NEAFC’s Relationship with Other International Fora 2018
Information document by the NEAFC Secretariat

Since the establishment on an independent Secretariat in 1999, the NEAFC Secretariat has engaged in a variety of interactions with other international fora. This document sets out the key meetings for the year from the last annual meeting.

The aim of attending the engagements varied depending on the meeting but includes highlighting NEAFC and its Contracting Parties’ progress and developments in implementing its objectives in fisheries management. NEAFC’s experience, expertise and knowledge can help inform and strengthen other organisations work on fisheries and oceans. The role of regional cooperation is of particular interest currently given ongoing developments in ocean governance. In addition, several fora offer opportunities for learning and exchange of information on practice of relevance to the Secretariat, for instance on Monitoring Control and Surveillance.

In terms of relationships, ICES is a key organisation given its role in providing scientific advice to NEAFC. Relationships with other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN is another focus given many common issues and experience on which NEAFC can benefit from information exchange. The relationship with NAFO continues to be close both at Secretariat level and through the joint advisory group, JAGDM. Work with OSPAR under the collective arrangement continues to be of relevance, with further developments arising.

The report of the 2015 NEAFC Extraordinary Meeting, reads in part as follows:

It was therefore agreed that NEAFC should continue to take part in projects aimed at sharing NEAFC’s experience and expertise. Participation in such projects could be increased, within the available human and financial resources, and ensuring that this did not negatively affect the ability of NEAFC to address its core activities. In selecting projects to take part in, the Secretariat should give priority to working with the FAO; regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements; other regional fisheries bodies; and/or regional seas conventions. As a general approach, NEAFC should get the direct cost of such work paid by the project funds available for the specific activity. Contracting Parties were invited to make special contributions to NEAFC to increase NEAFC’s capacity to take part in development projects. The Contracting Parties further encouraged contributions to the Part VII Assistance Fund established by the UN General Assembly in 2003, in implementation of Article 26 (1) of UNFSA.
The Secretariat aims to prioritise attendance at meetings to be consistent with the conclusion of the NEAFC Commission. Where possible the direct cost of Secretariat attendance at meetings and projects has been paid by the organisers of the meeting/project.

This information document provides a collation of short individual reports of the various fora attended by the Secretariat, and one by the President. These are intended to be very short overviews. Rather than provide all relevant information, they should provide the Contracting Parties with information on some of the Secretariat’s activities in this context, and create a basis for any interested parties to approach the Secretariat for more information. The Secretariat and the President will highlight any key points in the oral introduction to the item.

The notes in the annexes to this information document relate to the following:

**20.1 ICES**
Meeting of ICES with Recipients of ICES Advice, MIRIA P4
Bilateral Meeting between NEAFC and ICES P6

**20.2 UN/BBNJ**
13th Informal Consultations with States Parties on the UN Fish Stocks Agreement P11
Intergovernmental Conference on Development of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. P12
Regional Ocean Management Workshop, Jamaica/Norway. P14

Workshop on Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in the SE Atlantic P15
Workshop on Technological tools for MCS in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction P16
Workshop on Contemporary Issues in International Maritime Governance, Tokyo P18

**20.3 FAO**
FAO – Transhipment Expert meeting P19
FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels Working Group P21
FAO Port State Measures Agreement Working Group P23
FAO Port State Measures Agreement – 2nd Meeting of the Part 6 Working Group P24
Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction – FAO Common Oceans Programme P25
7th meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) P26
33rd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) P28
20.4   OSPAR
Biodiversity Committee of OSPAR  P29

20.5   Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogues
Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue (2nd meeting)  P31

20.6   WTO
WTO Technical Session within the framework of the Negotiating Group on Rules: subsidies to IUU Fishing  P33

20.7   Other
World Maritime University working visit to the Secretariat  P34
Meeting of the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management  P35
Global Fishery Forum & Seafood Expo 2018  P36
Meeting of ICES with Recipients of ICES Advice, MIRIA 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description
All clients who have an MOU or Administrative agreement with ICES are invited to a meeting every year as the recipients of ICES advice. Additionally all ICES member countries can also attend. The meeting is focused on the process, criteria and products of ICES Advisory Services and provides a forum to discuss issues of interest between the different users of ICES advice. The meeting also provides an opportunity for individual advice recipients to raise issues. A high priority for ICES in 2018 was to address issues that may have arisen in the previous year.

Participation
The 2018 MIRIA was held at ICES headquarters in Copenhagen on 16-17 January. The Secretary attended the meeting as well the vice-Chair of PECMAS and several Contracting Party delegates. The Secretary was able to raised issues, primarily those identified by PECMAS or in the context of the Annual Meeting.

Content
Among the issues covered by ICES were a review of its advisory services, quality assurance, stakeholder involvement, formulation of requests for advice. On fisheries advice ICES covered approaches for different stock categories, frequency of assessments, the reopening of advice, and the framework for ecosystem advice. Under deliverables it covered single stock advice and management plans as well as fisheries and ecosystem overviews the work being undertaken regarding ecosystem overviews and fisheries overviews, and how ICES reacts to errors in their advice – which ranges from issuing corrections to re-issuing the advice in revised form.

Among the issues raised by the Secretary at the meeting were the need for further clarity in presentation of some of the advice. Linked to the issue of re-opened advice, the Secretary requested clearer signalling of revisions in ICES advice which had occurred after the annual process for setting allowable catch. This would enable readers of allowable catch tables in future years to understand the context in which a decision had originally been made. ICES has also emphasised its initiatives to improve quality assurance and to be transparent about addressing errors. The meeting also reflected on earlier discussions at PECMAS 2017 on the ICES approach to MSY and precaution/risk, with ICES being encouraged to highlight its approach in relevant fora.
MIRIA meetings are very useful in bringing issues to the attention of ICES and to engage in a dialogue on a number of issues. However, the Secretariat is limited with regard to which issues it can raise. The Secretary will only raise issues that have been discussed within the NEAFC context and Contracting Parties are not holding opposed views. The presence of the vice-Chair of PECMAS and the representation of four out of the five NEAFC Contracting Parties was therefore very helpful in this context.

