



# Reconciling conservation and sustainable harvest

*Geneviève Desportes  
General Secretary  
North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission*

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**NAMMCO?**

**CONTRIBUTING TO A SUSTAINABLE NORTH**

**26 years of Marine Mammal Regional Management in the North Atlantic**



# NAMMCO?

- IGO, RFB
- Parties: FO, GL, IS, NO – all Arctic countries
- Study, conservation and management of marine mammals
- All cetaceans and pinnipeds species
- Area: North Atlantic
- Advisory mandate



**Sustainability – Responsibility – Transparency**



# NAMMCO?

- Parties recognise
  - ✓ the rights, needs and duties of coastal communities
- Parties have committed to the
  - ✓ Effective Conservation of MM
  - ✓ Sustainable and responsible utilisation of MM
  - ✓ Management decisions based on best available scientific advice and local knowledge
  - ✓ Ecosystem-based approach



## **Harvest responsible in an ecosystem/blue perspective**

**Known: Human side - high societal footprint**

**”Improve well being and social equity”**

**Wanted: Environment side - lowest ecological footprint**

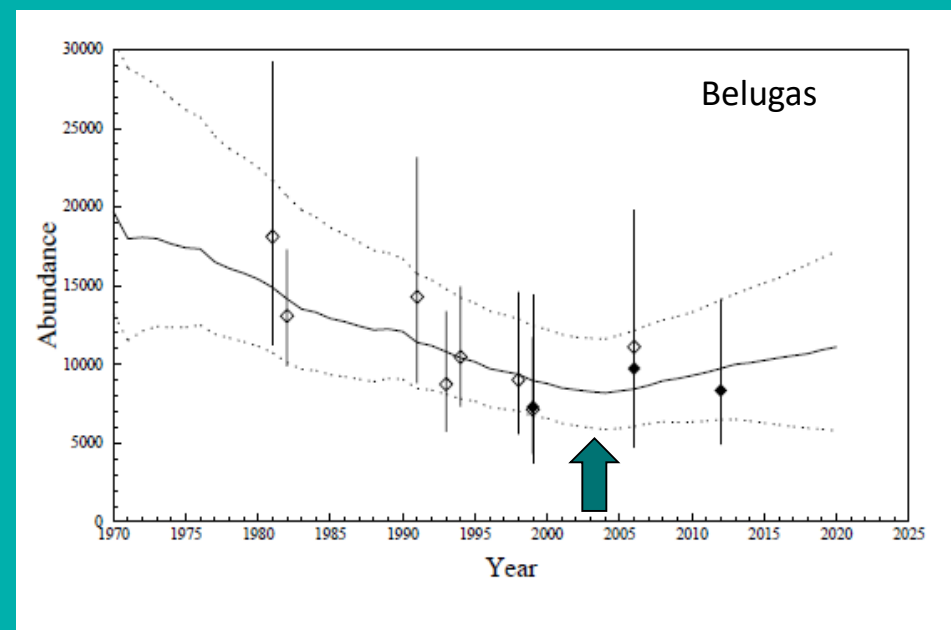
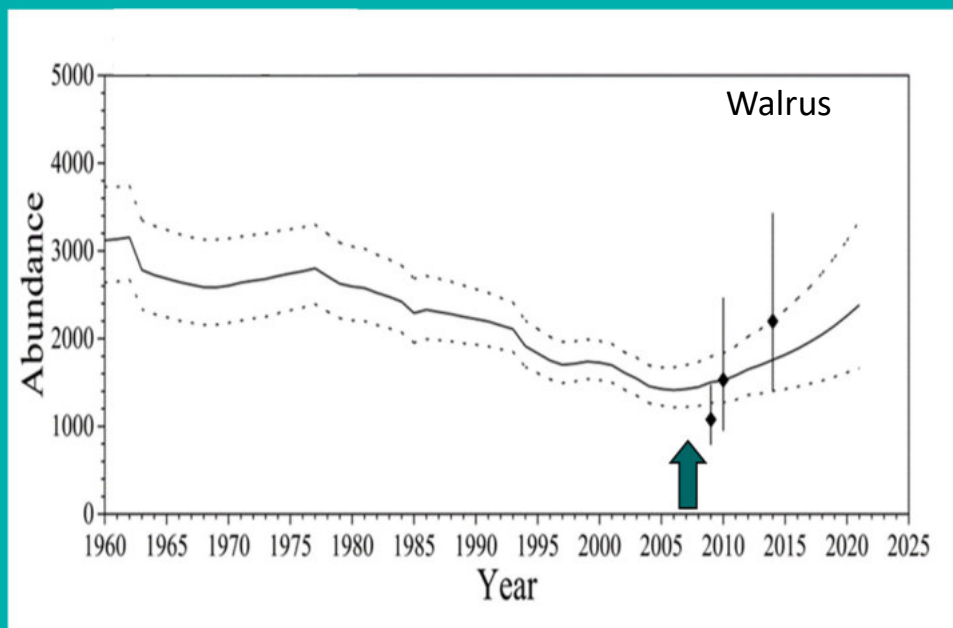
- Low impact on the environment**
- Lowest relative impact**

