



**ANNUAL REPORT
1995**

Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Council

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission

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Preface

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission was established in 1992 by an Agreement signed in Nuuk, Greenland on the 9th of April between the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway. The objective of the Commission, as stated in the Agreement, is to "... contribute through regional consultation and cooperation, to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic."

The Council, which is the decision-making body of the Commission, held its inaugural meeting in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, 10-11 September 1992 (NAMMCO/1), and has convened four times since: in Tromsø, Norway 19-20 January 1993 (NAMMCO/2); Reykjavik, Iceland, 1-2 July 1993 (NAMMCO/3); Tromsø, Norway 24-25 February 1994 (NAMMCO/4); and most recently in Nuuk, Greenland, 21-23 February 1995 (NAMMCO/5).

The present volume contains proceedings from NAMMCO/5 - the fifth meeting of the Council, which was held at the Hotel Hans Egede in Nuuk, Greenland 21-23 February 1995 (Section 1), as well as the reports of the 1995 meetings of the Management Committee (Section 2) and the Scientific Committee (Section 3), which presented their conclusions to the Council at its fifth meeting. Included as an annex to the Management Committee report is the report of the second meeting of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation. Section 3 (Scientific Committee) also contains Scientific Committee Working Group reports which were presented to the 3rd meeting of the Scientific Committee in Copenhagen, Denmark 31 January - 3 February 1995 (Section 3.1), as well as National Progress Reports submitted at the same meeting (Section 3.2).

In addition to meetings under the Commission, NAMMCO arranged and hosted the International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment, which was held in Lerwick, Shetland, 20-21 April 1995. The Secretariat's summary of Conference proceedings is contained in Section 4 of this volume. Section 5 contains a list of addresses of Council delegates, observers and members of the Scientific Committee.

This is the first fully published Annual Report of proceedings from meetings under the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, the contents of which are confined primarily to activities in the 1995 calendar year. The Secretariat plans to produce such a publication on an annual basis, with a compilation of all relevant proceedings from meetings under the Commission.

The reports contained in this volume are presented here in their final edited form and thereby replace any preliminary versions which have been circulated prior to this publication.

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Meetings & Office Bearers 1994-1995

Members of the Commission

Faroe Islands	(F)
Greenland	(G)
Iceland	(I)
Norway	(N)

Heads of delegations

Kjartan Hoydal
Einar Lemche
Þórður Ásgeirsson
Halvard P. Johansen

Council

4th Meeting	24 - 25 Feb. 1994	Saga Hotel, Tromsø
5th Meeting	21 - 23 Feb. 1995	Hotel Hans Egede, Nuuk
<i>Chairmen</i>	1993-95	Kjartan Hoydal (F)
	1995 -	Halvard P. Johansen (N)

Management Committee (MC)

3rd Meeting	24 - 25 Feb. 1994	Saga Hotel, Tromsø
4th Meeting	22 Feb.	Hotel Hans Egede, Nuuk
<i>Chairmen</i>	1993-1994	Kjartan Hoydal (F)
	1995 -	Einar Lemche (G)

MC Working Group on Inspection and Observation

2nd Meeting	8 Nov. 1994	Greenland Home Rule Government, Copenhagen
<i>Chairman</i>	1994 -	Halvard P. Johansen (N)

Working Group on Hunting Methods

2nd Meeting	7 Nov. 1994	Greenland Home Rule Government, Copenhagen
<i>Chairman</i>	1993 -	Amalie Jessen (G)

Scientific Committee (SC)

3rd Meeting	31 Jan. - 3 Feb. 1995	Grld.Fish. Research Institute, Copenhagen
<i>Chairmen</i>	1993-1995	Jóhann Sigurjónsson (I)
	1995 -	Tore Haug (N)
<i>Vice Chairmen</i>	1993-95	Tore Haug (N)
	1995 -	M. P. Heide-Jørgensen (G)

SC Working Group on Management Procedures (WGMP)

Fifth Meeting of the Council
Nuuk, Greenland, 21-23 February 1995

Summary of major decisions

Finance and Administration

- The Council agreed to establish an *ad hoc* group on finance and administration;
- The proposed budget for 1995 and forecast budget for 1996 were adopted, with an increase in member contributions for 1996.
- The Council agreed to the Scientific Committee's proposal to establish a NASS-95 Fund of NOK 800,000 using surplus Scientific Committee funds from 1993/94 .

Management Committee

The Council endorsed the following conclusions and recommendations proposed by the Management Committee:

Northern bottlenose whale

- It was concluded that the traditional coastal drive hunt of northern bottlenose whales in the Faroe Islands did not have any noticeable effect on the stock and that removals of fewer than 300 whales a year were not likely to lead to a decline in the stock.

Atlantic walrus

- While recognising the over all priority of further research on the delineation and abundance of walrus stocks in the North Atlantic, it was recommended that Greenland take appropriate steps to arrest the decline of walrus along its west coast.

Inspection and observation

- It was agreed to request the Working Group on Inspection and Observation to continue its work on the formulation of a standard checklist for inspectors.
- The Working Group on Inspection and Observation was requested to consider the details of a reciprocal observer scheme between NAMMCO member countries and to further develop these.

Requests to Scientific Committee

The Council agreed to request the Scientific Committee to:

- advise on stock identity of *ringed seals (Phoca hispida)* for management purposes and to assess abundance in each stock area, long-term effects on stocks by present removals in each stock area, effects of recent environmental changes (ie. disturbance, pollution) and changes in the food supply, and interactions with other marine living resources;
- review and assess abundance and stock levels of *grey seals (Halichoerus grypus)* in the North Atlantic, with an emphasis on their role in the marine ecosystem in general, and their significance as a source of nematodal infestations in fish in particular;
- review results of the North Atlantic Sightings Survey 1995 (*NASS-95*) in the light of recent assessments of North Atlantic whale stocks;
- *monitor stock levels and trends in stocks* of all marine mammals in the North Atlantic in relation to the importance of the further development of multi-species approaches to the management of marine resources.

External relations

- It was agreed to establish working relations with the Canada-Greenland Joint Commission for the Conservation and Management of Narwhal and Beluga;

The NAMMCO Fund

- The Council agreed that the provisional forecast budget for 1996 should include an additional NOK 200,000 for the NAMMCO Fund;

Election of Chairman

- Halvard P. Johansen, Norway was elected new Chairman of the Council for 1995 - 1997.

Next meeting

- The Council agreed to hold its next meeting in Tromsø, 27-29 March 1996 (dates to be confirmed by the Secretariat), to be immediately preceded by a meeting of the *ad hoc* finance and administration group.

Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Council

Nuuk, Greenland, 21-23 February 1995

The Fifth Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO was hosted by the Greenland Home Rule Government and held in the Hotel Hans Egede, Nuuk, Greenland from 21 to 23 February 1995. The meeting was attended by delegations from the member countries - the Faroes, Greenland, Iceland and Norway - as well as observers from the Governments of Canada, Denmark and Japan. The International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) were also represented by observers at the meeting, as were a number of non-governmental organisations. Participants are listed in Appendix 1.

1. Opening procedures

1.1 Address of welcome

The Council was convened by the Chairman, Kjartan Hoydal. The Chairman introduced the Minister of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture of the Greenland Home Rule Government, Mr Hans Iversen, who gave an address of welcome. Mr Iversen's address is attached as Appendix 3.

1.2 Opening statements

Opening statements were made by the Heads of Delegations from the Faroes, Iceland and Norway and were also distributed to participants in written form (see Appendices 4 - 6).

1.3 Adoption of agenda

The Agenda, as included in Appendix 2, was adopted.

1.4 Admission of observers

The Secretary informed the Council of the governments and organisations who were represented by observers to the meeting. These included representatives from the Governments of Canada, Japan and Denmark, as well as the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS), the International Whaling Commission and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, and a number of non-governmental organisations. Participants are listed in Appendix 1. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman welcomed the attendance of all the observers present.

Under this Agenda item, the representatives from the Governments of Japan and Denmark made brief statements (Appendices 7 and 8).

1.5 Meeting arrangements

The Secretary reported on the practical and social arrangements for the meeting, which included a reception on Tuesday 21 February and a dinner on Wednesday 22 February, both of which were hosted by the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture in the Greenland Home Rule Government and held in the Hotel Hans Egede. The Minister of Health and Environment, Mr Ole Rosing Olsen, hosted the dinner on behalf of the Government on the Wednesday evening.

2. Administration and finance

Under this Agenda item, **the Council agreed** to establish an *ad hoc* group to review the financial and administrative aspects of the Secretary's report, and to consider these together with the draft budget. The *ad hoc* finance and administration group met on the afternoon of Tuesday 21 February, and agreed that a formal written report to the Council was not necessary at this stage. It was decided that the finance group should convene again immediately prior to the next meeting of the Council.

The Secretary reported back to the Council on the meeting of the *ad hoc* finance and administration group, which had reviewed the 1994 audited accounts and reviewed and revised the draft 1995 and forecast 1996 budgets (See Appendix 9; see also under 2.2 and 2.3 below).

2.1 Secretary's report

The Secretary presented a report to the Council on developments in the Secretariat since the last meeting of the Council.

2.1.1 Staff

It was reported that the Secretariat planned to hire a permanent office assistant. This had not as yet been possible due to delays in finding permanent accommodation. There were also plans to hire a consultant to assist with the establishment of the database in the Secretariat. Such assistance would be on a temporary, contract basis, although it was noted in the report that the Council may choose to review the need for a permanent scientific member of the Secretariat staff at a later stage. The expected costs of such temporary contract help were taken into account in the 1995 budget (see Appendix 9).

2.1.2 Accommodation

The Secretary also reported on the new accommodation recently acquired by the Secretariat, which occupies the entire third floor (180 square metres) of Søndre Tollbugate 9 in the centre of Tromsø, just across from the Polar Museum. Delays in finding permanent offices were due to the fact that the originally planned accommodation for the Secretariat proved to be economically unfeasible for the University. Alternatives were subsequently considered both on campus and in downtown Tromsø. After consultations with the Ministry of Fisheries and the Chairman of the Council, the present location was agreed, and the Secretariat moved offices on 8 February 1995.

Although the final lease was still under preparation, the terms were such that the Secretariat would be sub-letting the premises from Tromsø University, which leases from a private company. The total annual rental costs of the premises are NOK 185,000. The lease would, however, include a clause allowing the University access to the fourth office, after consultation with the Secretariat, in exchange for which the University would cover 25 % of the total rental costs. The total annual rental cost to the Secretariat would therefore be NOK 140,000, including utilities and cleaning services. The Secretariat would continue to have the advantage of being connected to data and communication services through the University.

2.1.3. Committee and Working Group meetings

The Secretary further reported that since the last meeting of the Council, the following meetings had been held:

- meetings of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation and the Working Group on Hunting Methods were held at the Denmark Office of the Greenland Home Rule Government in Copenhagen, 7-8 November, 1994;
- the Scientific Committee Working Group to plan NASS-95 held a meeting in Tromsø, 2 December, which was also attended by a number of external experts;
- the Scientific Committee (and associated Working Groups) met at the Greenland Fisheries Research Institute, in Copenhagen, 31 January - 2 February 1995.

2.1.4. Host Agreement

The Secretary reported that steps had now been taken to initiate the formulation of a Host Agreement between NAMMCO and Norway. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had informed the Secretariat that a draft proposal was currently under review in the Department of Finance, and that the first written response from the Norwegian authorities to the Chairman's letter of November 1994 was expected very soon.

2.1.5 Information

It was reported that the Secretariat continued to distribute information on NAMMCO as widely as possible; to date mostly in the form of a brief fact sheet (*NAMMCO - In Brief*). A more substantial information brochure on NAMMCO was currently under production and was expected to be available in April.

The Secretariat was offered the opportunity to hold a "NAMMCO Day" in Tromsø (12 September 1994) in connection with Tromsø's bicentenary celebrations. For the occasion the Secretariat screened videos on pilot whaling in the Faroe Islands and sealing in Greenland, and offered samples of marine mammal cuisine from the Faroes and Greenland in the Polar Museum. NAMMCO had a poster display at the International Symposium on the Biology of Marine Mammals, held at the University of Tromsø, 29 November-1 December 1994.

It was reported that the Secretariat staff had also attended a number of other meetings of general relevance to NAMMCO, which had been held in Norway over the past year. These included a meeting of the Association of Norwegian Agricultural Journalists, (9 August, 1994 - J. Paulsen); a one-day seminar on Norwegian fisheries and the EU, with an emphasis on resource management, organised by the Norwegian College of Fisheries Science, Tromsø (5 September, 1994 - K. Sanderson and J. Paulsen); the Autumn Session of the Nordic Council, Tromsø (15-16 November -J. Paulsen); and the annual meeting of *Norges Småhvalfangerlag* (Norwegian Small-Type Whalers' Union) in Svolvær (2-3 December, 1994 - J. Paulsen).

2.2 Audited accounts 1994

The Council adopted the audited accounts after review by the *ad hoc* finance and administration group.

2.3 Draft 1995 and forecast 1996 budgets

The Council adopted the proposed budget for 1995, as reviewed and revised by the *ad hoc* finance and administration group (see Appendix 9). The 1996 forecast budget was adopted

provisionally, with an increase in members' contributions, including an additional 200,000 for the NAMMCO Fund. It was noted, however, that it would be necessary to review this forecast before its formal adoption in 1996, either at the next meeting of the Council, or prior to that if necessary.

3. Scientific Committee

3.1 Report of the Scientific Committee

The outgoing Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Jóhann Sigurjónsson (Iceland) presented the Report of the Scientific Committee to the Council. The full Scientific Committee Report, with Annexes, is contained in Section 3.1 of this volume.

The Scientific Committee Chairman reported on the Committee's *cooperation with other international organisations*, including ICES (see also under points 3.2, 8.1 & 8.2 below), the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). The Scientific Committee recommended to the Council that working relations be established between NAMMCO and the Canada-Greenland Joint Commission for the Conservation and Management of Narwhal and Beluga (see under 8.2).

An invitation had been extended by the NAMMCO Scientific Committee to members of the IWC Scientific Committee to take part in the planning and implementation of the 1995 North Atlantic Sightings Survey (NASS-95). It was noted that although the Scientific Committee has no agreement to exchange observers with the IWC Scientific Committee, it was now standard procedure to distribute NAMMCO reports, including the report of the Scientific Committee, to other international organisations, including the IWC.

The Council was informed that a *revision and update of the List of Priority Species* would be undertaken before the next meeting of the Scientific Committee in 1996. The Scientific Committee had also agreed to address questions related to the *role of marine mammals in the marine ecosystem* more fully at its next meeting, with a basis in recent research which would be available as the proceedings from the International Symposium on the Biology of Marine Mammals in the Northeast Atlantic (Tromsø, November 1994), as well as papers to the forthcoming ICES/NAFO Symposium on the Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem (Dartmouth, September 1995).

3.1.1 Further development of management procedures

With regard to the Council's request for further development of management procedures, the Council was informed that a joint session of the Scientific Committee Working Groups on Management Procedures and Northern Bottlenose and Killer Whales had been held in Copenhagen, 2 February, to address these and other questions (see also below under 3.1.2 - northern bottlenose whale). The full report of the joint session is contained in Section 3.1, Annex 1.

The Working Group on Management Procedures had considered the responses to the Scientific Committee's request for more guidance from member countries on their management objectives. The Scientific Committee had concluded that the contributions received did not fully address the need for further clarification of objectives, and suggested that a general discussion at Council level may provide further input for the work of the

Scientific Committee. Generally, however, it was felt that a more pragmatic approach on an area and species/case specific basis would be desirable for the development of specific management procedures. The Scientific Committee had also noted that defining objectives implies clarifying the relative importance of economic and biological factors.

Greenland stressed the difficulty for administrators of identifying the relative importance of biological and economic factors, as these were largely political questions. The general aim was for the Scientific Committee to be in a position to deal effectively with the tasks it receives from administrators. If the Scientific Committee is in need of further input, then more discussion is obviously necessary. The Chairman of the Council agreed that the Scientific Committee must be given concrete tasks to deal with.

Iceland noted that these questions would be considered in greater depth by the Management Committee, as had been suggested by the Scientific Committee (see under 4.1 below and Report of the Management Committee, Section 2).

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee informed the Council that no further work could be carried out in the Working Group on Management Procedures until specific tasks were identified by the Council.

3.1.2 Marine mammal stocks - status and advice

The Council was informed of progress made by the Scientific Committee in addressing the Council's requests for advice on a number of specific stocks and species, as outlined below.

Long-finned pilot whale

No meeting of the ICES Study Group on Pilot Whales had been held in 1994, although a meeting was scheduled for November 1995 in Cambridge, UK, which would review progress on addressing the outstanding questions that had been identified by the Study Group at its last meeting in Copenhagen in 1993.

Northern bottlenose whale

It was reported that the joint meeting of the Working Groups on Management Procedures and Northern Bottlenose and Killer Whales in Copenhagen (2 February 1994) had addressed the Council's request for modelling of the northern bottlenose whale population. The modelling was based on available catch series, abundance estimates and biological parameters, assuming, in the absence of other indications, a single stock in the area from Cape Farewell in the west to the British Isles in the east. The full report of the joint meeting is contained in Section 3.1, Annex 1 of this volume.

Alternative Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) rates of 0-5% were considered, and an uncorrected surface estimate of 8,827 whales, as well as a tentatively corrected estimate of 40,000 whales, were used as alternative target stock sizes. Prior to 1877 and since 1974, the annual average catch of bottlenose whales in the Faroes had been 1.2 animals, during which periods the Faroese fishery was the only harvesting of these whales. Even at an MSY rate as low as 1%, it was concluded that these catches have not had any detrimental effect on the stock.

Harp and hooded seals

It was reported that for both these species, no new information in response to the Council's requests would be available until after the next meeting of the ICES/NAFO Joint Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals, to be held in Dartmouth, Canada in June.

It was also reported that relatively large numbers of young harp seals had recently been occurring in interactions with fisheries along most of the northern Norwegian coast, which seemed to indicate a larger number of young seals in the system, and could probably also be related to the known success of recruitment of the stocks in the early 1990s. Recapture of tagged animals indicated that the young animals came from the East Ice/Barents Sea stock.

Greenland noted that there should be no uncertainty with regard to the fact that NAMMCO's request for advice to the Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals related to stocks in both the Northeast and Northwest Atlantic.

Atlantic walrus

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee outlined the work of the Committee in dealing with the Council's request for advice on the Atlantic walrus. Prior to the third meeting of the Scientific Committee in January/February 1995, Erik Born of the Greenland Fisheries Research Institute was requested to coordinate the compilation of a status report on the Atlantic walrus. This led to the collaboration of an international group of walrus experts from Greenland, Norway and Canada who met in Copenhagen prior to the Scientific Committee to finalise the draft report: Born, Gjertz & Reeves, *Population assessment of Atlantic walrus (Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus L.)*.¹ This report subsequently provided the basis for deliberations in the Scientific Committee's *ad hoc* Working Group on Atlantic Walrus.

The Scientific Committee Chairman pointed out that this was the first time an intergovernmental organisation had dealt properly with this species. He then summarised the Committee's findings and conclusions, with reference to the Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group on the Atlantic Walrus, a preliminary draft of which was circulated to the Council. The final Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group on the Atlantic Walrus is contained in Section 3.1, Annex 2 of this volume.

With regard to *stock identity*, eight groups of Atlantic walruses had been tentatively identified as population units (see Section 3.1 Annex 2, Figure 1). These were considered

¹ A further revised and limited draft edition of this report was also circulated to the Council during its meeting in Nuuk. The final edited report will be published, with support from NAMMCO, as: E.W. Born, I. Gjertz and R.R. Reeves (in press) Population Assessment of Atlantic Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus L.*), *Norsk Polarinstittut Meddelelse 138*.

as functional (ie for the purposes of monitoring of catches and abundance) rather than genetic units. It was stressed that due to the limited nature of the information on which these stocks had been distinguished, their number and configuration could very well change as new data becomes available. *Abundance estimates* were available for only three of the eight stocks of Atlantic walrus. Even for these stocks, the available estimates are uncorrected and/or incomplete and the Scientific Committee expressed concern about the lack of rigorous abundance estimates for all stocks.

With respect to the *long-term effects of present removals on stocks*, the Scientific Committee compared the stock sizes required for sustainability with the abundance estimates (see Section 3.1, Annex 2, Tables 1 & 2). The Council's attention was drawn in particular to the Scientific Committee's conclusions relating to the southern subunit of the Central West Greenland stock, which is probably shared with Canada via southeastern Baffin Island, and which was being over-exploited, as well as the North Water (Baffin Bay) stock, which was understood to likely include the northern subunit of the Central West Greenland stock, and which was probably also being over-exploited.

With respect to the *effects of environmental changes*, the Scientific Committee concluded that there was no documented evidence that environmental factors such as pollution and disturbance had contributed to recent changes in walrus populations, although further research is required to determine the long-term effects of factors such as contaminants on many marine mammals, including walrus.

In relation to *the effects of changes in food supply*, the Scientific Committee concluded that although the precise effects were unknown, fisheries activities, such as the disturbance of sea floor from trawling and noise, were likely to have some effects on walrus and their habitat, and may have contributed to the continued depletion of the stock of walrus off Central West Greenland.

Concluding his presentation of the Scientific Committee's assessment of the Atlantic walrus, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee noted that all information presently available had been taken into account, and that no further advice on Atlantic walrus would be possible until further research had addressed some key questions. It was, however, recommended that the highest priority should be given to studies of stock identity, trends in abundance and catch levels of walrus in the Central West Greenland and North Water (Baffin Bay) stocks. Similar studies were also recommended on other walrus stocks subject to heavy exploitation, including the South and East Hudson Bay stock and the North Hudson Bay-Hudson Strait-Southeast Baffin-Labrador stock, one or both of which may be connected with the Central West Greenland stock.

Greenland noted that according to the Scientific Committee's assessment, there were two stocks of particular importance to Greenland, namely the Central West Greenland stock and the North Water (Baffin Bay) stock, which were being over-exploited. It was stressed that a way must be found to deal with the fact that these stocks are probably shared with countries not members of NAMMCO. The participation of Canadian scientists in the work of the Scientific Committee was greatly appreciated. It would now be necessary for Greenland to determine how to deal with management questions on this species in relation to Canada.

