



Marine Mammal Welfare Workshop 2025 – MMWWS 2025

24 March 2025, Fram Centre, Tromsø, Norway
Room Kompasset, 8:00 – 18:00

PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE

(The revision on 220325 only added Doc FI02)

8.00 – 8.20: Registration

8.20 – 8.30 Housekeeping (including practical arrangement for the simultaneous translation)

8.30 – 8.45: Opening remarks by NAMMCO Chair, Hallveig Ólafsdóttir (IS), and relay to the Chair of the MMWWS 2025, Ichiro Nomura (JP)

8.45 – 9.40: Session 1 – Status Overview - Where do marine mammal hunts stand today in terms of welfare outcomes?

- **8.45 – 9.05 [NAMMCO Secretariat]** Overview of the recommendations provided by NAMMCO EG and WS and responses given.
 - [A 15 min presentation + 5 min Q&A]
- **9.05 – 9.40 [NAMMCO Secretariat]** Overview of the current knowledge status on welfare outcomes, based on the information provided in the database, with a focus on the factors defined by NAMMCO to generating good welfare outcomes (e.g., time to death, losses, level of animals' awareness, hunters' skills and training, weapon adequacy and maintenance).
 - [A 20 min + 15 min Q&A/discussion]

9.40 – 9.55: Coffee break

09.55 – 14.00: Session 2 – Lights by hunters on lesser-known/described hunting methods

Presentations of present hunting methods from six different areas, with focus on lesser-described hunting methods and methods where harpoon and killing weapon are not a combined weapon (e.g., hand harpoon hunts, rifle hunts for small cetaceans, minke whales, and seals), and for which there is less knowledge and data on the outcome (welfare and losses).

- [175 min presentations, incl. 60 min Q&A]
- 09.55 – 10.30: Japan [25 min presentation + 10 min Q&A]
- 10.30 – 10.55: St Vincent and the Grenadines [15 min presentation + 10 min Q&A]
- 10.55 – 11.30: Greenland [25 min presentation + 10 min Q&A]
- 11.30 – 11.55: Sweden [15 min presentation + 10 min Q&A]

11.55 – 12.55 : Lunch at the FRAM Centre

- 12.55 – 13.30: Nunavut [25 min presentation + 10 min Q&A]
- 13.30 – 13.50: Faroe Islands [10 min presentation + 10 min Q&A]
- 13.50 – 14.00: If time - Recap on the status of knowledge for these lesser-known hunts, general level of welfare outcomes, potential welfare issues, possible improvements for better outcomes



14:00 – 16:15: Session 3 – General Discussion

- 14.00 – 14.20: Introduction to the general discussion by **Kathrine Ryeng**
 - [max 15 min, followed by a 5 min Q&A]
- 14.20 – 14.40: A regional overview of welfare laws and regulations in the participant countries/entities with a focus on wild animal welfare, and comparison of animal welfare definition and criteria to achieve animal welfare by **Nikolas Sellheim**
 - [A 15 min presentation, followed by a 5 min Q&A]
- 14.40 – 16:15: Plenary discussion [95 minutes]
 - [95 min session]

The focus of the discussion should be on the sharing of knowledge, with the goal of establishing priorities for improvement, and the way to implement improvement.

- Do existing domestic and international hunting laws and regulations adequately support welfare, or do they need to be adapted?
- What are the most required improvements in terms of welfare outcomes? How can we achieve the desired welfare outcomes, considering the diverse circumstances of different countries and regions?
- How to best prioritise the efforts (which criteria to use: cost (effort and financial) versus the overall 'qualitative' gain in terms of improvement of welfare outcomes, level of losses (struck & loss), level of animals' awareness, etc.)
- Can we identify common fields of welfare-related research that would lead to cooperative projects and collective expertise building?
- How to continue addressing hunters' safety in future discussions

16.15 – 17.00: Coffee break [& Finalising draft MMWWS conclusions and recommendations]

17.00 – 18.00: Conclusions, Recommendations & Next steps

- Summary of priorities for improving welfare outcomes (e.g., criteria, hunts...)
- Can we advance in defining 'acceptable' welfare norms and best practices for whaling and sealing, given that different killing strategies present different challenges
- Which steps should be taken to progress towards improving welfare outcomes in marine mammal hunts (e.g., which themes should be covered by future Expert Groups/Workshops, common research projects, ensuring hunters' participation, etc.)

18.05 – 19.30: Social event (Icebreaker with drinks and snacks) at FRAM Centre, also open to the participants in the NAMMCO Annual Meeting



LIST OF DOCUMENTS (22.03.25)

Reference	Title
MMWWS 2025/01	Programme and list of documents
MMWWS 2025/02	List of participants
MMWWS 2025/03	Information on hunts, as provided by participants
MMWWS 2025/04	National authorities involved in MM hunting, as provided by participants
MMWWS 2025/05	Global and national welfare issues, as identified by participants
MMWWS 2025/06	Summary of Welfare-related data provided by the participant countries for the MMWWS 2025
MMWWS 2025/07	A comparative analysis of animal welfare legislation in selected countries
MMWWS 2025/08	Overview of Workshops, Expert Groups and Seminars dealing with hunting methods and welfare issues and organised by the NAMMCO Committee on Hunting Methods – Review of Terms of Reference, Results and Recommendations, as reporting to the Council of NAMMCO
MMWWS 2025/09ab	NAMMCO Recommendations pertaining to hunting methods and addressed to parties, Doc 09a , and non-member countries, Doc 09b – and responses
MMWWS 2025/FI01	Robards & Reeves (2011) - The global extent and character of marine mammal consumption by humans: 1970–2009
MMWWS 2025/FI02	Øen (2021) - Animal Welfare in the Conduct of Whaling: A Review of the Research and Developments to Improve Animal Welfare in the Minke Whale Hunt in Norway 1981–2005.