



REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK

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Message from the new Chair of RSN

Dear RSN colleagues and friends

It is a great honor for me to be elected Chairperson of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) by all of you, the Members of this Network. Thank you for your confidence in me and for your support. With your help and collaboration I look forward to a productive time as Chairperson of the RSN.

As you all know, the RSN was established to facilitate ongoing information exchange among RFB Secretariats. Since the inaugural session in 1999, six meetings of the Network have taken place and these have served to address the outcomes of COFI and focus on issues of major importance to the RFBs, including the role of RFBs in global and regional fisheries processes.

I consider it a great privilege to be able to continue the role of coordinating the processes that take place under the Network and give my assurances that I will work to maintain the high level of collaboration obtained under my predecessors. I would also like to express my appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Mr Stefan Asmundsson (NEAFC). He has overseen an expansion of the network participation and I look forward to maintaining the high standards expected of this position. Driss Meski



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CCAMLR: Updates



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Outcomes of CCAMLR's 35th annual meeting including creation of the world's largest MPA

CCAMLR's annual meetings in Hobart have concluded for another year. And what a year it was. The 35th annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and its Scientific Committee produced some exciting outcomes.

The headline outcome was that Members established a 1.55 million km² area. [Continue...](#)

CSRP: Updates

Opération de surveillance Pedro Cardoso Nanco - « Unis pour contrecarrer la pêche illicite, non déclarée

La Gambie, la Guinée Bissau, la Guinée et le Sénégal, membres de la Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée, du 28 août au 1er septembre 2016, dans le cadre de « l'Opération du projet GoWamer, «Gouvernance. [Continue...](#)

DOALOS: Updates

Over the past six months, a number of important developments have occurred at the United Nations in New York which may be of particular interest to members of the Regional Fisheries Body Secretariats' Network. Most recently, the informal consultations of the General Assembly on draft resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries were held in November 2016. [Continue...](#)

GFCM: Updates



© GFCM

Black Sea region unites through a historic declaration for sustainable Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture

Bucharest, Romania – Ministers and high-level representatives from the Black Sea region recently gathered in Bucharest on the occasion of a GFCM High-level Conference towards Enhanced Cooperation on Black Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture where they unanimously adopted a declaration to enhance their cooperation in tackling the most urgent challenges to achieving sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. [Continue...](#)

IATTC: Updates

During the 90th meeting of the Commission, its Director, Dr. Guillermo Compeán, was appointed for a new term of four years.

Although the meeting covered all the items of its agenda and adopted seven resolutions, there was no sufficient time to finalize the discussion on all the proposals that have been submitted. [Continue...](#)

IWC: Updates

The International Whaling Commission's biennial meeting recently concluded in Potoroz, Slovenia. One of the key outcomes was a new initiative on cetacean bycatch.

The IWC has a long-held interest in interactions between fishing operations and cetaceans, including an IWC Whale Entanglement Network. This was established in 2011, in response to the increasing numbers of large whales found entangled in fishing gear worldwide. To date, this programme has trained 900 scientists, conservationists and government representatives from over 30 countries in safe. [Continue...](#)

NAMMCO: Updates



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Science-based sound management gives results:

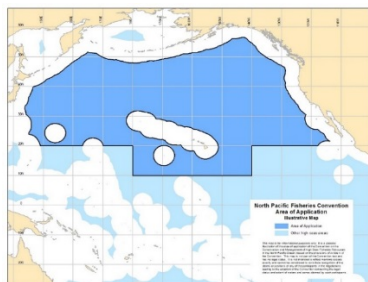
In response to NAMMCO advice Greenland set quotas for West Greenland beluga in 2004. As can be seen from the illustration of population trajectories below, this quota restriction has resulted in a positive effect on the population. The recently published paper "Rebuilding beluga stocks in West Greenland" Heide-Jørgensen, Hansen, Fossette, et al. in press. (*Animal Conservation*) concludes "It can therefore. [Continue...](#)

NPAFC: Updates

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Planning - 25th Anniversary in 2017

The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) is pleased to announce it will celebrate its 25th Anniversary at the Victoria Conference Centre (Victoria, BC, Canada) as part of its Annual Meeting on May 15, 2017. The celebration will be open to the public and includes an exhibition, poster presentations, and musical. [Continue...](#)

NPFC: Updates



The NPFC, a new RFMO to bridge the gap in the North Pacific

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan is one of newest of approximately fifty Regional Fisheries Bodies or Management Organizations addressing the world's oceans. After nine years of negotiation process in compliance with UNGA fisheries resolution 59/25.

[Continue...](#)

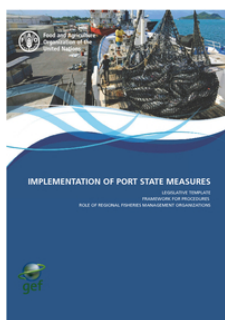
OSPESCA: Updates



SICA countries establish Strategic Agenda in Fisheries and Aquaculture by 2030

The Heads of State and Government of the Central American Integration System (SICA), composed by Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic, at its XLVII Regular Meeting held on 30 June 2016, In Roatan. [Continue...](#)

ABNJ Tuna Project: Updates



New FAO publications on Implementation of port State measures and Design options for the development of tuna catch documentation schemes

We are very pleased to announce the publication of two major papers prepared under the framework of the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented. [Continue...](#)

COFI 32 and RSN-6

The Thirty-second session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI 32) was in FAO Headquarters in Rome from 11 to 15 July 2016. This session saw the participation of over 640 delegates from more than 100 countries as well as more than 40 intergovernmental organizations and 20 international non-governmental organizations.

The Sixth meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) was conducted in the margins of COFI 32 on 9 and 15 July. The meeting provided a unique forum to foster cooperation among regional fisheries bodies established across oceans and inland waters of the world. [Continue...](#)

International Ocean Institute (IOI) Training course



With the support of Dalhousie University, the International Ocean Institute (IOI) has offered an intensive, interdisciplinary training programme in Canada every year since 1981. In keeping with the vision of IOI's founder, Elisabeth Mann Borgese, the purpose of this course. [Continue...](#)

SSF corner: 17 countries in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region discuss the implementation of an international instrument to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries



Mauritius, 14th December 2016 – The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), is hosting, this week, a regional meeting on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for [Continue...](#)

© FAO

In memory of Kjartan Hoydal

Our colleague and friend Kjartan Hoydal, passed away on 2 May 2016 in the Faroe Islands at the age of 74.

He served as the NEAFC Secretary 2001-2011 and was the Chair of the Regional Fisheries Bodies Secretariats' Network 2009-2011. [Continue...](#)



CCAMLR: Updates

Outcomes of CCAMLR's 35th annual meeting including creation of the world's largest MPA

CCAMLR's annual meetings in Hobart have concluded for another year. And what a year it was. The 35th annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and its Scientific Committee produced some exciting outcomes.

The headline outcome was that Members established a 1.55 million km² area of the Ross Sea as a marine protected area (MPA). This will become the world's largest MPA.

This MPA proposal has been under discussion for at least 5 years. To enter into force in December 2017, it will include a 'no-take' zone (72% of the total area) which forbids all fishing. Other sections of the MPA will permit some harvesting of fish and krill for scientific research which will, among other objectives, be targeted to the monitoring of changes in the ecosystem that may be ascribed to fishing, climate change, or both.

The result of much hard work on the part of its proponents, New Zealand and the USA, across five years of complex negotiations, the Ross Sea MPA will become the second high-seas MPA in the CCAMLR Convention Area. The first, established in 2009, was the South Orkney Islands Southern Shelf MPA which covers an area of 94 000 sq. km in the South Atlantic.

Although the Ross Sea MPA grabbed global headlines, it wasn't the only important outcome from the meetings. Another issue up for discussion in 2016 were conservation measures (CMs) for krill fisheries. The Commission endorsed a phased increase in observer coverage for the krill fishery to achieve 100% observer coverage by 2020/21.

The regulatory measure which sets the interim trigger level in the krill fishery in Subareas 48.1, 48.2, 48.3 and 48.4 was due to expire at the end of this current fishing season (30 November). It has now been extended for another five years, with no change to the distribution of the precautionary catch limits, allowing further research in the fishery. Research will focus on data required to assess the risks to krill-dependent predator colonies that may be associated with krill fisheries.

The Scientific Committee discussed the complexities and unpredictable nature of ice-shelf collapse and clarified definitions of collapse. The Commission welcomed these clarifications and adopted a new measure which establishes time-limited Special Areas for Scientific Study in newly exposed marine areas following ice-shelf retreat or collapse around the Antarctic Peninsula.

Fishing industry bodies have long been constructive contributors to CCAMLR and this year there were formal offers of further engagement with CCAMLR to collaborate with researchers. Industry initiatives are aiming to maintain sustainable fisheries both inside the Convention Area and in adjacent waters. Examples of this included on-going support for a tag recapture programme for toothfish by the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators (COLTO) and a voluntary undertaking by members of the Association of Responsible Krill Harvesting Companies (ARK) to avoid fishing in areas that pose elevated risks to penguin colonies in subarea 48.1.

