



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 32

*25 - 27 March 2025
Fram Centre, Tromsø, Norway*

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DOCUMENT 07	ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2024
Submitted by	Secretariat
Action requested	Take note
Background/content	The document summarises the activities of the Commission and the Secretariat in 2024.

CONTENTS

1.	NAMMCO OFFICERS	4
2.	FOCAL ACTIVITIES	4
2.1	Committees.....	4
2.1.1	Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM)	4
2.1.2	Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO)	4
2.1.3	Council Working Group BYCELS.....	5
2.1.4	Scientific Committee (SC)	5
2.1.5	Finance and Administration Committee (FAC).....	5
2.2	Secretariat.....	6
3.	SECRETARIAT STAFF.....	7
4.	NAMMCO MEETINGS	7
5.	EXTERNAL RELATIONS	8
5.1	Japan	9
5.2	National, inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies	9
5.2.1	Arctic Council and Working Groups.....	9
5.2.2	ASCOBANS	10
5.2.3	ICES 10	
5.3	National and IGO events/Meetings attended by the Secretariat.....	10
5.4	Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN).....	10
5.5	IGO events attended by member Countries on behalf of NAMMCO	10
5.6	Contact with IGOs' & NGOs' Secretariats, and research and educational Institutions	10
5.7	External Research projects with participation from NAMMCO Secretariat	12
5.7.1	Nordic Seals	12
5.7.2	NAPA project – Seal Stigma and Survival.....	12
5.8	Information requests.....	12
6.	COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH	13
6.1	Website	13
6.1.1	Website content quality review	13
6.1.2	Website News/Blogs.....	13
6.2	Activity on website and social media.....	13
6.2.1	Activities on nammco.org	13
6.2.2	Facebook.....	13
6.2.3	Instagram.....	14
6.2.4	LinkedIn.....	14
6.3	NAMMCO Educational Project.....	14
	<i>'GUARDNA–Guardians of the North Atlantic: Looking after our Seas to Conserve Marine Mammals'</i>	14
6.4	Outreach events & lectures	15

6.5	Publications.....	16
6.5.1	NAMMCO Reports	16
6.5.2	NAMMCO Scientific Publications.....	16
7.	YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN NAMMCO	16
7.1	NAMMCO INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME.....	16
7.1.1	Marina Metić (Cro)	17
7.1.2	Noor Elias (NL)	17
7.2	Reinforcing youth involvement in NAMMCO	18
8.	FINANCIAL STATUS UPDATE.....	18
	APPENDIX 1. Secretariat’s observer reports – National and IGO events attended.....	20
	APPENDIX 2. Statistics of activities on the NAMMCO website and social media.....	23
	APPENDIX 4. Publications in NAMMCO Scientific Publications Vol. 13	34
	APPENDIX 5. Publications in other scientific journals.....	35
	APPENDIX 6. Budget, reallocation and accounts 2024.....	38

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REPORT

Committees and other bodies:

ACAP: Arctic Contaminants Action Program

AMAP: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme

BYC: By-catch

BYCELS: Council Working Group on By-catch, Entanglements and Live Strandings

CAFF: Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna

CHM: Committee on Hunting Methods

CIO: Committee on Inspection and Observation

CP: Communication Plan

FAC: Finance and Administration Committee

NASS: North Atlantic Sightings Surveys series

NPR: National Progress Report

NSP: NAMMCO Scientific Publications Series

PAME: Protection of the Marine Environment

SC: Scientific Committee

SEC: Secretariat

SDWG: Sustainable Management Working Group

SpC: Scientific Planning Committee (NASS 2024)

StG: Steering Group

UiT: The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø

WG: Working Group

WS: Workshop

Staff:

GD: Geneviève Desportes, Secretary General

IB: Ian Bolduc, Administratif Officer & Deputy Secretary – Focus Administration and Finance

MG: Maria Garagouni, Deputy Secretary – Focus Science

MM: Marina Metić, Intern then Assistant Scientific Secretary

NEA: Naima El bani Altuna, Deputy Secretary – Focus Communication

NE: Noor Elias, Intern

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2024

The Administrative Report provides an overview of the activities of the Commission and the Secretariat over the year 2024.

1. NAMMCO OFFICERS

The officers listed in Table 1 below are those elected at the 30st Council Meeting on 29-30 March 2023 or their replacement.

Table 1. NAMMCO officers in 2024.

NAMMCO Body	Chair (Member Country : Officer)	Term
Commission (NAMMCO)	IS: Jón Práundur Stefánsson	Post NAMMCO 30 – NAMMCO 32 (2025)
	Hallveig Ólafsdóttir	From October 2024
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)
	Malik Hansen	From January 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)

2. FOCAL ACTIVITIES

2.1 COMMITTEES

A summary of the focal activities in the NAMMCO Committees during 2024 is presented below. Further information is also available in the list of meetings under item 5. *NAMMCO Meetings*.

2.1.1 Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM)

The CHM met three times on the period from April 2024 to March 2025: 20 June 2024 (CHM/2024-02), 8 October 2024 (CHM/2024-03), and 11 March 2025 (CHM/2025-01). All CHM meeting reports can be found [here](#).

During this period, the CHM reviewed the catch database and added specifications needed to better understand and standardise the data submitted by the parties. Additionally, the CHM developed a proposal for incorporating hunters into CHM meetings. Members of the CHM also assisted in the preparation of the Welfare Workshop and reviewed the data submitted by the participants.

Kathrine Ryeng (NO, Chair until NAMMCO 30 in March 2023) and Charlotte Winsnes (former Deputy Secretary) finalised the work on developing the 2nd information/training video focussing on target area and shooting angle in the large whale hunts. The Video was presented to the 31st meeting of the Council (March 2024) and subsequently released, after a few recommendations on changes were given and the translation to Greenlandic and Norwegian were finalised. The videos can be accessed [here](#).

2.1.2 Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO)

The CIO met four times on the period from April 2024 to March 2025: 16 May 2024 (CIO/2024-02), 26 August 2024 (CIO/2024-03), 11 November 2024 (CIO/2024-04) and 17 February 2025 (CIO/2025-01). All CIO meeting reports can be found [here](#).

In 2024, the CIO focussed on conducting the evaluation of the Observer Schema as requested by Council 31, asking and getting feedback from stakeholders and reporting the findings to Council 32.

The CIO held the Observers' corps Annual Meeting on 6 May 2024. The Observers were informed of the task of the Committee to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the observation scheme, and of the plans for 2024-2026 regarding observation activities. The observers provided feedback on the OA format, emphasizing the need for better communication and coordination among stakeholders.

2.1.3 Council Working Group BYCELS

Following a recommendation from BYCELS, Council 29 agreed to make it a standing WG which will be activated when called upon. BYCELS was not called upon for advice in 2024 and the Working Group was therefore not active.

2.1.4 Scientific Committee (SC)

The SC held its 31st annual meeting, SC/31, in January 2025. At this meeting, the SC discussed the status of all requests for advice, received available updates on all pinniped and cetacean species, and reviewed the reports of the working group (WG) meetings held in 2024 since SC30. These included the By-Catch Working Group online in May and in-person in October, the Genetics Working Group in October 2024, and the Abundance Estimate Working group in January 2025 during the SC meeting. SC/31 also reviewed the progress and results of NASS 2024 and of the MINTAG project.

A sub-group of the SC are members of the Steering Group (StG) of the MINTAG project, a collaborative project with Japan. The aim is to develop smaller satellite transmitter tagging systems for use on fast rorquals. The project organised a second experimental deployment of prototype tags in summer–fall 2024. The StG held a physical meeting on 21-22 January 2024 in Hafnarfjörður (Iceland) during the SC/30 meeting. It then held two meetings online (17 April 2024 and 24 October 2024) to prepare and discuss the development of the project. Just prior to SC/31, 19-20 January 2025, a physical meeting was held in Tromsø (Norway), which also included members of the Wildlife Computers (WC) team, the developer of the tags, and an external invitee, Alex Zerbini, who collaborated with StG scientists for deploying MINTAGs in 2024 on South Atlantic right whales.

The MINTAG project has started showing promising results, with three tags transmitting data for more than 100 days. A tag deployed on a minke whale transmitted data for a total of 230 days, the absolute record for a tag on a fast-swimming rorqual, revealing for the first time for a minke whale a migration from northern Norway to the Caribbean.

Another sub-group of the SC are members along with two external experts of the Scientific planning Committee (SpC) of NASS 2024. The SpC continued its planning of the 2024 cetacean sightings survey. It held a hybrid meeting during the SC/30 meeting in January, two online meetings (in March and May) and a debriefing meeting after the surveys were completed (in October). The SpC was responsible for designing the survey blocks and tracklines, as well as reviewing the survey protocols. At the debriefing meeting, the overall planning and execution of the surveys were evaluated, and improvements were suggested for the next such endeavour.

2.1.5 Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)

The FAC held meeting during the Council 31 meeting in March 2024, and then held four meetings, one online (December 2024) and three face-to-face, all back-to-back with HoDs meeting (November 2024, February 2025, and one just ahead of the 32nd meeting of the Council).

The focus of the Committee has been to follow up on the administrative and financial activities of the Commission and NAMMCO bodies, including the review of the accounts and the preparation of the 2026 draft and 2027 forecast budgets. The FAC also followed up on the ongoing projects (NASS, MINTAG, Educational Portal, and MMWWS 2025) in terms of funding and expenses incurred.

2.2 SECRETARIAT

The year 2024 was still a learning year for the Secretariat, which had welcomed in June 2023 a part time Administrative Officer, Ian Bolduc, and in September 2023 two full time Deputy Secretaries, Maria Garagouni and Naima El bani Altuna, responsible for Science, and Science Communication and Dissemination respectively.

In June 2024, the former Administrative Officer was employed as Deputy Secretary responsible for Finance and Administration.

Besides the usual support to the Commission's and subsidiary bodies' activities, and the preparation of meetings, specific Secretariat activities in 2024 were:

- **Continuing introducing the new staff to NAMMCO procedures and work.**

- **Continuing implementing the 3rd Communication Plan CP3 2023–2024**, adopted by Council 29 in September 2022: developing communication and dissemination events relevant to CP3, either by organising specific events or participating in external events; continuing developing the educational portal on marine mammals and the marine environment, which will target students and youth from 7 to 20 in Danish, English, Faroese, Greenlandic, Norwegian and Northern Sami and that will become freely available on the NAMMCO website.

- **Developing the GUARDNA Educational Portal** with partners from institutions in NAMMCO member countries and Denmark: finding collaborators, creating Information Cards and related activities, preparing and coordinating meetings with the partners and stakeholders; developing funding application (see under point 6.3 and doc NAMMCO/32/16 for more detail); organising translation work.

- **Updating the species pages on the website:** adding catch data from NPR 2023 and assessment information and updating descriptions of ongoing research projects in member Countries; updating the pages for the white-sided and white beaked dolphins, and bearded and ringed seals after the review by SC/30 (January 2024); updating the pages for minke whale, harbour porpoise and harp and hooded seals with the results of the WGs and WS and preparing them for the review of SC/31 (January 2025).

