

**41st ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2019****WG-EAFFM Workshop – Terms of Reference****Background**

At its 2019 Annual Meeting, NAFO agreed to progress implementation of the ecosystem approaches to fisheries management and to do so it was necessary for managers and scientists to develop objectives that would inform the work of the Scientific Council. Additionally, WG-RBMS are independently undertaking a review of NAFO's Precautionary Approach (PA) framework. Given the potential synergies between these two processes, the NAFO Commission agrees that greater information sharing and dialogue between the Working Groups in 2020 would be beneficial to advancing both of these initiatives.

To that end, as the Commission has accepted the recommendation of the WG-EAFFM to undertake a workshop of fisheries managers and scientists with the goal of drafting ecosystem level objectives, it is encouraged that members of the WG-RBMS also participate in this workshop.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are:

- Identify ecosystem level objectives
- Identify elements of the potential application of an ecosystems approach to fisheries management including principles of application
- Explore the existing body of practice (successes and failures) of implementing an ecosystem approach
- Identify the types of ecosystem-based fisheries information that may inform the future development of the NAFO PA.

Subsequent to the workshop, both Working Groups will consider how the workshop discussions will inform their work in future.

Timing and Location

The workshop and the winter WG-RBMS meeting will be held consecutively, possibly within the intersessional meeting periods identified and subject to logistical considerations (e.g. location, costs, availability of experts, venue, including status of Secretariat office relocation).



Attendees

Attendees of the workshop shall be comprised of fishery managers, stakeholders and scientists from Contracting Parties representing both WG-RBMS and WG-EAFFM supported by experts and advisors. The workshop will also include the participation of invited experts.

Preparation for the workshop

Materials will be developed in advance to inform workshop participations, including relevant case studies from communities of practice. It is also important that Contracting Parties, in consultation with their advisors and scientists, offer guidance at the workshop on suitable methods and approaches to develop ecosystem level objectives. The NAFO Secretariat will identify and invite relevant external experts in co-ordination with the co-chairs of the WG-EAFFM.