

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION**

The Committee on Inspection and Observation met at the Greenland Representation in Copenhagen on 24 January 2013. Present were Nette Levermann Chair (Greenland), Eyþór Björnsson (Iceland), Kathrine Ryeng, Egil Ole Øen and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Jústines Olsen (Faroe Islands), and Christina Lockyer and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat. Ulla Svarrer Wang (Faroe Islands) participated by phone.

### **1. OPENING PROCEDURE**

The Chair, Nette Levermann, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted with a suggestion under “Any other business” of annual updates on national monitoring data as a future regular item on the agenda. Charlotte Winsnes acted as rapporteur.

### **2. THE 2012 SEASON**

Presented under this agenda item were documents NAMMCO/I&O-January 2013-2 containing the report from the Secretariat of the Observation Scheme for 2012 and NAMMCO/I&O-January 2013-3 containing the reports from the observer active in 2012.

Pilot whaling in the Faroe Islands had been the focus of the observation scheme in 2012. One observer was contracted and no violations had been observed.

The observer arrived in the Faroe Islands 13 August and returned on 3 September. During this period the observer was present during one pilot whale hunt and observed two other drives that were eventually called off.

The Committee took note of the reports. The Secretariat was asked to circulate the existing three reporting forms (Overview of observation activities, Report of observation and Infringement report) under the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme to Committee members with the aim of updating them. Olsen was asked to ensure that the forms are also covering the pilot whale hunt. The Committee underlined that the three reports should be made available on the NAMMCO homepage.

### **3. TRAINING COURSE FOR OBSERVER CANDIDATES**

Presented under this agenda item was document NAMMCO/I&O-January 2013-4 containing the programme for the training course for observer candidates and the list of nominated and approved observer candidates for 2013.

The Council had approved the organising of a training course for observer candidates at its 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 on 12 – 14 March 2013 in Reykjavik.

The Committee discussed the programme and made suggestions as to the time schedule for the meeting. It was agreed that the visit to the minke whale boat should preferably take place on Wednesday in the middle of the day. The Secretariat was tasked with drafting a day by day programme including time schedule to be circulated to members of the Committee for comments. It

was agreed that the course should be conducted in a Nordic language. The Secretariat is also responsible for compiling the necessary material for the participants and to make a diploma to be given to the participants at the end of the course.

The Committee emphasised that the member countries are responsible for bringing hunting equipment to the meeting and also for sending the existing laws and regulations to the Secretariat well in advance.

Nominated candidates have been notified of the venue and dates for the course at the beginning of December last year. The Secretariat will now send out the formal appointment letter in which they will also be formally invited to the course.

The Secretariat is responsible for making travel and accommodation arrangements for the participating observers. For practical reasons Greenland will take care of the travel arrangements for the four Greenlandic observers and be reimbursed from NAMMCO.

#### **4. RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMITTEE**

The Council at NAMMCO 21 tasked the Committee to make a Rules of Procedure for the Committee to be presented to the Finance and administration Committee (FAC). Presented under this agenda item was document NAMMCO/I&O-January 2013-5 containing a draft RoP based on the current RoP for the Committee on Hunting Methods.

The Committee discussed the presented draft RoP and agreed on the text contained in **appendix 1**. The RoP will be presented to the FAC at its meeting on 13 February 2013.

#### **5. JOINT NAMMCO CONTROL SCHEME FOR THE HUNTING OF MARINE MAMMALS**

Presented under this agenda item were documents NAMMCO/I&O-January 2013-6 containing Section B in the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme including guidelines to Section B and NAMMCO /I&O-January 2013-7 containing a draft CV template.

The Committee considered the need for further clarifications with respect to article B4 dealing with qualifications requirements for observers. The general rule is that an observer shall have at least the same level of professional competence as that required of inspectors in the country where the observations are to take place. In special circumstances, exemption for this requirement may be given and then with priority to the following qualifications: experience with similar inspection activities, hunting experience, administration of hunting and biological studies with an emphasis on the killing of animals and/or management.