The Commission also endorsed a proposal by the EU to undertake a second performance review (the first was undertaken in (2008), agreed to extend the Compliance Evaluation Procedure from an initial suite of 13 Conservation Measures subject to annual evaluation to all Conservation Measures in force and renewed on-going efforts to eliminate IUU fishing from the Convention Area including through on-going efforts to engage non-Contracting Parties in CCAMLR's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for toothfish through an outreach strategy.

At the conclusion of the 2016 Meeting, the chairmanship of the Commission was transferred from the Russian Federation to South Africa. This year's chair, Vasily Titushkin, described CCAMLR-XXXV as a historically significant meeting that solidifies CCAMLR as a leading organisation for international collaboration on conservation and sustainable fisheries management.



Jillian Dempster (New Zealand) and Evan Bloom (USA), with CCAMLR Chair Vasily Titushkin, proudly display a map of the Ross Sea MPA signed by delegates at the meeting. © CCAMLR

Application for the position of Executive Secretary of CCAMLR

Executive Secretary of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) invites applications for the position of Executive Secretary.

CCAMLR is an international organisation, with Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, responsible for giving effect to the objectives and principles of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources which provides for the conservation and rational use of marine living resources in waters adjacent to Antarctica.

The Executive Secretary manages an administrative, technical and scientific staff; presents and manages the Commission budget and associated programme of work; and organises the meetings of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and their subsidiary bodies.

Selection criteria

Applicants must satisfy the following selection criteria:

- Applicants must be citizens/nationals of a Member of the Commission.
- Experience of the operations of international, regional and/or intergovernmental organisations.
- Demonstration of a high level of managerial and leadership experience and proven competence, in such areas as:
 - the selection and management of administrative, technical and scientific staff;
 - the preparation of financial budgets and the management of expenditures;
 - the organisation of meetings and provision of secretariat support for high level committees.
- Demonstrated ability to direct processes of change at the substantive and management levels within large institutions of national or international scope.
- Familiarity with Antarctic affairs.
- Familiarity with fisheries and/or ecosystem management.
- A university degree, academic degree, or equivalent qualification.
- Professional competency in English with proficiency in at least one of the other three languages of the Commission desirable.

Salary and allowances

The appointment will be for a term of four years with the possibility of one additional four-year appointment. Details of remuneration and allowances are available on request from the Finance and Administration Manager, CCAMLR Secretariat (recruitment@ccamlr.org).

Availability

Unless otherwise agreed with the Chair of the Commission, the individual selected for the post of Executive Secretary must be available to commence work on 5 April 2018 for a two-week period of transition with the incumbent Executive Secretary and will assume the post on 20 April 2018.

Additional information

Please consult the CCAMLR website at www.ccamlr.org for complete information on duties, selection criteria, staff regulations and the application process.

Equal employment opportunity

CCAMLR is an equal opportunity employer.

Closing date

Applications must be received no later than 2400 h Eastern Australian Standard Time (GMT + 10) 15 May 2017. Applicants are requested to submit their applications as soon as practically possible.



CSRP: Updates

Opération de surveillance Pedro Cardoso Nanco - « Unis pour contrecarrer la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non règlementée »

La Gambie, la Guinée Bissau, la Guinée et le Sénégal, membres de la Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches (CSRP) se sont unis pour contrecarrer la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non règlementée, du 28 août au 1^{er} septembre 2016, dans le cadre de « l'Opération PEDRO CARDOSO NANCO » organisée au titre du projet GoWamer, « Gouvernance, politiques de gestion des ressources marines et réduction de la pauvreté dans l'Ecorégion WAMER (Mauritanie, Sénégal, Gambie, Guinée-Bissau, Guinée, Sierra Leone et Cabo Verde) » financé par l'Union européenne. Le Programme Régional des Pêches en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRAO) Guinée Bissau a également participé au financement de l'activité. [Pour en savoir plus](#)

Ateliers de mise en place des Comités nationaux chargés du suivi de l'indice de la gouvernance des ressources marines et côtières et de la cohérence des politiques de pêches

La Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches (CSRP), dans le cadre du Projet GoWAMER/ PNUD « Gouvernance, Politiques de Gestion des ressources marines et réduction de la pauvreté dans l'écorégion WAMER », organise entre septembre et novembre 2016 dans les pays bénéficiaires une série d'ateliers de mise en place des Comités nationaux de suivi de l'indice de la gouvernance des ressources marines et côtières et de la cohérence des politiques de pêche. [Pour en savoir plus](#)

Mise en ligne de la nouvelle version du site internet de la CSRP, du Dashboard et du Registre sous régional des navires de pêche industrielle

Attractif et développé avec les toutes récentes technologies de création de site web, ce nouveau site, disponible en français, anglais et portugais, offre aux visiteurs un contenu à la fois riche et varié, mis à jour, et classé selon des thématiques précises facilitant l'accès à l'information dès la page d'accueil. Le nouveau site internet abrite les entrées de deux outils essentiels pour la sous-région, développés ainsi que le site avec l'appui du Programme Régional des Pêches en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRAO) : le Portail Dashboard (Système d'informations sur la pêche) et le Registre Sous Régional des Navires de Pêche industrielle. [Pour en savoir plus](#)

Atelier de post-déploiement du Système d'information sur la pêche (Dashboard)

Du 22 au 25 août 2016 à Saly, Sénégal, dans le cadre de l'exploitation de son Système d'information sur la pêche (Dashboard), la Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches (CSRP) a organisé un atelier post-déploiement pour les administrateurs et les utilisateurs des Dashboard des pays (Cabo Verde, Libéria, Ghana, Guinée, Guinée Bissau, Mauritanie, Sénégal) du Programme Régional des Pêches en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRAO). [Pour en savoir plus](#)

6^e Réunion du Comité de Pilotage du Programme Régional des Pêches en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRAO)

La 6^e réunion du Comité de Pilotage Régional du Programme Régional des Pêches en Afrique de l'Ouest (PRAO), s'est tenue du 4 au 5 août 2016 à Banjul, République Islamique de Gambie, sous la supervision du Secrétariat Permanent de la Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches (CSRP). Ont pris part à la réunion les Directeurs Nationaux des Pêches et les Coordonnateurs du PRAO des pays participants au programme (Cabo Verde, Guinée, Guinée Bissau, Sénégal, Ghana, Liberia), le Représentant de la Banque mondiale à Washington DC, et les représentants d'autres projets régionaux invités. [Pour en savoir plus](#)

27^e Session extraordinaire du Comité de Coordination: le projet de Convention Suivi, Contrôle et Surveillance de la CSRP et ses Protocoles additionnels validés

Les travaux de la 27^e Session extraordinaire du Comité de Coordination de la Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches (1^{er}-3 août 2016 , Banjul, République Islamique de Gambie) se sont conclus par la validation du projet de Convention Suivi, Contrôle et Surveillance (Convention SCS) et de ses Protocoles additionnels portant sur le Registre sous-régional des navires de pêche industrielle incluant la liste des navires de pêche INN, les échanges d'informations entre les Etats membres et le Programme des Observateurs à compétence sous régionale. [Pour en savoir plus](#)

Ateliers nationaux de validation des Plans d'action nationaux et sous-régional de mise en œuvre de l'avis du TIDM

La Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches (CSRP) a organisé, avec l'appui de l'Administration Océanique et Atmosphérique Nationale des États-Unis d'Amérique (NOAA), une série de consultations nationales de ses Etats membres afin de faciliter la validation du Plan d'actions sous-régional de suivi de l'avis du Tribunal International du droit de la mer (TIDM). L'objectif de faciliter la validation du Plan d'action sous-régional par le Comité de Coordination et la Conférence des Ministres de la CSRP, avant sa présentation aux Partenaires Financiers et Techniques. [Pour en savoir plus](#)

Signature d'un Accord de Partenariat entre la CSRP et la FiTI

Le 12 Avril 2016, un Accord de Partenariat a été signé entre la Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches (CSRP) et la Fisheries Transparency Initiative (« FiTI »). L'Accord de Partenariat signé entre la FiTI et la CSRP porte essentiellement sur la collaboration dans la réalisation des objectifs communs relatifs à la transparence des informations dans le secteur de la pêche. [Pour en savoir plus](#)

La traque des navires de pêche INN s'intensifie dans la zone CSRP

Le dernier trimestre l'année 2015 et le début l'année 2016 ont été particulièrement marqués par l'intensification de la traque des navires de pêche INN dans la zone CSRP. En effet, plusieurs navires ont été arraisonnés par les Etats membres, pris individuellement ou dans le cadre de la coopération sous-régionale. [Pour en savoir plus](#)

Formation des journalistes africains sur la pêche durable : naissance du réseau des journalistes africains pour une pêche durable

Du 29 février au 4 mars 2016, à Elmina, République du Ghana, un atelier organisé par l'Union Africaine-Bureau Interafricain des ressources animales (AU-IBAR) et la Banque mondiale, en collaboration avec la Commission Sous Régionale des Pêches, a réuni une centaine des journalistes africains pour une formation sur la pêche durable, sous le thème « *Exploiter le pouvoir des médias pour augmenter la sensibilisation sur la pêche en Afrique* ». L'objectif était de permettre aux journalistes africains qui couvrent les sujets relatifs à la pêche de se baser sur les faits et sur l'analyse scientifique, de façon à mieux informer le public, et de créer la prise de conscience nécessaire dans les pays. [Pour en savoir plus](#)



DOALOS: Updates

Over the past six months, a number of important developments have occurred at the United Nations in New York which may be of particular interest to members of the Regional Fisheries Body Secretariats' Network. Most recently, the informal consultations of the General Assembly on draft resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries were held in November 2016. Notably, the draft resolution on sustainable fisheries, agreed upon at the end of the informal consultations, reflects a number of important developments relating to fisheries this year, such as the resumed Review Conference on the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, the 31st meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries and the bottom fishing review. These draft resolutions are scheduled to be considered by the plenary of the General Assembly on 7 December 2016. Some of the highlights of the recent developments are set out below.

