

NAMMCO



# COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

*21 May 2019*  
*Video meeting*

## REPORT



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## 0. SUMMARY

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) held a video meeting on 21 May 2019. Present were: Guðni Magnús Eiríksson Chair (Iceland), Nette Levermann (Greenland), Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Ulla Svarrer Wang, (Faroe Islands) and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

### 0.1 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

#### Secretariat

- Inform Council on postponement of 1 June deadline to nominate observer candidates
- Confer with CHM and BYCELS on dates for the October meetings

#### Chair and Secretariat

- Look into the different insurance systems for government employees and individuals, report back at the next meeting
- Cooperate on logistics for observer training course in Iceland in February 2020

#### Chair

- Set up a meeting with Levermann and Winsnes in the 2nd week of July to identify data required of observers + control lists

#### All members

- Report back to the Secretariat and CIO before 1 June on content and time duration of safety at sea and/or rescue courses held for national inspectors/wildlife officers
- Identify candidates to participate in training course and be part of poll

## 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

The Chair, Guðni Magnús Eiríksson, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted, and the list of documents reviewed. The agenda and list of documents are provided in appendix 1.

## 2. NAMMCO OBSERVATION SCHEME

At NAMMCO 27 Council adopted the new Section B including guidelines (NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/02). The new Observation Scheme was adopted recognising that there were pending issues, especially related to qualification requirements for observers but also safety concerns.

CIO met shortly after the close of NAMMCO 27 on 4 April and made a preliminary plan for the follow up and work ahead. A video meeting 21 May was scheduled, and the Secretariat was asked to review the provisions and guidelines in preparation for the meeting to pinpoint issues for consideration.

### 2.1 QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR OBSERVER CANDIDATES

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/03 gave the present CV template for observer candidates. CIO briefly commented on the CV, noting that it seemed to cover the essentials. It was agreed to revisit the CV and make a final decision after having concluded on the safety issues.

### 2.2 SAFETY ISSUES; EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, INSURANCES

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/05 gave a compilation of information submitted by members on safety issues.

The discussion revolved around three overall questions:

- Defining the level/type/kind
- Identifying the responsible body for ensuring that the requirements defined above are met
- Identifying which actors should bear the costs combined with the various elements

Should NAMMCO pay for survival/safety equipment, training courses, insurances? Or should it be the responsibility of the Party to ensure that their nominated candidates meet the requirement? Or is it some combination of the two?

CIO noted that the observer candidates fell into two separate categories and that this led to different situations when considering these issues.

- Employees in national control agencies
- Individual veterinarians and biologist not employed by national control agencies

GL and IS observers are all employed by their national control agencies. Observers employed by national control authorities have as a rule gone through safety at sea courses and have or are equipped with their personal survival suit when going on a mission. Likewise, they may have several certificates like first aid and are insured for such missions through their employer.

FO and NO observers are not employed by national authorities but represent individual veterinarians and/or biologists. The rule has been that they do not have a mandatory safety course, safety equipment or are insured through their main employer.

#### **Summarising:**

GL and IS observers meet all requirements for safety course and can also bring their own safety equipment if needed when observing for NAMMCO.

NO and FO observers are not employed by national authorities, and status regarding safety course and availability of safety equipment needs to be investigated.

CIO agreed that although the agenda item was not finalised the principle should be that:

- Parties will be responsible for nominating observer candidates that meet the agreed upon requirements related to safety courses and certificates.
- NAMMCO will finance a minimum storage of required safety suits/vests for observers going to Greenland.

#### **2.2.1 Safety equipment**

In NO and IS hunting vessels are responsible for having survival suits available for all persons on board. The observer would therefore not need to bring his/her own.

In FO the “hunting fleet” consists of small, recreational boats, and the observer would need a life west (Life vests are required for boats up to 20 GRT, and it is recommended that the observer brings its own life west.)

In GL only the larger harpoon gun vessels have a requirement for survival suits. It is recommended that the observers bring their own life vests to be able to go out on smaller boats or skiffs.

