



## TWENTY EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

*17 - 19 March 2020*

*Oslo, Norway*

<b>DOCUMENT 09</b>	<b>REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION (CIO)</b>
<b>Submitted by</b>	CIO
<b>Action requested</b>	<p>To take note of the report and approve recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• as described on page 3 of this document related to qualifications of observers, purchase of safety equipment incl. binoculars</li> <li>• on new rates for remuneration</li> <li>• on appointment of observers</li> <li>• on approval of scope for 2020 and 2021</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	

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## 1. MEETINGS AND MEMBERS

CIO has held three meetings: 21 May 2019 (online), 1-2 October 2019 and 8 February 2020.

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

Chair: Guðni Magnús Eiríksson

## 2. OVERVIEW OF MAIN DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

The discussion and considerations behind the recommendations reflected below are to be found in appendices 1-4.

### 2.1 SECTION B - OBSERVATION SCHEME - ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES, AGENDA ITEM 7.2.1

The Provisions of Section B – International Observation Scheme with guidelines was adopted by Council 27. Some administrative and procedural issues (embedded in the guidelines) were not finalised at the time of the adoption and the revised guidelines can be found in document NAMMCO/28/16.

#### CIO conclusions and recommendations:

- The general principle is that member countries are responsible for nominating observer candidates that meet the agreed requirements related to safety courses and certificates.
- The qualification requirements, including requirements for safety training and health certificate have been identified and described in the CV templates for observer candidates.
- NAMMCO should finance a minimum storage of required safety suits/vests for observers going to Greenland, i.e. three different sizes, to be stored at the Ministry in Nuuk.
- For observations in the Faroe Islands, the Secretariat in cooperation with the national authorities shall ensure the availability of ordinary life vests should this be needed.
- Ensure that the observers have binoculars as part of their tool kit when going out.
- The nomination- and appointment procedure has been revised to reflect the establishment of a corps of observers. An approved observer will continue to function in the role until his/her services are withdrawn/cancelled by either personal notification or notification by the (nominating) member country.
- Procedure for setting the scope has been agreed.
- Observers reporting forms have been identified and a plan for how the hunt specific checklists will be developed has been agreed.

The insurance issue continues to be under investigation. In the interim the observers will be insured through a special travel and accident insurance in addition to a life insurance coverage.

To streamline the text of the provisions with the proposed guidelines CIO has recommended to change the text of paragraph 5 of Section B (NAMMCO/28/16).

### 2.2 EVALUATION OF THE SCHEME

To meet one of the objectives of the scheme, CIO has agreed to review member countries compliance to recommendations given by NAMMCO. The exercise will be carried out by reviewing the CHM document “Overview of Recommendations from CHM Workshop and Expert group meetings (documents CHM-03) and the Management Committee document “Overview of recommendations for conservation and management” (document MC-05).

## 2.3 OBSERVER TRAINING COURSE

CIO organised a training course for observer candidates 5-7 February 2020. The 3 day programme covered presentations on NAMMCO as an organisation, Section B of the Inspection and Observation Scheme, the different hunts and relevant regulations with examples of check lists, former observers sharing their experiences on being out in the field and administrative conditions like contracts, remuneration.

When planning the course emphasis had been on how to ease the language barrier. Although language continues to be the biggest obstacle CIO viewed the course as more dynamic and interactive than in 2013. Discussing the cost/benefit of this kind of courses CIO recommends reconsidering the format of training courses keeping in mind that language is the main challenge. Presentations and information should be online before the start of a course and the use of more interactive exercises should be investigated.

## 2.4 REMUNERATION

The current remuneration rates for observers was revised in 2008 based on the rates for national inspectors in the member countries at that time. CIO agreed to recommend that these be adjusted for Norwegian inflation rates backdating to 2008. The **new recommended rates** are:

- NOK 3 000 per day when out at sea. Currently NOK 2 400.
- NOK 2 276 per day land based, currently NOK 1 800.
- NOK 2 900 as a lump sum, currently NOK 2 300

## 2.5 APPOINTMENT OF OBSERVERS, AGENDA ITEM 7.2.2

CIO recommends that Council approve all (both new and still active previously approved) observer candidates listed in appendix 4.

## 2.6 OBSERVATION PRIORITY 2020 AND 2021, AGENDA ITEM 7.2.3

CIO agreed to recommend to Council the following scopes:

**2020:** Observation of the pack ice sealing in Norway.

**2021:** Walrus, narwhal and beluga hunting in Greenland.

## PANEL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

CIO had been asked by the Working Group (PRWG) reviewing and following up on the recommendations from the Performance Review Panel to address 6 recommendations. CIO reviewed and discussed the forwarded recommendations in their meeting on 1 -2 October 2019 and the responses can be found in appendix 2, under agenda item 3.

Related to this CIO has reviewed existing information on the website and will consider how to make the work of the committee more visible.

## 2.7 WORKPLAN 2020-2021

### 2020

#### February/March up to Council 28

- Finalize Section B – including guidelines
- Give recommendation on remuneration of observers
- Resolve insurance issues

#### Meeting 25 August

- Review Section A of the Provisions

- Review the reports from the 2020 observer
- Define scope and range of observation activities in a three-year perspective (2022, 23 and 24), look at coverage rates, developing check lists – perhaps cooperate with SC on which hunts would be interesting for them to have more information on
- Assess the quality and functionality of the requested annual data input
- Review the recommendations in the documents MC-05 and CHM-03 to assess members compliance

#### **October/November/December**

- Online meeting with observer corps to update the corps on new developments and ensure their continued interest

#### **2021**

- Follow up unresolved issues identified for the August 2020 meeting

#### **1.1 DATABASE, DATA REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES**

CIO has discussed and finalised the annual data requirements pertaining to national inspection efforts. Reporting on 2019 is seen as a trial year and CIO will assess the functionality of the identified data categories prior to the next annual reporting. 1 February was set as the annual deadline.

## Appendix 1: Report of the CIO meeting 27 May 2019

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) held a video meeting on 21 May 2019. Present were: Guðni Magnús Eiríksson Chair (Iceland), Nette Levermann (Greenland), Hild Ynnesdal (Norway), Ulla Svarrer Wang, (Faroe Islands) and Charlotte Winsnes from the Secretariat.

### Actions arising from the meeting

#### Secretariat

- Inform Council on postponement of 1 June deadline to nominate observer candidates
- Confer with CHM and BYCELS on dates for the October meetings

#### Chair and Secretariat

- Look into the different insurance systems for government employees and individuals, report back at the next meeting
- Cooperate on logistics for observer training course in Iceland in February 2020

#### Chair

- Set up a meeting with Levermann and Winsnes in the 2nd week of July to identify data required of observers + control lists

#### All members

- Report back to the Secretariat and CIO before 1 June on content and time duration of safety at sea and/or rescue courses held for national inspectors/wildlife officers
- Identify candidates to participate in training course and be part of poll

## 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

The Chair, Guðni Magnús Eiríksson, welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. The draft agenda was adopted, and the list of documents reviewed. The agenda and list of documents are provided in appendix 1.

