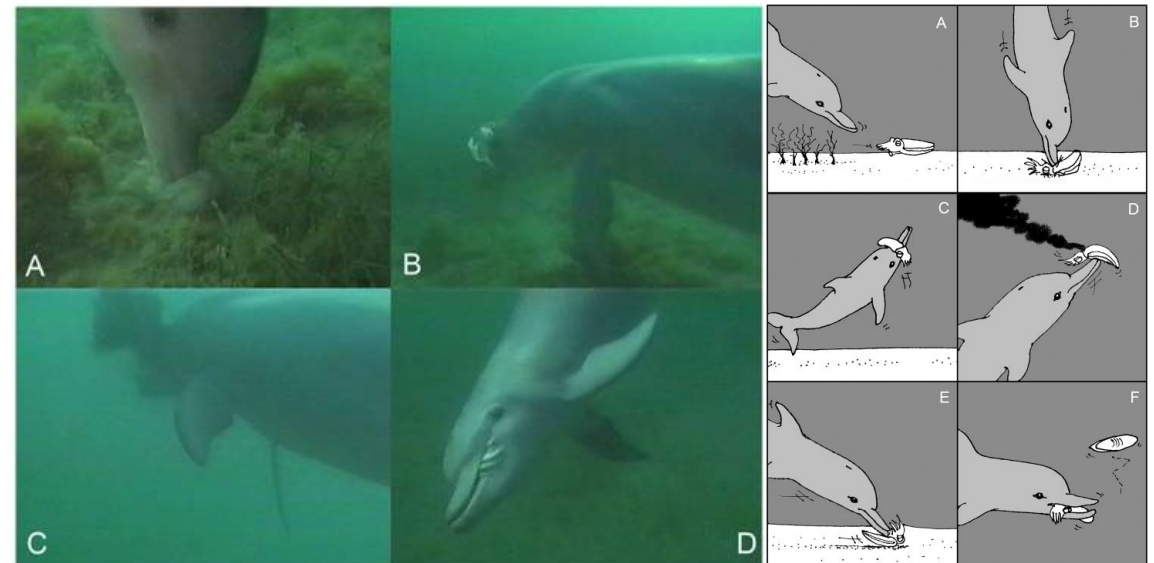
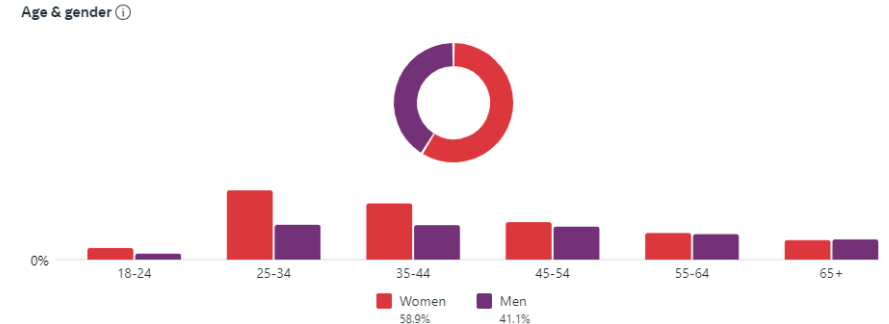
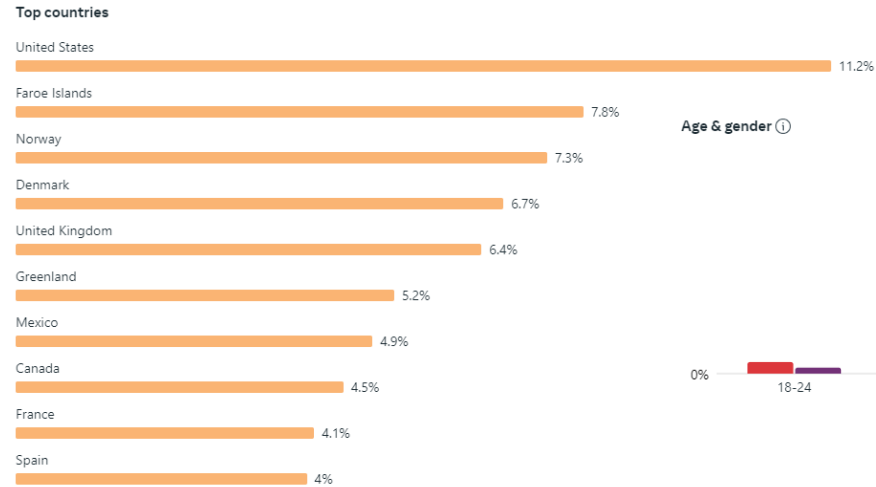


