



NAMMCO ANNUAL MEETING 32

25-27 March 2025

Fram Centre, Tromsø Norway

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 To consider the proposed work plan
Background/content	<p>The NAMMCO Council 31 requested the CIO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>To evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the observation scheme, the appropriate methodologies for effective OA [Observation Activities] and the means to improve the effectiveness of the observation effort, through evaluating i.e.:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The regularity and intervals of the OA,</i> - <i>The benefit of allowing certified national and local observers to serve as observers,</i> - <i>The benefit of new observation methods such as drones and other means for remote monitoring,</i> - <i>Any other question the CIO would find relevant to examine, such as the need for flexibility in addressing Observation Activities, as appropriate.</i> <p><i>To carry out such an evaluation 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.</i></p> <p>This report summarised the evaluation on the Committee and the workplan from 2025 to 2027.</p>

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1. Meetings and members April 2024 – March 2025

The Committee on Inspection and Observation (CIO) met four times on the period from April 2024 to March 2025: 16 May 2024 (CIO/2024-02), 26 August 2024 (CIO/2024-03), 11 November 2024 (CIO/2024-04) and 17 February 2025 (CIO/2025-01). All the reports of the CIO can be found [here](#).

The CIO was chaired by Ulla S. Wang (Faroe Islands). In 2024, the CIO focussed on conducting the evaluation of the Observation Scheme, as requested by Council 31 and reporting the findings to Council 32.

Committee members:

- FO: Ulla Svarrer Wang (Chair)
- GL: Amalie Jessen, Niels Lyberth
- IS: Jóhann Ásmundsson
- NO: Guro Gjelsvik
- Secretariat: Geneviève Desportes, Naima El bani Altuna

2. Observers’ annual information meeting

The annual online meeting with the NAMMCO Observers’ Corps aimed to keep the observers engaged in NAMMCO Observation Activities (OA) by keeping them informed of what is happening and getting their input on different issues related to the OA. This is an important meeting, especially in period with no observation, and also because only a few observers are active in a year.

On 6 May 2024, the seven observers present in the meeting (one from the Faroe Islands, two from Greenland, one from Iceland and three from Norway) provided feedback on the OA format, emphasising the need for better communication and coordination among stakeholders, awareness of permissible documentation, improved planning and logistics, and flexible OA plans.

3. Evaluation of the Observation Scheme

Under the framework of the Observation Scheme, OA have traditionally been conducted annually in a different country and covering different hunting activities. There was a pause in 2018-2019 because of the first review, then in 2020-2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and presently in 2024-2025 because of the present review.

The Council 31 in 2024 decided to not have any OA in 2024 and 2025 (Figure 1) to give the time to a new evaluation. This decision was taken considering the unsuccessful OA conducted in 2023, with two observers sent to Upernavik and Sisimiut (West Greenland), but with no observation actually conducted partly due to bad weather. In addition to this, the Council deemed a stronger need to

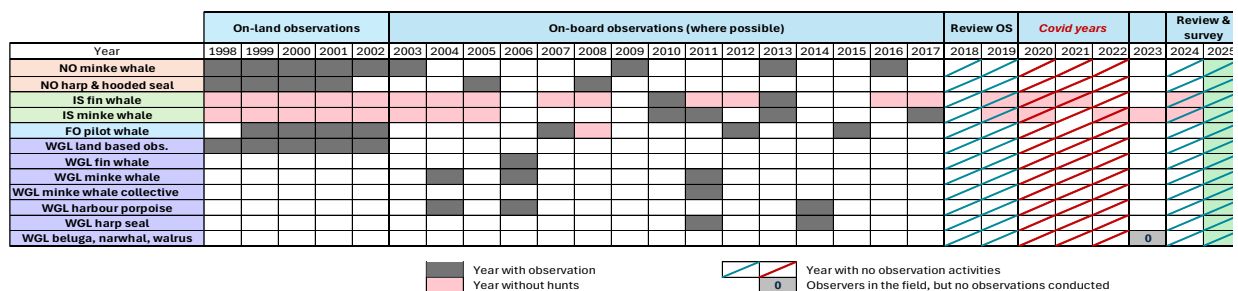


Figure 1. Observation Activities conducted since 1998, when their onset.