The full MIRIA report prepared by ICES can be found at:

Bilateral Meeting between NEAFC and ICES
ICES Headquarters
18 January (13.00 – 15.00) 2018

Report from the ICES-NEAFC bilateral meeting, 18 January 2018

The note of the second ICES-NEAFC bilateral meeting, prepared by the ICES Secretariat, is set out below. This also includes a list of actions for 2018 agreed at the meeting.

ACTIONS FOR 2018

- **ICES.** NSSH advice sheet: Put original advice value back into the history of advice table for NSSH, issue silent correction [this has been done subsequent to this meeting].
- **ICES.** WGDEEP 2018
  - More clear, easily accessible description of differences between official and ICES estimated catches i.e. list all differences (IUU, raising, species misreporting, area misreporting). May be useful to have a section including table of comparison, and list of explanations for big differences by species (problems can be hidden in the report in the multiple different report sections).
  - In advice sheet - quality of assessment - put reason for differences between official and ICES catches i.e. make sure the client can see it.
  - Continually check NEAFC deep-sea stock classifications remain correct, reports should include the NEAFC categorisation.
- **NEAFC Contracting Parties** to consider ICES request to improve VMS data transfer.
- **ICES** to report outcome of AIS/VMS data Working Group.
- **Dialogue on requests for advice in 2018** (potentially including Rockall Haddock).
- **Agreement on delay of advice on Harvest Control component of the Rockall Haddock management plan to 2019** [A postponement of the advice on the harvest control element of the Rockall Haddock long-term management plan has been agreed subsequent to this meeting].
- **The ICES-NEAFC interaction** would be submitted as a good example of science-policy interface to the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
- **Informal discussions** at the next NEAFC annual meeting to decide whether a bilateral meeting is required for 2019.
- **ICES Secretariat** to endeavour to informally alert NEAFC to any potentially relevant issues being highlighted in working groups.
- Note that in due course the MOU between NEAFC and ICES would need to be reviewed.

Welcome and presentation of participants.

Participants

ICES: Eskild Kirkegaard (ACOM chair), Mark Tasker, Ghislain Chinaurd, Colm Lordan (ACOM vice-chairs), Lotte Worsøe Clausen (Head of ICES Secretariat Advisory Department), Rui Catarino, David Miller, Neil Holdsworth (Head of ICES Secretariat Data Department), Anne Christine Brussendorf (ICES General Secretary).

NEAFC: Darius Campbell (NEAFC Secretariat), Thorsteinn Sigurdsson (Iceland, PECMAS vice-chair), Jóhann Guðmundsson (Iceland), Stefan Kalogirou (Sweden), Zsuzsanna Koenig (EU), Ida Omenaas Flaageng (Norway), Camille Dross (France)

2. Review of the cooperation between NEAFC and ICES in 2017, Including:

a. **Dealing with Revisions of Advice, for instance the advisory process on Norwegian spring spawning herring.**

   Discussed at MIRIA - no additional points. The process of going through the work again increased understanding between scientists involved.

   During consultations: presentation of the revision in the list of previous advice (history of advice table) came up a lot (**would like the original advice value (before later revision in advice) in the sheet - to ensure transparency**).

b. **Data, (Catch data by zone, VMS and log-book data) including recent discussions between Secretariats.**

   ICES has received catch data by zone from Norway now, and will in future. NEAFC has an ongoing process of mapping how Contracting Parties (CPs) are reporting stats, and how to harmonise it. Some CPs are reporting according to NEAFC scheme (which has different ICES areas for e.g. mackerel and blue whiting). ICES noted that this is likely for historical reasons (EU not recognising certain components as shared), but ICES sticks to its stock areas and advice.

   Three different catch data series exist: Statlan, ICES and NEAFC. Some clarity over how/if these data sets were used was provided:

   - Statlan is the official landings data from countries – EU data submitted via Eurostat, ICES compiles from other countries. These data are often reported as 'Official' catches. Statlan data is for species by area, but sometimes this cannot be used directly by ICES (e.g. ICES countries not delivering to the level requested, or if multiple stocks of a species are in a single area (e.g. herring), or bycatch could be reported against other target species etc.).
   - ICES data includes IUU estimates and raising (e.g. of unreported discards). Data calls are for stock, regardless of fisheries or official reporting. Discard raising is not in Statlan (only landings).
- NEAFC data is not studied by ICES unless requested. NEAFC data is also by stock, but these not necessarily the same as ICES stock definitions. ICES does not get it automatically, or use it systematically, at present.

Follow-up on the ICES-NEAC web meeting at the end of 2017, regarding VMS data:
- NEAFC secretariat is required to deliver the data twice a year. The impression was that ICES requires data constantly, but reality is that it is an annual process. ICES do not need data sent twice a year, and would prefer to it at one agreed time per year.
- NEAFC pointed out that randomisation of vessel identification was an important issue for Contracting Parties to ensure commercial confidentiality. Therefore any changes in delivery of data to ICES would need a change in the current data Recommendation at NEAFC.
- There was a small issue regarding catch information aggregation, with the date field not being correctly identified. This small technical issue would be sorted out. Likewise, a minor issue on catch weight units used would be addressed.
- ICES noted that systematic misreporting of gear appeared to be a problem (pelagic with demersal trawl, e.g. redfish fishery south of Iceland waters - not bottom trawl but reported as such). NEAFC explained that this was not in fact misreporting, but reflected the current requirement only to report one gear per year. In practice vessels might change gear and carry more than one gear in any case. Planned introduction of Electronic Reporting Systems would tackle this issue. ICES noted that this was part of the problem, but that there seemed to be some other consistent problems, possibly simply be copy-paste errors.
- ICES noted that missing data remains an issue, and ICES cannot know for sure what would be missing but can only highlight suspected issues. NEAFC does receive VMS data, but since ICES do not receive data from certain EU countries in their data call, they suspect it is not in NEAFC's data).
- There had been some lack of confidence expressed by ICES on NEAFC VMS data, partly stemming from AIS presentations by NGOs, partly from ICES work (ICES would not use AIS data for a number of reasons). NEAFC Secretariat explained that it did not currently receive logbook information or AIS data, only VMS data (all of which is sent to ICES). There were differences in interpretation on whether there had been contraventions of regulations, given the modelling required to determine fisheries activities based on AIS, and NEAFC’s expert interpretation of VMS data. ICES would be carrying out in 2018 a more systematic analysis of the comparative use of AIS and VMS for determining fishing activities, following a data call is for VMS and AIS data. Problems were nevertheless expected with both data sets. ICES felt it had the relevant compliance expertise in the planned working group to analyse the VMS-AIS data. NEAFC indicated its interest in the outcome of the WG this year.
c. **ICES presentation of advice to NEAFC.**

NEAFC indicated it found presentation of ICES advice was done in a way that was easy to process within the NEAFC system. In future more attention could be paid to the NEAFC deep sea species categorisations as a basis for selecting stocks to present.