## 2. NAMMCO OBSERVATION SCHEME

At NAMMCO 27 Council adopted the new Section B including guidelines (NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/02). The new Observation Scheme was adopted recognising that there were pending issues, especially related to qualification requirements for observers but also safety concerns.

CIO met shortly after the close of NAMMCO 27 on 4 April and made a preliminary plan for the follow up and work ahead. A video meeting 21 May was scheduled, and the Secretariat was asked to review the provisions and guidelines in preparation for the meeting to pinpoint issues for consideration.

### 2.1 QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR OBSERVER CANDIDATES

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/03 gave the present CV template for observer candidates. CIO briefly commented on the CV, noting that it seemed to cover the essentials. It was agreed to revisit the CV and make a final decision after having concluded on the safety issues.

### 2.2 SAFETY ISSUES; EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, INSURANCES

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/05 gave a compilation of information submitted by members on safety issues.

The discussion revolved around three overall questions:

- Defining the level/type/kind
- Identifying the responsible body for ensuring that the requirements defined above are met
- Identifying which actors should bear the costs combined with the various elements

Should NAMMCO pay for survival/safety equipment, training courses, insurances? Or should it be the responsibility of the Party to ensure that their nominated candidates meet the requirement? Or is it some combination of the two?

CIO noted that the observer candidates fell into two separate categories and that this led to different situations when considering these issues.

- Employees in national control agencies
- Individual veterinarians and biologist not employed by national control agencies

GL and IS observers are all employed by their national control agencies. Observers employed by national control authorities have as a rule gone through safety at sea courses and have or are equipped with their personal survival suit when going on a mission. Likewise, they may have several certificates like first aid and are insured for such missions through their employer.

FO and NO observers are not employed by national authorities but represent individual veterinarians and/or biologists. The rule has been that they do not have a mandatory safety course, safety equipment or are insured through their main employer.

#### **Summarising:**

GL and IS observers meet all requirements for safety course and can also bring their own safety equipment if needed when observing for NAMMCO.

NO and FO observers are not employed by national authorities, and status regarding safety course and availability of safety equipment needs to be investigated.

CIO agreed that although the agenda item was not finalised the principle should be that:

- Parties will be responsible for nominating observer candidates that meet the agreed upon requirements related to safety courses and certificates.
- NAMMCO will finance a minimum storage of required safety suits/vests for observers going to Greenland.

#### **2.2.1 Safety equipment**

In NO and IS hunting vessels are responsible for having survival suits available for all persons on board. The observer would therefore not need to bring his/her own.

In FO the "hunting fleet" consists of small, recreational boats, and the observer would need a life west (Life vests are required for boats up to 20 GRT, and it is recommended that the observer brings its own life west.)

In GL only the larger harpoon gun vessels have a requirement for survival suits. It is recommended that the observers bring their own life vests to be able to go out on smaller boats or skiffs.

In GL all fishery observers/wildlife officers are equipped with

- Life vest
- Survival suit/approved offshore immersion suit
- Work helmet
- AIS locator/beacon (under test) to be worn during transfer at sea
- Spare strobe light on life vest

In addition, there is equipment for daily work and tasks on board like PC laptop, Camera (with data and time and GPS) and work suits for factory deck and trawler deck (clothing scheme, annual cost per

observer is approx., DKK 6000) to mention some elements. Levermann noted that all Greenlandic observer will bring relevant parts of this equipment when being sent out as a NAMMCO observer.

IS observers being employed by the national control agency are all equipped with survival suits. Observers from NO and FO do not necessarily have this kind of equipment. In Norway it is the responsibility of the master of the vessel to ensure availability of safety equipment for all onboard the vessel.

### **2.2.2 Safety courses/training**

If courses are required i.e. safety courses, should NAMMCO arrange this or should the member country be responsible for ensuring that the candidates they nominate meet certain safety requirements? It is both a question of who pays and who facilitates these kinds of courses?

CIO noted that all Parties had mandatory safety and/or rescue courses for their fisheries inspectors/observers but that the content and time duration varied among the member countries. To make an informed decision on requirements for this kind of courses CIO agreed to look at what existed in member countries. Parties agreed to find out what the national courses entailed and report back on content and time duration to the Secretariat by 1 June.

### **2.2.3 Insurances and health certificate**

Winsnes explained that under the present Scheme observers are obliged to make their own insurances. Wording to this extent taken from the observer contracts:

*"The Observer will arrange for his own travel and accident insurance for the duration of his assignment as a NAMMCO Observer. Costs in this connection will be reimbursed by NAMMCO."*

In the early days the Secretariat investigated the possibility of taking care of the necessary insurances for all candidates. However, for non-Norwegians this proved impossible as the insurance was somehow connected to the social security system in Norway and thus only persons enrolled in that system would be eligible.

CIO recognised that the same situation might prevailed here as explained previously, namely that observers employed by national control agencies might have insurances though their work that also cover them when being a NAMMCO observer.

In IS the inspector's insurance system is being reviewed presently. FO has two work insurances, one related to accidents at sea and one to accidents at land in addition to travel insurance. In GL all government employees are by default subject to the same insurance conditions regardless of whether they are employed on land working in an office or out at sea for inspection/observation purposes. There is no special insurance for wildlife officers covering the work at sea or land.

The occupational health and safety board covers lost earnings and possibly damages if the illness / injury period goes beyond 3 months. Should a fatal accident occur, 3- or 4-months' salary has been incorporated into the surviving wife's / cohabitant's collective agreement in our collective agreement. In NO government employees are covered by mandatory work insurance.

CIO noted that the Parties had different systems in place for their employees. It would be important to find out if the work insurances held by observers employed by national control agencies, also covered the person when being contracted by NAMMCO. Furthermore, there is a need to investigate the current system where observers make their own arrangements to ensure that it is satisfactory from an ethical point of view. For most of the members there is a mandatory requirement for a special health certificate when at sea.

CIO tasked the Chair and the Secretariat to investigate these questions and report back at the next meeting.



## 2.3 APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE - GUIDELINES

Revisiting the guidelines had uncovered some unclarity as to meaning and a need to tighten the time schedule related to the appointment procedure. Presumably it might be necessary to rethink the entire time schedule in relation to the timing of the CIO annual meetings.

Presently there is a very long time period between nomination and appointment as seen from the observer's perspective i.e. 5 months from 1 June to 1 November. Moreover, if the scope of the observation requires the observer to be ready in January it may be difficult with only 2 months' notice as the wintertime is not within "normal" holiday time.