evaluate the OA due to the high costs associated with the OA, despite not having any guaranty that observations will take place due to the opportunistic nature of most hunting activities (the exception being the Norwegian minke whaling and Icelandic whaling that have a definite season). The Council 31 also decided that, should Council 32 decided to continue OA, the OA in 2026 should have the same objective as the OA in 2023 (i.e., observation of narwhal, beluga and walrus hunting in West Greenland), as these hunts had never been observed (Figure 1).

3.1. EVALUATION PROCESS

The original and actual timeline for the evaluation process can be found in Figure 2.

The three stakeholder groups named by the Council 31 were asked for feedback on the current form of the Observation Scheme:

3.1.1. Ministries and Directorates

The Secretariat prepared a questionnaire, which was reviewed by the Committee, and sent to the Ministries and Directorates of each country in June 2024 by the members of the CIO (Appendix 1).

3.1.2. Hunters

Members of the CIO agreed to participate in national meetings with whalers and sealers to both consult and disseminate information about the Observation Scheme. Due to the timing of these meetings, dissemination efforts only took place in Norway in November 2024 with the Norwegian Small Whale Hunter Association (Norges Småkvalfangerlag). The Secretariat participated exceptionally in this meeting on behalf of the Norwegian CIO member, which could not attend. The Faroese CIO member plans to participate in a similar meeting in the Faroe Islands in Spring 2025. It should be noted that Greenland faces challenges in gathering hunters due to the vast geographical distances and limited internet access at times. Additionally, documents for hunters need to be translated into Greenlandic, and their responses must be translated back into English.

In order to gather feedback from the hunters about the scheme, how it could be improved, and how a trustful atmosphere could be generated, the Secretariat was requested to prepare a survey for the hunters. After review and approval by the CIO, the survey was sent to national hunters by email by each of the CIO member (the survey is available in English in Appendix 2 and in Greenlandic in Appendix 3). The survey included questions about the regularity of observations, the observers, new methods that could be employed to conduct the OA, and suggestions for improvements. Respondents were also encouraged to provide feedback on the CIO, the Committee of Hunting Methods, and NAMMCO.

3.1.3. Observers and Inspectors

Observers were asked to provide feedback on the OA in an open discussion during the NAMMCO Observer Corps' Annual Meeting (see item 2).

Some delegations (GL, IS and NO) consulted with inspectors and observers to respond to the form that the Ministries and Directorates completed in June 2024. In addition to this, the CIO agreed in November 2024 (CIO/2024-04) to send the form again individually to their NAMMCO Observers and to gather their views on this matter. The CIO/2025-01 requested the Secretariat to send the form to the NAMMCO Observer Corps [therefore the results are not included in the current evaluation].

At the last meeting (CIO/2025-01), the CIO also planned to review past OA reports to gain insights on lessons learned, even if these reports are specific to that OA.

3.2. OUTCOMES OF THE EVALUATION OF THE OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CIO

The CIO used the consultations with stakeholders (reports of NAMMCO Observer Corps 2024, CIO/2024-03 and CIO/2025-01). The core of the evaluation is that to improve their effectiveness, the

OA should be more flexible, adapted to the specificities of the target hunt, the country and the stakeholders involved, with likely different methodologies involved.

3.2.1. Evaluation of the regularity of the OA

The consultation with the stakeholders, showed a wide range of responses regarding the ideal regularity of the OA. Establishing a specific regularity for conducting the OA proved challenging, as it depends on the hunts and the area where it occurs. The CIO **suggested** looking into a system that would allow the identification of hunting activities that require more frequent observation due to their higher risk of non-compliance with regulations, such as a risk assessment approach, similar to that used in fisheries management.