NEAFC was also interested in the ecosystem overviews. It was useful to have an overview of what is going on in the Convention Area beyond single stocks analysis, helping to improve understanding.

Following the Mackerel Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) presentation in 2017, feedback was received from Coastal States regarding short term v long term implications. This was appreciated, and will be dealt with in a workshop this year to make sure there is consistency between short term advice and MSEs etc.

3. **Dialogue on requests for advice in 2018 (potentially including Rockall Haddock).**

Rockall Haddock has never been benchmarked, but there was a commitment to do it in 2019 (starting work in 2018). It was proposed that it would make sense to delay the ICES advice on Harvest Control Component of the long term management plan until after this.

[A postponement of the advice on the harvest control element of the Rockall Haddock long-term management plan has been agreed subsequent to this meeting].

The VME presentation in 2017 indicated that VMEs may be within the haddock box. NEAFC asked what the implications for these VMEs would be if the haddock box was lifted i.e. could there then be fisheries on possible VMEs? ICES had advised that the haddock box was for both habitats and juvenile haddock. EU has asked for similar work ignoring current closures. So a re-examination is likely as part of this work.

4. **Long-term development (including possible multispecies advice, possible climate effects and other ecosystem considerations).**

Three years ago PECMAS wanted to start a dialogue about future advice. MIRIA had illustrated that a number of initiatives are being taken, some of which will impact advice for NEAFC area.

Overviews will start providing broader info. Currently no climate issues are included in these, but they may expand to include that in future.

5. **NEAFC Sec; current call for information on science policy interface from UN DOALOS for Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement**

The NEAFC Secretary explained that the UN DOALOS has issued a call to IGOs for information on the science-policy interface in preparation for the May 2018 UN Fish Stocks Agreement informal consultations meeting. He explained he would include in the
information the relative roles of NEAFC and ICES in policy and science with regards to management of the relevant fish stocks, as well as the existing precautionary elements built into ICES advice to NEAFC.

ICES explained that it was currently trying to obtain UN observer status – so this would be a good opportunity to raise its profile. Currently therefore ICES does not attend UN Fish Stocks Agreement review meetings, although some of its scientists may. [ICES now confirmed as attending]

It was noted that ICES-NEAFC interaction would be a good example to present at the United Nations review meeting.

6. Future development of this bilateral NEAFC-ICES forum/Next Meeting.

The Bilateral had been initially agreed as a biannual bilateral, but the issue open for discussion. It was noted that some clearly laid out agenda points would help to focus collaboration and work together.

It was also noted that there had been some good exchanges of views at the annual meeting in November, but perhaps the PECMAS meeting could also be used as a platform for such discussions (less busy).

It was suggested to have informal discussions at the NEAFC annual meeting to decide whether a bilateral meeting is required for the next year.

7. AOB.

NEAFC asked if it could be alerted to relevant issues raised by ICES working groups (for instance in the past issues had been raised on data of which the NEAFC Secretariat were unaware. ICES noted that reports aren’t peer reviewed, so any alerts would be informal. Any official informing would need to have a properly documented issue. However, the ICES secretariat would endeavour to consolidate issues as they arise and alert NEAFC to any potentially relevant findings. Relevant WGs would include those working on VMS, WGDEEP, WGWIDE, Elasmobranch groups etc.

The MOU between ICES and NEAFC was last updated in 2007. It seemed to be working well, but could be improved. The current text of the MOU sets out a triannual review period, but nothing had been done on this basis. The 2014 VMS data agreement was separate from the MOU, but could become an appendix/annex to the MOU in due course. While NEAFC would need to re-examine MOU to see if was meeting needs, it was likely given other developments any proper review may have to wait until 2019 at the earliest.

There was a general appreciation of the open sharing of ideas between ICES and NEAFC.
13th Informal Consultations with States Parties on the UN Fish Stocks Agreement 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description

Paragraph 55 of the UN General Assembly Resolution 72/72 of 5 December 2017 on Oceans and the law of the sea included a request to the Secretary-General to convene the thirteenth round of informal consultations of States parties (ICSP) to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The focus of the two day meeting in May 2018 was to be on the topic “Science-policy interface”.

The Secretary was invited to prepare a contribution outlining the NEAFC approach to science policy interface and to attend the ICSP to make a presentation at the meeting.

Participation

The Secretary participated in the 13th ICSP on UNFSA in New York 23-27 May 2018, including making a presentation as a panellist in a segment of the programme entitled: “Experiences, challenges and opportunities at the regional level”.

The presentation outlined how it NEAFC meets its objectives, in particular focusing on the relationship with ICES as NEAFC’s sole source of scientific advice. This included how the NEAFC process moves from data to advice to management decisions – all in the context of regional cooperation between Contracting Parties.

The sessions included discussions on: the legal and policy framework; regional and national experiences; strengthening the science-policy interface through the Review Conference on the Agreement and; other intergovernmental processes/multi-stakeholder partnerships. While some of the discussions were very productive, the very limited attendance by States Parties at the ICSP will have restricted a wider impact.

In considering the next round of Informal Consultations of the States Parties to the Agreement to be held in 2019, the topic was to be “Performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements” as set out in the above resolution of 2017.
Intergovernmental Conference on Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description
Over 10 years or more the United Nations have been considering the possibility of developing a new implementation agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction “BBNJ”.

In 2015, the UN General Assembly agreed resolution 69/292 to develop an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Following a preparatory process, the first of four sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) to develop the instrument was held on 4-17 September 2018 at the UN Headquarters.

