

LETTER OF INTENT
BETWEEN
THE NORTH ATLANTIC MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION
(NAMMCO) AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) and the Government of Japan (hereinafter referred to collectively as the “Parties”), CONFIRMING their shared objective to promote and advance the rational management, conservation and optimum utilization of the marine living resources in accordance with international law as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; HIGHLIGHTING the active role of the Government of Japan as non-member observer country to NAMMCO since its establishment in 1992; UNDERLINING the objective of NAMMCO to contribute through regional consultation and cooperation to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic; SUPPORTING the sustainable use of marine mammals, based on the best scientific information available; EMPHASIZING the economic value and cultural significance of marine mammals and their contribution to food security, nutrition and sustainable livelihoods; RESOLVED to ensure a healthy and productive marine environment upon which marine mammals depend; and COMMITTED to further enhancing cooperation on research on marine mammals, and on the role of marine mammals in marine ecosystems, including their relationship with prey species.

Both Parties intend to continue the existing cooperation in the conservation, management and study of marine mammals, and to exchange views and information on issues of mutual interest regarding the conservation, management and study of marine mammals. To this end, the Parties can develop and implement specific projects, as appropriate and within the available resources.

Both Parties believe that for the cooperation between the Parties to be successful the interests must be aligned and specified. With that in mind both Parties have designed an appropriate structure that allows for the cooperation on specific projects.

This letter of intent presents an outline of the requirements for a specific project (hereinafter referred to as the “project”) and the conditions and issues that both Parties stipulate as necessary.

Overall structure and requirements

Given the shared interests every project should be designed in line with meeting the following conditions and requirements:

- The Parties should define the overall purpose and use of any outcome and deliverables of a project specified. This means that the merits of the project to both Parties should be identified.
- Prior to the commencement of every project the state of knowledge of the issues to be addressed should be evaluated including the state of the technology or methodology to be applied if applicable.
- Financing structure of every project should be specified.
- Administrative structure for every project and reporting requirements should be mutually agreed.
- The timeline and the working plan for every project should be defined with a clear start and end and specified milestones.
- Both Parties should agree on project dissemination and publication. In the case of any proprietary knowledge or technology being developed the ownership should be agreed on by both Parties.
- The Parties should agree on any possible involvement of a third Party's in a project.

This letter of intent is not legally binding under international law.

The Parties may terminate this letter of intent with a six-month notice to the other Party.

Signed on behalf of NAMMCO and the Government of Japan:

Date:

2023/3/29

On behalf of the North
Atlantic Marine Mammal
Council

Date:

2023/3/27

On behalf of the Government of Japan