

PREFACE

NAMMCO, the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, is pleased to present Volume 13 of the NAMMCO Scientific Publications series: *Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic (II)*. This volume, edited by Maria Garagouni and Naima El bani Altuna, features a collection of scientific papers addressing critical topics related to the conservation and management of marine mammals in the North Atlantic region.

NAMMCO, an intergovernmental organisation, is mandated to provide management advice on cetaceans and pinnipeds in the North Atlantic to ensure their sustainable and responsible use. The waters of NAMMCO's member countries (the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, and Norway) are home to seven species of pinnipeds and 16 commonly resident cetacean species.

This NAMMCO Scientific Publications series seeks to disseminate peer-reviewed scientific work that serves as a foundation for generating management advice. Volume 13 exemplifies this mission, featuring contributions spanning a diverse array of themes and disciplines relevant to the conservation and sustainable management of marine mammals. The works published in this volume include a literature review on the management and conservation status of minke whales in Norway, a proposal and review to enhance the precautionary approach for marine mammals in northern Canada, a study exploring community perspectives on narwhal management in East Greenland, and a description of the decline of hooded seals in Newfoundland, as well as investigations of habitat use and occurrence of several cetacean species in the North Atlantic.

A particularly noteworthy publication is the technical note "Estimates of Pinniped abundance in the North Atlantic of relevance to NAMMCO". This is a tabulated overview of all known abundance estimates for pinnipeds

within the NAMMCO region, from 1964 to 2023, which complements a similar overview of cetacean abundance that was published in Volume 11 of this series. This paper will undoubtedly provide a helpful starting point for anyone who wishes to cite seal or walrus population sizes but doesn't know where to look—all the references are now in one handy table!

The breadth of topics and disciplines represented in this volume underscores the importance of a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to marine mammal management and conservation. By bringing together ecological, social, and management perspectives, the series continues to advance our understanding of the complex challenges facing marine mammals and their habitats.

We would like to thank all the reviewers and contributing authors for making this volume possible. Further information about NAMMCO is available at 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.

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