The package of potential elements for the instrument to be developed at the IGC included:
- marine genetic resources, including questions on benefit-sharing;
- environmental impact assessments;
- area-based management tools; and
- capacity building and marine technology transfer.

Delegates were able to consider a discussion document, prepared by the IGC President with the aim of then developing a zero draft of the international legally binding instrument.

Participation
Although all RFMOs may attend the IGC as observers, given the length of the sessions, few RFMO Secretariats were able to spare the resource to attend the whole two weeks. Secretariats therefore coordinated on their attendance; NAFO and NEAFC Secretaries attended the first week of the session, while NPFC covered the second week (with SEAFO present for both). In addition, the FAO and the FAO Deep Seas Project also attended as observers.

The NEAFC Secretary made an intervention in the opening statement session. He highlighted the role of NEAFC delivering on its conservation, as well as economic and social objectives, for instance via bans on targeted deep sea fisheries on sharks or protection for vulnerable marine ecosystems from bottom fisheries. He also pointed out the existing and growing
cooperation between RFMOs as well as between RFMOs and regional seas organisations. This function of existing instruments was something the proposed new BBNJ instrument should not only avoid undermining, but ideally enhance.

The Secretary also presented his experiences under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue at a side event organised by CBD and he took part in discussions at various side-events during the week.

During the week the Secretary also made sure he spoke to all NEAFC Party delegations. In general, the NEAFC parties clearly highlighted in plenary the importance of RFMOs in the management of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. While initial national positions were being re-iterated at the IGC, it was already clear that many parties around the world were emphasising a final instrument in which regional bodies would play a clear role. This included frequent reference to the ‘hybrid model’ (as opposed to a global only or regional only model) but with varying degrees of emphasis on the global versus regional balance. It appeared the discussions on environmental impact assessments and area-based management had the potential for the greatest impact on existing arrangements within RFMOS, but all areas of the discussion did touch on existing regional instruments.

Due to the direct relevance of the BBNJ process to the work of RFMOs, the Secretary coordinated earlier with other RFMOs to ensure representation throughout the first session of the Conference. This coordination will continue for future sessions, in addition with the FAO Secretariat, including the Deep Seas Project. The next two sessions of the IGC are planned for 25 March-5 April 2019 and 19-30 August 2019.
Regional Ocean Management Workshop
Kingston, Jamaica
March 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description
The Governments of Jamaica and Norway, in collaboration with IUCN, held a workshop on Marine Genetic Resources and Regional Ocean Management in Kingston on 12-14 March. The aim was to inform Caribbean government and their UN mission delegates, as well as Caribbean regional intergovernmental organisations about the relevant oceans issues in the run up to the UN Conference on an Implementing agreement for Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The workshop included sessions on Marine Genetic Resources, regional ocean governance in the context of ABNJ, science and information in the context of ABNJ, regional collaboration, allowing for discussion at the Caribbean regional level on these issues.

Participation
The NEAFC Secretary was invited by Norway to present the North-East Atlantic perspective on the above issues. The presentation included NEAFC’s aims and objectives, including those on conservation which had led to the inter-sectoral collaboration with OSPAR. The presentation highlighted the role of effective regional fisheries management as well as the science-policy model represented by the ICES-NEAFC relationship. It was generally felt that the workshop achieved the aim of exploring successful models of regional cooperation, including within the Caribbean in the context of preparations for the UN BBNJ conference.
Workshop on Opportunities for Strengthening Ocean Governance in the Southeast Atlantic (IASS) - June 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description

The STRONG High Seas (‘Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas’) project sets out to develop targeted measures to support the coordinated development of integrated and ecosystem-based approaches for ocean governance in ABNJ within regions as well as between regions and the global level. It is coordinated by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and implemented together with six partners based in Europe, South America, and Africa. At the AM 2017 the European Union had outlined the project, highlighting the opportunities for cooperation between regions and between fisheries and environment sectors in the South East Atlantic. A presentation on the project had also been made at the 4th NEAFC/OSPAR collective arrangement meeting. The Southeast Atlantic is one of two regional focuses of the project and hence a workshop was held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire on 27-28 June 2018, hosted by the Abidjan (regional seas) convention.

The workshop aimed to bring stakeholders within the region together to discuss status and challenges for global and regional ocean governance, foster exchange and build new networks. The workshop also aimed to prioritise needs, including those related the legal and institutional framework in the Southeast Atlantic, laying the groundwork for establishing regional platforms for exchange.

Participation

The NEAFC Secretary was invited by the IASS to present NEAFC’s perspectives on regional and inter sectoral cooperation, in particular drawing on its experience in cooperation with OSPAR. The NEAFC experience was well received, with detailed questions from both fisheries and marine environment stakeholders (many from national administrations) from the region.
Technological tools for MCS in ABNJ

IDDRI and “Strong High Seas workshop

Paris, 10 July 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Introduction
Effective monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) is critical for the success of marine conservation and management. Whereas States have the right to manage the marine resources within their national jurisdiction, the high seas are subject to a complex patchwork of international rules and regulations. As States begin to negotiate a new international agreement concerning areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), there is growing interest in how MCS tools and policies can be applied to this vast global commons.

The STRONG High Seas project (Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas) aims to strengthen regional ocean governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, including through enhanced MCS tools and policies. This five-year project is working together with key science and policy actors in the Southeast Pacific and Southeast Atlantic regions to improve regional coordination and provide new lessons and approaches for high seas governance.

Participation
The Secretariat was invited to participate in this workshop that gathered 15 participants representing policy research institutes, fisheries industry, MCS technology providers, environmental organizations, RFMOs and INGOs.

Participants engaged in wide-ranging discussions on the opportunities and challenges for effective MCS, taking stock of existing technological tools and considering possible future technological developments (See Annex II).