The following was presented to and discussed by CIO, red is new text, highlighted text unclear:

### Appointment of observer

*The Council appoints observers for one year at a time.*

*Member countries **nominate** ~~develop~~ a list of candidates for the following year and send it to the Secretariat by 1 June. Member countries may nominate non-nationals as observers.*

*The list shall include information on the qualifications of the candidates. The Secretariat circulates a combined list of suggested candidates to member countries for approval by 15 June. In the event that a member country wishes to make a reservation to any candidate, this must be done before 15 August by informing all member countries and the Secretariat. **It is understood that a reservation to the appointment of a particular candidate is a reservation to his/her appointment as a NAMMCO observer in any area of activity. These candidates will be removed from the final list that represents observers approved by Council.***

~~*The Secretariat then circulates the list of candidates approved by all member countries to the Council for appointment by 1 September.*~~

### Plans for observation and activities

- *By 1 October each year the Secretariat in cooperation with CIO develops a proposal for the Council for the scope and range of observation activities during the following year in accordance with budgeted funds for these activities. The Council shall approve this proposal ~~and appoint the observers~~ by 1 November.*

CIO agreed that more time was needed to look at the guidelines before finalising an amendment proposal to Council for approval.

## 2.4 OTHER POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

To make the guidelines as informative as possible it was decided to include a paragraph clarifying the financial aspects of the scheme.

## 3. OBSERVER TRAINING COURSE

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-02/04 gave a proposal for a training course for observers. The proposed programme was based on the 2013 training course.

Council had approved of the idea and a budget of NOK 143 000 had been allocated on the 2020 budget. The budget was based on a maximum of 3 observer candidates per member country.

Prior to the course the new reporting requirements must be defined and the hunt specific control lists revisited. To facilitate and move this agenda item forward Eiríksson, Levermann and Winsnes agreed to form an *ad hoc* working group to identifying the data requirements which will form the basis for the reporting forms. Eiríksson volunteered to set up a video meeting for the 2nd week of July.

CIO discussed the timing of the course and agreed on week 6 (3 – 7 February 2020). The venue will be Iceland and Eiríksson and Winsnes will cooperate on the logistics of meeting. Atlantic Airways fly to

Reykjavik Monday and Fridays. Air Greenland has direct flights Nuuk – Reykjavik and return only Saturdays in the winter period.

## **4. NEXT MEETING**

Previously at the 4 April planning meeting it was agreed to have a meeting 1 October in Copenhagen. As usual CIO, CHM and BYCELS would plan for back to back meetings.

Looking at the agenda of the next meeting CIO acknowledged that there is comprehensive work to be done on the Observation Scheme before the safety/ insurance related issues and the more administrative matters discussed above will be finalised. Other agenda items for the next meeting include:

- identify the scope for the observation activities in 2020
- reviewing the recommendations from Council 27
- developing a procedure on how to assess member countries compliance to NAMMCO recommendations

CIO agreed that it would need a two-day meeting. The preferred dates, given that CHM and BYCELS agree to push their meetings on day, will thus be 1 and 2 October. The Secretariat was tasked with conferring with CHM and BYCELS.

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **5.1 NOMINATION OF OBSERVER CANDIDATES – DEADLINE 1 JUNE**

According to the current procedure the Parties should nominate observer candidates by 1 June. However, CIO recognised that 2019 will be a transitional year and recommended postponing the nomination deadline until a date when remaining, presently unresolved issues concerning e.g. safety have been sorted out.

The Secretariat was asked to inform Council.

### **5.2 NEW NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORTING AND DATABASE AT THE SECRETARIAT**

Levermann asked for an update on the Council decision to extend the present NPR to include data for the use of CIO, CHM and BYCELS.

Winsnes informed that this work had not started yet, but that it was on the list of things to do.

### **5.3 PHD THESIS**

Levermann informed that presently there were a PhD student looking at how to evaluate the fisheries control system in Greenland. CIO noted that it might be interesting to see what kind of data was needed in order to be able to make such an evaluation. Levermann volunteered to look if there were something of interest for CIO and circulate more information as this became available.

## **6. ADOPTION OF REPORT**

The report was adopted by correspondence on 12 July.

## Appendix 2: Report of the CIO meeting 1-2 October 2019

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met 1 and 2 October at the Greenlandic Representation in Copenhagen, Denmark.

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

### Actions arising from the meeting

#### Secretariat

- To contact the International Labour Organisation to (ILO) to explore options for short time contracts like the NAMMCO observes

#### Chair and Secretariat

- Observer training course: develop a final programme and proposals for standardised presentation material for circulation to CIO for adoption and cooperate on logistics for the course to be held in Iceland in February 2020

#### All members

- 1 November 2019 Parties to send list of Observer candidates with qualifications
- 1 December 2019 develop hunt specific check lists in excel format + identify possible coverage rate(s)
- Submit copies of logbooks and licenses for the next meeting

## 7. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

Chair Guðni Magnús Eiríksson opened the meeting, the agenda was adopted (appendix 1), and the list of documents reviewed (appendix 2). Document NAMMCO/CHM/CIO/BYCELS-2019-01 draft annual time schedule was redrawn.

## 8. COMMITTEE ANNUAL ACTIVITY-MEETING SCHEDULE

CIO agreed that it would be beneficial to identify an annual time schedule of meetings and tasks. In doing so the Committee took into consideration the deadline for annual reporting of data for CHM/CIO/ BYCELS and deadlines set by the observation scheme, meeting dates of Council, CHM and BYCELS.

Winsnes informed that the Scientific Committee is requesting a change of annual meeting schedule from November to spring. The issue will be forwarded to FAC for consideration at their upcoming November meeting, and depending on the outcome, will have effect on the Council meetings as of 2021.

CIO discussed deadlines for data submission and agreed on 1 February. This will give members the required time to time to compile the necessary data from the previous year and will also accommodate committee meetings as early as mid-February should Council decide to keep the present meeting schedule.

The following schedule was agreed:

#### 2019

- 1 November 2019 Parties to send list of Observer candidates with qualifications
- 18 November Secretariat circulate list of nominated observer candidates for approval by Council
- 18 November Scope and range of Observation activities 2020 circulated to FAC for approval

- 1 December nominated observer candidates approved unless reservations are submitted by any of the member countries. If a reservation to a candidate is submitted this candidate is by default not approved and thus will not be part of the observation corps/pool

## 2020

- 1 February deadline for submission of National Progress Reports from member countries.
- 5 – 7 February training course observers Reykjavik, Iceland
- 8 – 11 February meetings of CIO/CHM/BYCELS, exact dates to be confirmed
- 16 – 19 March NAMMCO 28, Oslo, Norway
- September/October CIO meeting to address:
  - Identify scope and range of observation activities 2021
- Skype meetings as needed

## 9. PANEL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The Working Group (PRWG) reviewing and following up the recommendations from the Performance Review Panel is seeking the views of NAMMCO subsidiary bodies on the recommendations specific to their areas of work. These inputs will represent an important input to the PRWG formulation of follow up actions to be forwarded to Council.

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-03/03 contained the letter from PRWG requesting CIO to address recommendations related to the committee. Additional documents considered under this agenda item were NAMMCO/PRWG19-01: the full report of the Performance Review Panel and NAMMCO/PRWG19-01: the report of the June meeting of the PRWG.

