



**TWENTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**  
**5 – 6 April 2017, Nuuk, Greenland**

**DOCUMENT 13      THE JOINT NAMMCO CONTROL SCHEME FOR THE  
HUNTING OF MARINE MAMMALS**

**Submitted by:      Secretariat**

**This document contains:**

- Secretariat's report of the implementation of the 2016 observation season
- Approved activities under the observation scheme in 2017

**Action requested:**

- For information

## **REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2016 SEASON OF THE NAMMCO INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION SCHEME UNDER THE JOINT NAMMCO CONTROL SCHEME FOR THE HUNTING OF MARINE MAMMALS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The following report has been prepared in accordance with article B.7.2 of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals.

Article B.7.2 states: “The Secretariat prepares an annual report of the observation scheme, in which the implementation of the scheme is described, for the review of Council. The document shall include reports of any violations, as well as other relevant comments.”

### **PLANS FOR OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES**

In December 2015 the Secretariat developed a proposal for the scope and range of observation activities for 2016 with related budget for these activities. (Guidelines to Section B, item 14). The proposal was approved by Council in January 2016.

The plan was to send out three observers but availability of vessels, weather conditions and technical problems resulted in two observers going out.

### **APPOINTMENT OF OBSERVERS**

Per item 11 of the Guidelines, member countries shall submit a list of observer candidates for the following year to the Secretariat by 15 November. The list shall include information on the qualifications of candidates, including their educational background, language skills, and experience in inspection or any other areas relevant to Council in its consideration of their appointment as NAMMCO observers.

For the 2016 season the list of nominated observer candidates was approved without changes by the Council in February 2016.

### **OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES**

The scope of the observation scheme for 2016 was minke whaling in Norway. Two observers covered the period from 8 – 31 May and 18 April – 13 May respectively. Both observers followed one hunting vessel each during their entire period. During the total observation period 20 whale hunts were observed of which 18 whales were landed and two were struck and lost. Both struck and lost whales were hit in the optimal target area and were considered dead on impact. In both instances the line broke so that the whales sank and could not be retrieved. The total numbers of active vessels were 16.

The observers carried out the observations in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme. No violations were reported, and reports have been submitted to the Secretariat.

Prior to the observation period, the observers had been provided with the Provisions of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals and had received an overview of the national laws and regulations pertaining to hunting of marine mammals in the Norway.

## **OBSERVATION SCOPE AND RANGE 2017**

**Observation scope:** Icelandic whaling

**Number of observers:** two

**Budget:** NOK 100 000

Council approved the scope and range of the 2017 season and appointed the observers by correspondence on 1 January 2017.