



TWENTY SEVENTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

3 - 4 April 2019, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

DOCUMENT 10	REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION (CIO)
Submitted by	CIO
Action requested	<p>Take note of the report.</p> <p>Consider recommendations for adoption and/or endorsement:</p> <p>Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Standardising the National Progress Report to include all data requirements for all committees <p>NAMMCO Joint Control Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A revised Observation Scheme (Section B of Control Scheme) ✓ Review Section A of the Control Scheme ✓ Organise a training course for observer candidates in late 2019 ✓ Year 2020 to be the next observation season
Background	

1. MEETINGS AND MEMBERS

CIO has held two physical meetings on 28 November 2018 and 16 February 2019 and one Skype meeting jointly with the Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM) and the WG on By-catch, Entanglements and Live Strandings (BYCELS) on 14 March 2019 since NAMMCO 26.

Committee members: Guðni Magnús Eiríksson (Iceland), Nette Levermann (Greenland), Ulla Svarrer Wang, (Faroe Islands) and Hild Ynnesdal (Norway).

Outgoing Chair: Ulla Svarrer Wang

Incoming Chair: Guðni Magnús Eiríksson

2. OVERVIEW OF MAIN DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

1.1 Standardising of data requests and submission

CIO requires member countries to submit information on hunting effort and national monitoring. Like in CHM and BYCELS, discussions have focused on standardising the information requested from member countries. The recommendation is to expand the current National Progress Reports (NPR) submitted by member countries annually to the SC, to include information required by all committees. To optimise resource use both in NAMMCO and by the members one single reporting per year would be ideal.

In a joint effort CIO, CHM and BYCELS are developing an excel file covering the data categories (catches, by-catch, strandings, ship strikes and hunting and national monitoring efforts) and are currently working to identifying the data requirements within these for the use of all the committees. It is underlined that this is a working document that needs further consideration.

Updates on national monitoring data were given and can be found in appendix 1.

1.2 Review of the Observation Scheme

The Secretariat had reviewed the implementation of the Observation Scheme and presented its findings to CIO in early 2018. Based on CIO's recommendation to Council to continue the review, NAMMCO 26 tasked CIO to review the Observation Scheme with the aim of presenting results and recommendations at the next Council meeting. The review should look at both the text of the Provisions and the implementation of the Observation Scheme.

The Secretariat's review acted as the starting point and CIO's deliberations have been carried out via two physical meetings, one Skype meeting and also via email correspondence. As part of the process members have also carried out internal processes.

CIO agreed to **recommend** a revised Observation Scheme. The main discussions and considerations of the process leading up to this conclusion are reflected in the reports of the CIO meetings given in appendices 1 and 2, and in document NAMMCO/27/11 - the proposal for a revised Observation Scheme. The proposal will be presented under agenda item 7.2.1.

CIO also **recommended** the following:

- ✓ To review Section A and appendix 1 of the current Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals. This section deals with common elements for national inspection schemes for coastal whaling conducted from vessels with a harpoon gun onboard in NAMMCO member countries.
- ✓ To convene a training course for observer candidates in late 2019 to update the competence of the existing observers in line with the revised Scheme and recruit new candidates. The last course was held in 2013.

1.3 Observation seasons 2018 and 2019

NAMMCO 26 decided to postpone observation activities in 2018 due to the ongoing review process of the Scheme, and to resume them in 2019 or 2020 depending on the outcome of the review.

CIO discussed the possibility of sending out observers in 2019 and agreed to **recommend** looking to 2020 as the next season. There are still pending issues related to the proposed revised Observation Scheme (qualification requirements, safety issues) and CIO also found it appropriate to consider the report of the Performance Review Panel before making a final decision on scope and range of the activities for the 2020 season.

NOTE: appendices are not included for the purpose of not duplicating. They can be found in document NAMMCO/27/11 – proposal for a revised Observation Scheme.

CIO REPORT MEETING 28 NOVEMBER 2018

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met 28 November 2018. Present were Ulla Svarrer Wang, Chair (Faroe Islands), Nette Levermann (Greenland), Hild Ynnesdal (Norway) and Geneviève Desportes and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat. Excuses were received from Guðni Magnús Eiríksson (Iceland).