3.2.2. About the observers

There was a significant diversity of responses regarding the use of national and local observers, between countries. Some countries are positively inclined towards allowing national and local observers to participate in the OA. Hunters and Ministries in the Faroe Islands and Greenland considered the inclusion of local and national observers to be non-problematic and even beneficial, due to the opportunistic nature of the hunts and language barriers. Conversely, in Norway for example, the use of national observers was viewed as less ideal due to potential conflicts of interest and the planned nature of the hunts.

In 2019, Recommendation 7 from the CIO was endorsed by the Council 27 *“to allow national observers in specific cases due to specific logistical and language issues”* (Box 1), but Council 2019 agreed that the *“The general rule would still be to use non-national observers”* (see Appendix 4). Given the disparities seen in the responses by the stakeholders, the CIO **recommend** that the Council reconsider their 2019 response and **recommend** making the approach country specific. Foreign observers would be used in Norway, but local observers could be used more generally in Greenland and the Faroe Islands due to the opportunistic nature of the hunts. The advantage of this is to make the OA less expensive and more efficient if reasonable arrangements can be found to keep observers on call.

3.2.3. About the observation methods and remote techniques

The responses from different stakeholders did not seem conclusive on the use of new methods and remote techniques for observation. The CIO also noted that they would in addition have economic implications for NAMMCO. Instead, the CIO **expressed confidence** that the current method (in person) worked, although specific aspects (e.g., communication) needed significant improvement.

3.2.4. Needs and suggestions for improvement

Box 1. Relevant recommendations made by the CIO in 2019 regarding the improvement of the OA, endorsed by the Council 27. The full list can be found by Appendix 4.

- Recommendations (Rec) made by the CIO in 2019 and endorsed by the Council 27:**
- Rec 1:** Increasing coverage rates, using flexibility in scope and frequency of the observation activity.
 - Rec 2:** Developing an evaluation procedure that includes frequency and a set of criteria.
 - Rec 3:** Further developing hunt specific/catch event control lists and reporting forms to ensure the compilation of necessary data to make the evaluation of the implementation possible.
 - Rec 4:** Implementing the observation of the killing process of individual animals (drive hunts and sealing) to gain precise information on compliance with the legal killing procedures.
 - Rec 6:** Giving NAMMCO the possibility of assigning to the observer other tasks than observation activities (including scientific work).
 - Rec 7:** Allowing national observers in specific cases due to specific logistical and language issues.
 - Rec 8:** Encouraging observers to divide their time between several platforms in one season, instead of spending a longer time on a single platform.

The hunters’ and observers’ feedback highlighted a clear need to improve communication and dissemination regarding the OA and the Committees' work. The CIO **agreed** that addressing and enhancing communication is essential and **recommended** this is taken as a priority and implemented before the next OA (e.g., preparation of adequate material and contact with all stakeholders).

To improve communication, the CIO **recommended** prioritising holding meetings with hunters every year. These meetings could be with hunter associations (in the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Norway), or directly with hunters if such associations do not exist (in Iceland) or the contact is easier directly with hunters. The aim is to increase information dissemination and explain the rationale behind the observation scheme, as well as the roles of the CIO and other NAMMCO Committees. This initiative is expected to reduce misunderstandings and confusion, increase trust, and foster greater cooperation.

For this task to be successfully accomplished, the CIO recognises the need for funds to accurately translate materials into local languages.

