



**ANNUAL REPORT
1996**

Report of the Sixth 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 five 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); Nuuk, Greenland, 21-23 February 1995 (NAMMCO/5); and most recently in Tromsø, Norway 27-28 February 1996 (NAMMCO/6).

The present volume contains proceedings from NAMMCO/6 - the Sixth Meeting of the Council - which was held at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Tromsø, Norway, 27-29 March 1996 (Section 1), as well as the reports of the 1996 meetings of the Management Committee (Section 2) and the Scientific Committee (Section 3), which presented their conclusions to the Council at its Sixth Meeting. Section 3 also contains Scientific Committee Working Group reports which were presented to the 4th meeting of the Scientific Committee in Tórshavn, 5-9 February 1996, while annual National Progress Reports on marine research in member countries are contained in Section 4.

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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NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

CONTENTS

MEETINGS AND OFFICE BEARERS 1996	7
SECTION 1 COUNCIL	
1.1 Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council	11
Appendix 1 List of participants	37
Appendix 2 Agenda	39
Appendix 3 Addresses & Opening Statements.....	41
Appendix 4 <i>Namibia: management of renewable marine resources, with special reference to the management of marine mammals</i> -Presentation by Dr Jan Jurgens	50
Appendix 5 Statement by the Observer for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	53
Appendix 6 Audited accounts for 1995	56
Appendix 7 Press Release	57
1.2 Report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods	59
1.3 Annual Report of the NAMMCO Fund	67
1.4 Provisions for the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals	69

MEETINGS & OFFICE BEARERS 1996

Members of the Commission Heads of delegations

Faroe Islands	(F)	Kaj Mortensen
Greenland	(G)	Einar Lemche
Iceland	(I)	Arnór Halldórsson
Norway	(N)	Halvard P. Johansen

Council

Chairman 1995-97: Halvard P. Johansen (N)
NAMMCO/6 - Sixth Meeting of the Council - 27-28 March 1996, Radisson SAS Hotel, Tromsø

Management Committee

Chairman 1995-1997 Einar Lemche (G)
Fifth Meeting of the Management Committee - 28 March 1996, Radisson SAS Hotel, Tromsø

Management Committee Working Group on Inspection and Observation

Chairman Egil Ole Øen (N)
Third Meeting of the Working Group - 3 Nov. 1995, Greenland Home Rule, Copenhagen
Fourth Meeting of the Working Group - 23 Jan. 1996, Greenland Home Rule, Copenhagen

Working Group on Hunting Methods

Chairman Amalie Jessen (G)
Third Meeting of the Working Group - 23 Jan. 1996, Greenland Home Rule, Copenhagen

Scientific Committee

Chairman Tore Haug (N)
Vice-Chairman Mads Peter Heide-Jørgensen (G)
Fourth Meeting of the Scientific Committee - 5 - 9 Feb. 1996, Nordic House, Tórshavn

Scientific Committee *ad hoc* Working Group on Ringed Seals

Convener Mads Peter Heide-Jørgensen (G)

Scientific Committee *ad hoc* Working Group on Grey Seals

Convener Arne Bjørge (N)

The NAMMCO Fund

Chairman of the Board Einar Lemche (G)
Meetings of the Board of the NAMMCO Fund - 3 Nov. 1995 (Copenhagen); 26 March 1996 (Tromsø)

SECTION 1 - COUNCIL

1.1	Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council	11
	Appendix 1 List of participants	37
	Appendix 2 Agenda	39
	Appendix 3 Addresses & Opening Statements.....	41
	Appendix 4 <i>Namibia: management of renewable marine resources, with special reference to the management of marine mammals</i> - Presentation by Dr Jan Jurgens	50
	Appendix 5 Statement by the Observer for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	53
	Appendix 6 Audited accounts for 1995	56
	Appendix 7 Press Release	57
1.2	Report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods	59
1.3	Annual Report of the NAMMCO Fund	67
1.4	Provisions for the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals	69

1.1 REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Radisson SAS Hotel, Tromsø, Norway, 27-29 March 1996

The Sixth Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO was held at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Tromsø from 27 to 29 March. The meeting was attended by delegations from the member countries - the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway - as well as observers from the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Japan, Namibia and the Russian Federation. The Ministers of Fisheries of the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation also attended the opening session of the meeting. In addition, a number of inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations were represented by observers to the meeting. Participants are listed in Appendix 1.

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 Address of welcome

The Chairman of the Council, Halvard P. Johansen (Norway) convened the meeting and introduced the Minister of Fisheries of Norway, Jan Henry T. Olsen, who gave an address of welcome to the Council. Mr Olsen's address is contained in Appendix 3.

1.2 Invited presentation

The Chairman welcomed Dr Jan Jurgens, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia, to the Council of NAMMCO as observer for the Government of the Republic of Namibia. Dr Jurgens was invited by the Council to give a presentation on Namibia's policies and experiences in conserving and managing marine living resources, including marine mammals. A summary of Dr Jurgens' presentation is contained in Appendix 4.

1.3 Opening statements

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman announced to the meeting that member countries of NAMMCO wished to reiterate their invitation to the Governments of Canada and the Russian Federation to sign the NAMMCO Agreement. In addition, the Chairman announced that Council members had agreed to offer an arrangement whereby the payment of membership contributions to NAMMCO by Canada and the Russian Federation would be on a voluntary basis for 5 years.

Opening statements were made by the Ministers of Fisheries of the Faroes, Greenland, Iceland and the Russian Federation, as well as by the observer for the Government of Japan. These statements are contained in Appendix 3.

1.4 Admission of observers

The Chairman welcomed all observers from governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations to the meeting, and noted the high level of attendance at the meeting, which, in addition to the Fisheries Ministers from NAMMCO member countries

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

and the Russian Federation, also included executive officials from a number of international organisations. The Chairman welcomed in particular the participation for the first time of observers from the newly-formed Nordic-Atlantic Cooperation (NORA), as well as from the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) (see Appendix 1).

1.5 Adoption of Agenda

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

1.6 Meeting arrangements

The Secretary outlined the practical and social arrangements for the meeting, which included invitations to all participants to a reception hosted by the Regional Authority of Northern Norway on Wednesday 27 March, as well as to a reception hosted by the Tromsø City Council on Thursday evening, 28 March.

2. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

2.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary presented a report to the Council on the activities of the Secretariat since the Fifth Meeting of the Council in 1995 (NAMMCO/6/3; see 2.2 below).

2.2 Report of the Finance and Administration Group

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Group, Arnór Halldórsson (Iceland), presented the report of the Group, which met in Tromsø on 26 March. As a basis for reviewing financial and administrative matters, the Group reviewed the Secretary's report to the Council, as well as the audited accounts for 1995 and the draft 1996 and forecast 1997 budgets.

2.2.1 Staffing

The Secretary reported that the Secretariat had advertised the position of permanent office assistant in September 1995 and had offered the position to Margot Bertelsen, who began in October, taking over from Elisabeth Vileid who had been employed full-time on a contract basis from March to October 1995. The position of office assistant encompasses a wide range of duties related to the practical organisation and work of the Secretariat, including book-keeping, filing, general communications, word processing and meeting arrangements.

During 1995 the Secretariat had also engaged consultants on a contract basis, both in connection with the International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment in Shetland in April, as well as in relation to the establishment of a marine mammal database in the Secretariat (see also under 2.2).

It was also noted that the four-year contracts for the Secretary and Assistant Secretary, who both began their terms of employment in 1993, expire on 31 July and 30 September 1997 respectively.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

The Finance and Administration Group had noted reference made at last year's Council meeting to the possible need for scientific expertise in the Secretariat, depending also on further decisions made by the Council. The Secretary gave a preliminary overview of the kinds of tasks for which a scientific assistant in the Secretariat could be responsible, such as the servicing of the Scientific Committee, editing of Scientific Committee reports and follow-up of Scientific Committee meetings, including, for example, updating the List of Priority Species, further development and maintenance of the database, as well as editorial assistance in connection with the possible expansion of publication activities on the part of the Secretariat. It was noted that the appointment of professional positions in the Secretariat was a matter for the Council.

While noting that it was too early to make a decision on the creation of additional professional positions in the Secretariat, the Council **endorsed** the recommendation from the Finance and Administration Group that the Secretary prepare an overview of present staffing arrangements and the division of tasks among staff members, as well as an assessment of the need for additional expertise in relation to further activities and tasks which may be assigned to the Secretariat by the Council.

2.2.2 Headquarters & administration

As reported at the Fifth Meeting of the Council, the Secretariat moved into new, permanent accommodation at Søndre Tollbugate 9 in downtown Tromsø in early February 1995. The Secretary informed the Council in her report that most of the necessary furniture for the offices has now been purchased, although some further enhancement of the office set-up is still required. The Secretary also reported that a small "housewarming" reception had been held in May, which was attended by representatives from local research institutes as well as the Tromsø City Council.

Priorities in office administration in 1996 would be to update and systematise the internal filing system and establish an effective cataloguing system for the Secretariat's library of internal references, as well other general information work as outlined under 2.2.5 below.

2.2.3 Host Agreement

The Secretary reported that after a meeting was held between representatives of the legal department of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman, Secretary and Assistant Secretary of NAMMCO in Oslo, 15 February 1996. The Secretariat subsequently prepared a draft text for a Host Agreement between Norway and NAMMCO for use as a starting point from which to negotiate the concrete details of an Agreement. In correspondence with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the importance of clarifying NAMMCO's status as an international organisation in Norway was stressed, as well as Norway's role as host country. It was foreseen that questions concerning NAMMCO's financial status and the conditions the organisation is able to provide the Secretariat and its staff would also be clarified in a Host Agreement.

Further to progress outlined by the Secretary, the Finance and Administration Group was also informed of a recent letter to the Secretariat from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

Affairs informing NAMMCO of plans for a meeting to be held in April 1996 between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to discuss the question of agreements for international organisations located in Norway.

It was the view of the Finance and Administration Group that these were positive developments, but it was also stressed that there was a need to resolve the details of an agreement as soon as possible, both with regard to clarifying the legal status of the organisation, as well as the financial implications for the organisation and its staff.

In addition, it was noted that the calculations made by the Secretariat concerning income, employers' and sales tax paid through NAMMCO to Norway (NAMMCO/6/FA/5) amount to significantly more than the extra annual contribution of NOK 250,000 paid by Norway. It was also noted that these were conservative calculations based on the 1995 accounts, and could be expected to increase in line with increased activities of the Secretariat.

The Council **endorsed** the recommendation from the Finance and Administration Group that the Secretariat should continue negotiations with the Norwegian authorities and that a draft agreement should be considered by member countries once details have been further developed.

2.2.4 Database

The Secretary reported that the basic framework for the database of marine mammals has now been established in the Secretariat (see also item 11 of the Scientific Committee Report). The major sources of catch and other data on marine mammals of relevance to NAMMCO in member countries and elsewhere have been identified, and some data has already been received and stored. Standardised routines for submitting data to the Secretariat have not yet been established, but in this connection the Scientific Committee has agreed to establish a Data Group to liaise with the Secretariat on data questions in general, as well as the further development of the database.

Progress had also been made on a database of references to papers and publications of relevant biological material, which already contains 6-7,000 titles. Titles would also be included from other fields, such as the historical, sociological and political sciences related to marine mammal management and utilisation.

With respect to continued data compilation (including historical catch data still to be compiled) and future maintenance of the database, the Secretary pointed out that it will be necessary for existing staff to be properly trained in the use of the database and data validation methods if it is to be further developed within existing staffing arrangements. Further contract-based assistant is possible within the budget for 1996. Depending on future developments, however, the Secretary noted that it may be more appropriate to hire extra staff with expertise in data storage and handling (see also under 2.1.1).

The Finance and Administration Group noted that in relation to completing the basic structure of the database and further compilation of up-to-date catch data, the budget for

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

1996 and 1997 included an amount of 200,000 earmarked for contract expertise, which was also the basis on which initial assistance to begin work with the database had been hired in 1995. It was noted that this could be drawn upon to contract further expertise to complete the outstanding work in 1996.

The Finance and Administration Group also underlined that the Scientific Committee Rules of Procedure make it quite clear that no data compiled from national institutes in the Secretariat will be made available to any other parties without the express approval of the owners of the data.

2.2.5 Information

The Secretary reported to the Council on recent information and publications produced by the Secretariat. These included a general information brochure on NAMMCO, and the *NAMMCO 1995 Annual Report*, which is a compilation of the proceedings of the Council and its Committees in 1995. The Secretariat plans to continue to publish Commission proceedings on an annual basis in this format, the costs of which are included under the budget item for information.

The Secretary also reported that NAMMCO had supported the production of the final edited report of the walrus expert group in published form. This was published in late 1995 as E.W. Born, I. Gjertz and R.R. Reeves, *Population assessment of Atlantic walrus (Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus)*, Norsk Polarinstitutt Meddelelser 138. The production of this publication was funded over the Secretariat's general information budget and NAMMCO's logo was included on the title page of the publication. A total of 1000 copies were printed, of which the Secretariat has received 100 from the publishers, the Norwegian Polar Institute. The Institute has a wide international distribution network as well as exchange agreements with many other research institutes. The Secretariat will therefore give priority to distributing its limited copies to contacts not already covered by the Norwegian Polar Institute.

The Secretary also reported that the Secretariat is now connected to Internet and has begun to investigate the possibilities of establishing a home page for general information on NAMMCO as soon as possible, which would also provide links to other relevant sites on the Web. The Secretariat is linked to the University of Tromsø's server for an annual fee, and the University data centre also provides advice and expertise on internet-related matters. E-mail has become an increasingly valuable tool in the daily communications of the Secretariat, and a growing number of general enquiries from the public are being received through this medium.

Plans for future information were also outlined by the Secretary, such as the production of a regular newsletter, and a NAMMCO directory. Possibilities for further NAMMCO publications were outlined briefly in a separate note prepared for the Finance and Administration Group (NAMMCO/6/FA/4).

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

In line with the report of the Finance and Administration Group, the Council commended the quality and usefulness of the publications produced by the Secretariat in 1995/96 and noted the importance of using funds for such publications in order to enhance the professional image of the organisation. The planned establishment of a NAMMCO Web site was considered an excellent means of enhancing the distribution of information, including NAMMCO documents.

With regard to the contents of the Annual Report, it was agreed that the main principle should be that any Working Group documents presented formally to the Council should be included in future published Annual Reports.

An *ad hoc* Working Group on Publications, which was established by the Council during its meeting to discuss the feasibility of a NAMMCO scientific series (see under 3.1.4), also discussed the need for NAMMCO to produce more general factual information on its work for the general public.

The Council **endorsed** the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Working Group that, in addition to a scientific review series, the Secretariat should produce fact-sheets on a regular basis in order to make known to the public important conclusions from the work of the Scientific Committee, as well as other relevant information on marine mammals available through NAMMCO.

2.2.6 Meetings

The Secretary's report presented an overview of meetings serviced by the Secretariat since the last meeting of the Council. These included the International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment in Shetland in April 1995 (see also under item 5.), as well as meetings of the Working Groups on Inspection and Observation and Hunting Methods, the Board of the NAMMCO Fund, and the fourth meeting of the Scientific Committee in Tórshavn in February 1996.

The Secretary also reported briefly on a number of meetings attended in Norway in 1995 by members of the Secretariat. These included a seminar entitled "Managing marine mammals: local responses to global issues" at the meeting of the International Association for the Study of Common Property in Bodø in May, the Environment Northern Seas Conference in Stavanger in August, and the Annual Meeting of the Norwegian Minke Whalers' Association in Svolvær in November, at which the Secretary gave a presentation on the latest work of NAMMCO.

.....

The Chairman thanked the Secretary and the Chairman of the Finance and Administration Group for their reports to the Council.

2.3 Audited accounts 1995

The Council **approved** the audited accounts for 1995, which had been fully reviewed by the Finance and Administration Group (Appendix 6).

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

2.4 *Budget 1996 and forecast budget 1997*

The Council **adopted** the proposed budget for 1996, as reviewed and revised by the Finance and Administration Group. The forecast 1997 budget was adopted provisionally, pending final review and adoption by the Council at the end of the 1996 financial year.

In adopting the budget for 1996, the Council noted that in the future there should not be a discrepancy between the budgeted expenses and the sum of annual contributions and interest.

The Council also noted the Finance and Administration Group's conclusions that the future implementation of a NAMMCO Control Scheme would have financial implications for the forecast 1997 budget and beyond. It was also noted that the existing and forecast 1997 levels of surplus funds could allow increased activities in relation to new membership of the Commission.

3. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

3.1 *Report of the Scientific Committee*

The Vice-Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Mads Peter Heide-Jørgensen, presented the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific Committee, which was held in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, 5-9 February 1996 and chaired by Tore Haug (Norway). The full report, including Working Group reports, is contained in Section 3 of this volume.

National Progress Reports for 1995 from Norway, Iceland and the Faroes, and for 1994 from Greenland were submitted to the Scientific Committee, and these are contained in Section 4 of this volume.

Heide-Jørgensen reported that the Scientific Committee's planned update of the List of Priority Species had not been completed for its last meeting, but would be revised prior to the 1997 meeting. A considerable amount of new data was now available for many of the priority species, including those which had been the subject of recent comprehensive assessments by the Scientific Committee.

It was further reported that the Scientific Committee had agreed to establish a Data Liaison Group to advise the Secretariat on the standards for submission of data and Scientific Committee requirements for the further development of the database in the Secretariat (see also under 2.2.4 above).

3.1.1 *Role of marine mammals in the marine ecosystem*

The Scientific Committee had noted the growing research focus on the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem in recent years, and the availability of a considerable amount of new information and publications in this area. These included the published proceedings of the 1994 International Symposium on the Biology of Marine Mammals in the Northeast Atlantic (Blix et al. 1995), which contains a number of papers related to research on, for

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

example, the feeding ecology of marine mammals. As well, the 1995 ICES/NAFO Symposium on the Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem provided a very useful forum for scientific discussions in this area, and papers presented would eventually be published in the *Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science*.

It was the view of the Scientific Committee that the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem was a vast area of research, and that in the future it may be preferable for the Scientific Committee to address more specific aspects related to this field.

3.1.2 Marine mammal stocks - Status and advice to the Council

i) Long-finned pilot whales

The Council was informed that the ICES Study Group on Long-finned Pilot Whales, which was dealing with matters related to NAMMCO's request for advice on this species, had postponed its scheduled 1995 meeting until April 1996 in Cambridge, UK (see also under item 3.2, *Cooperation with ICES*, below).

The Council endorsed the view of the Scientific Committee that NAMMCO should, if required, finance the travel costs to this meeting for certain scientists whose participation was identified by the Scientific Committee as being important to the successful completion of the Study Group's work. In addition, **the Council endorsed** the Scientific Committee's recommendation to NAMMCO member governments to ensure that the necessary scientific expertise is available to the ICES Study Group on Long-finned Pilot Whales.

It was noted that the next meeting of the ICES Study Group was expected to be its last, and that the Scientific Committee would return to the matter at its next meeting.

ii) Killer whales

The Council was informed that no further advice could be provided on this species until the results of ongoing research were available and data from the most recent sightings surveys had been analysed. Further progress on killer whales would be reviewed by the Scientific Committee at its next meeting.

iii) Harp seals

The Council was informed of the Scientific Committee's review of the latest information on harp seals in the Northwest Atlantic, Greenland Sea and Barents and White Seas, which was based on the report of the ICES/NAFO Joint Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (for full details, see item 8.3 of the Report of the Scientific Committee in Section 3.1 of this volume).

With respect to stock sizes and trends, it was reported that the total population of harp seals in the *Northwest Atlantic* in 1994 was estimated to be 4.8 million individuals when pup mortality was set equal to the mortality of seals older than 1 year, and 4.5 million harp seals when a pup mortality three times that of older seals was applied. Since 1990 the population has been growing at c. 5% per year. Using the most recent catch (1994) as a basis for the harvesting regime and a pup mortality equal to that of seals older than 1 year, a replacement

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

yield of 287,000 harp seals was calculated, and the 1996 population was estimated to be 5.1 million.

For the *Greenland Sea* stock, it was reported that mark-recapture updates of pup production for ten cohorts over the period 1977-1991 were similar to those presented earlier with the exception that the 1991 estimate was increased by about 10% to 65,100 (95% conf. interval 53,600-76,800). Since the revised estimate was within the range of values investigated at the 1993 meeting of the Joint Working Group, it was not felt that the findings would make any change to the 1993 assessments.

For the *Barents and White Seas* stock, no new information on stock size was available. Several factors indicated that there had been poor recruitment to the White and Barents Seas stock in the late 1980s, which may be related to over all trends in availability of food resources in the area.

With respect to ecological considerations, the Scientific Committee reviewed available information on diet composition of harp seals in the Northwest Atlantic and the Barents and White Seas. No new information was available concerning the feeding ecology of the *Greenland Sea* stock.

For the *Northwest Atlantic* stock, preliminary estimates of the consumption by harp seals of Atlantic cod, capelin and polar cod indicated that a stock of 4.8 million harp seals consumed 6.9 million tons of fish, 46% of which were estimated to come from Arctic waters, 40% from waters off eastern Newfoundland and the remaining 14% from the Gulf of St Lawrence. The Scientific Committee noted that these estimates were preliminary and should be used with caution (see Report of the Scientific Committee, item 8.3.1.1 in Section 3.1).

For the *Barents and White Seas* stock, changes in the ecosystem over the past 30 years were emphasised. The collapse of two important stocks of potential prey species (Norwegian spring spawning herring in the early 1970s and Barents Sea capelin in the mid-1980s) is particularly likely to have had an impact on the feeding habits of harp seals (see Report of the Scientific Committee, item 8.3.1.3 in Section 3.1).

The Council endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendations for further research on harp seals, as referred to under item 8.3.2 in the Report of the Scientific Committee (Section 3.1).

iv) Hooded seals

Heide-Jørgensen informed the Council of the Scientific Committee's review of the latest information on hooded seals in the Northwest Atlantic and Greenland Sea, which was also based on the report of the ICES/NAFO Joint Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (for full details, see item 8.4 of the Report of the Scientific Committee in Section 3.1 of this volume).

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

With respect to stock sizes and trends, it was reported that for the *Northwest Atlantic*, a minimum pup production estimate of 84,000 was available. A replacement yield of 22,900 was calculated for a harvest regime of pups only, and 11,800 for a harvest regime of 1 year and older animals. The Scientific Committee reported that these replacement yields were illustrative and should therefore be used with caution. For the *Greenland Sea*, no estimate of stock size or pup production is available.

With respect to ecological considerations, it was reported that information on hooded seal diet in the *Northwest Atlantic* is limited, although preliminary analysis in the Gulf of St Lawrence indicated that the role of hooded seals as predators on some commercially important fish species such as Greenland halibut may be important. No information is currently available on the feeding ecology of hooded seals in the *Greenland Sea*.

The Council endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendations for future work on hooded seals, as referred to under item 8.4.2 of the Scientific Committee Report, in particular the need for an abundance estimate of the Greenland Sea hooded seal stock, as well as further studies on ecology.

v) Ringed seals

It was reported that the Scientific Committee had established a special *ad hoc* Working Group on Ringed Seals, under the chairmanship of M.P. Heide-Jørgensen which had met during the Committee's meeting to address the Council's request for advice on this species (see *NAMMCO Annual Report 1995*, p. 23). The Scientific Committee's response to the Council's request was therefore based on the report of this Working Group, to which external experts from Canada, Denmark, Norway and the Russian Federation had been invited by the Scientific Committee to contribute to its work (see item 8.5 and Section 3.2 of this volume).

With respect to stock identity, the Scientific Committee identified three provisional geographical areas for assessing the status of ringed seals: *Area 1* defined as Baffin Bay, Davis Strait, eastern Hudson Strait, Labrador Sea, Lancaster, Jones and Smith sounds; *Area 2* defined as Greenland Sea, east coast of Greenland, west coast of Svalbard; *Area 3* defined as Barents and Kara Seas (see Figure 1, Section 3.2 of this volume).

With respect to abundance in each stock area, although estimates were only available for small parts of *Area 1*, the Scientific Committee nevertheless found it useful to extrapolate densities of hauled-out ringed seals for different ice types/habitats to the overall distribution of these ice types. The abundance estimates were further corrected for seals missed during the surveys. A crude estimate of 1,300,000 ringed seals was thus derived for *Area 1*. No quantitative data on ringed seal abundance could be applied to *Areas 2 or 3*. Another approach, based on calculations of polar bear predation combined with removals by humans suggested a total ringed seal abundance in *Area 1* of 1.1 and 1.6 million (see Report of the Scientific Committee, item 8.5.2, ii) and Figure 2 in Section 3.2 of this volume).

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

With respect to long-term effects on stocks by removals in each stock area, the Scientific Committee applied an over all catch figure of 100,000 ringed seals in Area 1 (i.e. combined annual removals in Greenland and Canada), roughly 6-9% of the estimated abundance. Based on three lines of evidence (see Report of the Scientific Committee, item 8.5.2, iii)), it was concluded that catches in Area 1 are probably sustainable, although the large harvest in Area 1 warrants further monitoring.

Concerning the effects of recent environmental changes (i.e. disturbance, pollution), there was little evidence of effects of disturbances at the population levels in ringed seals. It was also noted that further information on chemical pollution in ringed seals and other components of the Arctic ecosystem would be available through global assessments currently being undertaken by other organisations, in particular the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP).

The Scientific Committee further reported that no information was available on the effects of changes in the food supply of ringed seals. With regard to interactions with other marine living resources, the Scientific Committee reported that the most obvious interaction was the predation by polar bears on ringed seals (see also on abundance in each stock area, above).

The Council noted the conclusion of the Scientific Committee that the assessment of ringed seals in the North Atlantic had taken into account all relevant information currently available and that no further advice on ringed seals would be possible at this stage.

The Council endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific Committee for further work on ringed seals, including the monitoring of ringed seal catches in Greenland and Canada, studies of loss rates in different types of hunts, the extent of under-reporting and changes in hunting efforts and trade in seal products, as well as further studies on stock identity and abundance of pack-ice ringed seals.

Greenland expressed its appreciation for the work carried out by the Scientific Committee and was pleased to note that present catch levels of ringed seals appear to be sustainable.

Greenland also noted that it would not be realistic to expect hunters to be responsible for monitoring catches or undertaking studies of loss rates and other information, but that such information should be gathered by especially appointed experts.

vi) Grey seals

Heide-Jørgensen reported that the Scientific Committee had established a special *ad hoc* Working Group on Grey Seals, under the chairmanship of A. Bjørge, which had met during the Committee's meeting to address the Council's request for advice on this species (see *NAMMCO Annual Report 1995*, p. 23). The Scientific Committee's response to the Council's request was therefore based on the report of this Working Group, to which external experts from Canada, Iceland, the UK had been invited by the Scientific Committee to contribute to its work (see item 8.6 and Section 3.3 of this volume).

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

With respect to abundance and stock levels in the North Atlantic, it was reported that in the *Northwest Atlantic* the total population estimate in 1993 was c.143,000; around *Iceland* the population was estimated at 8,000; no population estimate was available for the *Faroes*; around 40% of the world population of grey seals breeds around the *British Isles*, with a 1994 total population estimate of 108,500; in *northwest Europe* (including *Norway and Russia*) figures of pup production are available for all known breeding sites, although these are mostly based on single counts and do not allow for the establishment of confidence intervals.

Noting the comments of the Scientific Committee that direct and indirect removals of grey seals were generally poorly documented, **the Council endorsed** the Scientific Committee's recommendation for a system for recording catch statistics for the hunting of grey seals in Norway, and for the recording of statistics of grey seals killed at fish farms and in fishing gear in all NAMMCO member countries (see also Report of the Management Committee in Section 2.1, item 4.2).

With respect to the role of the grey seal in the marine ecosystem, information on diet was available from Canada, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, UK and Norway. Assessments of consumption of fish by grey seals in the *Northwest Atlantic* have been carried out on the Scotian shelf and the Gulf of St Lawrence, which indicated increases in cod consumption from 1970 to 1993, although the impact of this increased consumption on the recovery of Northwest Atlantic cod stocks was difficult to assess. Fish consumption by grey seals in the *North Sea* has also been examined and compared with the commercial fish catch. A direct comparison shows that grey seal fish consumption is typically around two orders of magnitude less than stock biomass for any species. Although annual removals of fish biomass by seals are small on a North Sea-wide scale, there may be local areas where seal predation is more significant.

The Chairman of the Council requested clarification from the Vice-Chairman of the Scientific Committee concerning recent reports in the popular press which suggested a direct correlation between increased abundance of seals and increased abundance of cod. Heide-Jørgensen stated that such correlations were difficult to address, as the situation was likely to be far more complicated. He stated that harp seals are, however, a more significant predator of Atlantic cod (c. 142,000 t/yr) than grey seals (c. 40,000 t/yr).

With respect to grey seals as a source of nematodal infestation in fish, it was reported that the codworm or sealworm *Pseudoterranova decipiens* is abundant in grey seals

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

in many areas, and greatly reduces the commercial value of fish fillets. The cost of removing larvae from cod fillets alone was estimated to be in excess of \$29 million in Atlantic Canada in 1982. In the *Northwest Atlantic*, surveys to determine nematode abundance in grey seals have shown that mean burdens have increased from 158-700 nematodes per seals between 1948-1956 to more than 1,000 in 1990. Observed increases in sealworm burdens in fish in Nova Scotia and the Gulf of St Lawrence are believed to be linked to increases in the grey seal population since the 1970s. High infestation of sealworm was also reported from *Iceland* and *Norway*.

The Council endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendations for further work on grey seals (as outlined under item 8.6.4 of the Report of the Scientific Committee - Section 3.1), with respect to both abundance and stock levels, the role of grey seals in the marine ecosystem, as well as further studies on the life cycle and population dynamics of the sealworm (see also under 4.2 below).

3.1.3 Review of NASS-95

Heide-Jørgensen reported that the Scientific Committee had reviewed information from Committee members on the conduct and available results of the respective national surveys carried out under NASS-95 by Norway, the Faroe Islands and Iceland. Summary reports of these surveys are contained in item 9 of the Report of the Scientific Committee in Section 3.1 of this volume.

With respect to the Council's request to the Scientific Committee to review the results of NASS-95 in the light of recent assessments of North Atlantic whale stocks, it was reported that the Scientific Committee had agreed to establish a Working on Abundance Estimates with its basis in the previous Working Group to plan NASS-95. The task of the Working Group would be to review analyses and where relevant also analyse data from NASS-95 to ensure its compatibility, both between NASS-95 survey areas, as well as with data from other sightings surveys, in order to provide a basis for calculating abundance estimates for the relevant cetacean stocks in the North Atlantic (see also under 4.2 below).

The Council also noted that the funds allotted to the NASS-95 fund in 1995 had been divided between the Faroe Islands and Iceland to help cover the costs of undertaking their respective survey coverage for NASS-95.

Norway informed the Council that data on minke whales from the Norwegian survey under NASS-95 would be analysed through

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

the IWC Scientific Committee's Abundance Estimates Working Group.

Iceland commended the Scientific Committee's decision to establish a Working Group on Abundance Estimates to review and analyse data from NASS-95, including data on minke whales from the Icelandic surveys.

3.1.4 Monitoring of marine mammal stocks

Heide-Jørgensen reported that in relation to the Council's request to the Scientific Committee to monitor stock levels and trends in stocks of all marine mammals in the North Atlantic, it was clarified that the purpose of this request was to ensure that data on marine mammals was available for input into multi-species models for management. The Scientific Committee agreed that the production of a table showing stock levels and trends in stock levels of marine mammals in the North Atlantic should be coordinated through the Working Group on Abundance Estimates, with the addition of available data on pinniped stocks.

3.1.5 Publications

At its meeting, the Scientific Committee had noted the extent to which NAMMCO had initiated and supported the work which formed the basis of the Committee's assessments of ringed seals and grey seals, as had also been the case with the work on the Atlantic walrus at the last meeting. The Scientific Committee agreed that this work should be published and that NAMMCO's role should be duly recognised in the context of the publication.

However, the Scientific Committee sought guidance from the Council on the preferred manner in which to publish the work generated by the Scientific Committee, while stressing the importance of making such work readily available in published form, and ensuring that NAMMCO's role in generating these reviews is sufficiently visible.

The Council agreed to a proposal from Greenland to establish an *ad hoc* Working Group on Publications to review the questions raised by the Scientific Committee. Members appointed to the Working Group were Dorete Bloch (Faroes), Jan Frederik Danielsen (Norway), Johann Sigurjónsson (Iceland) Pia Barner Neve and Henrik Nielsen (Greenland), the Vice-Chairman of the Scientific Committee and the Secretary.

The *ad hoc* Working Group convened during Council proceedings in Tromsø, and Nielsen (Greenland) reported to the Council on behalf of the Group. The Working Group considered the scientific value and status of publications produced through existing channels as opposed to establishing NAMMCO's own publication series, and noted that the Scientific Committee had indicated a preference for any future NAMMCO publication series to focus on review volumes for a general readership, along the lines of the walrus publication (Born et al.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

1995). The editing, production and distribution requirements for a NAMMCO series were also discussed by the Group.

The Council endorsed the conclusions of the ad hoc Working Group on Publications that, while special effort would be required to make a NAMMCO publication series widely known, there was value in publishing a NAMMCO series in order to enhance the credibility of the organisation and make the work of the Scientific Committee available to a wider readership. This should be undertaken in the first instance with respect to the Scientific Committee's recent work on ringed seals and grey seals (see also under 2.2.5).

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The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman of the Scientific Committee for his presentation of the Report of the Scientific Committee.

Norway commended the scope and quality of the Scientific Committee's work in providing assessments of the status of relevant marine mammal stocks, and stressed that such work should be better publicised. Three areas of activity for the future work of the Scientific Committee were highlighted: marine mammals in the ecosystem - an area of growing interest in which cooperation with ICES would be of particular importance; the need to gain a better overview of levels of by-catch of marine mammals; and the urgent need for more information on sealworm infestation in fish, given the significant consequences this has for the fisheries sector.

Iceland thanked the Scientific Committee for its report, and welcomed the Scientific Committee's approach to the follow-up review and analysis of data from NASS-95. Iceland further noted the need for a more specific focus in addressing the multi-species aspects of advice.

3.2 Cooperation with ICES

Under this agenda item, the Chairman welcomed Mr Alain Maucorps, President of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), who gave a presentation to the Council outlining the present status of requests forwarded to ICES from NAMMCO, in particular on long-finned pilot whales, which was being dealt with through the Study Group (see under 3.1.2, *i*) above) and harp and hooded seals, which had been forwarded to the Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (see also under item 3.1.2, *iii*) and *iv*) above).

Mr Maucorps informed the Council that an ICES Policy on Marine Mammals had been adopted at the 1994 ICES Annual Science Conference, and this policy would form the guidelines for ICES to further develop a sound relationship with both NAMMCO and the International Whaling Commission. He further pointed out that the ICES Marine Mammals Committee, the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management and the Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment were the main fora within ICES for co-ordinating and reviewing work of the two Working Groups and one Study Group concerned with marine mammal issues.

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

The President of ICES also outlined other ICES work and activities of interest and relevance to NAMMCO, including the work of the Study Group on Seals and Small Cetaceans in European Seas and the Multispecies Assessment Working Group, as well as the expansion of the ICES Environmental Data Bank to include data submissions on contaminant concentrations in marine mammals. ICES also passed a resolution at its 1994 Annual Science Conference urging its member countries to record all by-catches of marine mammals in the ICES area and to report these figures to the ICES Secretariat on an annual basis.

The full text of Mr Maucorp's statement is contained in Appendix 5. Reference is also made to Appendix 3 of the Report of the Scientific Committee (Section 3.1), which contains a list of requests for advice from NAC/NAMMCO, including those requests which have been forwarded to ICES.

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The Chairman thanked the President of ICES for his useful and informative presentation.

Greenland welcomed the first-hand update from ICES on progress in addressing NAMMCO's requests for advice, and stressed the importance for NAMMCO of continued cooperation with ICES.

Norway noted the increased focus within ICES on marine mammal issues, and suggested that the Secretariat initiate a dialogue with ICES towards the formalisation of relations.

Iceland also expressed its appreciation for the presentation from ICES and agreed that there was a need to consider how to establish more formal relations between ICES and NAMMCO. Iceland also stated that it looked forward to the results of the ICES Study Group on Long-finned Pilot Whales.

The Council agreed that the form and terms of an appropriate formal agreement between NAMMCO and ICES should be negotiated between respective Secretariats.

4. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

4.1 Report of the Management Committee

The Chairman of the Management Committee, Einar Lemche (Greenland), reported on the meeting of the Management Committee which was held in Tromsø on 28 March. A preliminary report of the main conclusions and recommendations was presented to the Council. (The full report of the Management Committee was adopted later by correspondence and is contained in Section 2.1 of this volume.)

4.1.1 Matters arising from the Scientific Committee

i) By-catch data

The Management Committee, noting that the Scientific Committee had identified the need for data on by-catches of marine mammals for population assessment, endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendation for member countries to establish a system for recording data on by-catches of marine mammals.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

The Council agreed to this recommendation and further **endorsed** the recommendation from the Management Committee that the Secretariat be entrusted to investigate the requirements for a standard system for reporting such data, in liaison with the Data Group established by the Scientific Committee.

(Recommendations on grey seal catch and by-catch data were dealt with by the Council under item 3.1.2, *iv) grey seals*, above).

ii) North Atlantic Sightings Survey - NASS-95

The Management Committee noted the successful completion of the North Atlantic Sightings Survey in 1995, and commended the process initiated by the Scientific Committee to conclude the analysis of NASS-95 data. It was expected that the results on abundance will be dealt with by the newly established Scientific Committee Working Group on Abundance Estimates and will be presented at the next annual meeting. It was noted that the Working Group would at least to some extent address last year's request from the Council regarding monitoring of stock levels and trends in stocks. However, it was also noted that one outstanding matter from last year is the request to the Scientific Committee to review results of NASS-95 in the light of recent assessments of North Atlantic whale stocks.

The Council agreed to the suggestion from the Management Committee that this be drawn to the attention of the Scientific Committee to secure a follow-up to last year's request.

iii) Harbour porpoise

It was reported that the Management Committee had endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendation to include the harbour porpoise on its agenda in the future.

While **agreeing** to this recommendation, **the Council noted** that further discussion was required on the need to define clearly the order of priority for tasks assigned to the Scientific Committee.

4.1.2 Proposals for conservation and management

i) Atlantic walrus

As a follow up to the recommendation from the Management Committee at its last meeting for Greenland to take appropriate steps to arrest the decline of walrus along its west coast (*NAMMCO Annual Report 1995*, p. 49), **the Council welcomed** the information provided to the Management Committee by Greenland on recent measures taken in response to this recommendation (See item 5.1 of the Report of the Management Committee in Section 2.1 of this volume).

ii) Ringed seal

Recognising the necessity for further monitoring of ringed seal removals in Area 1, the Council noted the conclusion of the Management Committee that present removals of ringed seals in Area 1 can be considered sustainable.

iii) Harp seals in the Northwest Atlantic

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

It was noted that a new abundance estimate for Northwest Atlantic harp seals of 4.8 million was available, based on a pup production estimate for 1994 of 702,900. It was also noted that the Northwest Atlantic population of harp seals has been growing at a rate of 5% per year since 1990, and that the 1996 population was estimated to be 5.1 million, with a calculated replacement yield of 287,000.

The Council noted the conclusion of the Management Committee that catch levels of harp seals in Greenland and Canada from 1990 to 1995 were well below the calculated replacement yields in this period.

iv) Hooded seals in the Northwest Atlantic

Noting the Scientific Committee's review of available analyses of hooded seal pup production, which recognised that calculations are dependent on the particular rate of pup mortality used, as well as the harvest regimes, the Council noted the conclusion of the Management Committee that present catches of hooded seals in the Northwest Atlantic (1990-1995) were below the estimated replacement yields of 22,900 calculated for a harvest of pups only, and 11,800 calculated for a harvest of 1-year and older animals only.

4.2 Requests for advice

The Council endorsed the following requests to the Scientific Committee for advice, as recommended by the Management Committee:

i) Role of marine mammals in the ecosystem

The Scientific Committee was requested to focus its attention on the food consumption of three predators in the North Atlantic: the minke whale, the harp seal and the hooded seal, with a particular emphasis on the study of the potential implications for commercially important fish stocks.

ii) Sealworm infestation

Aware that the population dynamics of the sealworm (*Pseudoterranova decipiens*) may be influenced by sea temperature, bathymetry, invertebrate and fish fauna, the Scientific Committee was requested to review the current state of knowledge with respect to sealworm infestation and to consider the need for comparative studies in the western, central and eastern North Atlantic coastal areas, taking into account the priority topics recommended by the Scientific Committee and its *ad hoc* Working Group on grey seals (see Section 3.3).

4.3 Inspection and Observation Scheme

The Chairman of the Management Committee presented for the consideration of the Council the Provisions for the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals, which were developed by the Management Committee's Working Group on Inspection and Observation, under the chairmanship of Egil Ole Øen (Norway).

As a result of the mandate of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation (to pursue the development of a common inspection scheme for minke whaling in the North Atlantic,

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

to formulate a common inspection checklist, as well as to consider the details of, and further develop, a reciprocal observer scheme between NAMMCO member countries), the Provisions for the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals were developed by the Working Group through a series of meetings in 1995 and 1996, and were presented to the Management Committee at its meeting in Tromsø.

The main aim of the Working Group was to establish a scheme that is both practical and reliable. The purpose of the Joint Control Scheme is to ensure a certain standard in the control systems of member countries and to give NAMMCO the opportunity of monitoring the extent to which national regulations for the management of marine mammals are upheld in member countries. The Control Scheme contains three main sections: A - Common elements for national inspection schemes for coastal whaling in NAMMCO member countries; B - International Observation Scheme; and C - Implementation.

The Chairman of the Management Committee explained that the draft Provisions had been fully discussed by the Management Committee and a number of amendments made to the text. Specific explanations of particular aspects of the Scheme, as well as comments by members of the Management Committee, are contained in item 7.2 of the Report of the Management Committee (Section 2.1 of this volume).

The Chairman of the Management Committee drew the attention of the Council to the need to develop two kinds of standard checklists as appendices to the Scheme: a hunter's checklist to be submitted to national authorities; and an inspector's checklist. In this connection it was also stressed that the development of common checklists would not imply any level of inspection, and that the inspector's checklist would only be used to the extent that inspection is actually carried out.

