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37TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2015

Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process

Recognizing the value of the work completed by the NAFO Working Groups on matters integral to the core mandate of the organization;

Mindful that Contracting Parties must be prudent in expenditures and cognizant of the existing work commitments of Contracting Party representatives;

Noting the importance of ensuring that the participation of representatives of all Contracting Parties is enabled to the highest degree;

It is recommended that:

the NAFO Secretariat organize and chair a virtual meeting and invite the current and immediate past chairs of the:

- Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries (WG-EAFFM);
- the Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS);
- the Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (FC-SC WG-RBMS) and;
- Joint Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting (FC-SC WG-CR);

This group would be mandated to:

1. identify mechanisms to improve efficiencies, maximize meeting opportunities, and share best practices including advanced sharing of meeting materials (e.g. working papers), scheduling options, utilization of virtual meetings, use of sharepoint sites, etc;

The NAFO Secretariat should prepare a report of outcomes and suggested best practices to be shared with Contracting Parties so they can be considered to the extent possible for the planned activities of the Working Groups in 2016;

2. identify possible overlaps in the Terms of Reference of the above noted Working Groups

and request the NAFO Secretariat to report on these identified overlaps during the Joint Meeting of Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council at the 2016 NAFO Annual Meeting.