The workshop will feed into ongoing international negotiations on ABNJ, as well as support regional decision makers and stakeholders with the knowledge and options needed for improving MCS in ABNJ. A second workshop, planned for late 2018, will build on the results of this workshop and be used to discuss and consider policy options for strengthening MCS in ABNJ.
The key messages from the workshop are:

- Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) will be crucial to ensuring compliance with management measures developed under a future international agreement on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).
- Tools for MCS have been drastically extended by a range of new technologies and techniques using previously unavailable or inaccessible data sources, while there is no clear and singular MCS solution.
- A key challenge facing MCS is an excess, not a lack, of data available through the different technologies which is further compounded by potential skills shortages for data interpretation.
- There may be resistance to MCS tools by e.g. the fisheries sector concerned about control over the industry, while some fishers may also view MCS as way to prove that their fish was sustainably caught and provide them with a market advantage.
- The key challenge currently facing MCS tools is a lack of appropriate policy approaches and governance mechanisms for the design and implementation of the available technologies. Any future successful options will need to be co-created with stakeholder to ensure appropriate design and early buy-in amongst different sectors.
Workshop on Contemporary Issues in International Maritime Governance, University of Tokyo, 26 January 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description
An interdisciplinary research group based at the University of Tokyo (led by Prof. Naoya Okuwaki, University of Tokyo), held a workshop on contemporary issues in ocean governance on 26 of January 2018. The focus of the workshop was on the limitations of the traditional zonal and sectoral approaches to governance, mainly from the viewpoint of how fisheries could be situated within the overall framework for ocean governance.

Workshop
Attendance at the workshop included other regional fisheries bodies, academics and Japanese government representatives. The focus of the NEAFC presentation, which appeared to be well received, was on how NEAFC implemented its economic, social and environmental objectives in fisheries management. It included the institutional cooperation between NEAFC and OSPAR as a model for cross-sectoral cooperation in ocean governance.
FAO Transhipment Experts Meeting

February 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Introduction
Distant fishing grounds offer new fishing possibilities and opportunities to fishing operators willing to expand their activities. In return, however, they imply substantial cost and logistical implications. As consequence, to enable operators to maximise their benefits by reducing costs associated with leaving fishing grounds in order to enter a suitable port, transhipments were developed and rapidly became widespread as a common cost-reduction measure.

In spite of the impact that transhipment operations have on fisheries and their widespread use, these sometimes remain unregulated and often insufficiently monitored and controlled.

While the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) lays down standard effective control measures at port, vessels can still tranship and be resupplied in remote locations without returning to port frequently. In some cases, this lack of control can be exploited by certain operators who engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities to avoid inspection in port and circumvent marketing regulations.

The meeting
The workshop was organised by FAO and held in Rome from 21 to 23 February 2018.

Twelve experts from the main fisheries regions in the world with proven experience related to transhipment operations and nine FAO resource persons participated in the workshop.

The objectives of the Workshop included:

• reviewing the first draft report of the Global Study on Transhipment prepared by FAO
• collecting further information on the transhipment practices and regulatory control applied on the expert’s regions of experience
• drawing up recommendations to be considered by COFI at its thirty-third session

The Workshop discussed different transhipment practices conducted by several States from the African, Asian and Latin American regions and the following RFMOs:
• Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)
• Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
• North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)
• Western Central Pacific Commission (WCPC)
Main findings

The Workshop recommended that:

- the results of the transhipment survey were useful but that any conclusions from the survey needed to be drawn with caution;
- As the survey was qualitative rather than quantitative in its scope, further work to identify the levels and associated risks of fishing practices and transhipments would be beneficial to gaining a better understanding of the global situation.
- further study and analysis was required to better understand transhipping globally and to respond to the request of COFI;
- the definition of transhipping should be reconsidered in the light of current practices;
- further consideration be given to the requirements to effectively monitor and control transhipping; and
- the development of minimal standards for the monitoring and control of transhipment would be appropriate.
- In order to gain a better understanding of the developing trends in transhipping practices and controls, it would be advantageous to repeat the survey in a couple of years.
FAO’s
Global Record of Fishing Vessels,
Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels

2018

A note by the NEAFCC Secretariat

Introduction
The Global Record is one of the latest tools being developed to fight IUU fishing.

It is closely related to other MCS initiatives and shows strong synergies with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and the FAO Guidelines for Flag State Performance, among others.

The major strength of the Global Record is that it is intended to make information available regarding the identification of fishing vessels and fishing activity that will assist in the identification of illegal activities. It will, therefore, become one of the major tools in implementing the Port State Measures Agreement. The latest version “Global Record Database” was presented and well received by last session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 33) last July.

The Secretariat has been cooperating with the FAO regarding the Global Record since 2008.

Participation
The Secretariat hosted the “Fourth Meeting of the Global Record Informal Open-Ended Technical and Advisory Working Group” (11-13 April).

The main discussion points of the meeting were:

- Consider recommending the implementation of the IMO ship identification number scheme as per IMO Resolution A.1117(30) at national and regional levels, as relevant.
- Consider the proposed classification of vessel types and provide guidance on its applicability to operational data for control and enforcement purposes in the context of the Global Record. Similarly, the working group should review the applicability of the revised classification of gear types in the context of the Global Record.
- Consider promoting the submission of data to the Global Record system through FLUX and an increased participation of FAO Members in this process.
• Consider the interaction between the information exchange mechanism to be developed for the PSMA with the Global Record information system given the fact that the Global Record primarily contains flag State information which is required to link the results of an inspection to a particular vessel.

• Promote States’ participation to the Global Record information system for its public launch before COFI33 (July 2018).
FAO Port State Measures Agreement – PSMA

April 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Introduction
The Open-ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange meeting, called for by the Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), was held at NEAFC’s Secretariat from 16 to 18 April. The meeting was attended by experts from PSMA Parties, other FAO Members, IGOs and NGOs.

Participation
The Secretariat hosted and supported the meeting under a cooperation agreement, with FAO supporting the meeting cost. Over 40 participants were present during the three day meeting.

