

**Report of the NAMMCO Management Committee
ad hoc Committee on the Observation Scheme
Telephone meeting 11 January 2002**

A telephone meeting was held on 11 January 2002, 13:00 - 14:30, Norwegian time. On line were Egil O. Øen, Chairman (Norway), Amalie Jessen (Greenland), Jústines Olsen (Faroe Islands), Kristján Loftsson (Iceland), Charlotte Winsnes and Grete Hovelsrud-Broda (Secretariat).

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as contained in Appendix 1.

2. Proposal for Terms of Reference

At its last meeting (Sandefjord, September 2000) the Management Committee asked the *ad hoc* Committee on Inspection and Observation to draft a proposal for its own terms of reference. The working group had completed its task of establishing the Observation Scheme. However, the Management Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to establish a committee to monitor the scheme, with a focus on apparent infringements and subsequent actions by relevant authorities.

The *ad hoc* Committee on Inspection and Observation, under the Management Committee, proposes the following as Terms of Reference for the new Committee on Inspection and Observation:

1. The Committee shall function as a standing review body to monitor the implementation of the Observation Scheme and provide recommendations for improvement.
2. The Committee shall upon request from the Secretariat provide advice on the Observation Scheme.
3. The Committee shall report annually to the Management Committee.

The Committee noted that the Terms of Reference would be open for future adjustments and additions.

3. Report of the Scheme

The Committee, upon a request from the Secretariat, reviewed the Secretariat's report to the NAMMCO Management Committee on the Observation Scheme for 2001. The Committee noted that it does not have the mandate to monitor the Scheme until it has been constituted as a Committee at the next Management Committee meeting. It could at this meeting, therefore, only register that the 2001 observations had proceeded without any problems in the Faroe Islands, that the same was the case for the observations of sealing in Norway, and that there had been a notice of possible irregularities regarding equipment on a couple of whaling vessels in Greenland.

With respect to the observations of whaling activities in Norway, the Committee noted that one observer had been denied access onboard one of the whaling vessels. This is an infringement of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme. The Committee noted that the Secretariat had reported the infringement to the Norwegian authorities.

The Committee recommended that, in the future, the actions taken by the Secretariat in cases of infringements are included in the Secretariat report to the Management Committee.

The Committee discussed how relevant local people in the member countries could be better informed about the NAMMCO Scheme. It was noted that this had been discussed at the *ad hoc* Working Group meeting in 2000 and was included in the Recommendations from that meeting. *The Working Group recommended that general information about NAMMCO and about the Observation Scheme be given to appropriate people and authorities in the member countries. This information should be translated to the local languages and distributed to local officials by the central authorities* (NAMMCO Annual Report, 2000: 119).

Jessen (Greenland) informed the Committee about the routines in Greenland, where the central authorities annually circulate information about NAMMCO and the Observation Scheme to the municipalities and the local chapters of the KNAPK (the hunter and fisher organisation).

With respect to Norway, the Committee suggested that the Secretariat looks into the routines of the relevant fisheries authorities (*Fiskeridirektoratet*) and inquire whether information about NAMMCO and the Scheme are included with the circulation of licenses and hunting regulations.

With respect to Item 6, General Comments, in the Secretariat report on the Scheme, the Committee appealed to the member countries to adhere to the deadlines for implementing the Scheme. Last year the Secretariat had to delay the observation activities because some of the countries were too late in providing the names of their nominees.

4. Any other business

There was no other business.