PRWG had asked CIO to consider the following when addressing the forwarded recommendations:

- the relevance of the recommendations,
- inform of further issues they have identified specifically related to specific recommendations but also in general within the work of their committee,
- propose ways for implementing the recommendations and improving processes if relevant.

Recommendation identification key PR18-RCXX reads Performance Review 2018-recommendation number. The text given below includes summaries of the recommendation and the PRWG's comments to the recommendations.

### 9.1 PR18\_RC20 AND PR-RC25

**PRWG comment pertaining to both recommendations:** The priority is to ensure a reliable database (storage of data) with guidelines on data quality and sharing.

#### PR18-RC20

*The Panel noted the low number of strandings reported and the absence of information on hunting effort and ship strikes in the NAMMCO data spreadsheet. Measures of hunting effort related to catches of some species could be obtained relatively easily from analyses of hunting licenses issued, logbooks and inspection and observation reports and interviews with hunters. The Panel recommended that ship strikes be reported more consistently.*

#### **Response:**

- a) CIO noted that the recommendation primarily addresses reporting of ship strikes and that this is a concern under BYCELS and did not discuss it further
- b) Not considered
- c) Not considered

## 9.2 PR18-RC25

*Recommendation relates to the question of standardising data reporting from Parties to NAMMCO, ensuring data quality and storage.*

### **CIO response:**

- a) CIO considered the recommendation highly relevant
- b) CIO strongly emphasised the importance of safe storage of data with suitable platform to ensure standardisation, continuity and accessibility. CIO also recommended that the Secretariat look at how data storage is handled in comparable fisheries organisations (NEAFC, NAFO, IWC)
- c) CIO drew attention to the already ongoing work undertaken by the committee to standardise annual reporting of data from Parties by extending the national progress reports to also include data from CIO/CHM/BYCELS in addition to SC. This work entails identification of which data should be submitted and in what format, one annual deadline for data submission and how and in which form the submitted data can become publicly available on the website.

## 9.3 PR18-RC7

*Recommendation to establish a formal procedure to review and update the NAMMCO website regularly. It is suggested that Committees together with the Secretariat periodically review and endorse their relevant sectors.*

### **PRWG comment:**

The website is the most important visibility and outreach tool of NAMMCO. Its content should be correct and updated. The Committees should be the guarantee of the quality of its content. The review of the content should be one of their recurrent tasks.

### **CIO response:**

- a) CIO considered the recommendation highly relevant
- b) No further issues were identified
- c) CIO agreed to recommend the following 3-step process for its work to ensure the quality of the content:
  1. to review all current text and information related to Inspection and Observation on the website.
  2. make reviewing new information on the website a standard agenda item for the annual meeting of the committee. If needed this may also be done by correspondence intersessional
  3. consider how to make the work of the committee more visible, i. e. how to report on past observations and future plans, how to report on the evaluation of the Observation Scheme

Acknowledging the limited amount of text presently displayed on the website CIO agreed to carry out step 1 during the meeting. Some edits were made accordingly.

## 9.4 PR18-RC54

*Recommendation pertains to revise the Observation Scheme to make benefits and costs more balanced and the work more accessible to the public. Presently it does not give accurate information of a specific hunt over time, and if one of the objectives of the scheme is to obtain an accurate understanding of the level of compliance with national laws implementing NAMMCO recommendations, the Panel believes that significantly more resources will need to be devoted to the operation of the Observations Scheme.*

### **PRWG comment:**

- Seek input from CIO on priorities, effort to reach objective, and alternative methods.
- Priorities of observation could be assigned in relation to hunting levels.

- CIO to increase transparency on website.

**CIO response:**

- a) CIO noted that a new Observation Scheme is in place with new purpose and objectives. CIO also noted that the issue of transparency on website was dealt with under RC7.
- b) CIO noted that the idea of conducting regular audits of the national inspection programmes could be interesting. However, it would have to be further defined and considered in relation to the overall scope of the CIO ToR.
- c) New provisions and ongoing development of guidelines are the 1<sup>st</sup> step to meet the recommendation.

CIO agreed to the following elements for prioritisation of scope of observations:

- Hunting level
- Hunts not covered by national inspectors – monitored by humans
- Implementation and compliance of new recommendations into national regulations
- Hunts where the SC or CHM request data
- Rotation between member countries
- Rotation between hunts (time interval when last observed)
- Maximising the effort to reach the objectives by allocating money from several years into one year.
- Practicality of the respective hunts making the observation assignment not feasible
  - Small scale hunts that are happening infrequently and in remote areas

CIO discussed if and how the information collected through the logbooks or collected in connection with issuing licenses could be best used. What kind of analyses would be feasible based on the information? CIO agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting. Members would submit licences and logbooks to this end prior to the meeting.

## 10. DATABASE, DATA REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

CIO in cooperation with CHM and BYCELS had recommended to Council to synchronise the submission of standardised data from all committees. The proposal, endorsed by Council 27, was to extend the current National Progress Report to include the required annual data reporting from all committees.

Document NAMMCO/CHM/CIO/BYCELS-2019-02 contained the previously identified data requirements, and CIO discussed and finalised the relevant parts (hunting effort and national inspection effort). It was agreed to use the categories as defined in the revised document 02 for the reporting of 2019. Document. The document “*NPR data reporting (Country) Year*” is attached to this report and contains the revisions.

CIO also discussed the deadline for submission of the data. Currently the deadline for NPR is 1 March. However, taking into consideration that all required data would be available and accessible by 1 February making it possible to schedule meetings from early February as opposed to one month later, CIO agreed to propose 1 February as the annual deadline.

The issue of developing a database with the Secretariat as depository had not been discussed by Council 27. CIO underlined that the important part is to collect standardised data that allow comparisons between hunts and countries. The specific platform where the data are stored should be defined at some stage but the essential issue for the committee is the quality and accessibility of the data. It was noted that the aim was to have standardised data to facilitate and make comparisons between countries possible. CIO agreed that the reliability of the data is the responsibility of the members whereas storage and identification and standardisation of the required data is the responsibility of NAMMCO.

## 11. OBSERVATION SCHEME

### 11.1 OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

Two categories of observer candidates are currently operative, namely employees of national control agencies (ENCA) and others not employed by national control agencies. The two categories present different scenarios of consideration under this agenda item.

At the last meeting CIO agreed that:

- Parties will be responsible for nominating observer candidates that meet the agreed upon requirements related to safety courses and certificates. The requirements to be determined.
- NAMMCO will finance a minimum storage of required safety suits/vests for observers going to Greenland.

### 11.2 WORK INSURANCE

At the last meeting CIO tasked the Chair and the Secretariat to find out whether the work insurance (statutory occupational injury insurance/yrkesskade forsikring) also would cover ENCAs when working as observers for NAMMCO and what kind of insurance would be appropriate for observers who are not ENCA.

The present observer pool consists of ENCAs and non ENCAs with the Greenlandic and Icelandic observers being ENCAs while the Norwegian and Faroese observers are employed elsewhere.

The standard work insurance for ENCAs have covered work at sea and land, but only during working hours. Contract work for NAMMCO in their spare time (holiday) is not covered by the work insurance.

Enrolling the observers in the statutory occupational injury insurance held by NAMMCO will represent a complex and difficult situation, especially from the point of view of the observers. It would require obtaining a Norwegian ID number and having to register as employees of NAMMCO which in turn would make tax reporting to Norway a statutory requirement. What kind of consequences if any, such employment by NAMMCO would entail in their home country was not discussed. Under the current system Norwegian observers are automatically reported to the Norwegian tax authorities whereas all non-Norwegian observers are themselves responsible for reporting their income from NAMMCO to the tax authority in their country.

CIO discussed the possibility of observers being employed by a national institution of the nominating Party which would subsequently be reimbursed by NAMMCO. It was however envisaged that such a situation might comprise unnecessary complicating issues of a more legal nature like the principle of the instruction authority.

CIO emphasised the importance of ensuring that the observers have appropriate coverage in case of an accident. Investigations have confirmed that this probably will not be possible via the statutory occupational injury insurances in member countries and thus it will have to be covered by private insurances. CIO underlined the importance of defining a standard minimum coverage for such private insurances and defining a process ensuring that the observers have this standard insurance.

The Secretariat was tasked with contacting the International Labour Organisation to (ILO) to explore options for short time contracts like the NAMMCO observers. If needed CIO agreed to confer with legal experts to ensure adequate insurance coverage and to also establish a correct procedure to ensure that the observers have the required minimum standards. It was envisaged that these conditions and requirements should be clearly stated in writing including who is responsible for what.

#### 11.2.1 Safety courses

All Parties have mandatory safety and/or rescue courses for their fisheries inspectors/observers with varying content and time duration. To make an informed decision on requirements for this kind of courses Parties had been tasked to find out what the national courses entailed and report back to the

Secretariat by 1 June. Based on the received information and the discussion CIO agreed on the following:

- NAMMCO will not arrange safety courses for appointed observers. Nominated observers shall have a minimum standard of survival at sea, meeting the requirements of STCW section A-VI/1 and being based on the guidelines of IMO Model Courses. The nominating Party is responsible that these minimum standards are met.

Reference to IMO: <http://www.adrialibar.com/tecajevi/basic-safety-training-stcw-a-vi-1/18.html>

Norway noted that this represented a very strong requirement given that the safety issue related to the different hunts differ, i. e. observing the Faroese drive hunt has usually meant standing on land observing.

### 11.2.2 Safety equipment

Observations in Iceland and Norway do not represent an issue as Icelandic and Norwegian hunting vessels are required to be equipped with survival suits for all onboard. In the Faroese the requirement is to have a life vest when on board a small boat. In Greenland only larger harpoon gun vessels have survival suits.

At the last meeting CIO agreed to recommend that NAMMCO finance a minimum storage of safety suits/vests in Greenland. Levermann and Winsnes will cooperate on the practicalities for selection and storage of the safety equipment.

CIO further agreed that NAMMCO should ensure that life vests are available for observers going to the Faroes, either by financing a suitable storage or by requisition from the national authorities.

### 11.2.3 Health certificate

All seafarers and fishermen including inspectors on board Norwegian, Faroese and Greenlandic ships must hold a valid health certificate whereby the seafarer is found fit for ship service, possibly with limitations. It was anticipated that this is also the case for Iceland. Health certificates are issued following a medical examination by a maritime medical practitioner and follows the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) and the STCW Convention.

CIO agreed that all observers would be required to have a health certificate for seamen and that this would be included in the qualification requirements that the nominating Parties are responsible for.

## 12. GUIDELINES TO OBSERVATION SCHEME

Document NAMMCO7CIO/2019-03/07 contained the Provisions of the Inspection and Observation Scheme, including guidelines to Section B.

### 12.1 APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

CIO agreed at the last meeting to reconsider the time schedule of the appointment procedure for observers in relation to the timing of the CIO annual meetings.

**The current text of the guidelines to Section B, point 1.1 Appointment of observers reads:**

- *The Council appoints observers for one year at a time.*
- *Member countries develop a list of candidates for the following year and send it to the Secretariat by 1 June. Member countries may nominate non-nationals as observers.*
- *The list shall include information on the qualifications of the candidates. The Secretariat circulates by 15 June a combined list of suggested candidates to member countries for approval. In the event that a member country wishes to make a reservation to any candidate,*



*this must be done before 15 August. It is understood that a reservation to the appointment of a particular candidate is a reservation to his/her appointment as a NAMMCO observer in any area of activity. The Secretariat then circulates the list of candidates approved by all member countries to the Council for appointment by 1 September.*

Following the 2013 training course NAMMCO had *de facto* had an observer corps. Taking this into account CIO agreed to propose the following process for appointment of observers, current text point 1.1. cited above, to be replaced by:

- Council approves and appoints observers. An approved observer will continue to function until her/his services are redrawn/cancelled either by personal notification or notification by the (nominating) member country. Member countries are required to provide a minimum of two observer candidates to the pool of observers.

***Nomination and approval process of observers***

- *Member countries nominate observer candidates by notifying the Secretariat of their names and qualifications. The Secretariat subsequently forward the list of nominees with information on the qualification of the candidates to all members for their approval.*
- *The member countries will have a month to consider the nominations after which the candidates are considered approved.*
- *A reservation to a candidate from a member country must be communicated to the Secretariat and all member countries within this month. It is understood that a reservation to the appointment of a candidate is a reservation to his/her appointment as a NAMMCO observer in any area of activity.*
- *These candidates shall not be included in the observer corps.*

## **12.2 DEADLINES FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SCOPE**

CIO agreed that the current deadlines for proposing and approving the scope of observation activities in a given year could stand. The text reads as follows:

***Plans for observation and activities***

*By 1 May each year the Secretariat in cooperation with CIO develops a proposal for the Council for the scope and range of observation activities during the following year in accordance with budgeted funds for these activities. The Council shall approve this proposal ~~and appoint the observers~~ by 1 June.*

## **13. REPORTING**

At the last meeting CIO agreed to continue the discussion to identify new reporting requirements and the hunt specific check lists. To facilitate and move forward Eiríksson, Levermann and Winsnes had been tasked with identifying which data requirements would form the basis for the reporting forms, and a skype meeting was held 17 July.

### **13.1 NATIONAL CHECK LISTS – ONE PER HUNT**

The Skype meeting agreed that check lists should be hunt specific and be developed per hunt. Drafts for whaling with harpoon grenade in GL, IS, NO and the drive hunt in FO (documents NAMMCO/CIO-2019-03/04 GL, NO, FO) had been circulated to the respective members for comments prior to the meeting.

