

Report of the Meeting of the Management Sub-Committee on Inspection and Observation

Copenhagen, Denmark, 14 January 2004

The Management Committee on Inspection and Observation met in the Office of the Faroe Islands Government in Copenhagen, 14 January 2004 from 10:00 - 1130. Present were Egil Ole Øen, chair, (Norway), Jústines Olsen (Faroe Islands), Kristjan Loftsson (Iceland), Mads Lillelund (Greenland), Grete Hovelsrud-Broda and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

1. & 2. Adoption of the Agenda and Appointment of Rapporteur

The agenda was adopted and the secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

3. The 2003 season

Enclosed as background documents were: Report from the last meeting, Provisions of the Scheme and Report from the Secretariat from the 2003 season.

Charlotte Winsnes gave a brief presentation of the 2003 observation season, drawing special attention to the following points:

- many uncontrollable factors among which weather plays a major role
- time-consuming for the Secretariat
- positive experience to focus on one activity

Based on a general discussion, the Committee recommended that the Secretariat review and evaluate the implementation of the Scheme after the 2004 season. To have a well functioning international Inspection and Observation Scheme on whaling and sealing is of the utmost importance. During the six years the Scheme has been in operation the focus has been on a variety of scope and range, such as in 3 countries with focus on all whaling and sealing activities to one country and one activity. The Committee agreed that it would be important to look at what we have learned so far. To see within which areas the Scheme has succeeded and where not and suggestions for improvement. The evaluation should only look at the implementation process and not the actual Provisions and Guidelines. The Committee stressed that the impression is that the Scheme is working according to the intentions of the Provisions.

The Committee reiterated the following recommendations from the last meeting:

- that member countries follow the prescribed procedures governing nomination and appointment of observers, and also nominate more than one observer candidate. It was emphasised that candidates may come from outside the nominating country.
- that each member country provides the Secretariat with detailed information on hunting statistics, quotas and time frames and places for the most optimum areas of observation, name of contact person in each region. This information is imperative to ensure a well functioning scheme. It is however the Secretariat's responsibility to remind member countries to provide this information.
- that the one-page information sheet be translated into Greenlandic before the start of the 2004 season. Today it is only in Norwegian.
- that the Secretariat update the NAMMCO web site with respect to the information on the Observation Scheme.

4. Any other business

The Chair thanked the Committee members and the Secretariat for their efforts and especially thanked the Faroe Islands for their kind hosting of the meeting of the Committee.

5. Adoption of the Report

The final report of the meeting was approved by correspondence on 9 February 2004.