3.1.3 NASS-95

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee reported on the good progress that had so far been made in the planning of the North Atlantic Sightings Survey (NASS-95) (see Section 3.1, Annex 3). It was reported that various institutes in non-member countries, as well as governments of North Atlantic range states had been approached with invitations to participate in NASS-95 in attempts to ensure a wider coverage. Although there had been little response, there was a possibility of some Canadian participation. It was further reported that Greenland was no longer able to be involved.

Greenland pointed out that the probable withdrawal of Greenland's participation in NASS-95 was related not just to financial, but also logistical and practical questions, as well as priorities with regard to survey activities for species other than those currently being dealt with through NAMMCO.

The Council agreed to the Scientific Committee's proposal to establish a NASS-95 Fund of NOK 800,000 using surplus Scientific Committee funds from 1993/94. This Fund would be administered by a steering group consisting of one scientist from each member country, who would be responsible for allocating funds in an equitable manner to national research groups.

3.1.4 Scientific Committee budget, data and administration

In relation to the allocation of Scientific Committee funds, the Scientific Committee sought guidance from the Council on the question of funding the participation of scientists working within member countries in the work of the Scientific Committee.

The Council agreed that the general principle should be that scientists appointed by member countries as members of Scientific Committee Working Groups should be funded by member governments, and that funds earmarked for external expertise should be reserved for such use only.

It was further reported that the Scientific Committee endorsed the idea for extra staff on a contract basis to assist with the establishment of a database in the Secretariat, which would concentrate initially on the priority species currently relevant to the work of the Committee. The Chairman of the Council stressed the importance and advantage of establishing such a database in the Secretariat.

It was the view of the Scientific Committee that National Progress Reports should be made widely available as appendices to the Scientific Committee report, which was distributed internationally to other relevant organisations and bodies. However, the Scientific Committee also sought guidance from the Council on the preferred form in which any catch statistics to be compiled by the Secretariat should be submitted, and whether official catch statistics should be included in National Progress Reports.

Greenland noted that the policies of Greenland and the Faroes with respect to the availability of catch data on small cetaceans were well known, and suggested that the Scientific Committee report could contain a more general compilation, or that National Progress Reports should only contain summarised information. More detailed statistics

should be submitted directly to the Secretariat for inclusion in the database.

Norway stated that it would welcome the opportunity of making data on small cetacean catches available to other bodies through NAMMCO, and had no objections to providing this data in the form of National Progress Reports to the Scientific Committee.

Greenland suggested that it might be useful in the future to set up a drafting group to formulate questions to the Scientific Committee.

3.2 Cooperation with ICES

The Chairman of the Scientific Committee reported to the Council on the participation of the Environment Secretary of ICES, Dr Janet Pawlak, at the last Scientific Committee meeting. Dr Pawlak had provided updates on work being carried out within ICES on requests forwarded from NAMMCO, as well as on new ICES requirements for the reporting of all by-catches of marine mammals, and the establishment of a thematic data centre for the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) on contaminants in marine mammals.

It was also noted that ICES had appointed Dr Arne Bjørge as its official representative to speak at the forthcoming International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment in Shetland in April (see also under 5.1 below).

(Observer relations between ICES and NAMMCO are dealt with under item 8 below)

3.3 Any other business

The Chairman of the Council thanked the Scientific Committee Chairman for his presentation of the Scientific Committee report, and in particular for his valuable input in coordinating the initial work of Scientific Committee during the first two years since NAMMCO's establishment. The Chairman noted with appreciation that due to the capable chairmanship of Jóhann Sigurjónsson, a great deal of progress had been made and many important gaps in scientific collaboration had been filled.

As outgoing Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Jóhann Sigurjónsson highlighted in particular the importance for the continued work of the Scientific Committee of having access to funds for external expertise and contract studies, pointing out that the most recent work carried out on the Atlantic walrus would not have been possible without the participation of invited experts.

The Council was informed that the Scientific Committee had elected Tore Haug (Norway) as its new Chairman for the next two years, and Mads Peter Heide-Jørgensen (Greenland) as Vice-Chairman.

4. Management Committee

4.1 Report of the Management Committee

The Council reviewed and endorsed the Report of the Management Committee, which had

met on 22 February under the Chairmanship of Einar Lemche. The full report is contained in Section 2 of this volume.

In general discussions of management approaches and procedures, the conclusions of the Scientific Committee were noted with respect to the fact that it was not considered appropriate to develop a generic approach to assessments and development of advice on stocks/species. Rather, a case-by-case approach would be more suitable, and stock/species specific management committees, for which the NAMMCO agreement provides, would then identify the most appropriate approaches for the particular stock and/or species with which they were concerned.

Difficulties in providing detailed requests for advice to the Scientific Committee due to lack of information on stock/species could be dealt with in a step-by-step way, whereby the Scientific Committee would first be requested to generate general advice on which more specific requests from the Council could then be based.

It was also noted that NAMMCO could take a lead in formulating a broader definition of management which could be applied to other forms of human impacts on marine mammals besides directed catches for human consumption.

4.2 Recommendations & requests for advice

The Council endorsed the following conclusions, recommendations and requests proposed by the Management Committee:

Northern bottlenose whale:

It was concluded that the traditional coastal drive hunt of northern bottlenose whales in the Faroe Islands did not have any noticeable effect on the stock and that removals of fewer than 300 whales a year were not likely to lead to a decline in the stock;

Atlantic walrus:

While recognizing the over all priority of further research on the delineation and abundance of walrus stocks in the North Atlantic area, it was recommended that Greenland take appropriate steps to arrest the decline of walrus along its west coast. Taking into account the views of the Scientific Committee that the Baffin Bay walrus stock is jointly shared with Canada and that the West Greenland stock might be shared, the Council encouraged Canada to consider working cooperatively with Greenland to assist in the achievement of these objectives.

It was agreed to forward the following requests to the Scientific Committee:

Ringed seal:

The Scientific Committee was requested to advise on stock identity of ringed seals for management purposes and to assess abundance in each stock area, long-term effects on stocks by present removals in each stock area, effects of recent environmental changes (ie. disturbance, pollution) and changes in the food supply,

and interactions with other marine living resources.

Grey seal:

The Scientific Committee was requested to review and assess abundance and stock levels of grey seals in the North Atlantic, with an emphasis on their role in the marine ecosystem in general, and their significance as a source of nematodal infestations in fish in particular.

NASS-95:

The 1995 North Atlantic Sightings Survey (NASS-95) would provide updated abundance estimates for a number of whale species in the North Atlantic, and the Scientific Committee was requested to review results in the light of recent assessments of North Atlantic whale stocks.

Multi-species management

In relation to the importance of the further development of multi-species approaches to the management of marine resources, the Scientific Committee was requested to monitor stock levels and trends in stocks of all marine mammals in the North Atlantic.

It was agreed to endorse the Management Committee's recommendations for the following further tasks of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation:

Standard checklist for inspectors:

It was agreed that the list of common elements of inspection, as identified by the Management Committee Working Group on Inspection and Observations in its discussions on developing a common inspection scheme for coastal minke whaling, could be applied in all national inspection schemes, where resources allow, and that such elements could also apply to coastal whaling for other species besides minke whales. The Working Group on Inspection and Observation was requested to continue its work on the formulation of a standard checklist for inspectors.