CIO acknowledged the extent in numbers and diversity of methods of the hunting activities in the member countries and agreed that not all hunts were priority hunts for observation. Some hunts are so insignificant in terms of animals taken and/or takes place in such a manner that the revenue or outcome of assigning observers to these hunts would be marginal at best with a likelihood of observing

anything close to zero. CIO discussed which hunts to priorities and identified the following target- and non-target hunts for observation:

- IS: Fin- and minke whale hunts. The seal hunt is not a target hunt due to practical reasons
- GL: Large whale hunts, seal hunts, narwhal and beluga hunts, walrus hunts
- FO: Drive hunts. No regulations on seals thus not a target for observation
- NO: Minke whale hunt and pack ice sealing. Coastal sealing is not a priority due to the practicality of the exercise

CIO discussed the intention behind the check lists and emphasised that the lists are intended to aid observers to carry out their duties. Observers are faced with challenges both practical and more communicational, and the lists should to the degree possible pinpoint what the observer should look for.

Based on the priorities and the fact that the building block of the check lists are national regulations CIO agreed that each member should elaborate and develop hunt specific check lists and submit these by 1<sup>st</sup> December to the Secretariat. It was agreed to use excel as format for the check lists.

### 13.2 NAMMCO REPORTING FORMS

The Skype meeting had tasked Winsnes to combine the existing three report forms into one single form for observers to fill in. Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-03/05 represented such a draft.

Reviewing the existing forms and the tabled draft CIO agreed that all the requested information could ideally be incorporated into the hunt specific check lists with the advantage that the observer would only have one form to deal with.

It is the responsibility of the Secretariat to compile the statistical information and write the annual report to CIO and Council of the implementation of the observation activities in a season based on the submitted check lists.

## 14. EVALUATION OF THE SCHEME

CIO acknowledged that the financial and human resources aspects of the Observation Scheme represents a major undertaking for NAMMCO and that assessing the usefulness of such an enterprise would be important. Time restricted CIO postponed an in-depth discussion on how to evaluate and what to assess touching upon some possible issues:

- Whether the financial allocation is proportionate to what comes out of the Scheme?
- Does the Scheme meet its described purpose?
- Elements like the effectiveness, the functionality and the usefulness of the Scheme

### 14.1 COVERAGE RATES

Document NAMMCO/CIO/2019-03/08 contained the review of the Observation Scheme undertaken by the Secretariat and CIO. CIO had specifically been asked to revisit the part discussing different coverage rates with the aim of identifying which rates could be used for the different hunts.

Document NAMMCO/CIO/2019-03/06 gave an overview of all different hunts in NAMMCO with hunts observed in the period 1998 – 2017. The overview was tabled to give some input to a discussion on the need to identify priority hunts for observation.

Assuming coverage rates might be *one* useful tool for evaluating the Scheme, CIO tasked the members to consider and give proposals for applicable coverage rates when developing the hunt specific check lists – see agenda item 7.1. Sticking to the deadline set for submitting the check lists gave a deadline for of 1<sup>st</sup> December.

After having identified applicable coverage rates for the different hunts, CIO envisaged that the next step would be to identify the required % of a coverage rate for the specific hunt.

## 14.2 EVALUATION PROCEDURE

CIO agreed to the importance of setting up a procedure for assessing the Scheme based on the purpose of the Scheme as defined by the Provisions.

From the Provisions of the Observation Scheme:

*1. The purpose of this Observation Scheme is to collect reliable information on all kinds of hunting activities in the NAMMCO Member Countries. The objectives are to*

*a) provide a mechanism for NAMMCO to oversee whether recommendations made by NAMMCO are implemented and national regulations are adhered to*

*b) provide a foundation for the member states to evaluate whether a recommendation is serving its purpose or not*

*c) contribute to the improvement of the national regulation of hunting activities in the Member Countries*

*2. These objectives will be reached by NAMMCO appointing observers to observe hunting and inspection activities in NAMMCO member countries and the Committee on Inspection and Observation reviewing the observation activities and the implementation of NAMMCO recommendations in national legislations (see section 1).*

CIO agreed that an important aspect of such an evaluation would be to assess member countries compliance to NAMMCO recommendations, i.e. how Parties respond to a given recommendation. Discussion evolved around what kind of recommendations would fall under the umbrella of the Scheme, and whether the Management Committee document “Overview of recommendations for conservation and management” could be used as a directing tool. It was emphasised that recommendations must be of a nature that makes them observable both for the observer and the CIO.

CIO agreed to include evaluation of Parties compliance to recommendations as a standard item on its meeting agenda.

## 15. TRAINING COURSE OBSERVERS

Document NAMMCO/CIO-2019-03/09 gave a proposal for programme and other background information such as the participants evaluation of the last 2013 training course. CIO had previously agreed to organise the training course in week 6 (3 – 7 February) in Iceland. Furthermore, all Parties had been asked to nominate a maximum of three observer candidates for participation in the course.

Discussion centred around:

- logistical issues like flight schedules to and from Greenland and the Faroe Islands.
- language challenge. Feedback from the participants at the last course pointed to a language barrier and the difficulties of understanding, especially when presenters spoke fast.

It was agreed that the course would be held 5, 6 and 7 February.

CIO acknowledged that language would always represent a challenge, and that there are no easy solutions. The ability to communicate and understand is of the outermost importance as this is linked to personnel safety when observers operate out at sea. CIO expressed the opinion that communication is not merely a question of language skills but also the ability to interpret situations, behaviour and body language, all qualities of importance for any NAMMCO observer.

CIO briefly discussed the draft programme, noting in particular the feedback from 2013 regarding the importance of receiving information on what it entails to be an observer from an experienced observer with intimate knowledge of this. Eiríksson and Winsnes volunteered to develop a final programme and proposals for standardised presentation material for circulation to CIO for adoption.

Members agreed to submit the names of their observer candidates by 1<sup>st</sup> November.

## **16. IDENTIFYING SCOPE OF OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN 2020**

Document NAMMCO/CIO/2019-03/06 gave an overview of all different hunts in NAMMCO and hunts observed in the period 1998 – 2017.

CIO discussed the scope for season 2020 and agreed to start the season after the training course in February. The following scopes were proposed:

Option 1: Norwegian pack ice sealing. Based on the principle of rotation between hunts (last observed in 2008) and the fact that inspectors are always present. CIO agreed to plan for a duration of maximum 6 weeks.

Option 2: Greenland. Walrus and beluga hunting in March/April in Disko and Sisimiut. Based on rotation between countries (last observed in Greenland in 2014), the level of the hunt and the possibility to get more information on struck and lost.

## **17. NEXT MEETING**

CIO agreed to hold the next meeting back to back with the training course on Saturday 8 February in Iceland.

## **18. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

The report was adopted by circulation on 27 November 2019.

## Appendix 3: Report of the CIO meeting 8 February 2020

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met 8 February at the Directorate of Fisheries in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland and online 18 February 2020.

