

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

The Committee on Inspection and Observation met at the Faroese Representation in Copenhagen on 8 March. Present were Nette Levermann Chair (Greenland), Eypór Björnsson (Iceland), Egil Ole Øen and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen (Faroe Islands), and Christina Lockyer and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat. Ulla Svarre Wang (Faroe Islands) participated by phone.

1. OPENING PROCEDURE

The acting Chair of the Committee, Nette Levermann, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted and Charlotte Winsnes acted as rapporteur.

2. THE 2011 SEASON

Documents NAMMCO/I&O-March 2012-2 containing the report from the Secretariat of the Observation Scheme for 2011 and NAMMCO/I&O-March 2012-3 containing the confidential reports from the two observers active in 2011 were presented to the meeting.

Minke whale hunt in Iceland and whale and seal hunting in Greenland had been the focus of the observation scheme in 2011. Two observers were contracted, one in each region, and no violations had been observed.

The observer arrived in Greenland 15 August and returned on 8 September. During this period observations were made in Illulissat, Qeqerarsuaq, Aasiaat and Aknnaaq. The observer participated and observed at two seal hunts, three minke whale hunts (two harpoon hunts and one communal rifle hunt involving 10 boats), and the flensing site. He made observations at the local markets and on one occasion observed the delivery from a boat that had been out hunting. In total 6 seals were hunted of which 2 were struck and lost and 3 minke whales of which 1 was struck and lost.

The observer arrived in Iceland 15 July and returned on 18 July. In this period he went out on one hunting trip with a minke whale boat and observed the taking of two minke whales.

The Committee took note of the reports, and also that whaling in the Faroe Islands will be the scope for the 2012 season.

3. TRAINING COURSE FOR OBSERVER CANDIDATES

Document NAMMCO/I&O-March/2012-4 presented the programme for the training course for observer candidates that was agreed upon last year. Document NAMMCO/I&O-March/2012-5 gave the list of the 13 approved observer candidates for 2012.

The Council had approved the idea of organising a training course for observer candidates at its last meeting in September 2011, and the Secretariat in cooperation with the Committee had been tasked with the implementation. Initially the plan was to hold the course in the winter 2012, but due to various reasons (availability in terms of time of instructors and candidates) the course had been postponed and it will now take place in the beginning of 2013.

The Committee had no further comments to the draft programme, and the Secretariat was urged to set a date for the course well in advance to secure that both the candidates and the presenters would be able to participate.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee underlined the importance of its work and function, and noted that the Committee now reports directly to the Council. Its function is two folded; to be a standing review body to monitor the implementation of the Control Scheme and provide recommendations for improvements when necessary and provide advice to the Secretariat when needed.

The Committee therefore requested that annual meetings be held in order to meet its obligations and recommends that the ToR be amended with a new paragraph IV. as follows:

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

- I.** The Committee shall function as a standing review body to monitor the implementation of the Observation Scheme under the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme and provide recommendations for improvements.
- II.** The Committee shall upon request from the Secretariat provide advice on the Observation Scheme.
- III.** The Committee shall report to Council.
- IV.** *The Committee shall meet once a year, preferably prior to the annual meeting of the Council, unless otherwise decided by the Council. Additional meetings may be held when judged necessary by the Committee and approved by the Chairman of the Council.*
- V.** The Financial aspects of the Observation Scheme shall be dealt with by the NAMMCO Finance and Administration Committee.

5. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The final report of the meeting was approved by correspondence on 24 August 2012.