

1. PROPOSAL FOR THE 2022 OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Council (Council-460) meeting, March 2020 allocated NOK 300,000 for observation activities in 2021 "with the view to strengthening the implementation of the Observation Scheme. The allocation is pending the submission by OD of a detailed plan for scope of activities and its subsequent approval of Council".

The following proposal was submitted by the OD to the FAC meeting in October 2020:

- To cancel the observation activities in 2021 due to the COVID-19 situation and transfer the allocated budget of NOK 300,000 for observation activities in 2021 to 2022.
- To allocate a further NOK 200,000 for observation activities in 2022, which combined with the carryover from 2021, brought the total budget available to NOK 500,000. It was argued that no observers had been active since the 2017 season, and NOK 500,000 would approximately represent the combined cost had the observation scheme been active in the 5 years 2008–2012. For information, the average annual expenditure from all active years is NOK 120,308 (2009–2007) and NOK 108,303 for the last 10 active observation seasons (2008–2017).
- The new observation scheme approved in 2019 introduced the option of "setting aside" allocated budgets for observation activities from several years to enable an increased effort in one specific year.

The presented proposal for the scope of observation activities in 2022 is reiterated below, under item 2.

The FAC meeting in October 2020 agreed to cancel the 2021 activities due to the pandemic and discussed the proposal for increasing the 2022 budget. FAC asked the OD to come back with more information on the added value that the increase of NOK 200,000 would have on the observation activities proposed for 2022.

1.2 HOW TO MEASURE THE VALUE OF AN OBSERVATION SCHEME

The provisions of the Observation Scheme define the purpose as collecting reliable information on all kinds of hunting activities. From this it follows that the more reliable information collected, the greater value it has for NAMMCO. Information is primarily obtained through contracting observers to go to certain areas and observe certain hunts, and by the OD reviewing national legislation.

In previous years, the scope of observations was mostly chosen based on a principle of rotation between member countries and hunts. Within the new Observation Scheme, the OD has identified the following additional criteria for deciding the observation focus in a year:

- Hunting level
 - Hunts not covered by national inspectors – monitored by humans
 - Hunts for which the SC or OMA request data (e.g., on trucks and left)
 - Maximising the effort to reach the objectives of the Scheme by allocating money from several years into one year.
- Hunts that are not a priority:
- Small scale hunts happening infrequently and in remote areas
 - Hunts not practically feasible for observation because of specific hunting methods or other aspects

With the scope defined, maximising the outcome for the allocated budget requires first and foremost identifying (based on catch statistics from previous years), the locations and times of year that give the highest probability of successfully observing the chosen hunts.