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

### Actions arising from the meeting

#### Secretariat

- To contact the International Labour Organisation to (ILO) to explore options for short time contracts like the NAMMCO observes. Prior to the Norwegian sealing season resolve the insurance question.
- To find a solution on the issue of binoculars as part of the tool kit for observers
- 

#### Chair and Secretariat

- To review documents MC-05 and CHM-XX to identifying recommendations of concern or not of concern. The developed list will be circulated to members in advance of the next meeting for their comments.

#### Norway and Secretariat

- To look at possible coverage rates and to incorporate this aspect into the check list for sealing observation.

#### All members

- To submit copies of logbooks and licenses prior to the next meeting.
- To get feedback from the observers on what their expectations had been, how it was met, how NAMMCO can improve training in the future and whatever other input they may have.
- To find if radio communication and VHF certification are part of the safety at sea course that observer must have and report back.

## 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

The Council decided in 2019 to extend the annual national progress reporting to include standardised data requirements from all committees and subsidiary bodies and not only the Scientific Committee. The Secretariat had circulated an email to this extent with the agreed deadline of 1 February.

CIO saw the reporting for the year 2019 as a trial year to assess if the identified data categories were functional and if needed to make improvements and decide on follow up actions.

Only Iceland and the Faroe Islands had submitted their reports within the deadline, and CIO agreed to postpone the discussion until all reports were available.

### 3. OBSERVATION SCHEME

#### 3.1 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

##### 3.1.1 Safety and insurance issues

Winsnes informed that an inquiry had been sent to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for guidance pertaining to insurance options for short time contracts like the NAMMCO observes. No response had been received at the time of the skype meeting.

CIO reiterated the importance of defining a standard minimum coverage for private insurances and defining a process ensuring that the observers have this standard insurance. If needed CIO agreed to confer with legal experts to ensure adequate insurance coverage and to also establish a correct procedure to ensure that the observers have the required minimum standards. It was envisaged that these conditions and requirements should be clearly stated in writing including who is responsible for what. The issue on insurance must be resolved before the observer is sent out this season.

##### 3.1.2 Health certificate

All observers are required to have a special health certificate for seamen. The health certificates are time limited, as is the certificates issued after safety at sea courses, and CIO agreed that requirements pertaining to these certificates would only take effect at the time of active service and not in other years.

Health certificates are differently labelled in member countries and CIO noted that the respective names in member countries should be referred to in the Observer CV. In GL it is called "Sundhedsbevis -Søfarende egnet til skibstjeneste or Blåbog" in FO it is «Blåbog fra søfartslege» and IS and NO would return with the name in questions.

#### 3.2 PROVISION TEXT INCLUDING GUIDELINES TO OBSERVATION SCHEME

CIO reviewed the text of Section B of the Provisions of the Inspection and Observation including guidelines to Section B.

For streamlining purposes, a minor edit was made in paragraph 5 of Section B. The reference to NAMMCO /the Council – "the Council" was deleted and "for the coming year" was deleted. The new paragraph reads: NAMMCO decides annually the scope of the observation priorities.

The guidelines to Section B were discussed in detail and the agreed text is found in appendix 3.

#### 3.3 REPORTING

CIO had previously agreed:

- that each member should develop hunt specific check lists and that these would be the only reporting form for the observers on which the Secretariats annual reporting to Council would be based.

CIO reiterated the importance of the check lists and that these would represent a major part of the reporting from the observers. In addition, CIO agreed that it would be valuable to develop a standardised reporting form covering issues like number of days of observed hunting days, days of travel, information on weather and ice conditions. For inspiration the national fisheries inspectors' forms should be reviewed. Levermann and Ynnesdal agreed to consult the national inspectors' forms and report back within a week.

CIO agreed that the check lists would be developed and/or revised when the scope of the observation activities required it. The member country in question would be the responsible agent for developing the lists. The priority for 2020 is the check list for Norwegian sealing. The check list was circulated to CIO prior to the skype meeting on 18 February.

It was also agreed that CIO would review logbooks and licenses to discuss if and how the information collected through these could be best used. What kind of analyses would be feasible based on the information? Only GL had submitted this information prior to the meeting so CIO agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting. Members would submit licences and logbooks to this end prior to the meeting.

## 4. EVALUATION OF THE SCHEME

### 4.1 MEMBERS COMPLIANCE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

To meet one of the objectives of the scheme, CIO has agreed to review member countries compliance to recommendations given by NAMMCO. Compliance may among other things be measured by recommendations being reflected in national regulations where applicable. CIO agreed that both the CHM document “Overview of Recommendations from CHM Workshop and Expert group meetings (documents CHM-03) and the Management Committee document “Overview of recommendations for conservation and management” (document MC-05) would be useful tools.

The Chair and the Secretary will review the documents and categorise the recommendations and responses, based on the principle of identifying recommendations of concern or not of concern. The developed list will be circulated to members in advance of the next meeting for their comments and the compiled list with responses will form the basis for this part of the evaluation of the Scheme.

### 4.2 COVERAGE RATES

Assuming coverage rates might be one useful tool for evaluating the Scheme, CIO agreed at its last meeting to task the members to consider and give proposals for applicable coverage rates when developing the hunt specific check lists with a deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Rethinking CIO agreed that coverage rates not necessarily would be a fixed measure for a specific hunt and thus should be discussed and defined when setting the scope for a year. This is in line with the decision to develop hunt specific check lists in conjunction with setting the scope.

CIO discussed possible coverage rates related to the 2020 scope, Norwegian sealing in the pack ice. Based on information gathered by the national inspectors what kind of coverage rates are feasible? The national inspection scheme has 100% coverage in terms of presence on board. The main task of the national inspectors is to oversee that the killing process, the 3-step process, is followed.

Total number of catches is recorded but not whether it is from the “plukkfangst” or the hunt on the ice for adult seals. CIO tasked Ynnesdal in cooperation with the Secretariat to look at possible coverage rates and to incorporate this aspect into the check list for sealing.

## 5. TRAINING COURSE OBSERVERS

The training course for observer candidates was held 5 – 7 February at the Directorate of Fisheries in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland. Participating were nine observers (1 from FO, 3 from GL, 3 from IS and 2 from NO) and nine presenters (including one by skype). The 3 day programme covered presentations on NAMMCO as an organisation, Section B of the Inspection and Observation Scheme, the different hunts taking place in NAMMCO including relevant regulations with examples of check lists, former observers sharing their experiences on being out in the field and administrative conditions like contracts, remuneration.

The internal (CIO) and external (observers) evaluation and feedback from the 2013 course had pointed to language as the principal challenge. Both in 2013 and 2020 most presentations were given in Danish, Norwegian or some mix of Nordic languages and not English. The rationale for this had been that this is the reality the observer meets out in the field and thus the observers needs to be able to communicate under such circumstances.