## Marine Mammals: Situation by 2000

Many (most) MM stocks heavily depleted because of overexploitation from commercial whaling & sealing

- > Decrease in abundance, down to 10% & some extinctions
- > Restriction in geographic range
- > Many stocks still decreasing

### Systematic stock assessments & advice on quotas



**Good management: harvest & recovery 😊**

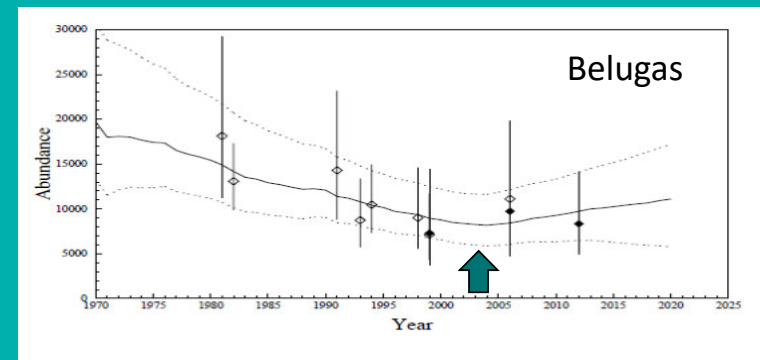
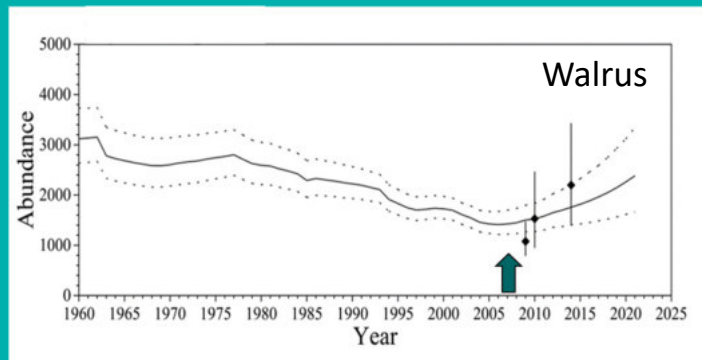


# SEALS: abundant

↗ → Trend
↘ Trend
?? Trend

Species	Stocks	Abundance	Trend	Catch	Annual Catch NAMMCO
Harp seal	Greenland Sea (West Ice)	650,000	↗	DCQ & DC	< 18,000
	Northwest Atlantic	7,445,000	→	DCQ & DC	CA+GL < 170,000
Ringed seal	NE Can, Baffin Bay, WGL	~ 1,300,000	?	DC	CA+GL < 150,000
	Greenland Sea	?? > 30,000	?	DC	< 9,000
Hooded seal	Greenland Sea (West Ice)	80,000	↘	P	(SC ~ 25)
	Northwest Atlantic	592,000	↗	DC	< 2,000
Bearded seal	Canadian waters, WGL	?? ~ 250,000	?	DC	~ 1,000
	East Greenland	??	?	DC	< 250
Walrus	E High Arctic-W Greenland	> 5000	↗	DCQ	< 150
	East Greenland	1,500	→	DCQ	< 10
Grey Seal	Greenland	??, new 2009	?	P	0
Harbour seal	Greenland	?? < 500	?	P	0

