



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 32

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

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DOCUMENT 09	REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS (CHM)
Submitted by	CHM / Secretariat
Action requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To take note of the report and the proposed procedure to invite hunters to meetings • To consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The recommendations on how to proceed with hunter training material ○ The proposed workplan
Background/content	

1. Meetings and members April 2024 – March 2025

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](#). The CHM was chaired by Jóhann Ásmundsson (Iceland).

Committee members:

- FO: Signar Petersen, Ulla Svarrer Wang
- GL: Amalie Jessen, Malik Hansen (from December 2024), Masaana Dorph (until end of September 2024)
- IS: Jóhann Ásmundsson (Chair), Kristján Loftsson
- NO: Guro Gjelsvik, Kathrine A. Ryeng
- Secretariat: Geneviève Desportes, Naima El bani Altuna

2. General information updates

The CHM reviewed and updated information related to its terms of reference regularly. The following overview documents are updated either in connection with meetings or by correspondence intersessional: [Laws and regulation](#), [Publications and references related to marine mammal hunting](#), [Conservation Status Marine Mammal Stocks](#) and [Hunting in NAMMCO member Countries](#)

3. Review of the catch database

The CHM reviewed the 2023 Catch Database reported by the NAMMCO member Countries (CHM/2024-02). The CHM noted that discrepancies in the hunting regulations across different countries could lead to different interpretation of the kind of data that is required to be reported in the catch database. Given these regulatory differences, to prevent misinterpretation and promote transparency, the Secretariat prepared a more detailed version of the catch database with guidance for each field in the for the next reporting periods. Parties are expected to review and complete the catch database as their earliest convenience.

Once reviewed, part of the data in the catch database is made publicly available in the NAMMCO website, and the full database is accessible through request. However, it was brought to the attention of the Secretariat that this may lead to GDPR breaches in certain cases. In the upcoming period, the Committee will also discuss GDPR-related issues concerning the publication of data from the catch database on the website and its availability and explore ways to maintain transparency while adhering to privacy regulations.

4. Hunter training materials and video projects

Council 28 (2021) expressed its support for developing short videos focusing on various aspects of hunting with the aim of improving safety for hunters and animal welfare.

In 2021-2022, the CHM supervised the development of the 1st information video focusing on the safe handling of the 50 mm Kongsberg whaling cannon with loaded pusher shell (cartridge), and the harpoon and the Whale grenade 99. The 1st video was finished in 2022 and produced in Norwegian and translated to English and Greenlandic.

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 taking into consideration the few recommendations on changes given by the Council and the translation to Greenlandic and Norwegian finalised. The videos can be accessed [here](#).

In 2024, the CHM discussed the continuation of video production. Before initiating a new video project, the CHM needed to evaluate more precisely the reception and the usefulness for the hunters of the current videos.

There is a general consensus at the CHM on the benefit of the videos, and in particular that they are a good way to standardise information and important initiative to reach hunters. However, the CHM at its meeting in March 2025 (CHM/2025-01) decided to conduct further investigations and evaluate the usefulness and effectiveness of the first two videos before deciding if another video on a relevant topic or a council recommendation would be the way forward. Additionally, the CHM **recommended** using the output from the Marine Mammal Welfare Workshop (WWS) and consultations with instructors at national hunting courses to identify the appropriate topic for the 3rd hunter training video or manual. These tasks will be included in the list of objectives to be completed throughout 2025. The CHM is somewhat anxious to keep on developing its message and ways in which it can and could reach hunters, in order to continue the positive cooperation, the CHM has had with hunters regarding the improvement of hunting methods, through direct contacts, and expert groups and workshops. Another video project or other ways using current "outreach-media" are a way to do so.

5. Procedure for inviting hunters to the CHM meetings

The CHM experienced difficulty deciding which hunters to invite to the meetings of the Committee and finding hunters interested in presenting their types of hunts to the Committee. To better structure this item and ensure that a hunter presents a topic at each meeting, the CHM prepared a procedure for inviting hunters to CHM meetings, including how to select a hunt of interest for the CHM (Box 1).

Procedure for Inviting Hunters to CHM Meetings

This document, accepted by the NAMMCO/CHM/2024-03, and completed at the NAMMCO/CHM/2025-01, has the objective of establishing a procedure/criterion for the CHM to be more effective at inviting hunter to their meetings, which are held online. **The CHM agrees to invite hunter representatives from lesser-known hunts.** In preparation for the Welfare Workshop in March 2025, connecting with these hunters will be beneficial for the CHM to gain insights, establish connections, and begin building trust. Beyond the workshop, the CHM will also benefit from learning more about lesser-known hunts to better understand the realities of the field.

