

**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 2006**

Proposal for the Publication of Papers Presented at the Joint ICES/NAFO Workshop on the Status of Hooded Seal Research in the North Atlantic as a Single Volume of JNWAFS

by

Garry Stenson¹, R. Merrick² and T. Haug³

¹ Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans,
P.O. Box 5667 St. John's, NL Canada A1C 5X1

² Protected Species Group, NOAA Fisheries/NEFSC,
166 Water Street, Woods Hole MA USA 02543

³ Institute of Marine Research,
PO Box 6404, N-9294 Tromsø, Norway

Although considerable research has been carried out on hooded seals (*Cystophora cristata*) throughout the North Atlantic, our understanding of this species is still poor. One of the reasons for this lack of knowledge is that much of the data have not been analysed or presented to the scientific community. Although a few individual papers have been published the last time a significant meeting addressing hooded seals was held was in 1983. Although a number of excellent papers were presented, they were never published.

In order to address this knowledge gap the Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals proposed a workshop on the Status of Hooded Seal Research in the North Atlantic to be held June 12-16, 2006 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Terms of Reference of this workshop and the agenda are attached as Appendices. The timing of this meeting is particularly appropriate as new estimates of pup production and abundance will be available from surveys carried out in all four whelping areas 2005. This is the first time a complete pup production for this species has ever been obtained.

In order to avoid the unfortunately loss of papers presented at the 1983 workshop, we propose to publish all of the papers presented as a group within a primary scientific journal or as a special issue. Naturally, all papers accepted will go through a rigorous scientific review to ensure that only those of highest quality are published.

In 1997 the JNWAFS published a special issue (Volume 22) devoted to papers presented at the 1995 Symposium on the Role of Marine Mammal in the Ecosystem that was jointly sponsored by NAFO and ICES. This volume was exceptionally well received and is still used by many people.

Therefore, we would like to ask STACPUB to consider publishing the papers prepared for the upcoming workshop on hooded seal research. We anticipate that there will be approximately 10-15 papers on a variety of aspects of hooded seals across the North Atlantic including stock identity, growth, population size, diet and movements. Such a volume will become an important resource for researchers in many fields.

Appendix I**A Workshop on the Status of Hooded Seals in the North Atlantic****ICES/NAFO Harp and Hooded Seal Working Group**

12-14 June 2006

ICES Secretariat, Copenhagen, Denmark

At the 2005 meeting of the ICES/NAFO Harp and Hooded Seal Working Group (WG), it was noted that a number of studies related to hooded seals will be completed in the coming year. These data will likely lead to a significant improvement in the ability of the WG to assess the status of and consequences of different catch scenarios on North Atlantic hooded seal stocks (e.g., the Greenland Sea stock). Therefore, the WG has recommended to the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) that all available data relevant to the charge of the WG be analyzed and presented at the WG's next meeting. To facilitate these discussions, the WG also recommended that an intersessional workshop devoted to current research on hooded seals be convened in June 2006. Themes of the workshop will include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Stock identity, distribution and migration
- Catch (mortality) estimates
- Abundance estimates
- Biological parameters
- Ecological relationships

The workshop will be 3 days long and will be structured into five theme sessions. Each session will focus on one theme through use of presented papers by researchers and managers knowledgeable about the theme followed by additional discussion between the WG members and the presenters.

The Workshop will be coordinated by the ICES/NAFO Harp and Hooded Seal WG, ACFM, and ICES Secretariat. It is anticipated that 15-20 scientists will be invited, which will include a mixture of scientists and managers representing Canada, Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, and Russia, plus additional specialists knowledgeable in seal ecology from other nations.

A workshop report will be prepared summarizing the major findings, including recommendation for additional research. New papers presented at the workshop will be published in the *Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Science* (JNWAFS).

The Workshop will be held at the ICES Secretariat in Copenhagen, Denmark on 12-14 June 2006.

Appendix II

AGENDA. A Workshop on the Status of Hooded Seal Research in the North Atlantic**ICES/NAFO Harp and Hooded Seal Working Group**

12-14 June 2006

ICES Secretariat, Copenhagen, Denmark

DAY 1900 to 915 am **Introductory Comments** (Merrick, Haug and Stenson)

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Logistics of workshop
- Agenda

915 to 930 am **Retrospective on Hooded Seal Research** (Kapel)930 to 11 am **Stock Identity, Distribution and Migration**

- Overview
 - Coltman, D. Stock Structure of North Atlantic hooded seals
- Greenland Sea Stock
 - Folkow, L.: Review of distribution data from satellite tracks
 - Svetochev, V.: Distribution of hooded seals in the Greenland Sea during 1985-1994
- Northwest Atlantic Stock
 - Stenson, G.: Review of distribution data from satellite tracks
- Discussion

11 am to noon **Recent Catches and Regulatory Measures**

- Greenland Sea Stock
- Northwest Atlantic Stock
 - Stenson, G.: Catch at age of NW Atlantic hooded seals
- Discussion

Noon to 1 pm **Lunch**1 pm to 5 pm **Ecological Relationships**

- Greenland Sea Stock
 - Haug, T., Nilssen, K.T., Lindblom, L. and Lindstrøm, U.: Diets of hooded seals (*Cystophora cristata*) in coastal and drift ice waters along the east coast of Greenland.
 - Wilkinson, J.: Relationships between ice condition and whelping patches
- Northwest Atlantic Stock
- Discussion

DAY 29 am to noon **Biological Parameters**

- Greenland Sea Stock
 - Øien, N., Øritsland, T. and Bergflødt, B.: Frequency of supernumery teeth in hooded seals (*Cystophora cristata*).
 - Svetochev, V. and Frie, A.K.: Age at maturity in hooded seals (*Cystophora cristata*) in the Northeast Atlantic.
 - Tranum-Jensen, J.: "Blubber, bones and buoyancy"
 - Tryland, M.: Brucella infections in hooded seals
 - Folkow, L.: Hooded seal physiology
- Northwest Atlantic Stock
 - Stenson, G. *et al.* : Reproductive rates of NW Atlantic hooded seals
 - Chabot, D. (or alternate): Changes in growth and condition of NW Atlantic hooded seals

- Discussion

Noon to 1 pm

Lunch

1 pm to 5 pm

Population Assessments

- Greenland Sea Stock
 - Øien, N. and Bøthun, G.: Hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*) pup production in the Greenland Sea in 1997.
 - Salberg, A.-B., Haug, T. and Nilssen, K.T.: Estimation of hooded seal pup production in the Greenland sea pack ice during the 2005 whelping season.
- Northwest Atlantic Stock
 - Stenson, G., Hammill, M., Gosselin, S. and Lawson, J.: Pup production of NW Atlantic hooded seals
 - Hammill, M. and Stenson, G.: Estimating total population of NW Atlantic hooded seals
- Discussion

DAY 3

9 am to noon

- Discussions of the preceding two day's reports
- Discussion of needed research and/or potential improvements to existing research

Noon to 1 pm

Lunch

1 pm to ...

- Complete draft of Workshop Report