

24th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
14-18 NOVEMBER 2005

NEAFC headquarters - 22 Berners Street, London W1T
3DY

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORDS

16 November 11:10 am – 4:10

The summary records are intended only for the convenience of participants in the meeting and will only be distributed to participants. They are the sole responsibility of the rapporteur and have not been approved. As the summary records are used as basis of the report of the meeting, corrections and comments to the rapporteur will be appreciated.

1. Welcome address by the President and opening statements

Item closed

2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of rapporteur

Item closed

3. Establishment and arrangements for the Finance and Administration Committee, and other groups established

Item closed.

4. Report by the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management

5. Statistics on quota uptake and vessel activity

(a) Reports up to 1 October 2005

(b) Compilation of catch statistics for 2004

The President asked the Secretariat to introduce AM2005/47. The Secretariat noted that, although the reporting was better, there still was room for improvement. The Norwegian representative had

noted that Greenland has reported herring catches in the Norwegian zone. He also pointed out that parties did very poorly in reporting effort in deep sea fisheries.

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) responded that Greenland had a herring quota exchange with the Faroe Island. This had been reported to Norwegian authorities; catches were taken in the Svalbard area.

The President thanked the group that had compiled the data. There was improvement in reporting, particularly the monthly reports. However, reporting at the end of the year is still not satisfactory. The Icelandic representative drew attention to the discussions in PECCOE to make it possible on a voluntary basis to input catch data directly into a database in the secure area of the NEAFC website. The Secretariat informed that this facility should be in place at the end of February.

6. Reports from Working Groups and Coastal State discussions on management measures for 2006

- (a) Oceanic-type redfish
- (b) Blue whiting
- (c) Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring
- (d) Mackerel
- (e) Rockall haddock
- (f) Deep-sea species
- (g) Closed areas

Item closed.

7. Recommendations of management measures for 2006 for:

- (a) Oceanic-type redfish
- (b) Blue whiting
- (c) Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring
- (d) Mackerel
- (e) Rockall haddock
- (f) Deep-sea species
- (g) Closed areas

8. Relationships with other fisheries management organisations

- (a) Observer reports

The President called the meeting to order at 3 pm. The Commission took note of the reports from observers at meetings of other RFMOs

The President asked for comments on observer reports. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) drew attention to some supplementary information to the NAFO observer reports. NAFO has initiated a process of reform by changing the Convention and improving the decision process and other provisions of the Convention. In this context, the NEAFC model for updating the Convention had been noted. NAFO had also discussed the Ecosystem Approach, regarding vulnerable habitats in the NAFO Area. Four seamounts had been identified, where contracting parties were urged to collect biological data.

The President suggested that the Commission appointed the same observers next year. The IBSFC has been wound up, therefore no observer will be appointed to IBSFC next year. The same observers were appointed.

SEAFO	the EU
NAFO	the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Pollock agreement in the Berings Sea	the Russian Federation
ICES	Iceland
NAMMCO	Norway

(b) Report of the Fourth Meeting of North Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, NARFMOs

Reference was also made to the report, AM2005/05 from the 4th Meeting of the NARFMOs. The representative of the European Union pointed out that there seemed to be a tendency to discuss management matters. This should be avoided and focus should be on Secretariat matters. The President supported this, but he thought that there was a point in exchanging information on discussions and decisions in the NARFMOs.

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) drew attention to the report of the 10th North Atlantic Fisheries Meeting, which had been tabled under this agenda item. She drew attention to the discussions on cooperation to deter, prevent and eliminate IUU fishing in the North Atlantic.

9. The NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement

- (a) Reports of the Meetings of PECCOE (11-12 April 2005 in Reykjavík and 11-12 October in Copenhagen and the Advisory Group on Data Communications 12 April 2005 in Reykjavík and 13 October in Copenhagen (AM2005/12, 13, 14 and 15)
- (b) Implementation of the Scheme

The President called the meeting to order at 11:10 and invited the Chairman of PECCOE, Mr Martin Newman, the EU, to introduce his report. The Chairman concentrated on points where a decision has to be taken. PECCOE had undertaken a review of compliance and it was agreed that the Secretariat should compile all information. He pointed out that Russia had not complied with the requirement for inspection presence according to Article 14.