Actions arising from the meeting

Secretariat

- Update document 02: “Review of the Observation Scheme” including appendices according to discussion
- Incorporate footnotes in the text of the guidelines and update paragraph 11-15 in accordance with discussion of part B and the present appointment procedure
- B.4.3- B.4.4 regarding safety issues: check how this is dealt with in other relevant organisations
- Circulate control lists for observers to member countries for their review and input
- Circulate the information page on the Observation scheme to members
- Develop an overview of hunting activities including quota, number of hunting boats when relevant, total catch etc for the NAMMCO web CIO site. Generally the Secretariat should develop a revised National Progress Reporting template that covers all data requirements from all committees to be submitted once every year.

All members

- To continue with the internal process to review the Observation Scheme in each country
- To examine in detail the revised review document with recommendations as this will be presented to Council in response to the request
- Review and update control list for observers
- B.2.3 regarding reporting of violations: check internally with respect to reporting of violations nationally to make sure that there are no contradictions.
- B.4.3- B.4.4 regarding safety issues: check how this is dealt with in other national/international fora
- To identify participants from national control agencies and other relevant experts to a skype meeting early January to get input to the discussion on purpose and objectives and criteria

1. OPENING PROCEDURE

The Chair, Ulla S Wang, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted, and the list of documents reviewed.

2. REVIEW OF THE OBSERVATION SCHEME AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Document [NAMMCO/CIO-2018-02/02](#) contained the working document based on the internal review of the NAMMCO Observation Scheme undertaken by the Secretariat and revised by the CIO at its last meeting in February 2018. The document had since then been revised with comments submitted by FO, IS and NO.

CIO organised the discussion around the working document and the Provisions of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals, 1997 (Annex 1 to the working document).

Discussions of the text of the Provisions (appendix 2)

CIO discussed the purpose of the Scheme and noted that a significant element was to define whether the function of the Scheme was one of control versus observing. The text of the provisions as it presently stands is not stringent as it uses both words. Other observation schemes/programmes normally distinguish clearly between observing and control. It was further noted that underlining that this is observation and not control may strengthen the relationship between the observer and the hunters by increasing the element of trust between these actors.

CIO agreed that the purpose of the scheme was to observe and not control. Furthermore, CIO emphasised that the observer focus was national regulations and CIO/NAMMCO focus were adherence to NAMMCO recommendations. The latter would be assessed by reviewing how and if recommendations are followed up in national regulations.

CIO reviewed the text of the Provisions – Section B including the Guidelines to Section B based on these views. In the following the major changes are given in red and marked. All proposed changes are depicted in appendix 2.

The CIO had a long discussion on the purpose of the Scheme. It agreed that it was NAMMCO/CIO that should oversee whether recommendations provided by NAMMCO are followed by the Parties by being implemented in national legislations. The observers are not familiar with the advice provided by NAMMCO but are informed of the national legislations. Observers shall therefore oversee whether the national legislations related to hunting activities and inspection of those are followed by the hunters, and if applicable by the national control system.

B.1 Objective *Introduction*

*The purpose of establishing an international observation scheme among NAMMCO member countries is to provide a mechanism for NAMMCO to **oversee** ~~monitor~~ whether **recommendations** ~~decisions~~ made by NAMMCO ~~Commission~~ **are implemented and adhered to** ~~respected~~. For this purpose, NAMMCO appoints observers who **observe** ~~oversee~~ hunting and inspection activities in NAMMCO member countries.*

CIO agreed that the objective of the observation scheme was to oversee if recommendations made by NAMMCO are implemented in national regulations and thus are being followed by member countries. The word decision is misleading and should be replaced with recommendations.

CIO also agreed to change the heading to Objectives and replace monitor with oversee and oversee with observe.

B.2 *Duties and competence of observers*

B.2.1 *Observers are responsible for **observing** ~~overseeing~~ hunting and **national inspection** activities and for observing whether or not these are carried out in accordance with ~~decisions made through NAMMCO and~~ national regulations. Observers have no*

authority of jurisdiction, and consequently cannot intervene in the hunting and inspection, or other activities connected with the hunting.

The role of the observer is to see if national regulations are followed. Control is a national responsibility and should not be part of the observation mission. The present text mixes both the objective of the Scheme and the role of the observer.

B.2.3 The observer shall report any violation of the regulations in a given area, and as soon as possible, send a report of such to the Secretariat, with a copy to the authorities in the country in question, as well as to the owners of the vessel. The captain, those in possession of the licence, and, if present, the inspector, shall be given the opportunity in a special paragraph of the report, to record their comments.