To determine whom to invite, the CHM agreed on the following criteria to ensure that the invitation selection process is objective:

- Animal welfare: Focus on hunts with high struck-and-loss rates or longer time to death.
- Volume of animals killed: Prioritise hunts involving a larger number of animals.
- Identification of knowledge gaps: Highlight hunts where there is a lack of information.

Based on the above, the **CHM might consider for further discussion** the following hunts:

- Norwegian minke whale hunting
- Small cetacean hunts in Greenland
- Coastal seal hunts in Norway
- Minke whale rifle hunts in Greenland

- Pilot whale hunt in the Faroe Islands
- Fin whale hunting in Iceland
- Minke whale hunting in Iceland

Once the hunt of interest is identified, the **CHM will prepare a set of questions for the hunters** and send them well in advance to ensure they know what to expect.

Hunters can use their participation in the meeting not only to share their hunts with committee members but also to **voice their concerns and challenges related to that specific hunt** (e.g., is the time to death too long? Are there issues with the weapons they use? Is the hunt safe?). By bringing these concerns to the CHM, the Committee can become aware of and begin addressing issues that might otherwise go unnoticed, making the meeting more valuable and appealing to the hunters as well.

Box 1. Procedure to invite hunters to CHM meeting proposed by the CHM.

6. Cooperation with Japan on welfare issues

The output and recommendation from the MMWWS 2025 will help deciding how to proceed in cooperating with Japan, and maybe some other participating countries, on issues related to the improvement of hunted-related animal welfare outputs.

7. Proposed Workplan 2025-2027

The CHM proposes the workplan presented in Figure 1. A more detailed workplan can be found in Appendix 1.

	2025											2026											2027		
	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
NAMMCO Annual Meeting	Event taking place												Event taking place												Event taking place
Meeting of the CHM			Month with CHM meeting				Month with CHM meeting								Month with CHM meeting				Month with CHM meeting						
Follow up on outcomes of WWS			Event taking place																						
Follow up on video project																									
Evaluation of past video projects							Event taking place																		
Proposal for further training material												Event taking place													
Development of new material?															During this timeframe	During this timeframe	During this timeframe	During this timeframe	During this timeframe	During this timeframe	During this timeframe	During this timeframe			Event taking place
Hunter presentation in CHM meeting																									
Identify hunt of interest			Event taking place																						
Hunter presentation							Event taking place																		
Reflections and proposals								During this timeframe	During this timeframe	During this timeframe		Event taking place								Event taking place	During this timeframe	During this timeframe			Event taking place
Review the catch database 2024			Event taking place																						
Review of past CHM documents on S&L			Event taking place	During this timeframe	During this timeframe	Event taking place	During this timeframe	During this timeframe	During this timeframe	During this timeframe		Event taking place													

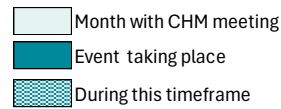


Figure 1. Workplan and timeline for the CHM between March 2025 and March 2027.

APPENDIX 1: Detailed proposed workplan and timeline for the CHM between March 2025 and March 2027.

Meetings of the CHM are highlighted in bright blue.

Month or Season, Year	Activity	Participants	Description/Goal
March 2025	NAMMCO Annual Meeting	CHM/Secretariat	Report to the Council
May 2025	CHM meeting	CHM/Secretariat	Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Follow up on the outcomes of the WWS ▪ Identify the hunt and hunter to be invited to the next meeting and prepare the topic, including questions ▪ Review past CHM documents to learn about S&L ▪ Review the information provided by the parties in the NAMMCO removal database, including GDPR-related issues
September 2025	CHM meeting	CHM/Secretariat	Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hunter presentation at CHM meeting ▪ Evaluation of the past video projects (use info from WWS, hunter presentation, consultation with hunting course instructors) ▪ Review CHM documents related about S&L and decide how to proceed with S&L issues (both reporting and improvement)
February 2026	CHM meeting	CHM/Secretariat	Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue with S&L issues ▪ Develop a proposal for new training material ▪ Make recommendations/proposals for the CHM based on hunter presentation
March 2026	NAMMCO Annual Meeting	CHM/Secretariat	Report to the Council
May 2026	CHM meeting	CHM/Secretariat	Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify the hunt and hunter to be invited to the next meeting and prepare the topic, including questions

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Start preparing next set of hunter training material if it has been accepted by the Council ▪ Review the information provided by the parties in the NAMMCO removal database
Summer-Autum 2026		CHM/Secretariat	Preparation of next set of hunter training material
September 2026	CHM meeting	CHM/Secretariat	<p>Topics to be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hunter presentation at CHM meeting ▪ Status of preparation of next set of hunter training material
February 2027	CHM meeting	CHM/Secretariat	<p>Topics to be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalise draft of hunter training material ▪ Make recommendations/proposals for the CHM based on hunter presentation
March 2027	NAMMCO Annual Meeting	CHM/Secretariat	Report to the Council