



1.2

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

The Committee on Hunting Methods held a telephone meeting on 13 December 2007 from 14:00 to 15:00. Online were Egil Ole Øen, Chair and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen, (Faroe Islands), Ole Heinrich (Greenland), Kristjan Loftsson (Iceland), and Christina Lockyer and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

1. OPENING PROCEDURE

The Chair of the Committee, Egil Ole Øen, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted with the addition of three items under Any Other Business. Charlotte Winsnes was acting as rapporteur.

2. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in Copenhagen back to back with the Sub-Committee on Inspection and Observation on 13 and 14 February 2007. The meeting will be held at the Nordatlantensbrygge. Committee members were reminded to submit any updates on references and laws and regulations in member countries to the Secretariat.

3. WORKSHOP ON "HANDLING, PROCESSING AND UTILISATION OF HUNTED MARINE MAMMALS"

In March 2007, the Council approved the Committee's idea to organise a workshop (WS) with the working title "Handling, processing and utilisation of hunted marine mammals" with the following terms of reference:

- To maximise the quality and quantity of products obtained from hunting through exchange of information regarding handling, processing and utilisation.
- To make recommendations which are relevant to the workshop topic.

The Committee discussed the suggested timing of the WS (first half of September 2008) and agreed that it would be difficult to keep this date considering other meetings planned for the same period (NAMMCO 17 and Norwegian/Russian Sealing meeting in late August). It was agreed to postpone the WS until the fall of 2009. The meeting venue will be decided upon at a later stage.

The following points were raised and briefly discussed under this agenda:

- *Steering Committee:* The Committee on Hunting Methods will plan and organise the WS in consultation with possible resource persons.
- *Meeting venue:* in a member country or Copenhagen?
- *Content and programme:* Should the WS include all marine mammals or just seals and whales? Food security authorities are important players and must be part of the WS. Should the WS include both theoretical and practical aspects? A very brief introduction to hunting methods with respect to how they are done in different places as these have bearing on the meat quality, etc. For each hunt, analyze and identify possible problems as seen from the various perspectives of

the hunters and the food authorities with the aim of solving them to maximise the market situation. Hunting of marine mammals results in production of food and related items and the revenue must be maximised and secured.

- *Participants:* Hunters, experts, managers, market representatives, food security authorities from NAMMCO member countries, Japan, Canada, Chukotka, Alaska.
- *Finances:* Must seek financial sponsorship outside of NAMMCO. Will approach NCM, ISI Greenland, NORA and similar.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 New Hunting Knife in the Faroe Islands

At its last meeting in January 2007 the Committee expressed its interest in receiving a report describing and evaluating the knife and the method of use as this would be beneficial to NAMMCO. It was recommended that such work be undertaken by the Faroe Islands.

Olsen reported that a document describing the results of the use of the new hunting knife for the killing of Pilot whales would be presented to the Committee for its evaluation in advance of its next meeting in February 2008.

4.2 Hunting methods for Bowhead whales

At the last IWC meeting in 2007, Greenland was allocated a quota of 2 Bowhead whales in 2009 and would like to discuss conceivable methods for hunting of Bowhead whales in Greenland at the next meeting in the Hunting Committee. Greenland will supply a background document to be distributed in advance of the meeting.

4.3 World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)

WSPA had approached NAMMCO with a request for various types of information and access to meeting documents related to the work of the HM Committee. The Secretariat had drafted a response that was presented to the Committee for its comments.

5. APPROVAL OF THE REPORT

The report was approved by correspondence on 11 January 2008.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

The Committee on Hunting Methods met on 13 February 2008 from 9:30 to 17:30 in the Faroe Islands Representation in Copenhagen. Present were Egil Ole Øen, Chair and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen, (Faroe Islands), Ole Heinrich and Amalie Jessen (Greenland) (Jessen attended agenda items 5 to 7), Kristjan Loftsson (Iceland), and Christina Lockyer, Mario Aquarone and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND APPOINTMENT OF RAPPOREUR

The Chair of the Committee, Egil Ole Øen, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. The agenda was adopted with the addition of item 7.1 "A request from the Heads of Delegation meeting regarding a possible follow-up on best practises in sealing. Charlotte Winsnes acted as rapporteur.