When planning the 2020 course efforts were focused on reducing the language barriers. It was considered essential to create a relaxed and “safe” atmosphere so participants would be comfortable communicating when they did not understand or when more information was needed during presentations. To this end the course started with an activity where participants paired up to interview each other for the purpose of presenting the partner to the group in plenum afterwards. CIO members had agreed prior to the course to actively intervene during presentations with questions for clarification or with added information, with the aim of contributing to an informal setting. In addition, emphasis on social happenings like joint dinners (the chair invited the group home one evening) and visiting the Maritime Museum in Reykjavik assisted in making an informal, team like atmosphere.

The feedback from the observers were positive and those members of CIO that had participated in 2013 experienced that the group was more dynamic, actively participating and engaging in the dialogue. The composition of the observers may have contributed to this as the 2020 group were national fisheries/marine mammal inspectors /wildlife officers. This contributed to good discussion in general and especially on the different role of an observer and an inspector.

CIO discussed the merits of organising training courses when comparing the financial and time wise costs with the outcome. For example, some observers will not be actively deployed for several years thus most of the hunt related information will be forgotten. It was pointed out that this manner of transferring knowledge may be outdated and that one should consider more modern ways of doing it. The programme conveying a huge amount of information, both in writing and orally, was overwhelming even for members of CIO who have been and are dealing with these issues regularly.

The feedback from the observers responding to a questionnaire was generally positive but with the majority responding that language is an obstacle. It was noted that presentation could as easily have been given in English as long as they could read the important information on the slides.

CIO agreed it would be valuable to contact “their” observers in retrospect to get feedback on what their expectations had been, how it was met, how NAMMCO can improve training in the future and whatever other input they may have. Generally, CIO agreed that any future meetings should involve more interactive exercises, only presenting target hunts (some hunts will never be observed for i.e. logistical reasons), more focus on actual tasks of the observer through active using the check lists in practical exercises and more focus on safety and administrative issues.

CIO discussed the importance of keeping the interest of the members of the observer corps alive and to take measures to ensure their continued involvement. CIO agreed to formalise annual online meetings of the corps where one standard agenda item could be that the observer(s) of the season share his/her/their experiences.

CIO concluded that it would be recommended to reconsider the format of training courses while keeping in mind that language is the main challenge. Written information should be ready online before the start of a course so that those who feel the need can print it out and use it for notes. All material presented at the course will be made available on the NAMMCO webpage, i.e. national legislation, example of licenses, checklists and all presentations.

Interactive exercises should be investigated. CIO agreed to look into developing simple hands out /fact sheets in all NAMMCO languages with basic information on what NAMMCO is, the observation scheme and the role and task of the observer.

To keep the interest of the observer corps and to update the corps on new developments CIO will initiate annual online meetings with the observer corps.

## **6. NOMINATION OF OBSERVER CANDIDATES**

CIO had previously agreed that approved observers would continue to be part of the corps. With respect to the eight new nominate candidates CIO recommended that Council approve all. The new candidates and the previously approved candidates that are still active are listed in appendix 4.



## 7. IDENTIFYING SCOPE OF OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES IN 2021

CIO had previously identified the following elements for prioritisation of scope of observations:

- Hunting level
- Hunts not covered by national inspectors – monitored by humans
- Implementation and compliance of new recommendations into national regulations
- Hunts where the SC or CHM request data
- Rotation between member countries
- Rotation between hunts (time interval when last observed)
- Maximising the effort to reach the objectives by allocating money from several years into one year.
- Practicality of the respective hunts making the observation assignment not feasible
- Small scale hunts that are happening infrequently and in remote areas

At the last meeting walrus, narwhal and beluga hunting in Greenland had been identified as the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority should there be no Norwegian sealing vessels going out in 2020.

CIO agreed to recommend that these Greenlandic hunts be the scope for observation activities in 2021. Levermann and Winsnes will further identify time and place based on catch statistics.

## 8. WORK PLAN

CIO agreed on the following workplan:

### 2020

#### February/March up to Council 28

- Finalize Section B – including guidelines
- Give recommendation on remuneration of observers
- Resolve insurance issues

#### Meeting August/September

- Review Section A – what has member countries used this for and how
- Review the reports from the 2020 observer
- Defining scope and range of observation activities in a three-year perspective (2022, 23 and 24), look at coverage rates, developing check lists – perhaps cooperate with SC on which hunts would be interesting for them to have more information on
- Assess the quality and functionality of the requested annual data input
- Review the recommendations in the documents MC-05 and CHM-03 to assess members compliance

### 2021

Follow up unresolved issues identified for the August 2020 meeting

## 9. WEBSITE - QUALITY CHECK

Responding to recommendations from the Working Group on the follow up from the Performance Review, CIO had agreed that new information for the website should be reviewed by the committee prior either in a meeting or intersessional by correspondence. Furthermore, CIO agreed to consider how the work of the committee could be more visible.

In line with this CIO discussed the benefits of developing fact sheets (see agenda item 5 above) and proposed that that this might be an assignment for an intern.

## 10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on 25 August 2020 in Copenhagen.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Topics/issues arising from the observer course and CIO recommendations:

### **Equipment and competence**

Binoculars should be part of the tool kit for observers. CIO agreed to recommend that binoculars are made available for all observers. The Secretariat will come with a suggestion on how to accomplish this.

Radio communication and VHF certification. Members will investigate whether this is a part of the safety at sea course that observer must have and report back.

In Greenland the VHF radio is part of the toolbox that the observers will bring with them when observing for NAMMCO.

Observers must be able to communicate with NAMMCO and with national contact persons during the assignment. Either they will get a sim card or NAMMCO will reimburse their telephone cost.

The observers will often have survival suits, binoculars etc as part of their personal equipment as national inspectors. The equipment is not private property but the property of the national authorities.

### **Remuneration**

The current remuneration rates for observers was revised in 2008 based on the rates for national inspectors in the member countries at that time.

Norway, Greenland and Iceland had submitted information on the 2019 levels for national inspectors and the Faroes Islands were encouraged to share the same information.

CIO recommended that the rates be adjusted for the Norwegian inflation rate going back to the year when the rates were last adjusted.

## 12. ADOPTION OF REPORT

The report was adopted by correspondence on 28 February 2020.

## **Appendix 4: Observer corps**

### **NEW OBSERVERS TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

#### **Faroe Islands:**

Ragnar Johannesen

#### **Greenland:**

Gerth Kristian Kristiansen  
Svend Emil Lindenhann

#### **Iceland:**

Soffía Árnadóttir  
Óli Þór Jóhannsson  
Þórarinn Sigurður Traustason

#### **Norway:**

Trond Bakken  
Jørgen Ree Wiig

### **PREVIOUSLY APPROVED – STILL ACTIVE**

#### **Faroe Islands:**

Bjarni Mikkelsen  
Signar Petersen

#### **Greenland:**

Ado Holm  
Anthon Hegelund  
Per Nukaraaq Hansen  
Hans Mølgaard

#### **Iceland:**

Eyþór Þórðarson

#### **Norway:**

Kristian Franer