Noting that the observer cannot interfere in the operations and is not tasked with control functions like inspectors typically will have, it was argued that it would be more correct that any violation would be part of the general reporting submitted by the observer after their mission is completed. The national authorities will then react as they see fit. It was agreed that before taking a final decision parties would check internally with respect to reporting of violations nationally to make sure that there are no contradictions.

B.3.1 The Council appoints observers for one year at a time. Appointments are made through a procedure that ensures member countries the opportunity both to nominate candidates as well as to oppose the appointment of candidates. The appointment procedure is described in Appendix 2 - Guidelines to Section B.

NAMMCO can invite non-member countries to nominate candidates.

CIO noted that the procedure as described in the guidelines should be reviewed to reflect the existence of a pool of observers. Furthermore, the rationale for the opening up for non-member countries to nominate candidates was questioned.

B.3.2 An observer shall only in exceptional circumstances be appointed to observe in the country - or on a vessel registered in the country - of which he or she is resident.

CIO agreed that the provisions should allow for national observers, and not make this an exception as is presently the case. It was discussed without concluding whether the guidelines should qualify this by saying that national observers should not have connections to the control authorities. One clear advantage of having national observers would be to reduce the challenge the different languages represents for the implementation of the Scheme today.

B.4.1 The Council has compiled guidelines for requirements for the competence, training, etc., of observers. These guidelines are found in Appendix 2

Generally, it was agreed that the guidelines should focus more on the training of observer candidates to make them more well equipped to carry out their mission.

B.4.2 ~~As a general rule~~ Observers must have at least the same level of professional competence as that required of inspectors in the country where the observations are to take place. In special circumstances, exemption from this requirement can be given.

CIO questioned which body can give exemption from the requirement today.

B.5.1 *The Council approves identifies annually priorities for the scope of observation activities for the coming year, within the budget adopted by the Council. The Secretariat is responsible for the practical administration and co-ordination of these activities.*

B.6 Integrity Responsibility of member countries

CIO streamlined the text without changing the intention of the text.

B.7.2 *The Secretariat prepares an annual report of the observation activities scheme, in which the implementation of the scheme is described, for the review of the Committee on Inspection and Observation and Council. ~~The document shall include reports of any violations, as well as other relevant comments.~~*

B.7.3 *~~The Secretariat shall send a copy of the observer reports~~ are presented to the Committee on Inspection and Observation. ~~to the authorities in the country in which the observations have taken place.~~*

The proposed changes are in alignment with the RoP for CIO, paragraph I.2 that states: “The Committee shall function as a standing review body to monitor the implementation of the Observation Scheme under the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the hunting of marine mammals and provide recommendations for improvements.”

CIO also reviewed the guidelines paragraph 1 – 10 in accordance with the changes noted above. It was noted that paragraphs 2 and 3 should be deleted and replaced by new revised and updated control lists that the observers will be given as part of their mission.

CIO agreed that the control lists should be developed so that they can represent a major tool for the observers that clearly inform them what should be observed and at the same time providing a tool to document what has in effect been observed. Today observer reporting varies greatly, and the Scheme will be improved by focusing on how reporting is done. The Secretariat will send the control lists to members for their input.

The Secretariat was tasked with revising paragraphs 11 – 15 dealing with appointment procedure, competence and training and administration of the Scheme. Notably scope and range and appointment of observers should be approved during the previous autumn to be in force the following year. In Greenland hunting starts 1 of January. CIO also asked that footnotes not be used.

CIO discussed safety for observers. This is of paramount importance and members agreed to seek guidance internally regarding how safety issues were dealt with in other relevant fora. The Secretariat will check with other international organisations.

CIO agreed to change the title of the provisions to: Provisions of the NAMMCO inspection and observation Scheme for the hunting of marine mammals in member countries. The word joint was deleted, and “control” was replaced by “inspection and observation”.

Discussion of the working document related to the implementation of the Scheme (appendix 3)

CIO agreed to use the working document: review of the NAMMCO Observation Scheme as the basis for its review of the implementation of the Scheme including their recommendations.