## Reconciling conservation and sustainable harvest



### ➤ Hunting: “Easy threat”

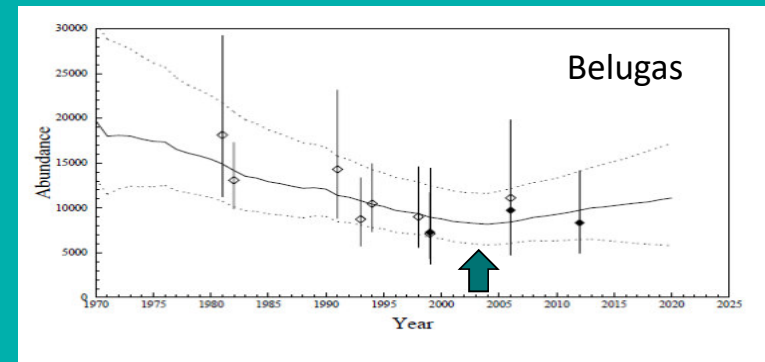
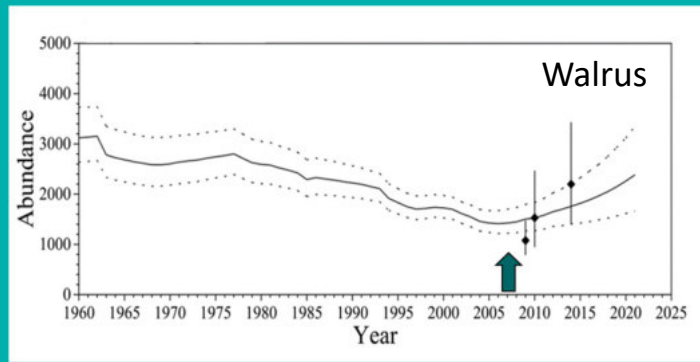
#### (i) Quantifiable

- Abundance (surveys)
- Catch reporting
- Regular assessments (biological parameters, population modelling, etc.)

#### (ii) Can be acted upon

- Quotas / TAC

# Reconciling conservation and sustainable harvest



## Achievable

- Through sound SC and TK- based management,
- Regular assessments & monitoring
- Tuning of management measures dynamic process
- Precautionary approach

## Status

- Success stories and more to do



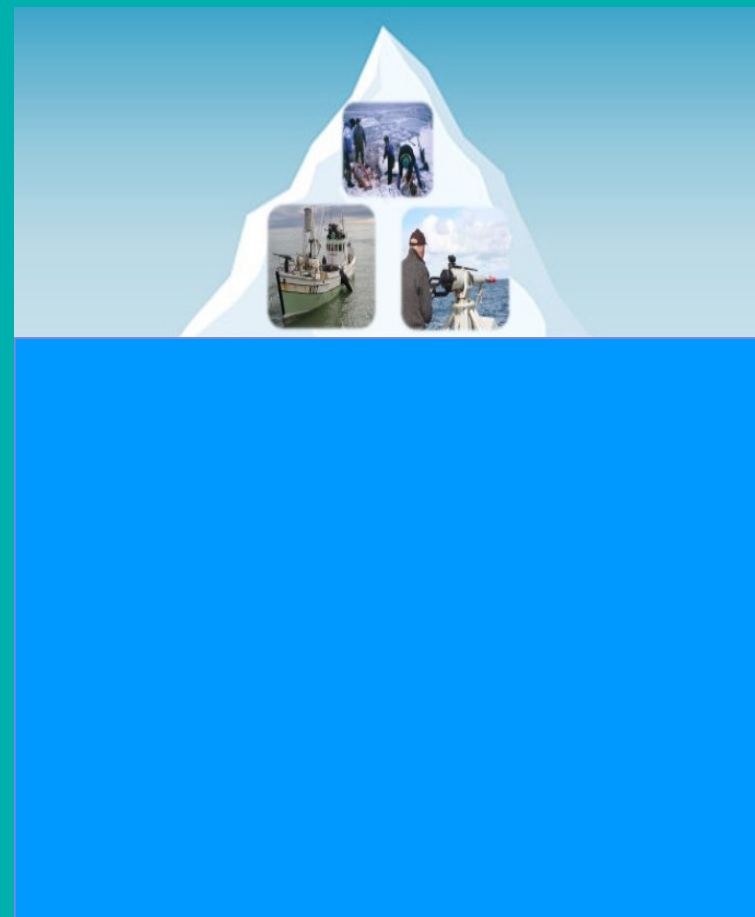
## Reconciling conservation and sustainable harvest

### Sustainable Populations through sustainable harvest

But:

The *top predator MM niche* is not isolated

- The quality and status of lower trophic levels impact MM





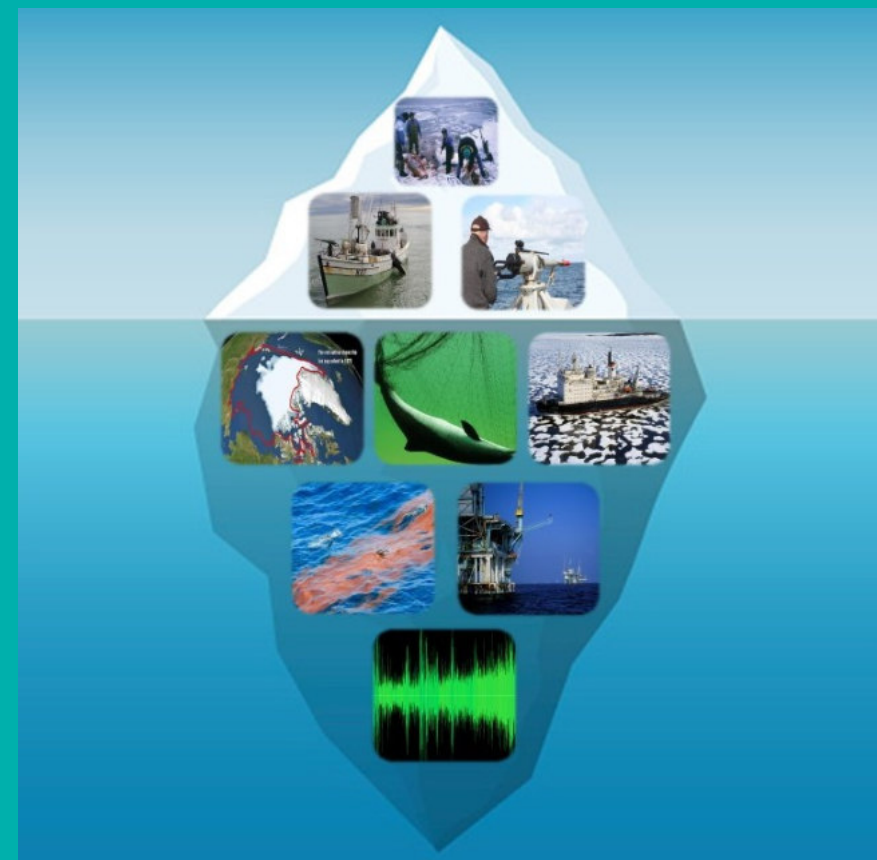
## Reconciling conservation and sustainable harvest

### Sustainable Populations through sustainable harvest

But:

The *top predator MM niche* is not isolated

- The quality and status of lower trophic levels impact MM
- **MM are impacted by other human activities than hunting**





## Ecosystem approach

### Climate Change

- Sea Ice (habitat loss / and opening of pristine habitat)
- Competition: new/invasive species
- Predator pressure
- Disease
- Ecosystem changes

### Pollution

- Oil spills
- **Contaminants**
- **Plastics**
- Direct & indirect impacts

### Shipping

- Ship strikes
- Habitat disruption & destruction

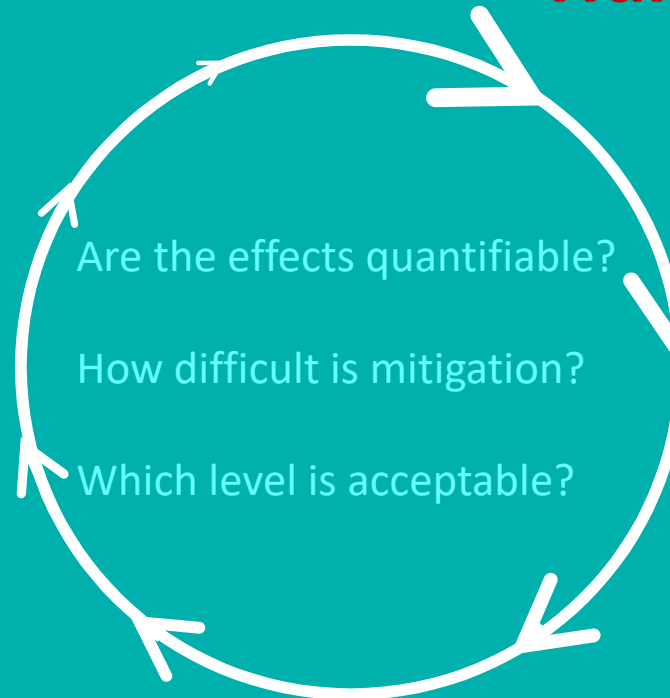
## Hunting

### Fishing

- **By-catch**
- **Habitat disruption & destruction**
- Competition

### Disturbance

- **Increased human activities** (noise, habitat disruption & destruction)





## ... Challenges

- Identifying all human impacts
- Qualifying & quantifying the impacts as best as possible
- Assessing cumulative impacts





## ... Challenges

### Integrating findings into management advices

- What will our advice to managers look like?
  - Not only quota but options/trade offs between MM ecosystem services, so managers can make qualified choice
    - # e.g., who to allocate the sustainable takes to ?????
    - Hunting / local communities?
    - Fishing / By-catch?
    - Shipping / ship strikes?





