Aide Memoire
Fifth meeting under the collective arrangement

Information on the collective arrangement is available on OSPAR and NEAFC\(^1\) websites.

Agenda Item 1 – Opening of the meeting and procedural issues

1.1. The host, Jenny Hedman, from the Swedish Ministry of Environment welcomed participants to Sweden, and wished the participants a successful meeting.

1.2. The meeting was opened by Richard Cronin (OSPAR) and Jacques Verborgh (NEAFC) who reflected on the fact that this was the 5\(^{th}\) meeting under the collective arrangement and that it was a joint effort of collaboration between two organisations with a standing invitation to others to join the collaboration. The Co-Chair’s views were that the collective arrangement meeting could improve the performance of all organisations involved through an open and trusting exchange of information. They thanked Sweden for hosting the meeting and all parties for joining.

1.3. The meeting was attended by the Chair of OSPAR, the President of NEAFC, OSPAR Biodiversity Committee Chair and representatives of OSPAR and NEAFC Contracting Parties. The Secretariats of the two organisations were also present. Representatives of FAO, HELCOM, ICCAT, ICES, NAMMCO and UNEP participated as observers and to present their respective scope of work. The full list of participants is at Annex 1.

1.4. Apologies were received from EU DG Mare, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Secretariat of North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

1.5. Richard Cronin (OSPAR) and Jacques Verborgh (NEAFC) were elected co-chairs of the meeting.

1.6. The agenda of the meeting was adopted as proposed (Annex 2)

Agenda Item 2 – Exchange of information regarding ongoing initiatives of relevance to the collective arrangement

**Item 2.1 Update on initiatives by NEAFC and OSPAR of relevance to the collective arrangement.**

2.1 The NEAFC Secretary provided an update on relevant issues under NEAFC (COLLARR 19/2/3 and Presentation 1). The NEAFC regulatory scheme was introduced. The Secretary highlighted the discussions at the UN Fish Stocks Agreement Informal Consultations with States Parties 2019 which had focused on RFMO performance reviews. The Secretary indicated that NEAFC had presented lessons from its two performance reviews at that meeting, and indicated a similar independent review process could be of use for Regional Seas Conventions. One recent development at NEAFC had been to improve transparency by publishing all

\(^{1}\) www.ospar.org/about/international-cooperation/collective-arrangement, www.neafc.org/collective-arrangement
meeting documents online at the end of each Annual Meeting cycle. In this context the annual report on compliance with the legally binding NEAFC measures (by Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties) would be of particular interest. A new NEAFC electronic reporting system that had been agreed for roll-out over the next few years was also foreseen as a tool to potentially develop better data on such issues as bycatch.

2.2 The OSPAR Executive Secretary provided an update on recent development under OSPAR (Presentation 2) with a brief introduction on the work of OSPAR (https://vimeo.com/266150232). OSPAR is evaluating progress against objectives of the North East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2010-2020 (NEAES 2020). Work is underway to develop an updated North East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2020-2030, for which topics such as climate change and ocean acidification are seen as important issues. Cross-sectoral work is seen as important to OSPAR and it is engaging in collaboration with a large number of organisations. The work of OSPAR contributes to global efforts to protect the oceans, and OSPAR has issued two voluntary commitments under the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14; promoting the collective arrangement together with NEAFC (#OceanAction21204), and collaborating with the Cartagena Environment Programme (#OceanAction17198). OSPAR has included information on the upcoming Arctic Plastics 2020 symposium on the ospar.org website.

2.3 In discussion the following views were noted:

   a. the OSPAR review of progress against the NEAES 2020 is being undertaken as an internal review of how well targets and objectives have been reached. The review is intended as an input to the OSPAR 2020 Ministerial Meeting. The level of detail to be included in the final product is still being discussed.

   b. In the future OSPAR may consider evaluating how it performs in implementing its work, which could be a similar process to the performance review carried out by NEAFC, and in such a process external performance experts could provide relevant input. Currently RSCs do not carry out performance reviews in the sense they are being undertaken by RFMOs.