CIO discussed how to assess the success of the Scheme and what kind of criteria to use to accomplish such an exercise. The review document argues that the purpose of the Scheme is to detect infractions and that an objective could be to estimate an infraction rate for the different hunts. No conclusion was reached, some held the view that the purpose of the Scheme is not to detect infractions as such, as it is a task for national authorities to monitor and enforce compliance with the relevant provisions and legislation. Observation reports, including potential infringement reports/observations, should be addressed to national authorities in a general form. This information should then be used by national authorities to improve the national monitoring and inspection of relevant provisions and legislation for the hunts. This will also provide the opportunity to see whether NAMMCO recommendations on hunting are implemented and followed up by member countries. It was agreed that in order to have a more informed discussion it would be important to consult with national control bodies for fisheries and to look more closely on relevant schemes/programmes in other international organisations. Input on purpose, objectives and criteria, reporting and reporting templates, data requirement to allow assessment etc were elements mentioned. CIO proposed a skype meeting early in January with representatives from national control agencies and other relevant experts towards this aim.

CIO reviewed the document and its recommendations. Generally, with the aim of being more user friendly the document describes in words how the various elements like FOR-COR etc are calculated. However, members wanted the specific formulas depicted in the document and not just the percentage.

Observers have been in Greenland several times and the lack of information on Greenland was questioned. Levermann agreed to review the Greenlandic data base and supplement the data that were missing. All changes to the background information in the working document are reflected in appendix 2 to the working document. With respect to recommendations only the agreed once are reflected in the document.

Several issues remained unsolved and time did not permit a thorough review of the document. This will be the main delivery to Council in response to the request to review and give recommendations on the implementation of the Observation Scheme and CIO agreed to examine the revised version of background information and recommendations in detail before the next face to face meeting.

Other issues discussed under this agenda item were:

- Insurance for observers – rule is that the observer arranges this and get reimbursed
- Reinstall ID card for observers – now they have a letter and no card
- Section A and Appendix 1 – national inspection proposal to review this in future
- Review the general information sheet
- The Secretariat to develop an overview for the web related to CIO site of hunting activities including quota, number of hunting boats when relevant, total catch etc

3. UPDATE ON NATIONAL MONITORING DATA

Faroe Islands

Faroe Island's Executive Order No. 9 from 26 January 2017 states that the Sheriff (Sysselmannen) is responsible for controlling, monitoring and reporting from the drives.

Greenland

The wildlife officers follow and control the hunts for large whales, beluga and narwhal, seal and

walrus. Controls have been carried out randomly at sea. On land the control consists of checking hunting permits and products when coming to the harbour and later when the hunter is selling the products. TTD data was collected by the hunters for the large whales, narwhal and beluga as part of the mandatory national reporting requirements.

Norway

The Electronic Trip Recorder (Blue Box) monitors the whale hunt. Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries also conduct periodic and random checks of hunting activities, but no inspectors were placed on whaling vessels in 2018. No infringements reported in 2018.

Sealing activities are 100 % controlled and monitored as it is mandatory to have inspectors on all vessels. Inspectors are experienced veterinarians and they also carry out quality control of the meat on behalf of the Food Security Authorities. No infringements reported

Iceland

The Icelandic member was not present, so no information was received from Iceland under this agenda item.

CIO noted the updates.

4. OBSERVATION SEASONS 2018 AND 2019

At the last Council meeting it was decided to postpone observation activities in 2018 due to the ongoing review process of the Scheme, and to resume them in 2019 or 2020 depending on the outcome of the review. In September 2018 it was decided to await the recommendations from the CIO to Council in April 2019 before making any proposal for the 2019 observation season.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The member countries have agreed to a rotation plan for the various committees in NAMMCO. This is to ensure balanced representation between the members. This means that the committees cannot freely choose among its members anymore as the country filiation will be fixed by the rotation plan.

The Faroes Islands has chaired the Committee since the annual meeting in 2015. After the next Council meeting in April 2019 Iceland will take over the chairmanship.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in Copenhagen 5 or 7 February 2019. The final date to be coordinated with the meetings of CHM and BYCELS.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that Parties should strive to follow up on decisions taken between meetings in order not to prolong future meetings unnecessary.

8. REPORT OF THE MEETING

The report was approved by correspondence on 22 January 2019.

NOTE: appendices are not included for the purpose of not duplicating. They can be found in document NAMMCO/27/11 – proposal for a revised Observation Scheme.