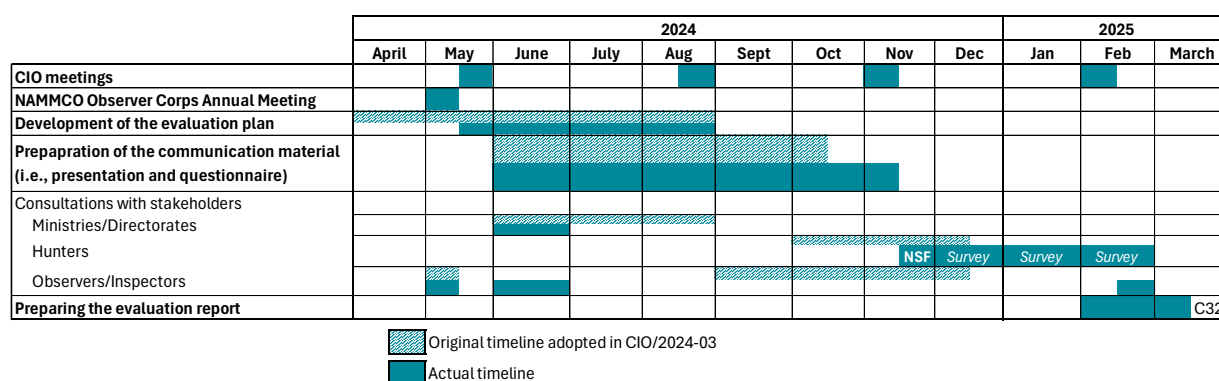


Figure 2. Timeline of the process for the current evaluation of the Observation Scheme. NSF = Norges Småkvallfangerlag

Additionally, the CIO **recommend** that the general objective of the OA is clearly outlined by the Council: What does NAMMCO expect to achieve from conducting OA? This is essential to define OA that fulfil this expectation; it will for example have an influence on the needed frequency of OA.

4. Proposed Workplan 2025-2027

The CIO proposes the workplan presented in Figure 3. A more detailed workplan can be found in Appendix 5.

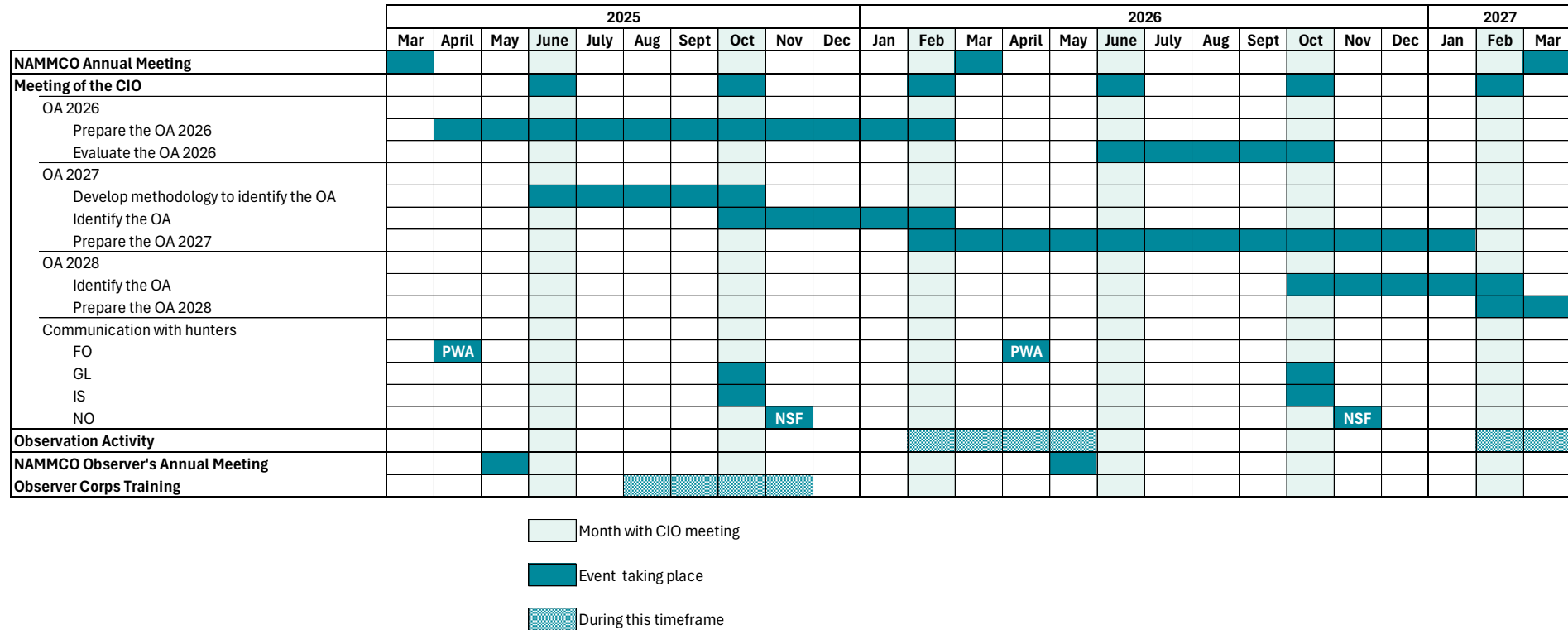


Figure 3. Workplan and timeline for the CIO between March 2025 and March 2027. PWA= Pilot Whale Association / NSF = Norges Småkvallfangerlag.

