



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 32

MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR CETACEANS

25 March 2024, 14:15-16:30
Fram Centre, Tromsø, Norway

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Annotations are indicated in *blue italics*.

1. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Relevant Documents for this Meeting:

NAMMCO/32/08: Report of the 31st Meeting of the Scientific Committee

NAMMCO/32/MC/05: Recent Proposals for Conservation and Management and Research Recommendations

NAMMCO/32/MC/06: Summary of Requests from the NAMMCO Council to the Scientific Committee and Responses by the Scientific Committee

For meeting aims, see NAMMCO/32/MC/02.

This meeting addresses issues of relevance to the Management Committee for Cetaceans (MCC). Only species with active requests or for which there is a recommendation from the SC are presented to the Management Committees, but all species are discussed by the Scientific Committee.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CETACEAN STOCKS

3.1 NARWHAL AND BELUGA

NAMMCO/32/08, items 12.1 and 12.2

3.1.1 Active request

- **R-3.4.11 (2008, standing):** *To update the assessment of both narwhal and beluga, when new data warrant such an exercise.*
- **R-3.4.15 (2024, ongoing):** *To prioritise investigating alternative survey methods and survey frequency for small stocks, with a focus on beluga and narwhal in East Greenland.*

- **R-3.4.16 (2024, ongoing):** To prioritise the collection and analysis of information to improve the understanding of stock structure of beluga whales in East Greenland, which may allow future assessments for this species in this area.

3.1.2 Response from SC/31

R-3.4.11: No new data were gathered during 2024 in East Greenland for either species, therefore there is no possibility for a new assessment. The NAMMCO-JCNB JWG should provide updated information for West Greenland

R-3.4.15: Progress on this request will be difficult to achieve, as new methods (such as the use of signature whistles for acoustic mark-recapture) are in very early stages of development.

R-3.4.16: The SC will not be able to move forward on this request without more samples from East Greenland belugas. None were provided to the GINR in 2024.

3.1.3 Recommendations for Research with Implications for the Parties

Greenland

- *(reiterated from SC/30) Collect biological samples when available from narwhals in East Greenland, including areas north of Scoresby Sound, to explore genetic connectivity of different stocks.*

3.1.4 MCC Discussion

3.2 NORTHERN BOTTLENOSE WHALE

NAMMCO/32/08, item 12.6

3.2.1 Active request

- **R-1.7.11 (renewed 2019, ongoing)** To develop estimates of abundance and trends as soon as possible once the [NASS 2015] survey has been completed.

3.2.2 Response from SC/31

Norway will conduct this analysis for bottlenose whales with the addition of the NASS 2024 data. The SC will conduct a more comprehensive review of the species when these new data are available.

3.2.3 MCC Discussion

3.3 KILLER WHALE

NAMMCO/32/08, item 12.13

3.3.1 Proposal for Conservation and Management

Greenland

- Verify all killer whale catches every year to ensure accuracy of reporting.

3.3.2 MCC Discussion

3.4 PILOT WHALE

NAMMCO/30/08, item 12.5

3.4.1 Active request

- **R-3.8.6 (ongoing, 2011):** To continue work to complete a full assessment of pilot whales in the North Atlantic and provide advice on the sustainability of catches, as soon as necessary further

information becomes available, with particular emphasis on the Faroese area and East and West Greenland.

3.4.2 Response from SC/31

- [R-3.8.6](#): *The WG on Pilot Whales (PWWG) is scheduled to convene in late 2025, to conduct an assessment for the North Atlantic. The SC recommended that the relevant scientists should “Complete the recommendation from the Genetics WG to “determine population structure at the scale of the North Atlantic” prior to the meeting of the PWWG in late 2025.”*

3.4.1 MCC Discussion

3.5 WHITE-BEAKED, WHITE-SIDED, AND BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS

[NAMMCO/32/08, item 12.4](#)

3.5.1 Active request

- **R-3.9.6 (renewed 2019, pending)**: *To carry out assessments of dolphin species for which there are removals.*

3.5.2 Response from SC/31

White-sided dolphins were fully assessed in 2023. In order to fully assess white-beaked dolphins, more information on stock structure and struck and lost rates in West Greenland is necessary. Bottlenose dolphins are observed too infrequently in the NAMMCO area to warrant an assessment.

3.5.3 Recommendations for Conservation and Management

Greenland

- *(reiterated from SC/30) Validate the Greenlandic removals with a special focus on minimising underreporting and estimating struck and lost rates, thus facilitating a full assessment of white-beaked dolphins as soon as possible.*

3.5.4 MCC Discussion

3.6 HARBOUR PORPOISE

[NAMMCO/30/08, item 12.3](#)

3.6.1 Active request

- **R-3.10.1 (renewed 2019, ongoing)**: *To perform an assessment of harbour porpoise throughout its range, which might include distribution and abundance, stock identity, biological parameters, ecological interaction, pollutants, removals, and sustainability of removals.*

3.6.2 Response from SC/31

The HPWG is scheduled to meet in 2026 to conduct an assessment for all areas with sufficient data.

3.6.3 Recommendations for Research with implications for the Parties

All Parties

- Focus efforts on collecting the necessary data for a full assessment of harbour porpoise stocks in all NAMMCO areas.

3.6.4 Recommendations of the HPWG (2022) prior to assessment

Faro Islands

- Support the creation of an app where users of coastal areas (i.e., fishers, recreational boats) can report observations, catch, and by-catch of harbour porpoises.
- Initiate the collection of biological data on harbour porpoise.

Greenland

- Obtain new abundance estimates for harbour porpoise.

Iceland

- Obtain new abundance estimates for harbour porpoise.
- Generate the best back-calculated by-catch estimates (i.e., a time series going back to the beginning of the fishery).

3.6.5 MCC Discussion

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

NAMMCO/32/MC/06, Category: Cetaceans. Prior to the meetings of the MCs, each Party should take the time to read the updates provided by the other member countries. Any issues or uncertainties can be brought up for discussion during the meetings.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS