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1996**

Report of the Management Committee

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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3.1 REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tromsø, 28 March 1996

1-3. OPENING PROCEDURES

The Management Committee met at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Tromsø on 28 March, 1996. The meeting was convened by the Committee's Chairman, Einar Lemche (Greenland) and attended by delegations from all member countries. In addition, the Management Committee decided to admit to its meeting all observers who were also attending the Sixth Meeting of the Council. A full list of participants is contained in Appendix 1 of the Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Council (Section 1.1).

The draft agenda for the meeting, as contained in Appendix 1, was adopted, and the Secretary, Kate Sanderson, was appointed as rapporteur.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Chairman referred to the decisions and recommendations summarised in NAMMCO/6/6 - Report of the Scientific Committee (pp.1- 4).

The Management Committee noted the decisions made by the Scientific Committee for further work to address outstanding requests for advice from the Council. These included the establishment of a Working Group on Abundance Estimates as a follow-up to NASS-95, which would also coordinate the production of a table showing stock levels and trends in stock levels of marine mammals in the North Atlantic.

The Management Committee also noted the establishment by the Scientific Committee of a Data Group to liaise with the Secretariat on the further development of the database and standards for data submission, storage and handling.

The Management Committee **endorsed** the recommendations for further research on harp seals, hooded seals, ringed seals and grey seals identified by the Scientific Committee, and which are summarised in NAMMCO/6/6, pages 3-4.

4.1 *By-catch data*

The Management Committee noted that the Scientific Committee had identified the need for data on by-catches of marine mammals for population assessment, and had recommended to member countries to establish a system for reporting data on by-catches.

4.2 *Grey seal catch statistics*

The Management Committee further noted the Scientific Committee recommendation for a system for recording catch statistics, both specifically for the hunting of grey seals in Norway, as well as for grey seals killed at fish farms and in fishing gear in all NAMMCO member countries.

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The Management Committee **endorsed** the recommendations under 4.1 & 4.2, and **recommended** that the Secretariat be entrusted to investigate the requirements for a standard system for reporting such data, in liaison with the Data Group recently established by the Scientific Committee.

4.3 *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. It was suggested that this be drawn to the attention of the Scientific Committee to secure a follow-up to last year's request.

4.4 *Harbour porpoise*

The Management Committee **endorsed** the Scientific Committee's recommendation to include harbour porpoise on its agenda in the future.

5. PROPOSALS FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

5.1 *Earlier proposals*

Atlantic walrus

At its last meeting in Nuuk in 1995, the Management Committee recommended: "[W]hile recognizing the over all priority of further work to clarify and confirm the delineation and abundance of walrus stocks in the North Atlantic area,that Greenland take appropriate steps to arrest the decline of walrus along its west coast."(NAMMCO Annual Report, p. 49).

Greenland reported that the Home Rule Government had implemented new legislation in 1994 limiting the number of people permitted to hunt walruses in Greenland. Only full-time hunters were permitted to hunt walruses, and only from vessels under 40 gross tons. All catches must be reported to the authorities. It is also forbidden to catch walruses in certain areas of Greenland. Greenland authorities were also considering how to further limit the take of walruses.

Greenland further informed the Management Committee that the question of Atlantic walrus was raised at the last meeting of the Joint Commission on Conservation and Management of Narwhal and Beluga to consider management in cooperation between Canada and Greenland on the stock of Atlantic walrus in the Davis Strait and nearby areas.

It was also reported that a scientific project on DNA analysis of walrus stocks in West and East Greenland was planned for the summer of 1996, and DNA analyses would be exchanged with Canadian scientists.

5.2 *New proposals*

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Ringed seal

At its last meeting in Nuuk in February 1995, the Council agreed to the Management Committee's recommendation for Scientific Committee to:

“advise on stock identity [of ringed seals] for management purposes and to assess abundance in each stock area, long-term effects on stocks by present removals in each stock area, effects of recent environmental changes (i.e. disturbance, pollution) and changes in the food supply, and interactions with other marine living resources.”

The Management Committee noted the conclusions of the Scientific Committee on the subsequent assessment of ringed seals in the North Atlantic, which had been carried out through the Scientific Committee Working Group on Ringed Seals (NAMMCO/6/6, pp. 14-17 & Annex 1). In particular, the Management Committee noted that three geographical areas had been identified for assessing the status of ringed seals, and that abundance estimates were only available for Area 1 (defined by Baffin Bay, Davis Strait, eastern Hudson Strait, Labrador Sea, Lancaster, Jones and Smith sounds - see NAMMCO/6/6-Annex 1, Figure 1).

