



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 28

22-25 March 2021

Online

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DOCUMENT 10	SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION (CIO) MEETING REPORTS
Submitted by	CIO/Secretariat
Action requested	<p>To take note of the reports and acknowledge the submission of a proposal for amending the Terms of Reference for the CIO.</p> <p>To consider and decide on the forwarded recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The redundance of Section A of the Provisions of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme • The guidelines to the Observer Scheme • The amended text of paragraph 5 for the Observer Scheme • The new rates for remuneration of observers • The appointment of observers to the corps • The Scopes for 2021 and 2022 observation activities <p>To consider the proposed Work plan.</p>
Background	
Content	<p>Part 1 and 2: Summary of CIO activities March 2019 to March 2021</p> <p>Appendix 1: Proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure</p> <p>Appendix 2: NAMMCO Observer Corps</p>

1. MEETINGS AND MEMBERS

CIO meetings and reports (click on link):

- 2019: [21 May](#) and [1-2 October](#)
- 2020: [16 January, 8 and 18 February, 3 April, 6-8 October](#) and [26 November](#)
- 2021: [16-17 February](#)

Committee members:

- FO: Ulla Svarrer Wang
- GL: Sofie Abelsen, Jesper Ødegaard Jakobsen, Amalie Jessen and Nette Levermann (until July 2020)
- IS: Guðni Magnús Eiríksson
- NO: Guro Gjelsvik (from 2021) and Hild Ynnesdal

Chair: Guðni Magnús Eiríksson

2. OVERVIEW OF MAIN DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

The discussions and considerations informing the recommendations reflected below are found in the reports from the meetings – linked under item 1 above.

2.1 JOINT NAMMCO CONTROL SCHEME FOR THE HUNTING OF MARINE MAMMALS

The Council 27 endorsed a new Observation Scheme that in effect replaced Section B of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme and asked the CIO to review Section A of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme, which dealt with common elements for national inspection schemes.

2.1.1 Section A on common elements of national inspections, agenda item 7.2.1

Reviewing Section A (see NAMMCO/28/FI04), the CIO agreed that these guidelines were outdated in the sense that most of the elements are de facto incorporated in today's national inspection schemes for the hunts in question (hunting with harpoon gun). It was also noted that national inspection systems usually build on international fisheries standards, and that there is no apparent need to reinvent the wheel.

When Section A was developed, it was designed to give inspectors the possibility to collect scientific data. However, the reality is that data identified as important for the work of the scientific committee and other committees have been collected through other channels.

Concluding its review of Section A, the CIO **recommends** that Section A is redundant and the CIO there is no proposal for developing common elements for member countries national inspection schemes of other hunts.

2.1.2 Section B - OBSERVATION SCHEME - administrative issues, agenda item 7.2.2

The Provisions of Section B – International Observation Scheme with guidelines, was adopted by the Council 27. Some administrative and procedural issues (embedded in the guidelines) were not finalised at the time of the adoption. In relation to these outstanding issues, the CIO has developed guidelines, found in document NAMMCO/28/16, that build on the following 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.
- 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 is withdrawn/cancelled by either personal notification or notification by the (nominating) member country.

- A procedure for identifying and approving the scope has been agreed.
- How to report on the Observation Scheme has been described and a plan for how the hunt specific checklists will be developed has been agreed.

Other more practical issues agreed are:

- 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.
- Observers in the Faroe Islands will be equipped with life vests should this be needed. This will be arranged by the national authorities.
- Ensure that the observers have binoculars as part of their tool kit when going out.

The CIO **recommends** that the guidelines as found in document NAMMCO /28/16 be adopted by the Council.

To streamline the text of the Observation Scheme with the proposed guidelines the CIO **recommends** changing the text of paragraph 5 of the Observation Scheme as follows:

- NAMMCO/~~the Council~~ decides ~~annually~~ the scope of observation priorities ~~for the coming year~~.

Given that Council endorses the recommendations put forward by the CIO, the Provisions of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals in member countries will become a historic document. In its place, NAMMCO has adopted a new Observation Scheme that includes a set of guidelines for the implementation of the Scheme.

