

NAMMCO



COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

*6 and 8 October 2020
Online meetings*

REPORT



A hunter inspecting his rifle on a hunt near Tasiilaq © Mads Pihl

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

0.	SUMMARY	4
1.	ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS	4
2.	ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS	4
3.	OBSERVATION ACTIVITY	4
3.1	Proposal for observation activities in 2021.....	4
3.2	Scope and range of observations 2022-2023-2024	5
3.3	Reporting.....	5
4.	EVALUATION OF THE SCHEME	5
4.1	Members compliance to recommendations	5
5.	TRAINING COURSE OBSERVERS – follow up	5
6.	SECTION A OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE NAMMCO INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION SCHEME	6
7.	NEXT MEETING	6
8.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	6
9.	ADOPTION OF REPORT	6
	APPENDIX 1: AGENDA	7
	APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DOCUMENTS	8

0. SUMMARY

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met online 6 and 8 October.

Present were Guðni Magnús Eiríksson, Chair (Iceland), Amalie Jessen and Sofie Abelsen (Greenland), Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Ulla Svarrer Wang (Faroe Islands) and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

Actions arising from the meeting

Chair and Secretariat

- Develop programme for the online meeting with observer candidates 12 November 2020 – agenda item 5

All members

- Review overview of recommendations arising from CHM Workshops and Expert Group meetings – agenda item 4

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

The Chair, Guðni Magnús Eiríksson, opened the meeting for comments to the agenda. The agenda (appendix 1) was adopted, and meeting documents (appendix 2) reviewed.

2. ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2020-03/03 containing the NAMMCO database gave the reported 2019 data from member countries. The 2019 annual reporting submitted in 2020 from member countries followed the new guidelines adopted by the Council in 2019.

CIO reviewed the submissions and agreed that the requested data displayed under national control efforts covered the information needs of the Committee.

The Secretariat will circulate the request for member countries annual reporting at the end of October. The deadline for responding is 1 February 2021.

3. OBSERVATION ACTIVITY

3.1 PROPOSAL FOR OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN 2021

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2020-03/04 gave a draft proposal for 2021 observation activities.

The agreed focus for the observation activities were beluga, narwhal and walrus hunts in West Greenland carried out with rifle and handheld harpoon from dingy/small boats. The Council had tentatively set aside NOK 300 000 to this end in their 26 March 2020 meeting.

CIO recalled that the observation activities for 2020 were cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. The continuous uncertainty of this unparalleled, special situation impelled the committee to reconsider the 2021 observation activities, and it was agreed to recommend to Council to also cancel the 2021 season and postpone the observation focus to 2022.

The CIO noted that with no activity in 2021, no observers had been active since 2017. The CIO found it important and in line with the recommendations of the new observation scheme, that the observation effort in 2022 should be substantially increased. It was argued that NOK 500 000 would represent the costs had observers been active all years 2018 – 2022, and the CIO agreed to forward this recommendation to Council alongside the decision to not have activity in 2021.

3.2 SCOPE AND RANGE OF OBSERVATIONS 2022-2023-2024

The CIO meeting 8/18 February discussed and agreed that a longer time perspective would benefit the implementation of the observation scheme, and a three-year period was proposed (2022-2024).

With reference to the current COVID-19 situation and that the scope for the next observation season had been agreed, i.e. beluga, narwhal and walrus hunts in West Greenland in 2022, the committee postponed discussing scopes for 2023, 2024 and 2025. It was noted that two-year plans might be more productive, given the dynamic and sometimes changing conditions surrounding hunts.

CIO reiterated its recommendation of a budget of NOK 500 000 for 2022.

3.3 REPORTING

The CIO had previously agreed that hunt specific checklists shall be developed by the member country identified as the observation focus in a given year.

For the season 2022, Greenland and the Secretariat will cooperate on developing the checklists for the targeted beluga, narwhal and walrus observations. The checklists will be circulated to the committee prior to being used. Greenland referred the Committee members to the existing national control lists that include both beluga, narwhal and walrus.

4. EVALUATION OF THE SCHEME

4.1 MEMBERS COMPLIANCE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

One objective of the observation scheme is defined as “provide a mechanism for NAMMCO to oversee whether recommendations made by NAMMCO are implemented and national regulations are adhered to”. The CIO had previously agreed that assessing member countries compliance to NAMMCO recommendations would be the responsibility the CIO and that this could be best done by investigating if recommendations were reflected in national legislation. Both the CHM document “Overview of Recommendations from CHM Workshop and Expert group meetings and the Management Committee document “Overview of recommendations for conservation and management” had been identified as valuable tools for such a review.

The Chair and the Secretary had been tasked (8/18 February) to review the documents and to categorise the recommendations identifying those that were of concern or not of concern for the task at hand, i.e. evaluation of the scheme.

As a first step the Chair and the Secretary circulated (25 May 2020) the overview of CHM recommendations highlighting those recommendations needing input from members, either because it was unclear if it had been followed up or some more clarification was needed. Comments had not been received from all members and the CIO agreed to postpone the discussion under this agenda item until all inputs had been submitted.

5. TRAINING COURSE OBSERVERS – FOLLOW UP

One outcome from the observer-training course held in February 2019 was the importance of keeping the interest of the members of the observer corps alive and to take measures to ensure their continued involvement due to the situation that the last observation were 4 years ago.

To this end it was agreed to formalise annual online meetings of the corps where one standard agenda item was foreseen as a presentation from that year’s observer sharing his/her/their experiences.

There had not been any observer out in 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation, so the main agenda item for this year’s meeting would be to inform the corps of the decision not send out observers in 2021 and the plans for 2022.

The CIO tasked the Chair and the Secretary to develop a programme to be circulated to members well in advance of the online meeting. The meeting was scheduled for 12 November at 13:00 hrs NO time, and invitations would go out in the near future.

6. SECTION A OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE NAMMCO INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION SCHEME

Council 27 had asked the committee to review Section A of the NAMMCO inspection and observation scheme.

The CIO had in previous discussions agreed to investigate if and how Section A had been used in member countries. It was pointed out that after its adoption in 1996 Section A had never been a subject of discussion in NAMMCO. The anticipation had been that Section A represented a manual or guide as to which kind of elements should be included in a national inspection or control scheme, should this be set up.

The CIO agreed that it would be valuable to go back to the development of the text and review the thinking behind.

The CIO agreed to schedule an online meeting dealing with only this issue for Thursday 26 November 13:00 hrs -16:00 hrs Norwegian time.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held online:

Tuesday 16 February 2021, 14:00 hrs - 16:00 hrs, Norwegian times

Wednesday 17 February 2021, 13:00 hrs – 16:00 hrs, Norwegian times.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Having been informed that Nette Levermann had left her job in the Ministry and would no longer represent Greenland in NAMMCO or the CIO, members asked the Chair to convey their appreciation of her long time cooperation and valuable contribution to the work of the committee. The CIO at the same time welcomed Sofie Abelsen as a new member of the committee.

9. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The report was adopted online 8 October 2020.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

- 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS**
- 2. ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS**
- 3. OBSERVATION SCHEME**
 - 3.1 PROPOSAL FOR OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN 2021**
 - 3.2 SCOPE AND RANGE OF OBSERVATIONS 2022-2023-2024**
 - 3.3 REPORTING**
- 4. EVALUATION OF THE SCHEME**
 - 4.1 MEMBERS COMPLIANCE TO RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 5. TRAINING COURSE OBSERVERS – FOLLOW UP**
- 6. SECTION A OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE NAMMCO INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION SCHEME**
- 7. NEXT MEETING**
- 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

Doc. No.	Title	Agenda item
CIO/2020-03/01	Draft Annotated Agenda	1
CIO/2020-03/02	Draft List of Documents	1
CIO/2020-03/03	Annual Data Reporting	2
CIO/2020-03/04	Proposal for observation activities 2021	3.1
CIO/2019-03/05	Overview of hunts in NAMMCO and hunts observed 1998 -2017	3.2
CIO/2020-03/06	GE-CW-review of "Overview of Recommendations from CHM Workshop and Expert Overview of recommendations for conservation and management"	4.1

FOR INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

Doc. No.	Title	Agenda item
	Report of previous CIO meetings https://nammco.no/topics/cio_reports/	all