APPENDIX 1: Evaluation form for Ministries, Directorates and Observers

EVALUATION OF THE APPROPRIATE METHODOLOGIES FOR EFFECTIVE OA

Country	
Contact person	
Parties involved filling this form Add here the information of the parties (e.g., Ministries, Departments, Organisations, Observers, Hunters) consulted to fill this form.	
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?	
If yes, who could serve as such? This can be e.g. national inspectors, scientists, hunters. Please be specific.	
Using new methods for OA	
Do you think it could be appropriate to use remote monitoring for conducting OA in your country for some of the hunts? If yes which ones?	
If yes, which means would you suggest using? Please be specific.	
What are the pros and cons of using these methods in your country?	
Regularity of the OA	
What would you see as the appropriate regularity for conducting OA in your country?	
Should all the hunts be observed with the same regularity?	
Other questions	
Is there any specific relevant question the CIO should consider when preparing OA in your country?	

APPENDIX 2: Evaluation form for hunters (English)

Hunter evaluation survey on NAMMCO's Observation Activities (OA)

NAMMCO is conducting a survey to understand the experiences and opinions of hunters regarding various aspects of NAMMCO's Observation Activities. Your feedback is valuable in helping evaluate the current scheme and its efficiency.

Your responses will remain anonymous.

General Information

1. How many years have you been hunting marine mammals?

- 1 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- 11 to 20 years
- More than 20 years

2. In which region do you primarily hunt?

- Faroe Islands
- Iceland
- Northwest Greenland
- West Greenland
- Southwest Greenland
- East Greenland
- Norway

3. Which animal do you primarily hunt?

- Bowhead whale, Fin whale, Minke whale, Humpback whale
- Beluga, Narwhal
- Dolphins, Pilot whales, Porpoises
- Seals
- Walrus

4. How familiar are you with NAMMCO's Observation Scheme and Observation Activities?

You can learn more about it here (<https://nammco.no/observation-scheme/>)

- Very familiar
- Not very familiar
- Not familiar at all

Regularity of the Observation Activities

5. Has a NAMMCO observer ever followed one of your hunts?

- Yes
- No

6. Have you ever been asked questions or for documents by a NAMMCO observer?

- Yes
- No

7. If your answer was "Yes" in questions number 5 and 6, specify when and for which hunt.

8. For you kind of hunt (specified in questions 2 and 3), how often do you think the OA should be?

	Every year	Every 2-3 years	Every 5 years	Every 10 years	Never
Bowhead whale, Fin whale, Minke whale, Humpback whale	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beluga, Narwhal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dolphins, Porpoises, Pilot whales	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walrus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Explain why

About the observers

In the current format, the OA is conducted by international observers who are foreign to the place in which the observation is being carried out.

10. Using national and local observers would be easier. Do you think that would be a problem?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

11. Describe any benefits involving certified **national and local** observers may have.

Usage of new observation methods and remote techniques

To date, the observation has been conducted in-person.