Country	Users	Users	contribution to total: Users
	36,654 % of Total: 100.00% (36,654)	36,654 % of Total: 100.00% (36,654)	
1. United States	11,445	31.30%	
2. United Kingdom	2,908	7.95%	
3. Canada	2,512	6.87%	
4. Norway	2,511	6.87%	
5. Germany	1,790	4.90%	
6. China	1,681	4.60%	
7. India	861	2.35%	
8. Netherlands	757	2.07%	
9. Denmark	713	1.95%	
10. France	606	1.66%	

12.2 Social media

Facebook


- Continuously used
- Increase in likes
 - 2,644 → 2,842
- Increase in followers
 - 2,919 → 3,228
- Top post: *peculiarities in feeding style of a female Indo-pacific bottle nose dolphin in South Australia*



12.2 Social media

Instagram


- Increase in use
- Launch: 08 September 2022
- Followers: 298
- Posts: 66
- Top post: *announcement of the new team*
 - 193 accounts reached
 - 266 impressions
 - 41 likes
 - 1 comment
 - 1 save
 - 2 new followers



Announcement:
New appointments in the NAMMCO Secretariat!

Dear NAMMCO Community,

We are pleased to welcome three new members to the Secretariat. These new appointments bring fresh perspectives, diverse expertise, and a deep commitment to marine mammal conservation. Please join us in welcoming them to the NAMMCO family!





Welcome to the Team!

Ian Bolduc
Administrative Secretary

Ian started working at the Secretariat on 29th of May. His areas of expertise include business administration, project management, and communication and has worked for a variety of entities in Canada. Originally from Quebec, Canada, Ian has lived in Tromsø since 2019.




Welcome to the Team!

Maria Garagouni
Deputy Secretary, Science

Marias expertise lies in quantifying and mitigating cetacean-fishery interactions, as well as studying the effects of anthropogenic activities on cetaceans, particularly underwater noise and risk assessment. With Greek and American origins, she will be making the journey from Thessaloniki, Greece, to Tromsø, starting her position the 1st of September.




Welcome to the Team!

Naima El bani Altuna
Deputy Secretary, Communication

Naima will start her position 1st of September. She is presently finishing a post doc at ARCLIM, Department of Geosciences, UiT and has been very active in dissemination and communication along her career and has among other worked for Arctic Frontiers for the last two-years. She has Basque and Moroccan origins and has lived in Tromsø since 2018.

12.2 Social media

LinkedIn

- Started uploading content on LinkedIn
- 1,489 followers
- Great for sharing news and reports with more scientific and professional community
- Top post: *The report of the 2023 joint ICES/NAFO/NAMMCO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals*
 - 801 impressions
 - 51 engagements
 - 23 reactions

12.3 Outreach activities

Highlights 2023

- Organisation of the 5th MM student symposium in Tromsø, with NCLOS and AMB.
 - “Marine mammals in a changing Arctic: Finding a pathway for users, scientists, and policymakers to navigate new challenges”
- Participation to different national and international events
- Presentations and lectures given by the Secretariat in different fora (conferences, schools, institutes, association, universities).
- Ostrobothnian Fisheries Association
 - Invited to present at the webinar ‘Seal management under a trade ban – how to promote sustainable resource use?’

12.4 Educational Project

- **GUARDNA–Guardians of the North Atlantic: Looking after our Seas to Conserve Marine Mammals (2023–2026)**
 - Target audience: 7- to 20-year-old children and young adults in the NAMMCO member countries (CP3)
 - Tools: an online portal with appealing and playful educational materials:
 - Information cards → information in the NAMMCO website made accessible to the younger generation. Topics covered: marine mammal species, threats, stakeholders, uses
 - Indoors and outdoors activities → related to information cards
 - Activities related to NASS-2024 and MINTAG
 - Aim: spark curiosity and interest among the youth in marine mammal conservation, and promote the understanding that conserving marine mammals entails preserving their habitats and utilizing marine resources responsibly and sustainably.