While recognising the necessity for further monitoring of ringed seal removals in Area 1, the Management Committee **endorsed** the Scientific Committee's conclusions that present removals of ringed seals in Area 1 can be considered sustainable.

Harp and hooded seals

The Management Committee noted the Scientific Committee's review of updated findings on harp seals and hooded seals in the North Atlantic (NAMMCO/6/6, pp. 10-14).

i) Harp seals in the Northwest Atlantic

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

ii) 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 Management Committee concluded 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.

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6. RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 *Role of marine mammals in the ecosystem*

The Management Committee noted the general conclusion of the Scientific Committee during its deliberations on the role of marine mammals in the marine ecosystem (NAMMCO/6/6, pp. 8-9). The Scientific Committee had noted that this was a vast field of science, and that in the future it would be preferable to consider more specific questions related to this field.

The Management Committee therefore **recommended** that the Scientific Committee 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.

6.2 *Sealworm infestation*

Aware that the population dynamics of the sealworm (*Pseudoterranova decipiens*) may be influenced by sea temperature, bathymetry, invertebrate and fish fauna, the Management Committee **recommended** that the Scientific Committee 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 (NAMMCO/6/6, pp.17-21).

7. INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

7.1 *Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation (NAMMCO/6/MC/3)*

The Chairman of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation, Egil Ole Øen (Norway) presented document NAMMCO/6/MC/3, the Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation, which met in Copenhagen in November 1995.

Øen pointed out that the Working Group on Inspection and Observation had been requested in 1994 to pursue the development of a common inspection scheme for minke whaling in the North Atlantic, and was subsequently requested in 1995 to continue its work on the formulation of a common checklist for inspectors, based on the list of common elements for national inspection schemes which had been identified by the Working Group at its meeting in 1994. The Working Group on Inspection and Observation had also been requested to consider the details of a reciprocal observer scheme between NAMMCO member countries and to further develop these (NAMMCO Annual Report 1995, p. 59).

At its Third Meeting, the Working Group reviewed updated information from member countries on national regulations for the hunting of marine mammals.

The Working Group's detailed deliberations on the formulation of an inspector's checklist, as well as the development of the details a reciprocal observer scheme between NAMMCO member countries, resulted in a draft proposal for Provisions for the Joint NAMMCO

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Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals (NAMMCO/6/MC/4 - see under 7.2). Conclusions of the detailed discussions in the Working Group related to specific elements of inspection and observation are reflected in the explanatory notes attached to the draft Provisions as presented to the Management Committee.

In addition to this, Øen pointed out that the Working Group had agreed at its Third Meeting that two checklists should be developed: a hunter's checklist to be submitted to national authorities; and an inspector's checklist. It was stressed that the development of common checklists would not imply any level of inspection. The inspector's checklist would be used only to the extent inspection is actually carried out.

Øen also drew the attention of the Management Committee to the Working Group's discussions concerning financing of the International Observer Scheme. The Working Group had agreed that the costs of observers should not be paid by the flag state (see also below under 7.2).

7.2 *Proposal for a NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals (NAMMCO/6/MC/4)*

Øen further presented document NAMMCO/6/MC/4 - Draft Provisions for the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals.

Øen informed the Management Committee that the main aim of the Working Group had been to establish a scheme that is both practical and reliable. The purpose of the Joint Control Scheme was 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 were upheld in member countries. The Working Group agreed that there was a good basis for the coordination of control schemes in NAMMCO member countries.

Ensuring dialogue with, and input from, the relevant hunter's associations in the work of the Group had also been an important consideration. Representatives from a number of national hunters' organisations had taken part in the January 1996 meeting of the Working Group at which the provisions for the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme had been further developed.

The proposed Control Scheme contained three main sections: A. Common elements for national inspection schemes for coastal whaling in NAMMCO member countries; B. International Observation Scheme; and C. Implementation.