2.4 The OSPAR Secretariat presented an update on the OSPAR Data and Information Management System (ODIMS) (COLLARR 19/2/1). ODIMS has recently undergone development to allow for control of data versions. ODIMS holds hundreds of datasets and has also developed technical capacity to bring in data streams from other regional databases. Recent inclusion in ODIMS of data services from ICES on VMEs and from FAO on bottom fishing areas were highlighted. Further development of ODIMS can bring in additional data streams which could be of use for work under the collective arrangement, also mapping can be prepared for wide dissemination and use in the collective arrangement.

2.5 In discussion it was noted that future efforts to include additional datasets in ODIMS which could be of relevance to the collective arrangement include; shipping routes and shipping activities, seabed prospecting and mining exploitation and exploration; spatial data based on climate models for the warming of the oceans to overlay with species distribution to consider climate change issues in the future and species distribution maps.

2.6 In conclusion, continued collaboration on issues around data was found to be helpful to work on further under the collective arrangement, and the following action points were agreed:

   a. OSPAR Secretariat to provide updates to consecutive collective arrangement meetings on new datasets become available on ODIMS;

   b. invite OSPAR ICG-Data and OSPAR Secretariat to explore how to effectively communicate on ODIMS capabilities to a non-technical audience.
2.7 The OSPAR Secretariat presented progress in implementing the OSPAR Marine Litter Regional Action Plan, in particular an ongoing project on eco-design of fishing gear (Action 36) and contributions to a recent G7 workshop to combat marine litter (COLLARR 19/2/2). It was recalled that marine litter, in particular lost fishing gear and assessments of marine litter, had been discussed during the 2nd and 3rd meeting under the collective arrangement. For the ongoing project considering eco-design of fishing gear as an action to reduce marine litter, OSPAR invited input to the questionnaire or suggestions of contacts to experts who may be able to contribute to the work.

2.8 In discussion the following views were noted:

a. France provided a further update on G7 work, highlighting the FAO study published in 2017 on litter and fish including potential links to human health. France also welcomed the example of OSPAR-NEAFC collaboration having been shared in this context, as such collaboration did not take place in all regions.

b. The legally binding reporting scheme in NEAFC concerned the marking of fishing gear, disposal of gear and removal of gear. These aspects were included in the provisions for reporting, however there was generally a low level of reporting although the electronic reporting system may improve the information availability in the future;

c. UNEP informed the meeting of ongoing work to develop global guidelines for monitoring of floating litter, with an expectation of the guidelines recommending vessel-based monitoring in the high seas. This work intended to provide input to the SDG 14.1. indicator;

2.9 In conclusion, the following action points were agreed:

a. OSPAR Secretariat would submit the questionnaire from OSPAR Marine Litter Regional Action Plan Action 36 to the NEAFC Secretariat who would disseminate the questionnaire to their Contracting Parties;

b. NEAFC would provide an update to the 6th meeting of the collective arrangement on any developments on reporting of lost fishing gear.

Item 2.2. Updates on national initiatives of relevance to the collective arrangement.

2.10 Germany presented the STRONG High Seas Project (Strengthening Regional Ocean Governance for the High Seas, 2017-2020) (COLLARR 19/2/info2). The STRONG High Seas project on regional ocean governance for ABNJ supported the strengthening of ocean governance approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) at the level of marine regions and provided the opportunity to strengthen interregional exchanges, especially between the North-East and the South-East Atlantic. The focus of the approach being developed in the project is to strengthen cross-sectoral dialogue in regions.

2.11 UNEP noted that will continue to disseminate the NEAFC-OSPAR collaboration globally through the GEF funded sister project as good practice.

2.12 In conclusion the Co-chair noted that the collective arrangement can provide a template for regional collaboration. The approach taken in the project to support the development of dialogue was helpful, as the collective arrangement meetings are ultimately about listening to and understanding each other.

2.13 FAO presented an update on a side event at the 2nd Intergovernmental Conference on a Legally Binding Instrument on BBNJ where cooperation and dialogue between RSCs and RFMOs had been highlighted to hep move away from approaches working in parallel to instead working in collaboration. The side event had been well attended, with participants appreciating regional complexities and different modes of operation.
2.14 The co-chair noted the global curiosity on what a regional approach and collaboration looks like in practice. As the collective arrangement is a good example of regional collaboration, it would be important to communicate this approach effectively.