# Conciliating sustainable harvest and conservation And / Or Sustainable harvest sustains conservation

Compared to alternative (imported) resources, sustainable harvest supports conservation

- locally, decrease ecological cost of utilised resources
- globally, as reducing (delocalised) environmental costs

## Ecological footprint - LOW, lower than any alternatives

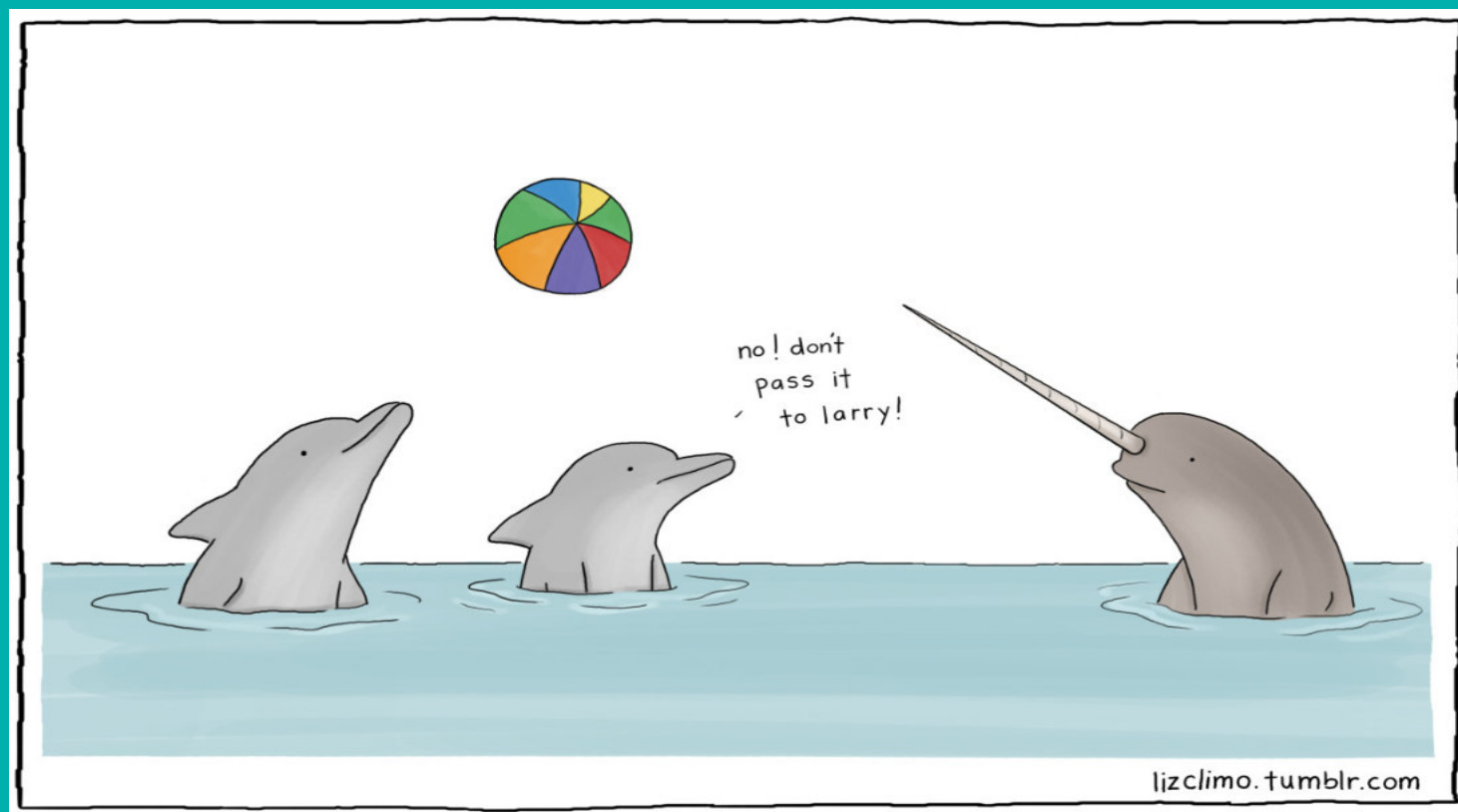
- ✓ Local raw material [no transport]
- ✓ Low Carbon footprint [no transport cost, no delocalised cost]
- ✓ Absent or limited collateral environmental costs
- ✓ High resource efficiency & little waste – if use of skins supported



Sustainable local harvest: a resource in balance with the environment

**Ecologically responsible --- an ecological ideal? ;-)**

# Thank you!



*Southern species moving north – changing the game...*