

Preface

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission is pleased to present *Ringed Seals in the North Atlantic*, the first volume in the new series NAMMCO Scientific Publications.

This volume is edited by Dr Mads Peter Heide-Jørgensen, senior scientist with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and current Chairman of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee, and Dr Christian Lydersen, research scientist with the Norwegian Polar Institute.

The purpose of the NAMMCO Scientific Publications series is to make available in published, peer-reviewed form, scientific papers which have contributed to the work carried out under 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.

NAMMCO was established by an agreement signed in 1992 between Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, with the purpose of contributing, through regional cooperation and consultation, to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic.

Each NAMMCO member country appoints three scientific experts to the Scientific Committee. In addition, the work of the Scientific Committee draws on external expertise from both member and non-member coun-

tries across the North Atlantic. The Scientific Committee's assessment of ringed seals conducted through a special Working Group in 1996 benefited greatly from the contributions of scientists from Canada and the Russian Federation, whose work is also contained in this volume.

Working papers of appropriate quality submitted to the Scientific Committee are prepared for publication by their respective authors and are subject to anonymous peer review by two external reviewers. Contributions to the series are not necessarily limited to working papers submitted to the Scientific Committee, but may also include other papers relevant to the focus of each volume. The compilation and review process is the responsibility of the editors appointed by the Scientific Committee for each volume in the series.

The technical editing of the series is carried out by the Scientific Secretary of NAMMCO. Editorial guidelines, information on future volumes in the series, and details on subscription procedures are available from the Secretariat.

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Scientific Secretary

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