

1. A NAMMCO TRAINING COURSE FOR OBSERVER CANDIDATES UNDER THE NAMMCO OBSERVATION SCHEME

NAMMCO has a duty and responsibility to ensure that the observers are trained and educated so that they can execute their tasks. The last training course for observer candidates was held in 2013, after which NAMMCO has had a pool of trained observers to draw from each season.

The proposed revised Observation Scheme (2019) gives recommendations that have bearing on the implementation of the Scheme pertaining to the role of the observer and the execution of the observer task. This requires that future observers must be trained in what is expected from them when conducting their job according to the new Scheme.

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (COI) propose to convene a training course for observer candidates to be held in autumn/winter 2019, final dates to be decided. The training course will build upon the 2013 course adjusted with feedback received from participants and revised according to the new Provisions.

As in 2013 member countries will be asked to identify from 2 to 3 candidates that are willing to serve over several years, and thus be part of a pool of candidates to draw from each season.

DRAFT PROGRAMME:

Duration: 2.5 to 3 days

Place: Reykjavik, Iceland (best option taking cost of travel and access to whaling boats)

Participation: between 14-18 persons

Aim: To ensure that observer candidates are sufficiently informed about relevant hunting regulations and how to conduct their duties. Includes practical and physical presentation of the hunting equipment in use.

MAIN TOPICS / PROGRAMME

1. NAMMCO – short introduction (Secretariat)
2. The NAMMCO Control Scheme for the hunting of marine mammals – International Observation Scheme (Chair of CIO/Secretariat)
3. Observation objects – whaling and sealing in NAMMCO member countries. Short overview of species that are hunted. Biological aspects including anatomical features of importance for the killing of an animal. (Katherine Ryping)
4. How the hunt is carried out in member countries, including short information on laws and regulations. What kind of monitoring and control systems are in place? (Representatives from member countries to present)
5. The status and role of the observer (Secretariat)
6. Reporting (Secretariat)
7. Practical aspects of being an observer – how to execute your duties as an observer, how to behave, what to look for, how to prepare for the job. (One or two of the experienced observer candidates)
8. Press and media – how to respond to media and the public

Budget – NOK 143 000

Travel/accommodation **3 observer candidates** per member

NOK 123 000

Facilities/meals/local transportation

NOK 20 000