



NORTH ATLANTIC MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

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

The Management Sub-Committee on Inspection and Observation met in the Office of the Faroe Islands representation in Copenhagen, 1 February 2007 from 09:00 – 13:00. Present were Ole Heinrich, chair, and Fernando Ugarte (Greenland), Egil Ole Øen and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen (Faroe Islands), Kristjan Loftsson (Iceland), Christina Lockyer and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

1. & 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEUR

The Chair of the Committee, Ole Heinrich, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted and Charlotte Winsnes was appointed as rapporteur.

3. THE 2006 SEASON

Winsnes reported from the 2007 observation season, drawing special attention to the following:

- No observation activities took place in Norway. The contracted observer was unable to carry out the assignment due to unforeseen circumstances. The Secretariat decided after consultations with other possible observer candidates and consideration of the whaling scene at the time to not have observation in Norway this season.
- One observer was placed in Nuuk and Sisimiut in Greenland and he did both on land and out at sea observations.
- No violations of the laws or regulations were observed

The Sub-Committee took note of the report from the Secretariat.

4. REVISION OF THE TEXT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION SCHEME

The Observation Scheme has been operative since 1998. Until 2002 only land based observations were carried out, in the last seasons however, the tendency has been to have observers out at sea. This change, from mostly land based to on board observations, has to a great extent developed in conjunction with the introduction of the trip recorder system (“Blue-box”) in Norway. The introduction of this system has made the national inspector superfluous and literally made room for the observer on board the vessel.

Observations out at sea require other kinds of safety measures than when operating on shore. The Provisions do not take sufficient account of this new situation. For instance in paragraph B. 4. 3 the only mention of safety requirements while at sea is the language competency. There is no mention of survival requirements, etc.

The Committee clearly saw the need for fully incorporating into the text of the Provisions the situation with observers being out on vessels. The Secretariat was asked to compile an overview of what kind of safety requirements the various member countries have in connection with

operations at sea. The Committee also noted the importance of differentiating between requirements for courses in survival and security/safety.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Management Committee that the Provisions of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals be revised to also take account of the safety situation in connection with observation activities out at sea.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ole Heinrich was re-elected as chair and Justines Olsen (the Faroe Islands) was re-elected as Vice-Chair, both positions for the next two years (2007/2008).

5. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The final report of the meeting was approved by correspondence on 21 February 2007.