

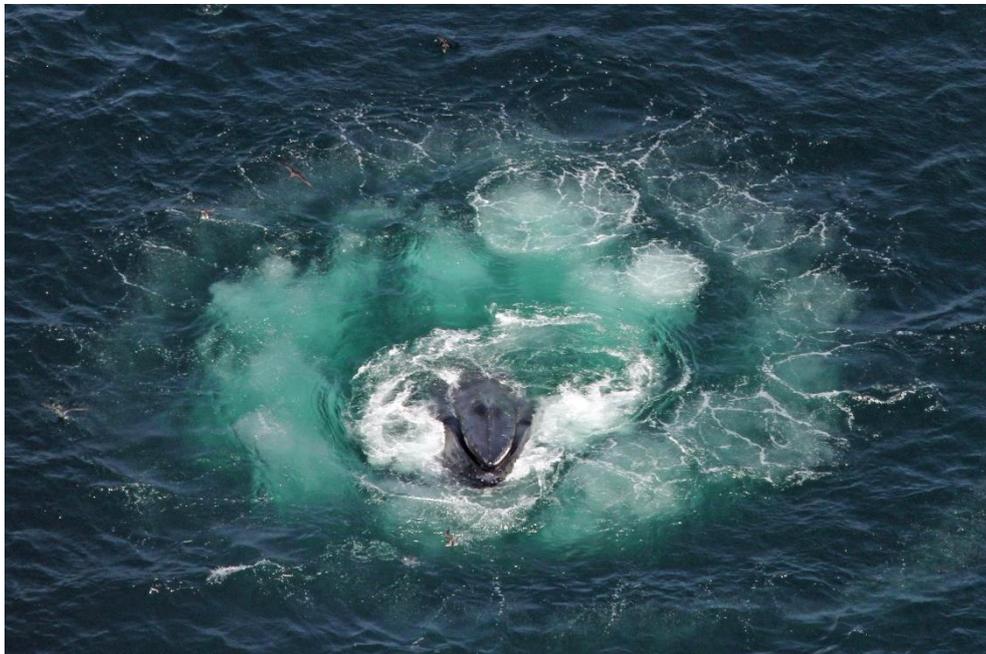
NAMMCO



# COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

*26 November 2020  
Online meetings*

## REPORT



A humpback whale bubble-net feeding © Christine Khan/NOAA

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## 0. INTRODUCTION

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met online 26 November.

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

## 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. The Chair noted that this meeting was dedicated to one agenda item only.

## 2. SECTION A OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE NAMMCO INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION SCHEME

Two documents were tabled. Document NAMMCO/CIO-2020-04/02 contained the text of Section A including appendix 1. Document NAMMCO/CIO-2020-04/03 summarised the background for the development of Section A and the appendix 1 as this has been reflected in meeting reports.

The Chair introduced the agenda item recalling that the committee had been tasked by the Council in 2019 to review Section A of the Inspection and Observation Scheme. This request was articulated following the revision of the Observation Scheme carried out in 2018-2019.

In 1993 the Council established a Working Group (WG) “to consider inspection and observation schemes, in order to harmonize regulations and thereby *interalia* ensure that data collected will be compatible”. Reviewing the hunting activities and the existing systems in member countries it was agreed to establish a common inspection scheme focusing on hunting of large whales rather than small whales or seals. The reasoning being that large whale hunting were licenced, regular reporting system existed, and some system of control and inspection were in effect. Added to this an inspector was viewed as representing an opportunity for collecting a wide range of data in addition to their other tasks.

The WG in its meeting in November 1994 “clarified the reasons for establishing a common inspection scheme. It was considered important to ensure that the basic data collected in the course of inspection schemes on a national basis were compatible for scientific purposes. Furthermore, it was agreed that, while minke whaling operations differed from country to country, it was worthwhile to determine the necessary basic elements for effective control and inspection which were common to all forms of coastal minke whaling in the region, and which could be applied and built upon by national authorities as appropriate”.

Whaling with harpoon gun was identified as the focus hunt since this method was common for at least two member countries at the time, Greenland and Norway, and a list of common elements that the inspectors should be responsible for checking was developed.

In 1996 Council adopted the ***Provisions of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the hunting of Marine Mammals***. The Provisions covered Sections A and B and Appendix 1. It was clearly noted that Section A concerned hunting of whales from vessels with harpoon gun onboard, and that it was not limited to offshore whaling.

With the background in mind and the current status quo, the Chair presented the committee with five different scenarios for discussion:

- Section A incl. appendix remains unchanged
- Revise the text of Section A incl. appendix

- Advice Council that Section A be eliminated
- Advice Council that Section A should be generalised to encompass all hunts in member countries
- Advice Council to expand the focus of Section A to cover different hunts.

The committee questioned the use and function of a NAMMCO inspection scheme. When Section A was developed it was recognised as a type of guidelines on what to include in national inspection plans. An emphasis had been placed on the possibility for inspectors to collect valuable scientific data, and thus the streamlining of elements so that the data could be compared between countries. The reality however is that the data identified as important for the work of the scientific committee and other committees have not been collected by inspectors but through other channels. Faced with the question on the applicability of Section A for the member countries it was acknowledged that Section A in its current form was not applicable for the drive hunts in the Faroes Islands. Wang also informed that there were no plans to change the existing reporting and control system in the Faroes. Greenland, Iceland and Norway informed that all or most elements described in Section A are incorporated into the national inspections and in general reporting systems based on international fisheries standards are often at the base of the national systems.

After a brief discussion, the committee agreed that Section A incl. appendix 1 seemed to be redundant today and it was agreed to recommend to Council to remove it.

### **3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Winsnes briefly updated the committee that FAC had held a meeting where the proposal to not have observers in the field in 2021 but postpone it to 2022 had been endorsed. The committee was also advised that it had been asked to further develop the budget proposal for 2022 underlining the added value expected from increasing the budget up to NOK 500 000, and to clarify the economic consequences of increasing the payment for observers.

These issues will be dealt with at the February 2021 meeting.

### **4. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

The report was adopted by correspondence on 9 December 2020.

## APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda and review of documents
2. Section a of the provisions of the NAMMCO Inspection and Observation scheme
3. Any other business
4. Adoption of report

## APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

DOC. NO.	Title	Agenda item
CIO/2020-04/01	Draft Annotated Agenda and List of documents	1
CIO/2020-04/02	Text Section A inc. appendix	2
CIO/2020-04/03	Background document	2

### For Information Documents

Doc. No.	Title	Agenda item
	Report of previous CIO meetings <a href="https://nammco.no/topics/cio_reports/">https://nammco.no/topics/cio_reports/</a>	all
	<a href="#">Provisions of the NAMMCO Inspection and Observation Scheme – full text</a>	all