Resumed Review Conference on the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

Pursuant to resolutions 69/109 and 70/75, the Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks ("the Agreement" or "the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement") was resumed from 23 to 27 May 2016. The resumed Review Conference, inter alia, reviewed the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Review Conference in 2006 and 2010, and also considered additional issues, such as labour conditions and avoidance of the transfer of a disproportionate burden of conservation action to developing States.

The resumed Review Conference adopted by consensus its outcome, in which it determined that implementation of the Agreement should be further strengthened by recommendations that consolidate and build on the 2006 and 2010 outcomes and, in some cases, address new issues relevant to strengthening the substance and methods of implementing the provisions of the Agreement. Furthermore, it agreed to continue the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement and keep the Agreement under review through the resumption of the Review Conference at a date not earlier than 2020 and recommended that the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement be dedicated to the consideration of specific issues arising from the implementation of the Agreement on an annual basis, with a view to improving understanding, sharing experiences and identifying best practices for the consideration of States Parties, as well as the General Assembly and the Review Conference. The report of the Conference, as well as other relevant information, is available on the DOALOS website at: http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/review_conf_fish_stocks.htm.

Bottom fishing review

Pursuant to its resolutions 69/109 and 70/75, in November 2016, a further review of the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMO/As) to implement paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68, addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks was conducted in the context of the informal consultations on the draft General Assembly resolution on sustainable fisheries (see also below). While noting the important progress made by States and RFMO/As to implement these paragraphs and address the impacts of bottom fishing on VMEs, concern was expressed regarding the uneven implementation of these provisions and that, in particular, bottom fishing continues to occur in certain areas beyond national

jurisdiction without an impact assessment having been completed in the ten years since the adoption of resolution 61/105, which called for such assessments to be undertaken by 31 December 2008. In this regard, a number of urgent actions regarding bottom fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction to be taken by States and RFMO/As were agreed on during the informal consultations.

Prior to the review, a two-day multi-stakeholder Workshop was held to discuss implementation of these provisions on 1 and 2 August 2016 (http://www.un.org/Depts/los/reference_files/Bottom_Fishing_Workshop_2016.pdf), in which a number of RFMO/As actively participated.

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Pursuant to resolution 70/235, the seventeenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, held from 13 to 17 June 2016, focused its discussions on the topic “marine debris, plastics and microplastics”. As in the past, the meeting was organized around panel presentations by experts representing developed and developing countries and reflecting various perspectives and disciplines, followed by interactive discussions. Some of the presentations addressed the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear and other types of marine pollution originating from fishing vessels. Further information, including the report of the meeting, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, focusing on this topic, prepared to inform the meeting, is available at: http://www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm.

Preparatory Committee established by resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

The Preparatory Committee held its first and second sessions (28 March to 8 April 2016 and 26 August to 9 September 2016, respectively). At the first session, the Preparatory Committee focused its discussions on the following topics: scope of an international legally binding instrument and its relationship with other instruments; guiding approaches and principles of an international legally binding instrument; marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits; measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments; and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. While these topics were considered in plenary, Informal working groups were also established to consider marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits; measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments; and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. The meeting also considered a road map for the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

The second session of the Preparatory Committee focused its work on identifying elements on which a convergence of views appeared to have emerged and which could, without prejudice to future discussions, be set aside temporarily, or “parked”, so that the Preparatory Committee could focus on more difficult issues. In addition to the four Informal working groups established at the first session, a fifth Informal working group on cross-cutting issues was established at the second session. Based on discussions in the Informal working groups, the Chair prepared documents on each of the five topics dealt with by the Informal working groups, setting out his understanding of possible areas of convergence of views and possible issues for further discussion emanating from the discussions.

The Preparatory Committee also considered a road map for the third session, scheduled in 2017. In advance of the third session of the Preparatory Committee, the Chair will prepare and circulate a rolling compilation of proposals for elements of a draft text of an international legally-binding instrument received from delegations by 5 December 2016. The Chair will also prepare and circulate a non-paper

which will provide a structured presentation of issues and ideas reflected in the rolling compilation as well as of possible areas of convergence from the Chair's understandings and those issues and ideas which were extensively discussed during the second session of the Preparatory Committee. The non-paper will be under the Chair's full responsibility and is not meant to preclude delegations from raising issues that may not be addressed in it.

In his letter dated 18 December 2015, the Chair has invited delegations who wish to do so to submit their views to him, with a copy to DOALOS, on the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument under the Convention. This is an ongoing invitation and States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations have made such submissions which are available on the Division's website. In this regard, the FAO submitted the document entitled "FAO's work relating to the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction". Furthermore, in his overview of the first session of the Preparatory Committee, the Chair encouraged the organization of side events and workshops featuring expert presentations both prior to the second session of the Preparatory Committee and on the margins of the sessions of the Preparatory Committee. In this regard, a number of side events have been organized, including those relating to fisheries, and several RFMOs participated in these side events. Further information is available on the DOALOS website at: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/biodiversity/prepcom.htm>.

Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

The first cycle of the Regular Process culminated in the completion of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment, also known as the first World Ocean Assessment, in 2015. It is expected to provide a baseline for the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, and contribute to building a better science-policy interface for sound decision-making, as well as identify information and capacity-building gaps. The information in the Assessment can contribute, inter alia, to the General Assembly's review of ocean issues, as well as to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In its resolution 70/235, the General Assembly welcomed with appreciation the World Ocean Assessment and approved its summary. The General Assembly also decided through that resolution, to launch the second cycle of the Regular Process.

The seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process, which met from 3 to 9 August 2016, focused its discussions on lessons learned from the first cycle of the Regular Process and the consideration of the Programme of Work and resource requirements of the second cycle. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole adopted a set of recommendations on the follow-up to the Assessment and the implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process, including the Programme of Work 2017- 2020. Relevant information is available on the Division's website at: http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm.

2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 14

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see RSN Newsletter December 2015 issue), the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/226, decided to convene the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day.

The Conference will be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York. It shall comprise plenary meetings, partnership dialogues and a special event commemorating World Oceans Day. The Conference shall adopt by consensus a concise, focused, intergovernmentally agreed declaration in the form of a "Call for Action" to support the implementation of Goal 14. Other outcomes will consist of a report containing the co-chairs' summaries of the partnership dialogues, as well as a list of voluntary commitments for the implementation of Goal 14, to be announced at the Conference (see resolution 70/303).

Information on the Conference is available at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/oceans/SDG14Conference>.

The tentative calendar of DOALOS meetings for 2017 is available at: http://www.un.org/depts/los/reference_files/calendar_of_meetings.htm.



GFCM: Updates

Black Sea region unites through a historic declaration for sustainable Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture

Ministers and high-level representatives from the Black Sea region recently gathered in Bucharest (24-25 October 2016) on the occasion of a GFCM High-level Conference towards Enhanced Cooperation on Black Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture where they unanimously adopted a declaration to enhance their cooperation in tackling the most urgent challenges to achieving sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. For the first time in the region, this declaration marks a strong political commitment to adopt a common and collaborative approach to promote the rational exploitation of marine living resources and sustainable aquaculture development, to fight against illegal practices and to mitigate threats to the marine environment. As highlighted by Achim Irimescu, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania, this is an important benchmark “in the process of striking a balance between immediate economic interests and the protection of marine fisheries resources in the Black Sea”.

“Black Sea fisheries represent an important resource to ensure food security and these fisheries strongly depend on their ecosystems”, said Cristiana Pasca-Palmer, Minister for Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania. “It is therefore essential to adopt a systemic approach and integrate environmental aspects in their management”.

All the riparian countries, as well as other important actors in the region, recognized that regional cooperation and synergies were essential for facing the many challenges in the sector. For this reason, they strongly welcomed initiatives such as the BlackSea4Fish regional project which aims to facilitate coordination between national administrations in charge of fisheries and marine environment. The future strategy for sustainable aquaculture development as well as the ongoing mid-term strategy towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries in the region will also be crucial for achieving such goals. “The mid-term strategy is the cornerstone of the dynamic introduced in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” said Valérie Lainé, Acting Director of the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) of the European Commission. “Actions defined within this framework should be implemented as soon as possible”.