Member countries making use of the exemption clause should make a note of this when nominating the candidates.

It was emphasised that information on competence requirements for inspectors in the country where observations are to take place must be circulated to all members as part of the nomination process. Duties of national inspectors vary between member countries due to differences in the activities which they control and it is essential that the qualification requirements are known to all member countries so that they are able to nominate competent people.

In general the observation scheme is based on the assumption that nominated candidates have been screened and found eligible by the nominating country.

Norway informed the Committee that it no longer is a requirement that their national inspectors must be veterinarians.

The Committee discussed the advantage of operating with one template for CV's for observer candidates. Today there are great differences as to how the nominated candidates are presented and it was agreed that the Chair in cooperation with the Secretariat would develop a draft CV template. The CV template would be based on the presented document with the inclusion of some specific questions such as "have you ever observed a hunt/killing?". The draft will be circulated to members for adoption.

## **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Nette Levermann (Greenland) was re-elected as chair and it was agreed to ask the Faroe Islands to take on the position of the vice-chair. Both were elected for the period 2013 and 2014.

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

The dates for the next meeting will be decided by correspondence.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Greenland suggested the inclusion of the following new agenda item for future meetings:

"Update on national monitoring data", which should consist of an annual update from member countries on the national control effort, monitoring type and data collection since the last meeting to be presented at each annual meeting of the Committee.

## **9. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

The report of the meeting was approved by correspondence on 18 February 2013.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE  
FOR THE COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION**

**DRAFT**

**1 Terms of Reference**

- 1.1 The Committee shall, upon request from the Council, individual member countries or the Secretariat provide advice on the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the hunting of marine mammals.
- 1.2 The Committee shall function as a standing review body to monitor the implementation of the International Observation Scheme under the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the hunting of marine mammals and provide recommendations for improvements.
- 1.3 Members of the Committee may raise specific questions for discussion during meetings of the Committee. The Committee may make proposals to the Council for specific tasks to undertake within its terms of reference.
- 1.4 Non-member governments with observer status in NAMMCO may request advice from the Committee through the Council.

**2 Membership**

- 2.1 Each NAMMCO member country shall be represented by up to three Committee members.
- 2.2 The Committee shall elect from among its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair, who shall each serve for two years, after which time they may be re-elected.
- 2.3 The Committee may also seek outside expertise when the Committee considers this to be necessary and appropriate.

**3 Observers**

- 3.1 Attendance of observers shall not be permitted at the meetings of the Committee unless otherwise decided by the majority of the Committee and approved by the Council.

**4 Meetings**

- 4.1 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 Chair of the Council.
- 4.2 A provisional agenda for the Committee shall be compiled by the Chair and distributed to Committee members no later than 30 days prior to the meeting in question. Comments or suggestions for revision of the provisional agenda shall reach the Chair no less than 10 days prior to that meeting.
- 4.3 The Chair shall, in consultation with other members of the Committee and the Secretariat of NAMMCO, seek to ensure that key documentation of relevance to the provisional agenda is available at the beginning of each meeting.

## **5 Report**

- 5.1 Main recommendations and conclusions shall be presented in written form by the Secretariat and the Chair for consideration before the end of the Committee meeting. A final report of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat for approval by the Committee, reflecting the main deliberations and recommendations to Council. The report shall be transmitted to all members of the Council as soon as possible after the meeting.
- 5.2 The report of the Committee shall be made available by the Secretariat to anyone who so wishes, according to guidelines approved by the Council.

## **6 Amendment of Rules**

- 6.1 Proposals for amendment of these Rules of Procedure shall reach the Chair of the Council not less than 60 days prior to the Council meeting at which the matter is to be discussed. The Chair of the Council shall transmit these proposals through the Secretariat to the Members of the Council not less than 30 days prior to that meeting.