**Item 2.3 Initiatives from other competent international organisations relevant to the collective arrangement.**

2.15 UNEP presented global topics in relation to issues relevant to the collective arrangement (*Presentation 3*). Three RSCs currently covered areas beyond EEZ, whereas an additional three RSCs had agreed to explore their coverage beyond the EEZ and were being supported by the GEF project and STRONG High Seas project. RSCs across the globe had different modes of cooperation with RFMOs, some were well established through MoUs whereas others were in a developmental stage. Assembly meetings of UNEP and FAO had agreed to promote regional cooperation. The Collective Arrangement had been included as a case study in cross sectoral cooperation reports developed by UNEP.

2.16 FAO presented their ongoing work on facilitating cooperation between RFMOs/RFABs and RSO/Conventions (*Presentation 4*). FAO continues to support cooperation with CBD and UN Environment (UNEP) in facilitating with a regional approach to cooperation between regional fisheries and environmental bodies. The number of ocean governance instruments has increased over the past decades, many instruments relate to fisheries. FAO has facilitated a Regional Fisheries Body Secretariats Network (RSN) which organises regular meetings and exchange of information across the globe. ABNJ Deep Seas project, funded by GEF, showcased project outputs at a meeting earlier in May in Rome.

2.17 In discussion on the two presentations, it was noted that the cooperation between OSPAR and the Abidjan Convention and the Cartagena Conventions was notable as an example of good practice in knowledge transfer to support other regions. The role of OSPAR and NEAFC in providing examples of good practice which can inform other organisations was noted.

2.18 In conclusion, the Chair reflected that OSPAR and NEAFC had developed a mode of working together which can be of interest to other organisations.

2.19 The OSPAR Secretariat provided a verbal update regarding ongoing work to develop a scoping document on deep-sea mining. The work was foreseen to continue in the coming meeting cycle.

2.20 In conclusion the following action point was **agreed**;

   a. OSPAR would update the sixth meeting of the collective arrangement regarding its work on deep sea mining.

2.21 Germany provided an update of work at the International Seabed Authority (ISA). Germany highlighted the regional dimension in respect of protection of the marine environment. In this respect, Germany has proposed that general requirements for regional approaches should be established before further development of Regional Environment Management Plans. Germany and ISA would host a workshop, tentatively set for 12-14 November, to work towards developing such an approach. An announcement for the workshop would soon be circulated and participation would be through expert nomination.

2.22 The NEAFC President highlighted the 2018 NEAFC Statement on the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean, noting that the Agreement overlapped with the NEAFC Area. Given this fact, coordination and cooperation between the parties to the Agreement and NEAFC would be required in the future. The NEAFC president had recently attended a meeting under the Agreement related to future scientific research.

2.23 It was noted that the spatial overlap of the Central Arctic Ocean Agreement would be the same in respect of the OSPAR maritime area.
2.24 In conclusion, the following action point was agreed:

a. NEAFC would update the 6th meeting under the collective arrangement if there were any further developments in respect to the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.

2.25 The NEAFC Secretary provided an update on the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogues, noting that planning is currently ongoing for the SOI 2020 event in April. SOI meetings bring together regional Secretariats, with the addition of some Contracting Parity participants. Post-2020 biodiversity targets were considered as one possible topic, other suggestions for topics were currently being welcomed by the organisers.

Item 2.4 Developments on the expansion of the collective arrangement to other competent organisations.

2.26 NAMMCO informed the meeting of their support for regional management approaches. Work is ongoing towards developing a Memorandum of Understanding with OSPAR, the draft MoU is focussed on bilateral information exchange between the respective Secretariats.

2.27 A possible further step could be for NAMMCO to consider joining the collective arrangement, after an MoU with OSPAR has been established. The mechanism for joining the collective arrangement would be an amendment of the Annexes to the agreement.

Item 2.5 Update from Parties on the ongoing negotiations on an International Legally Binding Instrument on BBNJ.

2.28 The OSPAR Secretariat provided an update on three side events where OSPAR has participated and presented examples of regional cooperation. OSPAR Commission has annually provided a mandate to provide information to the negotiations, and is again to discuss the topic at the upcoming meeting in the last week of June 2019.

2.29 The NEAFC Secretariat presented an update on its presentations on fisheries management and the collective arrangement to various for and regional workshops. The 2018 NEAFC Annual Meeting continued to agree a mandate for the Secretariat to provide updates on regional cooperation and effective fisheries management and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems to the UN intergovernmental conference on the BBNJ instrument.

2.30 For information Iceland introduced their concept paper for the BBNJ negotiations. (COLLARR 19/2/info3) which set out a regionally coordinated process for adoption of measures such as area based management in the ABNJ.

2.31 Contracting Parties set out their perspectives on the key issues being discussed at the BBNJ negotiations. In general it was noted that OSPAR and NEAFC needed to continue to raise awareness of the existing regional structures and processes. Since time for side events would become less as the negotiations proceeded it was noted that the Secretariats would need to explore other methods for making the relevant points.

2.32 The co-chair concluded the discussion by reflecting on the wish by all parties in the room to achieve the best possible outcome in the BBNJ negotiations in terms of marine environment protection and sustainable use, while remaining neutral to the final point of settlement. It was seen as beneficial to all delegates involved in this work, as well as other relevant parallel processes, to continue exchanging views in order to understand all points of view and especially to ensure that those delegates involved in BBNJ negotiations have a clear view of how regional cooperation can operate.
2.33 The Chair of OSPAR noted that the co-chair of OSPAR would bring forward a discussion paper to the upcoming OSPAR Commission meeting 24-28 June 2019, and invited the co-chair to include reflections from the discussions at the 5th collective arrangement meeting in the paper.

Agenda Item 3 – Areas notified to the collective arrangement

Item 3.1 OSPAR update on its programme on Marine Protected Areas.

3.1 The OSPAR Secretariat presented an update on progress on the programme of Marine Protected Areas (COLLARR 19/3/1). The annual update includes information provided by Contracting Parties to OSPAR as implementation reports against OSPAR Recommendations 2010/11-2010/17 and 2012/1 which list the management actions for the collectively designated MPAs in ABNJ of the OSPAR Maritime Area. This year OSPAR would publish a biennial status report on the OSPAR MPA network, the document presented an extract of the report in relation to the areas notified to the collective arrangement.

3.2 In discussion, UNEP requested more information on how connectivity assessment is taken into account in OSPAR when proposing new MPAs to the network. It was noted that the latest state of play in developing the methodology for assessing eco-coherence in OSPAR, including connectivity as one component, would be described in the 2018 MPA status report to be published after the OSPAR Commission meeting in June and that this would be the best source of information.

3.3 The OSPAR Secretariat presented progress in developing the nomination proforma for the ‘North Atlantic Current and Evlanov Seamoun MPA’ (NACES MPA) (COLLARR 19/3/2, Presentation 5). Since the proposal had been presented at the last meeting of the collective arrangement, OSPAR had further improved the nomination proforma. OSPAR had embarked on a 3-month process of seeking views on the nomination proforma from other competent authorities and involved stakeholders. Based on discussions during the 4th meeting under the collective arrangement, OSPAR had also requested a peer review by ICES of the scientific case of the nomination proforma. All the views received had been taken into account and used to further improve the nomination proforma. The latest version of the nomination proforma had been considered at the OSPAR Biodiversity Committee meeting in March 2019. The meeting had identified that the sections on human activities and possible future management would benefit from further drafting. The Secretariat had been requested to invite NEAFC, ICCAT and IMO in particular to provide additional views by the 5th collective arrangement meeting. NEAFC had responded with a letter stating that the nomination would be circulated among heads of delegation. OSPAR had also received further views from NASCO as contained in Presentation 5.

