



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 30

29-30 March 2023

Rødbanken, Tromsø

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

DOCUMENT 10	REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION (CIO)
Submitted by	CIO/Secretariat
Action requested	To take note of the report and agree on proposed work plan
Background/content	

1. MEETINGS AND MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 2022 – APRIL 2023

No meetings (online or physical) have been held since Council 29 and all activity and decisions taken have been by correspondence (email).

Committee members:

- FO: Ulla Svarrer Wang
 - GL: Masaana Dorph, Amalie Jessen, Niels Lyberth
 - IS: Elin B. Ragnarsdottir
 - NO: Guro Gjelsvik
- Chair: Guro Gjelsvik

2. OBSERVATION SCHEME

The Council agreed in late 2021 to postpone the planned observation activities from 2022 to 2023 due to the ongoing uncertainties of traveling. In September 2022, Council 29 decided to decrease the observation budget from NOK 431,000 to NOK 300,000.

The originally proposed scope and range included three observers traveling to Upernavik and Sisimiut observing walrus, beluga and narwhal hunts. Since the first allocation of NOK 431 000 (Council 28-2021) costs had increased resulting in the CIO asking Council 29 for a total budget of NOK 500 000. However, Council 29 responded with decreasing previous years allocation leaving the budget allocation at NOK 300 000. The decision to decrease the original allocation was made based on considerations of the extraordinary present situation with the aftermath from the pandemic years and the geopolitical situation. Both aspects had resulted in strained national and other budgets worldwide.

Responding to the decreased budget, the CIO reviewed different possibilities, especially addressing how to maximise the value of the money spent. The observation budget is driven by two elements, the number of observers and the duration of assignments. Maximising the budget essentially corresponds to make every effort to get as many observations (translated into days of observation) as possible. This entails identifying locations and times of the year that will give the highest probability of observing the targeted hunt(s).

Upernavik, had been chosen to observe narwhal hunts. As it would require renting a boat and buying fuel, and because of anticipated language challenges (few speaking Danish/English) it had been decided to contract two observers, one local and one from outside Greenland. With the limited funds now available, the CIO agreed to disregard Upernavik and concentrate on Sisimiut. The scope was redefined, and two observers were contracted for March – April with target hunts walrus and beluga. If narwhal or other hunts took place during the observation period these would be included.

2.1 ANNUAL REPORTING FROM MEMBERS

The submitted data was revised 14 March 2023 with no special comments.

2.2 ONLINE MEETING WITH THE OBSERVER CORPS

CIO continues to hold online annual meetings with the observer corps, the next is scheduled to April /May 2023.

2.3 WORK PLAN 2023-2024

- Organise the annual online meeting of the observer corps
- Report on the 2023 observation activities
- Develop a proposal for scope and range of observer activities for 2024 for the approval of Council