The Council adopted the Provisions for the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals, as reviewed and amended by the Management Committee (Section 1.4), and noting the reservation made by Greenland to Article A.2.2, points i) and iii). The Council noted that in adopting the Scheme, it was the intention of NAMMCO member countries to implement the Scheme or parts thereof at the beginning of the 1997 hunting season. It was also noted that further necessary guidelines related to the administration of the International Observation Scheme would be developed by the Management Committee.

In addition, **the Council endorsed** the recommendation from the Management Committee that the Secretariat be requested to define clearly the respective duties, in relation to the Control Scheme, of: 1) the national authorities; 2) the hunters; and 3) the Secretariat.

The Council agreed to the suggestion from Norway that a copy of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme, as adopted, should be forwarded to the International Whaling Commission prior to its forthcoming annual meeting for information in its work towards completing the outstanding aspects of a Revised Management Scheme.

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NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

The Chairman of the Council thanked the Chairman of the Management Committee for his report to the Council, and for the work carried out through the Working Group on Inspection and Observation in dealing so efficiently with the matters forwarded to it. In addition it was noted that the Management Committee had reelected Einar Lemche (Greenland) as Chairman for the next two years, and that Kaj Mortensen (Faroe Islands) was elected Vice-Chairman.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

5.1 International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment

The Secretary reported on the proceedings of the NAMMCO International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment, which was held at the Shetland Hotel, Lerwick, Shetland (UK) 20-21 April 1995. The Conference, which received financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, was attended by more than 60 people from 15 countries, and a total of 20 presentations were made by scientists and other experts under the four main theme sessions of the programme: 1) Impacts and management approaches; 2) Contaminants in marine mammals - sources, levels and effects; 3) Coastal communities and marine pollution - social, economic and health considerations, and 4) Addressing the questions - problems and future needs. A summary report of proceedings was published in the *NAMMCO Annual Report 1995* (pp.175-178).

The Secretary informed the Council that a collection of papers presented at the Conference had been submitted for publication as a Special Issue of the international scientific journal *The Science of the Total Environment*, which was due to appear in June or July 1996. The volume was edited by the Secretary, Kate Sanderson, with the assistance of Dr Geir Gabrielsen of the Norwegian Polar Institute in Tromsø.¹ The Secretary reported that, when finally published, the NAMMCO Conference proceedings would be as widely advertised as possible.

The Chairman commended the Secretariat for the successful arrangement of the Conference, and for the subsequent work in editing the proceedings for publication. It was noted that the collection of papers would provide a valuable addition to the published literature in this area, not least for its combination of disciplines, and that the Conference itself had generated a great deal of interest internationally. This indicated that there was a need for further international exchange of views and research findings on issues of marine pollution and its possible short and long-term effects on marine mammals, the marine ecosystem, and, not

¹ This is now published as: Sanderson, K. and G. Gabrielsen (eds), *Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment*, Special Issue, *The Science of the Total Environment*, Vol.186, Nos 1, 2, Elsevier, 16 July 1996.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

least, the people of coastal communities who rely on marine resources as a primary and staple source of food.

It was also noted, as reported to the Scientific Committee (see item 5.1 of the Scientific Committee Report), that ICES would be assisting a Working Group on Concentrations, Trends and Effects of Substances in the Marine Environment (SIME) under the Oslo Paris Conventions (OSPAR), in addressing the question of whether high concentrations of PCBs in marine mammals disturb enzyme systems. In this connection, SIME had identified the outcome of NAMMCO's International Conference as a source of data on concentrations as well as the development of assessment criteria.

5.2 *Other business*

The Council noted the Scientific Committee's reference to the fact that ringed seals and other components of the Arctic ecosystem are subject to a global assessment that will be available within the next one to two years. **The Council endorsed** the recommendation from the Scientific Committee that NAMMCO should exchange information with organisations that are presently assessing the status of the Arctic environment, such as the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP). The Secretary reported that contact had already been established with the AMAP Secretariat in Oslo, but that this and other contacts would be further pursued and strengthened.

Finally, the Secretary reported on her attendance at the IWC Scientific Committee Workshop on Chemical Pollution and Cetaceans, held in Bergen in March 1995, the report of which provided a useful reference document and up-to-date overview of research in the field.

6. HUNTING METHODS

6.1 *Report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods*

The Chairman of the Working Group on Hunting Methods, Amalie Jessen (Greenland) presented the report of the Working Group which had met on 23 January 1996 in Copenhagen. The full report of the Working Group is contained in Section 1.2.

The Working Group reviewed updated information from member countries on developments in hunting methods and equipment in their respective hunting activities. It was also noted that there had been constructive developments in all member countries with active whaling operations (i.e. Faroes, Norway and Greenland), both with respect to regulations, as well as in the development of new or standardized hunting equipment.

To aid its deliberations, the Working Group had compiled a list of references on hunting methods in member countries, which is contained as an appendix to the Report of the

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

Working Group (see Section 1.2, Appendix 1). Additional references would be forwarded to the Secretariat as they become available.

It was noted that the Working Group had so far mainly functioned as a forum for the exchange of information. With regard to the possible expansion of the Working Group's function, it was suggested that the Group could discuss possible standards of equipment in connection with similar forms of hunting of marine mammals that occur in two or more member countries. It was agreed to recommend that the Secretariat compile a list of existing rules on equipment, hunting and hunters in member countries as a basis for which to consider potential coordination initiatives, as well as to enhance mutual knowledge of respective hunting methods in member countries.

The Working Group also reviewed discussions in other international fora, such as the IWC and International Standards Organization (ISO), on criteria and standards for humane killing. It was suggested that the Secretariat should monitor developments in such fora. It was also suggested that members of the Working Group should distribute to other members or through the Secretariat any other information of relevance and interest to the Working Group.

Finally, it was reported that Jústines Olsen (Faroe Islands) was elected Vice-Chairman for the next two years, and that a new Chairman would be elected in 1997. The Working Group would meet again prior to the Seventh Meeting of the Council.

The Council endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group on Hunting Methods for how to proceed in its work. The Chairman of the Council thanked the Working Group Chairman for her 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 Fund, which met in Copenhagen, 3 November 1995, and again in Tromsø, 26 March to finalise its annual report prior to the Council meeting. The full report is contained in Section 1.3.

Projects for which the Fund decided to grant support in 1995 were related to the Board's decision in 1994 to support one specific project in each NAMMCO member country. This was an exception to the general rule that projects with relevance to all member countries should be given priority. Projects for which support was granted in 1995 included an edition of papers on the socio-economic aspects of whaling in Greenland, a poster of whales in Norwegian waters, and a multi-lingual collection of cartoons on pilot whaling in the Faroe

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

Islands. The Board of the Fund also reviewed an overview of other projects still under way which had earlier been earmarked for support from the Fund.

It was noted that there should be a closer follow-up by the Secretariat of projects supported by the Fund, such as information on the extent of distribution of publications.

Finally, it was reported that Maria Andreassen (Faroe Islands) would chair the Board in 1996.

The Council endorsed the view of the Board that the NAMMCO Fund was a valuable means of assisting projects which enhance the understanding of the rational utilisation of marine mammals, and in order for this to continue, appropriate provisions should be made for the Fund in the annual budget. **The Council agreed**, therefore, to the recommendation from the Board of the NAMMCO Fund that NOK 200,000 should be earmarked for the Fund for 1996, and a corresponding amount for 1997 (see also under item 2.4 above).

7.2 *The NAMMCO Fund in 1996*

The Council noted that the North Atlantic Fisheries Ministers meeting in Canada in 1995 had discussed the need for increased public information to draw attention to the conservation of seals and their role in the ecosystem. With this in mind, **the Council endorsed** the decision of the Board that funds for 1996 should be used to focus on seals, sealing and the interaction between seals and fisheries. In so doing, the Board of the Fund would seek cooperation with other relevant funding sources in order to initiate one single project on a larger basis than has so far been the case, or to support an already existing project. In the case that no such project could be developed, it was agreed that other projects could be supported instead.

8. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

8.1 *Cooperation with other international organisations*

The Secretary presented an overview of meetings of international organisations at which NAMMCO was represented by an observer since the last meeting of the Council. A compilation of observers' reports and opening statements was circulated as a meeting document (NAMMCO/6/11).

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

The Secretary attended the 47th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Dublin, 29 May-2 June 1995 at which an opening statement from NAMMCO was distributed, together with the summary of proceedings of the International Conference on Marine Mammals and the Marine Environment.

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

The Council agreed in 1995 to delegate its observer status at the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) to Iceland, and Arnór Halldórsson was observer for NAMMCO at the 17th Annual Meeting in Dartmouth, Canada in September 1995. An

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

opening statement by NAMMCO was presented, which emphasised NAMMCO's focus on strengthening the basis for multi-species management of marine resources, and the request for advice on harp and hooded seals, which is being dealt with through the Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals.

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

The Secretary reported that the 14th Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission had considered the renewed approach from NAMMCO to establish reciprocal observer relations, and that NEAFC had agreed that the interests of the two organisations were sufficiently similar to make an exchange of observers desirable. The Council noted its earlier decision that NAMMCO's observer status in NEAFC should be delegated to Norway. The 15th Annual Meeting of NEAFC would be held in London, 20-22 November 1996.

Canada/Greenland Joint Commission on the Conservation and Management of Beluga and Narwhal

Following a recommendation at the last meeting of the Council, the Secretary reported that an agreement to exchange information and reports had now been established through correspondence with the Commissioners of the Canada/Greenland Joint Commission on the Conservation and Management of Beluga and Narwhal. The report of the 1995 meeting of the Scientific Working Group had been forwarded to the Secretariat.

Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)

The Secretary of ASCOBANS, Dr Christina Lockyer, gave a presentation to the Council on recent developments in ASCOBANS, referring also to written information which was circulated to the meeting. She informed the Council that meetings to date of the Advisory Committee of ASCOBANS had focussed on matters related to the Conservation and Management Action Plan of the Agreement, such as fisheries interactions involving by-catches of small cetaceans, criteria for protected areas, disturbance and the effects of pollution. In particular, Dr Lockyer pointed out that ASCOBANS was seeking cooperation and exchange of information with other organisations such as NAMMCO on issues such as distribution and abundance of small cetaceans, pollution, population structure and by-catches (see also the Report of the Scientific Committee, item 5.4).

Dr Lockyer also drew the attention of the Council to the development of the Mediterranean/Black Sea Cetacean Agreement under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS, or Bonn Convention). A negotiation meeting had been held in September 1995 between representatives from Mediterranean and Black Sea range states, to discuss the text of the agreement, including a detailed conservation plan. The agreement would extend to all cetaceans frequenting the Mediterranean and Black Seas, and would oblige parties to prohibit and eliminate the deliberate taking of cetaceans as well as create and maintain a network of protected areas.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

The Chairman thanked the Secretary of ASCOBANS for her presentation and welcomed the continuation of an active exchange of information which had already been established between ASCOBANS and NAMMCO.

Norway informed the Council of its recent decision not to become a signatory to ASCOBANS and pointed out that there were two principle aspects of the ASCOBANS Agreement upon which this decision had been based. Firstly, the obligation of Parties to prohibit all directed takes of small cetaceans, regardless of their conservation status, was in opposition to the principle of the sustainable use of resources. Secondly, the Agreement's prohibitions against lethal research methods were not acceptable to Norway. It was however underlined that Norway would continue to participate as an observer, and encouraged future cooperation between NAMMCO and ASCOBANS.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The Secretary reported on her correspondence with the Secretariat of IUCN requesting clarification of IUCN's general policies with regard to whaling, which appeared to have influenced the IUCN Council's decision in 1994 not to pursue formal reciprocal observer relations with NAMMCO. A response from IUCN was still awaited, and the Secretary would endeavour to follow up on the matter. As well, technical working links with the Species Conservation Unit of the IUCN Secretariat and the Chairs of the IUCN Cetacean and Seal Specialist Groups of the Species Survival Commission, which the IUCN Council had agreed should be established with NAMMCO, would also be further pursued by the Secretariat.

It was noted that the General Assembly of the IUCN would convene in Montreal in October 1996 in the context of an IUCN World Conservation Congress.

Kyoto Conference on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security

NAMMCO was invited by the Government of Japan to attend the International Conference on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security, which was hosted by the Government of Japan in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Kyoto from 4-9 December 1995. The Secretary attended the Conference on behalf of NAMMCO, and presented a statement to the Plenary Session. The Conference was attended by delegations from 95 countries as well as observers from 10 inter-governmental and 9 international non-governmental organisations.

The purpose of the Conference was to "provide an opportunity to improve international understanding of economic, social and cultural reasons for differences in appreciation towards the use of marine resources and hence the possibilities to maintain and enhance the contribution of fisheries to food security." After discussions in Technical and Drafting Committees, the Conference adopted "The Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security". Aspects of the Declaration of relevance to marine mammals include operative paragraph 6, which calls for an increase in respect and understanding of social, economic and cultural differences in the use of aquatic resources, especially cultural diversity in dietary habits, while operative paragraph 14 calls for consideration of harvesting at multiple trophic levels in a manner consistent with the

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

sustainable development of marine resources. The Kyoto Declaration and Action Plan was subsequently forwarded by the Government of Japan to NAMMCO for consideration and endorsement.

The Council agreed to endorse the Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security.

Second Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region

The Secretary reported on her attendance as observer for NAMMCO at the Second Conference of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, which was held in Yellowknife, Canada, 13-14 March 1996. All Arctic nations were represented at the Conference with the exception of the US. The final Conference statement urged the establishment of the Arctic Council, as well as the inclusion of the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic region as a component of the structure of international cooperation within the Arctic Council. The statement, which was adopted by consensus, also included a recommendation for "the sustainable and rational utilization of the living resources of the sea, including marine mammals."

The Secretary also drew the attention of the Council to the Inuvik Declaration on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in the Arctic, which had been adopted by the Third Ministerial Conference of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) held in Inuvik, NWT Canada in March 1996. The Declaration, which was circulated to participants for their information, had been provided to the meeting by observers from Inuvialuit Game Council.

.....

The Council agreed that, unless already specified, NAMMCO observer participation at relevant international meetings in 1996/97 would be decided through consultation between the Chairman and the Secretary.