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

The Harbour Porpoise is one of the smallest species of all cetaceans. They can be found only in the northern hemisphere and live mainly in coastal areas, although they sometimes swim up rivers! Harbour porpoises are quite shy and usually avoid boats. Their main predators are killer whales, but also bottlenose dolphins and grey seals are known to attack them in some places.

Adult length 1.9 meters	IUCN status Least of concern
Adult weight 75 kg	NEA abundance 500,000
Max. age 8-10 years	Hunted in >3,000 /yr
Eats small schooling fish	By-catch at least 3000 /yr (in all NAMMCO countries)
Group size 1-8 individuals	

Main threats:

- By-Catch
- Underwater Noise
- Pollution

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

Different from dolphins Porpoises look and behave differently than dolphins. Porpoises have a small, triangular shaped dorsal fin and no long beak. They have a stocky body, and their teeth are flat and spade-shaped while dolphins have lean bodies and cone-shaped teeth. Dolphins are also more "chatty" than porpoises, although both use echolocation. Porpoises usually live in smaller groups. In total there are 6 porpoise species in the world.

What's in a name? The word "porpoise" is thought to originate from French "porc poisson", meaning "pig fish"? Apparently, the medieval Catholic church did not approve of eating meat on Fridays, so the people found a way around this by reclassifying the porpoise as a fish. The common names in the four NAMMCO countries are all derived from the Old Norse "hnisa", meaning "sneeze", after the sound it makes when it breathes. To make the confusion complete, the scientific name *Phocoena phocoena* is derived from the Greek word for "big seal".

Research: Harbour porpoises need to eat at least 10% of their body weight every day, compared to 3% for example killer whales. Why do harbour porpoises need to eat so much?

Read more about Harbour Porpoises on the NAMMCO website.

By-Catch & Entanglement

When marine mammals get entangled in fishing gears, nets and trawls, or get hooked on long lines, they drown. As they are not the target of the fishery, this is called by-catch or incidental catch. Although it is called incidental, by-catch is largely foreseeable as it mainly happens in specific types of gear, with gillnets being the number one killer. Marine mammals can also get stuck in lines or nets that are floating around the ocean (not used anymore for fishing) or other marine waste, this is called entanglement.

- Global annual by-catch is estimated to be half a million marine mammals, but is largely underreported.
- It is estimated that worldwide more than 300,000 marine mammals die from entanglement.
- The World Conservation Union (IUCN) recognises by-catch as the single-largest cause of mortality for small cetaceans.
- In NAMMCO countries, by-catch is mostly related to: harbour porpoises, grey seals, and harbour seals.

Read more about by-catch and entanglement on the NAMMCO website.

By-Catch & Entanglement

Entanglement is a problem mainly for large whales, such as humpback whales or right whales. These can get stuck in discarded fishing gear or marine debris, which can make it impossible for the animal to feed, it may slow them down or make them use more energy to swim. With humpback whales becoming more and more common in the coastal regions of Iceland, Greenland, and Norway, it is expected this is an increasing problem.

In terms of total population numbers and management of a species, there is no difference between an animal that died from by-catch or because it was hunted. Both are "taken" from the population. The big difference is that we have a lot less control over how the animal dies. In by-catch or it can take a long time before the animal drowns, and an entangled whale can sometimes take months to die a slow and painful death.

Discuss: "Since by-catch is largely foreseeable, can it really be called accidental catches?"

Read more about by-catch and entanglement on the NAMMCO website.

12.4 Educational Project

Project partners

Country	Partner institution	Coordinator(s) in partner institution
FO	NÁM	Eyðun Gaard, Sigfríður Sólsker
GL	Institute of Learning, University of Greenland	Lars O. Demant-Poort
IS	Faculty of Subject Teacher Education, University of Iceland	Edda Elísabet Magnúsdóttir
NO	Nordnorsk Vitensenter	Tove Marienborg, Nina B. Olsen

Role of the partners

- To assess educational materials, ensuring they are appropriate for the targeted age group and aligned with the national educational system.
- To promote the dissemination of educational materials within the national educational system
- To assist the Secretariat on the coordination of the network activities.

