

NAMMCO



COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

*10 February 2022
Online meeting*

REPORT



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0. SUMMARY

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met online on 10 February 2022.

Present were Hild Ynnesdal, Chair (Norway) and Guro Gjelsvik (Norway), Guðni Magnús Eiríksson (Iceland), Ulla Svarrer Wang (Faroe Islands), Niels Lyberth and Masaana Dorph (Greenland) and Charlotte Winsnes and Josephine Schulze from the Secretariat.

Actions arising from the meeting:

Secretariat

- Initiate meeting between the chairs of CHM, BYCELS, CIO and the Secretariat on the annual reporting
- Send out doodle for the online annual meeting of the observer corps
- Compile statistics on recommendations
- Cooperate with Greenland on revised budget for observation activities in 2023

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

The Chair, Hild Ynnesdal, opened the meeting for comments to the agenda. The agenda was adopted and meeting documents reviewed (Appendix 1).

Josephine Schulze participated to the meeting in her capacity as intern at the Secretariat.

2. ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS FOR 2021

NAMMCO/Database-2021 contained the database up to and including the year 2021.

CIO reviewed the submitted data from 2021 from member countries on national control efforts. Greenland had just received some of the data and reported directly to the meeting.

The Chair noted the previous discussion questioning the expediency and usability of the requested data. Currently there were categories that did not have applicability for all member countries due to the characteristics of the hunts and how they are carried out. It was also noted that member countries had different internal processes for collecting and submitting the data and that this might be affecting the result.

The current form and content of annual reporting originated from a desire to ease the reporting burden of member countries by having one date and one form to report all data previously submitted at different times to all the different committees in NAMMCO. Furthermore, it was also an attempt to standardise data with the aim of being able to make comparisons between countries and activities.

Based on experiences from the three years of this new reporting scheme the CIO reiterated the need to re-evaluate the categories. Recognising that most of the data requests relate to the work of the CHM and BYCELS, it was suggested to organise a meeting of the three chairs and the Secretariat. Such a meeting should review the situation and look at proposals for action that could be discussed in a meeting of all the three committees. The following issues were mentioned for consideration:

- what data does NAMMCO/the committee need in order to meet its mandate
- priorities for the members with respect to mandate
- the format of the reporting form, excel versus other software

The CIO discussed meeting format and recommended organising a face-to-face meeting to be able to give the necessary attention to the discussion and to be able to arrive at the best result. Timewise it

was agreed to plan for such a meeting before the summer. It was left to the chairs-secretariat meeting to set dates.

3. OBSERVATION ACTIVITY

The CIO had recommended to Council that the 2022 observation season be postpone to 2023 due to COVID-19. The Council agreed to this in its meeting 20 January and the observers involved had been informed accordingly.

The information was noted and all members agreed to keep the scope, beluga, narwhal and walrus hunts in West Greenland, also in 2023. Pointing to the special logistical challenges that had come up in connection with the planning of the 2022 season, in particular the need to rent boats in Upernavik, the feasibility of being able to carry out observations successfully was questioned. Greenland informed that the specific challenge of boat availability had in fact been solved albeit at a cost. The CIO was informed that it was envisaged that the same would be the case in 2023. The requirement to have a boat had not been on the table when the original budget for the observation activity had been proposed and agreed by the Council. CIO therefore agreed that the Secretariat in collaboration with Greenland should revisit the budget with this in mind.

4. EVALUATION OF THE OBSERVATION SCHEME

4.1 MEMBERS COMPLIANCE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

The CIO had previously gone through all recommendations arising from Workshops and Expert Group meetings organised by the CHM. The recommendations and responses by member countries had been reviewed with the aim of identifying which were completed and which were still active. With the completion of this very comprehensive exercise the CIO had agreed that a major part of member countries compliance to recommendations had been assessed.

At the last meeting the CIO questioned if this overview might give quantitative information about member countries responses to recommendations. Guðni Eiríksson and the Secretary was tasked to look at how and if statistical information could be extracted in a useful / fruitful manner.

Eiríksson and Winsnes had discussed various ideas without arriving at concrete proposals. Issues that had been discussed when looking at recommendations and responses by member countries were:

- not very informative in any comparative manner since the number of hunts are not equal between the members
- adherence to recommendations will be depended on whether the recommendations are feasible at all or within a certain timeframe

The CIO agreed to ask the Secretariat to find out how many of the total recommendations had been responded to as a first exercise.

5. ONLINE MEETING WITH THE OBSERVER CORPS

The Secretariat will send out a doodle to find a suitable date for the annual online meeting of the observer corps. It was agreed to use the same agenda as in 2020, i.e. introduction by CIO or Secretary on the postponement of the 2022 season and plans for the 2023 season, encourage observers to share their experiences relate to COVID in 2021 and ending with an open floor session.

The CIO encouraged all members to try and come up with topics for inclusion on the agenda.

6. NEXT MEETING

The CIO agreed to meet face to face before the summer – see under agenda item 2.

7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The report was adopted by correspondence on 18 February 2022.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS

AGENDA

1. Adoption of agenda and review of documents
2. Annual reporting from members for 2021
3. Observation activity
4. Evaluation of the observation scheme
5. Online meeting with the observer corps
6. Next meeting
7. Any other business (AOB)

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NAMMCO/CIO-2022-01/01	Draft annotated agenda and list of documents
NAMMCO/Database-2021	NAMMCO database 2021
NAMMCO/CHM-recommendations	Overview of recommendations