Main findings
The Working Group noted in particular that:

• a staged approach should be used to develop a global information exchange system prioritising the need to access basic information;
• the designated port and national points of contact templates should be piloted and open for review by the Parties at their second meeting;
• the near-real time exchange of information, both public and protected, was crucial;
• the FAO will explore options to facilitate a standardized approach for the electronic exchange of information;
• the linkages with the relevant systems of RFMOs and global systems such as IMO’s GISIS and Equasis was important; and
• the Global Record is a promising platform for information sharing and could be linked with the PSMA information exchange system as appropriate to facilitate the exchange of information for the PSMA.
FAO Port State Measures Agreement – PSMA

2nd Meeting of the Part 6 Working Group

July 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Introduction
The second meeting of the Part 6 Working Group established by the Parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) was held in Rome, Italy from 5 to 6 July 2018. The meeting’s Chair was Mr. Terje Lobach, Norway, and it was attended by Parties to the Agreement, and by observers from States, IGOs and international NGOs.

Main findings
The Part 6 Working Group recalled the outcomes of its first meeting held in Oslo, Norway, in 2017, which discussed the main requirements and priorities of developing States in the implementation of the Agreement, and recommended that support should consider legal and policy aspects, institutional set-up and capacity, and operations and procedures. The first meeting recognised the important support that existing RFMOs can provide.

Finally, at the first meeting, the Part 6 Working Group agreed on draft Terms of Reference for the funding mechanisms to assist developing States Parties in the implementation of the PSMA, which should be considered by the Parties at their next meeting.

The Part 6 Working Group took note of the outcomes of the Open-ended Technical Working Group on Information Exchange meeting, held in London in April 2017 and appreciated the progress on the development of the PSMA information exchange portal, noting the importance of information exchange in the effective implementation of the PSMA.

The meeting appreciated the work undertaken by the FAO Secretariat to provide an online repository of ongoing FAO activities and projects related to combatting IUU fishing, highlighting its usefulness to avoid duplication of interventions. It was noted that the information available should not only feature FAO projects, but also those being conducted outside the PSMA Assistance Fund and FAO global capacity development programme. All interested entities were encouraged to share such information. One of the objectives of the portal would be to publicise all relevant initiatives in a timely manner and to promote
synergies, complementarities and exchanges among relevant programmes, projects, and institutions, whilst avoiding overlapping and the duplication of interventions.

**ABNJ – Common Oceans Programme 2018**

**A note by the NEAFC Secretariat**

**Description**

The Global sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the lead of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank and other partners.

The ABNJ Program aims to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources in parallel with the conservation of biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), focusing on tuna and deep-sea fisheries.

The five-year ABNJ Program, started in 2014 consists of four projects that bring together governments, regional management bodies, civil society, the private sector, academia and industry. The four projects focus respectively on tuna fisheries, deep-sea fisheries, fostering ocean partnerships and strengthening capacity. All RFMOs working on deep sea fisheries, including NEAFC – contributing in kind, are partners in the deep sea project.

The new project coordinator of the deep sea project is William Emerson.

**Participation**

The Secretariat has cooperated with FAO on several initiatives relating to the deep sea project in past years; this year the Secretary participated in a meeting of the Project Steering Committee of the deep sea project, held in UK on 17-18 April. This project is aiming to: improving implementation of existing policy and legal frameworks; reduce adverse impacts on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and enhance conservation and management of components of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas; improve planning and adaptive management for deep-sea fisheries, and; develop and test methods for area-based planning. At the Project Steering Committee, the work programme was reviewed in order to prioritise the remaining work under the project, which is due to finish in 2019.

In addition, NEAFC has inputted to various review documents produced by the programme. This included the draft Report on Deep-Ocean Climate Change Impacts on Habitat, Fish and Fisheries on which Jesper Boje reported to the AM 2017.

In the margins of the July FAO COFI meeting, regional fisheries bodies working on deep seas met and were briefed by the Project coordinator on remaining work under the project,
namely a VME database; a Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries chapter, a VME indicators meeting, a legal training workshop and some case studies.
7th Meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats’ Network (RSN)

July 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description
The Regional Secretariats Network is a forum of the (currently 54) Secretariats of the various fisheries bodies. The RSN facilitates sharing experiences, data and information, and provides a forum for discussion on emerging issues of common concern among the RFB Secretariats; it does not engage in policy development, nor take decisions of a binding nature. The FAO provides meeting facilities, secretarial support, and reporting but the RSN is not formally an FAO forum and remains the responsibility of participating Secretariats. It includes RFMOs and other Regional Fishery Bodies, which variously deal with fish, mammals, inland fisheries and aquaculture. Through the diversity of bodies there nevertheless remain issues of common interest to the Secretariats.

The FAO initiated the meetings among the Secretariats 1999 with a meeting every two years, using the convening opportunity afforded by the FAO Committee on Fisheries. Stefan Asmundsson was the Chair of the RSN in 2016, the Secretary of ICCAT chaired the 7th meeting, while the Secretary of the IATTC was chosen to chair the 2020 meeting.

These meetings have been considered as very useful for the various Secretariats, ensuring that they can learn from each other’s experience and stay informed about the latest developments from around the world. Any discussions on fisheries policy issues that do occur are aimed at sharing information. Given the establishment of new RFMOs in recent years, the Network also contributes informally to building institutional frameworks and working practices.

Participation
The Secretary attended the RSN meetings on the 7 and 13th of July, as well as informal discussions on administrative issues held throughout the week with other Secretariats. 41 members of the Network participated in the 7th meeting of the RSN (RSN-7).

The agenda included updates: from UN DOALOS; from FAO on IUU fishing, PSMA implementation and on the Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS); by IWC on bycatch mitigation; by NPAFC/NASCO on the International Year of the Salmon; from NAMMCO; by GFCM on its mid-term strategy; on WTO progress on fishery subsidies negotiations; on the 2018 SOI Global Conference; and on SDG 14.
The RSN Chair also made a statement in the main session of the FAO COFI meeting. This highlighted the key role of the regional dimension in establishing frameworks for efficient preservation and protection of the whole ecosystem, respecting regional diversity while providing opportunities for states to benefit sustainably from the services they provide. The earlier intervention from UN Special Envoy for Oceans had also underlined the need for RFBs and RFMOs to consider their participation in UN and other global initiatives, to ensure these fora were fully aware of the work and role of RFBs and RFMOs. The RSN chair highlighted the role of the FAO in strengthening the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) for cooperation and coordination and invited it to consider ways to make additional resources available, consistently with the suggestions made by the UN Special Envoy for the Oceans.
The 33rd FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description
The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was established in 1965. It is the main global inter-governmental forum that deals with issues related to fisheries. The outcomes of COFI meetings are relevant for other intergovernmental fisheries bodies. All other FAO processes regarding fisheries report to COFI and fisheries relevant FAO agreements, guidelines and plans of actions are all formally adopted at COFI.

COFI meetings are traditionally held every other year, in recent years in July, at FAO headquarters in Rome.

Participation
The Secretary participated in the 33rd FAO COFI meeting that was held at FAO headquarters 9-13 July 2018.

Among the issues discussed at the meeting that were of interest for NEAFC were: fisheries in the context of ocean governance; the latest State of World Fisheries (SIOFA) report; a proposal for establishment of a COFI sub-committee on fisheries management (for discussion at 34th COFI); IUU fishing; the launch of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels and the publication of a detailed FAO report on climate change Input to the climate change report had included that from the DOSI-FAO meeting reported to the Annual Meeting in 2017). On this issue Canada was planning to hold a workshop on fisheries management in the context of climate change.

The Committee called for FAO to continue to its cooperation with RFBs and RFMOS and requested it to dedicate more resources to the work of the Regional Secretariats Network.

COFI recalled the importance of collaboration and cooperation across sectors in addressing the challenges of the SDGs. It noted the coherence of the SDGs to the policy goals of regional bodies including RFMOS. In the context of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and a post-2020 vision of the CBD, it requested FAO to continue its work related to area-based management tools and cooperation with CBD and UN Environment in facilitating formal coordination mechanisms between RFBs and Regional Seas Programmes. The Committee encouraged the increased contribution of the FAO and other global and regional sectoral bodies (including RFMOs and RFBs) to the negotiations on a legally binding agreement for the conservation of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (the UN BBNJ Process).
Biodiversity Committee of OSPAR

2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description

OSPAR’s Biodiversity Committee (BDC) is the body within OSPAR that deals with biodiversity and ecosystems, working closely with the Human Impacts Committee. This includes OSPAR’s work regarding Marine Protected Areas and the protection and conservation of threatened and declining species and habitats.

The work of the Committee drives some of the key OSPAR interactions in global and regional ocean governance. Most of OSPAR’s work that is relevant to NEAFC is developed through the Biodiversity Committee. The Committee meets once a year and reports to the OSPAR Commission.

As part of the MOU between NEAFC and OSPAR, representatives of OSPAR attend meetings of PECMAS and representatives of NEAFC attend meetings of the Biodiversity Committee as observers. Those representatives are normally from the relevant organisation’s Secretariat. Delegations at BDC sometimes also include national fisheries officials, who are more familiar with NEAFC’s work.

Participation

The 2018 meeting of the Biodiversity Committee was held Madeira on 19-23 March and was attended by the Secretary.

The Secretary made a brief oral presentation on developments within NEAFC, including the agreements at the Annual Meeting which had extended Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) bottom fishing closures both by expiry date and by area. In addition the recent report on historical catches of deep sea species was highlighted. He also clarified the process that was currently being undertaken regarding VMEs under the NEAFC Working Group VME.

In the context of conservation measures related to deep-sea sharks, a BDC document was presented suggesting further collaboration between OSPAR and NEAFC under their respective mandates, through the collective arrangement. The NEAFC Secretary highlighted the continuing NEAFC ban on targeted fisheries on deep sea sharks as well as the significant decline in deep sea fisheries effort and catch already occurring. He suggested it would be helpful for OSPAR Contracting Parties to discuss this issue with their national fisheries colleagues as preparation for further discussions under the collective arrangement.
BDC discussed a proposal for a new High Seas Marine Protected Area in the OSPAR maritime area, namely the ‘North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamount High Seas MPA’. The NEAFC Secretary noted that while a good scientific case was put forward on bird populations there was a strong need for better description of whether any human activity or impacts did in fact exist, this in turn could inform management measures. He underlined that collaboration with the relevant competent authorities would therefore be essential in the further process. BDC conclusions on a further process to 2019, included that the proposal should be discussed at the fourth meeting of the collective arrangement, and in this context also engage with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT).
2nd Meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue on 
Accelerating Progress toward the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals 

2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description
The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) reflected in various decisions the importance of collaboration with regional organisations, including Regional Seas Organisations and Regional Fisheries Bodies, to facilitate achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and implement various activities on marine and coastal biodiversity within the Convention. The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) agreed in 2007 that FAO should continue its work on biodiversity mapping as an important contribution to implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, in collaboration with the CBD.

In light of this, the CBD Executive Secretary has now convened two Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogues with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The first meeting in 2016, was followed by this, the second meeting on 10-13 April 2018. In light of NEAFC’s active participation in the first meeting, the (now former) NEAFC President and the (now former) Secretary had taken part in guiding organisation of the second meeting, along with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the FAO, the Nairobi Convention, IUCN-CEM-Fisheries Expert Group, and the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI).

The second meeting aimed to continue to facilitate dialogue and exchange of experience to identify options and opportunities to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among Regional Seas Organisations and Regional Fisheries bodies. Exploration of the differences between the regions, both in terms of needs and of opportunities for cooperation would also be a theme. As before, the meeting was mainly at an inter-Secretariat level, and the objective was therefore not policy-making but to enhance cooperation and coordination.

The former NEAFC Secretary, Stefán Ásmundsson (Government of Iceland) and Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention, served as Co-chairs of the meeting.

Participation
The 2nd SOI Dialogue meeting in Seoul, Republic of Korea, supported by the Government of Republic of Korea, the Government of Japan, the Government of Sweden and the European Union, was attended by representatives of Regional Seas Organizations, Regional Fisheries Bodies and Management Organizations and relevant UN/international
organisations/initiatives as well as experts from national governments and agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The NEAFC Secretary participated, including moderating a panel session and within the meeting steering group.

The meeting included an overview of evolving global ocean policy-scape, in particular regarding developments since the first meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue, noting the increasing awareness on the important role played by regional organizations/bodies in supporting national efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting noted that, since regions vary greatly in their political, economic, geographic, social and environmental characteristics, one-size-fits-all approaches may not be appropriate. Nevertheless lessons learned and case-studies were shared, complementary capacities, resources and activities within regional organizations were identified, noting many regional organisations were moving towards integration of approaches with a broader ecosystem focus. Addressing the challenges and gaps at the regional level had the potential to yield significant benefits to countries, regions and the global community for implementation.

To promote a more practical conclusions to identify resources, inter-sessional activities and specific collaborations, 4 regional group discussions at the meeting developed road maps for Africa and Indian Ocean; South and Central Pacific; Wider Caribbean and Central America, and; East Asia and North Pacific. Given the ongoing activities and resources in the North Atlantic, attendees from that region focused their energies on supporting the other regional discussions.
WTO Technical Session within the framework of the Negotiating Group on Rules: subsidies to IUU Fishing

23 July 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Introduction
Since 2001, the WTO has been engaged in negotiations aimed at establishing disciplines on subsidies to the fisheries sector that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing. The UN SDGs, with a 2020 deadline for the elimination of harmful fisheries subsidies, has reanimated the negotiations including a focus on rules that will eliminate any subsidies contributing to IUU fishing. The discussions indicated a lack of information on how RFMOs and Coastal states determine IUU activity, including due process. In trying to reach agreement, some WTO Members remain concerned about how IUU listing occurs given they may then be obliged to stop providing subsidies to that vessel/operator.

It was hoped expert input to the process would help negotiators reach agreement to fulfil the SDG Target 14.6 and the mandate given to them from WTO Ministers. NEAFC was therefore invited to participate in the workshop to provide negotiators with a better understanding of these policy and operational issues related to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing designations and vessel listings.

Participation
NEAFC’s approach and procedures to deal with IUU was presented by the Secretary. The presentation included: description of NEAFC and its measures, the Scheme, CNCPs, MCS; compliance, IUU identification, listing and de-listing and international cooperation. The ex-Chair of PECMAC Gylfi Geirson also made a complementary presentation on behalf of Iceland. The FAO, other international organisations and regions were also represented.

The question and answer session was very lively with negotiators seeking various clarifications, including on the provisions within NEAFC’s Scheme of Control and Enforcement.
WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

Working visit to the Secretariat

9 April 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Introduction
The WMU programmes of study are designed to respond to the current needs of the maritime industry through a balance of academic study and practical experience. Emphasising the practical application of knowledge, WMU programmes provide a unique insight into the range of maritime endeavours.

Each year, WMU students benefit from the expertise of around 100 visiting professors who are internationally renowned experts in their fields. By bringing state-of-the-art professional experience into the classroom, they provide an invaluable window into the modern maritime world.

A highlight of the Malmö MSc is the Field Study Programme that takes students to destinations across Europe, Asia, and South America to gain valuable insights into professional practices. Through co-operation with a wide range of institutions, WMU students experience application of the latest theories and technologies in real-life situations.

The visit
In this context the 15 students of the MSc Ocean Sustainability, Governance and Management programme and Prof. Mary Wisz visited the Secretariat.

The Secretariat did two presentations on “UNCLOS, RFMO legal framework and NEAFC” and the second on “NEAFC’s Fisheries MCS and Compliance Framework”.

Meeting of the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM)
16-17 August 2018

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

Description
As its name suggests the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management is a working group including both the NAFO Commission (policy) and Scientific Council (Science/advice). The group met at NEAFC’s Headquarters in August this year, as had occurred on previous occasions. The Group discussed various subjects of interest in the science-policy interface. Subjects included: the impact of scientific trawl surveys on VME in closed areas including the effect on stock assessments of excluding surveys from VME areas; reassessment of the impacts of bottom fisheries; and, a review of closed areas. Another key discussion was on the implementation and application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, comparing this to single species stock assessment. This included looking at integrating trophic level interactions and climate change predictions into advice.

Participation
Given the meeting was held in the NEAFC Headquarters, the NEAFC Secretary attended the meeting as an observer. The discussion was an opportunity for the Secretary to keep up with developments in our sister RFMO, including how the science-policy interface works in an organisation with an internal scientific advice model as opposed to the NEAFC model with an external independent science adviser. In fact the discussions appeared to be similar to what can be achieved through the work of NEAFC’s PECMAS. For instance much of a discussion centred on the degree of reliance that a policy maker could make on ecosystem concepts such as Total Catch Ceiling (as a warning of long term declines). Caution was expressed that the use of language in such terms which could then be considered as indications of exceeding limits, overfishing etc.

Reflection on the quality of the discussion within the working group could include on what areas of ICES science developments that NEAFC Contracting Parties would like to see a particular policy-science discussion within PECMAS.
Global Fishery Forum & Seafood Expo 2018

Note from the President of NEAFC

Summary

NEAFC was invited by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture of the Russian Federation, Head of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, and was represented by the President.

The Forum’s programme included roundtables and conferences and a plenary session. The main theme was ‘Global Fishing Activities 2050: resources, markets, technologies’.

Narrative
The Seafood Expo presented the latest innovations and modern developments from fishery, fish-farming, and processing organizations, shipbuilding enterprises as well as manufacturers of equipment and related materials.

The Global Fishery Forum’s business program included a plenary session, thematic conferences and round tables where participants discussed the relevant issues in today’s fishery industry.

Day 2 of the Forum featured the key event of its business program, the “Global fishing activities 2050: resources, markets, technologies” plenary session. Participants discussed the global issues of competition in the World Ocean, reserves of aquatic bio resources, and the prospects of aquaculture in the context of the Earth’s growing population.

During the event participants had the opportunity to attend several panel sessions: “Issues in commercial straddling stocks fishing activities,” “Shipbuilding 2050: A peek into the future,” “Resources,” “Aquaculture: 2050 breeding and development forecast,” “Global consumer markets,” “Russian fish: a strategy for promoting Russian fish products on the Russian market,” “Technologies: from production to consumer.”

In the margins of the Forum, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation and Head of the Federal Agency for Fishery held a bilateral meeting with representatives of several Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (NAFO, NEAFC, NASCO, NPAFC), in particular to exchange views on the ongoing intergovernmental consultations on implementing an agreement on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (‘BBNJ’) under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).