12.4 Educational Project

Funding

Funding agency	2024	2025	2026	Total (2024-2026)	Funding
NovoNordisk	DKK 845.250	DKK 108.675	DKK 322.665	DKK 1.276.590 (29%)	Granted
AG-Fisk financing	DKK 424.356	DKK 104.214	DKK 168.214	DKK 696.785 (16%)	Granted
Sparebanken Nord-Norge Samfunnsløftet	DKK 150.000	DKK 62.500	DKK 62.500	DKK 275.000 (6%)	Not granted
Nordplus Horizontal	DKK 338.702	DKK 125.465	DKK 125.465	DKK 589.632 (14%)	Pending response (late-April 2024)
In-kind all partners	DKK 594.838	DKK 406.780	DKK 501.080	DKK 1.502.698 (35%)	

 Need to cover: translation to Norwegian and Northern Sámi. Any suggestions for additional funding bodies we could apply to?

12.5 NAMMCO Scientific Publications

- Vol. 13 continues the open call of Vol. 12: “Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic”
 - Submission deadline extended from 31 December 2023 to 20 March 2024
 - Contributions increased from 3 to 9 research articles
 - Topics include marine mammal abundance, habitat use & management issues
 - Publication during 2024
- Vol. 14 will focus on the theme of “Anthropogenic Impacts on Marine Mammals”



Agenda Item 12.6
Other business



ANNUAL MEETING 31

19-21 MARCH 2024

Hotel Reykjavík Grand, Reykjavík

Excursion and dinner hosted by Iceland

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ANNUAL MEETING 31

21 MARCH 2024

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DAY 3

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Council Meeting

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COUNCIL MEETING 31

Closing of item 8.1, 8.2 & 8.3

8.1 Report of the Committee on Inspection and Observation

8.2 Observation activities in 2025

8.3 Adoption of priorities and work plan 2024-2026

Jón Þrándur Stefansson

Chair of Council

- Recalling the new NAMMCO Observation scheme adopted at its Council 28 in 2021 and the respective duties outlined in the scheme of relevant stakeholders as well as the need for its full and effective implementation,
- Requests the CIO, taking into account the relevant changes that have been made to national legislation and regulations in the member countries, to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the observation scheme, the appropriate methodologies for effective OA and the means to improve the effectiveness of the observation effort, through evaluating i.a.:
 - The regularity and intervals of the OA,
 - The benefit of allowing certified national and local observers to serve as observers.
 - The benefit of new observation methods such as drones and other means for remote monitoring,
 - Any other question the CIO would find relevant to examine such as the need for flexibility to address OA, as appropriate.

- To carry out such an evaluation through consultations with all relevant parties – observers, hunters, local authorities, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to understand how each party envisions successful OA, what are the needs and how the current format of the OA should be improved.
- Pending the evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the observation scheme, the funds planned for 2025 will be reallocated to 2026.
- The council requests that the CIO deliver a report by NAMMCO 32 with relevant recommendations concerning the above.
- The Council recommends to direct the OA efforts in Greenland for the beluga, narwhals, and walrus hunts in West Greenland for the year 2026 as they have not been observed before.



ANNUAL MEETING 31

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12:15 – 13:15

Lunch

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COUNCIL MEETING 31
Closing of items:
4.2, 7.3, and 8.3

Geneviève Desportes

General Secretary

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) - online - 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 & debriefing 	<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

CHM work plan 2024–2026

2024	2025	2026
Update information on regulations and laws	Update information on regulations and laws	Update information on regulations and laws
Review the catch & hunting data-base (data 2023)	Review the catch & hunting data-base (data 2024)	Review the catch & hunting data-base (data 2025)
Invite hunters to CHM meetings	Invite hunters to CHM meetings	Invite hunters to CHM meetings
Exchange information with Japan on hunts (type, training, monitoring)	Exchange information with Japan on hunts (type, training, monitoring)	
Evaluate reception of current videos if possible (i.e., is it informative for hunters?)	Evaluate reception of current videos if possible (i.e., is it informative for hunters?)	
	Discuss themes for a new video	Supervise the making of new video

Next meeting: May 2024

CIO Priorities and work plan 2024–2026

2024	2025	2026
Developing a communication plan and communication material (Spring – Autumn)	Define the plan for the OA in 2026	CIO meeting (Spring)
CIO meeting (May/June)	Participating to the meeting of the Faroese Pilot Whaling Association (March)	Meeting with observers (May/June)
Meeting with observers (May/June)	Meeting with observers (May/June)	
Participating to the meeting of the Norwegian Small Whalers Association (November/December)	Supervising the preparation of the 2026 OA	Supervising the preparation of the 2026 OA
	Meeting with KNAPK (Greenland)	
	Meeting with Icelandic whalers/sealers	Reviewing the observer reports