Section A on inspection relates specifically to hunting of whales from vessels equipped with harpoon guns. According to the Scheme, the definition of whaling operations also includes landing and receiving of whales and whale products. Further, two distinct forms of whaling operations were specified in the Provisions, referred to in the Danish/Norwegian in which the Provisions were developed as "hjemmefangst" (literally "home whaling") - whaling from vessels which bring their catch fresh to land, and "utefangst" ("out whaling") - whaling where the whale is flensed on board vessels which are equipped to handle and store the meat and

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blubber either frozen or chilled with ice, or preserved by other means, in connection with transport/storage.

Øen pointed out that the Working Group had not reached full agreement on the question of the transfer of electronic information from whaling vessels to national authorities, in particular the requirements for report of activity and termination of activity during the whaling season, although it was agreed that it would be possible to find solutions to these requirements in the proposed Scheme.

Section B - the International Observation Scheme - would encompass the hunting of all species of marine mammals in the NAMMCO area. The Scheme provides for the exchange of observers between member countries, according to guidelines determined by the Management Committee, and administered by the Secretariat. Observers, who report on their observations to other member countries through the NAMMCO Secretariat, shall not have any authority to interfere in any way with the observed activities in the applicable areas.

Section C of the proposed Scheme concerns implementation. The Working Group considered that the Scheme could be implemented by the hunting season of 1997. Before then, however, the Scheme or parts of it could be implemented on a trial basis, which might also reveal any necessary adjustments before its final implementation.

The Working Group identified two outstanding questions in connection with the development of the Control Scheme: 1) clarification of the type of electronic reports to be included in the common elements for national inspection schemes, and 2) the development of further guidelines in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme. Finally, the Working Group recommended that the necessary steps be taken to finalise and implement the Joint Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals.

.....

The Chairman of the Management Committee thanked Øen for his presentation and commended the Working Group and the Secretariat for their effective work in the preparation of the proposed Control Scheme. General comments were invited from member countries.

Iceland expressed its support for the Scheme and commended the Chairman of the Working Group for his work. Further, Iceland pointed out that the Working Group on Finance and Administration had noted that a Joint Control Scheme administered through NAMMCO would likely have budgetary implications for the organisation, although it was noted that this had not been taken into account in the 1997 forecast budget.

Norway commended the rapid progress and substantive results made by the Working Group on Inspection and Observation, in contrast to the difficulties and delays experienced with similar questions elsewhere. The importance of taking the practical realities of hunting operations as a starting point was stressed.

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The Faroes welcomed the report and work of the Working Group, and expressed support for both sections of the proposed Scheme, the common elements of inspection for coastal whaling as well as the International Observation Scheme for all marine mammals. The need for further guidelines was noted, and the Faroes expressed their willingness to continue with the work in 1996 to further develop these.

Greenland also expressed its gratitude to the Working Group and Secretariat for the progress made in developing the Joint Control Scheme, and otherwise supported the comments by Norway. It was further stressed that Greenland could support the Scheme in principle, but that there were some practical problems associated with it which had been discussed in Greenland.

In particular, Greenland informed the Management Committee of its reservation to the requirement for the report of commencement of activity and report of termination of activity, as specified in article A.2.2, points i) and iii) of the Provisions for a Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme. As Greenlandic whaling vessels are usually equipped with hunting gear all year round, due to the fact that the small individual whaling quotas for each vessel may be taken at almost any time of the year, the requirement for report of commencement and termination of activities was considered to be impractical in relation to the scope of activities of these vessels. Whaling vessels in Greenland will, however, be subject to inspection at all times when the vessel is equipped with a harpoon gun, in accordance with the Joint Control Scheme, during which period the logbook must be kept updated.

A number of specific amendments to the draft Provisions as presented in NAMMCO/6/MC/4 were agreed upon by the Management Committee. These were incorporated into the text of the revised set of Provisions (NAMMCO/6/MC/5), and the rationale for these amendments is subsequently reflected in the explanatory notes to the revised provisions.

The Management Committee **agreed to recommend** to the Council that the Provisions for the Joint Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals, as revised by the Management Committee and contained in NAMMCO/6/MC/5, be adopted, noting the reservation by Greenland to article A.2.2, points i) and iii) (see Section 1.4 of this volume).

7.3 Other matters

Greenland requested the Secretariat to define clearly the respective duties, in relation to the Control Scheme, of: 1) the national authorities; 2) the hunters; and 3) the Secretariat.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

Einar Lemche (Greenland) was re-elected Chairman of the Management Committee for the next two years. Kaj Mortensen (Faroe Islands) was elected as Vice-Chairman.