8.2 Other matters

Under this agenda item, the observer for the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD), Despina Symons, informed the Council of recent developments in Brussels, in particular the creation of a Parliamentary Intergroup on Conservation and Sustainable Development, for which EBCD provides the secretariat, and which had held meetings to discuss issues such as marine resource management related to fisheries, and biological impacts on fisheries and fishing gear. Ms Symons also referred to the recently established European Sustainable Use Specialist Network under the IUCN, which would focus on issues related to agriculture, forestry, fishing, wildlife use and tourism.

9. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Council elected Arnór Halldórsson (Iceland) as Vice Chairman of the Council. The office of Chairman would be open for election at the Seventh Meeting of the Council in 1997.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Greenland expressed the view that there was a need for greater discussion at future meetings with regard to which criteria should be used to make priority lists as the basis for the work of the Scientific Committee; ie. whether these should be based on the level of utilization of species/stocks, or whether the emphasis should be on the stock situation for species as such.

11. CLOSING ARRANGEMENTS

11.1 Next meeting

On behalf of the Government of the Faroe Islands, the head of the Faroese delegation, Kaj Mortensen, extended an invitation to the Council to hold its Seventh Annual Meeting in Tórshavn in 1997. May was suggested as a suitable time, but final dates would be confirmed later by correspondence through the Secretariat.

11.2 Press release

A press release, as contained in Appendix 7, was adopted.

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NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

1.1 - APPENDIX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER DELEGATIONS:

Faroe Islands

Maria Róin (Andreassen)
Dorete Bloch
Hans Jacob Hermansen
Ivan Johannessen (Minister of Fisheries)
Kaj Mortensen (H)
Jústines Olsen

Greenland

John Biilmann
Páviâraq Heilmann (Minister of Fisheries)
Amalie Jessen
Hansi Kreutzmann (I)
Einar Lemche (H)
Pia Barner Neve
Henrik Nielsen
Bjørn Rosing
Anthon Siegstad

Iceland

Konráð Eggertsson
Guðmundur Eiriksson
Sævar Gunnarsson
Arnór Halldórsson (AH)
Árni Kollbeinsson
Lára Konráðsdóttir (I)
Kristján Loftsson
Þorsteinn Pálsson (H - Minister of Fisheries)
Jóhann Sigurjónsson

Norway

Bente Angell-Hansen
Steinar Bastesen
Arnoldus Schytte Blix
Kåre Bryn (AH)

Russian Federation

Norway cont.

Jan Frederik Danielsen
Alf Håkon Hoel
Halvard P. Johansen (Chairman)
Elling Lorentsen
Helge Lorentsen
Jan Henry T. Olsen (Minister of Fisheries)
Lisbeth W. Plassa
Lars Walløe
Egil Ole Øen

Vice-Chairman of the Scientific Committee

Mads Peter Heide-Jørgensen

OBSERVERS

Governments:

Canada

Bob Applebaum
Dan Goodman
Richard Hegan

Denmark

Henrik Fischer

Japan

Noriyoshi Hattori
Toshiya Kishiro
Takanori Ohashi
Kazuo Shima

Namibia

Jan Jurgens
Vladimir Korelsky (Minister

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

of Fisheries)

Georgy Luka

Vadim Nikolaev

Vladimir Potelov

Valeri Tikhontchouk

Evgeniy Zhgilyov

Intergovernmental organisations:

Agreement on the Conservation of Small
Cetaceans of the Baltic & North Seas
(ASCOBANS) / Bonn Convention(CMS)
Christina Lockyer

International Council for the Exploration
of the Sea (ICES)
Chris Hopkins
Alain Maucorps

International Whaling Commission
(IWC)
Henrik Fischer

Nordic-Atlantic Cooperation
Kjartan Hoydal

Nordic Council of Ministers
Jesper Heldbo

North-East Atlantic Fisheries
Commission
(NEAFC)
Bente Angell-Hansen

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries
Organization (NAFO)
Lisbeth Plassa

Non-governmental organisations:

Canadian Sealers' Association
Jim Woodworth

European Bureau for Conservation
and Development (EBCD)
Despina Symons

High North Alliance
Georg Blichfeldt
Jan Odin Olavsén

International Wildlife Management
Consortium (IWMC)
Eugène Lapointe

Inuvialuit Game Council
Larry Carpenter
Billy Day
Don Dowler
Norman Snow
Duane Smith

Regional Authority of Northern Norway
Jostein Angell

Independent researchers:

Steinar Andresen,
Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Oslo

Robert Friedheim,
University of Southern California

H - *Head of delegation*

AH - *Acting head of delegation*

I - *Interpreter*

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

1.1 - APPENDIX 2

AGENDA

1. Opening procedures
 - 1.1 Welcome address by Mr Jan Henry T. Olsen, Minister of Fisheries, Norway
 - 1.2 Invited presentation - Dr Jan Jurgens, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia
 - 1.3 Opening statements by member delegations
 - 1.4 Admission of observers
 - 1.5 Adoption of agenda
 - 1.6 Meeting arrangements

2. Administration and finance
 - 2.1 Secretary's Report
 - 2.2 Report of the Finance and Administration Group
 - 2.3 Audited accounts 1995
 - 2.4 Budget 1996 and forecast budget 1997

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 Proceedings of the 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 Annual Report of the NAMMCO Fund
 - 7.2 Other business

8. External relations

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

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

9. Election of Vice Chairman

10. Any other business

11. Closing arrangements

- 11.1 Next meeting
- 11.2 Adoption of press release

ADDRESSES & OPENING STATEMENTS TO THE COUNCIL

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

by

Mr. Jan Henry T. Olsen, Minister of Fisheries, Norway

Mr. Chairman, Ministers, Delegates, Observers, and Guests, Dear Friends,

I would like to welcome all of you to my home town Tromsø, gateway to the Arctic and the city at the top of the world. Tromsø has a long history of harvesting marine resources. This makes our city a natural setting for an organization like NAMMCO and for deliberations on the important subject of rational use of marine resources, especially marine mammals.

It is a great pleasure for me to see that my friends and colleagues, the ministers of fisheries from the NAMMCO member countries, are present here today. Your participation gives an added weight to the NAMMCO Council meeting, and shows the importance we attach to developing NAMMCO as a regional organization for the management of marine mammals. Also, I am particularly pleased to welcome my Russian colleague to this meeting, as well as the distinguished observers from Canada and Japan. It is to be hoped that Canada and Russia will join forces with us and become members of NAMMCO.

I would like to extend a special welcome to our guest speaker from Namibia, a country that I will be visiting later this year. We are looking forward to your presentation on the management of living marine resources in Namibian waters. I am also glad to note that the delegations from the observer organisations are represented at a very high-ranking level. This clearly indicates the growing importance of NAMMCO's role.

I am very pleased to note that the NAMMCO Secretariat is now well established here in Tromsø, and that the organization is operating well. I know that the framework establishing Norway's formal role as host nation to the Secretariat is not fully settled. However, I hope that these questions will be resolved in the near future. We are indeed proud to act as host nation to this organization.

There have been settlements along the coast of the North Norway for more than 10,000 years. They were not founded as farming communities: the very basis for their existence were the rich supplies of fish and marine mammals in the waters off the coast. Our long traditions of harvesting living marine resources and other mammals in the Arctic can be traced right back to our earliest history.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

When Ottar, a North Norwegian chieftain some 1100 years ago, went to serve King Alfred of England he told of a journey he had previously made to Russia. According to the World History written by the Roman priest Orosius around the 400 AC he said:

“I first sailed north for three days, then east for four days before I went south again, following the coast line. All the way I met hunters and fishermen. I saw huge stocks of whales and walruses, which for me had greater value than my cows, my pigs or my sheep, yes even greater value than my horses which I use for plowing.”

To demonstrate the value of resources in this region, he presented King Alfred with a walrus tusk, as described in a poem by Henry W. Longfellow:

*“Othere (Ottar), the old sea captain,
who dwelt in Helgoland,
to king Alfred the lover of truth,
brought a snow white walrus tooth
which he held in his brown hand.”*

We are proud of our ties to the sea here in the North. Our whalers and sealers are not the barbarians that some people call them. They do not kill marine mammals for sport; they are following a tradition which is several thousand years old. In our modern world, such activities have also proved to be a necessary part of a multispecies approach to the management of living marine resources. Is anyone in a position to tell hunters that their traditions no longer have any value, and that hunting and harvesting certain marine resources is illegal?

As you know, the climate and weather conditions in our part of the world do not permit the cultivation of cereals; indeed, sometimes it is difficult enough to grow grass for our cattle. We are therefore dependent on imports of cereals, vegetables and fruit. People in other regions must understand and accept that the livelihood for Arctic populations is based on traditional ways of harvesting living marine resources.

NAMMCO was established with the objective of contributing to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. Its work is progressing satisfactorily, which augurs well for the future of the organization. I hope that other countries with a genuine interest in the management of all marine mammals will join NAMMCO.

I think that we can be proud of the work done by NAMMCO's Scientific Committee. Our countries can boast some of the best qualified marine scientists in the world. The quality of the work carried out by the Scientific Committee is of vital importance for NAMMCO's reputation. Equally important are our efforts to promote the idea of rational utilization of all living marine resources through NAMMCO. Providing information and educating the general public on this subject is also of crucial importance. Let us therefore continue to pool our efforts in this field.

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

The Working Group on Inspection and Observation has made considerable progress in developing a draft scheme for inspection and observation of the sealing and whaling operations carried out by our various countries. This work demonstrates clearly the practical approach of the Working Group to the task it was assigned by the Council last year. I would like to congratulate the members of the Working Group on their dedication, effort and efficiency. I am looking forward to the outcome of the debate on this topic during the Council Meeting.

Let me close by wishing you all a constructive, a successful meeting and a pleasant stay here in Tromsø.

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE FAROE ISLANDS

The Faroese delegation is very pleased to participate in the 6th meeting of NAMMCO here in Tromsø. We see this meeting as a further step forward in the fruitful discussions between our countries and the possibilities of NAMMCO to strengthen regional cooperation in the North Atlantic and the study and management of marine mammals.

In addition we would like to stress our right to hunt and sustainably utilize the stocks based upon the best scientific advice presented to this Commission.

Last year we brought up the question of the bottlenose whale and it was established that the population in the North Atlantic could sustain the coastal drive hunt in the Faroe Islands, and that removals of fewer than 300 bottlenose whales a year would not lead to a decline in this stock.

The Faroe Islands saw the possibility to begin this whale hunt within the limits of the scientific advice and the question was raised in the Faroese Parliament. No decision has been made, however, to allow such hunting for bottlenose whales and the ban still exists. There is no exemption from the general ban on commercial whaling in the Faroese Fisheries Zone.

Pilot whaling in the Faroe Islands has for many years been the subject of protest campaigns organized by a number of animal protection groups. New attempts are currently being made to organize a widespread international boycott campaign against Faroese whaling. Pictures of the Faroese whale hunt are available on Internet and in media showing footage of the actual killing of whales out of context. This gives an impression of the old story that Faroese whaling is some kind of bloodsport. What they always fail to mention is the fact that pilot whales are killed for food and have always been an important part of the diet of Faroe Islanders.

In NAMMCO we have the responsibility to raise our concerns and to do our best to cooperate on the rational management, conservation and optimum utilization of the living resources of the sea according to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and to develop

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

management procedures which take into account the relationship between marine mammals and other living stocks.

We are looking forward to hearing and discussing views which may give inspiration to solutions for the rational utilization of marine mammal resources in the North Atlantic and solutions for sustainable coastal whaling.

OPENING STATEMENT BY GREENLAND

Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

We also would like to register how pleased we are to participate in the 6th meeting of NAMMCO, and register that the interest in NAMMCO is increasing. We very much look forward to our discussions in the various productive NAMMCO fora over the next few days.

We have, as usual, the good feeling of being welcome to Tromsø - the hometown of the NAMMCO Secretariat, and look forward to very fruitful work.

One could say that NAMMCO prefers “walking instead of talking”. Walking in the sense of moving forward and making the necessary decisions, in contrast to certain other organisations. In this connection, the work of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation has in particular made a significant step in the right direction. It is also with great appreciation that we again note the very important work by the Scientific Committee in front of us.

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

ICELAND - OPENING STATEMENT

by

Mr Þorsteinn Pálsson, Minister of Fisheries of Iceland

The Icelandic delegation is pleased to participate in the 6th meeting of NAMMCO held here in Tromsø. Iceland appreciates the commitment shown by the other countries represented here by sending to this meeting such distinguished delegations.

The infrastructure developed and the tasks that were identified when NAMMCO was established have been shown to fulfil the needs of northern communities highly dependent on the utilization of marine resources, including marine mammals. The many marine mammal species and stocks under the NAMMCO umbrella can now be managed rationally within a strong international body that meets the criteria set in international law.

At the beginning of our work we started developing priorities for cooperation in the scientific area. The high quality work on a large number of scientific issues on which the Scientific Committee has reported shows the necessity of scientific work for the successful future management of the stocks of seals and cetaceans in the North Atlantic.

The Icelandic delegation has followed with appreciation the important contribution made by Canadian and Russian scientists who have joined our scientists in conducting comprehensive reviews of selected species of seals and whales across the North Atlantic Ocean. I hope to see full NAMMCO membership of Canada and the Russian Federation in the near future.

One of the main reasons for the establishment of NAMMCO was the need for a more comprehensive view of the ecosystem and utilization of all its components. As a member country of the organization Iceland was therefore particularly pleased with the initiative of Japan to convene the Kyoto Conference last December that addressed these issues.

Before I conclude, may I commend the NAMMCO Secretariat for excellent and professional work that has helped us very much to get where we are.

And finally, I should thank the Norwegian Government for creating an excellent environment for this meeting and for providing the home of the NAMMCO Secretariat.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

JAPAN - OPENING STATEMENT

by

Mr Kazuo Shima, Observer for the Government of Japan

Thank you Mr. Chairman, distinguished ministers, members and observers, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Japanese participants as observers, I would like to say a few words.

I am very pleased to be here at the 6th meeting in Tromsø, the home town of NAMMCO. This is the second time I have come to Tromsø. I was one of the first to welcome the birth of NAMMCO. I am particularly pleased to be here, both to see many of my old friends and to observe the development of NAMMCO.

Some of you, I believe, were in Kyoto just a few months ago to remind the world of the vital importance to food security of the world's living marine and aquatic resources. Our government, in collaboration with the FAO, hosted a conference to ensure that the sustainable utilization of food from the sea would continue to nurture future generations, particularly in view of the needs of a growing world population.