CIO REPORT MEETING 5 – 6 FEBRUARY 2019

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met 5 – 6 February 2019. Present were: Ulla Svarrer Wang, Chair (Faroe Islands), Nette Levermann (Greenland), Guðni Magnús Eiríksson (Iceland), Hild Ynnesdal (Norway) and Geneviève Desportes and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

Actions arising from the meeting

Secretariat

- Draft programme and budget for observers training course planned for autumn 2019 – to be circulated and agreed before Council 27.

All members

- Clarify internally if observers shall report infringements to Secretariat at once or not
- Clarify national regulations regarding safety issues at sea for observer/inspectors/wildlife officers
- Clarify how and who should pay for survival suits and other safety equipment when observers are boarding national boats
- Check internally what and if Section A of the Provisions has been used

1. OPENING PROCEDURE

The Chair, Ulla S. Wang, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted with the inclusion of agenda item 5 Observation Season 2019. The list of documents was reviewed. Agenda and list of documents are provided in appendix 1.

2. REVIEW OF THE OBSERVATION SCHEME AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Tabled under this agenda item were document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-01/02. The document contained the review, excluding annex 1, of the Observation scheme based on the review developed by the Secretariat and amended by CIO in its February and November 2018 meetings. Annex 1 consisting of the following documents was revised at the November meeting:

- Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-01/03 contained revised Section B of the Provisions of the NAMMCO Control Scheme for the hunting of marine mammals.
- Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-01/04 contained revised Guidelines to Section B of the Provisions of the NAMMCO Control Scheme for the hunting of marine mammals.

At the November 2018 meeting CIO agreed to continue the process of reviewing the implementation of the Scheme internally. Members were tasked to check internally with respect to reporting of violations and also look into the question of safety issues. A proposed January skype meeting with national control agencies was not held both due to difficult timing but also considering that the subject matter was better dealt with internally in the member countries.

On 25 January 2019 Norway circulated a proposal for new text of the Provisions, Section B to

CIO. No comments were received prior to the meeting from other member countries. The proposal differed substantially from what had been discussed at the November meeting. In agreement with the Chair, the Secretariat had therefore drafted document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-01/06. This document represented a draft text for CIO's proposal to Council on the revision of the Observation Scheme based on the Norwegian proposal.

Norway presented the proposal and explained that it was based on other international observation schemes and programmes, in particular the NAFO observer programme. The current text of the Provisions had been developed at a time where there were few if any existing observation schemes and was seen as outdated. A major concern was the role assigned to the observer, with what was seen as a mixed role including both observation and inspection with immediate reporting of any infringements observed [B.2.3 *The observer shall report any violation of the regulations in a given area, and as soon as possible, send a report of such to the Secretariat, with a copy to the authorities in the country in question, as well as to the owners of the vessel. The captain, those in possession of the licence, and, if present, the inspector, shall be given the opportunity in a special paragraph of the report, to record their comments.*]. Also, the Provisions failed to define the objectives of the Scheme.

CIO has previously discussed this ambiguity regarding the role of observer and inspector. In 2015 it was decided to add a paragraph on the website to clarify the difference between observer and inspector.

CIO discussed at length the Norwegian proposal, and the discussion was not finalised during the meeting but continued via correspondence afterwards without reaching a consensus.

Greenland based on the advice from The Greenlandic Fisheries License Control requested that any observed apparent infringement should be reported immediately to the Secretariat and the national authorities. The observer should not do anything further. This is based on the procedure taken in other International Organisations and would be beneficial in verifying the observation or help clear up any misunderstanding on behalf of the Observer, which might not be possible several weeks after by the responsible national part.

Faroes, Iceland and Norway argued that immediate reporting of infringements is to exercise control, and this is the responsibility of the flag state. NAMMCO observers are appointed by NAMMCO and not the member countries. The observation takes place within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and by giving observers the right to conduct control tasks they in fact perform duties that belong to flag states. Information of possible infringements should be reported by the observers in their final reports.

CIO agreed to forward to Council the majorities recommendation as described in appendix 2 to this report. Appendix 2 gives the rationale behind the CIO proposal for both new provisions Section B and guidelines to Section B.

Greenland requested that representatives of national control authorities be invited to participate in the discussions the next time the Observation Scheme is reviewed.

New issues introduced in the Norwegian proposal as compared to the current Provisions are highlighted in green in appendix 2.

