



NORTH ATLANTIC MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

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NAMMCO/23/15

REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2014 SEASON OF THE NAMMCO INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION SCHEME UNDER THE JOINT NAMMCO CONTROL SCHEME FOR THE HUNTING OF MARINE MAMMALS

The following report has been prepared in accordance with article B.7.2 of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals.

Article B.7.2 states: “The Secretariat prepares an annual report of the observation scheme, in which the implementation of the scheme is described, for the review of Council. The document shall include reports of any violations, as well as other relevant comments.”

PLANS FOR OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES

In October 2013 the Secretariat developed a proposal for the scope and range of observation activities for 2014 with related budget for these activities. (Guidelines to Section B, item 14). The proposal was approved by Council in January 2014 but was changed in March 2014. Originally, the plan was to have one observer on board a sealing vessel in Norway but due to logistical problems, this was changed to waling and sealing in Greenland.

APPOINTMENT OF OBSERVERS

According to item 11 of the Guidelines, member countries shall submit a list of observer candidates for the following year to the Secretariat by 15 November. The list shall include information on the qualifications of candidates, including their educational background, language skills, and experience in inspection or any other areas relevant to Council in its consideration of their appointment as NAMMCO observers.

For the 2014 season the list of nominated observer candidates was approved without changes by the Council in January 2014.

OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Sealing and whaling in Greenland were the scope of the scheme for 2014, and one observer was contracted for the period 17 August to 5 September.

During the observation period the observer participated in one hunt for minke whales. Only seals and one harbour porpoise were caught during this two-day trip. The observer also participated in a seal hunt. Although the observer travelled around to different localities the overall situation was that the hunters did not go out due to bad weather conditions.

The observer found that he could carry out the observations in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme. No violations were reported, and reports have been submitted to the Secretariat. In general the

observer made the point that communication between wildlife officers, hunters and the observer are often not optimal. People say they will call but often do not.

Prior to the observation period, the observer had been provided with the Provisions of the Joint NAMMCO Control Scheme for the Hunting of Marine Mammals and had received an overview of the national laws and regulations pertaining to hunting of marine mammals in Greenland. In addition, the observer held meetings with authorised personnel upon arrival in the Greenland.