

Preface

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission is proud to present *Sealworms in the North Atlantic: Ecology and population dynamics*, the third volume in the series NAMMCO Scientific Publications. This volume is edited by Geneviève Desportes, Research Scientist at the Fjord and Belt Centre, Kerteminde, Denmark, and Gary McClelland, Research Scientist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

The NAMMCO Scientific Publications series was established to make available in published, peer-reviewed form, scientific papers that have contributed to the work carried out by the NAMMCO Scientific Committee. The NAMMCO Scientific Committee provides scientific advice on marine mammal species and stocks in the North Atlantic in response to requests forwarded to it by the Council of NAMMCO. Each volume therefore has a theme, reflecting the nature of the original request for advice. The first volume, entitled *Ringed Seals in the North Atlantic*, was published in 1998, and the second volume, entitled *Minke whales, harp and hooded seals: Major predators in the North Atlantic ecosystem*, was published in 2000.

The NAMMCO Scientific Committee establishes working groups, composed of recognised experts in particular fields, to develop advice requested by the Council of NAMMCO. This volume is based primarily on papers contribu-

ted to the Working Group on Sealworm Infection, which met in Tromsø, Norway in 1997. The Working Group benefited from the expertise of members from Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and the United Kingdom. Each paper in the volume has been subject to full anonymous peer review by a minimum of 2 reviewers, and revised under the direction of the Editors. The Scientific Committee of NAMMCO believes that this volume represents a valuable contribution our knowledge of the ecology and population dynamics of this important marine parasite, and hopes that it will encourage further research and modelling efforts to increase our understanding of the ecology of North Atlantic sealworms.

As Series Editor it has been my responsibility to carry out technical editing of the papers and to nurse the volume through the production phase. It has admittedly been a challenge to edit a volume on a subject of which, initially at least, I knew very little, and I thank the contributors and editors for their patience.

Further information on this and other volumes in the NAMMCO Scientific Publications series is available from the NAMMCO Secretariat.

November, 2001

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