PECCOE
Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control (AHWG PSC)
18-19 April 2013, London

Report

1. Opening of the meeting
The Chair, Gylfi Geirsson, Iceland, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates.

All Contracting Parties were represented.

2. Adoption of the Agenda
The agenda was adopted in the form that had been circulated before the meeting.

3. The minimum levels for inspection of vessels
It was pointed out that at the last meeting of AHWGPSC, Contracting Parties had been encouraged to discuss the issues that were still outstanding among themselves and in bilateral consultations. In this context, Norway and the EU had held bilateral consultations on the NEAFC PSC.

The result of the Norwegian and EU bilateral consultation had been that the most appropriate minimum levels for inspection of vessels would be 7.5% for frozen presentations and 5% for fresh presentations. The inspections would be based on risk assessments. These provisions would be subject to review.

The other Contracting Parties agreed that these levels could be adopted. They noted that the methodology for reaching these precise figures was not necessarily very clear, and that it would therefore be useful to review the levels on the basis of 3 years of implementing them.

It was agreed that when the scope of the NEAFC Port State Control is expanded to include fresh fish:

1. The minimum levels for inspection of vessels will be 7.5% of landings of frozen presentations and 5% of landings of fresh presentations.
2. The Scheme will explicitly state that inspections shall be based on risk assessments.
3. These minimum levels will be reviewed for possible amendment 3 years after they enter into force, based on the experience of implementing them.
4. Any Contracting Party may initiate a process to have the review earlier, if it considers that appropriate.

4. Drafting possible amendments to the Scheme

4.1. Review of Chapter V with “Scope” as fresh and frozen fish
The review of Chapter V was done as a part of the drafting exercise under agenda item 4.3.

4.2. Review of the current state of drafting
The review of the current state of drafting was done as a part of the drafting exercise under agenda item 4.3.
4.3. Drafting proposal for changes to the Scheme
The delegates drafted possible amendments to the Scheme, based on drafts previously developed by AHWGPSC.

It was agreed that the draft developed at the meeting still needed more work before it could be presented as a formal proposal to amend the Scheme. Some issues still need further consideration, the draft still includes some square brackets, and the meeting did not have time to consider Chapter VI or all of the relevant Scheme Annexes.

The draft as it was at the end of the meeting is Annex 1 to this report.

Among the issues that were agreed were the following:
1. The NEAFC PSC shall continue to apply to all fisheries resources, rather than being more limited.
2. The FAO PSMA shall constitute an integral part of the NEAFC PSC. Its provisions will apply *mutatis mutandis* in NEAFC as a minimum standard, with other provisions of the Scheme adding to it.
3. Even though all the provisions of the FAO PSMA will apply *mutatis mutandis* in NEAFC, the key provisions can be repeated in the Scheme, to ensure clarity for the users of the Scheme.
4. Even though the FAO PSMA has not entered into force, and not all Contracting Parties have ratified or approved it, all Contracting Parties shall adopt and implement measures consistent with it and provide a statement of the actions they take in this respect.
5. The definition of “fishing activities” shall remain as it is in the current Scheme. To cover the wider scope of the FAO PSMA, one of two approaches will be used. Either an addition to the definition, that will apply only to Chapters V and VII, or alternatively a definition of the term “fishing related activity” which would then be used in the appropriate places in Chapters V and VII.

5. Report to the October 2013 meeting of PECCOE
The report of the meeting was adopted on 19 April 2013.

6. Any other business
No issues were raised under this agenda item.

7. Next meeting
It was agreed that AHWGPSC would meet on 23-24 May in Reykjavik, Iceland, immediately following the meeting of AHWGERS, pending a confirmation from Iceland that the intended meeting facilities will be available and that the meeting of AHWGERS will be held on the dates currently planned. Alternatively, the meeting will be held during the same dates but at NEAFC headquarters in London.

The Chair will inform the members of AHWGPSC of the conclusion regarding dates and place.

8. Closing of the meeting
The Chair thanked all the participants for a fruitful meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.