(c) Possible adoption of proposals from PECCOE

The Chairman introduced proposals for recommendations, AM 2005/46, on

Return messages

Amendment to Article 9.1 in the non-Contracting Party Scheme
Prolongation of the Pilot Scheme for one year.
Amendments to article 12(4) of the Scheme

and explained the background of the proposals.

The recommendations were **unanimously adopted**.

The Chairman of PECCOE then introduced the A- and B-lists. He explained the procedures involved as set out in the non-Contracting Party Scheme. He informed that the non-Contracting Party Scheme was a success and referred to the delisting of a number of vessels from Dominica, which has left these vessel no place to go. He noted the SUNNY JANE incident, which had been reported by Iceland, and placed the vessel on the A-list. A lot of cooperation had taken place between the inspection services to stop the vessel landing in Contracting Party ports. He noted that the Belize authorities also had carried out inspections and given a prohibition to sail order. The vessel was later allowed to leave and it was presumed that it discharged in Agadir. It is at present not involved in transshipment, but operates as a cargo vessel.

He then gave an overview over how PECCOE had dealt with the application from Belize for cooperative non-Contracting Party status. Based on the requirements in Article 10, it was found that Belize had submitted the necessary information. This was somewhat in contrast to SUNNY JANE being placed on the B-list.

The President informed that HODs had decided to meet a representative from Belize before proceeding to a decision.

The Icelandic representative asked about the Dominican flag, de-listed vessels tied up in Rostock. He had information that this was their usual winter port and that the vessels still had the markings of Dominica. He referred to a letter from PIRO Fish that operates these vessels out of Rostock. If they went into operation again, this was certainly not a success story. He questioned the use of Rostock - a port in a Contracting Party – as a port of convenience.

The Chairman of PECCOE responded that he was not in a position to answer questions about the port of Rostock. Economic interests behind these operations have surfaced. He saw however the effective blocking of landings in CP ports as a success.

The representative of the European Union informed that the EU had recently implemented regulations on how to treat these vessels and these should now be operational. The Icelandic representative asked if this meant that EU ports could not be used by IUU vessel under these new regulations. The EU informed that the EU had responded to recommendations from NEAFC and the stipulations of the Scheme are immediately binding on all member states.

The Icelandic representative asked if there was anything in the rules specifically targeting IUU vessels, using EU ports as a base and for necessary services. He noted that if they transhipped their catches they would not be caught by a port inspection. The representative of the European Union responded that if NEAFC recommended any measures they would apply in the EU. The Icelandic representative urged the EU to look into the matter. He noted that PIRO Fish complained that Iceland had not allowed their vessels to enter Icelandic ports. Barring emergency situations, Iceland did not allow IUU vessel to enter its ports. If it was possible to operate IUU vessels from a

Contracting Party port perhaps there was a case for revising the non-Contracting Party Scheme. He would like the NEAFC Commission to conclude that this was not acceptable.

The representative of the European Union reviewed the EU legislation, which stipulates that IUU vessels should not receive any services. The Icelandic representative thanked him for this useful information and assumed that this meant that these specific vessels really did not receive any services. The representative of the European Union responded that it had to be assumed that all member states respected the legislation.

The President concluded that there seemed to be rules in place to cover the situation in Contracting Parties. He would however prefer that these were also NEAFC rules. He suggested that the NEAFC Commission gave a clear message from this meeting to PECCOE to implement appropriate rules. **This was agreed.** The Norwegian representative suggested that the Secretariat contacted harbour authorities in Rostock to check how these vessels survive without any services.

The Icelandic representative noted that other RFMOs had B-lists and suggested that NEAFC cooperated with them in these matters. NEAFC could have procedures to adopt suggestions from other RFMOs for inclusion of vessels on NEAFC lists. This cooperation had to be beneficial. He suggested that was dealt with by PECCOE or between the Secretariats.

The Secretariat informed about the procedures at present. The Secretariat had used the practices to check with other RFMOs if vessels were authorised by them to fish. For example a Japanese vessel that had been sighted fishing in the Regulatory Area. ICCAT had been contacted and informed that the vessel was authorised to fish by ICCAT. It was felt that it would not serve any purpose if RFMOs listed vessels authorised to fish by other RFMOs. The representative of the European Union accepted this information, but supported the proposal made by Iceland. This had to become an effective system and may enhance possibilities to stop landings.

