



MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON HUNTING METHODS

18 October 2016

DOCUMENT **TERMS OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORTS EMANATING FROM MEETING OF NAMMCO'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES, AS WELL AS OF MEETING DOCUMENTS****Submitted by:** **Secretariat on behalf of FAC****Action requested:**

- **Advise on the terms of confidentiality of the reports emanating from all subsidiary bodies**
 - For committee meeting reports,
 - Confidential until the report adopted by the participants has been circulated to Council – as it is presently for the report of SC;
 - OR
 - Confidential until the report is dealt with by Council
 - For WG/EG/PG meeting reports,
 - Confidential until the report adopted by the meeting participants has been circulated to the parent committee and Council;
 - OR
 - Confidential until the report is dealt with by the parent committee;
 - OR
 - Confidential until the report is dealt with by Council.
- **Advise on the confidentiality of meeting documents, both for committees and WG/EG/PG**

Background:

At present, there is no mention on report confidentiality in the RoPs of NAMMCO committees, except for the SC. There are also no rules about the confidentiality of meeting documents, although the practice has been that these are only internal documents. Many organisations (e.g. IWC, ASCOBANS ...) make the meeting documents accessible on their website prior to meetings, together with the agenda and the list of participants and documents.

In the SC RoP, confidentiality is only formally mentioned for the SC meeting reports, leaving open to interpretation whether the WG reports should remain confidential until the SC report is released, or if they can be released as soon as the WG report has been adopted.

SC RoP, IV. Organisation

4. The Working Groups report their findings in writing to the Scientific Committee according to their terms of reference ...

5. The Scientific Committee reports its findings in writing to the Council within two weeks after the conclusion of its deliberations. The contents of the report shall be considered strictly confidential prior to that. ...

The Secretariat has requested the FAC for clarification on the subject. The problem is common to all committee and WG/EG/PG reports, and it is suggested that a uniform policy be adopted.

For informing its decision, FAC therefore seeks the advice of the Scientific Committee and the Committee on Hunting Methods on the matter.