2. UPDATES ON HUNTING METHODS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

The lists of references on hunting methods (NAMMCO/HM-February 2008-2), and laws and regulations in member countries (NAMMCO/HM-February 2008-3) were updated (see Appendices 1 and 2 of this report).

Faroe Islands

Olsen (Faroe Islands) reported that there had been one addition to the regulations for pilot whale hunting in the Faroe Islands, Executive Order No. 87 of 20 September 2007 on protections of whales. The idea is to prevent whales which have or will be tagged with satellite transmitters to be harvested.

Greenland

Heinrich (Greenland) reported that there have been reduced sightings of minke whales in East Greenland. As a consequence the hunters have requested the Home Rule Government to give permission to catch fin whales as they are sighted frequently. This request has so far been denied due to lack of adequate hunting equipment.

Iceland

Loftsson (Iceland) had no new information to report under this item.

Norway

Ynnesdal (Norway) noted that in Norway quota regulations on seal and whale hunting are revised every year, and that the regulations for 2008 are still under preparation.

The "Blue Box" system - the new electronic monitoring system for electronic surveillance of the Norwegian minke whaling (for description see the 2005 Committee report) seems to be well functioning. An evaluation of the system will be undertaken after the 2008 season at which time the system has been operative for three seasons.

3. WORKSHOP ON "HANDLING, PROCESSING AND UTILISATION OF HUNTED MARINE MAMMALS"

Prior to the meeting the Chair had asked Jústines Olsen to prepare some points for discussion (appendix 3). Also the report from the last meeting was presented as background documentation.

The Committee agreed on the following:

- ❖ The Workshop will be held in Sandefjord, Norway at Hotel Atlantic in week 45 (2 – 6 November) or 46 (9 – 13 November) in 2009. This was also the venue for

the 2nd workshop on ballistics. Sandefjord is fairly easy to reach (Torp airport and Gardemoen + train). Various artefacts that might be useful to exhibit may be found at the Whaling museum and also at the hotel itself which has a renowned display of hunting objects.

- ❖ The WS will be a three day event with focus on whales and seals and a mixture of lectures and discussions.

Day 1:

- General introduction – common aspects for all types of hunt, how are hunting conducted – generally what kind of impact the various hunts have on meat and skin quality - cultural differences in treatments. Important to emphasize that this overview of hunting methods should only take note of the impact a certain method has on the product.
- how and where to slaughter the animal from a hygienically point of view

Day 2:

Species specific sessions running parallel or in sequence:

- Whales; large and small
- Seals; young or grown up

Day 3:

Conclusions and Recommendations

- ❖ Olsen's programme input to be a possible introduction lecture at the WS
- ❖ Heinrich mentioned that Greenland could nominate a person who could talk about product development.
- ❖ If possible it would be very good to have visual documentation on topics such as treatment of meat from seals and whales. Some raised the issue that power point presentations often took priority to filming because of the time control aspect.
- ❖ The Steering Committee for the WS will be the Hunting Committee. In addition Glenn Williams from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. will be asked to participate in the planning and implementation of the WS, as he did in the last two workshops.
- ❖ The WS will be open as in previous workshops. Special invitations will be sent to Chukotka and Alaska, and in general all participants from earlier meetings will be notified. The Secretariat will prepare a list of possible participants that will be circulated to the Committee for comments.
- ❖ The WS has been allocated NOK 100 000 from NAMMCO but will need to seek external funding.
- ❖ The next meeting in the Steering Committee will be a telephone meeting in April, and it is envisaged that a second telephone meeting will be held before the summer holidays.
- ❖ The Chair in cooperation with the Secretariat will prepare a more detailed programme for discussion prior to the next telephone meeting.