12. Should remote observation techniques be used for some hunts? Which techniques? For which hunts?

13. What benefits or concerns do you have regarding the use of remote observation methods?

Identifying current needs and suggestions for improvement

14. What do you think are the main needs in current Observation Activities (OA)?

- Better communication between hunters and observers before the OA
- More information about the OA (e.g., what are they going to observe, what is the mandate of the observers, their role) for the hunters
- Other

15. Please elaborate on any specific needs or changes you believe are essential for effective Observation Activities.

About NAMMCO's Committee on Hunting Methods and Committee on Inspection and Observation

Read more about the Committee on Hunting Methods (<https://nammco.no/committee-on-hunting-methods/>) and the Committee on Inspection and Observations (<https://nammco.no/committee-on-inspection-and-observation/>)

16. How could these committees improve their communication exchange with hunters?

17. How could these committees support your hunting activities?

18. Is there anything you would like to let NAMMCO know?

APPENDIX 3: Evaluation form for hunters (Greenlandic)

NAMMCO-p alapernaarsuinnermut atatillugu piniartunik nalilersuilluni misissuina

NAMMCO alapernaarsuinnermut atatillugu piniartut assigiinngitsunik isiginninnerit misigisaat isumaallu pillugit paasisaqarumalluni misissuinnermik ingerlatsivoq. Nakkutilliinermi maannakkut nakkutilliinermi/ alapernaarsuinnermi aqqissuussineq sullerissusaalu pillugit nalilersomeranut atatillugu ililit isummat pingaaruteqarpoq. Akissuteqarninni kinaassutsit isertuunneqassaaq.

General Information

1. Ukiut qassit uumasunik imarmiunik piniartuusimavit?

- Ukiut 1-imit 5-inut
- Ukiut 6-imit 10-nut
- Ukiut 11-imit 20-nut
- Ukiut 20-it sinnerlugit

2. Nunarsuup immikkoortortaani suani piniarneruvit?

- Savalimmiut
- Island
- Kalaallit Nunaata Avannaata Kitaani
- Kalaallit Nunaata Kitaani
- Kalaallit Nunaata Kujataata Kitaani
- Tunumi
- Norge

3. Uumasut sorliit piniarnerusarpigit?

- Arfvik, Tikaagulliusaq, Tikaagullik, Qipoqqaq
- Qilalugaq qaqortaq, qilalugaq qemertaq
- Aarluaarsuit, niisamat, niisat
- Puisit
- Aarrit

4. NAMMCO-p Nakkutilliinermi Aaqqissuussinera aamma nakkutilliinermi suliniamera qanoq nalunngitsigaagit?

Uani tamanna pillugu paasisaqarfiginerusinnaavat (<https://nammco.no/observation-scheme/>)

- Ilisimasaqarfigilluinnarpara
- Ilisimasaqarfigivallaanngilara
- Ilisimasaqarfiginngilluinnarpara

Nakkutilliinerit aalajangersimasumik pisarneri

5. NAMMCO-mit alapernaarsuisumit illit piniarnerit malinnaaffiginikuuaa?

- Aap
- Naamik

6. NAMMCO-mit alapernaarsuimit aperineqarnikuuvit imaluunniit pappilissanik takunnikkumasumik saaffigineqarnikuuvit?

- Aap
- Naamik

7. Apeqqutini 5 aamma 6-imi "Aap"-imik akisimaguvit, piniagaq sorliunersoq erseqqissaruk.

8. Piniakkatit (apeqqut 2 aamma 3-mi erseqqissarneqartoo) qanoq akulikitsigisumik alaapernaarsuinerit pisamissaat isumaqarfigaajuk? Akissutit ukuupput:

	Ukiut tamaasa	Ukiut 2-3-jussaanni	Ukiut 5-immissaani	Ukiut 10-ikkaarlugit	Pinnisaannassaaq
Arfivik, Tikaagulliusaq, Tikaagullik, Qipoqqaq	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Qilalugaq qaqqortaq, qilalugaq qernertaq	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aarkuarsuit, niisarnat, niisat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Puisit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aarrit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Nassuiaruk qulaani ukiut toqqakkat sooq toqqamerlugu

Alapernaarsuisut pillugit

Maannamut aqqissuussinemi alapernaarsuinerit alapernaarsuisut nunat tamaneersunit ingerlanneqartarput sumiiffinni alapernaarsuiffiqeqartumi nunani allaneersuullutik.

10. Nunagisameersunit aamma sumiiffimmi nakkutilliisuneersunit alapernaarsuisoqarnissaa ajornannginnerussaaq. Isumaqarpit tamanna ajornartorsiutitaqassasoq?

