

Northwest Atlantic



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16TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1994

Report of the Fourth Meeting of the North Atlantic  
Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)

by

Delegate of Norway

NAFO was represented by Mrs. Lisbeth W. Plassa, Norway, as observer at the Fourth Meeting of NAMMCO.

The Council of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission - NAMMCO - held its fourth meeting in Tromsø, Norway, 24-25 February 1994. The Commission has as its objective to contribute through regional consultation and cooperation to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. It is established by an international agreement between the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway, and a permanent Secretariat has recently been established in Tromsø.

The fourth meeting of the Council was attended by delegations from the member countries. Observers from Canada, Denmark, Japan and Russia were present. In addition, observers from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) participated at the meeting. Observers from a number of non-governmental organizations were also present.

The Council expressed its satisfaction with the work of its Scientific Committee. Amongst the main tasks of the Scientific Committee last year were to provide advice on the status of six species of North Atlantic marine mammals and its review and consideration of current marine mammal management schemes with particular reference to the North Atlantic. The Committee initiated planning for a large-scale North Atlantic cetacean survey scheduled in 1995.

The Council requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work on management procedures and especially to look at the problems involved in the procedures developed in the International Whaling Commission known as the Revised Management Procedure.

The Council expressed its satisfaction with the working arrangements which have been established with a number of other international organizations and agreed that NAMMCO should take an active role at the international level in promoting the principles on which its work is based.

The Council received a report on the activities of the NAMMCO Fund. The aim of the Fund is to support projects which contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the rational and sustainable utilization of marine mammals.

The Council discussed the reports of the Working Groups on Inspection and Observation and Hunting Methods and agreed that these working groups should continue their deliberations.

At its meeting the Council approved the selection of a logo for the organization from the 119 contributors to the NAMMCO logo competition. The creator of the selected logo is Bárður Jákupsson from the Faroe Islands, who is the winner of the prize of NOK 10,000.

The Council agreed to hold its next meeting in February 1995.

### **External Relations - Statement by the Council**

Since its establishment in 1992, the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission has established working relations with a number of other international organizations such as ICES, IWC and NAFO. At its fourth meeting held in Tromsø, February 24-25, 1994, the Council of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission agreed to continue these relations in order to further its objective to contribute through regional consultation and cooperation to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. *The Council agreed that the Organization should take an active role in promoting the principles on which its work is based.*

In its review of the activities related to the management and conservation of marine mammals undertaken by other organizations, the Council expressed its agreement with some resolutions adopted at the 19th General Assembly of the IUCN. *Resolutions related to sustainable marine fisheries, marine pollution and the by-catch of marine mammals in fisheries, and fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic, among others, are based on the principles of sustainable use of resources and are consistent with the objectives of NAMMCO. The Council noted, however, that the resolution on commercial whaling adopted by the IUCN contains a number of elements contradictory to the principles of sustainable use and international law.*

Similarly, the Council expressed its concern that continuation of the zero-catch limit for commercial whaling by the IWC, despite the development of a Revised Management Procedure and scientific advice that certain whale stocks could be harvested on a sustainable basis contradicts the principle of sustainable use adopted at the Rio Earth Summit. *The Council of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission also expressed its view that certain proposals for the establishment of circumpolar sanctuary in the Antarctic by the IWC would contravene the principles of sound resource management.*