3.4 ICCAT presented an update of work of ICCAT, including fishing activities within the scope of the proposed NACES MPA (Presentation 6). ICCAT was in the process of updating the Convention text, and it was foreseen that amendments would bring in the precautionary approach and the ecosystem based approach to management. ICCAT currently applied mitigation measures to prevent seabird by-catch in the south Atlantic. It was noted by ICCAT that BirdLife International was an Observer of ICCAT, and had not informed ICCAT of any seabird – fisheries interactions at the ICCAT SC-ECO meeting in order to highlight the need to considering seabird by-catch mitigation in this section of the North East Atlantic in respect of the proposed NACES MPA. In relation to the proposed NACES MPA draft delineated area, ICCAT informed that some fisheries targeting swordfish, Bluefin tuna and albacore took place in the area, noting that only a very small percentage of the Atlantic catch of these species was reported from within the proposed NACES MPA. ICCAT foresaw that any fisheries measures applied in the NACES MPA would only affect fishing fleets from a few Contracting Parties. Based on current knowledge, ICCAT considered there to be insufficient evidence to warrant a fishing closure. ICCAT will continue to collect information in relation to the proposed NACES MPA.

3.5 In discussion on the nomination proforma for the NACES MPA the following views were noted;
a. NEAFC would not be able to provide any formal input on the evidence before the nomination proforma had been discussed by NEAFC PECMAS, October 2019, after which the issue could be discussed by the NEAFC Commission at the Annual Meeting in November 2019;

b. a final version of the nomination proforma was proposed to be developed by OSPAR ICG-MPA October 2019 allowing for any initial informal views from NEAFC PECMAS to be taken onboard. Further views from the NEAFC Commission Annual Meeting would need to be provided to the BDC 2020 meeting in March. This was considered to be a flexible and collaborative approach;

c. ICES informed the meeting of the advice which had been delivered on the scientific case of the nomination proforma. A dialogue with OSPAR was still ongoing in relation to aspects of uncertainty in the methods used to estimate numbers of seabirds at the site. The advice delivered by ICES was available online and should be read together with a clarifying exchange of letters between OSPAR and ICES;

d. ICES noted in its experience that ‘risk’ and ‘precautionary approach’ are understood differently by different actors, the collective arrangement is a good forum for dialogue on these issues between fisheries management and environmental stewardship perspectives;

e. engaging with sectoral bodies at an early stage of developing area based management tools was seen as important. It would be too late to engage with sectoral bodies once management plans have been developed;

3.6 In conclusion, the following action points were agreed:

a. OSPAR Secretariat would provide the ICES advice on the peer review of the NACES MPA nomination proforma as well as the clarifying exchange of letters to the NEAFC Secretariat for circulation among NEAFC Heads of Delegation for information;

b. the NEAFC Secretariat would seek any further input/guidance from Heads of Delegation following this collective arrangement meeting, and NEAFC PECMAS 2019 (1-3 October) would be invited to provide any further interim views to OSPAR ICG-MPA 2019 (8-10 October);

c. NEAFC Annual Meeting 2019 (13-15 November) may provide additional views as relevant on the nomination proforma to BDC 2020 (23-27 March)

d. OSPAR Secretariat would update the 6th meeting under the collective arrangement on progress.

Item 3.2 NEAFC update on its VMES and fisheries closure areas

3.7 The NEAFC Secretariat provided an update on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems programme. It was noted that the VME Recommendation included a review clause for a review of the Recommendation’s effectiveness every 5 years (this was apart from the 5 yearly renewals of the individual closures). This review would be on the agenda of NEAFC PECMAS 2019. NEAFC had noted that discussions in the wider fisheries community were ongoing on the consideration of whether closures such as those related VMES could be considered as Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM). In relation to existing closures NEAFC Annual Meeting 2018 had requested ICES to provide information on VME occurence in the current closure in the ‘Haddock box’ on the Rockall Bank which had been established to protect juvenile fish. This would ensure the closure persisted to protect VMES even if the rationale for a closure related to juvenile haddock was no longer justified at some point in the future.

3.8 In discussion the following points were noted:

a. the nature and persistence of impacts of bottom fisheries on sponge-grounds were discussed, and it was noted that long-term closures were important for VMES, as certain sponge-grounds recovered slowly from disturbance;
b. effectiveness of closures could be interpreted both in the sense of effectiveness of enforcement and effectiveness in the measure resulting in VME recovery;

c. ICES explained that an annual scientific group used VME encounters and use predictive modelling to identify VMEs areas. No monitoring of VME recovery was carried out by ICES;

d. OSPAR informed of ongoing considerations in OSPAR on OECM, noting that the annual data call for reporting on MPAs in 2018 called for Contracting Parties to provide information on Other Area Based Measures (OABM). Very few submissions were received and it was agreed at an expert level to clarify the criteria to apply, and it was agreed that future work would benefit from further clarification of the criteria and that using OECM could be helpful.

3.9 In conclusion, it was found that it could be helpful to collaborate on OECM through the collective arrangement, and the following action points were agreed:

a. OSPAR Secretariat would update NEAFC PECMAS on work in OSPAR related to OECMs;

b. NEAFC would report back to the 6th meeting under the collective arrangement on its work on VMEs, including if any developments on OECMs had been reported in the fisheries world (e.g. FAO) as a discussion base for further coordination and collaborative work.

Agenda Item 4 – Scientific information and environmental assessment

Item 4.1 Information on new scientific information and monitoring on the marine environment of human activities.

4.1 ICES Secretariat presented ongoing work in creating links and translating knowledge and presenting recent request for advice of relevance to the collective arrangement (Presentation 7). ICES is developing its work within the concept of ecosystem based management and has recently established additional groups to cover all aspects of this approach. The online resource for all VME observations and the decision making process to use this in policy was highlighted (http://vme.ices.dk/map.aspx).

4.2 In discussion the following points were noted:

a. ICES has developed a very clear framework for fisheries advice linked to approaches such as maximum sustainable yield, precautionary approach and ecosystem approach. In the last few years, work has been underway to link this framework to environmental and ecological frameworks. Two workshops have been held to underpin the advice, and the work will continue;

b. ICES is developing approaches for ecosystem services and economical valuation, taken forward in alignment with work at the OSPAR ICG-Economic and Social analysis (ICG-ESA) and the HELCOM Expert Network on ecosystem and social analysis (EN-ESA) as well as in discussion with technical work undertaken by EU;

c. The OSPAR ICG-ESA group delivered a chapter for the OSPAR intermediate assessment this year, and will further develop the assessments towards the QSR 2023. HELCOM EN-ESA currently contributes towards the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the work to evaluate sufficiency of measures, this work will include assessments of future commitments.

4.3 UNEP informed that the World Ocean day 8 June would highlight social issues. Publications would be made available, and OSPAR practices would be included among information to be disseminated. If any information in related to gender issues would be welcomed.

4.4 The OSPAR Secretariat presented work in preparation for the next OSPAR Quality Status Report (QSR 2023) (Presentation 8). In the coming years, OSPAR will focus on bringing together many strands of
information, from status assessments of single species, to socio-economic data and specific human activities and assessment of implemented measures to achieve the requirements set out in its convention text of regularly assessing the state of the marine environment and the implemented measures. OSPAR will require new scientific information to support this assessment.

4.5 In discussion the following views were noted:

a. UNEP found the approach used by OSPAR in planning for QSR 2023 and the process of consecutive assessments used by OSPAR more generally, to be a good model for tracking achievements in the marine environment and would work towards disseminating this approach to other regions. UNEP also highlighted similar work by the Barcelona Convention for the Mediterranean Sea. Disseminating these assessment approaches was also relevant in other regions outside of Europe, as it could support an approach for following up the UN Sustainable Development Goals;

b. assessments for the QSR 2023 could be used for reporting against the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as for those Contracting Parties to OSPAR that are also EU Member States, in their reporting against the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Item 4.2 OSPAR and NEAFC cooperation on generating better knowledge on deep sea elasmobranchs

4.6 The OSPAR Secretariat presented the process during the collective arrangement meetings which have resulted in collaborative work in developing a scientific knowledge based deep sea elasmobranchs (Presentation 9). Three species of deep-sea sharks had initially been identified as listed by both OSPAR and NEAFC, in consecutive steps additional species of deep sea sharks, rays and chimaeras had been identified as also being of relevance. The fourth collective arrangement meeting had agreed on improving the scientific understanding and using this to inform next steps on measures which potentially included further reductions of by-catch. Other actions may become relevant at a later stage.