Reciprocal observer scheme:

The Working Group on Inspection and Observation was requested to consider the details of a reciprocal observer scheme between NAMMCO member countries and to further develop these.

5. Environmental questions

5.1 Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment

The Secretary reported on progress in the planning of the International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment, to be held in Lerwick, Shetland 20 - 21 April 1995. Printed preliminary programmes for the Conference were distributed to participants at the meeting. Arrangements had also been made to publish the proceedings of

the Conference in a scientific journal, which would be useful for reference and review of environmental factors in the future work of the Scientific Committee. A Summary of the Conference Proceedings is included in Section 4 of this volume.

6. Hunting methods

6.1 Report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods

The Report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods was presented to the Council by the Chairman of the Working Group, Amalie Jessen (Greenland). The Working Group had met in Copenhagen 7 November 1994.

It was reported that Working Group members had compared experiences with the levels of wastage resulting from the use of the penthrite grenade harpoon, as a result of concerns expressed by hunters in Greenland. No systematic study had, however, been conducted of wastage levels using the penthrite grenade in Greenland fin and minke whaling operations. Norwegian studies indicated significant reductions in wastage levels since the introduction of the penthrite grenade in 1984. This had also been the experience in Icelandic whaling operations.

The Working Group had discussed plans in Greenland to produce an instruction manual for the maintenance and use of harpoon cannons as a part of a wider project to check and overhaul all harpoon canons used in Greenland whaling operations. This was considered important both for reasons of safety and efficiency, as well as to reduce long-term maintenance costs to hunters. There was some indication that such practical information on the use and maintenance of equipment might be of interest in Iceland. In Norway, whaling regulations ensured control of the proper use and functioning of harpoon canons as a part of the annual shooter's test.

The Working Group also compared parameters for collecting data related to hunting methods, in particular times-to-death in different forms of whaling. In Greenland, data on times-to-death in fin and minke whaling had been collected annually since 1992 although hunters needed better guidelines to ensure accuracy and compatibility of the collected data. Norwegian guidelines for veterinarians collecting data on times-to-death in minke whaling were listed as a possible reference for Greenlanders. Times-to-death in the Faroese pilot whale hunt were also being collected under a newly implemented project, the overall objective of which was to reduce the incidence of prolonged killing times and continue to refine whale drive procedures in general.

The Working Group had noted that applying final loss of movement in an animal as the criterion for time of death in data collection did not take into account the fact that movements caused by spinal reflexes could probably occur some time after the brain had stopped functioning. When applying these criteria, therefore, some animals that are already unconscious and therefore insensible would be recorded as being still alive. The importance of considering both median and mean times-to-death when assessing the data was also noted.

The Chairman of the Council thanked the Chairman of the Working Group on Hunting Methods for her presentation of the report.

7. The NAMMCO Fund

7.1 Annual Report of the NAMMCO Fund

The Chairman of the Board of the NAMMCO Fund, Einar Lemche (Greenland) presented the annual report of the NAMMCO Fund to the Council. The report included an overview of the Board's activities in 1994 and an outline of the projects which it had decided to support, as well as a summary of general policy discussions and a review of the budget for the coming year.

The Board of the Fund had decided to support a total of eight proposals for different information projects, six of which were publications related to the biology, management and conservation of marine mammals, as well as the publication of the proceedings of a conference on wildlife resource management, and a travel grant for a postgraduate research project on marine mammal management. It was also noted that the seminar on information held in conjunction with the previous Council meeting in Tromsø (26 February 1994) had been financed by the NAMMCO Fund. It was considered regrettable that no report from the seminar was yet available. The Secretary assured the Council that efforts would be made to complete a report on the seminar as soon as possible.

The Board had also defined some general policies relating to the funding of projects. Board members had agreed on the principle of supporting projects with general relevance to NAMMCO, rather than projects focused on issues specific to individual countries. It was also agreed that based on this policy, support could also be given to projects from beyond the boundaries of the member countries which met the requirements of the Fund statutes. Widespread advertisement of the Fund had not so far been considered necessary, but the Board noted that it might be desirable to review publicity and develop guidelines for applications to the Fund.

The Board agreed that projects receiving support from the Fund should be required to acknowledge this support publically in a form appropriate to the project. A further policy to which Board members had agreed was that support from the NAMMCO Fund should not as a rule exceed 50% of the total costs of any one project. Discussions in the Board of the Fund had also stressed the importance of distribution of information material supported by the Fund.

7.2 Other matters

The Council agreed that the Fund should continue to operate as it had done so far, noting the useful and varied source of information provided by the projects so far supported. It was also noted, however, that given the limited amount presently remaining in the Fund, it would not be possible to continue to provide this form of project support in 1996 without additional financial contributions from member countries. The provisional forecast budget for 1996 therefore included an additional NOK 200,000 for the Fund (see also above 2.3).

8. External relations

8.1 Observers' reports

The Secretary informed the Council that NAMMCO had been represented by observers to

a number of international fora over the past year.

Jóhann Sigurjónsson (Iceland) reported on his participation as observer for NAMMCO to the 82nd Statutory Meeting of ICES, and drew particular attention to the adoption by ICES of a specific policy on marine mammals, which emphasised ecological approaches to the study of marine mammals and the importance of assessing interactions with fisheries.

The Secretary reported on her attendance as observer for NAMMCO at the meetings of the IWC, ASCOBANS and CITES in 1994.

The 46th Annual Meeting of the IWC was held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in May 1994. An opening statement from NAMMCO was distributed to participants at the IWC meeting, together with a two-page fact sheet on NAMMCO. NAMMCO also hosted an evening reception during the week of the Commission meeting, to which IWC Commissioners from a number of countries, including North Atlantic range states, as well as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission, Chairman of the Scientific Committee and senior staff of the IWC were invited.

Major decisions of the 46th annual meeting of the IWC included the establishment of a "whale sanctuary" in the Southern Ocean, which was adopted as a schedule amendment by the required 3/4 majority of votes. The decision would be reviewed again after 10 years. The Revised Management Procedure (RMP) as developed by the Scientific Committee of the IWC, was accepted as the scientific basis for calculating catch quotas, but would not be applied until the Commission had agreed on other elements of a Revised Management Scheme, in particular an agreed international inspection and control system. NAMMCO had also been represented by the Secretary at the IWC intersessional meeting on inspection and control which was held in Reine in Lofoten (Norway), in January 1995.

The First Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS) was held in Stockholm, 26-28 September 1994. The First Meeting of the Parties established a permanent Advisory Committee and adopted a resolution on the implementation of a conservation and management plan. It also agreed to establish its permanent Secretariat in Cambridge, UK, appointing Dr Christina Lockyer as Secretary. Information on NAMMCO was provided to the meeting, including in particular an invitation to the Parties to participate in NASS-95 and the International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment in Shetland in April. The Parties to ASCOBANS agreed to a standing invitation to NAMMCO to attend future meetings of the organisation.

The 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held in Fort Lauderdale, USA, 7-18 November 1994. Information on NAMMCO's activities, including the first announcement of the Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment, was distributed to delegates at the meeting. The Conference of the Parties adopted new, detailed and more scientifically-based criteria for the listing of species on Appendices I and II, replacing the former "Berne" criteria. A proposal from Norway to downlist the Northeast Atlantic and North Atlantic Central stocks of minke whales from Appendix I to Appendix II was rejected. It was decided to hold the 10th Conference of the Parties to CITES in Zimbabwe in 1997.

