

NAMMCO



COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

17 February 2026

Online

REPORT



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Chair

Ulla S. Wang (FO)

Rapporteur

Naima El bani Altuna

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Adoption of agenda and review of documents	4
2. Catch database and GDPR	4
3. Hunter training video	4
4. Follow up on the outcomes of the WWS	5
5. Workplan 2026-2028.....	5
6. Next meeting	6
7. Any other business	6
8. Adoption of the report	6
APPENDIX 1: Agenda and list of documents	7
APPENDIX 2: Participant list.....	8
APPENDIX 3: Detailed proposed workplan 2026-2028 for the CHM.....	9

The Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM) met online 17 February 2026 from 13:00 to 14:45 CET. The CHM meeting was chaired by Ulla S. Wang (Faroe Islands). The meeting agenda and list of participants are available in Appendix 1 and 2, respectively.

1. Adoption of agenda and review of documents

The Chair presented the agenda and meeting documents. Item 2, “Review of past documents on Struck and Loss,” was removed from the draft agenda because document CHM/2026-01/02, a compilation of historical Struck and Loss documentation, was not ready in time for the meeting. This item will be addressed during 2026–2027.

The agenda was adopted without further modifications (see Appendix 1).

2. Catch database and GDPR

In its previous meeting (CHM/2025-03), the CHM recommended that the Council address potential GDPR issues within NAMMCO, recognising that this would also affect the Committee’s handling of catch data. Although this task was originally assigned to the CHM in Council 32, the Committee **agreed** that, due to its broader scope, its relevance beyond the CHM’s direct mandate, and the complexity and sensitivity of the topic, it should instead be undertaken by the NAMMCO Council.

To support this work, the CHM agreed to compile the data availability and privacy policies related to environmental and hunting data currently applied by their respective Ministries and Directorates. All Parties submitted their policies intersessionally to the Secretariat, which compiled them in document CHM/2026-01/03.

During the meeting, all delegates summarised the principles governing environmental and hunting data handling within their Ministries/Directorates. The CHM **expressed support** for openness and transparency and **agreed** that data may be published in NAMMCO only when personal information is anonymised, with a delay applied if necessary, and provided that no infringements or irregularities are involved. In cases where such issues exist, data shall not be published until the relevant authorities have completed their assessment and granted permission for release.

The Committee also emphasised the importance of ensuring that all data are quality checked by the relevant Parties and the Secretariat.

3. Hunter training video

The CHM revisited the earlier proposal to develop the next training video on seal hunting by rifle. This proposal had been the reason for inviting Norwegian hunter Bjørne Kvernmo to the previous meeting (CHM/2025-03) to present the Norwegian pack-ice seal hunt. Following the Committee’s annual work cycle, the intention for the present meeting was to consider whether and how to advance a proposal for potential new training material.

The Committee acknowledged NAMMCO’s long tradition of producing training resources, both manuals and videos, on hunting methods. In discussing whether the next video should focus on seal hunting, members recognised the considerable diversity of seal-hunting practices across NAMMCO member countries. Some members emphasised the value of documenting seal-hunting techniques, including the use of the hakapik and rifle, as a way also of preserving knowledge, and suggested exploring collaboration with other countries where seal hunting is conducted. Others proposed narrowing the focus to one specific method, such as rifle-based seal hunting. In this case, the video

could address general principles common across countries, such as rifle use, ammunition choice, shooting distance, and correct shot placement, rather than detailed national practices.

At the same time, some members noted that rifle-based seal hunting varies considerably both between and within countries, which could make it challenging to produce a single training resource that represents all. Greenland highlighted that a substantial seal-hunting report already exists¹, available also in English, and that there have been no recent developments that would require or justify producing a new video at this time.

As discussions continued, it became evident that the Committee did not reach consensus on whether to proceed with a seal-hunting video, nor were alternative topics proposed. The matter therefore remains open, and the CHM will continue deliberations, including the development of a proposal for hunter training material for the period 2026–2027.

4. Follow up on the outcomes of the WWS

The CHM was tasked with following up the recommendations outlined by the Council 32 WWS in 2025. Each recommendation was addressed by the CHM:

*“[To] **Develop a framework for terminology, data collection, and analysis, taking into account the specificities of each common hunt.**”* (document CHM/2025-03/05, pp. 14)

In response, the CHM worked intersessionally to compile a list of terminology and definitions, presented in document CHM/2026-01/04. The Committee **agreed** that this should remain a living working document, open for additions and refinement as needed. The finalised list is expected to be completed during 2026–2027.

