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36TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2014

**REVISED Terms of Reference –
Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach
Framework to Fisheries Management**

Structure:

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

The Working Group shall be comprised of fishery managers and scientists from Contracting Parties supported by experts and advisors. The work form shall be an open forum/dialogue, unless the contracting parties, under the guidance of the co-chairs, decide to conduct sessions in a delegation format.

Recommendations to Fisheries Commission be developed through formal sessions of official delegations. If the Working Group breaks from plenary session and reverts to delegation for the purpose of drafting recommendations, individual scientists would remain as part of their delegations and SC as a whole would be represented by the SC Chair or a designated alternate.

The Co-Chairs shall be selected from participating fishery managers and scientists with both a fishery manager and a scientist represented in the two positions.

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. A total of up to two persons per non-governmental organizations that have been given the right to participate as observers shall be permitted.

Objective:

The main objective of the Working Group is to make recommendations to the Fisheries Commission and 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 Fisheries Commission, considering the associated advice of Scientific Council, the Working Group shall:

- Provide input/ guidance on the development and application of the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Roadmap, including defining objectives and establishing priorities.
 - Recommending appropriate ecosystem-based management areas,
 - Considering ecosystem status, functioning and dynamics of NAFO marine ecosystems, including species interactions,
 - Considering the effect of activities other than fishing that may impact the stocks and fisheries in the NAFO Area,
 - Analyzing the way other RFMOs address the need to conserve biodiversity and advise on a possible strategy for biodiversity.
- Make recommendations on mitigation strategies and measures to avoid significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the evaluation of associated risks.
- Review area closures and other measures outlined in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEMs) with specific timelines.
- Collaborate with Scientific Council on the assessment/ reassessment of NAFO bottom fisheries.
- Provide recommendations to Fisheries Commission in relation to requests to conduct exploratory bottom fishing and/ or evaluation of previously authorized exploratory fishing activities.
- Provide recommendations for updating the NCEMs 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 - Annex I.E), as necessary.

Meetings:

Meetings may be held at the request of the Chairs of Fisheries Commission and/or the Scientific Council, in consultation with Contracting Parties and the NAFO Secretariat.

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

The working group shall communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically, as required.

Reporting out

The Working Group will issue a written report (advice and any necessary follow-up such as areas for further advice from SC) to the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council.

An oral update can be provided to both SC and FC during their annual meetings.