8.2 *Cooperation with other organisations*

The Chairman of the Council noted that steps should be taken towards developing a Memorandum of Understanding between NAMMCO and ICES, and that this would have future financial implications for the Commission.

The Council agreed to establish working relations with the Canada-Greenland Joint Commission for the Conservation and Management of Narwhal and Beluga. It was envisaged that these relations could begin with an exchange of information and reports, including the annual reports of the Council and the Scientific Committee.

8.2.1 Appointment of observers

The Council agreed to delegate its observer status at forthcoming meetings of other international organisation as follows:

ICES - At the 83rd Statutory Meeting of ICES, NAMMCO would be represented by Iceland;

IWC - At the 47th Annual meeting of the IWC, NAMMCO would be represented by the Secretary;

NAFO - At the 17th Annual Meeting of NAFO, NAMMCO would be represented by Iceland;

NEAFC -The Council noted that renewal of contact with the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) should be a priority and agreed that any future observer participation at meetings of NEAFC should be delegated to Norway.

The appointment of observers to meetings of other organisations would be decided after consultation between the Secretariat and the Chairman.

8.3 *Other matters*

The observer from Japan requested the Council to express its concern with regard to recent developments in the International Whaling Commission, in particular the establishment of the southern ocean whale sanctuary, the continuation of the zero-catch limit for commercial whaling, despite the development of the RMP and scientific advice that certain stocks could be harvested on a sustainable basis, and the failure of the Commission to agree to an interim relief quota of minke whales for Japanese community-based whaling.

The Council agreed to express its support for Japan's position in the context of an opening statement to the forthcoming annual meeting of the IWC, noting the importance of basing resource management on sound science and the principles of sustainable use.

The observer from Japan also extended an invitation to NAMMCO to participate in the forthcoming Conference on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security to be hosted by the Government of Japan in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Kyoto in December 1995. Preliminary information about the Conference was distributed to participants.

9. Closing arrangements

9.1 Election of Chairman

The Council elected Halvard P. Johansen from Norway as its Chairman for the next two years.

In accepting the Chairmanship, Halvard Johansen thanked the Council for the confidence placed in himself and in Norway, noting the honour and challenge represented by the office of Chairman, not least after the leadership of the retiring Chairman. He stressed the importance of the principle of sustainable use of living marine resources as the basis for both Norwegian resource policy and for cooperation between NAMMCO member countries. He also remarked on the immediate importance for NAMMCO of enhancing its position as a legitimate international organisation, and that this could best be achieved by maintaining an open and informative approach to the work of the Commission.

9.2 Election of Vice-Chairman

The Council agreed to return to this agenda item at its next meeting.

9.3 Annual Report

The Council agreed to the inclusion of National Progress Reports in a summarised form as appendices to the Scientific Committee report, which would be included in the Annual Report. The finalisation and adoption of the Report of the Council would be done, as previously, by correspondence and in collaboration with the Chairman of the meeting, while the production of a full Annual Report would be the responsibility of the Secretariat.

9.4 Adoption of Press Release

The Council adopted a Press Release which is contained in Appendix 10.

9.5 Next meeting

The Council agreed to hold its next meeting in Tromsø, 27-29 March 1996 (dates to be confirmed by the Secretariat), to be immediately preceded by a meeting of the *ad hoc* finance and administration group.

Iceland noted that it should not necessarily be considered a rule that annual meetings of the Council be held every consecutive year in Tromsø.

9.6 Any other business

The retiring Chairman of the Council, Kjartan Hoydal, concluded the meeting with some final remarks on the progress of the organisation to date and the outstanding work to be done, now that his term of office as Chairman was over. He applauded the good progress that had been made over the past two years, in particular in the work of the Scientific Committee and the setting up of the Secretariat. He regretted not having seen some other matters decided during his term as Chairman, in particular the addition of Canada and the Russian Federation as full members, and the conclusion of a host agreement with Norway, but hoped that these would be realised during the term of the new Chairman. He also expressed his hope for the establishment of a sister organisation to NAMMCO in the North Pacific, and stressed the importance of continued good international relations and

cooperation in scientific and other areas. He concluded by wishing his successor every luck in taking the work of NAMMCO forward.

List of Participants

NAMMCO member delegations:

Faroe Islands Kjartan Hoydal (Chairman)
Anna Maria Fossá
Dorete Bloch
Hans Jacob Hermansen

Greenland Einar Lemche
Henrik Leth
Amalie Jessen
Bjørn Rosing
Henrik Nielsen
Finn Larsen
Charlotte Holten Møller
Hans Peter Christensen
Anthon Siegstad
Hansi Kreutzmann

Iceland Þórður Ásgeirsson
Arnór Halldórsson
Magnús Hannesson
Jóhann Sigurjónsson
Kristján Loftsson

Norway Halvard P. Johansen
Jan Frederik Danielsen
Thoralf Stenvold
Hallstein Rasmussen
Egil Ole Øen
Paul Stark

Government observers:

Canada Gordon Koshinsky

Denmark Henrik Fischer

Japan Minoru Morimoto
Hideo Inomata
Yoshinori Shoji

Intergovernmental observers:

<i>IWC</i>	Henrik Fischer
<i>ASCOBANS</i>	Henrik Fischer
<i>NAFO</i>	Hallstein Rasmussen

Non-governmental observers:

<i>European Bureau for Conservation and Development</i>	Despina Symons
<i>High North Alliance</i>	Elisabeth Hallenstvedt
<i>Inuit Circumpolar Conference</i>	Ingmar Egede Jørgen Wæver Johansen
<i>Inuvialuit Game Council</i>	Richard Binder Norman Snow Larry Carpenter
<i>Regional Authority of Northern Norway</i>	Jostein Angell

Secretariat

	Kate Sanderson Jens Paulsen
<i>Support Staff - Greenland</i>	Alice Møller Mary Brandt

Appendix 2

Agenda

1. Opening procedures
 - 1.1 Address of welcome: Mr Hans Iversen, Minister of Fisheries, Greenland Home Rule Government *
 - 1.2 Opening statements *
 - 1.3 Adoption of agenda
 - 1.4 Admission of observers
 - 1.5 Meeting arrangements
2. Administration and finance
 - 2.1 Secretary's Report
 - 2.2 Audited accounts 1994
 - 2.3 Proposed budget 1995
3. Scientific Committee
 - 3.1 Report of the Scientific Committee
 - 3.2 Cooperation with ICES
 - 3.3 Other business
4. Management Committee
 - 4.1 Report of the Management Committee
 - 4.2 Requests for advice
 - 4.3 Other business
5. Environmental questions
 - 5.1 Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment
 - 5.2 Other business
6. Hunting Methods
 - 6.1 Report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods
 - 6.2 Other business
7. The NAMMCO Fund

- 7.1 Report from the NAMMCO Fund
- 7.2 Other business

* Open to the public and press

8. External relations

- 8.1 Observers' reports
- 8.2 Cooperation with other international organisations
- 8.3 Other matters

9. Closing arrangements

- 9.1 Election of Chairman
- 9.2 Election of Vice-Chairman
- 9.3 Annual Report
- 9.4 Adoption of press release
- 9.4 Next meeting
- 9.5 Any other business

Address of Welcome

by

Mr Hans Iversen,
Minister of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture
Home Rule Government of Greenland

Mr Chairman, Delegates, Representatives, Observers, Dear Friends,

I would like to welcome you all sincerely. The Greenland Home Rule Government and the Greenlandic people appreciate very much that international conferences can also take place here in Greenland. It is especially nice to see the delegates to NAMMCO, an organisation we ourselves have taken part in establishing, and which was established here in Nuuk three years ago, in these very rooms.