2.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CIO

The adoption of the Observation Scheme requires changes to the Terms of Reference (ToR) as described in the Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the CIO. The CIO also proposes that, should the Council endorse the recommendations put forward under item 2.1, the ToR should be amended to include a reference to national inspection schemes.

Reviewing national inspection schemes are indirectly covered in the objectives of the Observation Scheme when it is stated that it shall *“provide a mechanism for NAMMCO to oversee whether recommendations made by NAMMCO are implemented and national regulations are adhered to”*.

However, to strengthen transparency and clarity, it was seen as expedient to include a reference to national inspection schemes and the CIOs mandate to give advice on these should Council require this. Appendix 1 gives the recommended new text of the Terms of Reference in the Rules of Procedure.

Paragraph VI on Amendments of Rules in the RoP requires that a proposal be submitted to the Chair of the Council no later than 60 days prior to the Council meeting at which the matter is to be discussed. The proposal to amend the RoP is consequently not up for discussion at the current meeting but is forwarded to the Council for adoption at a later date, which is to be defined by the Council.

2.3 EVALUATION OF THE OBSERVATION SCHEME

To meet one of the objectives of the scheme, CIO agreed to review the compliance of member countries to recommendations given by NAMMCO. A first step has been to review the document “Overview of Recommendations from CHM Workshop and Expert group meetings”.

Reviewing all recommendations and responses and having classified them according to whether they are completed or active, the CIO will continue to consider if this overview may be used as a tool to obtain quantitative information about member countries responses to recommendations. A first step will be to investigate if and how statistical information can be extracted in an efficient manner.

2.4 OBSERVER TRAINING COURSE

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

The CIO viewed the course as more dynamic and interactive compared to the course which was held in 2013. Discussing the cost/benefit of similar courses, the CIO recommended reconsidering the format, while keeping in mind that the language barrier remains the main challenge.

2.4.1 Meeting of the observers

The CIO has agreed to organise annual online meetings with the observers to update the corps on new developments and activities in NAMMCO. The first meeting was held 12 November 2020.

2.5 REMUNERATION OF OBSERVERS

The current remuneration rates for observers were revised in 2008 based on the rates for national inspectors in the member countries at that time. The 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 at sea. Currently NOK 2 400.
- NOK 2 276 per day when land based. Currently NOK 1 800.
- NOK 2 900 as a lump sum. Currently NOK 2 300

2.6 APPOINTMENT OF OBSERVERS TO THE CORPS

Previously, observers have been nominated and approved every year. One of the recommended changes in the guidelines to the Observation Scheme (item 2.1.2.) is to have a corps of observers to draw from to avoid a bureaucratic annual procedure.

Council approved all nominated observer candidates for the year 2021 by correspondence 30 October 2020. The CIO **recommends** that Council extends this approval to be an approval of all the candidates to be members of the observation corps in line with the recommended guidelines (item 2.1.2). All candidates are listed in appendix 2.

2.7 OBSERVATION PRIORITY 2021 AND 2021, AGENDA ITEM 7.3

Due to the pandemic, all planned observation activities for 2020 and 2021 were cancelled. The CIO recommendation on scope and range for 2021 is found in document NAMMCO/28/17. The **recommended** scope is walrus, narwhal and beluga hunting in West Greenland, with a budget of NOK 432,000.

2.8 PANEL REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The 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. The CIO discussed the forwarded recommendations in their meeting on 1-2 October 2019 and the responses can be found under agenda item 3 of that report.

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

2.9 DATABASE, DATA REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

The CIO has finalised the annual data requirements pertaining to national control efforts. Member countries have submitted their 2019 and 2020 data accordingly. The CIO have agreed that it might be

prudent to re-evaluate the different data categories requested with respect to usability and applicability.

2.10 WORK PLAN 2021-2022, AGENDA ITEM 7.4

2021

- Begin the part of the implementation of the 2022 observation activities that the CIO is responsible for, such as: develop check lists for the different hunts
- Begin work on defining a proposal for scope and range of observation activities for 2023
- Organise the annual online meeting of the observer corps

2022

- Meeting of the CIO in February
- Review submitted data from 2021
- Finalise outstanding issues for the 2022 observation activities
- Finalise the proposal for scope and range of observer activities for 2023 for the approval of Council
- Organise the annual online meeting of the observer corps

Appendix 1: Amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the CIO

I Terms of Reference

1. The Committee shall, upon request from the Council, individual member countries or the Secretariat provide advice on the NAMMCO Observation Scheme ~~Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme~~ for the hunting of marine mammals.