Against this backdrop, the “FAO and its regional fisheries management organization, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, are called to play a leading role in coordinating actions to promote the sustainable use of fisheries resources” stressed Valery Ivanovitch Kuzmin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Romania.

This declaration, as well as the results achieved by the Conference, are particularly relevant in the aftermath of the entry into force of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA). Through these outcomes, an important step has been made towards the wider ratification and implementation of the PSMA in the region.

The High-level Conference was also marked by two important milestones. In light of its increasing interest in GFCM activities in the Black Sea region, the Republic of Moldova took this opportunity to officially request the status of cooperating non-contracting party to the GFCM, as a potential preliminary step towards full membership. Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding was signed between GFCM and Ukraine. This mechanism should enhance the capacity of national experts and institutions dealing with fisheries and aquaculture.

More than 100 participants representing GFCM contracting parties (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and the European Union), cooperating non-contracting parties (Georgia and Ukraine) and non-contracting parties (Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and the Russian Federation) attended the event together with representatives of international organizations and non-governmental organizations with competency in the region. The FAO Director-General was represented by Jiansan Jia, Deputy-Director, FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. This diverse audience was a clear expression of the strong interest and commitment shown by all actors to secure a brighter future for the Black Sea. As noted by Nicolae Dimulescu, President of the National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Romania, the road is now being paved towards “a clean sea for happy fishers”.

The programme of the conference and the Bucharest Declaration are available on the meeting’s webpage.

<http://www.fao.org/gfcm/meetings/blackseaconference2016/en/>



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IATTC: Updates

A. The following IATTC meetings were held in La Jolla, California, USA, from February to October 2016:

No.	Meeting	Date(s)
7	Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee	May 9-13
37	Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Tuna Tracking	June 20
24	Meeting of the Working Group to Promote and Publicize the AIDCP Dolphin-Safe Tuna Certification System	June 20
59	Meeting of the International Review Panel	June 20
33	Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program	June 21
7	Meeting of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of Measures Adopted by the Commission	June 22-23
4	Meeting of the Committee on Administration and Finance	23 June
17	Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Fleet Capacity	24 June
1	Meeting of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Group on FADs	26 June
90	Meeting of the IATTC	June 27- July 1
90	Meeting of the IATTC (resumed)	October 12-14

During the 90th meeting of the Commission, its Director, Dr. Guillermo Compeán, was appointed for a new term of four years.

Although the meeting covered all the items of its agenda and adopted seven resolutions, there was no sufficient time to finalize the discussion on all the proposals that have been submitted. Consequently, as agreed, the 90th meeting of the IATTC was resumed on October 12-14, 2016. That meeting adopted a resolution on bluefin tuna (for a total of eight resolutions) but they are still a number of proposals that must be discussed and adopted eventually. To this end, it was agreed that a 91st meeting (extraordinary) would be held in February 2017, during the intersessional period.

B. Among other activities of the Commission and its staff, it is worth mentioning the continuation of the work done on the Dorado (*Coryphaena hippurus* and *C. equiselis*) which are caught by various types of gear, including artisanal gear, off the Pacific coast of Latin America. IATTC staff members have been assisting members of the staffs of several organizations in Latin America with research on dorado. The IATTC staff has conducted the following technical meetings on dorado:

No.	Dates	Location	Topic
1	Oct. 14-16, 2015	Manta, Ecuador	First Technical Meeting on Dorado
2	Oct. 27-29, 2015	Lima, Peru	Defining stock structure assumptions and identifying potential stock status indicators for dorado in the eastern Pacific Ocean
3	Oct, 25-27, 2016	Panama, R.P.	Evaluating data needs and assessment methods for data-limited dorado fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean

C. Skipjack tuna associated with floating objects, either naturally-occurring (“logs”) or man-made (“fish aggregating devices” or “FADs”) are caught by purse-seine vessels in the tropical regions of all the world’s oceans. Unfortunately, other species, including sharks and small bigeye and yellowfin tuna are also caught in sets on fish associated with floating objects. A multi-authored paper published in 2012 demonstrated that the percentages of species other than skipjack are greater in sets on small amounts of skipjack than in sets on large amounts of skipjack. This led to the charter of a large purse seiner by the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation to determine whether the captain of that vessel could estimate the amounts of fish associated with FADs before setting on them. Messrs. Kurt M. Schaefer and Daniel W. Fuller of the IATTC staff accompanied the vessel on that trip, recording the circumstances before, during, and after each set. They found that the captain could predict the amount of fish in a school with reasonable accuracy and that lesser percentages of species other than skipjack occurred in sets on large schools of fish. These results were published in the ICES Journal of Marine Science, Vol. 71, No. 7. The authors concluded that “If purse-seine captains are able to make accurate predictions of the proportion of bigeye and yellowfin tunas present in mixed-species aggregations associated with FADs, managers may wish to consider incentives to fishers to reduce the fishing mortality on those species.” No action regarding that recommendation has yet been taken.

D. Dr. Olson, who had retired in June 2014 but is still linked with the Commission as “emeritus”, was replaced in the Biology and Ecosystem Program by Dr. Shane Griffiths in September 2016. Dr. Griffiths earned his Ph.D. degree in fish ecology from the University of Wollongong in Australia. He has had 14 years of experience working as a Principal Research Scientist for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) of Australia. He has led numerous research projects investigating the trophic ecology, biology, movements, and population dynamics of tropical tunas, tuna-like species, billfishes, and sharks. He has extensive experience in ecological risk assessment, ecosystem modeling, and designing innovative survey tools for sampling recreational and artisanal fisheries.

E. Another research activity worth mentioning is being carried out within the framework of the Center for the Advancement of Population Assessment (CAPAM), which is supported by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) and the U.S National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). One current program at CAPAM is the Good Practices in Stock Assessment Modeling, which includes several projects that address the theories, estimators, and assumptions used in contemporary stock assessment model development, e.g., selectivity, catchability, growth, natural mortality, spawning stock-recruitment relationship, covariates, spatial structure, data/likelihoods weighting, multispecies and ecosystem considerations, and diagnostics.



IWC: Updates

Biennial meeting held in Slovenia

The International Whaling Commission's biennial meeting recently concluded in Potoroz, Slovenia. One of the key outcomes was a new initiative on cetacean bycatch.

The IWC has a long-held interest in interactions between fishing operations and cetaceans, including an IWC Whale Entanglement Network. This was established in 2011, in response to the increasing numbers of large whales found entangled in fishing gear worldwide. To date, this programme has trained 900 scientists, conservationists and government representatives from over 30 countries in safe and effective entanglement response techniques.

The new Bycatch Initiative will draw on the successful model of the Entanglement Network, appointing an IWC Bycatch Coordinator, supported by an Expert Panel.

Bycatch is widely seen as the greatest immediate threat to cetaceans globally. It affects all cetacean species throughout the world's oceans and rivers. Scientific data on the global extent of bycatch is limited and fragmentary, but based on data from observers on US fishing vessels between 1990 and 1999, it was estimated that approximately 308,000 individual cetaceans died every year globally as a result of encounters with fishing gear.

The recent extinction of the baiji or Yangtze River dolphin was largely due to bycatch in a variety of fisheries, underscoring the seriousness of this threat. Several other populations and species face a similar threat including the vaquita and the Māui dolphin. Populations of each are now reduced to less than 60 animals. Entanglement in active fishing gear is also the primary threat to the North Atlantic right whale, now only numbering around 500 individuals.

In order to make progress on this complex and pressing issue, the IWC bycatch team is keen to work with other organisations with similar interests, and welcomes offers of help and collaboration.

A summary of all the main issues outcomes of the IWC66 biennial meeting can be found [here](#).



NAMMCO: Updates

Science-based sound management gives results:

In response to NAMMCO advice Greenland set quotas for West Greenland beluga in 2004. As can be seen from the illustration of population trajectories before and after quota setting (Fig. 1), this quota restriction has resulted in a positive effect on the population. The recently published paper “Rebuilding beluga stocks in West Greenland” Heide-Jørgensen, Hansen, Fossette, et al. in press. (*Animal Conservation*) concludes "It can therefore be concluded that the advice on sustainable harvest levels provided by NAMMCO and the implementation of catch limits in communities that were unfamiliar with restrictions on beluga hunting have enabled the stock to rebuild."