The President asked if a way forward could be that a vessel listed in one organisation would automatically become listed in other organisations. The Icelandic representative pointed out this would require the establishment of procedures, perhaps a C-list. The difference in membership between RFMOs had to be looked into. The President asked if the NEAFC Commission should ask PECCOE to look into this problem. The Icelandic representative supported that, but asked the Secretariat to inform other relevant organisations about the opinion of the NEAFC Commission.

The Chairman then reviewed the discussions in PECCOE with respect to port state control. He referred to the proposal from Norway to create a specific port control scheme, which would cover all stocks and the whole Convention Area. PECCOE did not have problems with the details of the proposal, but with the scope, and had discussed possibilities of including port control provisions in the present schemes. PECCOE felt that it needed guidance from the Commission with respect to scope. PECCOE had, therefore, posed the following questions to the Commission:

1. Should measures for the control by port states of fishing vessels of another Contracting Party or non Contracting Party calling in its ports relate to fisheries conducted in:

- the Convention Area, or
- the Regulatory Area, or
- the Regulatory Area and areas under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party that has requested control measures to be adopted by NEAFC in respect of fisheries within such jurisdiction?

2. Should such measures relate to fisheries of:

- all species, or
- regulated species only?

He had found after the meeting that probably there should be a third possibility with respect to species: species required by a Contracting Party. The Norwegian representative expressed concern with respect to progress on this issue. Port state control is essential to curb IUU fishing. He did not see why disagreement on the scope should hamper development of the scheme. This meeting should not necessarily decide on the scope. The Norwegian representative intended to table a proposal for a clear mandate for PECCOE. The representative of the European Union indicated that his view on scope was the Regulatory Area and regulated species, but would accept that a Contracting Party could require control of species caught in waters under their jurisdiction. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) supported the Norwegian position. It was not necessary to decide the scope now, but PECCOE should be given a clear mandate. The Icelandic representative agreed and found this a reasonable way forward. It was agreed to ask the EU and the Norwegian representative to table written submissions on how to proceed..

The Icelandic representative wondered if there was anything against declaring a general ban for IUU vessels to enter ports of Contracting Parties. The Chairman of PECCOE pointed out that in the Scheme regulations applied to both the A- and the B-list. A general ban can only refer to a B-list. However the text could be clarified. The Icelandic representative indicated that a ban has to apply to the B-listed vessels, excepting cases of emergency. The President noted that PECCOE had already been charged with the task to work out the details.

The President thanked the Chairman and the PECCOE for their useful contribution.

He then closed the meeting and informed delegates about the timetable. The Commission will meet again at 2:30 to discuss agenda items 8, 14 and 5.

The representative of the European Union informed later about the vessel in the port of Rostock in response to questions by the Icelandic representative. He had information from Rostock that, in spite of the delisting, the vessel is still flying the flag of Dominica. The Rostock harbour authorities comply strictly with the rules and only deliver electricity and water necessary for security reasons. The vessels are owned by a joint German-Russian company and operated by a company in Cyprus. The Icelandic representative thanked for the information. The matter had not been raised by Iceland but by the Chairman of PECCOE. He hoped that this meant that these vessels would not be found on the fishing grounds next year.

(d) Possible adoption of proposals from the Advisory Group for Data Communication
There is no proposal from AGDC for the Commission to decide on.

The President closed the meeting. The next meeting will take place tomorrow morning at 10 am.

10. Non-Contracting Party activities in the Convention Area

- (a) Possible closure of cooperation quota
- (b) Statistics on activities July 2004 – July 2005
- (c) Sightings of IUU activities and ensuing actions
- (d) A- and B- lists of IUU vessels
- (e) Cooperating non- Contracting Party Status for Belize
- (f) Non –Contracting Party vessels and transshipments in the Regulatory area

These items covered under item 9.

