

Compilation of knowledge regarding Minke whale

The Norwegian Environment Agency hereby refers to the cooperation agreement between the Norwegian Environment Agency and VKM on 31 January 2019, as well as the mandate for assignments to VKM on risk assessment in 2019, and formally requests VKM to conduct a scientific compilation of knowledge regarding Minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*). The Norwegian Environment Agency is the Management Authority under Cites and hereby designates that VKM for this assignment has the role of Norwegian Scientific Authority in accordance with the requirements set in the Convention text and in accordance with resolution 10.3 'Designation and role of Scientific Authorities'.

Background

Minke whales are listed on CITES appendix I. Norway has a reservation for this listing and therefore treats the species as if it were on appendix II.

The Norwegian Environment Agency receives applications for export and import of the species.

Assignment

1. The Norwegian Environment Agency asks VKM for a scientific compilation of knowledge on minke whales globally.
2. The compilation shall contain the following information/sections:
 - **Distribution:** An account of the species' current geographical distribution globally, with information on possible separate subpopulations. Information on any changes/trends in distribution must also be included.
 - **Habitat and life history:** A brief summary of which habitat the species lives in and its general life history (e.g. reproduction, survival, migration and age structure).
 - **Population size and trends:** Historical and current population size(s) and any trends in population size on a global scale and in subpopulations.
 - **Habitat trends:** Information on any changes in the habitat of minke whales over time that may have an impact on the species. To be seen in connection with any trends in population size.
 - **Population structure:** Information on any changes / trends in demographics (global and subpopulations).
 - **Threats:** A summary of the threats facing the species with a brief discussion of the relative degree of severity (e.g. disease, pollution, competition, habitat loss, capture, etc.).
 - **Monitoring:** Overview of which monitoring programs which monitors population sizes and harvests of minke whales (national and international).
 - **Trade:** Information on national and international trade in the species. The information must include; description of how the species is harvested from nature, what types of specimens/products are common in

trade, quantification of international trade with any trends and any trends/changes in demand. The information must also include any illegal trade/capture.

3. Page Limit: The compilation should not exceed 20 pages (reference list is not included in the page limit)

The deadline for submitting the report is 15.02.2020.

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