



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 32

JOINT MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

25 March 2025, 13:00-14:00
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

NAMMCO/32/MC/07: Report of the WG on Enhancing User Involvement in NAMMCO Decision Making (UIWG)

The focus of the Management Committees during these meetings is:

- *Reviewing new information and responses to active requests for advice provided by the Scientific Committee during its last meeting in 2025 (SC/31).*
- *Determining whether any requests may be considered completed and closed or need to be renewed.*
- *Action: Making recommendations to Council regarding request status, as needed.*
- *Considering both the new and reiterated proposals for conservation and management and recommendations for research (that require national priority and support or concern a shared stock with a non-member country) made by SC/31.*
- *Action: Deciding whether to endorse or not the SC's proposals and recommendations.*
- *Considering updates from the member countries on the proposals for conservation and management measures forwarded in previous years.*

- Action: Proposing to Council new requests to the Scientific Committee.

The relevant **requests** (and year they were formulated) are given under the respective agenda items.

This joint meeting addresses issues of relevance to both the Management Committee for Cetaceans (MCC) and the Management Committee for Seals and Walrus (MCSW). It also addresses issues related to the Management Committees' WG on Enhancing User Involvement in NAMMCO Decision Making (UIWG).

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOSYSTEM PERSPECTIVE

3.1 MARINE MAMMAL–FISHERY INTERACTIONS

NAMMCO/32/08, item 9.1.1, 9.1.2

3.1.1 Active Requests

- **R-1.1.5 (1997, standing)** To periodically review and update available knowledge related to the understanding of interactions between marine mammals and commercially exploited marine resources.
- **R-1.1.10 (2022, standing as of 2023)** In light of the distributional shifts seen under T-NASS 2007 and later surveys, the SC should investigate dynamic changes in spatial distribution due to ecosystem changes and functional responses.

3.1.2 Response from SC/31

R-1.1.5: The Working Group on By-Catch (BYCWG) met in October 2024 and formulated an approach to quantifying marine mammal exposure to by-catch risk, based on fishing effort and marine mammal distribution.

R-1.1.10: The results of the now complete NASS 2024 survey will provide further insights relevant to changes in the spatial distribution of cetacean species.

3.1.3 Proposals for Conservation and Management

All Parties

- Facilitate access to marine mammal density estimates or abundances within the NAMMCO area, in a format suited to the type of risk mapping described in BYCWG report.

3.1.4 Recommendations for Research with implications for the Parties

Iceland and Norway

Coastal seals

- (reiterated from SC/28 and SC/30) Improve knowledge on by-catches with data on species, genetics, and age, by collecting jaws from by-caught seals.

3.1.5 MCJ Discussion

3.2 MULTISPECIES APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT AND MODELLING

NAMMCO/32/08, item 9.2.1

3.2.1 Active Requests

- **R-1.2.1 (renewed 2019, ongoing but not prioritised as of 2023)** *To consider whether multispecies models for management purposes can be established for the North Atlantic ecosystems and whether such models could include the marine mammal compartment. If such models and the required data are not available, then identify the knowledge lacking for such an enterprise to be beneficial to proper scientific management and suggest scientific projects which would be required for obtaining this knowledge.*
- **R-1.2.2 (1995, standing)** *In relation to the importance of the further development of multispecies approaches to the management of marine resources, to monitor stock levels and trends in stocks of all marine mammals in the North Atlantic.*
- **R-1.2.3 (2022, ongoing but not prioritised as of 2023)** *In addressing the standing requests on ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction.*

3.2.2 Response from SC/31

R-1.2.1: Various approaches have been applied over the years at an institutional level within NAMMCO countries. The SC is interested in holding a dedicated workshop or special session around SC/33 meeting, which could be extended beyond food web modelling to include ecological models for marine mammals.

R-1.2.2: The SC monitors and reviews information on stock levels for all marine mammal species within the NAMMCO remit. NASS 2024 results will not only provide current abundance estimates, but also add to the long-term dataset for trend analysis.

R-1.2.3: This request was not discussed at SC/31.

3.2.3 MCJ Discussion

Secretariat proposes modifying the text of R-1.2.3 for clarity, as follows: In addressing the standing requests R-1.1.5 as it relates to ecosystem modelling and marine mammal fisheries interaction, to extend the focus to include all areas under NAMMCO jurisdiction.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

NAMMCO/32/08, item 9.3

3.3.1 Active Request

- **R-1.5.3 (2016, standing as of 2023)** *To monitor the development of the Mary River Project and assess qualitatively or, if possible, quantitatively the likely impact and consequences on marine mammals in the area.*

3.3.2 Response from SC/31

R-1.5.3: This subject is discussed under the Joint NAMMCO-JCNB WG, which has not met since 2021. As a result, no updates on the Mary River Project were discussed at SC/31.

3.3.3 MCJ Discussion

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

NAMMCO/32/MC/05, Category: Environmental/Ecosystem Issues. 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. WG ON ENHANCING USER INVOLVEMENT IN NAMMCO DECISION MAKING (UIWG)

5.1 REPORT OF THE UIWG

NAMMCO/32/MC/07

5.2 DISCUSSION AND GUIDANCE OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

6. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRS

New Chairs must be nominated and selected for both the MCC and the MCSW. They will hold the Chairship of their respective Committees until the close of Council Meeting 34.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS