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46th ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2024

REVISED Terms of Reference–NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM)

Structure:

The Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management reports to both the Commission (COM) and Scientific Council (SC); considers the advice of Scientific Council; and provides recommendations to the Commission.

The Working Group shall be comprised of fishery managers, scientists, and advisors from Contracting Parties, supported by observers and invited experts. The Co-chairs will consist of a fishery manager from the Commission and a scientist from the Scientific Council.

Plenary discussions will be conducted in an informal, open manner, unless the Contracting Parties, decide to conduct sessions in a delegation format. Recommendations to the Commission will be developed and agreed upon through formal sessions of official delegations. When the Working Group breaks from plenary session and reverts to participation by delegation, individual scientists remain as part of their delegations and Scientific Council as a whole would be represented by the Scientific Council Chair or a designated alternate.

Accredited observers may attend meetings of the Working Group. Participation will be subject to the *NAFO Rules of Procedure*.

If a Contracting Party so requests, particular agenda items of the meeting, or parts thereof, shall be restricted to delegates representing Contracting Parties and Scientific Council.

Objective:

The main objective of the Working Group is to make recommendations to the Commission and provide feedback to Scientific Council on the development and effective implementation of ecosystems approaches to fisheries management.

Specific Duties:

In responding to requests for advice and recommendations from the Commission, considering the associated advice of Scientific Council, the Working Group shall:

- Further develop and provide recommendations on the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Roadmap.
- Consider ecosystem status, functioning and dynamics of NAFO marine ecosystems, including species interactions, and their productivity,
- Consider impacts of non-fisheries activities.
- Consider the impacts of climate change as an element of work on the EAF roadmap.
- Make recommendations on mitigation strategies and measures to avoid significant adverse

impacts of fishing activities on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the evaluation of associated risks.

- Review area closures periodically and other measures as outlined in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEMs).
- Provide recommendations in relation to requests to conduct exploratory bottom fishing and evaluate authorized exploratory fishing activities.
- Provide recommendations for updating the CEMs in relation to EAF including the text in Chapter II (Bottom Fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area) and any associated Annexes (e.g. the Exploratory Protocol for New Fishing Areas - Annex I.E), as necessary.
- Provide recommendations and information, and support the Secretariat, on coordination with other regional or global organizations on activities related to the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

Meetings:

The Working Group will typically meet annually unless otherwise agreed by the Scientific Council and the Commission.

Whenever possible, the regular meeting of the Working Group should occur after the June Scientific Council meeting and prior to the NAFO annual meeting.

Reporting out:

The Working Group will issue a written report to the Commission and the Scientific Council, prior to the NAFO annual meeting.