All member countries - the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and Greenland - have societies which rely on fish and animals, much more than other countries. But here in Greenland it should be emphasised that marine mammals have special importance for our society.

The importance of hunting in Greenland is the reason why, a couple of weeks ago, we held a major seminar about hunting today and in the future in Greenland. Hunters from towns and settlements from all over Greenland participated. All participants agreed on the principle of sustainable utilization of natural resources - birds, fish and mammals - whether from the land or the sea.

To follow up on the principle of sustainable utilization there needs to be information from both hunters and biologists. In this respect, mutual understanding is necessary from all parties. We have to realize that both hunters and biologists can be right, even though this might sound contradictory. Let me give an example: the biologists say the stock of a particular species is diminished. The hunters say several hundred animals have been seen in the same place. Both parties can be right. Former experiences show that some animals gather for "seminars" sometimes too.

Also in NAMMCO it is important that both hunters and biologists can be heard. We have, through NAMMCO, asked the biologist to assess the stocks we consider to be of special interest at the moment. These species are walrus, harp seals, hooded seals, pilot whales, killer whales and bottlenose whales. We have heard that in some cases the biologists have not come so far that they are yet able to provide the advice we have asked for. What is lacking is not so much more information from the hunters, as more calculations from the biologists. In my opinion it is a good thing that our biologists in NAMMCO's Scientific Committee conduct serious work, even though the time they spend can be felt to be long.

NAMMCO was established because there was a need for an organisation for the conservation and rational management of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. But there is also a need to establish unity towards the outside world, which has forgotten what it has so solemnly signed.

Let me name a few examples of solemn principles which some in the outside world have forgotten:

- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966. This states that all peoples may freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources, and that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence;

- The Declaration from the Earth Summit of 1992, which states that unilateral trade policy measures to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided;

- Thirdly, I would like to mention GATT. Some countries' ban on sealskin and other products from marine mammals which are not endangered is clearly a contravention of GATT.

To be able to read these internationally agreed principles, you do not need to speak Greenlandic. English will do. I hope that our meeting in Nuuk will generate new inspiration in our unity towards the outside world which has forgotten something very important. I wish you all a good meeting and a nice stay here in Nuuk.

Appendix 4

Opening Statement by the Faroe Islands

The Faroese delegation is very pleased to be able to participate in the fifth NAMMCO Council Meeting and wants to thank the Greenland authorities for inviting NAMMCO to Nuuk. We see this meeting as one more step forward in the process of establishing NAMMCO as the focus of regional cooperation in the North Atlantic in science and management of marine mammals.

We look forward to using considerable time this year in the Management Committee on discussions of management objectives.

The Faroese delegation notes with appreciation that the Scientific Committee has finished its work on the bottlenose whale. Their results provide the Faroe Islands with the possibility

of reevaluating the traditional bottlenose whale hunt.

There is no exemption from the general ban on commercial whaling in the Faroese Fisheries Zone at present, but the question has been raised recently in the Faroese parliament. A decision on small-type whaling inside the Faroese Fisheries Zone will depend on biological advice. The Faroe Islands, therefore, have an interest in the undertaking of a full-scale North Atlantic Sighting Survey in 1995.

Opening Statement by Iceland

The Icelandic delegation has brought with it to this meeting some clear expectations as to what we would like to see achieved in our deliberations here in Nuuk. What we hope to be able to report from this meeting is a confirmation that NAMMCO has come through its first difficult years of infancy and childhood and succeeded in establishing itself as an international organisation fully equipped to serve its purpose. Recognising the biological unity of individual stocks of various species of marine mammals in the North Atlantic, as well as their interrelationship, Iceland is aware of how important it is to cooperate with other nations regarding rational utilisation and conservation of these stocks. In the view of Iceland, NAMMCO seems to be an excellent umbrella organisation where such cooperation can be accommodated without infringing the sovereign rights of its members, as stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which entered into force 16 November last year.

Taking into account not only the duty to cooperate, but also the obvious need to do so, it is important that other States, other intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and even individual persons are invited to participate in the work of NAMMCO. Canadian participation in the working group on Atlantic walrus at the last session of the Scientific Committee is an encouraging example of the contribution of other states to cooperation on the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic under the auspices of NAMMCO. We can only hope that this forum, which we have participated in creating, is becoming attractive and respected enough for more states to seriously consider joining as full members.

The papers already distributed for discussion at this meeting reflect the serious efforts of the members of this organisation and we do appreciate all the work and expertise put into these papers. To mention only two of these papers, the Icelandic delegation attaches much importance to the report of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation. We hope to see this work taken considerably further and we support the recommendation of the Working Group that some kind of reciprocal observation scheme between NAMMCO countries be established. The report of the Scientific Committee and its Working Groups bear witness to quality work by our experts. In fact, the Scientific Committee offers a challenge to the rest of us to guide it to some more constructive work directly related to management of marine mammals.

Unfortunately, Iceland has not been involved in managing any whaling activities in the past few years, as you all know. The whaling issue, however, has remained the subject of discussions between politicians, fishermen and the general public throughout this non-whaling period, and these discussions have now resulted in a government decision to put before the parliament this week a resolution proposal for the resumption of whaling. In this resolution proposal, there is an emphasis on the inspection side of future whaling activities, as well as - of course - scientific advice. It is left open to the government to decide the timing

of a resumption of whaling in Iceland, but this resolution proposal makes the basic policy clear. Iceland intends to take up whaling again and of course this makes it essential to strengthen our ties and cooperation with other whaling countries as well as appropriate international organisations in this field of work.

Opening Statement by Norway

The Norwegian delegation is very pleased to participate in the 5th meeting of NAMMCO here in Nuuk where the Agreement on Co-operation in Research, Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic was signed by our political masters three years ago. In our view, it gives a realistic framework for our deliberations that a meeting like this is held in an area where the outcome is important to the people who live here.

The Norwegian delegation looks forward to fruitful discussions and further strengthening of NAMMCO and its commitment to promote the needs of the coastal communities of the North Atlantic. All of us here are aware of the fact that the people of these communities rely for their livelihood and well-being on the continued viability and diversity of marine mammals as resources for human consumption.

The approach to management of marine resources that we have agreed upon for our work in NAMMCO is based on internationally recognised principles of sustainable utilisation and rational management. We note with great satisfaction that these principles have gained greater adherence today, than when we met a year ago.

In my opening statement in Tromsø last year I said that the mass media gave much attention to the hunting methods in whaling and sealing, and that their comments were often accompanied by vivid descriptions of whales and seals in agony. The picture is not that bleak today. There are still reports of our whaling and sealing in the media, but the information given by the media is now more balanced, and our views and reasons are also presented to the public in a decent way. We cannot always expect other people to like what we are doing, but we urge them not to impose their values upon us. Scientific advice is the only viable basis for international cooperation and mutual understanding in this field.

The changes that we have seen in the media are in our view the result of the efforts made by NAMMCO, the member countries and organisations that promote the idea of conservation and rational use of renewable resources - efforts to disseminate information on these issues and not leave the arena open to those who only speak of protection. I see a great challenge, when disposing of the NAMMCO Fund, to keep in mind the enhancement of the idea of sustainable utilisation and rational management of renewable resources.

In this context I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on preparations so far for the forthcoming Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment. We think it appropriate for NAMMCO to promote the study of all matters that affect marine mammals and look forward to participating in the Conference.

