

**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), Eyþór Björnsson (Iceland), Egil Ole Øen and Hild Ymesdal (Norway), Jostines Olsen (Faroe Islands), and Christina Lockyer and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat. Ulla Svare 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.

Minko 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, Qeqertarsuaq, Aasiaat and Akimaaq. The observer participated and observed at two seal hunts, three minko 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 minko 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 minko whale boat and observed the taking of two minko 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.