*“[To] **Define best welfare outcomes by species and hunt type. This includes finding realistic best practices for the lowest possible TTD [Time to Death], highest IDR [Instantaneous Death Rate], and minimum Struck and Lost. Improving global welfare outcomes does not require standardisation of regulations across countries and regions.**”* (document CHM/2025-03/05, pp. 14)

To support this work, the CHM **agreed** at its previous meeting (CHM/2025-02) that the Secretariat would review the data submitted to the WWS in order to compile existing welfare-outcome indicators and assess the completeness of the information. Based on this, Ryeng, with support from CHM members, would begin by defining realistic welfare outcomes for well-documented hunts before moving on to more complex or less well-understood cases.

This work was not ready for presentation at the current meeting and will therefore be completed for the next CHM meeting.

5. Workplan 2026-2028

Table 1 presents the CHM **recommended** workplan for the 2026–2028 period, based on the discussions held in 2025-2026 (CHM/2025-02, CHM/2025-03 and, this meeting CHM/2026-01). Appendix 3 provides a more detailed overview.

¹ [“White paper on Management and utilization of seals in Greenland”](#), published in 2009 and revised in 2012, with its [addendum](#) published in 2015.

In addition to the discussed activities, the CHM agreed to support the CIO’s work to review national hunting inspections check lists in the next cycle (2026–2027).

Some members of the Committee highlighted that the work of the CHM has gradually shifted from strong emphasis on practical hunting methods toward a more theoretical focus in the last years. They expressed a wish to reflect on how the Committee’s current activities align with its mandate. The Committee therefore **requested** guidance from the Council on this matter and will continue the discussion in the upcoming cycle, with the aim of ensuring that its work remains well-focused and responsive to its role in advising hunting methods.

Table 1. Proposed workplan for the 2026-2028 period. Activities in italics may include activities requiring funding.

2026	2027	2028
Follow up on the outcomes of the WWS		
Develop a proposal for further training material		
Invite hunters to CHM meetings	Invite hunters to CHM meetings	Invite hunters to CHM meetings
Compilation and revision of checklists used by national inspectors (with CIO)		Compilation and revision of checklists used by national inspectors (with CIO)
Update information on regulations and laws	Update information on regulations and laws	Update information on regulations and laws
Review the catch & hunting data-base (data 2025)	Review the catch & hunting data-base (data 2026)	Review the catch & hunting data-base (data 2027)
Review past CHM docs on Struck-and-lost information		

6. Next meeting

The next meeting of the CHM will be held on 12 May 2026.

7. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

8. Adoption of the report

The report was adopted by correspondence 26 February 2026.

APPENDIX 1: Agenda and list of documents

1. Adoption of agenda and review of documents
2. Catch database and GDPR
3. Hunter training video
4. Follow up on the outcomes of the WWS
5. Workplan 2026-2028
6. Next meeting
7. Any other business

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Document Reference	Title	Agenda Item
Working Documents		
CHM/2026-01/01a	Agenda & list of documents	1
CHM/2026-01/01b	Draft annotated agenda	1
CHM/2026-01/02	No document (<i>Struck and lost review</i>)	2
CHM/2026-01/03	GDPR and privacy rules in relevant Ministries and Directorates in NAMMCO Parties	3
CHM/2026-01/04	Animal welfare terms – working document (not finalised)	5
CHM/2026-01/05	Workplan proposal 2026-2028 for CHM	6
For information documents		
CHM/2026-01/FI01	Report of the WWS	5

APPENDIX 2: Participant list

NAMMCO MEMBER COUNTRIES

Amalie A. Jessen (GL)

Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting, Agriculture and Self-sufficiency

Kristján Loftsson (IS)

Hvalur hf. (Icelandic fin whaling company)

Guro Gjelsvik (NO)

Directorate of Fisheries

Naja Holm (GL)

Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting, Agriculture and Self-sufficiency

Jóhann Ásmundsson (IS)

Directorate of Fisheries

Niels Lyberth (GL)

Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting, Agriculture and Self-sufficiency

Kathrine A. Ryeng (NO)

Institute of Marine Research in Norway

Ulla S. Wang (Chair, FO)

Ministry of Fisheries, Industry and Trade

NAMMCO SECRETARIAT

Naima El bani Altuna

Deputy Secretary

APPENDIX 3: Detailed proposed workplan 2026-2028 for the CHM

	2026												2027												2028		
	Feb	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																											
Meeting of the CHM																											
Follow up on outcomes of WWS																											
Follow up on video project																											
Proposal for further training material																											
Hunter presentation in CHM meeting																											
Identify hunt of interest																											
Hunter presentation																											
Reflections and proposals																											
Compilation and revision of checklists used by national inspectors																											
Update information on regulations and laws																											
Review the catch database																											
Review of past CHM documents on S&L																											

- Month with CHM meeting
- Event taking place
- During this time period