The Committee shall, upon request from the Council or individual member countries, provide advice on national inspection schemes.

2. The Committee shall function as a standing review body to monitor the implementation of the NAMMCO Observation Scheme ~~under the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme~~ for the hunting of marine mammals and provide recommendations for improvements.
3. Members of the Committee may raise specific questions for discussion during meetings of the Committee. The Committee may make proposals to the Council for specific tasks to undertake within its terms of reference.
4. Non-member governments with observer status in NAMMCO may request advice from the Committee through the Council.

II Membership

1. Each NAMMCO member country shall be represented with up to two Committee members.
2. The Committee shall elect from among its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair, who shall each serve for two years, after which time they may be re-elected.
3. The Committee may also seek outside expertise when the Committee considers this to be necessary and appropriate.

III Observers

1. Attendance of accredited observers shall not be permitted at the meetings of the Committee unless otherwise decided by the majority of the Committee and approved by the Council.

IV Meetings

1. The Committee shall meet once a year, preferably prior to the annual meeting of the Council, unless otherwise decided by the Council. Additional meetings may be held when judged necessary by the Committee and approved by the Chair of the Council.
2. A provisional agenda for the Committee shall be compiled by the Chair and distributed

to Committee members no later than 30 days prior to the meeting in question. Comments or suggestions for revision of the provisional agenda shall reach the Chair no less than 10 days prior to that meeting.

3. The Chair shall, in consultation with other members of the Committee and the Secretariat of NAMMCO, seek to ensure that key documentation of relevance to the provisional agenda is available at the meeting. As a general rule, all meeting documents to be discussed at any meeting of NAMMCO (Council and subsidiary bodies including Working Groups and Expert Groups) shall be made available through the Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the meeting. Information documents shall preferably become available by the end of the first day of the meeting.
4. For all meeting of the Committee and subsidiary bodies, the draft agenda, ToRs when relevant, list of participants and the meeting documents that will be published in the Annual Report should be made public and available on the NAMMCO website as soon as they are ready and circulated to the meeting participants.

V Report

1. Main recommendations and conclusions shall be formulated by the Secretariat and the Chair for consideration before the end of the Committee meeting. A final report of each meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat for approval by the Committee, reflecting the main deliberations and recommendations to Council. The adopted report shall be transmitted to all members of the Council as soon as possible after the meeting and within two weeks after the conclusion of the Committee's deliberation. The content of the reports shall be considered confidential prior to their release to the Council.
2. The report of the Committee shall be made available by the Secretariat to anyone who so wishes, according to guidelines approved by the Council.
3. Subsidiary bodies report their findings in writing to the Committee according to their terms of reference and within two weeks after the conclusion of their deliberations. Reports of subsidiary bodies shall be considered confidential until four weeks (excluding July) after being circulated to the Committee and the Council. Thereafter they shall be made public and available on the website. Within a week of the report being circulated to the Committee and the Council, Parties and/or members of the Committee may ask for a review of the report by the Committee on Inspection and Observation. The report shall then remain confidential until it is published together with the report of that Committee.

VI Amendment of Rules

1. Proposals for amendment of these Rules of Procedure shall reach the Chair of the Council not less than 60 days prior to the Council meeting at which the matter is to be discussed. The Chair of the Council shall transmit these proposals through the Secretariat to the Members of the Council not less than 30 days prior to that meeting.

Appendix 2: NAMMCO Observer Corps

OBSERVERS APPROVED BY COUNCIL IN 2020

Faroe Islands:

Ragnar Johannesen
Bjarni Mikkelsen
Signar Petersen

Greenland:

Per Nukaraaq Hansen
Anthon Hegelund
Ado Holm
Gerth Kristian Kristiansen
Svend Emil Lindenhann
Hans Mølgaard

Iceland:

Soffía Árnadóttir
Óli Þór Jóhannsson
Þórarinn Sigurður Traustason
Eyþór Þórðarson

Norway:

Trond Bakken
Kristian Franer
Jørgen Ree Wiig