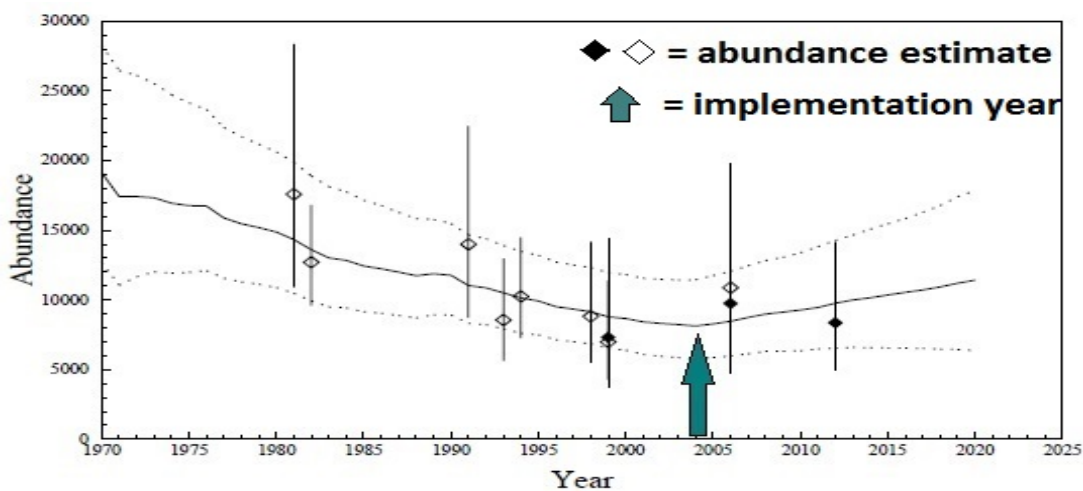


Fig. 1 West Greenland beluga – population trajectories before and after quota setting

Improving hunting efficiency gives results:

An important part of NAMMCO’s mandate is the improvement of hunting methods to ensure efficient and safe hunting while taking animal welfare into account. Animal welfare is measured by looking at time to death (TTD) and instantaneous death rates (IDR).

The last assessment meeting held for large whale hunts in November 2015 (<http://www.nammco.no/assets/Publications/Hunting-Methods-Committee/Report-of-Expert-Group-meeting-on-TTD-data-for-Large-Whales.pdf>) reviewed information on TTD and IDR from NAMMCO member countries, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, as well as Japan, USA (Alaska and Makah hunts) and Canada.

It gave evidence that the considerable efforts and resources channelled into research and development of more efficient hunting methods the last 35 years have been very successful resulting in substantial improvements. Looking at the NAMMCO countries the IDR has increased from 17% in 1981 to 82% in 2012 in the harpoon gun hunt for minke whale and IDR is as high as 84% in the fin whale hunt.

Sustainable marine resources: a piece of the blue economy puzzle in the arctic? NAMMCO breakout session at the Arctic Circle, 7 – 9 October 2016 Reykjavik, Iceland



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The session addressed questions like: How science-based sustainability is replacing overexploitation of important living marine resources. Also, how special interest groups have come to influence public opinion and government policies with the result of eroding respect for well-established and agreed principles regarding resource utilization. Finally, the session looked at how the cultural and economic needs of the people in the North can be accommodated within the agreed principles and agreements and how the Blue Economy can contribute to filling the foreseeable food gap in the world.

Global Review of Monodontids

NAMMCO is organizing a “Global Review of Monodontids (belugas and narwhals)” meeting that will be held in March 2017 in Denmark. The meeting will include about 40 scientists and participants with local knowledge from each of the range states: Canada, Greenland, Norway, Russia, and the USA. The main goals of this meeting will be to 1) share current scientific knowledge on the status of each stock, 2) identify the main gaps in knowledge, 3) identify key threats to each stock, and 4) outline possible areas of scientific cooperation. This meeting is currently open only to invited participants.



NPAFC: Updates

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission Planning - 25th Anniversary in 2017

The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) is pleased to announce it will celebrate its 25th Anniversary at the Victoria Conference Centre (Victoria, BC, Canada) as part of its Annual Meeting on May 15, 2017. The celebration will be open to the public and includes an exhibition, poster presentations, and musical performances. This landmark anniversary provides the NPAFC with an opportunity to reflect on its establishment, promote enforcement successes, and outline its contributions to science.

Establishment

The NPAFC was established in 1992 by the *Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean* with the desire to establish an effective mechanism of international cooperation to coordinate efforts in conserving anadromous stocks (Pacific salmon and steelhead trout) in the North Pacific Ocean. The Commission consists of five member countries, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and United States of America. The NPAFC has two major objectives: to prohibit

directed fishing of anadromous stocks in the Convention Area (international waters of the North Pacific north of 33° latitude and beyond 200-mile zones of coastal states), and to promote scientific research of anadromous stocks through the creation of a collaborative environment meant to guide and facilitate the exchange of scientific information on anadromous stocks in the North Pacific.

Enforcement

Member nations utilize vessels and aircraft, as well as port State measures, to identify potential IUU fishing and suspicious transport activities in the Convention Area. Coast Guard cutters are the primary patrol vessels and are assisted by a variety of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter. In 2009, patrols were augmented by the then newly-launched Radarsat 2 surveillance satellite that enabled remote monitoring of fishing vessels in the Convention Area. The multifaceted approach to surveillance and cooperation among member countries has established NPAFC member nations to be leaders in IUU vessel detection and apprehension.

Since 1993, NPAFC-related enforcement patrols have detected 47 vessels conducting driftnet fishing operations in the Convention Area. In total, 20 vessels have been apprehended. Almost half of vessel detections and one third of vessel apprehensions occurred from 1997 to 1998, including the largest apprehension of salmon (120 tonnes) from a single IUU vessel. Over 25 years, NPAFC-related apprehensions have seized approximately 305 tonnes of salmon, 30 tonnes of albacore, 30 tonnes of squid, 2800 kg of fish roe, 54 shark carcasses, and 33.7 km of driftnets from IUU-fishing vessels. The Commission keeps a Vessels of Interest list and shares it with other RFMOs that also have a technical compliance function.

Scientific Research

International scientific collaboration and cooperation, facilitated by NPAFC, is the hallmark by which scientists from member countries have investigated ocean salmon and steelhead. This work is fostered through cooperation in sample, personnel, and information exchanges. Since inception, the Commission has facilitated and reported on research on stock assessment, salmon marking and tagging, stock identification, genetics, sampling standardization, and climate change effects at numerous international symposia and workshops and in a number of bulletins and technical reports. Recent research has concentrated on determining if critical marine life-history periods influencing marine survival affect salmon returns to coastal fisheries and spawning grounds, development and applications of stock identification methods and models for management. Other current scientific investigations have focused on potential density-dependent interactions occurring in the ocean. In 2016, the NPAFC adopted a new five-year Science Plan that set a primary goal to: *“Understand Variations in Pacific Salmon Productivity in a Changing Climate”*.

The Future

The NPAFC is currently working with the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and other partners to launch the International Year of the Salmon (IYS). IYS is an ambitious project that will run through 2022, with the focal year being 2019. IYS projects will deal with issues at the scale of the northern hemisphere, as well as at the North Pacific and North Atlantic basins, and local scales. These projects will cover broad scientific and outreach themes including status of salmon, salmon in a changing climate, new frontiers, the human dimension, and new information systems. The NPAFC invites organizations and individuals concerned with salmon in the Pacific, Atlantic, or Arctic Ocean to join with the NPAFC to implement the IYS and make this program an exciting and successful reality.

For more information, please contact NPAFC at secretariat@npafc.org.



NPFC: Updates

The NPFC, a new RFMO to bridge the gap in the North Pacific

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan is one of newest of approximately fifty Regional Fisheries Bodies or Management Organizations addressing the world's oceans. After nine years of negotiation process in compliance with UNGA fisheries resolution 59/25, 60/31 and 61/105, the NPFC Convention was adopted on 24 February 2012 and came into force 180 days after receipt of the 4th ratification on 19 July 2015. The objective of the Convention is to “ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur”¹. The current Members of the NPFC include: Canada, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and Chinese Taipei.

As a new RFMO, NPFC is now in its early developmental stage but it is notable that the NPFC, with the cooperation of six Members, has made significant progress by adopting important CMMs which include the vessel registration, limitation on Pacific saury, listing of IUU fishing activities, interim transshipment procedures, addressing vessels without nationality, measures for the management of bottom fisheries and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in both the Northwestern and Northeastern Pacific Oceans, and limitation on fishing effort for chub mackerel. This report is to summarise the accomplishments of NPFC in its first formal year of operation through a series of formal meetings the results of which are shown below.

1. First Scientific Meeting (14-27 April 2016, Tokyo, Japan)

Three meetings of Small Scientific Committees (SSCs) were held in Tokyo from 14-22 April 2016, the *SSC on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems* (Chair Dr. Loh-Lee Low); *SSC on North Pacific Armorhead* (Chair Dr. Taro Ichii) and *SSC on Pacific saury* (Chair Dr. Toshihide Iwasaki). They were followed by the 1st formal *Scientific Committee* (SC) meeting of the Commission chaired by Dr. Joji Morishita from 25-27 April 2016.

Members presented their research activities, discussed VME Encounter Protocols, reviewed Interim and Voluntary Measures of NPFC, elaborated stock assessments for target species, discussed data collection and endorsed Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee. SSCs made recommendations which were accepted by SC with some amendments and endorsed to the Commission for its consideration.