9. CLOSING ARRANGEMENTS

Report of the Management Committee

Norway thanked the Chairman of the Management Committee for his excellent work in chairing the meeting.

A preliminary report from the Management Committee was prepared for immediate presentation to the Council. The Management Committee agreed that the full report of the meeting should be circulated for review and adoption through correspondence. This process was completed on 6 May 1996.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NAMMCO/6/6	Scientific Committee - Report of the Fourth Meeting
NAMMCO/6/MC/3	Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation
NAMMCO/6/MC/4	Draft provisions for the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals
NAMMCO/6/MC/5	Provisions for the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals (as revised by the Management Committee and adopted by the Council)

REFERENCES

NAMMCO Annual Report 1995, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, Tromsø.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's opening remarks
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Appointment of rapporteur
4. Matters arising from the Scientific Committee (NAMMCO/6/6)
5. Proposals for conservation and management
 - 5.1 Earlier proposals
 - 5.2 New proposals
6. Research recommendations
7. Inspection and Observation
 - 7.1 Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Inspection and Observation (NAMMCO/6/MC/3)
 - 7.2 Proposal for a NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals (NAMMCO/6/MC/4)
 - 7.3 Other matters
8. Election of officials
 - 8.1 Election of Chairman
 - 8.2 Election of Vice-Chairman
9. Any other business
10. Adoption of report

3.2 REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

Copenhagen, 3 November 1995

The Working Group met in the offices of the Greenland Home Rule Government, Copenhagen, 3 November 1995. The meeting was attended by Einar Lemche (Greenland), Anna Maria Fossá (Faroe Islands), Snorri Rúnar Pálmason and Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), Halvard P. Johansen (retiring Chairman, Norway) and Egil Ole Øen (new Chairman, Norway). Halvard P. Johansen attended the first two items on the agenda. The Assistant Secretary was rapporteur.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Agenda was adopted.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Halvard P. Johansen, Norway, retired from the Chair due to the fact that he is now Chairman of the Council, and on his suggestion Egil Ole Øen (Norway) was elected new Chairman of the Working Group. In this connection the value of spreading official responsibilities among persons in the organization was noted.

In handing over the Chair, the retiring Chairman thanked the Working Group for its support during his chairmanship. The new Chairman thanked the Working Group for its confidence in him and he especially thanked the retiring Chairman for the very efficient job he had done during his term of office.

3. UPDATE ON NATIONAL REGULATIONS

The Chairman suggested that the members update the Working Group on whaling regulations in their respective countries.

a) Norway

Øen reported that only hunting of minke whales is allowed in Norway. Licences are issued on a one-year basis to hunters who have carried out whaling over the past 3 years. The licence holder must own at least 50% of the boat for which the licence is issued (unless the boat is owned by a company), and is not allowed to possess more than one boat. In 1995 the number of vessels hunting minke whales was 33 with one or two gunners on board each.

A number of minke whales (between five and twelve) are allocated to each vessel. The whales are flensed on board the vessel.

The following conditions must be met to obtain a licence for hunting minke whales:

- There must be an inspector on board every vessel.

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- Gunners must pass a yearly official course and a shooting test with harpoon cannon and rifle.

Steps have been taken to ensure that harpoon cannons and harpoons are checked and approved every year. Furthermore, on land the catch is occasionally checked by weighing the meat and comparing it with the logbooks. For veterinary reasons it has been suggested that all meat should be weighed.

b) Iceland

In Iceland no commercial whaling has been carried out since 1989. The regulations which applied to whaling were introduced in 1949 (*Whaling Act, No. 26, May 3, 1949*) when Iceland became a member of the IWC. Iceland resigned from the IWC with effect from July 1992.

The representatives of Iceland stated that the use of penthrite grenades will inevitably be required when Iceland resumes whaling.