4. NEW HUNTING EQUIPMENT IN THE FAROES ISLANDS

At its January 2007 the Committee expressed its interest in receiving a report describing and evaluating the new "knife" and the method used in the Faroes Islands. Document HM-February/2008-4 " *Development and testing of new whale killing*

equipment in Faroese whaling" had been prepared by Olsen for consideration by the Committee.

The Committee congratulated and commended Olsen for his successful work on developing this new tool. They recommended that more work be done with respect to documentation on method and use before a possible publication. It was noted that although the new killing equipment had been developed from the traditional knife it is no longer a knife but a spinal lance. It was generally thought that the spinal lance represents an improvement with respect to killing time and suffering.

5. BOWHEAD WHALES FUTURE

At the last IWC meeting in 2007, Greenland was allocated a quota of 2 bowhead whales. The bowhead was put under total protection in 1938 thus Greenland has no up to date experience on hunting of this species. To ensure the best possible hunt Greenland has sent a request for advice to Alaska where they do hunt the bowheads, and in addition asked for NAMMCO's input through the Committee on Hunting Methods on conceivable methods for the hunting of bowhead whales.

Jessen distributed a draft project outline for consideration and information. The project outline is intended for the next IWC and gives a thorough description of background, biology, legal frame in the past, today and in the future (laws and regulations), hunting methods, utilisation, health aspects and also references to the bowhead recovery program in Nunavut and Alaska.

Greenland's intention is to use a harpoon canon with a fin whale grenade. The Committee pointed out that there are two main target areas on the bowhead whale: neck and thorax?, and that one should always shoot on the side and never from behind the animal. It was recommended to initiate i. e. a 3-year trial period in which the hunting methods could be developed. Furthermore it was agreed that it would be important to identify a small number of vessels (2 – 3) with a license to hunt the quota under monitored and controlled circumstances and thus gain the necessary experience to adapt the best possible hunting methods.

The Committee agreed to review the draft plan for hunt when this was ready.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting will be held in Copenhagen in January/February 2009.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Evaluation of best practices in sealing

The Heads of Delegation had forwarded a request to the Committee to identify main issues for a possible Workshop on best practices in sealing. The work should build upon the knowledge and experiences already gathered in previous workshops

organized by the Committee and possible new developments emerging since the last workshop held in 2006.

The Committee was also asked to consider whether this should be an open forum or an expert meeting with attendance by invitation only. Tentatively NOK 50 000 were set aside for this work.

The Committee agreed to suggest focusing the work on best applicable methods, i.e. to critically assess the various hunting methods within their context. Given the legal framework is the preferred hunting method and equipment the best possible practice in a particular setting? Consideration should also be given to control and monitoring aspects as well as training of the hunters. The work should end up with recommendations on best practices based on state of the art in sealing today.

The Committee further recommends that the work be undertaken by a smaller more focused working group rather than through a workshop. Participation would be by invitation only and would encompass hunters and experts from all NAMMCO member countries. In addition invitations should be sent to sealing nations like Sweden, Finland and Canada.

The first step would be for the NAMMCO Secretariat to collect all relevant information from the previous workshops and draft a summary report to be used as a working document. Manuals and reports from other sealing counties will also be included.

Tentatively a first meeting of the Working Group was scheduled in connection with NAMMCO 17 in September 2008.

8. APPROVAL OF THE REPORT

The report was approved through correspondence on 31 March 2008.