- Aap
- Naamik
- Immaqa

11. Nunami namminermi sumiiffigisamilu nakkutilliisut/alapernaarsuisut akuutinneqamerisa iluaqutissartai allaaserikkat.

Alapernaarsueriaatsit nutaat aamma ungasissumit aqullugit atortut

Ullumikkumut alapernaarsuinerit alapernaarsuisut najuullutik ingerlanneqartarput.

12. Ungasianiit alapernaarsueriaatsit piniamerit ilaanni atorneqalissappat? Teknik-it sorliit? Piniakkat sorlemut?

13. Alapernaarsuinerimi ungasianiit alapernaarsueriaatsinik atuinermi suut iluaqutit imaluunniit isumakuluutit taasinnaavigit?

Maannakkut pisariaqartitat aamma pitsanngoriaataa-sussatut siunnersuutit

14. Maannakkut alapernaarsuinikkut ingerlatsinermi pingaamertut pisariaqartinneqartutut isumaqarfigaagit?

- Alapernaarsuineq aallartitsinnagu piniartut aamma alapernaarsuisut akornanni attaveqatigiinneq pitsaanerusoq
-
- Alapernaarsuinemik ingerlatsinerit pillugit piniartunut paasissutissat amerlanerusat (assersuutigalugu, suna alanaarsuiffiginerqarpat, alapernaarsuisut sunik piginnaatitaaffilemeqarsimappat, suliaasa suunerit)
- Other

15. Inussiamersumik alapernaarsuinerimi pisariaqartitaasinnaasut aalajangersimasut imaluunniit allannguutissat alapernaarsuinikkut sunniuteqarluartumik ingerlatsinermi aalajangiisuusinnaasut isumaqarfigisatit itisiliiffigikkat.

NAMMCO-mi piniariaatsit nakkutilliinermilu komitéaa

Piniariaatsit pillugit komite paasisaqarfiumallugu uani sukumiinerusumik paasisaqarsinnaavutit
(<https://nammco.no/committee-on-hunting-methods/>) aamma Nakkutillineq alapernaarsuinerlu komite
(<https://nammco.no/committee-on-inspection-and-observation/>)

16. Ataatsimiititaliat taakkua qanoq ililluni piniartunut attaveqatigiittarnerat pitsanngorsameqarsinnaava?

17. Ataatsimiititaliat taakkua qanoq ililluni piniarnikkut illit ingerlatsinerit tapersorsorsinnaavaa?

18. Arlaannik NAMMCO-mut ilisimatitsissutissaqarusuppit?

APPENDIX 4: Previous recommendations made by the CIO in 2019 regarding the improvement of the OA and reply by the Council 27

Recommendations (Rec) made by the CIO in 2019 and endorsed by the Council 27:

Rec 1: Increasing coverage rates, using flexibility in scope and frequency of the observation activity.

Rec 2: Developing an evaluation procedure that includes frequency and a set of criteria.

Rec 3: Further developing hunt specific/catch event control lists and reporting forms to ensure the compilation of necessary data to make the evaluation of the implementation possible.

Rec 4: Implementing the observation of the killing process of individual animals (drive hunts and sealing) to gain precise information on compliance with the legal killing procedures.

Rec 5: For facilitating any review of the Scheme

- members annually submit data for evaluating the Scheme (e.g. hunting effort) for inclusion in a database held at the Secretariat.
- the Secretariat keeps a precise and updated database of hunting and observation activities in NAMMCO countries.

Rec 6: Giving NAMMCO the possibility of assigning to the observer other tasks than observation activities (including scientific work).

Rec 7: Allowing national observers in specific cases due to specific logistical and language issues.

Rec 8: Encouraging observers to divide their time between several platforms in one season, instead of spending a longer time on a single platform.

Rec 9: Establishing routines to ensure whether on-board observers are aware of safety issues and safety measures.

Reply to recommendations proposed by CIO in 2019 by Council 27:

“ [...]