We have a full agenda ahead of us in the Council and we have an important meeting in the

Management Committee. I am confident that we will make further progress in the building of NAMMCO.

Appendix 7

Opening Statement by Denmark

We would like to take the opportunity to thank NAMMCO for the invitation to attend the meeting - and thank the Greenland Home Rule Government for hosting the meeting.

We are looking forward to listening with interest to the points of view being presented at the meeting; viewpoints which may give inspiration to international negotiations aimed at establishing international - and reasonable - solutions for sustainable small-type whaling.

Appendix 8

Opening Statement by Japan

Taking the opportunity of the fifth meeting of the Council of NAMMCO, on behalf of the Japanese Government, I would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Contracting Parties of NAMMCO for their efforts in getting the organization on the right track.

First of all, I would like to express my opinion with respect to what happened on whaling around the world since the fourth meeting of the Council, last year. It was regrettable that an unscientific Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary was adopted by the vote of a more than three quarters majority at the 46th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). However, the Government of Japan filed a formal objection to the inclusion of Antarctic minke whales among whale species for the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, because minke whales in the Antarctic represent robust stocks which number at least 760,000 animals. This decision was based on our position as regards the concept of sustainable utilization, which was established at the UNCED, and subject to spirit of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

Secondly, I would like to draw your attention to increasing efforts within the IWC to place small cetaceans under its jurisdiction. It is clear that the management of small cetaceans is not within the competence of the IWC. Management of local marine living resources such as small cetaceans should be conducted on a regional basis, taking account of human rights and needs. The Government of Japan therefore strongly supports the activities of NAMMCO and looks forward to its further development. We are actually planning the establishment of a regional organization, like NAMMCO, to manage marine mammals, including small cetaceans, in the North Pacific. The exchange of information with

NAMMCO is the very basis for cooperation, serving to enhance the development of a similar regional organization in the North Pacific.

Lastly, I wish the Council of NAMMCO a fruitful meeting and progress towards rational utilization of marine mammal resources in the North Atlantic as intended by the Convention. I would like to convey from Mr Kazuo Shima, the Japanese Commissioner to the IWC, his expectations for the furtherance of NAMMCO's activities and his friendship to you all.

Appendix 9

1995 adopted and 1996 forecast budget

Section	Description	Draft 1995	Forecast 1996
Expenditure (1,000 NOK)			
1	Staff related costs	1,250	1,250
2	Rent, office	140	140
3	Meeting	20	20
4	Travel and subsistence	150	130
5	Communication	70	70
6	Office removal and furniture	90	0
7	Data and office supplies	100	100
8	Information	300	300
9	Subscriptions and reference material	50	50
10	Other expenses	250	250
<hr/>			
11	Subtotal	2,420	2,310
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12	The Scientific Committee	435	435
13	NASS-95	800	0
14	Conference	500	0
15	Fund	0	200
<hr/>			
16	Total expenditure	4,155	2,945
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Revenue (1,000 NOK)			
17	Contributions	2,480	2,830
18	Surplus from previous year	1,703	88
19	Interest	60	30
<hr/>			
20	Total revenue	4,243	2,948
<hr/>			
21	Surplus	88	3

Standing assets: Reserve: 200
 Fund, 1995: 317

Notes on Budget

Item no.

1. Salaries
 - Kate Sanderson & Jens Paulsen
 - Office assistant
 - Leave transportation
 - Employers tax (5.1% of the salaries)
2. New accommodation from 8 February 1995. The costs include heat, electricity, cleaning etc.
5. Telephone, telefax, E-mail and mail
6. Costs of relocation of the Secretariat and office furniture
7. Copy machine, computers etc., service and other office supplies
8. Information on NAMMCO, e.g. a NAMMCO brochure (printing costs etc.), c. NOK 150,000
10. Contract work, auditors, insurance, fees etc.
12. DKK 390,000; Exchange rate 7 February 1995 DKK/NOK: 111.42
13. Recommendation from the Scientific Committee, Copenhagen 31 January - 3 February 1995
14. International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment, Shetland 20 & 21 April 1995 - Venue, Invited Speakers etc.
17. Scale of Contributions, 1996:
 - Faroese: NOK 322,500 (c. DKK 290,000)
 - Greenland: NOK 322,500 (c. DKK 290,000)
 - Iceland: NOK 645,000 (c. DKK 580,000)
 - Norway: NOK 1,540,000 (c. DKK 1,158,000 + NOK 250,000)

Press Release

The Council of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission - NAMMCO - held its fifth meeting in Nuuk, Greenland, 21 - 23 February 1995. The Commission has as its objective to contribute through regional consultation and cooperation to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. The members of the Council are the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway.

The fifth meeting of the Council was attended by delegations from member countries and observers from the Governments of Canada, Denmark and Japan. Observers from ASCOBANS (the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic and North Seas), the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) also participated at the meeting, as well as representatives from a number of non-governmental organisations.

Based on the comprehensive work carried out by the Scientific Committee in response to requests for advice from the Council, a number of specific conservation, management and research recommendations were made by the Council at this meeting:

- It was established that the population of northern bottlenose whales in the North Atlantic could sustain the traditional coastal drive hunt in the Faroe Islands and that removals of fewer than 300 bottlenose whales a year would not be likely to lead to a decline in the stock;
- Based on the Scientific Committee's recent extensive international review of the Atlantic walrus, and recognising that priority should be given to further research on this species, it was recommended that Greenland take appropriate steps to arrest the decline of walrus along its west coast;
- Further research was recommended on the ringed seal and the grey seal, with regard to general abundance, ecological factors and impacts of these species on the marine ecosystem;
- In relation to the importance of the further development of multi-species approaches to the management of marine resources, the Scientific Committee was requested to monitor stock levels and trends in stocks of all marine mammals in the North Atlantic;
- The 1995 North Atlantic Sightings Survey (NASS-95) would provide updated abundance estimates for a number of whale species in the North Atlantic, and the Scientific Committee was requested to review results in the light of recent assessments of North Atlantic whale stocks.

It was also decided to request the Working Group on Inspection and Observation to further

develop the details required for a reciprocal observer scheme for coastal whaling in the North Atlantic.

These recommendations, in particular with respect to the bottlenose whale and Atlantic walrus, have filled important gaps in international cooperation on the conservation and management of marine mammals in the North Atlantic.

The NAMMCO Secretariat would in the future function as a repository for data on small whales and seals in member countries. Plans are under way to develop a comprehensive database over these species in the Secretariat in Tromsø.

Other than maintaining and enhancing existing relations with a number of other international organisations, the Council also agreed to establish working relations with the Canada/Greenland Joint Commission on the Conservation and Management of Narwhal and Beluga.

After its first year of activities, the NAMMCO Fund has established itself as a useful source of funding for information projects which contribute to a better understanding and knowledge of the rational utilisation of marine mammals. It was agreed to recommend further contributions from member countries in 1996 so that the Fund can continue to provide such support.

The International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment in Lerwick, Shetland 20-21 April 1995, which is being organised by the NAMMCO Secretariat, will provide an important forum for presentations on the latest research into the effects of chemical pollutants on marine mammals, and on the health implications for coastal people who have marine mammals as a part of their diet.

The Council elected Mr Halvard Johansen from Norway as its new Chairman for the following two-year term. At its recent meeting, the Scientific Committee had elected Tore Haug from Norway as its new Chairman.

In accepting the office as Chairman of the Council, Mr Johansen drew attention to the importance of the principle of sustainable use of living marine resources, which is the crux of resource policy in NAMMCO member countries.