Item closed

11. Working Group on the Future of NEAFC

- a) Reports of the meetings of the Working Group 26 April 2005 in London and 28 June 2005 in Brussels (AM2005/08 and 09)

Item closed

12. Amendment of the Convention

- (a) Proposal from Iceland on broadening the scope of the NEAFC Convention
- (b) Amendment of Article of the Preamble
- (c) New Article 1
- (d) New Article 2
- (e) New Article 4
- (f) Change to Article 5 and 6

AM2005/16

Item kept open

13. NEAFC Declaration

- (a) Proposal from the Working Group on the Future of NEAFC to adopt a “London” declaration (AM2005/21=)

Item kept open

14. NEAFC and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and integration of fisheries and environmental policies

- (a) General
Global

- United Nations General Assembly
- United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, ICP
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, FAO
- United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP
- Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO (IOC) (Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection, GESAMP)
- Other international agencies and programmes IUCN, CITES and OECD


Regional

- Regional Seas Programmes, OSPAR
- Inter-Organisational Consultation Forum, IOCF, to promote a European Marine Strategy
- Nordic Council of Ministers
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, ICES
- Other issues

Reports from meetings covered by the Secretariat

The Secretary presented highlights in the reports submitted.

NEAFC and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and integration of fisheries and environmental policies



NEAFC Agenda item 14 24th Annual Meeting

Continuously Reviewing Ocean Governance and the EAP

- To assist the continuous review of a wider perspective of ocean governance especially the Ecosystem Approach, EAP, the Secretariat under this agenda item has tabled one general paper and a number of meeting reports dealing with various aspects of this issue

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004 2

Documents

Number	Agenda Item	Title
AM 2005/04	14a	Report from the 26th Session of FAO-COPI, Rome 7 - 11 March 2005
AM 2005/05	8b	Report from the fourth meeting of NARFMOR, Rome 18 - 16 March 2005
AM 2005/06	14a	Report from the Conference on The Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Agreement, St Johns, March 2005
AM 2005/07	14a	Report from the 6th ICP meeting, New York 6 - 10 June 2005
AM 2005/17	14a	Global and regional processes and developments in the management of oceans
AM 2005/18	14a	Report by the NEAFC Secretariat of the Management Committee of the Advisory Process Meeting with ICES Client Commissions
AM 2005/19	8b & 14a	Report from the 4th Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies in Rome, 14-15 May 2005
AM 2005/22	14b	Response to FAO and UNDOALOS in preparation for the UNFSA review Conference - Note prepared by the NEAFC Secretariat
AM 2005/25	14a	West Nordic cooperation on fisheries and the EU
AM 2005/27	14a	Reports from two meetings in OSPAR of interest to NEAFC
AM 2005/33	14a	Report on a Conference on Marine Diversity, Fisheries Management and Marine Protected Areas Brussels 10 November 2005

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004 3

The many fora dealing with the issues

- Several strands address global and regional issues in ocean governance. Policy issues can be started in many different places, making it difficult shape an international consensus on a comprehensive and coherent approach to ocean governance.
- There is difference between different fora, which policy is moved, and by whom.
- Some start with from sustainable, rational utilisation other start from biodiversity, conservation and protection.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004 4

The many fora dealing with the issues

- Are the policy movers states with a management and democratic mandate and accountability to well defined constituencies?
- Or moved by states through RFMOs?
- Are they global and regional organisations like FAO, UNEP, IMO, CBD, CITÉS?
- Are they NGOs without any clear mandate or accountability?

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

5

The many fora dealing with the issues

- It is quite clear that there is an agenda, not driven by states individually or through their membership of regional and global organisations, but by NGOs and international organisations dominated by input from NGOs leaning strongly to conservation
- This is evident in the campaigns for a moratorium on bottom trawling in the high seas and the promotion of the use of marine protected areas as the panacea for all problems of ocean governance in general and fisheries management in particular.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

6

The many fora dealing with the issues

- The case for a moratorium on bottom trawling, until RFMOs have got their act together, has been put forward forcefully, but not based on scientific analysis and has not made use of either UN's own GESAMP or regional expertise in ICES.
- A report sponsored by IUCN and four big NGO's gives estimates of high sea bottom trawl catches, which it has not possible to reconstruct. The report fails to distinguish between high sea catches and deep sea bottom trawl catches and which species and gears should be included in deep sea bottom trawl catches.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

7

The many fora dealing with the issues

- This has led to a conclusion which misrepresents the factual situation. The campaign by the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, which has attracted attention in the media, is based on this report.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

8

General Secretary's reports UN General Assembly on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

- The main part is reporting on UNCLOS related issues like the status of the convention and its implementing agreements, delimitation of maritime zones (continental shelves, EEZs) institutions like the International Seabed Authority, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and the Commission on the limits of the Continental Shelf.
- It covers the regulation of shipping, marine environment and marine resources - and sustainable development. It reports on activities with respect to the oceans of organisations in the UN family UNEP, UNESCO (IOC) and IMO. Also the CBD.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

