

## PREFACE

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) is proud to present the latest volume of the NAMMCO Scientific Publications series. Volume 12 *Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic* is a collection of papers edited by Fern Wickson, Heleen Middel and Albert Fernández Chacón.

NAMMCO is an intergovernmental organisation with a mandate to provide management advice on cetaceans and pinnipeds in the North Atlantic to ensure the sustainable and responsible use of living marine resources. The NAMMCO Scientific Publications series aims to make available in peer-reviewed and published form the scientific work that forms an important foundation for the generation of management advice. Furthermore, the series has a particular focus on publishing work that despite its central importance for assessment and management, can be difficult to publish in other academic journals, such as descriptive studies or results from field surveys.

The North-East Atlantic and the waters of NAMMCO member countries host seven species of pinnipeds and 16 common resident species of cetaceans, including the world's largest vertebrates and top marine predators. These marine mammal species show an ample diversity of traits in terms of size, diet, habitat preferences and behaviours that also result in different vulnerabilities to anthropogenic stressors and environmental change. Indeed, this area of the North Atlantic is predicted to be the scenario of major environmental changes due to global warming, changes that are already happening and redefining the range limits and location of suitable areas for many of the inhabiting marine mammal species. In addition, many if not all marine mammal species found in this area of the world are already impacted by human activities, such as noise disturbances from increased ship traffic or seismic exploration, ship strikes, incidental by-catch,

bioaccumulation of contaminants, or hunting. Considering the multiple anthropogenic and environmental factors influencing the dynamics of marine mammals in the North Atlantic, it becomes clear that good management advice and conservation goals can only be achieved with robust knowledge from a variety of scientific disciplines. This multidisciplinary focus on marine mammal research and management is reflected in the several articles, reviews, notes, and reports included in this volume.

I would like to thank the editors, the secretariat intern, contributing authors and reviewers for making this volume possible. Further information about NAMMCO is available at [www.nammco.org](http://www.nammco.org). All the volumes in the NAMMCO Scientific Publications series are available in electronic form at [https://septentrio.uit.no/index.php/NAMMCO SP](https://septentrio.uit.no/index.php/NAMMCO_SP) with some volumes also available in hard copy through contacting the NAMMCO Secretariat.

**Albert Fernández Chacón**, Scientific Secretary of NAMMCO & Series Editor NAMMCO Scientific Publications

*North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission,  
Forskningsparken, P.O. Box 3613, Guleng, 9278  
Tromsø, Norway.*  
<https://www.nammco.org>