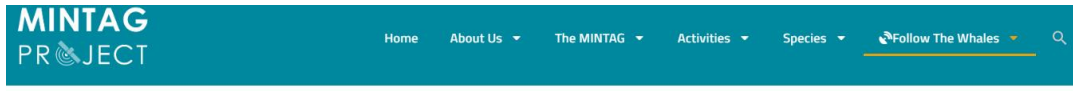
- **Updating NAMMCO's databases**, including after the 2024 meetings of the Management Committees and the Council: - Requests from the Council to the SC and SC responses; - Proposals for Conservation and Management and Research Recommendations, and Responses from member Countries; - Removals (with the data received from member Countries in their National Progress Reports 2023).

- **Supporting the NASS 2024 project:** organising of and reporting from meetings of the Scientific Planning Committee; reporting to the Norwegian Ministries involved in Norway's voluntary contribution to the NASS 2024 survey; dispensing funds; developing and maintaining the NASS website and updating the progress of the different surveys (see doc NAMMCO/32/14 for more detail).

- **Supporting the MINTAG project:** including the organisation and reporting of the StG meetings; developing and maintaining the MINTAG website www.mintag-project.com (Figure 2); reporting on the progress of the project, shooting experiments, experimental tagging, and other activities; maintaining the tracking database and ensuring that the database was filled by the scientists with the information related to each tagging event; keeping contact with the tag producer, ensuring that the agreement is followed, and negotiating the financial deal for the extra effort in tag design (see doc NAMMCO/32/15 for more detail).



Figure 1. Secretariat in 2024. From left to right: MM, MG, IB, GD and NEA.



Follow The Whales
 Deployment of MINTAGs in 2024
 Deployment of MINTAGs in 2023

Follow the whales tagged with MINTAGs

The MINTAG Steering Group continued on their endeavour to develop the final MINTAGs. After the 2023 V0b tests and pilot deployments, the MINTAG teams will test **V0c MINTAG prototype** during the summer of 2024.

Follow the MINTAG 2024 teams on **their journeys** with our Steering Group members deploying the them on minke and fin whales in the North Atlantic and Pacific.

You can read about the 2023 MINTAG deployments [here](#)



Figure 2. “Follow the Whales” page on the MINTAG website, which showcases whale tracks from the experimental 2023 and 2024 tagging efforts.

3. SECRETARIAT STAFF

In 2024, the Secretariat staff included 4 employees, 2 interns, as well as 2 part time assistants, although not all at the same time, as described in Table 2.

Table 2. Secretariat staff in 2024.

Secretary General	Geneviève Desportes (GD)
Deputy Secretaries	Ian Bolduc (IB): from 7 June - Focus Finance and Administration
	Maria Garagouni (MG) - Focus Science
	Naima El bani Altuna (NEA) - Focus Science Communication and Dissemination
Interns	Marina Metić (MM): until 30 September
	Noor Elias: from 1 September
Part-Time and short-term contracts	Ian Bolduc (IB): until 28 March - Administrative Officer
	Marina Metić (MM): 1 - 31 October - Assistant Educational Program
	Heleen Middel (HM): tasks-based - Assistant Educational Program

4. NAMMCO MEETINGS

Table 3 presents a chronological overview of the NAMMCO meetings held in 2024, with the staff attending the meeting specified, as well as the main themes when relevant. All the reports that are publicly available can be found on the NAMMCO website under [Meeting reports and documents](#).

Table 3. Overview of NAMMCO meetings in 2024 (NAMMCO meetings include meetings of NAMMCO bodies and project-related meetings).

Dates	Meetings	Venue	Staff	Comments
January				
15	UIWG	online	NEA, GD	
20-21	MINTAG SG	Hafnafjordur, IS	NEA, GD	
22	NASS 2024 PG		MG, GD	hybrid
22-25	SC 30		GD, MG, NEA	
February				
1	GUARDNA partners	Online	NEA, GD	
13	FAC	Copenhagen, DK	GD, IB	FAC/2024-01
14	HoDs		GD	HOD/2024-01
22	CIO	online	NEA, GD	CIO/2024-1
26	CHM - part 1	online	NEA, GD	CHM/2024-1
March				
1	UIWG	online	NEA, GD	
4	CHM - part 2	online	NEA, GD	CHM/2024-1
6	GUARDNA partners	online	NEA, GD	
6	NASS 2024	online	GD, MG	
18	FAC + HoDs	Reykjavik, IS	GD	HOD/2024-02, FAC/2024-02
21	FAC		GD	
19-21	Council 31		All	
21	Bilateral meeting with Japan		GD	
April				
17	MINTAG	online	NEA, GD	
19	Student symposium	Tromsø, NO	MM, NEA, MG, GD	GD and MM held presentations
May				
2	GUARDNA partners	online	NEA, GD	
6	Observer Corps Annual Meeting	online	NEA, GD	
7	HoDs	online	GD	HOD/2024-03
13	NASS 2024	online	GD, MG, NEA	
16	CIO	online	NEA, GD	CIO/2024-2
16	BYC WG	online	GD, MG	
June				
20	CHM	online	NEA, GD	CHM/2024-2
27	PG MMWWS 2025	online	GD, IB	
25	UIWG	online	NEA, GD	
August				
21	HoDs	online	GD	HOD/2024-04, KR participates partly (MMWWS 2025)
26	CIO	online	NEA, GD	CIO/2024-3
27	GUARDNA partners	online	NEA, GD	
29	PG MMWWS 2025	online	GD	
October				
8	CHM	online	NEA, GD	CHM/2024-3
8-9	Genetics WG	Copenhagen, DK	MG, NE	
22	NASS 2024	online	MG, GD	Debriefing and evaluation meeting
23	GUARDNA partners	online	NEA, GD	
24	MINTAG	online	NEA, GD	Debriefing and evaluation of summer tagging
29-31	BYCWG	Hafnafjordur, IS	MG, GD	
November				
11	CIO	online	NEA, GD	CIO/2024-4
13	FAC	Copenhagen, DK	GD, IB	FAC/2024-03
14	HODs			HOD/2024-05
21	GUARDNA partners			online
December				
5	GUARDNA partners (IS only)	online	NEA	
10	FAC	online	GD, IB	FAC/2024-04
16	Joint PG MMWWS 2025		GD	
18	HoDs	online	GD, IB	HOD/2024-06

5. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Over the past 3 decades, NAMMCO has attempted reconciling use of marine mammals and sustainable management; this means conserving both marine mammal populations and their ecosystems, which count different predators including human beings. With the marine mammal conservation landscape rapidly evolving (including emerging threats and changing policy frameworks), the conservation of marine mammals

can only be achieved by keeping abreast of developments through a developing network of partners and collaborators.

NAMMCO and its Secretariat maintain a relationship with a number of stakeholders around the world, that are relevant for its work and the management and conservation of marine mammals and the marine environment, as well as for the education, dissemination and research related to marine mammals. These includes non-member Governments as well as national, inter-governmental, and non-governmental bodies.

The purpose of these relationships can be presenting and sharing views, information, and expertise, enhancing existing cooperation, coordinating joint events, or simply keeping updated on issues relevant to the work of NAMMCO. The types of external relations and the nature of the activities differs therefore between bodies and years. What follows provides a (non-exclusive) overview of significant contacts and activities in 2024.

5.1 JAPAN

NAMMCO and Japan have been engaged in a long-term relation since the establishment of the Commission. They have cooperated on various issues and projects related to the management and use of marine mammals, including research and animal welfare.

In 2021 Japan and NAMMCO initiated a multi-year scientific cooperation, the MINTAG project, to develop for the first-time transdermal satellite transmitters specifically designed for lesser-known, fast-swimming species of interest to both NAMMCO Parties and Japan (blue, fin, sei, Bryde's, minke, and pilot whales). These species have not been successfully tagged to date, except for short periods not covering their winter migration. If successful, this project will contribute to/provide a new tool for identifying movement patterns and stock structure of these species, which are essential to the sound management of the species.

Japan and scientists from the Institute of Marine Research (HI) and the Icelandic Marine and Freshwater Institute (HAFRO) started in 2023 a project to further the understanding of the factors behind annual changes in distribution and feeding ecology of western North Pacific common minke whales, by comparing with North Atlantic common minke whales. The cooperation is progressing and reviewed by the NAMMCO SC.

The NAMMCO SC established in 2023 a working group on Genetics to review the genetic data that will be used in NAMMCO's species/stocks assessments and serve as a consultation body on topics related to genetics and stock structure for NAMMCO's working groups. A Japanese scientist from the Japanese Institute of Cetacean Research is a member of this WG.

More details on this cooperations can be found in doc NAMMCO/32/8 and 15.

To enhance their collaboration and facilitate cooperation between their marine mammal experts, Japan and NAMMCO signed in March 2023 a [Letter of Intent](#) (LOI). Japan and NAMMCO will discuss in parallel of the Council Meeting which further projects would be the best candidates for such a project-based cooperation in the near future.

5.2 NATIONAL, INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

5.2.1 Arctic Council and Working Groups

NAMMCO maintains a relationship with the Arctic Council Secretariat, and primarily with the AMAP and CAFF Working Groups.

There has been a pause in the activity of the Arctic Council and its Working Groups because of the war in Ukraine. The activity of these groups resumed in a more normal way in the Fall of 2024, and the Secretariat attended as observers the pre-meetings and board meetings of the Arctic Council Working Groups ACAP, AMAP, CAFF, PAME, and SDWG.

Two members of the NAMMCO SC (Hansen and Ugarte) and the NAMMCO Secretariat (Desportes) are active members of *CAFF Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) - Marine* and of its *Marine Mammal Expert Network (MEN)*.

5.2.2 ASCOBANS

NAMMCO maintains a relationship with ASCOBANS, both at the Secretariat level for exchanging information and by participating in ASCOBANS Advisory Committee (AC) Meetings and Meeting of the Parties (MOP). Desportes attended the 10th MOP in September 2024.

The intersessional Working Group on *Lagenorhynchus*, that was formed by ASCOBANS AC 26 (2021), finally started its work in Spring-Summer 2024, i.e., reviewing the status of the white-sided and white beaked dolphins in the North Atlantic. Desportes and Garagouni were heavily involved in this work, bringing in the review the work done by the 2023 Dolphin WG and under the framework of the NASS series.

As a general rule, both Secretariat keep the other one informed of activities on species of special interest to the other organisation, and forward relevant reports.

5.2.3 ICES

NAMMCO maintains a relationship with ICES, and they have a joint ICES/NAFO/NAMMCO Working Group on harp and hooded seals (WGHARP) in charge of management recommendations for both species. The scientists have concluded that the 2023 revised population models were still not fitting the field data and that alternative approaches needed to be developed. Therefore, the WGHARP did not hold a meeting in 2024, waiting for the scientists to progress in this development.

Several members of the SC are also participating in different ICES activities of relevance for the work of NAMMCO, such as ICES Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology (WGMME), the Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species (WGBYC), as well as the ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC).

5.3 NATIONAL AND IGO EVENTS/MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE SECRETARIAT

Table 4 below presents a chronological overview of the events/meetings organised by governmental and non-governmental bodies and inter-governmental organisations that were attended by the Secretariat in 2024. The staff members that attended each meeting are specified. References to observer reports (available in Appendix 1) are provided when relevant.