That conference, the International Conference on the Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries for Food Security, resulted in the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration and Action Plan. This document calls upon the nations of the world to adopt sound, scientifically-based measures to manage fisheries in a sustainable manner, reduce waste, assist developing countries, and protect the ecosystem.

The Declaration also endorsed some important principles, including:

1. Recognition of cultural diversity, along with respect for the social, cultural and economic differences among states and regions in the use of living aquatic resources; and
2. Consideration of harvest at multiple tropic levels, and promotion of studies on multi-species management.

Clearly, the Declaration implicitly expresses respect for the consumption of whale meat in the traditional food cultures of various regions and countries, as well as the sustainable utilization of marine mammals. No aquatic food resource can be considered untouchable if it is robust and can be sustainably utilized without harming the ecosystem. In a world of growing food shortages, let us affirm that sustainable utilization of aquatic food resources, including marine mammals, under responsible and balanced ecosystem management, is vital to ensure the world's food security.

Unfortunately, there are those who would turn the oceans into a vast ecological cathedral, filled with sacred objects. Three years ago they designated 13 million square miles, an area

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

that would extend from the North Pole to Lisbon, as a Southern Ocean Sanctuary. This was done without any scientific justification, without the approval of the IWC Scientific Committee, CCAMLR, or any other scientific body responsible for Antarctic conservation, and without even consulting most of the nations bordering those waters. It also was done in contravention of the purpose, principles and provisions of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

The Southern Ocean Sanctuary is the antithesis of sustainable utilization and responsible management. It is an insult to all who develop or use sound conservation measures to improve the health of our environment. We urge NAMMCO to unconditionally oppose this "sanctuary" and others like it that may be proposed in the future.

A number of NAMMCO member countries are as frustrated as we by efforts to turn minke whales, pilot whales, seals and other marine mammals into sacred animals, despite their proven abundance and improved scientifically-based management methods. Minke whales are among the most abundant and fastest reproducing whale species in the world, particularly in Antarctic waters where they number over three-quarters of a million animals. The IWC's revised management procedures can provide for their sustainable utilization without risk of depletion. It should be implemented without further delay.

Japan has no intention of monopolizing the whale resources in the Antarctic. We believe that whaling there should be transparent and conducted for the benefit of the international community. We ask NAMMCO to support the sustainable utilization of non-endangered whale resources in the Antarctic, as well as in those areas of the high seas that are not vital breeding areas.

I also would like to draw your attention to increasing efforts within the IWC to extend its jurisdiction to small cetaceans. It is clear that the management of small cetaceans is not within the competence of the IWC. The management of local marine resources, such as small cetaceans, can only be conducted on a local or regional level, taking account of human rights and needs. The Government of Japan therefore strongly supports the activities of NAMMCO and looks forward to its fruitful development. We are actively 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 provides the basis for cooperation and will serve to enhance the development of a similar regional management organization in the North Pacific.

I am looking forward to fruitful discussions here, and to the further strengthening of NAMMCO and its commitment to promote the needs of coastal communities in the North Atlantic. I want to express our sincere thanks to the Norwegian Government and the NAMMCO Secretariat as our hosts for this meeting. Thank you very much for your attention.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL

by

Mr V.F. Korelsky, Chairman of the Fisheries Committee of the Russian Federation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to personally address the members of the sixth session of the Council here today. I am very grateful for this invitation by the Council of NAMMCO and for the assistance of my good friend and colleague, the Norwegian Minister of Fisheries Mr. Jan Henry T. Olsen, for making this opportunity possible.

I particularly appreciate this honour because it takes place in Tromsø and secondly, it is the session of the Council of the newly established North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission. It is symbolic that the Commission's headquarters are located in Tromsø, because Tromsø is known as the central harbour of whalers and sealers.

Tromsø's location is favourable to the development of such activities as fishing, aquaculture, marine biotechnology, scientific exploration and administration of the Arctic region. Tromsø and Murmansk are ideal for such activities because they have a regular air service, many Russian ships call at Tromsø harbour, and an intensive trade in fish and fish products has been established between Tromsø and northwest Russia. It is appropriate that the University of Tromsø, the most northern university of the world, hosts the Commission's Secretariat. The University has a remarkable college where about 500 students from Norway and other countries study fisheries sciences. It is noteworthy that the Secretariat of NAMMCO was first located in the building of the Department of Arctic Biology. This fact again emphasises how Tromsø was the natural choice of location for the headquarters of the Commission.

The agreement to establish NAMMCO, signed in 1992, created an international organisation for cooperation in management, conservation and long-term rational sustainable exploitation of marine mammal stocks in the North Atlantic. The agreement emphasises a modern approach to the study of marine ecological systems as a whole and the role of marine mammals in them. Because, besides fishing and pollution of the environment, marine mammals themselves, as fish consumers, are a significant factor influencing fish stocks. Seal hunting in the North Atlantic, for instance, is one of the elements of a multi-species management of the resources in this region.

The establishment of NAMMCO was to some extent a forced response of the North Atlantic countries to decisions of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which are based more on emotions than scientific data. Unfortunately these kinds of decisions have been characteristic of the IWC in recent years.

Most of the IWC member countries use the voting mechanism to prevent the organization from enacting rational regulations for whaling as laid down in the IWC Convention. Objectivity is replaced by politically motivated resolutions to prolong the full moratorium

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

for commercial whaling for all whale species of the world's oceans, despite the reality of the state of specific whale stocks. Politically motivated resolutions are followed by boycott campaigns by certain groups against products made of natural fur, including seal. These groups exert influence upon public opinion to condemn supposedly "inhumane" methods of whaling and sealing, although these methods are no more brutal than big game hunting methods used all over the world.

Above all, so-called "pure" ecologists completely forget not only the simple consumers of whaling products but also the coastal communities whose main food and income sources have been connected with marine mammal hunting for generations. Whaling and sealing is not primarily a commercial activity, considered in an historical sense, because the main goal of whaling and sealing is to provide a livelihood for the inhabitants of coastal settlements.

It is precisely this balanced combination of protection and rational use of nature and its resources that makes the scientific work and activities undertaken by NAMMCO so important. The common efforts of the North Atlantic countries within the framework of NAMMCO can create a genuine system for the conservation and long-term rational, sustainable exploitation of marine mammal stocks.

With the deepest sincerity I wish NAMMCO every success in its work.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

1.1 - APPENDIX 4

NAMIBIA: MANAGEMENT OF RENEWABLE MARINE RESOURCES, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE MAMMALS

Dr Jan Jurgens, Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia

The Republic of Namibia is a large country (830 000 km²) with a small population (1,4 million) on the south-western shores of the African continent. Blessed with high primary production in the Benguela marine ecosystem, the annual landings of marine fish, come to 450-500 kg *per capita*. The annual consumption is about 8 kg *per capita* and therefore fish exports are a major foreign currency earner. The fishing industry is, along with tourism, the third (sometimes fourth) largest contributor to the Namibian economy after mining, mainly diamonds, and agriculture.

Namibia gained its independence in 1990 and having had to draft a new constitution, the opportunity was used to provide for the novel approach to include sustainable utilization of natural resources in the constitution. Ever since, Namibia has lived by its constitution and the Government's responsible handling and managing of the renewable marine resources have been recognized worldwide by many important critics.

It is the Governments's policy that generally, if and when a natural resource is not endangered and there is private sector interest for commercial utilization of that resource, and if the status of the resource warrants such utilization without damage to the ecological balance within the ecosystem, no reason exists to refuse and prohibit utilization of such a resource. Consequently, it is the policy and firm belief of the Namibian Government that its seal resource may and shall be utilized on a sustainable and responsible basis.

The Cape fur seal (*Arctocephalus pusillus*) is distributed mainly along the southwestern coast of Africa, reaching from the southern tip of Africa to the southern part of Angola. The population consists of approximately 2 million individuals, shared roughly 50:50 between South Africa and Namibia.

Sealing from Namibian and South African bases on this population goes back to the previous century, but was ceased on the South African part of the population around 1990. In the case of Namibia, the right to seal is in the hands of two concessionaires: one in the south at Lüderitz and the other in the north at Cape Cross. In each case the exploration right limits them to harvesting from large on-land breeding colonies and the annual season for harvesting is from August to when mating starts in mid-November.

It is of paramount importance that the Government's policy is one of utilizing a natural resource for its direct commercial value and therefore sealing is not aimed at the protection

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

of the fish resources, nor to rectify an imbalance in the ecosystem. Realizing the difficulties in quantifying the interspecific relationships in natural systems and specifically the impact of seals on commercial fish resources, the Namibian scientists currently find it difficult to recommend seal quotas on a basis of fish protection. Therefore, quotas are recommended on the dynamics of the seal population as such and the utilization is termed harvesting as opposed to culling.

However, it should be stressed that if and when there is a sufficient confidence level in quantifying interspecific parameters and should the need to protect fish resources arise, the Government will revert to necessary measures. Indeed, a few years ago, when it was realized that the population size exceeded the carrying capacity of the Benguela system, it was decided to decrease the foraging population off the Namibian coast from its about 700 000 individuals to approximately 500 000. Implementation of such a culling never took place because Mother Nature took care of the situation and some 150 000 to 200 000 seals died of starvation. Intensive laboratory analyses and tests confirmed that the mortality was due to starvation and not a virus or any disease.

Harvesting is under the supervision of fisheries inspectors, is controlled by legislation and the methods are in line with Council Directive 93/119/EC of the European Union. Bulls are shot, whilst pups are clubbed and then knifed. Small numbers of pups are herded off and individually clubbed by a well-trained team of clubbers. *Post mortem* investigations confirmed that the heavy blows to the paper-thin skulls and the damage to the brain ensure instantaneous death. In spite of this, and in addition, after the blow to the head, the heart must be pierced with a knife.

Bulls are shot, using a rifle and sub-sonic ammunition. In this way the disturbance factor of super-sonic ammunition is avoided. The loud sound of the latter type of ammunition without exception results in a stampede from the beach to the water, causing injury to pups and probably also a degree of stress.

Well-trained marksmen are used to stalk bulls which are shot through the brain at distances varying between 10 and 15 metres. A second marksman with a bigger calibre rifle is on standby to deliver a fatal shot in case the first shot was not successful - which is almost never the case. The sound level of sub-sonic bullets is so low that other animals even within one or two metres from the harvested bull, do not move away.

One of the conditions under which the rights to harvest is granted, compels the concessionaires to utilize the entire carcass. Hides are marketed overseas, whilst locally in Namibia, although on a small scale, coats, hats and shoes are manufactured. Meat and skeletons are processed into carcass meal and the blubber is used *inter alia* for manufacturing of medicinal oil. Teeth, dried skulls and *vibrissae* are used for all kinds of ornaments, bought by the thousands of tourists visiting the colony annually. Since the Canadian culling started, the marked for bull genitals from Namibia was negatively affected by the over-supply.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

In conclusion, Namibia has no intention to stop sealing because of pressure from anti-sealing groups internationally or locally. Such groups are almost non-existent in Namibia. In a developing country where sealing is done on a commercial basis within a free market system, creating income and especially jobs and where unemployment can be as high as 30 to 40%, a government would be extremely irresponsible to prohibit sealing because of an outcry coming from fat cats in developed countries, and/or coming from emotionally driven judgements, ignoring the plight of the jobless, hungry and desolate people in the third world countries.

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

1.1 - APPENDIX 5

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA (ICES)

Statement to the Council by Mr Alain Maucorps, President of ICES

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, I wish to thank the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) for having invited ICES to be represented at this Sixth Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO. It is a pleasure for me to represent ICES at this meeting.

At the 1994 ICES Annual Science Conference, the Council adopted an ICES Policy on Marine Mammals (Doc. C.M. 1994/Del:8) aimed at the handling of marine mammal issues, with regard to both science and advice, within the ICES structure. This policy will form the guidelines for ICES to further develop an equitable relationship with both NAMMCO and the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Within ICES, the Marine Mammals Committee, the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management, and the Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment are the main forums for co-ordinating and reviewing work of the two Working Groups and one Study Group concerned with marine mammal issues.

A number of requests for advice have been made to ICES by NAMMCO. To address these requests ICES has taken a number of steps. In relation to pilot whales, ICES established a Study Group on Long-finned Pilot Whales. After review by the Advisory Committees, the reports of this group will be used as the basis of information which will be prepared for NAMMCO later this year.

A request for advice on harp and hooded seals was considered by ICES in 1993 and it was agreed to limit what ICES would address to geographical areas within the jurisdiction of NAMMCO Contracting Parties. Considering that a similar request for advice for the Greenland Sea (Jan Mayen) had also been received from the Government of Norway, the advice from ICES for this area, based on the Report of the Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals, was published as a report to the Government of Norway in the 1993 Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (*ICES Cooperative Research Report No. 196*). By agreement with the North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), information on harp and hooded seals in the north-west Atlantic was reviewed by the NAFO Scientific Council in 1995. In relation to the NAMMCO request for advice dated 18 April 1995 (which was a repeat of that sent in 1993), the Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals recommended, through its parent the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM), that as important information required to carry out its terms of reference is currently lacking, its next meeting should be scheduled for 1997.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

In addition to the above studies on marine mammals directly related to requests from NAMMCO, ICES has also established a Study Group on Seals and Small Cetaceans in European Seas which met in December 1995 to *inter alia* address matters concerning: the status of small cetacean populations in the North Sea and information on by-catches; the status of the three seal populations in the Baltic Sea and information on by-catches; information and planned research on possible acoustic disturbance on marine mammal populations; the use of biological effects techniques for identifying the extent to which PCBs in marine mammals generate effects at species/population levels; plans for reviewing contaminant levels in marine mammal populations and their possible effects, and identifying data sets on contaminants in marine mammals suitable for inclusion in the ICES Environmental Data Bank; identifying and reviewing data required for evaluating the impacts of different fisheries in the Baltic on marine mammal populations.

Several aspects of ICES fishery work are also likely to be of interest to NAMMCO. These include the work of the Multispecies Assessment Working Group which, at its meeting in 1995, focused attention on modelling species interactions in boreal ecosystems. While not dealing directly with interactions between marine mammals and fish, these studies have clear implications for work on marine mammal ecology and population dynamics. Additional studies are also being carried out on specific forage fish and invertebrate species, including capelin, herring, blue whiting and cephalopods (squid), by a number of ICES groups including the Northern Pelagic and Blue Whiting Fisheries Working Group and the Working Group on Cephalopod Fisheries and Life History. The resulting assessments and descriptions of distribution are also relevant to an understanding of the population dynamics and migrations of marine mammals.

