

NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 33

JOINT MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

24–26 March 2026

Hotel Hans Egede, Nuuk, Greenland

Annotated Draft Agenda

Annotations are shown *in blue and italics*. Requests are marked *in bold italics*. Recommendations from the SC are presented in a blue box.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Relevant documents for this meeting:

- *NAMMCO/32/08: Report of the 32nd Meeting of the Scientific Committee*
- *NAMMCO/32/MC/05: Recent Proposals for Conservation and Management and Research Recommendations*
- *NAMMCO/32/MC/06: Summary of Requests from the NAMMCO Council to the Scientific Committee and Responses by the Scientific Committee*

The focus of the Management Committees during these meetings is:

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

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

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

2. Adoption of Agenda



3. Environmental and Ecosystem perspective

3.1. Marine Mammal–Fishery Interactions

NAMMCO/33/08, item 6.3, 7

3.1.1. Active Requests

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

3.1.2. Response from SC/32

R-1.1.5: The Working Group on By-catch (BYCWG) is working towards improving the available knowledge on interactions between marine mammals and fishing gear, through a research project mapping the potential spatio-temporal risk of by-catch for different species.

R-1.1.10: The results of the now complete NASS 2024 survey were analysed by the Abundance Estimate Working Group (AEWG), and the abundance estimates for target species resulting from their work were endorsed by the SC/32, except for fin and minke whale in the Faroese/Icelandic surveys. Abundance estimates for non-target species will be reviewed in late 2026 by the AEWG. This will provide further insights relevant to changes in the spatial distribution of cetacean species.

3.1.3. MCJ Discussion

3.2. Multispecies approach to management and modelling

NAMMCO/33/08, item 6.1

3.2.1. Active Requests

- **R-1.2.1 (renewed 2019, ongoing but not prioritised as of 2023)** *To consider whether multispecies models for management purposes can be established for the North Atlantic ecosystems and whether such models could include the marine mammal compartment. If such models and the required data are not available, then identify the knowledge lacking for such an enterprise to be beneficial to proper scientific management and suggest scientific projects which would be required for obtaining this knowledge.*

3.2.2. Response from SC/32

R-1.2.1: At SC/32 Iceland informed of a recently obtained AG-Fisk grant to collate existing information on modelling approaches, involving researchers from Iceland, Norway, Denmark, and Canada, and with an aim to investigate species interactions such as predation, depredation, by-catch, and even parasite loads. In light of this collaboration, it was decided to devote a half-day discussion session to this topic during SC/33. At that time, it will be decided whether a longer workshop session should be organised in 2027, to fully respond to this request.

3.2.3. MCJ Discussion

3.3. Environmental issues

NAMMCO/33/08, item 6.2

3.3.1. Active Request

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



3.3.2. Response from SC/32

R-1.5.3: No updates on the Mary River Project were provided at this time, as there has not been a meeting with Canada for several years. However, this will be added as an agenda item at the next Joint WG meeting with the JCNB.

3.3.3. MCJ Discussion

4. Requests for Stock assessment

4.1. Wording of “Stalled” Requests

The SC requested that the wording of stalled requests could be revised to better reflect their status, to explicitly indicate that they will be undertaken “as soon as possible” or “when data allow”. This would acknowledge current limitations without implying inaction. This applies to many requests that have to do with the MCs. The MCs should decide whether they agree to rephrase the requests as necessary. The MCs may also consider adding a standing management request “to regularly review existing data, identifying data gaps, ways forward, and resources needed to conduct an assessment”.

4.2. Timing and procedure for routine assessments

Each Party has (or may have) specific timing requirements for routine stock assessments of hunted species (e.g., Iceland requires an assessment for fin whales every six years). To facilitate the scheduling of the SC workplan (per R-1.6.8), as well as allocating the necessary research effort and funding for each assessment, the Parties should present the timing of their assessment needs to the MCs. These requirements could become a standing request for stock assessments, which could be updated as requirements change.

5. Update on members’ responses to proposals for conservation and management

NAMMCO/33/MC/05, Category: Environmental/Ecosystem Issues. Prior to the meetings of the MCs, each Party should take the time to read the updates provided by the other member countries. Any issues or uncertainties can be brought up for discussion during the meetings.

6. WG on Enhancing User Involvement in NAMMCO Decision Making (UIWG)

In NAMMCO/32 the MCJ agreed that the UIWG will pause its activities. It was agreed that the HoDs would discuss the optimal way forward for the UIWG intersessionally and present their conclusions at the 33rd Annual Meeting (2026).

7. Any Other Business