



Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

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In all correspondence,
please refer to:

NAFO/21-135

10 June 2021

TO: All Contracting Parties
WG-EAFFM Representatives

Dear Colleagues,

Subject: Meeting Date – WG-EAFFM Workshop: ‘Ecosystem Approach Framework Open Dialogue’ Meeting, 07 October 2021

Further to NAFO/21-126 of 19 May 2021, we are pleased to confirm that the one-day virtual ‘Ecosystem Approach Framework Open Dialogue’ Meeting will be held on 07 October 2021, over half a day (four-hour meeting).

Furthermore, please find enclosed the logistics and discussions for the meeting, which were prepared in consultation with the WG-EAFFM co-Chairs, Andrew Kenny (United Kingdom) and Elizabethann Mencher (USA).

All relevant meeting documentation will be accessible on the NAFO Meetings SharePoint at <https://meetings.nafo.int/wgs/eaffm> as it becomes available. For logistical purposes, we would appreciate receiving from Contracting Parties the names of those delegates planning to participate in the meeting. The meeting start time and WebEx invitation will be circulated to meeting participants closer to the meeting date.

We kindly ask your assistance in providing this information to the members of your meeting delegation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Fred Kingston
Executive Secretary

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Enclosed: Meeting logistics and Items for discussion (02 pgs.)



At the 2020 Annual Meeting, NAFO members endorsed the recommendation of WG-EAFFM to prepare for a Workshop that would support further implementation of ecosystem-based management in NAFO fisheries ([COM-SC Doc. 19-10](#)). Since that time, a small WG-EAFFM sub-group has met to initiate planning for the workshop. Given the impact of the COVID pandemic, coupled with the particularly high workload of ecosystem related assessment tasks planned in 2021, (*e.g.*, the re-assessment of bottom fisheries and the development of management options for new VME closures) the team recommends to defer the workshop until 2022. However, it was considered that convening a half-day virtual ‘EAF open-dialogue’ meeting in 2021 would be a key interim step to maintain the momentum in the NAFO ecosystem roadmap activities and prepare discussions ahead of the WG-EAFFM workshop in 2022.

The purpose of the ‘EAF open dialogue’ meeting is to allow both scientists and managers in NAFO an opportunity to better understand the current state-of-play of the EAF Roadmap in NAFO, identify the concerns about the processes needed to guide its progress towards implementation (in all its aspects) and the direction it could take in the future. The outcome of this open dialogue will provide the foundation for more detailed discussions at the planned EAF Roadmap workshop in 2022.

Timing.

- After considering the NAFO schedule of meetings, it appears the most suitable date to convene a virtual EAF open dialogue meeting on **07 October 2021**, over half a day (four-hour meeting).

Participation.

- Attendees will be open to WG-EAFFM members and invited guests, such as experts from ICES Advisory Committee. Contracting Parties will be requested to advise the Secretariat by early summer the names of any participants.

Preparation for the ‘open dialogue’ meeting.

- It is important that Contracting Parties, in consultation with their advisors and scientists, can offer their perspectives on the opportunities and challenges for the development and implementation of the NAFO EAF Roadmap. As such, please find the proposed items for discussion below. In addition, the Secretariat will be requesting information from Contracting Parties in advance of the meeting to support a robust discussion.

Items for discussion

Item	Suggested Lead/ Presentation
1. Introductions/Purpose/background	WG-EAFFM co-Chairs
2. Current state of play - an overview of the present NAFO EAF Roadmap	WG-ESA co-Chair
3. EAF advice in ICES	ICES ACOM Chair
4. Managers perspectives on the opportunities and challenges for the development and implementation of the NAFO EAF Roadmap.	NAFO CPs
5. Summary and Conclusions – agreeing objectives for the WG-EAFFM workshop in 2022	WG-EAFFM co-Chairs