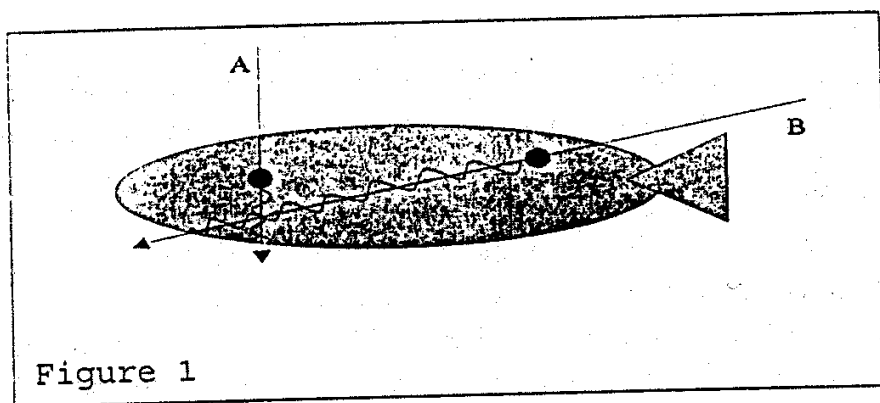
Minke whaling was carried out from small vessels that transported whales to land, where they were flensed. In the case of larger whales, one land station had a licence to carry out whaling from a maximum of four vessels.

c) Greenland

The system of recording hunting in general was changed in 1993. Until then, the registration system required a local hunter from every municipality to send in information on catches to central authorities. Now all hunters - professional or otherwise - must record their own catches and send the records once a year to the Home Rule Authorities in order to obtain a *hunters licence*, without which hunting is not permitted. Licences are issued for two categories of hunters, professional and recreational.

Only professional hunters are issued a licence for hunting minke and fin whales. One licence is issued per whale, and when the whale is caught, the hunter is authorised by the municipal office, which dates and signs the licence, to sell the meat from the whale. When the meat is sold, the seller must be in possession of this authorised licence.

Under this item the Working Group discussed the amount of meat being destroyed by the penthrite grenade. Greenlandic hunters claim the loss to be larger using the grenade than it was when they used the cold harpoon. In the view of Øen this is a question of hunting and shooting techniques. The penthrite grenade is designed to explode c. 60 cm inside the whale. The meat penetrated by the harpoon after the explosion will be somewhat affected by penthrite gasses. The smaller the angle from which the whale is struck, the larger is the quantity of meat affected, as the explosion will more frequently occur in the muscle or blubber, and the harpoon will travel farther through these tissues after the strike than with a perpendicular strike. Two extremes are illustrated in Figure 1: Perpendicular strikes (A) will give the best chance of an instant kill, while angled shots (B) are more likely to result in a longer time-to-death, and thereby poorer quality and more damaged meat. (See also Section 1.2, item 3.1).



Furthermore, in order to minimize uncertainty regarding the precision of the shots, the weight of harpoons should be standardised as they are in the Norwegian hunt.

Øen stressed the importance of training hunters in patience as well as accuracy of shooting.

d) Faroe Islands

In the Faroes a limited-scale drive hunt of Northern bottlenose whales has been conducted for centuries and some off shore catches occurred earlier this century. All in all c. 1.5 Northern bottlenose whales have been caught a year on average since 1584.

The local police - in some places the fire brigade - supervise the hunt of pilot whales. Every hunt is a public event and therefore quite transparent, from an inspection point of view.

The hunt of pilot whales is led by four *grind foremen* (and two substitutes) in each whaling bay. The local chief of police sends a report describing the details of the hunt to the Government.

The Working Group concluded item 3 by agreeing that the Secretariat should be provided with copies of legislation and the latest changes in specific regulations for whaling and sealing operations in member countries.

4. INSPECTION CHECKLIST

It was noted that the elements of the checklist had been approved by the Council.

The Working Group agreed that of cooperation in this area could be based on either: 1) the national checklists in which certain common elements should be included, or 2) a common list, to which other, national elements could be added to the extent the members find it appropriate.

It was agreed that a common list would be preferable as long as it could be created without being complicated by too many specific elements related to individual countries.

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The Working Group decided that two checklists should be developed: a hunter's checklist to send to the authorities, and an inspector's checklist. It was agreed that the development of common checklists would not imply any level of inspection - the inspector's checklist would be used only to the extent inspection is actually carried out in each country.

Iceland provided a suggestion for concrete elements to be included in the hunter's checklist (WG-IO/3/2) and the IWC inspection checklist was also distributed at the meeting. At the second meeting of the Working Group the *Logbook for minke whaling in Norway* as well as the Greenland record form used by whalers (*Rapport om fangst af hval*) had been provided by Norway and Greenland respectively, and are contained in the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group (NAMMCO Annual Report 1995 - pp 55-65). The material was reviewed and the Working Group agreed that biological data should also be included in the lists. In this connection it was stressed that especially the hunter's checklist should be user-friendly.

