



COMMITTEE ON INSPECTION AND OBSERVATION

11 November 2024
Online

REPORT



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NAMMCO

Postbox 6400, Sykehusveien 21-23, N-9294 Tromsø, Norway, +47 77687371,
nammco-sec@nammco.no, www.nammco.no

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The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met online on 11 November 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).

2. FOLLOW UP ON EVALUATION OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OBSERVATION SCHEME AND ITS APPROPRIATE METHODOLOGIES

The Chair provided a summary of the background, and the task assigned to the CIO for this agenda item, after which the CIO reported on the progress of each task.

Status on tasks agreed upon during the last meeting regarding the contact with the different stakeholder (see Agenda item 2.3. in Document CIO/2024-04/02). During the prior meeting (CIO/2024-03), CIO members committed to reaching out to various hunter groups, observers, and inspectors. The current status of these contacts is as follows:

- Faroe Islands: Wang confirmed the Ministry's participation in the Pilot Whalers Association Annual Meeting in Spring 2025. She will contact the chairperson to make the necessary arrangements.
- Iceland: Jóhann Ásmundsson reported that he has been in contact with a minke whale hunter in Iceland. While minke whaling is currently inactive in Iceland, it has also never been observed by a NAMMCO Observer. Notably, every fin whale hunt was observed, filmed and inspected during the 2023 whaling season in Iceland, however, only 24 animals were killed.
- Greenland: Niels Lyberth announced plans to organise online meetings with hunters from different regions of Greenland. These meetings are expected to take place in early December 2024.
- Norway: Guro Gjelsvik noted that participation in the annual meeting of the Norwegian Small Whale Association (Norges Småkvalfangerlag) at the end of November 2024 was not feasible. However, efforts are ongoing to reach out to individual seal hunters (both West Ice and coastal seal hunters).
- Contact with inspectors and observers: **The CIO agreed to send the same form Ministries and Directorates filled in June 2024 to inspectors and observers** (both NAMMCO observers and local observers).

Discussion about the presentation prepared by the Secretariat to present the Observation Scheme and CIO to the hunters (Document CIO/2024-04/03). Deputy Secretary Naima El Bani Altuna presented the PowerPoint to the Committee and requested feedback. This presentation will serve as a background for the discussion during upcoming meetings with the hunters. CIO members may use the presentation as they see fit and were welcomed to translate the material if needed.

The CIO approved the presentation and **agreed to develop the slide highlighting the benefits of cooperation between hunters and NAMMCO Committees**. The CIO also **agreed to include a slide about the Committee on Hunting Methods (CHM)**, as the CHM is undergoing a similar process aimed at improving communication and building trust with hunters.

Additional feedback would be provided via email in the weeks following the meeting. The PowerPoint will also be shared with members of the CHM for approval and feedback.

Questionnaire/survey prepared for hunters to evaluate the Observation Activities (OA). The CIO recognised the importance of holding an open dialogue with hunters to engage them openly about their experiences with the Observation Activities. Additionally, the CIO acknowledged the benefits of conducting a survey with specific themes, distributed via email to individual hunters, whether familiar with NAMMCO or not, to obtain a standardised perspective on what constitutes a successful and effective Observation Activity.

The **survey should cover the themes outlined in the Council 31 request**, specifically: the regularity and intervals of the OA, the benefits of involving certified national and local observers, the implementation of new observation methods and remote observation techniques, the identification of current needs, and suggestions for improvements to the existing OA.

The Secretariat will draft the survey, and the CIO has agreed to formalize this draft through email correspondence in the weeks following the meeting.

Other comments on the evaluation of the Observation Scheme. The Secretariat reminded the CIO of the recommendations made by the Committee and endorsed by Council 27 (2019) and Council 28 (2021) during the revision and evaluation of the Provisions of the Observation Scheme (Documents CIO/2024-04/04 and CIO/2024-04/05). The **CIO agreed to build upon and further develop these past recommendations**, recognising that only one Observation had been conducted since the update of the provisions. Nonetheless, the CIO acknowledged that this round of evaluations would still be valuable for enhancing the Committee's work and interactions with stakeholders.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

The next CIO meeting will be held in February 2025. The date will be decided by email correspondence.

The report was adopted by correspondence on 22 of November 2024.

APPENDIX 1: AGENDA

1. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS**
2. **FOLLOW UP ON EVALUATION OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OBSERVATION SCHEME AND ITS APPROPRIATE METHODOLOGIES**
3. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Document Reference	Title	Agenda item
CIO/2024-04/01a	Draft agenda & list of documents	1
CIO/2024-04/01b	Draft annotated agenda	1
CIO/2024-04/02	Report of the August meeting of the CIO (CIO/2024-03)	2
CIO/2024-04/03	Presentation to present the Observation Scheme and CIO to hunters	2
CIO/2024-04/04	NAMMCO 27 Council Report	2
CIO/2024-04/05	NAMMCO 28 Council Report	2

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Guro Gjelsvik (NO)

Directorate of Fisheries

Jóhann Ásmundsson (IS)

Directorate of Fisheries

Naima El bani Altuna

NAMMCO Secretariat

Niels Lyberth (GL)

Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting

Ulla Svarrer Wang (Chair, FO)

Ministry of Fisheries and Infrastructure