9

General Secretary's report to the 59 UN General Assembly on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

- In 2004 the General Secretary called for States... to better coordinate the work of their various departments dealing with ocean affairs in order to manage the areas and activities under their national jurisdiction in an integrated manner;
- States be guided by those same consistent, integrated oceans policies in their cooperation with other States, both directly and in the context of international organisations;
- International organisations collect national legislation in their areas of competence and publish it on their web sites.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

10

General Secretary's report to the 60 UN General Assembly on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

In addition to the update on developments the report this year contains a special section for the 6 ICP on fisheries and their contribution to sustainable development and on marine debris.

A special report on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction is worth noting.

The 6 ICP met in June and this week the final negotiations on the texts of the 60 UNGA resolutions on ocean governance.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

11

Resolution A/59/24 on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea

- Integrated, interdisciplinary and inter sectoral approach and better international cooperation at all levels supplementing the efforts of each state in promoting the implementation and observance of the Convention,
- The role of competent international organisations and improving their role at the global, regional, sub-regional and bilateral level;
- The role of marine science;

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

12

Resolution A/59/24 on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea

- Follow up on the decision to establish a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects;

- Concerns at the adverse impact on the marine environment and biodiversity, in particular on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including corals, of human activities, such as the over utilisation of living marine resources, the use of destructive practices, the physical impacts of ships, invasion of alien species, marine pollution from all sources, including land-based sources and vessels, and from the dumping of hazardous waste;

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

13

Resolution A/59/25 on sustainable fisheries.

- Gives a list of the international instruments and commitments to sustainable fisheries
- States and RFMOs to improve the management of fishing capacity and put into effect the IPOA Management of Fishing Capacity;
- One-week review conference of the 1995 UNFSA in the first part of 2006;

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

14

Resolution A/59/25 on sustainable fisheries.

- RFMOs to ensure that all states having a real interest in the fisheries concerned become members of such organisations;
- States by 2010 to apply the ecosystem approach, noting the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem and relevant decisions of CBD and guidelines developed by FAO;

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

15

Resolution A/59/25 on sustainable fisheries.

- States, either by themselves or through RFMOs, should take action urgently, and consider on a case-by-case basis and on a scientific basis, including the application of the precautionary approach, the interim prohibition of destructive fishing practices, including bottom trawling, which has an adverse impact on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts hydrothermal vents and cold-water corals located beyond national jurisdiction, until such time as appropriate conservation and management measures have been adopted in accordance with international law. Progress will be reviewed within two years (2006).

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

16

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, UNICPOLOS, ICP

- At the ICP meeting this year the balance between fisheries interests and conservation interests was better than earlier years. There was no consensus on a number of issues, which just this week are discussed between state parties in New York.
- The message from the RFB Secretariats Network was well received, Regional Organisations should be supported and not attacked.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

17

FAO 26th COFI Meeting

- IUU fishing very much in focus
- General consensus that we do not need new instruments, but a decade of implementation.
- Agreement on voluntary guidelines for eco-labelling
- Marine protected areas: MPAs are not a panacea for all problems in fisheries management. Scientific investigations are rare and there is a danger of drawing conclusions from a limited number of case studies, each with their specific blend of environment and fisheries. FAO to develop guidelines for MPAs

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

18

FAO

- It was not possible to reach consensus in COFI about the text of an MOU with CITES which, in recent years, has shown an interest in regulating trade in some fish species. Many members expressed the view that sovereign States, FAO and RFMOs have the primary role in conservation and management of commercially exploited species.
- The Committee reaffirmed the important role of RFMOs in improving the governance of deep-water resources.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

19

United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, Regional Seas Programmes, RSPs

- At the 4th meeting of RFBs possibilities of cooperation between RFBs and RSPs with respect to integrating environmental concerns into fisheries management were discussed. A representative of UNEP pointed out that RFBs should seek cooperation with their RSP counterparts directly.
- The RSP counterpart of NEAFC is OSPAR.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

20

United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, Regional Seas

- UNEP is not currently constituted to provide genuine leadership on critical environmental issues, even when these cry out for an international response. Unlike fully fledged UN agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization or the World Health Organization, it is merely a 'programme', funded on a voluntary basis by the United Nations' member states. (Nature Sep 2005)

