



Serial No. N6104

NAFO/FC Doc. 12/28

(Adopted)

34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2012

**Proposal for a Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management**

**Noting** the United Nations General Assembly resolutions calling for the further implementation of an ecosystem approach to the management of fisheries;

**Recalling** the Amendments to the 1978 NAFO Convention includes a commitment to apply an ecosystem approach to the management of fisheries;

**Further Recalling** the prominent place that the ecosystems approach to the management of fisheries in both the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

**Recognizing** that the Performance Review noted the usefulness of increasing communication between the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission;

**Further recognizing** the performance review recommendation for the further development and consolidation of the Ecosystem Approach Framework and Roadmap;

**Noting** recommendation 5 of the 2012 report of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists to modify the Terms of Reference for the Working Group to expand its mandate to include broader aspects of the Ecosystem Approach Framework as part of future dialogue between the Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission; and

**In light of** the ongoing work of the Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management;

It is proposed that the Fisheries Commission invite the Chair of the Scientific Council, the Chair of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and the Chair of the Scientific Council Working Group on an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management to an intersessional meeting in 2013. During this intersessional meeting they would develop a draft Terms of Reference and a workplan for a joint Fisheries Commission – Scientific Council working group that would focus on the development and implementation of ecosystem approaches to fisheries management. The terms of reference and workplan would be considered by both the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission at the 2013 annual meeting.

It is recommended that the Terms of Reference include a mandate for the consideration of all matters related to the Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management (EAF), and the provision of advice to the Fisheries Commission on these matters.

It is also recommended that the mandate incorporate the responsibilities outlined in the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, resulting in the disbanding of the Fisheries Commission Working Group on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.