ICES has expanded its Environmental Data Bank to include data submissions on contaminant concentrations in marine mammals and is very interested in obtaining reliable, quality-assured data on as many species of marine mammals from the North Atlantic as possible. This portion of the data bank was originally established at the request of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), but ICES has expanded the coverage to include its entire geographical area. The Oslo and Paris Commissions (OSPAR) have also become interested in the collection of information on concentrations of contaminants and their effects on marine mammals for inclusion in the five regional Quality Status Reports that are being prepared for the Northeast Atlantic by the year 1999. They have requested ICES to assist in obtaining this material and also in contacting organisations dealing with marine mammals to determine whether there is an interest in collaborating in the possible development of assessment criteria for contaminants, particularly chlorinated biphenyls, in marine mammals.

At the 1994 ICES Annual Science Conference, the Council adopted C.Res. 1994/4:8 which urged Member Countries to record all by-catches of marine mammals in the ICES area and report these figures to the ICES Secretariat on an annual basis. Reports have been received from several countries so far. When more complete information has been received, the data

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

submitted will be reviewed by the Marine Mammals Committee in association with relevant fisheries Committees or Working Groups.

A Symposium co-sponsored by NAFO and ICES on "The Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem" (Co-Convenors: J. Sigurjónsson, Iceland and G. Stenson, Canada) was held in Dartmouth, NS, Canada from 6-8 September 1995. Approximately 200 persons were registered as participants for the Symposium, and 30 papers and 23 posters were presented. Selected papers from the Symposium will be published in the *Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science*.

In late 1997, ICES will hold a Symposium on "The Role of Physical and Biological Processes in the Recruitment Dynamics of Marine Populations". This will be held in conjunction with the 1997 ICES Annual Science Conference, and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, the US National Science Foundation (NSF), the US Office of Naval Research (ONR), the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and the Global Ecosystem Dynamics Programme (GLOBEC) have been invited to co-sponsor it. In endorsing this Symposium, the Council noted that substantial progress is currently being made towards integrating physical and biological observations in models coupling population dynamics with ocean physics. It also noted that interactions between the physical and biological environment and various forms of anthropogenic stress must be considered in the assessment and management of marine populations. Thus, an important objective of this Symposium will be to provide a synthesis of progress to date in the development of approaches which explicitly link environmental factors with population dynamics to provide an integrative view of recruitment processes in marine populations. In recognition of related topics treated at recent and planned Symposia focusing on lower trophic levels, contributions on the dynamics of higher invertebrates, fish, as well as marine mammals will be emphasised and encouraged.

Since late 1994, ICES has been gradually developing its presence on the World Wide Web. The site has now expanded to include up-to-date information on most ICES activities, including ICES Annual Science Conferences and Symposia, as well as information about, and access to, some of its databases. The site includes links to other sites of relevance to ICES, including a multitude of "home pages" concerned with marine mammals. The URL for the ICES site is <http://www.ices.dk>.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

1.1 - APPENDIX 6

AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 1995

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 1995 (NOK)

<i>Income</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1994</i>
Contributions	2,480,825	2,457,116
Interest received (netto)	103,743	73,113
Total income	<u>2,584,568</u>	<u>2,530,229</u>
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Secretariat costs	2,118,450	1,622,745
Meetings	6,694	71,759
Scientific Committee	199,162	0
Projects, NAMMCO Fund	77,917	0
NASS-95	800,000	0
Conference	283,705	0
Total operating expenses	<u>3,485,928</u>	<u>1,694,504</u>
<i>Operating result</i>	<u>-1,005,103</u>	<u>762,612</u>

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 1995 (NOK)

<i>Current assets</i>		
Bank deposits (restricted: 64,371)	1,371,408	2,319,785
Pre-payment, office rent	36,750	0
Total assets	<u>1,408,158</u>	<u>2,319,785</u>
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Employees tax deduction and employers tax	53,940	49,475
Creditors	35,687	50,418
Total current liabilities	<u>89,627</u>	<u>99,893</u>
<i>Restricted equity</i>		
Relocation fund	200,000	200,000
The Scientific Committee	0	698,593
NAMMCO Fund	238,722	316,639
Total restricted equity	<u>438,722</u>	<u>1,215,232</u>
<i>Distributable equity (General reserve)</i>	879,809	1,004,660
Total equity	<u>1,318,531</u>	<u>2,219,892</u>
Total liabilities and equity	<u>1,408,158</u>	<u>2,319,785</u>

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

1.1 - APPENDIX 7

PRESS RELEASE

The Sixth Meeting of the Council of NAMMCO was held in Tromsø from 27 to 29 March 1996. 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, Japan, Namibia and the Russian Federation. The Ministers of Fisheries from all NAMMCO member countries also attended the meeting, as did the Chairman of the Fisheries Committee of the Russian Federation. A number of inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations were also represented by observers at the meeting.

In his opening address, the Norwegian Minister of Fisheries, Jan Henry T. Olsen, expressed his hope for Canada and the Russian Federation to help further strengthen regional cooperation on marine mammal conservation and management by joining NAMMCO. Dr. Jan Jurgens, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Namibia, gave a presentation on the management of seals in Namibia and expressed his desire for close cooperation between all countries with interests in ensuring the sustainable utilisation of marine mammals.

Among major items dealt with by the Council was the report of the Scientific Committee. Based on recent work carried out by the Scientific Committee, the Council agreed to the following conclusions presented by the Management Committee:

- It was confirmed that present removals of ringed seals in West Greenland and Canada are sustainable.
- Current combined catches of harp and hooded seals in Greenland and Canada are below estimates of replacement yields.

The Council was informed that work had begun in the Scientific Committee on the revision of abundance estimates in the light of results from the comprehensive North Atlantic Sightings Survey for cetaceans (NASS 95) carried out last summer. NASS-95 was planned and organised by the Scientific Committee of NAMMCO.

The Council adopted the joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals, which includes both common elements for national inspection of coastal whaling, as well as an international observation scheme for the hunting of all marine mammals. It is the intention of NAMMCO member countries to implement the Scheme or parts thereof by the 1997 hunting season.

The Council decided further to request the Scientific Committee to focus its attention on the food consumption of the minke whale, harp seal and hooded seal in the North Atlantic, with an emphasis on the study of the potential implications for commercially important fish stocks. As a follow-up to its recent assessment of the grey seal in the North Atlantic, the Scientific Committee was also requested to review the current state of knowledge of sealworm infestation, and to consider the need for comparative studies in the western, central and eastern North Atlantic coastal areas.

Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council

The Council identified the importance of accessible and reliable information on marine mammals. In this connection, it was agreed that in 1996 the NAMMCO Fund should be used for the development of a major information project on seals and sealing. It was also agreed that NAMMCO should publish the results of work generated through the Scientific Committee in the form of its own publication series.

The Council endorsed the Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security.

The Council elected Arnór Halldórsson from Iceland as Vice Chairman. The Faroe Islands offered to host the next annual meeting of the Council in Tórshavn in 1997.

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

1.2 REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON HUNTING METHODS

Fourth Meeting, Copenhagen, 23 January 1996

The Working Group met at the offices of the Greenland Home Rule Government, Copenhagen on 23 January 1996. The meeting was chaired by Amalie Jessen (Greenland) and also attended by Jústines Olsen (Faroe Islands), Kristján Loftsson and Arnór Halldórsson (Iceland) and Egil Ole Øen (Norway). The Working Group accepted the attendance of Steinar Bastesen (The Norwegian Minke Whalers' Association) and Hansi Kreutzmann (The Association of Hunters and Fishermen in Greenland).

Jens Paulsen (Assistant Secretary) acted as Rapporteur.

1-2. OPENING PROCEDURES

The Chairman welcomed the members of the Working Group to its fourth meeting. The draft agenda was adopted.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

This item was included on the Agenda with reference to the Rules of Procedure for the Working Group, Article II, Paragraph 2. Olsen (Faroes) was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman for the next two years. It was noted that a new Chairman will be elected in 1997.

4. REVIEW OF THE THIRD WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Chairman reviewed the report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group. The question of wastage of meat with use of the penthrite grenade in Greenland was raised. It was noted that the question had been discussed at the Third Meeting of the Working Group, and it was also noted that the Working Group on Inspection and Observation had discussed the matter at its third meeting (see NAMMCO/6/MC/3: 2-3).

It was agreed that the relevant section of the report of that meeting should be circulated to the members of the Working Group on Hunting Methods.

5. UPDATE OF REFERENCE LIST

The Assistant Secretary briefly reviewed the "References on Hunting Methods", compiled in connection with the Second Meeting of the Working Group. The Chairman requested the members of the group to inform the Secretariat of further relevant articles which should be added to the list. An updated reference list is included as Appendix 2

Report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods

Olsen submitted the unpublished paper, "Note on the pilot whale killing method" that had been prepared for the meeting by Jústines Olsen and Dorete Bloch (see also Agenda Item 6). Olsen also mentioned that a paper on the influence of abiotic factors prior to drives, drive techniques and humane killing of pilot whales was under preparation.

6. UPDATE ON HUNTING METHODS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Faroes

Olsen presented a note in Danish on developments in the Faroes on killing methods. Olsen informed the Working Group about a new regulation on Grind (No 55 of 16 May 1995), of which the Secretariat has received a Faroese and a Danish version. Olsen confirmed that an English version was under preparation and would also be sent to the Secretariat.

The new regulations are more specific in defining the rules governing the pilot whale drive. Furthermore, rules on the killing methods have been amended according to results from research carried out by Olsen. The above mentioned research is described in the paper, "Note on the pilot whale killing method", which Olsen discussed, also circulating photographs from the research at the meeting.

Olsen also explained the function of a new gaff that is under construction and which allows the hunters to secure pilot whales without wounding them by inserting a blunt hook into the blowhole of the animal. Olsen informed the Group that the gaff has been tested in a few cases, and that experiences thus far have been positive.

Olsen further explained that research has shown that as the blood supply to the brain in pilot whales is not through the carotids, as in terrestrial mammals, but through large arteries encircling the spinal cord that enter the cranial cavity, the most efficient way to kill the whales is to make a deep cut behind the blowhole and sever the spinal cord. The whale will be paralysed and die of anoxia within 5-10 seconds.

Furthermore, Olsen mentioned that monitoring times-to-death has been undertaken in connection with three pilot whale drives.

Norway

Øen (Norway) informed the Working Group of the following:

- *Norwegian Defence Research Establishment* now produces penthrite grenades. The institute will produce a new batch of grenades during spring 1996.
- Minke whale gunners must pass a course every year, including a shooting test for harpoon guns and for rifles. The regulations for the harpoon test were changed in 1994 while those governing the rifle test were changed in 1995.
- New regulations are under preparation related to hygiene standards on board whaling vessels.
- Other regulations that will be presented at a later stage include rules on maintenance of harpoon guns. A checklist for maintenance of harpoon guns has been drawn up in this connection.

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

- New sights for the harpoon guns are under consideration with the intention of increasing the precision of shooting.
- A fully standardized propellant charge has been developed in 1995 for the 60 mm harpoon gun. It will be tested on land-based proving grounds in 1996 before being certified for hunting.
- In 1995 an informal reference group with four whalers and Øen was established by the Norwegian Minke Whalers' Association as a forum for discussions of technical issues related to hunting equipment.

Iceland

There was nothing new to report from Iceland at this meeting on developments in hunting methods.

Greenland

Jessen informed the Working Group about the implementation of the reparation program for the 63 harpoons in use. The program is described in detail in the Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group (NAMMCO/5/8). The Greenland Home Rule Government covers 2/3 of the costs involved, while the hunters cover 1/3. A total of 63 harpoon guns are under reparation, 8 of which have been sent to the manufacturer, Kongsberg, in Norway.

Furthermore, it was reported that a maintenance manual is now being prepared and that the Home Rule Government is considering producing a video tape as a supplement to the manual.

The Home Rule Government, KNAPK (the Hunters' and Fishermen's Association) and KANUKOKA (The Association of Municipalities in Greenland) are in the process of establishing a model for reducing the rifle hunt in line with the completion of the reparation program.

Jessen informed the Working Group that the Home Rule Government is preparing a document describing the improvements that have been made in Greenland regarding whaling equipment. The document is expected to be presented at the 1997 meeting of the IWC.

Øen commended the work done in Greenland to improve the standard of the harpoon guns. Øen considered that expenditures in connection with the use of penthrate grenades in Greenland were rather large, and questioned whether it would be possible to reduce potentially unnecessary links in the distribution chain.

Jessen informed the Working Group that 25% of the price goes to the agent (KNI) in Greenland and that transportation costs are added on top of this. The result is a dramatic increase in the total price of the grenades, compared with the price in Norway.

7. POSSIBLE TASKS OF THE WORKING GROUP

Report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods

The Chairman noted that until this stage the Working Group had mainly functioned as forum for the exchange of information. She raised the question as to whether the function of the group should be expanded according to the purpose of the Working Group.

Halldórsson (Iceland) responded that it could be a relevant task for the Group to discuss possible standards of equipment in connection with similar forms of hunting of marine mammals that occur in two or more member countries.

Øen mentioned the possibility of compiling a list of hunting equipment and methods used in member countries as a basis for which to consider potential coordination initiatives.

It was agreed that the Secretariat should compile a list of existing rules on equipment, hunting and hunters. The list would then be used as the basis for a discussion in the Working Group to create a greater degree of mutual knowledge which would be an important improvement. The discussions might then lead to coordination initiatives, potentially including sealing as well as hunting of fin, minke and pilot whales.

8. OUTCOME OF 1995 IWC WORKSHOP ON WHALE KILLING METHODS

The Working Group discussed the IWC Workshop on Whale Killing Methods that was held in Dublin, 23-25 May 1995.

Jessen reported that Greenland had taken steps to improve its documentation of developments on hunting equipment. The documentation mentioned above under item 6 was initiated on this basis.

Øen informed the Working Group that the IWC Workshop on Whale Killing Methods had recognized and agreed that the criteria used to indicate death in whales were incomplete and under some circumstances misleading. The Workshop identified the need for better criteria for determining the time of onset of permanent insensibility in whales. The Workshop also recommended continued cooperation between scientists from the member countries of Norway and Japan to refine the design of penthrite grenades as far as possible. USA and Denmark are also involved with this work.