It was agreed that the cold water corals including Alcyonacea, Antipatharia, Gorgonacea, and Scleractinia were endorsed to be accepted as the indicator taxa of vulnerable marine ecosystems for the Commission. In areas where, in the course of fishing operations, cold water corals more than 50kg are encountered in one gear retrieval, a vessel is required to cease bottom fishing activities in that location and relocate at least 2 nautical miles from the earlier position, so that additional encounters with VMEs are unlikely. All such encounters, including the location and the species in question, shall be reported to the NPFC Secretariat.

An Adaptive Management Approach for North Pacific Armorhead (NPA) was discussed for implementation with industry for bottom fisheries. Past stock and catch dynamics for NPA were analyzed under management rules of fixed catch limit and adaptive management. It was found out that (1) adaptive management is more effective for increasing and stabilizing NPA stock and catch than fixed catch limit management, (2) adaptive management starting with a low catch limit level is robust over uncertainties in NPA life history and fisheries while adaptive management starting with a high catch limit level is difficult to

¹ Article 2, *Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean*

implement because stock dynamics and harvest rates are highly dependent on the timing of catch limit revision.

New List of priority species endorsed for NPFC: North Pacific armorhead, Splendid alfonsino, Pacific saury, Neon flying squid, Japanese flying squid, Chub mackerel, Spotted mackerel, and Japanese sardine.

Three intersessional events were planned and accepted by the Commission. The Pacific Saury Stock Assessment Workshop (13-15 December 2016, Busan, Republic of Korea) and the meeting of the Technical Working Group on Pacific Saury Stock Assessment – TWG PSSA (20-22 February 2017, Tokyo, Japan) will be held by the Commission to conduct stock assessment of this species based on the integrated data provided by, and models developed by the NPFC Members. The TWG PSSA meeting will be held in conjunction with the Chub Mackerel Workshop (16-17 February 2017, Tokyo, Japan) as a first step towards understanding of stock status and the fisheries of chub mackerel in the Convention Area.

Encounter Protocols developed by the SSC VMEs and suggestions of the SSC NPA were incorporated into the NPFC Interim and Voluntary Measures for protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and sustainable management of high seas bottom fisheries in the northwestern and northeastern Pacific Ocean. At the Commission meeting, those measures were formalized to two CMMs for bottom fisheries and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the northwestern and northeastern Pacific Ocean (CMM 2016-05 and CMM 2016-06).

2. First Technical and Compliance Committee meeting (22-23 August 2016, Tokyo, Japan)

Mr. Robert Day of Canada chaired the 1st Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) meeting of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission from 22-23 August 2016. The Secretariat's overview of the fisheries in the Convention Area was followed by a discussion on the administrative issues brought to the table. These included the terms of reference for the TCC, the Framework for the TCC, and the process for the selection of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee. All three documents were endorsed to the Commission for approval.

Operational issues discussed following the Secretariat's overview of the status of the fisheries in the Convention area included: the rapidly increasing number of vessels sighted operating in the Convention area that appeared to be fishing for species of interest to the Commission and the concern that such rapid increase in fishing effort needed to be controlled until appropriate stock assessments and management measures were in place. Further, on the compliance and management measures, the Secretariat was asked to present the compliance requirements highlighted in the Convention so members could develop a compliance work plan and time line for both development and implementation of such mechanisms.

A review was undertaken of the two, existing conservation and management measures (CMMs): CMM 15-01 on vessel registration; and the second, CMM 15-02 on controlling fishing effort on the Pacific Saury fishery. CMM 15-01 was recommended to be amended to include the requirement of IMO numbers, if such were issued to vessels, as part of the vessel registration, and second the addition of an interim vessel registry list for non-member carriers utilised by Members, said list to be applicable for 2017-2019 when the extension of the use of that interim registry would again be reviewed. CMM 15-02 was discussed and concern raised as to the interpretation of the wording regarding the meaning of 'Members shall refrain from rapid expansion.... of the numbers of vessels authorized for this fishery.' As a result, TCC endorsed an amendment to CMM 15-02 for the addition of a phrase that would require each Member to report in its annual report how it implemented this measure. However, as some Members noted that this action was already required for all CMMs by all Members in their annual reports it was found that it was unnecessary to amend CMM 15-02.

TCC discussed and endorsed a new CMM on transshipment. Discussions on the proposed high seas boarding and inspection CMM were not concluded, and discussions will continue to progress this measure.

In addition to the endorsement of the two CMMs for vessel registration and transshipment, the Committee discussed and recommended a further four conservation measures to the Commission. The additional CMMs recommended for Commission approval included:

- CMM to address IUU fishing;
- CMM to address Vessels without nationality;
- CMM for bottom fishing in the North East Pacific Ocean; and
- CMM for Bottom Fishing in the North West Pacific Ocean.

The latter two measures updated and formalized the former interim and voluntary measures for these fisheries which Members had been implementing for the past few years. There was one additional conservation and management measure that was not discussed at TCC, but submitted directly to the Commission, however, TCC will monitor its implementation, and that is the measure to control the level of fishing for chub mackerel in the Convention Area until stock assessments can be updated and management measures considered.

Finally, the TCC recommended to the Commission that the Commission establish links with other RFMOs, but at this early stage, these links were suggested to be kept at the level of attendance at each other's meetings. Further, agreements for co-operation on operational matters should be deferred until the Commission was more established.

3. Second Commission meeting (24-26 August 2016, Japan, Tokyo)

Mr. Kenji Kagawa of Japan chaired the 2nd Commission meeting of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission from 24-26 August 2016, which was attended by six Members, a participating state and observers. With regard to membership of the Commission, there has been no new Members since the first Commission meeting held in 2015 but the USA and Vanuatu provided an update on their efforts to ratify the NPFC Convention in the near future.

After summarizing the activities of the first year of the Commission by the Secretariat, reports of subsidiary bodies mainly Scientific Committee, Technical and Compliance Committee and Finance and Administration Special Working Group were reviewed. Dr. Joji Morishita summarized the outcomes of the 1st Scientific Committee meeting and the Commission adopted the report. In addition, the Commission approved the holding of a Pacific saury workshop on December 13-15, 2016 in Busan, Korea, the Technical Working Group on Pacific saury. and an initial workshop on chub mackerel, the latter which will be held back-to-back in Tokyo, Japan in February 2017. Mr. Robert Day summarized the outcomes of the 1st Technical and Compliance Committee meeting and the Commission adopted the report after considering a few key points including: a provision to be added to Pacific saury CMM; outstanding priority areas for TCC; and Terms of Reference to select the Chair and Vice Chair. Lastly, Mr. Kenji Kagawa summarized the outcomes of the SWG Finance and Administration meeting and the Commission adopted the report which included the conversion of this Special Working Group to a new subsidiary body, the Finance and Administration Committee.

The Commission reviewed existing CMMs and adopted new CMMs proposed by the TCC, as follows; CMM 2016-01 On Information Requirements for Vessel Registration, CMM 2016-02 To Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out IUU Fishing Activities in the Convention Area, CMM 2016-03 On the Interim Transshipment Procedures for the North Pacific Fisheries Commission, CMM 2016-04 On Vessels without Nationality, CMM 2016-05 For Bottom Fisheries and Protection of VMEs in the Northwestern Pacific Ocean, and CMM 2016-06 For Bottom Fisheries and Protection of VMEs in the Northeastern Pacific Ocean. The Commission also adopted the CMM 2016-07 For Chub Mackerel which had been submitted directly to the Commission.

The Commission discussed the budget for 2016-2017 and the indicative budget for 2018-2019, and adopted the budget for 2016-2017 which totalled approximately 134 million Japanese Yen per annum. It is

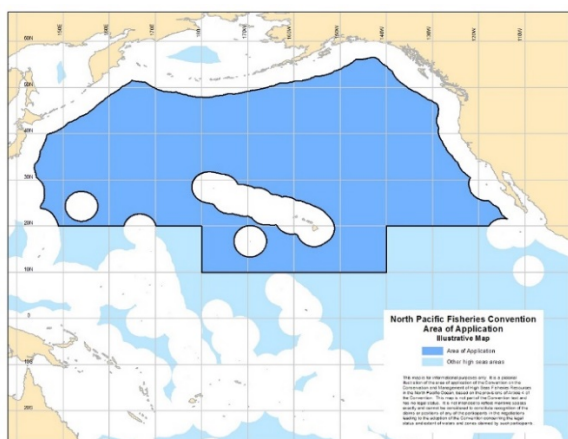
noted that the budget was set to remain at the same level of 134 million JPY throughout the period and that the Commission will be hiring two secretariat staffs, a data coordinator and a finance coordinator as General Service Staff, in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

With respect to cooperation with other organizations, the Commission agreed to have the Secretariat attend the International Symposium Drivers of Dynamics of Small Pelagic Fish Resources scheduled to be held on March 6 to 11, 2017, in Victoria, and NPFC be a co-sponsor to the amount of 200,000 JPY for this symposium organized by the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES). It was also agreed that for other cooperative ventures with RFBs and RFMOs these would remain at the level of attendance at each other’s meetings at present until the Commission was further established.