5.4 REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK (RSN)

NAMMCO has actively contributed to the [Magazine](#) edited by the RSN since 2011 by submitting material for publication that describes the importance of its work on the conservation and management of marine mammals and highlights ongoing priorities.

NAMMCO contributed to Issue No 22, published in February 2024, dedicated to "[Changes for changing climate](#)". [FAO. 2024. *Changes from changing climate* – Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network Magazine, No. 22. Rome.] Highlighted were the effects of climate change on marine mammals and marine mammal users.

Desportes participated (5-6 July) online to the 10th Meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network, held in Rome on 5-6 and 12 July 2024.

5.5 IGO EVENTS ATTENDED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES ON BEHALF OF NAMMCO

As is the practice, member Countries represented NAMMCO at the 2024 annual meetings of NASCO (Faroe Islands), NAFO (Iceland) and NEAFC (Norway).

5.6 CONTACT WITH IGOS' & NGOS' SECRETARIATS, AND RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Secretariat staff maintained in 2024 a closer contact with some IGOs secretariats and staff from various institutions, either for facilitating the sharing of information or for preparing events (a.o., ASCOBANS, CAFF, AMAP, Arctic Council, Nordnorsk Vitensenter). The Secretariat has also regular contacts with institutions within the Arctic University of Norway, including the Department of Arctic and Marine Biology, the Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea, the Skolelab; this can be for lecturing, advising students, being external advisers,

taking short-time interns from some of the courses (e.g. the *RealfagsPraksis* under the Faculty of Natural Science), and cooperating on specific projects, like for example organising the annual Marine Mammal Student Symposium.

In 2024, as in previous years, the 6th Marine Mammal Student Symposium held on 19 April, was co-organised by NAMMCO intern together with students from the Norwegian Centre for Law of the Sea and the Department of Arctic and Marine Biology.

On 26 June 2024, the Department of Arctic and Marine Biology of the Arctic University of Norway and NAMMCO formalised an agreement of cooperation, with benefits for both sides.

Table 4. Overview of national bodies or inter-governmental organisations events attended in 2024. Observer reports, if relevant, can be found in Appendix 1.

Dates	Meetings	Venue	Staff	Comments	App. 1 #
January					
29 Jan-2 Feb	Arctic Frontiers	Tromsø	NEA, MM	Both only some days & NEA Presentation and poster	1
April					
16-18	Managing Marine Ecosystems in a Rapidly Warming Arctic' AC's 3d Conference on Ecosystem Approach to Management	online & Tromsø, NO	GD	Participating to some of the sessions. Sharing experiences and challenges.	
May					
21	ASCOBANS Beaked Whales WG	online	MG		
June					
7	Nordic Seal Project	online	GD	NAMMCO & Hafro (IS) withdraw from the project	
17	AMAP-Observer dialogue (webinar)	online	GD		
July					
5-6	Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network	online	GD		
September					
2-5	IWC 69 Conservation Committee	online	GD	Some sessions attended	
2	IWC 69 Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Welfare Issues	online	GD		
9	CAFF Observers Webinar	online	GD		
9-10	ACAP plenary meeting	online	MG		
10-13	ASCOBANS MOP 10	Odense, DK	GD		
25-27	CAFF Board Meeting	online	GD		
October					
29-31	AMAP 36 // Plenary	online	NEA		2
November					
4-5	PAME // Ecosystem Approach EG	online	MG		
4-5	PAME // Shipping EG	online	NE		
6-7	PAME // Marine Protected Areas EG	online	GD, NE		
12-13	PAME // Marine Litter EG	online	MG, NE		
14-15	PAME // Plenary Meeting	online	MG		
18-19	Sjøpattedyrutvalget	Tromsø, NO	GD, NEA		
20-21	SDWG	online	GD		
28	Småkvalfangerlag & Merkevareforeningen Norsk Hval	Svolvær, NO	GD	Presentation of CIO & CHM, introduction of CIO's questionnaire to whalers	
December					
7	Naturnvernforbund - Et bærekraftig Tromsø - Et bærekraftig Arktis	Tromsø	NEA	Network meeting	3

5.7 EXTERNAL RESEARCH PROJECTS WITH PARTICIPATION FROM NAMMCO SECRETARIAT

5.7.1 Nordic Seals

This research and networking project, launched in December 2020, was funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers Working Group for Fisheries (AG-Fisk) and was coordinated by Matís in Iceland. The objective was to identify, discuss and analyse the challenges associated with the moratorium on seal hunting and to explore alternatives for how to address seal management in the future. Specifically, it aims to a) collate information on seal populations and distribution in the North Atlantic, b) examine the impacts of seal populations on the Nordic seafood industry, c) identify means of controlling seal populations (including sustainable harvesting) and d) identify potential products and markets for seal products, whilst also considering barriers such as animal welfare concerns and pollutant loads. The project had partners from Iceland (including HAFRO) the Faroe Islands, Canada, and Denmark. NAMMCO was initially an “associated partner”, as well as the Icelandic Marine and Freshwater Institute (HAFRO).

The project progressed slowly and intermittently due to low or competing priorities at Matís and staff changes. *De facto* the project did not progress at all in 2023. It started again somewhat in 2024, with the aim of completing the final report to AGFisk. However, considering the limited scope of the project and of the final report, and some disagreement on the scientific foundation of some of the fact and conclusions, HAFRO and NAMMCO decided to withdraw from the project and to not be associated to the final report.

5.7.2 NAPA project – Seal Stigma and Survival

NAMMCO became a supportive partner to the project *Seals, Stigma and Survival: Finding Solutions to the EU Stigmatization of Seal Hunting*, led by the University of Southern Denmark (SDU). The primary role of NAMMCO is to help amplify the public outreach of the project in the Nordic region and Arctic through the promotion of project findings and milestones on NAMMCO website and amongst its networks. NAMMCO will also help to identify and recommend resources and provide suggestion for potential interviewees (stakeholders/rightsholders).

The project *Seals, Stigma and Survival* aims to explore solutions to the stigma associated with seal products, seal hunting and sealers in the European Union. The negative stigma is impacting the capacity of rural and coastal fishing communities in the Nordic countries and parts of Canada to openly practice, express and profit from traditional hunting practices associated with hunting and using seals and to effectively manage seal populations in ways that sustainably use the whole animal. Using a multi-disciplinary approach drawing on political science, international relations, psychology, history, and education studies, this project will explore broadly how stigma is attributed, what are the consequences of stigma attribution, focusing on negative stigma, and what are possible avenues for overcoming stigma. Then the project will apply this theoretical insight to explore how sealing and seal products became stigmatised in Europe in order to explore potential avenues for overcoming this specific stigma.

The project is designed around four Arctic countries impacted by the EU seal product ban: Greenland/Denmark, Norway, Finland, and Canada. Project partners include researchers and organisations from Denmark (SDU, principal investigator), Canada, Finland, and Norway.

The 3-year project got funding for year 1 from the Nordic Arctic Co-operation Programme (NAPA) funding. It should have started in the second half of 2023, but was on pause until 1st March 2025 because of health issues. Periodically the project website (<https://survivingsealingstigma.com/>) and social media (@SealsandStigma; @sealsandsurvival.bsky.social) will publish short pieces, including brief research-related pieces and general information on the project.

5.8 INFORMATION REQUESTS

Throughout the year, various informal information requests are made to the Secretariat by students (sometimes as interview contribution to research projects), educational institutes, RFMOs, Parties’ representatives or other organisations, as well as the media. These requests are answered to the best of the Secretariat’s ability, or when relevant, forwarded to the Heads of Delegation.

6. COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Outreach efforts to communicate the work of NAMMCO to a wide variety of audiences are important to ensure that the organisation is a) visible and accessible to diverse groups, b) maintains strong international networks, and c) fulfils its desire to be transparent. The outreach activities conducted by the Secretariat and/or supported by NAMMCO in 2024 included: maintenance of an up-to-date and engaging website, presentations at external events, release of the 2nd training video for hunters, articles in academic journals, as well as engagement in social media platforms.

This part of the report provides an overview of these activities divided into four sections: 1) Website; 2) Summary of activities on the NAMMCO website and on social media; 3) NAMMCO Educational Project; 4) Overview of presentations made in various fora in 2024; and 4) Overview of reports and scientific publications.

6.1 WEBSITE

Council 29 reiterated that the website www.nammco.org remains the most important information platform for the organisation, both as an internal and external tool, and keeping it updated and accurate should represent a priority. Priority continues therefore to be granted to the provision of continual updates regarding the work of NAMMCO committees, and the knowledge on the different species.

6.1.1 Website content quality review

Based on recommendations from the Committees, the Council endorsed in 2020 a process for reviewing the content quality of the NAMMCO website.

The task of keeping the hunting information and regulations up to date is carried out by the CHM, which reviews and informs the Secretariat of any updates. The SC reviews four species pages at each committee meeting. At its 2024 meeting, the SC reviewed and provided comments on the information provided for the following 4 species: bearded seal, ringed seal, white-sided dolphin, and white-beaked dolphin.

6.1.2 Website News/Blogs

In 2024, news posts on the website included announcements on the publication of committee and working group reports, new articles published by the NAMMCO communities, announcements of NAMMCO events, and the arrival and presentation of new Secretariat intern. A total of 51 news items were published, as well as 1 blog post on intern experiences at the Secretariat.

6.2 ACTIVITY ON WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

An extended summary of the activity in 2024 on the NAMMCO website, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn accounts is available in Appendix 2.

6.2.1 Activities on nammco.org

In 2024, detailed analytics for the [NAMMCO website](http://www.nammco.org) are unavailable due to a migration issue when switching from Universal Analytics to Google Analytics 4 on 1 July 2024. As a result, comprehensive traffic data for the year is missing. However, we are now tracking activities with Google Analytics 4 as of 24 February 2025 for future insights. For an indication of ongoing performance and growth, appendix C contains the complete analytics from 2023, which demonstrate a consistent increase in users over the years.

6.2.2 Facebook

Posts on Facebook during 2024 have included the weekly “Fun Fact Friday” posts, news on the website, new articles published in NSP, dissemination of scientific articles with NAMMCO scientists as co-authors, as well as scientific articles relevant to NAMMCO’s work (with all posts cross-linking to the NAMMCO website).

As of February 28, 2025, the [NAMMCO Facebook account](#) has 2,969 likes and 3,422 followers. The account received 131 new likes and 198 new followers since 28.02.2024. [In Comparison, CAFF has 4,600 followers, ASCOBANS has 1,400 likes and followers, and ACCOBAMS 2,600 followers and 3,100 likes].

The top three Facebook posts of 2024 (measured as the number of persons reached by the post) ranged between 13,000 and 15,500 users. One of these posts was a 'Fun Fact Friday': Have you ever wondered how scientists, observers, hunters, and recreational whale watchers recognise different whale species from far away? This post had the most interactions, with 73 reactions, and 57 shares. Another post was about the NAMMCO Scientific Committee Working Group on By-Catch meeting report being available online. The third post was on the NAMMCO secretariat internship programme and had the largest reach. 281 people clicked the link that took them to NAMMCO's internship page. Details of the posts can be found in Appendix C#2.

The posts are also regularly shared by other organisations working with marine mammals, such as the Society for Marine Mammalogy (international organisation based in the USA), the American Cetacean Society, and Cetal Fauna (international).

6.2.3 Instagram

Activities on [Instagram](#), which was launched in September 2022, have increased in 2024 compared to 2023, however, the platform was used less than Facebook. Posts included announcements of meetings, new reports, articles in NSP, dissemination of articles with NAMMCO scientists as co-authors, publication of reports and promotion of the Marine Mammal Student Symposium. The account has 495 followers (28.02.2025), a 66.1% increase compared to 2023 with 298 followers (28.02.2024). Instagram only offers to get insights for the last 90 days (30.11.2024–28.02.2025), in which 2,006 accounts were reached (an increase of 315,3% compared to the period 29.11.2023–26.02.2024 (482 accounts)).

The three posts which have reached the most accounts in 2024 were the announcement of new intern Noor Elias at the NAMMCO Secretariat (33 likes, and reach of 506), the announcement of the 6th Marine Mammal Student Symposium (60 likes, and reach of 481), and the departure of intern Marina Metić (31 likes, and reach of 363)- See the posts in Appendix C#3.

6.2.4 LinkedIn

As of February 28, 2025, the [LinkedIn](#) company page has 1,736 followers. The account received 254 new followers since 28.02.2024. [In Comparison, CAFF has 838 followers and ACCOBAMS 1,840 followers].

The top three LinkedIn posts of 2024 (measured as the number of impressions by the post) ranged between 1,400 and 1,000 users. One of these posts was a video of a MINTAG tag being deployed and 103 people clicked then link to the MINTAG website. Another post was about a paper on Walrus behaviour with 33 clicks and 2 reposts. The third post was on the NAMMCO secretariat internship programme and had the largest amount of impression. 77 people clicked the link that took them to NAMMCO's internship page. Details of the posts can be found in Appendix C#4.

6.3 NAMMCO EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

'GUARDNA–GUARDIANS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC: LOOKING AFTER OUR SEAS TO CONSERVE MARINE MAMMALS'

The Educational project, developed and coordinated by NAMMCO, is centred around one large interregional three-year project (2023-2026): the development of an educational portal, GUARDNA, together with educators from the Nordic Countries, that will be accessible freely on the NAMMCO website and available in Danish, English, Faroese, Greenlandic, Icelandic, Norwegian and Northern Sami. The portal aims at educating and contributing to the empowerment of the coming generation (7- to 20-year-old children and young adults), bringing the North Atlantic into the classroom and the students out into the North Atlantic.

GUARDNA will propose simple, inspiring, and motivating educational materials to the schools and youth to contribute to the conservation of the oceans. These materials will be centred on Information Cards, delivering

concise and accessible information about marine mammal species in the North Atlantic, threats they face, stakeholders, and uses. In addition, GUARDNA will provide Activity Cards, linked to the Information Cards and that will feature hands-on activities, as well as activities related to the MINTAG and NASS projects.

The project aims to capture the interest of the youngest members of society in ocean sustainability, using marine mammals as emissaries for the entire marine ecosystem and engaging them in conservation and sustainability. See Document NAMMCO/32/16 for more details and an update on the progress.

6.4 OUTREACH EVENTS & LECTURES

Table 5 presents an overview of the outreach and dissemination events directly related to marine mammals that the staff of the Secretariat conducted or participated in during 2024. The events are described in more detail in Appendix 3.

Table 5. Outreach events participated in or conducted by the Secretariat in 2024. Reports on the event can be found under Appendix 3.

Dates	Meetings	Venue	Staff	Contribution and comments	App 3 #
January					
23	AF Science for Schools	Tromsø, NO	MM	MM: "Building the Bridges Between Science and Society for the Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals in the North" (1h + Q&A)	App 1.1
25	AF Science for Schools	Tromsø, NO	MM		
29 Jan-2 Feb	Arctic Frontiers (AF)	Tromsø, NO	NEA	Presentation of a poster on NAMMCO	
30	Arctic Frontiers Pecha Kucha: Off the beaten track	Tromsø, NO	NEA	NEA: "Knitting science, policy and society" (short 5 min presentation)	
April					
12	UiT Ecosystem Based Management Course	Tromsø, NO	MG	MG: "Community-based monitoring & management of marine mammals" (30 min + Q&A)	1
18	DIS lecture	Tromsø, NO	GD	GD: "Whaling and Sealing in perspectives - Is using MM as food sources an environmental crime?" (1.5hr + Q&A)	2
19	Marine Mammal Student symposium	Tromsø, NO	MM, NEA, MG, GD	MM: "Spatial and temporal trends in the body condition of harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) in Norwegian coastal waters" GD: "NAMMCO at a glance"	3
Mai					
2	UiT-MBA, Top Predator Course	Tromsø, NO	GD, NEA, MM	GD: "Management of marine top predators & legal aspects - focus on marine mammals" (1.5hr + Q&A)	4
3	UiT-MBA, Top Predator Course	Tromsø, NO	GD, NEA, MM	Rollplay on the sustainable use of MM (3 hrs)	
October					
8	DIS lecture	Tromsø; NO	GD, IB	GD: "Whaling and Sealing in perspectives - Is using MM as food sources an environmental crime or is there nuances to that?" (1.5hr + Q&A)	2
November					
13	Texas A&M lecture	online	MG, NE	MG: "Marine mammals as a common-pool resource to be managed" (30 min + Q&A)	5
28	Småkværfangerlag	Svolvær, NO	GD	GD: "NAMMCO - Den Nordatlantiske Sjøpattedyrkommisjonen / Fokus on CHM, CIO and Observation Scheme" (15 min + Q&A)	6

6.5 PUBLICATIONS

6.5.1 NAMMCO Reports

The NAMMCO reports that have been published in 2024 can all be found on the NAMMCO website under '[Meeting Reports and Documents](#)'.

6.5.2 NAMMCO Scientific Publications

Volume 13 of the NAMMCO Scientific Publications series continued the open call of the previous volume in the series, namely "Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic". El bani Altuna and Garagouni are primary editors.

The volumes of the Scientific Publications series have typically been species-based, around particular NAMMCO meetings that take place. As there was no such clear topic in 2023, it was decided that volume 13 of the NAMMCO Scientific Publications series would continue the open call of the previous volume in the series, "Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic": *El bani Altuna, N. and Garagouni, G. (eds) Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic (II). NAMMCO Scientific Publications, 13.* <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.13>

Submissions were welcomed from across all disciplines (e.g., biology, economics, and law) relevant for the conservation and management of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. As the journal is no longer printed, papers were published online throughout the year, with the full Volume finalised on 31 December 2024. In total there were five articles, one review, and two notes, on topics including habitat use of bowhead whales and deep-diving cetaceans, seal and walrus abundance estimates, and different approaches and perspectives on marine mammal management. One of the notes was co-authored by members of the Secretariat, Metić and Garagouni, who compiled all available abundance estimates for seals and walrus that are of interest to NAMMCO. The titles and references of the articles involving the NAMMCO scientific community are provided in Appendix 4.

Volume 14 welcomed submissions related to the subject of "Anthropogenic Impacts on Marine Mammals". This theme was selected to encourage the publication of both catch statistics and research on the effect of human disturbance on marine mammals. To streamline the review process, Section Editors were invited for this Volume, with expertise on different topics of relevance. They will oversee the appropriateness of the submissions for the journal, as well as the selection of and communication with the reviewers. Thus far, three manuscripts have been submitted, on the subjects of harbour porpoise by-catch, pinniped strandings in relation to human activities, and noise disturbance to grey seals. Because of the slow pace of submission, the call for manuscripts was extended until 3 March 2025.

Given the fairly low number of submissions to each volume in recent years and the consistent difficulties meeting submission and review deadlines, the editors believe it is worth considering a change to the structure of the journal. For instance, allowing submissions throughout the year without restrictions on topic would reduce problems with timing for authors, reviewers, and editors, as the papers can be published at any time online. These could be gathered into yearly volumes with no theme. Special issues (themed Volumes) could still be used if needed, e.g., to publish workshop documents or NASS results.

The Secretariat and NAMMCO affiliated scientists have authored and co-authored a number of scientific articles in 2024 that were published or have been accepted for publication in other scientific journals. The titles and references of these articles are provided in Appendix 5.

7. YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN NAMMCO

7.1 NAMMCO INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

The NAMMCO internship program, which started in November 2017, continues to be a very positive and useful experience for the Secretariat and the selected candidates. It provides the Secretariat with substantial additional human resources and expertise, e.g., in technical and legal domains, and helps to alleviate the demanding workload of the permanent staff. Having interns able to carry out various administrative or technical duties in the daily work of the organisation generates time for the permanent staff to focus on tasks

requiring higher levels of expertise. Bringing new and young people into the organisation on a regular basis has brought new life, ideas, energy, motivation, and creative input to the otherwise small Secretariat.

All interns contribute to the day-to-day work of the Secretariat, in particular helping to prepare for any meetings of the Commission. They are responsible for public outreach activities on social media; they create posts for the Facebook and Instagram sites of NAMMCO, including the *Fun Fact Friday* posts. This work is carried out under the supervision of the Deputy Secretaries Naima El Bani Altuna and Maria Garagouni and has been very beneficial for growing the NAMMCO community and NAMMCO's audience.

In 2024, two interns have served at NAMMCO; their background and activities are described below.

7.1.1 Marina Metić (Cro)

01.10.2023 – 30.09.2024, M.Sc. in Biology, University of Bergen (NO)

Marine first started in October 2023 and completed her internship at the end of September 2024. In the early months of 2024, she gave a presentation during the Arctic Frontiers Science for Schools conference and participated in the Arctic Frontiers 2024 conference. She also played a key role in preparing for the 30th Annual Meeting of the SC and the 31st Annual Meeting, organising documents and templates for presentations, compiling the website and social media activity report, updating the NAMMCO database with the 2023 member countries' information. She participated to the 31st Annual Meeting, helping with the logistics and notes taking.

On 19 April 2024, she hosted the 6th Marine Mammal Student Symposium, co-organised by NAMMCO, the Norwegian Centre for Law of the Sea, and the Department of Arctic and Marine Biology. The symposium focused on the theme "*Navigating Arctic Waters: Strengthening ties between Marine Mammal Research, Indigenous Knowledge & Law and Policy Making.*" See Appendix 3.4 for more information on the Symposium.

Throughout her internship, she managed NAMMCO's social media content, initiated updates to several of the website species' pages, and participated in multiple working group meetings, both online, including the Ringed Seal WG and the By-Catch WG, and in person, such the WG on Narwhal in East Greenland meeting in Copenhagen, where she provided technical support and assisted with the report.

During her time as an intern, Metić began compiling all information on abundance estimates of pinniped stocks relevant to the NAMMCO area into a technical note. Survey areas, abundance estimates, relevant biases, and information sources, were summarised in a table that can be used as a lookup reference point for anyone interested in seal or walrus abundance in the North Atlantic. As mentioned under item 6 and Appendix 4, the note was, with the support of Garagouni, published in Vol 13 of the NSP: **Metić, M., & Garagouni, M. (2024).** Estimates of Pinniped abundance in the North Atlantic of relevance to NAMMCO. *NAMMCO Scientific Publications*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.7974>.

After her internship, Metić continued until the middle of November as temporary and part-time employee to support the educational project.

7.1.2 Noor Elias (NL)

01.09.2024 – present, M.Sc. in Marine Biology, Bangor University (UK)

Noor started in September 2024. Since joining, she has contributed to the preparations for the 31st Scientific Committee meeting and participated in its in-person sessions in Tromsø, where she also attended the meetings of the MINTAG Steering Group and the Abundance Estimates Working Group. Additionally, she took part in the in-person Genetics Working Group meeting in Copenhagen.

In the first quarter of 2025, her focus was on the preparations for the 32nd Annual Meeting, including assisting with the organisation of meeting documents and reports. She is also involved in the preparation of the Marine Mammal Welfare Workshop. Alongside these responsibilities, Elias manages NAMMCO's social media content, creates Fun Fact Friday posts, and contributes to the updates of various species pages on the website.

7.2 REINFORCING YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN NAMMCO

Although the Secretariat does not officially have a youth program, the staff at the Secretariat is committed to engaging with youth across several areas. This includes:

- (1) its communication strategy, which involves disseminating information about NAMMCO in schools and using platforms like Instagram to reach a younger audience,
- (2) the educational program, which targets young people aged 7–20 and will be reviewed by students at the University of Greenland and University of Iceland, through our partners,
- (3) the internship program, which has hosted 12 interns since 2017,
- (4) the collaboration with UiT, through which the Secretariat delivers lectures to students, organises the Marine Mammal Student Symposium, and participates in the UiT Realfagspraksis program, and
- (5) the collaboration with DIS-Copenhagen, through which the Secretariat reaches US students and presents them whaling and sealing under perspectives and rationales they are not used to hearing.

This focus on younger audiences not only enhances NAMMCO's visibility and stimulates discussions about the sustainable and responsible use of marine mammals but also serves as a capacity-building process. It provides young people with the opportunity to learn about management, decision-making, coordination, and administrative work within an intergovernmental organisation.

NAMMCO has significant potential to enhance youth participation in its work. Currently, delegations to several committees are composed of senior members (with also a gender imbalance in the SC). Reinforcing the inclusion of younger scientists, managers, and users would be beneficial. The importance of mentorship and knowledge-transfer from mid-career and senior members across different fields was also a recurring recommendation from the Arctic Youth Conference in January 2025. Including early-career professionals or young members in delegations provides them with valuable opportunities to learn from experienced colleagues and support their skill development. It also brings fresh and innovative ideas and, given the complex structure and processes of NAMMCO, ensures knowledge transfer and continuity, especially as several senior members approach retirement.

Some approaches to increase youth involvement could be:

- Reserving a spot for young members: Allocate a spot in the different committees' delegations for an early-career or young member. Many delegations do not fill the maximum available spots, so reserving one of the positions for a young representative would fulfil two objectives, both increasing youth representation in NAMMCO and increasing the number of delegates from each country.
- Involving youth in meeting organisation: When organising meetings, delegations could involve young people in the planning and arranging of logistics, offering a very practical and widely applicable set of skills.
- Encourage young members to "shadow" Chairs: in cases where a delegation holds the chairship of a committee, WG or EG, a young member of the delegation could act as the Chair's "shadow", i.e., would participate in preparatory meetings, be included on correspondence/work normally reserved for the Chair alone. They would get an insight into the less visible processes behind preparing for and chairing a meeting, and approving the final report.
- Continue supporting the Secretariat's youth engagement efforts: continue to support, both financially and otherwise, the Secretariat's efforts to enhance their commitment to engaging with young people.

8. FINANCIAL STATUS UPDATE

The audited accounts for 2024, which include the results of NAMMCO and the three projects MINTAG, NASS, and the Educational Portal closed with an overall result of NOK 490,291. The 2024 Audited Accounts and Financial Statements can be found in document NAMMCO/32/05.

As for NAMMCO specifically, it closed with a positive operating result of NOK 161,980 compared to NOK

362,348, which was the anticipated 2024 result after the reallocation took place at Council 31. Thanks to the positive operative result, the general reserve increased and amounted to NOK 1,415,190 compared to the anticipated amount of NOK 1,615,559. NAMMCO's 2024 Accounts can be found in Appendix 6 of this document.

The negative discrepancy between the anticipated results and the accounts is partly attributed to increased costs in two budget items: office rent and account and auditing. Additionally, an amount of 495,000 was added to the budget during the reallocation (Council 31) to cover overhead costs incurred by NAMMCO for the project administration of NASS 2024. However, since this amount will be used to cover expenses in 2025 rather than in 2024 as originally anticipated, it will reduce expenditures in 2025, and not in 2024.

APPENDIX 1. SECRETARIAT'S OBSERVER REPORTS – NATIONAL AND IGO EVENTS ATTENDED

1. Participation in Arctic Frontiers (29-30 /01) - Tromsø

The Arctic Frontiers 2024: Actions and Reactions conference took place in Tromsø, Norway, 29 January to 1 February 2024. The Secretariat (El bani Altuna and Metić) attended the conference on 29 and 30 January 2024, along with other related events. During the days they attended, Metić and El Bani Altuna participated in a series of side events and scientific sessions. These sessions focused on the challenges and solutions for the sustainable management of cumulative risks, best practices for facilitating stakeholder exchanges, improving Arctic science communication, youth empowerment in ocean and ecosystem-based management, and education and sustainability. Attending the conference provided valuable insights for many ongoing processes and projects at NAMMCO, such as the UIWG and the educational project.

Metić participated in the conference following her presentation at the Science for Schools conference, titled “Building the Bridges Between Science and Society for the Conservation and Management of Marine

Mammals in the North” held on 23 and 25 January 2024 at the NordNorsk Vitensenter in Tromsø, Norway. Her presentations reached approximately 350 secondary education students in Tromsø. El Bani Altuna presented a poster representing NAMMCO during the poster session at Fram Senteret in Tromsø on 29 January.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

NAMMCO is an intergovernmental regional body for cooperation on conservation, management, and study of cetaceans (whales, dolphins, and porpoises) and pinnipeds (seals and walrus) in the North Atlantic.

The members of NAMMCO — Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway — have committed to the sustainable and responsible use of marine mammals.

Considering the wider ecosystem, NAMMCO provides advice to the member Countries on the conservation status, sustainable removal, and responsible hunting methods based on the best available science, local knowledge, and technological development.

NAMMCO Committees (e.g., Scientific Committee and Committee on Hunting Methods) provide scientific and local knowledge-based advice responding to requests from member Countries. At their own initiative, the committees can also raise requests if they have identified an issue of concern for the conservation of marine mammals.

MARINE MAMMALS IN THE NAMMCO AREAS

- Tufted whales 10 species
- Baleen whales 10 species
- Seals 4 species
- Walrus 1 species

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission
Contributing to a Sustainable North

NAMMCO

MANAGING HUMAN ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE MAMMALS

Ensuring both sustainability and responsibility requires periodic assessments of the populations of marine mammals, and the careful management of the human activities impacting these populations, including hunting but also other pressures.

Disturbance, Pollution, Hunting, and Climate Change are key human activities affecting marine mammals.

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2. AMAP WG 36 // Plenary (29-31/10) - online

The 36th AMAP WG meeting was held online 29-31 October 2024. The Secretariat (El bani Altuna) attending the meeting.

Following the opening and welcome, the second session focused on presenting the status of deliverables in development. Document drafts (drafts of summaries for policy makers) were presented expert groups on radioactivity, climate change, the effects of litter and microplastics in the environment, chemical pollutants (i.e., short-lived climate forcers, SLCF, and persistent organic pollutants, POPs). Work plans of different groups working and new activities for the coming years were also presented and discussed.

AMAP informed that Canada and the ICC were developing a proposal to advance methodologies and approaches for integrating Indigenous knowledge with scientific information in the assessment process. Although NAMMCO (through the UIWG) and AMAP are at different stages in this endeavour, sharing experiences and lessons learned could be beneficial in enhancing efforts to incorporate Indigenous and local knowledge into assessment work more effectively.

Observers were invited to submit a report on potential collaboration opportunities to strengthen each other's work by January 15, 2025. The report follows and the Secretariat expects to be contacted by AMAP Secretariat, so plans for further cooperation can be discussed.

NAMMCO Observer report to AMAP

NAMMCO's internationally based scientific assessments of marine mammal species stocks in the Arctic will put in the coming future an emphasis on taking into account, besides anthropogenic removals, environmental factors, such as contaminants and other non-hunting human impacts. This approach can both benefit from and contribute to the monitoring and assessment work of AMAP. For this reason, **NAMMCO plans to enhance its collaboration with AMAP with a focus on the following fronts:**

Non-hunting-related anthropogenic stressors

The Scientific Committee 28 in 2022 decided that "all Working Groups systematically include *Other [than removals] anthropogenic impacts* as an agenda item in their consideration" ([Scientific Committee 28, 2022](#), p. 18) to address non-hunting-related anthropogenic stressors, including, but not exclusively, the cumulative impacts of climate change, pollution, and disturbance. Since the introduction of this agenda item in all Working Groups, progress on understanding the effects of contaminants and other human-induced environmental stressors on marine mammals has been limited, primarily due to the absence of relevant expertise within the group. NAMMCO aims to enhance its cooperation with AMAP to leverage their expertise in understanding the effects of these stressors on the marine environment and, consequently, on marine mammal populations.

NAMMCO is open to various formats for this cooperation. This could involve organising a general expert group to address the effects of contaminants, radioactivity, and other stressors on marine mammals, or inviting AMAP experts to contribute to the discussions within each species-specific Working Group to enrich this discussion and inform species assessments and stock trajectories.

Increased participation of Indigenous and local knowledge in assessment work

Recognising the necessity and importance of incorporating diverse knowledge systems, beyond western scientific knowledge, into management decision-making processes, the NAMMCO Council (2022) endorsed a recommendation from the Management Committees to establish a working group aiming at enhancing user involvement in the generation of NAMMCO management advice (UIWG). Within NAMMCO, a "user" is understood as anyone using the resource, in this case marine mammals, including Indigenous peoples and other local inhabitants.

The UIWG has been given the following Terms of Reference:

“To consider and give advice on how to best initiate, improve and strengthen users’ involvement in NAMMCO to produce better decisions and strengthen the legitimacy of decisions. This will involve finding best practices on how to co-produce /co-create knowledge by stakeholders (users, scientists, managers) to obtain the best ecosystem-based management of marine mammals and their use by the societies that utilise them.” (UIWG, Terms of Reference, [NAMMCO 30 Council Report, 2023](#), p. 21).

Progress within the UIWG has been slow due to a lack of expertise within the group. In this context, AMAP's ongoing efforts to develop a framework for integrating Indigenous Knowledge and scientific information into assessment processes appear highly similar to the UIWG's goals. Although NAMMCO and AMAP are at different stages in this process, sharing experiences and lessons learned could be valuable in advancing efforts to better incorporate Indigenous and local knowledge into assessment work.

Participation in meetings

The NAMMCO Secretariat maintains regular contact with the AMAP Secretariat and had Observers present at the AMAP Working Group meetings in October 2024. While AMAP did not have Observers at NAMMCO's 31st Annual Meeting, held in March 2024 in Reykjavík, it has participated previously to Annual Meetings, for example NAMMCO's 30 Annual Meeting. The AMAP Secretariat will be invited to attend as Observers at the NAMMCO 32nd Annual Meeting, scheduled for March 2025 in Tromsø.

3. Norwegian Nature Conservancy / Naturnvernforbundet - Tromsø

The networking event, ‘Et bærekraftig Tromsø - Et bærekraftig Arktis’ (A sustainable Tromsø – A sustainable Arctic organised) was organised by the Vårt Hav (Our Ocean) project, part of Naturnvernforbundet. It aimed at sharing experiences and initiatives focused on engaging different sectors of society in ocean conservation and sustainability.

The Vårt Hav gathering brought together Vårt Hav project participants, academia, and local stakeholders to share experiences and strategize for the future collaborations on engaging with different groups (children, youth and adults). The workshop held in Tromsø focused on collaboration potentials across disciplines and organisations, featuring presentations from Vårt Hav's CEO, project manager Christina Koch, volunteer Chase LaSpisa, Philip Maric from UiT-The Arctic University of Norway (working with students on the relationship of occupational therapy and ocean sustainability), and entrepreneur Sten Helberg (working with a broad variety of sectors in society and marine litter projects). Participants from various organisations (NIVA, Akvaplan-Niva, NAMMCO, Karlsøy Municipality, UiT, and Nord-Troms Friluftsråd, among others) contributed valuable insights, emphasising the importance of engaging different sectors in initiatives related to sustainability in the Arctic.

The event was particularly insightful for the NAMMCO educational project to build potential collaborations. It reinforced the commitment to make the project cross-curricular and cross-sectorial, emphasising that marine conservation is a collective responsibility. Connections made during the workshop are being followed up to develop joint activities for the educational project.

APPENDIX 2. STATISTICS OF ACTIVITIES ON THE NAMMCO WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

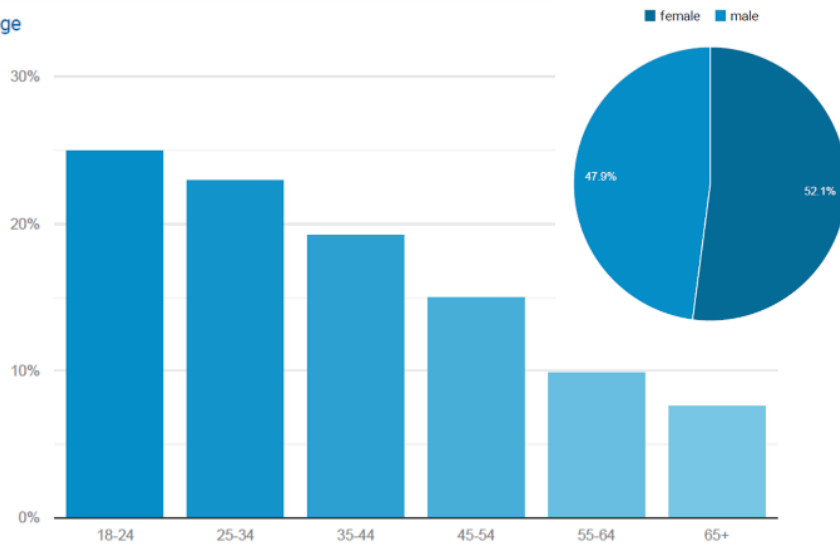
1. Website until 2023

Unique users

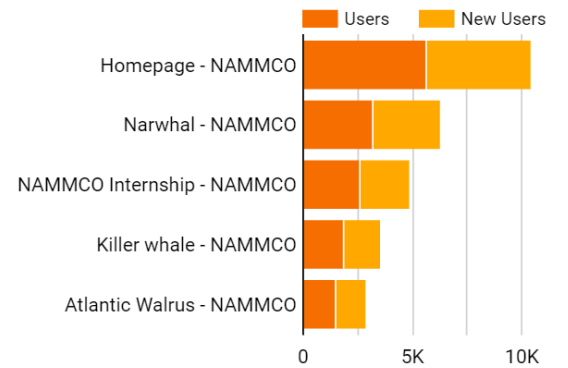
2019: (1 Jan – 31 Dec) 19,747
2020: (1 Jan – 31 Dec) 16,410
2021: (1 Jan – 31 Dec) 25,854
2022: (1 Jan – 31 Dec) 33,183
2023: (1 Jan – 31 Dec) 36,654

Audience (age and gender)

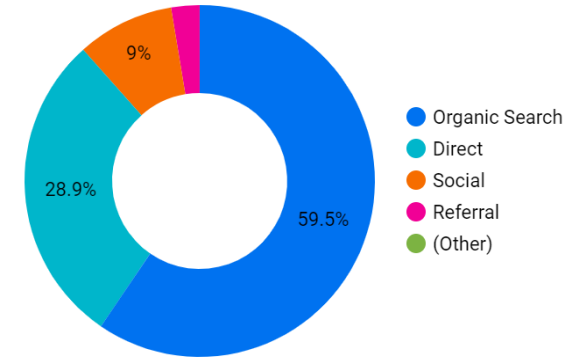
Age



Most popular pages (views):



How did they find NAMMCO?



Web users by country:

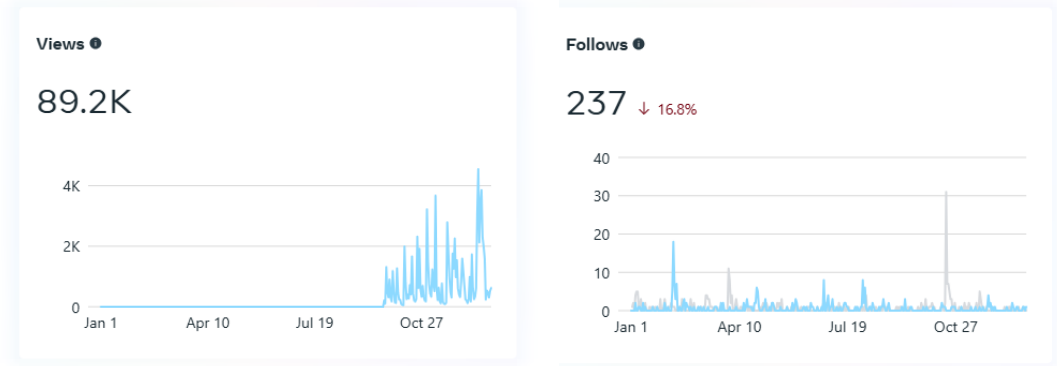
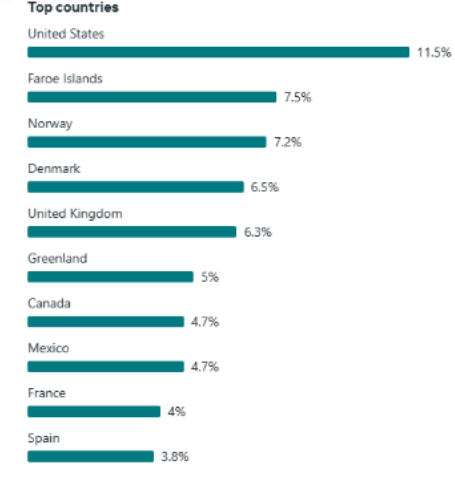
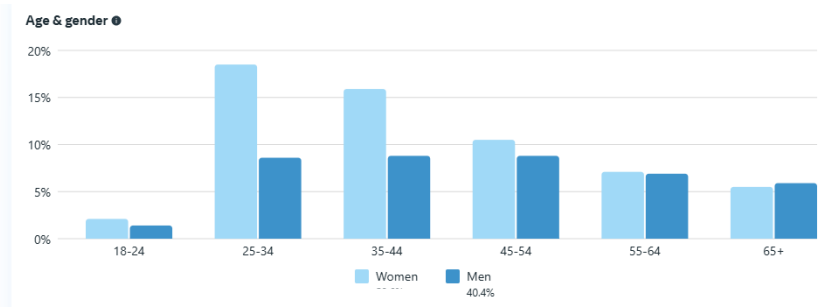
Country	Users	Users	contribution to total: Users
	36,654 % of Total: 100.00% (36,654)	36,654 % of Total: 100.00% (36,654)	
1. United States	11,445	31.30%	
2. United Kingdom	2,908	7.95%	
3. Canada	2,512	6.87%	
4. Norway	2,511	6.87%	
5. Germany	1,790	4.90%	
6. China	1,681	4.60%	
7. India	861	2.35%	
8.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

2. Facebook


Likes and followers

Year	Likes	Followers
2020	1 197	1 222
2021	2 213	2 291
2022	2 644	2 919
2023	2 838	3 224
2024 ^(28.02.24)	2,969	3422

2024 performance results in comparison to 01.01.23–31.12.23



Top 3 posts (in terms of both reach and likes) between January 2023 and December 2023:

<p>26/03/2024</p> 	<p>The NAMMCO Internship Programme gives students or early career individuals an opportunity to enhance their experience in international marine mammal management, improve their skills in communication and science dissemination, and learn more about NAMMCO and its activities.</p> <p>If you would like to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌐 learn more about management and conservation of marine mammals 🔍 be in the loop with the latest research in this field 👥 build your network <p>while improving your skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🗣️ communication and outreach 📅 organisation of meetings and events ✍️ writing reports and editing websites <p>...Then you could be NAMMCO's next intern!</p> <p>Applicants can be from NAMMCO member or EEA countries. The internship is paid and the intern will work full time at the NAMMCO Secretariat in Tromsø, Norway.</p> <p>! The application deadline is 30th of April 2024.</p> <p>🔗 You can find the application form at this link: https://nammco.no/.../nammco-internship_application...</p> <p>Make sure to check out our website for more information: https://nammco.no/nammco-internship/.</p>	<p>15,220 Reach</p> <p>13 Reactions</p> <p>2 Comments</p> <p>27 Shares</p> <p>6 Saves</p> <p>281 Link clicks</p>
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<p>18/12/2024</p>	<p>The NAMMCO Scientific Committee Working Group on By-Catch convened in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland, from 29 to 31 October 2024. The meeting, chaired by Kimberly Murray (NOAA, USA), focused on analysing fishing effort data provided by the NAMMCO member countries to assess marine mammal exposure to by-catch risks. The group examined the datasets for consistency, identified gaps, and developed preliminary methods for identifying locations where fishing gear poses high by-catch risk .</p> <p>This meeting marked an important step in refining the Working Group’s approach, including assigning risk scores to different fishing gear types and combining fishing effort with marine mammal density data to flag areas with the highest by-catch potential.</p> <p>You can access the full report on the NAMMCO website: https://nammco.no/by-catch-reports/</p>	<p>15,033 Reach</p> <p>33 Reactions</p> <p>0 Comments</p> <p>4 Shares</p> <p>0 Saves</p> <p>18 Link clicks</p>
<p>02/08/2024</p>	<p>#FunFactFriday</p> <p>Have you ever wondered how scientists, observers, hunters, and recreational whale watchers recognise different whale species from far away?</p> <p>Well, there are many different methods of identifying different cetacean (whale, dolphin, and porpoise) species. We talked about one of them before—photo ID of humpback whales based on the uniqueness of their tail fluke. But there are many more methods of identification.</p> <p>In the illustration you can see features that can help identify large cetaceans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The position of the blowhole changes the way water spouts in different species, so that is one of the identifying characteristics. In sperm whales, for instance, the “blow” is aimed forward instead of upward. Next is the way the animal surfaces for air. Some species only show a small part of their back or dorsal fin at a time, while others surface their entire body or even jump out of the water. Some species are more likely to show their tails when diving, such as humpback or sperm whales, while some other species never do. <p>So the next time you are out at sea, keep your eyes open, and if you spot a whale, try to identify the species! In the meantime, make sure to read up on different species that live in the North Atlantic: https://nammco.no/whales-dolphins-and-porpoises/.</p> <p>Illustrations © Tony Pyrzakowski</p>	<p>13,959 Reach</p> <p>73 Reactions</p> <p>0 Comments</p> <p>54 Shares</p> <p>10 Saves</p> <p>18 Link clicks</p>



3. Instagram

On the day: 28.02.2025:

- **Followers: 495**
- **Following: 181**
- **Posts: 135**

Top 3 posts (in terms of both reach and likes) between January 2024 and December 2024:


<p>16/09/2024</p> 	<p>We are pleased to welcome NAMMCO’s new intern, Noor Elias, who joined us on the 1st of September!</p> <p>Originally from the Netherlands, Noor brings a diverse academic background and a passion for marine life to our team. She completed her bachelor’s degree in microbiology at Leiden University of Applied Sciences before pursuing a master’s in marine biology at Bangor University in the UK. For her master’s dissertation, Noor focused on the fascinating behaviour of bottlenose dolphins in Cardigan Bay, Wales.</p> <p>Since finishing her master’s, Noor has also become a certified diving instructor, further deepening her connection with the marine environment. We are excited to have Noor on board and look forward to her contributions to our work!</p> <p>Want to learn more about Noor? Read her bio here https://nammco.no/team/noor-elias/</p>	<p>506 accounts reached 689 impressions 33 likes 0 comment 0 save 0 new followers</p>
<p>08/02/2024</p>	<p>We are excited to announce the 6th Marine Mammal Student Symposium co-organised by NAMMCO, Norwegian Centre for Law of the Sea, and Department of Arctic and Marine Biology. This year’s theme is: “Navigating Arctic Waters: Strengthening ties between Marine Mammal Research, Indigenous Knowledge & Law and Policy Making”.</p> <p> Friday, 19th of April  Hybrid Event: Online and Universitetsbibliotek Room 132  Register form: link in bio  Any questions: intern@nammco.org</p> <p>With climate change and increasing human activities modifying the Arctic landscape, it is important that we quickly learn how to navigate these new waters in order to protect this fragile</p>	<p>481 accounts reached 574 impressions 60 likes 0 comments 18 save 5 new followers</p>



	<p>environment. To do this, we need to work together: scientists who research marine mammals of the Arctic, local and Indigenous peoples who have been living in this region for centuries, and law and policy makers whose job is to make decisions that will benefit both people and ecosystems.</p> <p>This symposium represents an opportunity for students with common interests from various fields in natural, social, and legal sciences to share their ideas, knowledge, and experiences on topics related to marine mammal conservation and management. Research at all stages is welcome. You can present your finished research, as well as ongoing projects, ideas in development, research plans, and methodological challenges. Students focusing on research which is not directly on marine mammals but connected to the topic are also encouraged to present their work.</p> <p>Follow us on our social media (link in bio), to keep up with the newest announcements and updates on the symposium! Let's navigate Arctic waters together, merging science, tradition, and policy for a sustainable future. See you at the symposium!</p> <p>#marinemammals #studentsymposium #arctic #science #indigenousknowledge #policymaking</p>	
<p>30/09/2024</p> 	<p>Marinas' time as an intern has come to an end! 🌊</p> <p>Read all about her experience with NAMMCO Secretariat and in Tromsø. Follow the link in our bio.</p>	<p>363 accounts reached 533 impressions 31 likes 0 comments 0 save 0 new followers</p>

4. LinkedIn

Followers on the day: 28.02.2025: 1,735

Top 3 posts (in terms of both reach and likes) between January and December 2024:

<p>16/09/2024</p> 	<p>We are pleased to welcome NAMMCO’s new intern, Noor Elias, who joined us on the 1st of September! Originally from the Netherlands, Noor brings a diverse academic background and a passion for marine life to our team. She completed her bachelor’s degree in microbiology at Leiden University of Applied Sciences before pursuing a master’s in marine biology at Bangor University in the UK. For her master’s dissertation, Noor focused on the fascinating behaviour of bottlenose dolphins in Cardigan Bay, Wales.</p> <p>Since finishing her master’s, Noor has also become a certified diving instructor, further deepening her connection with the marine environment. We are excited to have Noor on board and look forward to her contributions to our work!</p> <p>Want to learn more about Noor? Read her bio https://lnkd.in/eb8a5hrr</p>	<p>1,338 Impressions 117 Engagements 77 Clicks 38 Reactions 1 Comments 1 Reposts</p>
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<p>21/08/2024</p> 	<p>MINTAG keeps making waves!</p> <p>On August 11th, two blue whales were tagged north of Svalbard. The animals were tagged using MINTAG V0b tags by Christian Lydersen, Norsk Polarinstitutt • Norwegian Polar Institute researcher and member of the MINTAG Steering Group. The tags record the location of the animal and allow scientists to understand the movement of the whales.</p> <p>Unlike previous deployments from a vessel, the tags were deployed from the helicopter, capturing very valuable footage of the process and the tagged whales in their natural habitat!</p> <p>Want to know where the whales are now? Make sure to check out the MINTAG website: https://lnkd.in/dzeu9p4N.</p>	<p>1,265 Impressions</p> <p>141 Engagements</p> <p>103 Clicks</p> <p>37 Reactions</p> <p>0 Comment</p> <p>1 Reposts</p>
<p>17/07/2024</p> 	<p>We would like to share with you all a new scientific article to which some members of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee contributed.</p> <p>Lonnie Mikkelsen and co-authors (2024) investigated the behaviour of 40 male walrus (Odobenus rosmarus), which they tagged with GPSs in the Svalbard Archipelago. The aim of this study was to examine how this Arctic species moves and uses habitats throughout the seasons, particularly in relation to sea ice coverage.</p> <p>They discovered that walrus show clear seasonal migratory behaviour between summer foraging and winter breeding areas, with signs of high site fidelity, returning to the same areas every year, despite the variability in sea ice conditions. The data also reveal variations between the behaviour of individual walrus showing significant differences in movement and site usage. This could be influenced by environmental conditions and possibly individual preferences.</p> <p>Understanding the tendency of walrus to return to the same place annually and their movement patterns within seasons is crucial for conservation efforts, especially in the context of changing environmental conditions in the Arctic. These data can help understand and predict how walrus might respond to changes in their habitat.</p> <p>You can read the full article by Mikkelsen et al. here: https://lnkd.in/g4X7RXkm.</p> <p>Photo by: Burney Iversen–Walrus with a tusk-mounted GPS tag</p>	<p>1,048 Impressions</p> <p>54 Engagements</p> <p>33 Clicks</p> <p>19 Reactions</p> <p>0 Comments</p> <p>2 Reposts</p>

APPENDIX 3. REPORTS FROM OUTREACH EVENTS ORGANISED OR ATTENDED BY THE SECRETARIAT

1. Lecture for UiT Ecosystem Based Management MSc (12/04) - Tromsø

In April 2024, per the agreement with UiT that members of the Secretariat offer some teaching hours each year, Garagouni gave a lecture on the subject of Community Based Management and Knowledge Systems to MSc students enrolled in the Ecosystem Based Management course.

The 40-minute lecture comprised an overview of the use (and over-use) of marine mammals as a common-pool resource, the need for sustainable, evidence-based management and NAMMCO's role in this, and NAMMCO's attempts to include and increase user knowledge and community engagement in the management process. The lecture was well-received and clearly thought-provoking for the students, who asked questions and compared NAMMCO's structure/procedures to those of other organisations (such as the IWC). Garagouni has been invited to give the lecture again in 2025.

2. Lecture for DIS - Copenhagen (18/04 and 08/10) - Tromsø

Desportes gave a 1.5-hrs lecture on 18 April and 8 October to two groups of ca. 25 US students of DIS Copenhagen, who were on Study Tour in Tromsø, "Whaling and sealing in perspectives - Is using marine mammal as food sources an environmental crime?" and "'Whaling and sealing in perspectives - Is using marine mammal as food sources an environmental crime or is there nuances to that?'"

DIS is a non-profit academic institute offering semester, academic year, and summer abroad programs for students from North American universities, who have completed at least two semesters in their own university.

The lectures presented NAMMCO's foundation, vision of conservation, and processes in its advisory work, as well as its work in disseminating science and fact-based information on marine mammals and marine mammal hunting and use. It also underlined the challenges in managing marine mammals and providing food for thought in presenting marine mammal use, and seal bans, in the perspective of blue economy and sustainable food systems.

Evidently, the US students were presented with perspectives and rationales they had not been presented with before, which created lively discussions and, hopefully, rethinking of their own views.

3. 6th Marine Mammal Student Symposium (19/04) - Tromsø

NAMMCO, in association with the Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea (NCLOS) and the Department of Arctic and Marine Biology (AMB) at UiT, hosted the 6th annual Marine Mammal Student Symposium on 19 April 2024. The theme for 2024 was: "Navigating Arctic Waters: Strengthening ties between Marine Mammal Research, Indigenous Knowledge & Law and Policy Making."

NAMMCO arranged the first Marine Mammal Student Symposium in 2019, hoping to render annual this event. A symposium has been organised every year since, with the dual purpose of a) promoting amongst early-career marine mammal scientists and marine-oriented lawyers the work NAMMCO does and b) creating networking opportunities for students. Since 2022, the symposium has been held in a hybrid format, enabling participation from students and invited speakers worldwide. NAMMCO interns take the lead in organising the symposium. This 2024 event saw a record number of 208 registered participants from over 50 different countries. The symposium was divided into a morning and an afternoon session, with NAMMCO intern Marina Metić and NCLOS student Pierre Thevenoux serving as moderators for the day.

The morning session began with a welcome and short presentations of NAMMCO, NCLOS, and AMB by Secretary General Geneviève Desportes, researcher Endalew Lijalem Enyew, and Associate Professor Sophie Bourgeon, respectively. Following the introduction, the first student session commenced, with five students presenting—two in person and three online.

After the lunch break, participants reconvened for a second session of student presentations, with one person presenting in person and four giving their presentations online. The student presentations covered a wide range of topics spanning both biology and law, addressing themes such as climate change, genetics, behaviour, and legal regimes.

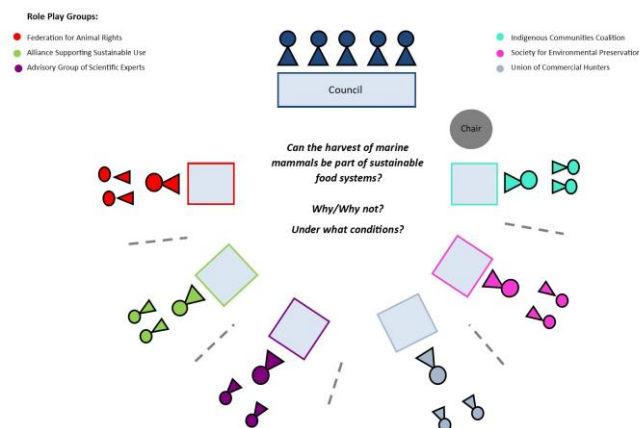
The final session of the day featured presentations from three invited keynote speakers: Nikolas Sellheim (Sellheim Environmental), Emma Vogel (Department of Arctic and Marine Biology), and Endalew Lijalem Enyew (NCLOS). Following the keynote talks, participants engaged in a lively panel-style Q&A session with the speakers.

The symposium concluded with an informal networking session over pizza, allowing students attending in person to connect with others who share similar research interests, as well as those in different disciplines with whom they may collaborate in the future. The symposium was considered to have been a success overall.

4. Lecture on the Management of MM and Roll Play on their sustainable use for UiT Top-Predators Msc (02-03/05) - Tromsø

In May 2024, **Desportes** gave, as she used to, a lecture, to MSc students enrolled in the Top Predator course. The subject was the management of marine top predators & the legal aspects with a focus on marine mammals. The 90-minute lecture comprised an overview of the management of marine top predators as a common-pool resource. The students are presenting with the general principles enshrined in the 1992 Rio Declaration and UNCLOS, the data requirements and challenges in the management of marine mammals, and the spectre of stakeholders involved, as well as the regulatory landscape with a focus on the North Atlantic. They are also presented the work of NAMMCO for contributing to the sustainable use of marine mammals, and NAMMCO specificity compared with other organisations such as the IWC and ICES. How whaling and sealing have changed over the years, is presented as well as with the present-day landscape of threats to marine mammal conservation. They are given food for thoughts regarding whaling and sealing in the perspectives of the sustainable development goals, sustainable food systems and blue economy. The lecture was well-received and clearly thought-provoking, and the students asked many questions.

The lecture was also introducing the Roll Play on Environmental Management that would be conducted the next day to demonstrate interactions between science, ethics and politics in (international) deliberations and decision-making on environmental issues. The scene would be the meeting of the (hypothetical) Global Sustainability Council, that had been charged by the UN to decide on overarching directions for good environmental policy, with at that meeting a focus on the sustainability of food systems, with as the question to be addressed being: Can the harvest of marine mammals be part of sustainable food systems. The actors' groups included decision-makers, pro-position, anti-position and undecided-position.



5. Lecture for Texas A&M University (TAMU) Galveston (13/11) - online

In November 2024, **Garagouni** gave an online presentation (50 min) to students of the Cetacean Behaviour course at TAMU. The invitation came from the course coordinator, as a way of exposing students to different types of professionals in their field of interest. Garagouni presented the structure and work of NAMMCO, emphasising the organisation's role in cetacean conservation and why management is needed. The lecture appears to have shown the students a new way of looking at the subject of marine mammals, not just as an object to be conserved, but as a resource to be used. After the lecture, Garagouni received letters of appreciation with follow-up questions from the class.

6. Presentation to the Norwegian Small Whalers Union (28/11) - Svolvær

In November 2024, **Desportes** make a presentation to the Norwegian Small Whalers Union, to explain the role of the CHM and CIO. She explained the review of the Observation Scheme the CIO was conducting and the desire of the Committee to reach to them through an interview to hear their input regarding NAMMCO Observation Activities and how improving them.

APPENDIX 4. PUBLICATIONS IN NAMMCO SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS VOL. 13

The names of authors directly affiliated with NAMMCO (Secretariat or current and retired members of Committees) are indicated in bold.

Bellon, G., Middel, H., Chicco, C., & Rempel, J. N. (2024). Changes in cetacean occurrence in Faxaflói Bay, Iceland, as observed from whale watching vessels. *NAMMCO Scientific Publications*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.7386>

El bani Altuna, N., & Garagouni, M. (2024). Preface. *NAMMCO Scientific Publications*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.7976>

Hamilton, C., Goulet, P., Lang, S., Mosnier, A., & Stenson, G. (2024). Large decline in hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*) pup production off of northeastern Newfoundland in 2012 and 2017. *NAMMCO Scientific Publications*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.7410>

Hammill, M. O., Stenson, G. B., Doniol-Valcroze, T., & Lang, S. L. C. (2024). Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Management of Marine Mammals in northern Canada. *NAMMCO Scientific Publications*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.7413>

Metić, M., & Garagouni, M. (2024). Estimates of Pinniped abundance in the North Atlantic of relevance to NAMMCO. *NAMMCO Scientific Publications*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.7974>

Ngo, M. C., Ditlevsen, S., & **Heide-Jørgensen, M. P.** (2024). Bowhead whales spend more time in waters with colder sea surface temperatures. *NAMMCO Scientific Publications*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.7372>

Øien, N., Biuw, M., Bjørge, A., **Haug, T., Nilssen, K. T.,** Skaug, H. J., & Kato Solvang, H. (2024). Previous, current and future monitoring and management of common minke whales in Norway. *NAMMCO Scientific Publications*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.7426>

Ramirez-Martinez, N. C., **Víkingsson, G. A., Øien, N. I., Mikkelsen, B., Gunnlaugsson, T.,** & Hammond, P. S. (2024). Distribution and habitat use of deep-diving cetaceans in the central and north-eastern North Atlantic. *NAMMCO Scientific Publications*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.7416>

Sandré, T., Vanderlinden, J.-P., Gherardi, J.-M., Zhu, Z., & Wickson, F. (2024). Addressing epistemic injustices in species at risk assessments through improved credibility and legitimacy: case study of narwhal management in Ittoqqortoormiit. *NAMMCO Scientific Publications*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.7557/3.7371>

APPENDIX 5. PUBLICATIONS IN OTHER SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

The names of authors directly affiliated with NAMMCO (Secretariat or Committees) are indicated in bold.

Andvik, C., Jourdain, E., Borgen, A., Lyche, J. L., Karoliussen, R., **Haug, T.**, & Borgå, K. (2024). Intercorrelations of Chlorinated Paraffins, Dechloranes, and Legacy Persistent Organic Pollutants in 10 Species of Marine Mammals from Norway, in Light of Dietary Niche. *Environmental Science & Technology*, 58(33), 14797–14811. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.4c02625>

Campana, S. E., Finnsdóttir, S. V., & **Sigurðsson, G. M.** (2024). Bomb radiocarbon determines absolute age of adult fin whales, and validates use of earplug growth bands for age determination. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 11. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2024.1327752>

Chosson, V., Wyss, V., Jann, B., Wenzel, F. W., **Sigurðsson, G. M.**, Simon, M., Hansen, R. G., & Jones, L. S. (2024). First documented movement of a humpback whale between the Cape Verde Islands and West Greenland. *Ecology and Evolution*, 14(3). <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.11152>

Cubaynes, H. C., Forcada, J., Kovacs, K. M., **Lydersen, C.**, Downie, R., & Fretwell, P. T. (2024). Walrus from space: walrus counts in simultaneous remotely piloted aircraft system versus very high-resolution satellite imagery. *Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation*, 10(5), 584–596. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rse2.391>

Di Clemente, J., Briefer, E. F., Nabe-Nielsen, J., Segre, P. S., Penry, G. S., **Garagouni, M.** (Accepted for publication). “Why keep your mouth shut?” Inshore South African Bryde’s whales abort lunges within feeding dives. *Ethology, Ecology, and Evolution*.

Di Clemente, J., Segre, P. S., **Garagouni, M.**, Wisniewska, D. M., Kahane-Rapport, S., Gough, W. T., Wahlberg, M., Goldbogen, J., Penry, G. S., Nabe-Nielsen, J., Briefer, E. F. (Accepted for publication), How deep is their lunch: Inshore South African Bryde’s whales shift attack mode at different depths. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*.

Dolman, S. J., Hodgins, N. K., & **Ugarte, F.** (2024). A review of small cetacean hunts in Greenland. *Marine Policy*, 170, 106401. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2024.106401>

El bani Altuna, N., Ezat, M.M., Smik, L, Muschitiello, F., Belt, S. T., Knies, J., & Rasmussen, T. L. (2024). Sea ice-ocean coupling during Heinrich Stadials in the Atlantic–Arctic gateway. *Scientific Reports*, 14, 1065. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-51532-7>

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APPENDIX 6. BUDGET, REALLOCATION AND ACCOUNTS 2024

NAMMCO BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS 2024

	Budget 2024 (CL30)	Reallocation 2024 by CL31	Accounts 2024
Income // Contributions			
Contributions Faroes	640,897	640,897	640,897
Contributions Greenland	640,897	640,897	640,847
Contributions Iceland	1,281,795	1,281,795	1,281,795
Contributions Norway	2,567,111	2,567,111	2,567,111
NORA			46,890
Income // Contributions	5,130,700	5,130,700	5,177,540
Expenditure			
Staff related costs	3,032,013	3,086,834	3,079,229
Internship	220,400	189,300	151,475
Staff travel and subsistence	270,000	270,000	256,475
Meetings	205,000	200,000	155,825
Office rent	334,969	295,917	353,598
Office supply	189,000	156,300	158,125
Communication and outreach	150,000	75,000	15,251
Accounts and auditing	210,000	250,000	351,479
Observation Scheme	0	60,000	8,031
Committee for Hunting Methods	200,000	65,000	0
Scientific Committee	222,000	150,000	119,071
WG User knowledge	40,000	40,000	0
Capacity building	40,000	20,000	0
Other expenses	50,000	75,000	37,001
NASS	150,000	150,000	150,000
NASS project overheads - Expected		-495,000	
NASS project overheads - Actual			
MINTAG	180,000	180,000	180,000
Total expenditure	5,493,382	4,768,352	5,015,560
OPERATING RESULT	-362,682	362,348	161,980
Total Reserve 01.01	1,094,178	1,253,211	1,253,211
Transfer to/from general reserve	-362,682	362,348	161,980
New Total Reserve 31.12	731,496	1,615,559	1,415,190

* 150,000 was committed by NAMMCO in 2024 for the project NASS and the amount was transferred from NAMMCO's bank account to the project's bank account. The actual expenditure paid by NAMMCO was 0.

** 180,000 was committed by NAMMCO in 2024 for the project MINTAG and the amount was transferred from NAMMCO's bank account to the project's bank account. The actual expenditure paid by NAMMCO was 0.