



COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

26 August 2024
Online

REPORT



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The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met online on August 26, 2024. The CIO was chaired by Ulla S. Wang (Faroe Islands). The meeting agenda and list of participants are available in Appendix 1 and 2, respectively.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS

Wang welcomed the participants to the meeting.

The agenda was adopted without further amendments and the meeting documents reviewed (Appendix 1). Document CIO/2024-03/05 was not available at the time of the meeting. However, Guro Gjelsvik informed the CIO that the document would be circulated among the participants in the days following the meeting.

2. EVALUATION OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OBSERVATION SCHEME

The Chair provided an overview of the background and task assigned to the CIO for this agenda item. To accomplish this task, the CIO agreed to follow the plan outlined below, which also applies to agenda items 2 and 3:

1. **Define the scope and goals of the evaluation of the Observation Scheme.** As requested by the Council 31 *“to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the observation scheme, the appropriate methodologies for effective OA [Observation Activity] and the means to improve the effectiveness of the observation effort, through evaluating i.e.:*
 - *The regularity and intervals of the OA,*
 - *The benefit of allowing certified national and local observers to serve as observers,*
 - *The benefit of new observation methods such as drones and other means for remote monitoring,*
 - *Any other question the CIO would find relevant to examine, such as the need for flexibility in addressing Observation Activities, as appropriate.”*
2. **Identify the stakeholders.** In line with Council 31’s request *“such an evaluation [should be done] through consultations with all relevant parties— observers, hunters, local authorities, and other stakeholders—as appropriate, to understand how each party envisions successful Observation Activities, what the needs are, and how the current format of the Observation Activities should be improved.”*
3. **Deliverables and communication procedure.** The CIO will forward a report to Council 32 (deadline for the submission of the report being 7 March 2025) evaluating the Observation Scheme and recommend methodologies to improve observation activities. This report will include summaries of consultations with relevant parties, including hunters, ministries/directorates (see agenda item 3), inspectors, and observers, as well as the overall evaluation of the Committee

Hunters: The CIO began by discussing how to proceed with the communication with the hunters. Engaging with hunters will allow to inform them about the Observation Scheme, gather feedback on how it can be improved, and build trust. Communication will be tailored to each country:

- Faroe Islands: **Wang will contact the chairperson of the Pilot Whalers Association in Autumn 2024** and participate in their meeting in Spring 2025.
- Iceland: **Jóhann Ásmundsson will reach out to individual hunters in Iceland.**
- Greenland: **Niels Lyberth will organise a meeting with whale hunters (likely KNAPK) in Greenland in late November 2024.**
- Norway: **Gjelsvik will participate in the Norwegian Small Whale Association (Norges Småkvalfangerlag) annual meeting in December 2024.** Due to the

small number of **seal hunters (West Ice and coastal seal)**, they **will be contacted individually**.

Ministries/Directorates: This consultation began following the CIO/2024-2 meeting (May 2024), in which authorities were asked to fill in a form about the methodologies (see agenda item 3).

Inspectors and observers: **Members of the CIO will reach out to inspectors and observers to ask for individual feedback.**

Other stakeholders: the CIO discussed the possibility to communicate/cooperate with members of other NAMMCO committees who may have observed hunting activities, in particular members of the Committee on Hunting Methods and the Scientific Committee.

To facilitate the flow of information, **the Secretariat will prepare a PowerPoint presentation on the CIO’s Observation Scheme and develop a survey for the various stakeholders**. CIO members will need to approve these materials and may use them as they see fit.

4. Schedule of the evaluation process.

	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
CIO meetings											?	
Development of the evaluation plan												
Preparation of communication material												
Carrying out the evaluation												
Consultations with stakeholders												
Ministries/Directorates												
Hunters								GL	NO			
Observers/Inspectors												
Preparing the evaluation report												C32

C32=NAMMCO Council 32

3. EVALUATION OF THE APPROPRIATE METHODOLOGIES FOR EFFECTIVE OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES

The CIO presented and discussed the responses delivered on the evaluation form that they were requested to complete following CIO/2024-2 (May 2024) regarding the possible methodologies for effective OAs. The responses are compiled in Table 1, together with comments by the CIO members.

It is noticeable that, all countries except Norway, found the possibility of using national and local observers a good thing, as this allows more flexible in terms of time and schedule and less costly.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

The next CIO meeting will be held on November 11, 2024.

The report was adopted by correspondence on September 5, 2024.

Table 1. Summary of relevant information provided by the Ministries/Directorates about the appropriate methodologies to be employed in OA in NAMMCO member Countries. Additional comments indicated during the meeting are written in italics.

	FO	IS	GL	NO
Allowing national/local observers				
Do you think it would be beneficial to allow national/local observers to serve as NAMMCO observers in OA taking place in your country?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No, the hunts can be planned, so observers do not need to be local/national. The local inspectors are concerned about conflict of interest – this need further consideration.
If yes, who could serve as such?	Faroese observers, hunters, fisheries inspectors NAMMCO scientists, fisheries inspectors	National inspectors from the directorate of fisheries	Fisheries and hunting inspectors	
Using new methods for OA				
Do you think it would be appropriate to use remote monitoring for conducting OA in your country for some of the hunts? If yes which ones?	No	Yes, cameras on whaling ships. <i>Drones could be used for observing seal hunting.</i>	Drones? Make experiments with drone surveillance, but currently there is no executive order to make this kind of surveillance.	No. The technology needs further development. Norway is using the AI (catch id) to improve quantitative information, not to observe incidents.
If yes, which means would you suggest using? Please be specific.		Yes, remotely operated cameras on whaling ships.	Large whale hunts	

What are the pros and cons of using these methods in your country?		Pros: We could record all killings Cons: Issues in relation to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	It can help form an overview. Drones you buy in stores have a battery that lasts for approx. 45 minutes	
Regularity of the OA				
What would you see as the appropriate regularity for conducting OA in your country?	5-10 years in between	OA with approx. 5 years intervals seems adequate.	Every 2 year.	5-10 years. The seal hunt has inspectors on board, so this can be less frequent
Should all the hunts be observed with the same regularity?	Only one hunt	Currently Iceland is only involved in Fin whale hunt. This year (2024) no whaling is planned	No, some hunts are more popular than other. <i>Focus on one or several species per observation year</i>	
Other questions				
Is there any specific relevant question the CIO should consider when preparing OA in your country?	No	Nothing specific in Iceland that would need different or more attention than in general when it comes to planning OA in NAMMCO	Clear instructions and instructions for observers. What can the observers use as a means of transport Opportunity for sparring with local inspector.	

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS
2. EVALUATION OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OBSERVATION SCHEME
3. EVALUATION OF THE APPROPRIATE METHODOLOGIES FOR EFFECTIVE OA
4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Document Reference	Title	Agenda item
CIO/2024-03/01	Draft agenda & list of documents	1
CIO/2024-03/01b	Draft annotated agenda	1
CIO/2024-03/02	Evaluation of the appropriate methodologies for effective OA - FO	3
CIO/2024-03/03	Evaluation of the appropriate methodologies for effective OA - GL	3
CIO/2024-03/04	Evaluation of the appropriate methodologies for effective OA - IS	3
CIO/2024-03/05	<i>Evaluation of the appropriate methodologies for effective OA - NO</i>	3

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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