*In blue: activities related to carry consultations with hunters and spread the information about NAMMCO’s Observation Scheme

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COUNCIL MEETING 31

Closing of item 3.3 & 3.6

3.3 [Budget 2024], draft budget 2025 and
forecast budget 2026

3.6 Other business

Páll Nolsøe

FAC Chair



Agenda Item 3.3
Draft budget 2025 & forecast budget 2025



	Budget 2024 (CL30)	Anticipated 2024 results with 2023 results	Draft budget 2025 (CL30)	Draft budget 2025 (with Reallocation)	Forecast budget 2026
Income // Contributions					
Contributions Faroes	640,897	640,897	653,715	653,715	666,789
Contributions Greenland	640,897	640,897	653,715	653,715	666,789
Contributions Iceland	1,281,795	1,281,795	1,307,431	1,307,431	1,333,580
Contributions Norway	2,567,111	2,567,111	2,618,453	2,618,453	2,670,822
Income // Contributions	5,130,700	5,130,700	5,233,314	5,233,314	5,337,980
Expenditure					
Staff related costs	3,032,013	3,086,834	2,910,478	3,281,736	3,306,210
Internship	220,400	189,300	250,400	196,500	219,600
Staff travel and subsistence	270,000	270,000	200,000	130,000	210,000
Meetings	205,000	200,000	200,000	230,000	205,000
Office rent	334,969	295,917	351,717	310,712	326,248
Office supply	189,000	156,300	198,450	159,426	162,615
Communication and outreach	150,000	75,000	150,000	75,000	75,000
Accounts and auditing	210,000	250,000	220,500	220,500	230,000
Observation Scheme	0	60,000	100,000	60,000	250,000
Committee for Hunting Methods	200,000	65,000	200,000	25,000	250,000
Scientific Committee	222,000	150,000	244,000	295,000	155,000
WG User knowledge	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Capacity building	40,000	20,000	40,000	20,000	20,000
Other expenses (incl. Recruitment)	50,000	75,000	250,000	75,000	280,000
NASS*	150,000	150,000	180,000	180,000	150,000
Project overheads		-495,000		-25,200	-13,300
MINTAG**	180,000	180,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total expenditure	5,493,382	4,768,351	5,635,545	5,373,675	5,966,373
OPERATING RESULT	-362,682	362,349	-402,231	-140,361	-628,392
Total Reserve 01.01	1,094,178	1,253,211	731,946	1,615,560	1,475,199
Transfer to/from general reserve	-362,682	362,349	-402,231	-140,361	-628,392
New Total Reserve 31.12	731,496	1,615,560	329,715	1,475,199	846,807



Agenda Item 3.6
Other business

A light blue map of Iceland serves as the background for the slide. The map shows the outline of the island and its surrounding waters, with a grid of latitude and longitude lines.

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Agenda Item 13

Any Other Business

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ANNUAL MEETING 31

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Agenda Item 14

Closing Procedures



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14.1 Press release

Commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at NAMMCO's Annual Meeting

At NAMMCO's 31st Annual Meeting held in Reykjavík, Iceland, from March 19th to 21st, the spotlight was on sustainable use of marine mammals, animal welfare, and proposals related to conservation and management. Member countries demonstrated a strong commitment to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14, emphasizing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources, as well as Goal 2, aiming for Zero Hunger.

During the meeting, 22 new proposals related to conservation and management, along with 44 research needs, were presented to member countries. The forthcoming report from the Management Committees will provide advice on pinniped and cetacean stocks.

The Council's opening session featured discussions on animal welfare issues associated with marine mammal hunting, drawing insights from both veterinary and legal perspectives. Additionally, the Council received the second instructional video for hunters, developed by the Committee on Hunting Methods.

14.2 Next Council meeting

- Hosted by the Secretariat
- In Tromsø
- Date?
 - Week 13, 24–28 March 2025

ANNUAL MEETING 31

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Farvæl, Baaj, Bless,
Ha det bra!

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