It was further agreed that the Secretariat should prepare the draft lists, which would be reviewed by the Chairman and then distributed to the Working Group members and possibly discussed at a telephone meeting.

The question was raised of using genetic fingerprints as a means of monitoring whether meat that has been sold derives from a registered whale catch. The general feeling was that the techniques are not sufficiently developed to produce fingerprints that are reliable for monitoring.

It was noted that the checklists could only apply to offshore whaling with harpoon guns.

In conclusion, the Working Group agreed

- to compose two checklists - one for the license holder and one for inspectors;
- that the lists should contain at least the relevant elements required by the IWC Schedule; if elements are included in the IWC Schedule but left out of the NAMMCO checklist the reason should be explained;
- that the list provided by Iceland as well as the Greenlandic and Norwegian recording forms should provide the basis for the work of the Secretariat;
- that data relevant for scientific use should be included on the lists, and that therefore the checklists should be submitted to the Scientific Committee for additional comments.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF A RECIPROCAL OBSERVER'S SCHEME

At its 5th Meeting, the Council agreed to the recommendation from the Management Committee to request the Working Group "to consider the details of a reciprocal observer scheme between NAMMCO member countries and further develop these". The basis for the discussion in the Management Committee was the recommendation from the report of the Working Group's meeting in Copenhagen, 8 November 1994.

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Iceland distributed WG-IO and also provided WG-IO/3/4.

Iceland pointed out that the draft agreement was not put forward as a proposal but merely as a basis for discussion.

Greenland distributed NAFO/FC Doc. 95/17 and NAFO/FC Doc. 95/19. Greenland noted that NAMMCO measures should not be less stringent than those agreed on in NAFO.

The Working Group reviewed the material and discussed the Icelandic draft in detail. The following comments were made:

ad Art. 1

It was agreed that the agreement should also cover vessels on which whales are not flensed.

ad Art. 2

It was agreed that either the “observer state” should decide which vessels are to be observed, or that the appointment of observers to vessels should be organized through the NAMMCO Secretariat.

The question of financing the scheme was raised again, and it was agreed that the costs of observers should not be paid by the flag state. The observer must remain independent of the flag state. The question was also raised as to whether NAMMCO should finance the scheme or whether the observing country should cover the costs for the individual observer, and further, whether a system by which NAMMCO finances the scheme would result in a situation where the observer and the observed vessel were of the same nationality. No conclusions were reached at the meeting on either question.

It was also noted that when using international observers a communication problem might arise from the fact that not all of NAMMCO member citizens speak and understand more than one other Nordic language or English very well.

The Working Group agreed that it would be up to the individual member country to determine the extent of its participation in the scheme.

The question was raised whether the flag state, the owner of the vessel/the captain on board or neither should have the option to reject specific persons as observers. The question was not resolved, but it was noted that the scheme would be weakened if this option existed.

ad Art. 3

Greenland suggested that the task of the observer should be to oversee that the national regulations of the flag state in question are followed. The Secretariat should be able to provide observers with guidance on national regulations and to give other forms of support. The Working Group agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a proposal for a common observer scheme including details of the role and function of international observers. The proposal should be based on the Icelandic draft (Appendix 4), and the NAFO, IWC and national regulations should also be taken into consideration.

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6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Øen corrected the wording of a sentence in the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group in Copenhagen, 8 November 1994. The first sentence of the 8th paragraph under item 4.1 should read as follows: "*In summing up ... in Greenland it was obligatory to have harpoon guns checked, ...*".

7. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The Working Group agreed that the draft report of the meeting should be circulated. It was adopted at the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group, 22 January 1996.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WG-IO/3/1	Agenda
WG-IO/3/2	Comments for the Working Group Meeting on Inspection and Observation to be held in Copenhagen on 3rd November 1995 - By Iceland.
WG-IO/3/3	Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Iceland and of the Kingdom of Spain concerning an international observer scheme for land-based whaling stations in the North Atlantic area.
WG-IO/3/4	WG-IO Working Paper on a reciprocal NAMMCO Observer's Scheme.

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