In this connection it was suggested that the Secretariat should monitor developments of this kind in international fora, and that circulation of material would be appreciated.

Jessen furthermore informed the Working Group that the Home Rule Government, in co-operation with a Danish standardisation institute (*Dansk Standard*) and an animal protection group (*Dyrenes Beskyttelse i Danmark*), has implemented scientific research on seals caught in nets. The aim of the research is to clarify the physiological cause of death.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

Jessen informed the Working Group that Working Group members had been participating in the meetings of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). The question of trapping of semi-aquatic animals is under consideration in Technical Committee 191. A technical Working Group has been established to consider testing standards of traps.

It was agreed that members of the Working Group should distribute information of interest to the Working Group to other members and/or the Secretariat.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group should be held prior to the Seventh Meeting of the Council - allowing sufficient time to prepare a report to the Council.

11. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The final report was adopted by correspondence.

Report of the Working Group on Hunting Methods

1.2 - APPENDIX 1

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1.3 1995 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NAMMCO FUND

1. INTRODUCTION

The NAMMCO Fund was established by the Council at its Third Meeting in Reykjavik, 1-2 July 1993, with the purpose of supporting projects which "contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the rational utilisation of marine mammals" (Article 1 of the Fund Statutes).

This Report covers the period from 21 March 1995 - 26 March 1996.

Einar Lemche, Greenland, is Chairman of the Board and other Board members are Anna Maria Fossá (the Faroes), Arnór Halldórsson (Iceland) and Halvard P. Johansen (Norway).

2. OVERVIEW OF BOARD ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS IN 1995

The Board met twice in 1995: In Nuuk 20 February and in Copenhagen on 3 November. The meeting in Nuuk was also attended by Jan Frederik Danielsen (Norway), and at the meeting in Copenhagen Snorri Runar Palmason (Iceland) replaced Arnór Halldórsson.

In 1994, the Board decided to support one specific project from each member country. This was an exception from the general rule that projects with general relevance to member countries should have priority. In 1995 four national projects were identified for support. As the Icelandic project, the University of Iceland's Centre for International Studies had already received NOK 30,000 in 1994 in support for the publication *Science, Sanctions and Cetaceans* by Jóhann Ívarsson.

Other national projects supported by the Fund are mentioned under 3.

3. SPECIFIC PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 1995

The Fund decided to support the following projects in 1995. These have either already received support, or have funds earmarked, pending further information and developments from the applicants:

- 3.1 The Board agreed to support the publication of an edited collection of socio-economic papers on whaling in Greenland which have been presented to the IWC through the years with NOK 35,000.
- 3.2 A project for a poster on whales in Norwegian waters developed by Tore Dillingøen: NOK 35,000.

Annual Report of the NAMMCO Fund

- 3.3 The Board supported the production of the collection of cartoons, *The Daily Grind*, on pilot whaling and the whaling debate by Óli Petersen with up to DKK 50,000. The collection was published by the Faroese newspaper, *Sosialurin*, in six languages.

4. SUMMARY OF GENERAL POLICY DISCUSSIONS AND BUDGET

The Board agreed that the Secretariat should follow up on projects that have been supported, so that for instance the extent of distribution of publications would be known to the Board. It should also be a part of the preconditions for supporting projects that this information is provided.

The Board noted that the North Atlantic Fisheries Ministers have met in Canada at a meeting focussing on seals/sealing and the influence of seals on fisheries. In line with this the Board **agreed** that the mentioned items should be given priority in 1996. In doing so, the Board will seek cooperation with other relevant fund sources in order to initiate one single project on a larger basis than has been the case up till now - or to support an already initiated project. In the case that no such project can be developed on this basis, the Board agreed that other projects can be supported instead.

In reviewing funds used to support projects in 1995, it was noted that the remaining balance of the Fund has been earmarked/used. It was also noted that NOK 200,000 for the Fund have been included in the 1996 forecast budget. All present applications for funding have been dealt with.

The Board agreed that the existence of the Fund is of great value as a means of creating better knowledge of the rational utilisation of marine mammals, and that it should therefore continue as such. The precondition for this is, however, that funds are included on the general budget every year.

The Board **recommends** that NOK 200,000 are earmarked for the Fund for 1996 and a corresponding amount for 1997.

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme

1.4 PROVISIONS FOR THE JOINT NAMMCO CONTROL SCHEME FOR THE HUNTING OF MARINE MAMMALS

The Scheme contains the following sections:

- Section A** Common elements for national inspection schemes for coastal whaling in NAMMCO member countries; this part of the scheme concerns hunting of whales from vessels with a harpoon gun on board, and
- Section B** An international observation scheme with the participation of NAMMCO member countries; this part of the scheme relates, in principle, to all hunting of marine mammals.
- Section C** Implementation
- Appendix 1** Items for inclusion in whaling logbooks

Section B is administered by the NAMMCO Secretariat, hereafter called “the Secretariat”.

SECTION A

COMMON ELEMENTS FOR NATIONAL INSPECTION SCHEMES FOR COASTAL WHALING IN NAMMCO MEMBER COUNTRIES

A.1 Introduction

The national inspection schemes include national inspectors who either

- i) remain permanently on board whaling vessels or at landing/receiving places during the hunting season, or
- ii) carry out random control of hunting vessels and landing/receiving places,

or a combination of i) and ii).

The aim of these regulations is to establish a standard of common elements which shall be a minimum requirement in the random control included in national inspection schemes. In addition to these elements, the individual member countries may include new elements as considered appropriate in relation to national laws and regulations for their specific whaling activities.

The national authorities decide the extent of inspection within their own jurisdiction.

A.2 Near-coast whaling operations

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

- A.2.0 In these provisions, “near-coast whaling operations” is defined as whaling from vessels which bring their catch fresh to land.
- A.2.1 The relevant authorities in each NAMMCO member country (hereafter called “the national authorities”) design and publish a whaling logbook. The captain on board vessels equipped to carry out whaling must keep the logbook continually updated during the hunting season. A minimum requirement for the whaling logbook is that it includes the information listed in Appendix 1- *Items for inclusion in whaling logbooks*.
- A.2.2 The national authorities develop and implement regulations for the electronic transmission of information to enable the controlling authorities to ascertain the vessel’s position etc.
- The regulations shall require the following types of reports:
- i) *Report of commencement of activity* - report on time and place when leaving port or when weighing anchor
 - ii) *Report of catch* - report on the time and position of the catch and subsequent treatment of catch (i.e. flensing).
 - iii) *Report of termination of activity* - report on time and place when arriving at port or when anchoring
- A.2.3 The national authorities implement an arrangement whereby national inspectors carry out random checks on whaling vessels and at landing/receiving places. The national authorities compile a set of provisions for this arrangement which specify requirements for the inspectors’ qualifications and competence, duties, rights, etc.
- A.2.4 One of the duties of the inspectors, as required by the national authorities, (cf. item A.2.3), shall be to examine the whaling logbook in order to check whether it has been filled in correctly, and in general to control that national regulations have been followed.

Inspectors shall

- i) draw attention to violations of regulations on board whaling vessels or at landing/receiving places, and in these instances demand changes according to the regulations in effect;
- ii) collect samples and record data in accordance with national and international requirements;
- iii) report to their national authorities, and
- iv) have access to the logbooks of the vessel and the right to communicate with the national authorities through the communication equipment of the vessel.

Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme

The national authorities develop a reporting form for use by the inspectors.

- A.2.5 The national authorities develop and implement regulations for storage of the catch on board a vessel. Meat, blubber and mattak (hide, including a thin layer of blubber) from individual animals caught must be stored on board separately from other catches. Separation of these parts shall occur within a minimum of six hours after the catch report is made.

A.3 Off-coast whaling operations

- A.3.0 In these provisions, “off-coast whaling operations” is defined as whaling where the whale is flensed on board vessels which are equipped to handle and store meat and blubber either frozen or chilled with ice, or preserved by other means, in connection with transport/storage.

- A.3.1 The requirements referred to under A.2.1 and A.2.3 - A.2.5 also apply to off-coast whaling operations.

- A.3.2 The national authorities develop and implement regulations for the electronic transmission of information to enable the controlling authorities to ascertain the vessel’s position etc.

The regulations shall require the following types of reports:

- i) *Report of commencement of activity* - report on time and place when leaving port or when weighing anchor
 - ii) *Report of position* - regular daily report on position.
 - iii) *Report of catch* - report on the time and position of the catch, and subsequent treatment of catch (i.e. flensing).
 - iv) *Report of termination of activity* - report on time and place when arriving at port or when anchoring
- A.3.3 On board all vessels conducting off-coast whaling operations, an instrument must be installed for recording the specific activities during whaling, which can then be monitored after the return to port.

SECTION B INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION SCHEME

B.1 Introduction

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

The purpose of establishing an international observation scheme among NAMMCO member countries is to provide a mechanism for NAMMCO to monitor whether decisions made by the Commission are respected. For this purpose, NAMMCO appoints observers who oversee hunting and inspection activities in NAMMCO member countries.

B.2 Duties and competence

B.2.1 Observers are responsible for overseeing hunting activities and for observing whether or not these are carried out in accordance with decisions made through NAMMCO and national regulations. The observers are required to make a report of their observations to NAMMCO. Observers have no authority of jurisdiction, and consequently cannot intervene in the hunting, or other activities connected with the hunting.

Observations can take place on board a vessel, or on shore, in connection with flensing, storage and landing/delivering of the catch.

B.2.2 The observer shall be allowed to check licences and relevant certificates, logbooks/whaling logbooks, all rooms on board or on land, hunting equipment, and communication equipment, etc., which are relevant for his/her work.

B.2.3 The observer shall report any violation of the regulations in a given area, and as soon as possible, send a report of such to the Secretariat, with a copy to the authorities in the country in question, as well as to the owners of the vessel. The captain, those in possession of the licence, and, if present, the inspector, shall be given the opportunity in a special paragraph of the report, to record their comments.

B.2.4 The observer shall prepare a report of the observations made, and send it to the Secretariat, with a copy to the authorities of the country in which the observations have taken place.

B.2.5 The Secretariat prepares an annual report of the observation scheme, in which the implementation of the scheme is described, for the review of the Management Committee. The document shall include reports of any violations, as well as other relevant comments.

B.2.6 The observer shall carry out his/her duties on the basis of guidelines adopted by the Management Committee.

B.2.7 The observers are responsible to NAMMCO, and can neither seek nor receive instructions from any other person or authority.

Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme

- B.2.8 An observer shall only in exceptional circumstances be appointed to observe in the country - or on a vessel registered in the country - of which he or she is resident (see item B.3).

B.3 Appointment of observers

- B.3.1 Observers are appointed by the Management Committee for one year at a time. Appointments are made through a procedure that ensures member countries the opportunity both to nominate candidates as well as to oppose the appointment of candidates. NAMMCO can invite non-member countries to nominate candidates. The Management Committee draws up specific guidelines for appointing observers and for making reservations.

- B.3.2 Neither the owner or the captain of a vessel, nor the owner or the manager of a landing/receiving place that is to be observed, can oppose observation by a person appointed by NAMMCO according to guidelines referred to in B.3.1.

B.4 Qualifications, etc.

- B.4.1 The Management Committee compiles guidelines for requirements for the competence, training, etc., of observers.

- B.4.2 As a general rule, observers must have at least the same level of professional competence as that required of inspectors in the country where the observations are to take place. In special circumstances, exemption from this requirement can be given.

- B.4.3 For safety reasons, the language competency of observers must be taken into consideration. An observer on board a hunting vessel must be able to communicate spontaneously with the crew. For communication on land, a translator may be used.

B.5 Scope of activities

- B.5.1 The Management Committee identifies annually priorities for the scope of observation activities for the coming year, within the budget adopted by the Council. The Secretariat is responsible for the practical administration and coordination of these activities.

- B.5.2 The International Observation Scheme is administered by the Secretariat, in accordance with guidelines set down by the Management Committee.

B.6 Integrity

The authorities in the country where observations take place shall take appropriate measures to ensure the safety, freedom and dignity of the observer, and shall, in

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996

addition, be of assistance in both word and deed, so that the duties of the observer can be carried out properly and efficiently.

B.7 Costs

Costs in connection with the activities of NAMMCO observers are covered by the NAMMCO budget in cases where different arrangements have not been agreed by NAMMCO and the country which sends the observer. The Management Committee may give guidelines for such arrangements.

SECTION C

IMPLEMENTATION

It is the intention of the member countries of NAMMCO to implement the Scheme or parts thereof at the beginning of the hunting season in 1997. For this purpose further work will be undertaken by the Management Committee on necessary guidelines. Item A.3.3 will be put into effect when the instrument referred to is tested and approved by the national authorities concerned.

Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme

1.4 - APPENDIX 1

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN WHALING LOGBOOKS

- I Vessel, whaling equipment and formalities**
- 1 Registration number of the vessel
 - 2 Call sign.
 - 3 Name of captain/licence holder
 - 4 Name(s) of gunner(s)
 - 5 Number of licence
 - 6 Caliber of harpoon gun
 - 7 Type of grenade used
 - 8 Caliber of rifle
 - 9 Number of grenades and propellant charges (and their serial numbers) on board at end of last whaling trip
 - 10 Number of grenades and propellant charges (and their serial numbers) taken on board in connection with present whaling trip
 - 11 Number of grenades and propellant charges (and their serial numbers) on board at end of present whaling trip
- II Activities**
- 1 Port of departure
 - 2 Date and time of departure from port or weighing anchor
 - 3 Port of landing or position of anchoring
 - 4 Time catch landed
 - 5 Location catch landed
- III The hunt**
- 1 Species hunted
 - 2 No. of whales caught in the season
 - 3 Time hunt commenced (species to be reported)
 - 4 Time first harpoon fired
 - 5 Number of harpoons fired
 - 6 Number of hits
 - 7 Time of catch
 - 8 Position of catch
 - 9 Caught/lost
 - 10 Location of flensing (flensing site)
- IV Research data**
- 1 Estimated time-to-death
 - 2 Length
 - 3 Sex
 - 4 Foetus
 - 5 Time search started
 - 6 Time of first sighting of whale (species to be reported)
 - 7 Position of sighting
 - 8 Number of whales and groups of whales sighted (species to be reported)
 - 9 Samples taken
- V Other**
- 1 Comments
 - 2 Date and signature (captain)

NAMMCO Annual Report 1996