Under ‘Other matters’, the Commission discussed issues including a proposed letter to Ukraine regarding their plan to conduct fishing activities in the NPFC Convention Area, the tenure for NGO observer status, Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee and the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (CNCPs). The Commission adopted the NPFC Document rules and endorsed the basic concept of the NPFC logo which will then be decided through correspondence

As to the next Commission meeting, the following schedule and venues were recommended: a. TCC: In Japan from 10 July through the morning of 12 July 2017; b. FAC: In Japan on the afternoon of 12 July 2017 (with an evening session, if necessary); c. Commission: In Japan from 13 to 15 July 2017; and d. SC and SSCs: In Shanghai, China, from 17 to 27 April 2017.

1. NPFC Convention Area



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2. Photos of the meetings held in 2016



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OSPESCA: Updates

SICA countries establish Strategic Agenda in Fisheries and Aquaculture by 2030

The Heads of State and Government of the Central American Integration System (SICA), composed by Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic, at its XLVII Regular Meeting held on 30 June 2016, in Roatan, Islas de la Bahia, Honduras, instructed to the Councils of Ministers to elaborate the prioritized strategic agenda of their respective sectors, having as reference the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

In compliance with this agreement, the Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), composed by the competent authorities of fisheries and aquaculture of SICA countries, has presented the Regional Strategic Agenda for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector, based on the Sustainable Development Objectives (ODS).

This strategic agenda is based on the Fisheries and Aquaculture Integration Policy 2015-2025, which is based on the strategic axes of the Central American integration process related to: i) democratic security; (ii) prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and the effects of climate change; iii) social integration; iv) economic integration, and v) institutional strengthening.

The policy's main objective is to ensure the sustainable use of hydrobiological and aquaculture resources, strengthening the framework of coordination and harmonization within the Central American Integration System and thus, contributing to food security and improvement of the quality of life of the population.

The strategic themes of the Policy are directly and indirectly related to the objectives of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, particularly with the objectives and goals related to: ending poverty in all its forms; ending hunger, to achieve food security and improve nutrition. Ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education; achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. Promoting sustainable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Taking urgent measures to combat climate change and its effects, and particularly to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The agenda promoted by the fisheries and aquaculture authorities of the region, considers for its execution the high participation of the civil society as well as other organizations such as universities and research centers.



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The ClimaPesca - New Digital Newsletter

The Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA), weekly presents since 2014 the "ClimaPesca" Bulletin in order to provide information related to the climate, and to cooperate with the fisheries authorities of SICA countries and others. This allows to facilitate the monitoring of climatic phenomena, particularly those having impact on fisheries and aquaculture, and thus to identify and propose alternatives for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

After two years and the achieved results, and thanks to the support of USAID's Regional Climate Change Program, it is presented the digital version of ClimaPesca as a way of communication through the Climate Center.

The digital version, in addition to ClimaPesca Digital, will have a climate information desk for fisheries, and an application for smartphones (ClimaPesca Mobile App). This can provide useful information in real time to help in the decision-making processes related to fishing activities, both for the productive sector and the authorities.

We would like to invite you to be part of this experience visiting: www.sica.int/ospesca ClimaPesca, <http://centroclima.org/climapesca> and APP: google play: ClimaPesca.



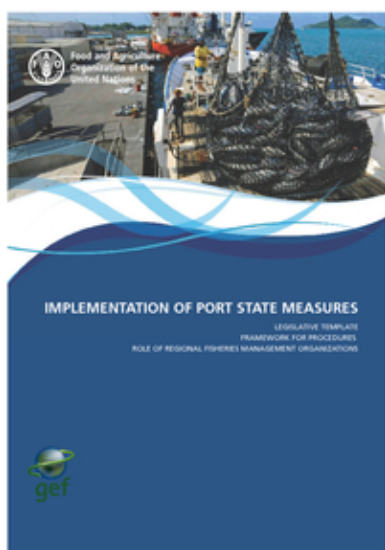
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ABNJ Tuna Project: Updates

New FAO publications on Implementation of port State measures and Design options for the development of tuna catch documentation schemes

We are very pleased to announce the publication of two major papers prepared under the framework of the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by the FAO. The Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project harnesses the efforts of a large and diverse array of partners, including the five tuna RFMOs, governments, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and private sector with the objective to achieve sustainable and efficient tuna management and biodiversity conservation.

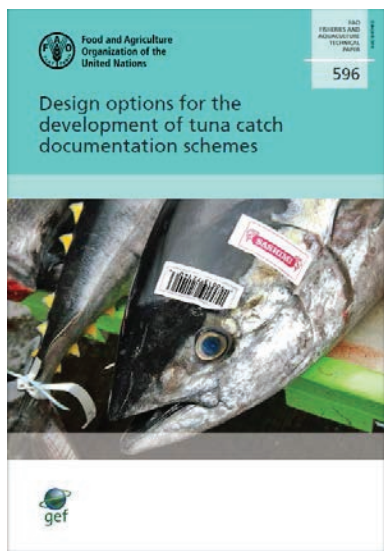


- *Implementation of port State measures – Legislative template, framework for procedures, role of regional fisheries management organizations* authored by Judith Swan, Legal Expert and consultant to FAO
- *Design Options for the Development of Tuna Catch Documentation Schemes*, authored by Gilles Hosch, Fisheries Expert and consultant to FAO.

Swan, J. 2016. Implementation of port State measures – Legislative template, framework for procedures, role of regional fisheries management organizations. Rome, FAO. 171p. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5801e.pdf>

The entry into force of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing on 5 June 2016 reflected the successful culmination of global efforts to combat IUU fishing by setting harmonized minimum standards for measures to be taken at port. It targets IUU fishing and fishing related activities in support of such fishing, and its reach extends to areas within and beyond national jurisdiction. Many RFMOs and some countries have been active in preparing for entry into force, but the development and adoption of national implementing legislation has become imperative. At regional level, several RFMOs have adopted various requirements and minimum standards of the FAO Agreement in conservation and management measures (CMMs) that are legally binding on their members. In 2010, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) adopted Resolution 10/11 on Port State measures that is almost identical to the FAO Agreement. Other RFMO CMMs vary in the extent of implementation of its requirements, as described in this document. There is ongoing review and strengthening of the CMMs relating to Port State measures within many RFMOs, in part encouraged by their performance reviews. This document focuses on the implementation of two legal instruments - the FAO Agreement and IOTC Resolution – which, as noted above, are almost identical. Together, they are legally binding on a wide range of countries. At national level, the process of preparing for entry into force of the FAO Agreement, as well as implementation of relevant RFMO CMMs, has been challenging for many countries. The objective of this document is twofold: to meet those challenges by providing generic legislative templates for the development of national legislation; and to explain broader context of Port

State measures. Legislative templates are provided for implementing the core and supporting provisions respectively; they are generic, and can be adapted to different legal systems, institutions and instruments. The core provisions are those implemented directly from the FAO Agreement, and as appropriate the IOTC Resolution, and the supporting provisions are those that relate to areas such as enforcement information and evidence. The latter reflect best practices and are important for backstopping aspects of the core provisions; they may already be in national fisheries legislation or may be used for strengthening existing provisions. Explanatory notes are given for each core and supporting provision. In order that the broader context of Port State measures can be better understood as national legislation is developed, this document also describes the development of Port State measures, a framework for national procedures and the role of RFMOs.



Catch documentation schemes have been a topic of debate for almost 20 years, and continue to mean different things to different people. This paper sets out to clarify the nature of catch documentation schemes and what they can achieve. It explores the factors to be considered in the design of such schemes as a management tool, and a monitoring, control and surveillance tool in tuna fisheries.

The paper assesses the following points in detail:

- what is a CDS, and what does it intend to achieve?
- how does it work – what is the basic conceptual CDS design?
- which key functions does a CDS need in order to meet its objective?
- what factors must be carefully considered when designing a CDS?
- is there a need to harmonize and unify tuna CDS at the global level?
- what would a model RFMO conservation and management measure for a CDS look like?

Hosch, G. Design options for the development of tuna catch documentation schemes. *FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper*. No. 596. Rome, FAO. 2016. 144p.

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5684e.pdf>

This paper aims to provide technical guidance for tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations that may decide to develop catch documentation schemes for commercial tuna fisheries in the future. RFMOs that may currently be actively involved in developing CDS for tuna fisheries under their mandate – WCPFC, IATTC and IOTC in particular – are directly targeted by this paper. The preparation of the paper involved analysis of all current catch documentation schemes and visits to 20 countries with significant roles in global tuna supply chains, and took place over the course of 2014 and 2015.

While the paper centers specifically on tuna fisheries, many of its basic findings and proposals regarding functionality of, and design options for catch documentation schemes are also valid and useful for fisheries other than tuna fisheries.



COFI 32 and RSN-6

The **Thirty-second session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI 32)** was held in FAO Headquarters in Rome from 11 to 15 July 2016. This session saw the participation of over 640 delegates from more than 100 countries, as well as more than 40 intergovernmental organizations and 20 international non-governmental organizations.