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

21

Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD

- The 8th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will take place 20-31 March in Brazil.
- The CBD Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas at its first meeting in Montecatini, Italy, in July 2005 did not reach agreement on a series of recommendations to the COP, March 2006, and will therefore reconvene in December 2005 in Montreal to try to finalise recommendations.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

22

CITES

- The term "trade" in CITES means not only export, re-export and import, but also "introduction from the sea". The latter term is defined to mean "transportation into a State of specimens of any species which were taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State". CITES has sought to clarify the concept of "introduction from the sea" but has not reached a final conclusion.
- CITES has invited NEAFC next month to participate in a workshop on introduction from the sea to consider implementation and technical issues, taking into account the two FAO expert consultations in 2004.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

23

OECD and HSTF

- HSTF is a group of fisheries ministers and international NGOs working together to develop an action plan designed to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing on the high seas. The composition of the Ministerially-led Task Force is said to be a model of the multi-stakeholder spirit inspired by Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Action. OECD hosts the Secretariat.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

24

Conference on The Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Agreement

- – Moving from Words to Action.
- Another example of attempts to power up processes politically.
- Different states and organisations do not agree with respect to the performance of RFMOs/RFAs under their current charters and their ability to meet new challenges such as the ecosystem approach and the conservation of vulnerable habitats. Those that have a rather negative assessment of RFMOs (most NGOs and some states) favour action through UNGA (banning bottom trawling in the high seas), whilst others favour a process of strengthening RFMOs to meet their expanded tasks.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

25

Conference on The Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Agreement

- NEAFC attracted some attention because of its regulatory regime and advanced Scheme of Control and Enforcement together with recent decisions on closing vulnerable habitats and fast track dispute settlement.
- There was no clear or agreed conclusion from the Conference on how to proceed and in which direction, but the conference was seen as a kick-start of the review of the UNFSA.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

26

Regional Cooperation

- The 4th Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies strengthened the cooperation and created the network of secretariats of Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs)
- The meeting between heads of delegation of NEAFC and OSPAR yesterday demonstrated that there is a scope for cooperation or at least avoidance of duplication of work, but the cooperation has to start on a national level and spill over to the RFMOs and RSPs from there.

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

27

Upcoming events

- CITES workshop introduction from the sea, December 2005
- Continuation of the CBD work on MPAs, Montreal December 2005
- UN March 2006 Ad hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.
- 8th COP CBD Brazil March 2006
- One-week review conference of the 1995 UNFSA in May 2006

23 Annual Meeting NEAFC November 2004

28

The Norwegian representative informed that Norway and Iceland and the Nordic Council of Ministers worked together on a follow up conference on the Johannesburg commitments and ecosystem approach. Invitations will be issued later.

(b) The Review Conference of the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement

The Norwegian representative indicated that he did not support a global system of reviewing RFMOs. Instead he proposed establishing a regular review process in NEAFC. He introduced his proposal which had been tabled. Such reviews are a natural thing in modern civil services. This would enhance transparency and trust in RFMOs. The Future of NEAFC Working Group will be asked to develop a mandate and the President and Secretary to arrange the practicalities. It should be possible to report that this process has started in the UNFSA review conference and discuss the review at the next Annual Meeting.

The representative of the European Union and the Icelandic representative were not ready to commit themselves and would like to have more time to work on the text. The Icelandic representative was, however, positive. The representative of the European Union wanted to discuss the Norwegian proposal in a HODs meeting.

The agenda item was kept open.

15. Request for scientific advice

- (a) Establishment of a permanent Management – Science Committee
- (b) Formulation of the request for advice from ICES under Article 14
- (c) Other requests for advice

16. Finance and Administration Committee

- (a) Introduction
- (b) Report on the Secretariat's activities during the year
- (c) Outturn for 2004 and Expected Outturn for 2005
- (d) Draft Budget for 2006
- (e) Main budget recommendation for 2006:
- (f) Refurbishment of 22 Berners Street
- (g) Draft Budget Estimate for 2007
- (h) Contributions from Contracting Parties
- (i) Any other business

17. Arrangements for future meetings

- (a) Annual Meetings in November 2006 and November 2007
- (b) Meetings in subsidiary bodies of NEAFC in 2006

18. Press statements and other reports of the Commission's activities

19. Any other business

20. Closure of the 24th Annual Meeting