In addition, CIO reiterated their agreement on the following:

- to change the title of the Provisions from “Provisions of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the hunting of marine mammals” to “Provisions of the NAMMCO

Inspection and Observation Scheme for the hunting of marine mammals in member countries”.

- to revise the time schedule of the annual implementation of the Scheme, i.e. approval of scope, range and nomination of observers, in order to follow the calendar year. In Greenland hunting takes place all year round and the implementation should take account of this and also allow observation of winter activities
- To delete B.3.2 in the current Provisions stating that:

An observer shall only in exceptional circumstances be appointed to observe in the country - or on a vessel registered in the country - of which he or she is resident.

The provisions should allow for national observers, and not make this an exception as is presently the case. An advantage of having national observers would be to reduce the challenge the different languages represents for the implementation of the Scheme today.

- To delete the reference of B.3.1: *“NAMMCO can invite non-member countries to nominate candidates”*.
The rationale for opening up for non-member countries to nominate candidates was questioned.
- to continue its discussion related to safety issues for observers. The International Maritime Organisations (IMO) was consulted during the meeting and gave the following response to the question of which body is responsible for providing observers with necessary safety equipment and training – the organization, the country sending them, the country receiving them or the vessel itself?

IMO reply:

“To give at least a general answer to your query I may refer to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Although any interpretation of UNCLOS is the prerogative of the States Parties, and UNCLOS itself is not within the remit of IMO, I may inform you that according to article 94(1) of UNCLOS every State shall effectively exercise its jurisdiction and control in administrative, technical and social matters over ships flying its flag. Furthermore, article 94(3) of UNCLOS provides that every State shall take such measures for ships flying its flag as are necessary to ensure safety at sea etc. It is also important to note that the abovementioned provisions also apply in the EEZ in accordance with article 58(2) of UNCLOS.

In your case this all will lead that the ship under the legislation of the relevant flag State will be responsible for providing the necessary safety equipment. In order to get more information, I would advise you to contact your national maritime administration, or relevant organization, to seek their advice as appropriate.”

As a result of the response from IMO, members were tasked to clarify with national authorities what rules apply in their countries.

CIO also agreed to recommend to Council to review Section A of the Provisions of the Scheme ‘Common elements for national inspection schemes for coastal whaling in NAMMCO member countries’. CIO particularly questioned why common elements for national inspection had only

been defined for a single type of hunting activity. As a first step members were tasked to find out how and for what Section A had been used after its finalisation in 1996 and whether these common elements had been implemented as minimum requirements

3. INFORMATION OVERVIEW FOR THE WEBSITE

This agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

4. OBSERVATION SEASON 2019 AND 2020

Council 26 (March 2018) decided to postpone observation activities in 2018 due to the ongoing review process of the Scheme, and to possibly resume activities in 2019 or 2020 depending on the outcome of this review. Furthermore, in September 2018 it was agreed by correspondence to await the recommendations from the CIO to Council in April 2019 before making any proposal for the 2019 observation season.

CIO reopened the discussion on the possibility of sending out observers in 2019 but agreed that it was already quite late in the year to initiate the process. CIO also emphasized the importance of finalizing qualification requirements for observers in line with the new provisions, and especially to clarify responsibilities related to safety at sea issues and possible requirement for medical certificates. CIO recommended organizing a training course in late 2019 that would cover all necessary training aspects. In addition, CIO looked forward to seeing the outcome of the report of the Performance Review Panel before making a final decision on scope and range of the activities for the 2020 season.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in fall 2019, exact timing to be agreed per correspondence. The dates will have to be determined in relation to both the training course and the new proposed time schedule for the observation scheme.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Under this agenda item CIO agreed to recommend the following workplan for 2019 and 2020. Prioritizing and time scheduling would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Proposed workplan 2019 -2020

- Parties to have an internal discussion on the issue of observers reporting infringements
- Parties to find out what kind of safety at sea requirements are prevailing in their country
- Defining timeline of appointment procedure for observers including identifying scope and range of the Scheme
- Review Section A – what has member countries used this for and how
- NAMMCO training course for observer's autumn 2019
- Follow up of the review of the PR Panel
- Follow up on Council's decision on CIO's recommendations on the Observation Scheme
- Defining qualification requirements for the observers
- Defining scope and range of observation activities in 2020
- Design data base requirements

7. REPORT OF THE MEETING

The report was approved on 14 March 2019.