In GL all fishery observers/wildlife officers are equipped with

- Life vest
- Survival suit/approved offshore immersion suit
- Work helmet
- AIS locator/beacon (under test) to be worn during transfer at sea
- Spare strobe light on life vest

In addition, there is equipment for daily work and tasks on board like PC laptop, Camera (with data and time and GPS) and work suits for factory deck and trawler deck (clothing scheme, annual cost per

observer is approx., DKK 6000) to mention some elements. Levermann noted that all Greenlandic observer will bring relevant parts of this equipment when being sent out as a NAMMCO observer.

IS observers being employed by the national control agency are all equipped with survival suits. Observers from NO and FO do not necessarily have this kind of equipment. In Norway it is the responsibility of the master of the vessel to ensure availability of safety equipment for all onboard the vessel.

### **2.2.2 Safety courses/training**

If courses are required i.e. safety courses, should NAMMCO arrange this or should the member country be responsible for ensuring that the candidates they nominate meet certain safety requirements? It is both a question of who pays and who facilitates these kinds of courses?

CIO noted that all Parties had mandatory safety and/or rescue courses for their fisheries inspectors/observers but that the content and time duration varied among the member countries. To make an informed decision on requirements for this kind of courses CIO agreed to look at what existed in member countries. Parties agreed to find out what the national courses entailed and report back on content and time duration to the Secretariat by 1 June.

### **2.2.3 Insurances and health certificate**

Winsnes explained that under the present Scheme observers are obliged to make their own insurances. Wording to this extent taken from the observer contracts:

*"The Observer will arrange for his own travel and accident insurance for the duration of his assignment as a NAMMCO Observer. Costs in this connection will be reimbursed by NAMMCO."*

In the early days the Secretariat investigated the possibility of taking care of the necessary insurances for all candidates. However, for non-Norwegians this proved impossible as the insurance was somehow connected to the social security system in Norway and thus only persons enrolled in that system would be eligible.

CIO recognised that the same situation might prevailed here as explained previously, namely that observers employed by national control agencies might have insurances though their work that also cover them when being a NAMMCO observer.

In IS the inspector's insurance system is being reviewed presently. FO has two work insurances, one related to accidents at sea and one to accidents at land in addition to travel insurance. In GL all government employees are by default subject to the same insurance conditions regardless of whether they are employed on land working in an office or out at sea for inspection/observation purposes. There is no special insurance for wildlife officers covering the work at sea or land.

The occupational health and safety board covers lost earnings and possibly damages if the illness / injury period goes beyond 3 months. Should a fatal accident occur, 3- or 4-months' salary has been incorporated into the surviving wife's / cohabitant's collective agreement in our collective agreement. In NO government employees are covered by mandatory work insurance.

CIO noted that the Parties had different systems in place for their employees. It would be important to find out if the work insurances held by observers employed by national control agencies, also covered the person when being contracted by NAMMCO. Furthermore, there is a need to investigate the current system where observers make their own arrangements to ensure that it is satisfactory from an ethical point of view. For most of the members there is a mandatory requirement for a special health certificate when at sea.

CIO tasked the Chair and the Secretariat to investigate these questions and report back at the next meeting.

## 2.3 APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE - GUIDELINES

Revisiting the guidelines had uncovered some unclarity as to meaning and a need to tighten the time schedule related to the appointment procedure. Presumably it might be necessary to rethink the entire time schedule in relation to the timing of the CIO annual meetings.

Presently there is a very long time period between nomination and appointment as seen from the observer's perspective i.e. 5 months from 1 June to 1 November. Moreover, if the scope of the observation requires the observer to be ready in January it may be difficult with only 2 months' notice as the wintertime is not within "normal" holiday time.

The following was presented to and discussed by CIO, red is new text, highlighted text unclear:

### **Appointment of observer**

*The Council appoints observers for one year at a time.*

*Member countries **nominate** ~~develop~~ a list of candidates for the following year and send it to the Secretariat by 1 June. Member countries may nominate non-nationals as observers.*

*The list shall include information on the qualifications of the candidates. The Secretariat circulates a combined list of suggested candidates to member countries for approval by 15 June. In the event that a member country wishes to make a reservation to any candidate, this must be done before 15 August by informing all member countries and the Secretariat. **It is understood that a reservation to the appointment of a particular candidate is a reservation to his/her appointment as a NAMMCO observer in any area of activity. These candidates will be removed from the final list that represents observers approved by Council.***

~~*The Secretariat then circulates the list of candidates approved by all member countries to the Council for appointment by 1 September.*~~

### **Plans for observation and activities**

- *By 1 October each year the Secretariat in cooperation with CIO develops a proposal for the Council for the scope and range of observation activities during the following year in accordance with budgeted funds for these activities. The Council shall approve this proposal ~~and appoint the observers~~ by 1 November.*

CIO agreed that more time was needed to look at the guidelines before finalising an amendment proposal to Council for approval.

## 2.4 OTHER POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

To make the guidelines as informative as possible it was decided to include a paragraph clarifying the financial aspects of the scheme.

## 3. OBSERVER TRAINING COURSE

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/04 gave a proposal for a training course for observers. The proposed programme was based on the 2013 training course.

Council had approved of the idea and a budget of NOK 143 000 had been allocated on the 2020 budget. The budget was based on a maximum of 3 observer candidates per member country.

Prior to the course the new reporting requirements must be defined and the hunt specific control lists revisited. To facilitate and move this agenda item forward Eiríksson, Levermann and Winsnes agreed to form an *ad hoc* working group to identifying the data requirements which will form the basis for the reporting forms. Eiríksson volunteered to set up a video meeting for the 2nd week of July.

CIO discussed the timing of the course and agreed on week 6 (3 – 7 February 2020). The venue will be Iceland and Eiríksson and Winsnes will cooperate on the logistics of meeting. Atlantic Airways fly to

Reykjavik Monday and Fridays. Air Greenland has direct flights Nuuk – Reykjavik and return only Saturdays in the winter period.

## **4. NEXT MEETING**

Previously at the 4 April planning meeting it was agreed to have a meeting 1 October in Copenhagen. As usual CIO, CHM and BYCELS would plan for back to back meetings.

Looking at the agenda of the next meeting CIO acknowledged that there is comprehensive work to be done on the Observation Scheme before the safety/ insurance related issues and the more administrative matters discussed above will be finalised. Other agenda items for the next meeting include:

- identify the scope for the observation activities in 2020
- reviewing the recommendations from Council 27
- developing a procedure on how to assess member countries compliance to NAMMCO recommendations

CIO agreed that it would need a two-day meeting. The preferred dates, given that CHM and BYCELS agree to push their meetings on day, will thus be 1 and 2 October. The Secretariat was tasked with conferring with CHM and BYCELS.

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **5.1 NOMINATION OF OBSERVER CANDIDATES – DEADLINE 1 JUNE**

According to the current procedure the Parties should nominate observer candidates by 1 June. However, CIO recognised that 2019 will be a transitional year and recommended postponing the nomination deadline until a date when remaining, presently unresolved issues concerning e.g. safety have been sorted out.

The Secretariat was asked to inform Council.

### **5.2 NEW NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTING AND DATABASE AT THE SECRETARIAT**

Levermann asked for an update on the Council decision to extend the present NPR to include data for the use of CIO, CHM and BYCELS.

Winsnes informed that this work had not started yet, but that it was on the list of things to do.

### **5.3 PHD THESIS**

Levermann informed that presently there were a PhD student looking at how to evaluate the fisheries control system in Greenland. CIO noted that it might be interesting to see what kind of data was needed in order to be able to make such an evaluation. Levermann volunteered to look if there were something of interest for CIO and circulate more information as this became available.

## **6. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

The report was adopted by correspondence on 12 July.



## **APPENDIX 1: AGENDA AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

- 1. Adoption of agenda and review of documents**
  
- 2. NAMMCO Observation Scheme**
  - a) Qualification requirements for observer candidates**
  - b) Safety issues; equipment, training, insurances**
  - c) Appointment procedure – guidelines**
  - d) Other points for consideration**
  
- 3. Observer training course**
  
- 4. Next meeting**
  
- 5. Any other business**

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### **List of Documents**

NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02-01	Annotated agenda
NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/02	Provisions of the NAMMCO Inspection and Observation Scheme- Section B with guidelines
NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/03	Observers CV – qualifications and guidelines
NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/04	Training course for observer candidates
NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/05	Compilation of input from members on safety related issues