

NAMMCO



COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

*3 April 2020
Online meeting*

REPORT



Course for NAMMCO observers 5 – 7 February 2020, Iceland

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0. SUMMARY

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met online 3 April 2020.

Present were Guðni Magnús Eiríksson, Chair (Iceland), Nette Levermann (Greenland), Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Ulla Svarrar Wang (Faroe Islands) and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

Actions arising from the meeting

Greenland and Secretariat

- Define timing, location and budget for 2021 scope

Chair and Secretariat

- To review documents MC-05 and CHM-XX to identifying recommendations of concern or not of concern. Should be done before end of May. The developed list will be circulated to members in advance of the next meeting for their comments.

Norway and Secretariat

- To look at possible coverage rates and to incorporate this aspect into the check list for sealing observation.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

The Chair, Guðni Magnús Eiríksson, opened the meeting for comments to the agenda and noted that the annotated agenda was the only meeting document. The agenda (appendix 1) was adopted with the inclusion of a review of agreed actions arising from the February meeting.

2. INFORMATION FROM HOD MEETINGS 13 AND 26 MARCH 2020

The exceptional situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic with travel and assembly restrictions in and between countries affects the work of NAMMCO. The Heads of Delegations held meetings on 13 and 26 March 2020 to decide on the best way forward. It was agreed to postpone all meetings planned for spring 2020 that could not be held as video meetings to after the summer. Decisions necessary for the continuation of NAMMCO's work would be taken by a restricted Council meeting (Heads of Delegations, advisers, Secretariat, no observers), and less urgent decisions would be taken by correspondence during the spring. NAMMCO 28 was postponed to 23 – 26 March 2021. One extra day was added to cover time needed for reporting from 2 years instead of 1.

Of interest to CIO were:

- observation activities would be cancelled in 2020
- a lump sum of NOK 300 000 was set aside for the observation activities in 2021
- the observer corps would be approved by correspondence prior to the next season
- the discussion of the amendment to the guidelines for Section B of the Observation Scheme would be postponed to NAMMCO 28

3. RETIREMENT AGE FOR OBSERVERS

The Secretariat had asked the CIO to address the question of defining a retirement age /or maximum age for observers so that this could be taken into consideration when forwarding the list of observer candidates to Council for approval.

The members held different views on the need and appropriateness of setting a retirement age and it was agreed to forward this question to the Council for guidance.

4. IDENTIFYING SCOPE OF OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN 2021

CIO had previously identified the following elements for prioritisation of scope of observations:

- Hunting level
- Hunts not covered by national inspectors – monitored by humans
- Implementation and compliance of new recommendations into national regulations
- Hunts where the SC or CHM request data
- Rotation between member countries
- Rotation between hunts (time interval when last observed)
- Maximising the effort to reach the objectives by allocating money from several years into one year.
- Practicality of the respective hunts making the observation assignment not feasible
- Small scale hunts that are happening infrequently and in remote areas

CIO had previously identified walrus and beluga hunting in Greenland as the 2nd priority should there be no Norwegian sealing vessels going out in 2020.

CIO agreed to recommend these hunts in addition to the narwhal hunt as observation focus for 2021. It was reiterated that Levermann and Winsnes should identify time and place based on catch statistics. CIO also tasked them to develop a corresponding budget within the allocated NOK 300 000

Levermann and Winsnes agreed to circulate a proposal after Easter for CIOs consideration and in line with proposed guidelines the scope with budget will be forwarded to Council before 1 May.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Coverage rate

Norway and the Secretariat will make a proposal for possible coverage rates for the Norwegian pack ice sealing operations. The proposal will be circulated well in advance of the August meeting so that Greenland can use this as inspiration in their work with defining coverage rates and developing checklists for the hunts that will be observed in 2021.

- Structuring of previous recommendations

The Chair and the Secretariat agreed to set end of May as deadline to review documents MC-05 and CHM-XX with the aim of identifying recommendations of concern or not of concern. The developed list will be circulated to members in advance of the next meeting for their comments.

6. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The report was adopted by correspondence on 15 April 2020.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

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