User Knowledge in NAMMCO’s Advisory Work

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Intergovernmental Organisation
Providing Advice for Marine Mammal Management in the North Atlantic

Four Member Countries:

Committed to:
Sustainable & Responsible Use
Best Available Science & User Knowledge
Ecosystem Approach to Conservation

Photo Credit: Audun Rikardsen
Our Context

Faroe Islands: Communitarian hunt, primarily 1 species (some others occasionally)

Greenland: Many different small-scale hunts of both seals and whales

Iceland: Commercial whale hunt 2 species (none in recent years), non-commercial seal hunt

Norway: Commercial hunt of 1 whale species and 4/5 seal species

NAMMCO makes no distinction between indigenous & other hunters, or between the legitimacy of subsistence vs commercial hunting. In NAMMCO all are referred to as “Users” of marine mammals as a resource.
User Knowledge in NAMMCO: The Past...

1998: Council recommended that SC should develop a strategy on how to incorporate user knowledge in their advice.

1999: SC proposal to integrate in stock status reports through a joint assessment committee.

2000 Proposal to hold a conference on User & Scientific Knowledge in Management Decision-making.

2001 Proposal to hold a conference on User & Scientific Knowledge in Management Decision-making.

2002: Conference proceedings published.

2003: Proposal to hold a conference on User & Scientific Knowledge in Management Decision-making.

2004 Council agrees to establish WG to follow up from conference and revisit SC proposal.

2005: WG re-established with ToR to advance the establishment of a collaborative forum.

2006 Workshop on stock & fall emphasizes the importance of including hunters in decision-making.


2009: Agreement that the topic will be addressed at the MC level.

2012 Greenland informs of a new project to document local knowledge and management proposals.

2016: Integrated into Working Procedures?
General Process for Developing Management Advice within NAMMCO
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1. **Request for advice**
   - Request to Council from parties or committees (COM)
   - Relevant committee decides on process for answering request

2. **Knowledge synthesis**
   - Existing process or Ad hoc process
   - Working Group (WG)
     - Workshops/Ad hoc WG/Conference Committee own response
   - Data gathering and quality assurance

3. **Committee review**
   - Quality assurance
     - Report review
     - Recommendation evaluation
     - Advice preparation

4. **Advice**
   - More work/data needed
   - Endorsed
   - Advice forwarded to countries
     - Managed Committee
     - Council
       - SC Committee
       - Other Committee
     - Not endorsed
How does NAMMCO work to bring the knowledge of hunters & local people into decision-making & advisory work?

**Council**
- National Delegations can have members from Hunting Organisations
- Organisations outside Member Countries can participate as Observers

**Management Committees**
- Input through National Delegations
- Presentations at Meetings
- User Knowledge Permanent Agenda Item for Meetings of the Joint Management Committee

**Committee on Hunting Methods**
- Committee Members (nominated by Member Countries)
- Open Workshops & Invited Expert Group Meetings

**Scientific Committee / Working Groups**
- Assistance with Research Projects
- Input to Survey Planning

**National Level**
- e.g., Public Hearings on Management Decisions, which may or may not follow NAMMCO Advice
What are the plans of NAMMCO to further strengthen the involvement of hunters and local people in the future?
What are **possible ways** for NAMMCO to further strengthen the involvement of hunters and local people in the future?

- Notify organisations of workplans
- Develop MoUs with relevant organisations to agree on information sharing & collaboration
- Enhance research collaboration
- Develop joint research programs & projects
- Have member countries nominate TLK members to CHM & include TLK representatives in all national delegations
- Host Dialogue Forums to build understanding & trust
- Hold Vision Workshops to establish shared goals & plans
- Encourage expansion & use of observational databases (e.g. PISUNA-net)
- Receive structured TLK input to all Working Groups
- Active participants in Working Groups / Scientific Committee meetings
- Re-activate the User Knowledge Working Group
- Call for inputs to Working Groups
- Pursue integrative assessment & advice
- Establish a committee to assess socio-economic & cultural impacts to inform the advisory process
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- Pursue integrative assessment & advice