Iceland questioned the rationale for allowing national observers, arguing that this would undermine the neutrality and legitimacy of the Scheme. It was explained that national observers would represent an exception e.g. when observing hunts that due to logistical (e.g. of ad hoc character) and language issues could not otherwise be observed, likely mostly in Greenland. The general rule would still be to use non-national observers.

The Council noted that Greenland had initially wanted the observer also to be able to report infringements immediately. However, for the sake of advancement and given the benefit of the overall changes in the proposal for a new Observation Scheme, Greenland had agreed to support the proposal.

*[...] The Council also **endorsed** the various recommendations given by the CIO for the future implementation of the Scheme.” (Report of the NAMMCO Council 27, pp. 19-20)*

APPENDIX 5: Detailed proposed workplan and timeline for the CIO between March 2025 and March 2027

Meeting of the CIO are highlighted in bright blue. In 2026 more meetings shall be held with the stakeholders involved in the country in which the OA will be conducted.

Month or Season, Year	Activity	Participants	Description/Goal
March 2025	NAMMCO Annual Meeting	CIO/Secretariat	Report to the Council
April 2025	Participating in the meeting of the Faroese Pilot Whaling Association	FO delegate to the CIO	To present and discuss the Observation Scheme with the whalers in the Faroe Islands.
May 2025	NAMMCO Observer Corps Annual Meeting	Observer Corps/CIO/Secretariat/	To discuss the OA, gather feedback, and update the Observers on decisions made regarding the OA during Council 32.
June 2025	CIO meeting	CIO/Secretariat	Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Status update on preparation of the OA 2026 in West Greenland ▪ Development of a methodology to determine the optimal location for the OA in 2027 ▪ Status update on the CIO's communication with relevant parties
Summer-Autumn 2025	Observer Corps training		Observer Corps training (last in 2020)
October 2025	CIO meeting	CIO/Secretariat	Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Status update on preparation of the OA 2026 in West Greenland ▪ Identification of the optimal hunt for the OA in 2027
	Contact/meet with Greenlandic hunters	GL delegate to the CIO	To present and discuss the Observation Scheme with the hunters in Greenland.
	Contact/meet with Icelandic hunters	IS delegate to the CIO	To present and discuss the Observation Scheme with the hunters in Iceland.
November 2025	Participating in the meeting of the Norwegian Small Whalers Association	NO delegate to the CIO	To present and discuss the Observation Scheme with the whalers in Norway.
February 2026	CIO meeting	CIO/Secretariat	Topics to be Discussed:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Status update on preparation of the OA 2026 in West Greenland ▪ Preparation of a draft for the Council to present plans for OA 2027
March 2026	NAMMCO Annual Meeting	CIO/Secretariat	Report to the Council
Spring 2026	OA in West Greenland		
May 2026	NAMMCO Observer Corps Annual Meeting	Observer Corps/CIO/Secretariat/	To discuss the OA, gather feedback, and update the Observers on decisions made regarding the OA during Council 33
June 2026	CIO meeting	CIO/Secretariat	<p>Topics to be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluation of the 2026 OA ▪ Preparation of the 2027 OA ▪ Status update on the CIO's communication with relevant parties
October 2026	CIO meeting	CIO/Secretariat	<p>Topics to be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of the 2027 OA ▪ Identification of the optimal hunt for the OA in 2028 ▪ Status update on the CIO's communication with relevant parties
	Contact/meet with Greenlandic hunters	GL delegate to the CIO	To present and discuss the Observation Scheme with the hunters in Greenland.
	Contact/meet with Icelandic hunters	IS delegate to the CIO	To present and discuss the Observation Scheme with the hunters in Iceland.
November 2026	Participating in the meeting of the Norwegian Small Whalers Association	NO delegate to the CIO	To present and discuss the Observation Scheme with the whalers in Norway.
February 2027	CIO meeting	CIO/Secretariat	<p>Topics to be discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of the 2028 OA ▪ Status update on the CIO's communication with relevant parties ▪ Preparation of a draft for the Council to present plans for OA in 2028
March 2027	NAMMCO Annual Meeting	CIO/Secretariat	Report to the Council
2027	OA		