The Bureau members of this COFI 32 was made of Mr Fabio Hazin (Brazil) - the Chairperson, Mr William Gibbons-Fly (USA) - 1st Vice-Chairperson:, and the following other Vice-Chairpersons: Ghana (Africa), Kuwait (Near East), New Zealand (Southwest Pacific), Poland (Europe), Republic of Korea (Asia).

COFI 32 was tasked to (1) Review the programme of work of the Organization in the field of fisheries and aquaculture and their implementation; (2) Periodic review of fishery problems of an international character and their possible solutions; (3) Review specific matters relating to fisheries and aquaculture, and so forth.

The RSN Chairperson, Mr Stefán Ásmundsson, delivered a statement to COFI 32 highlighting the discussions that took place during the first session of RSN 6 on issues pertaining to fisheries and aquaculture governance of relevance to the regional and international agenda.

The efforts of the RSN and its members were recognized by COFI which, for the first time, expressed appreciation for the role of the Network in promoting cooperation within the RFMOs/RFBs community and praised the support provided by FAO as the secretariat of the Network. COFI 32 also highlighted the crucial role played by RFMOs/RFBs and called upon FAO and these bodies to publicize their achievements, while recognizing that challenges remain.

The report of COFI 32 can be found at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr484e.pdf>.



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The **Sixth meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN 6)** was conducted in the margins of COFI 32 on 9 and 15 July, respectively. The meeting provided a unique forum to foster cooperation among regional fisheries bodies established across oceans and inland waters of the world.

Thirty-four secretaries participated in the meeting representing regional fisheries bodies with diverse mandates and from all geographic regions, including FAO and non-FAO regional fisheries bodies, and marine and inland fishery advisory and management bodies.

RSN 6 discussions covered several subjects, including conservation and the sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, the Assistance Fund provided under Part VII of the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, issues related to the functioning and performance of regional fisheries bodies, and the consolidation and development of the Network.

The RSN Chairperson acknowledged the positive comments and feedbacks on the RSN and RFBs' related work that delegations attending COFI 32 have expressed. The meeting agreed on the need to improve the visibility of the Network as well as the need to combine efforts among members to increase communication.

The RSN Chairperson, Mr Stefán Ásmundsson, announced that he would no longer be serving as Secretary of NEAFC and that this would subsequently cause the termination of his mandate as Chairperson of the Network. The RSN thanked Mr Ásmundsson for his work with the Network and for the dedication that characterized his contribution to the RFBs community during the past years.



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The report of the RSN 6 can be found at <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/86600224-8e2e-472f-b0be-791d80165f96/>



International Ocean Institute (IOI) Training course

With the support of Dalhousie University, the International Ocean Institute (IOI) has offered an intensive, interdisciplinary training programme in Canada every year since 1981. In keeping with the vision of IOI's founder, Elisabeth Mann Borgese, the purpose of this course is to:

- deepen understanding of the ever-increasing importance of the oceans and their resources in world politics and sustainable economic development;
- assist developing countries in the formation of a core of decision-makers fully aware of the complex issues of coastal and ocean management; and,
- maximize benefits to be derived from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea through the proper integration of coastal and ocean management into national and international development strategies.

The course emphasizes the importance of viewing the ocean as a system with varied users and multiple, often competing and conflicting, uses. It also aims to increase awareness of the fact that ocean management requires broad interdisciplinary skills, new institutional and legal infrastructures, and new forms of intergovernmental and non-governmental organization and cooperation at the local, national and international levels.

The training programme, this year taking place in Halifax, NS from 24 May to 21 July 2017 (subject to confirmation), is specifically designed to benefit developing country mid-career professionals who are responsible for some aspect of coastal or ocean governance. Given the under-representation of women in the upper echelons of administration and policy-making, particular emphasis is placed on trying to achieve equal numbers of female and male participants, and on creating a forum where men and women can learn together, sharing different perspectives and examining issues from different viewpoints.

Completed forms should be sent by fax, airmail or courier to arrive no later than 1st January 2017. In some circumstances it may be possible to consider late applications – contact IOI-Canada (ioi@dal.ca) to enquire. More information on the training programme, including the application form, can be found at <http://internationaloceaninstitute.dal.ca/training.htm>.



SSF corner: 17 countries in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region discuss the implementation of an international instrument to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries

Mauritius, 14th December 2016 – The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), hosted, this week, a regional meeting on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Alleviation (SSF Guidelines). After a global consultation process for the elaboration of this first ever international instrument dedicated to artisanal fisheries, stakeholders discussed modalities and identifying priorities for its implementation in the region.

The discussions among other topics, focused on sharing lessons from past and ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the management of small-scale fisheries and enhancing their value chains, in a regional context, and prioritize areas of focus for the Regional Action Plan. In the Southern and the Indian Ocean region, artisanal fishermen occupy 90% of the fisheries sector.

“In the five IOC member States, fishing is one of the five largest contributors to GDP. It represents close to 130,000 direct jobs, mainly in the artisanal sector, to which are added the indirect jobs that it generates. Artisanal fisheries account for 40% of tuna production in the region.

The fisheries sector in the SADC Region contributes an average of about 2% to the SADC GDP, with total average exports worth of USD152 million and average imports of USD100 million. The sector employs an average of 145 000 people, of which more than a million benefit indirectly.

We are expecting that participants will come up with a regional Action Plan to better address small-scale fisheries issues in the context of our new Fisheries and Aquaculture Strategy 2015-2025,” said Madi Hamada, the Indian Ocean Commission Secretary General at this meeting.

Recognizing the importance of the small-scale fisheries sector to the economies of the region, and its present and potential contribution to poverty reduction and food security objectives, IOC and SADC have convened this important meeting in order to familiarize a variety of stakeholders with the content of the SSF Guidelines and receive guidance from participants on how to address priority issues in the framework of their own fisheries strategies.

“Fish is one of the most traded foods in the world, including the SADC region. Fisheries and aquaculture are not only a source of employment and economic wealth but also play a significant role in the food security of our countries,” said Motseki Hlatshwayo, Technical Advisor at the SADC Secretariat.

The meeting brought together government representatives, socio-professional associations representing the small-scale fisheries sector, civil society organizations as well as a range of supporting organizations (regional bodies, research institutes, NGOs, etc.) from the 17 Member States of IOC and SADC combined.

“By applying the principles of human rights set out in the SSF Guidelines, we will also be able to make progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,” said Patrice Talla Takoukam, FAO Representative for Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles

At the end of the four-day meeting, fisheries organizations established the founding stones of a regional road map which will certainly become a historical reference to the sector in its pursue of human rights, food and nutritional security in the region.

Note for editors

These Voluntary guidelines, adopted by the FAO Committee of Fisheries in 2014, are based on international human rights standards and responsible fisheries standards and practices. In general, the SSF Guidelines defines that artisanal fishers communities need to have their territorial rights secured; considering the important role they play in the conservation of aquatic ecosystems and implementation of sustainability measures in long-term; these communities should be centrally included in management discussions; fish workers should be part of social security policies; the role fish-chain should be acknowledged when implementing public policies, particularly the critically important role of women; fishers should have adequate quality of life, avoiding abusive work conditions and enhancing their occupational health and security, amongst others.

To know more about the SSF Voluntary Guidelines: [http://bit.ly/SSF FAO](http://bit.ly/SSF_FAO)

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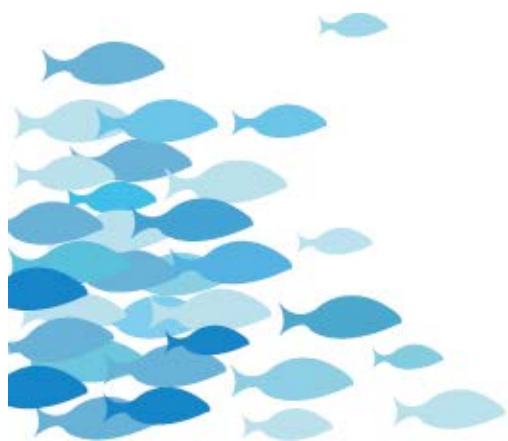


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In memory of Kjartan Hoydal

Our colleague and friend Kjartan Hoydal, passed away on 2 May 2016 in the Faroe Islands at the age of 74. He served as the NEAFC Secretary 2001-2011 and was the Chair of the Regional Fisheries Bodies Secretariats' Network 2009-2011. He died peacefully after a period of serious illness, surrounded by his family. We are of course grateful for his contribution to NEAFC and for his contributions to fisheries management in general. His tenure at NEAFC saw the organization firmly establish itself as a leading fisheries organization on the global stage, and he had a very important role in that development. NEAFC was fortunate to enjoy the services of such a capable person, whose knowledge and professionalism were recognized by all. Everyone who knew him was also impressed with his character and personality. It was certainly a pleasure to have known him, and it is difficult to put into words the feeling that came with the news that he had passed away.



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