LIST OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN NAMMCO MEMBER COUNTRIES

(Updated February 2008)

FAROE ISLANDS

- Parliamentary Act
- No 57 of 5 June 1984 on whale hunting
 - No 54 of 20 May 1996 amending Parliamentary Act on whale hunting
 - No 9 of 14 March 1985 on the protection of animals, as last amended by Parliamentary Act No 60 of 30 May 1990
 - No 43 of 22 May 1969 on weapons etc. as amended by Parliamentary Act No 54 of 12 May 1980
 - No 128 of 25 October 1988 on hare hunting
- Executive order
- No 57 of 12 September 1969 on weapons etc.
 - No 19 of 1 March 1996 on exemption from protection of whales
 - No 126 of 23 June 1997 on protection of whales
 - No 46 of 8 April 1998 on pilot whaling
 - No 107 of 21 November 1989 on authorisation of whaling bays, as amended by executive order No 64 of 11 May 1992, executive order No 127 of 27 August 1992, executive order No 141 of 23 June 1993, executive order No 34 of 24 March 1994 and executive order No 94 of 31 May 2001
 - No 166 of 27 August 1993 on provisional authorisation of whaling bays
 - No 118 of 23 October 1996 on provisional authorisation of whaling bays
 - No 72 of 17 May 2000 on provisional authorisation of whaling bays
 - No. 87 of 20 September 2007 on protections of whales

GREENLAND

- Greenland Home Rule Act
- No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting
 - No 11 of 12 November 2001 on revisions to Greenland Home Rule Act
 - No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting
 - No 9 of 15 April 2003 on revisions to Greenland Home Rule Act No 12 of 29 October 1999 on hunting
 - No 25 of 18 December 2003 on animal welfare
 - No 29 of 18 December 2003 on nature protection
- Executive Order
- No 26 of 24 October 1997 on extraordinary check and approval of harpoon canons
 - No 13 of 3 April 1998 on reporting from hunting and strike of large whales
 - No 22 of 19 August 2002 on trophy-hunting and fishing
 - No 20 of 27 November 2003 on hunting licenses for full time hunters
 - No 21 of 28 November 2003 on hunting licenses for part-time and/or sport hunters
 - No 2 of 12 February 2004 on protection and hunting of beluga and narwhal
 - No 10 of 13 April 2005 on hunting of large whales
 - No 21 of 22 September 2005 on protection and hunt of polar bears
 - No 20 of 27 October 2006 on protection and hunting of walrus

Catch registration form (1993)

Greenland Parliament Regulations of 31 August 1959, ratified on 12 February 1960 on the protection of harbour seals (*Phoca vitulina*)

ICELAND

Whaling Act	no 26, May 3, 1949
Regulation	no 163, May 30, 1973 on whaling
Regulation	no 304, May 9, 1983 on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling
Regulation	no 239, May 10, 1984 on amendments to Regulation No 163 of May 30, 1973 on whaling (cf. Regulation No 304/1983)
Agreement	no 9 of 26. June 1991 between Iceland and Spain on an international observer scheme for land-based whaling stations in the North Atlantic area.

NORWAY

Act of 20 December 1974 No 73 Concerning the Welfare of Animals

Act of 29 May 1981 Relating to Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats (the Wildlife act)

Act of 3 June 1983 No 40 Relating to Seawater Fisheries, etc.

Act of 27 March 1999 No 15 Relating to the Right to Participate in Fisheries and Hunting (Participants act)

Executive Orders from the Department of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs and the Directorate of Fisheries:

J-34-2003, 11.3.2003	Regulation on the practice of hunting seals in the West and East Ice
J-58-2006, 26.2.2006	Regulation on participation and governing the hunt of seals in the West Ice and the East Ice in 2006

Instruction of 9 March 2006 for the inspection of seal hunt in 2006

J-74-2000, 31.3.2000	Regulation of on the practice of hunting minke whales.
J-119-2006, 27.3.2006	Regulation on maximum quotas for hunting minke whales in 2006 Regulation on governing the hunt of minke whales in 2006
J-29-2007, 23.1.2007	Regulation on participation in the hunt of minke whales in 2007

Instructions of 5 April 2005 for inspectors during the minke whale hunt in 2005.

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