4.7 ICES provided an update of the ongoing process in delivering the advice request over a 2-year period. The work has already been initiated and experts have become involved in the development work. Experts had found the approach of considering a group of species as an ecosystem component rather than as single stock assessments to be a novel approach. There would be a dedicated meeting among elasmobranch experts to deliver the advice and bring together all relevant data and information. A special data call has been developed and will be issued shortly. ICES had already consulted all survey databases to bring together all available information on the concerned species. ICES is working towards delivering the advice and all associated products in time for them to be considered by NEAFC PECMAS 2020 and OSPAR ICG-POSH 2020 after which the outputs would be brought for consideration to the collective arrangement meeting.

4.8 In discussion it was noted that the ‘Guidance on the Development of Status Assessments for the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats’ as agreed by OSPAR BDC 2019 in March was to be referred to by ICES experts to ensure the delivery outputs are as suitable for follow up action by OSPAR as possible. Further communication between ICES and OSPAR Secretariats on this issue was proposed.

Item 4.3 Update by OSPAR on joint collaboration with NEAFC on a CBD on organising a regional workshop on identifying Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA).

4.9 The OSPAR Secretariat reminded the meeting of the joint request from OSPAR and NEAFC towards the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) to arrange a workshop to identify Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA). The CBD would be convening the workshop which would contain a training day 22 September and the workshop would take place 23-27 September 2019. The workshop would be hosted by the Government of Sweden, and would take place in Stockholm.
4.10 ICES informed that they have offered support to the CBD workshop towards the training day, and that they have also offered the Duke University to work in-house at ICES to familiarise the experts with the ICES data bases.

4.11 Sweden expressed their support for this collaborative work on EBSAs going ahead and extended a welcoming invitation to all parties to Stockholm in September. Sweden also expressed support for continued collaboration with the CBD.

**Item 4.4 Cooperation on Environmental or Strategic Impact Assessments, (possible update on Regional Environmental Management Plans).**

4.12 The issue was considered sufficiently covered under agenda item 2.3.

**Agenda Item 5 - Any other business**

5.1 There was no other business raised.

**Agenda Item 6 - Conclusion and future meeting**

6.1 The Chairs concluded the meeting by reflecting on the relevant and successful exchange of information between parties to the collective arrangement as well as other competent authorities and stakeholders. The Chairs noted the presentations from several participants highlighting the collective arrangement as good practice globally, and that this would encourage the further work.

6.2 The meeting noted that the future meeting would be scheduled taking into account other relevant meetings, and noted information on relevant meetings in COLLARR 19/6/1.

6.3 The Chair of OSPAR invited the 6th meeting under the collective arrangement to be convened at the OSPAR Secretariat in London, UK. The date of the meeting would be agreed at a later stage and would be developed to support the agenda of the meeting. Tentatively the meeting may be scheduled in late spring 2020.

6.4 The Chairs thanked the Government of Sweden for hosting the 5th meeting under the collective arrangement.

6.5 The meeting noted that the OSPAR Secretariat with support from the NEAFC Secretariat would develop the Aide Memoire which would be circulated for information as soon as possible.
Annex 1. List of Participants

5th meeting under the collective arrangement
Gothenburg, Sweden, 28-29 May 2019

Co Chair: CRONIN, Richard (richard.cronin@housing.gov.ie) – OSPAR Chair
Co Chair: VERBORGH, Jacques (jacques@neafc.org) - NEAF President

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Apologies
CBD Secretariat, Emma Hatfield (NASCO), David Osborn (IAEA), Fredrik Haag (IMO), DG MARE
Agenda
Fifth meeting under the collective arrangement

Start of the meeting: 28 May 2019 (13:00)
Close of the meeting: 29 May 2019 (16:00)
Venue: Gothenburg, Sweden

Information on the collective arrangement is available on OSPAR and NEAFC websites.

Agenda Item 1 – Opening of the meeting and procedural issues
1.7. Opening of the meeting by Richard Cronin (OSPAR) and Jacques Verborgh (NEAFC)
1.8. Introduction of participants (Tour de Table)
1.9. Election of the Chairs for the meeting
1.10. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda Item 2 – Exchange of information regarding ongoing initiatives of relevance to the collective arrangement
2.1. Update on initiatives by NEAFC and OSPAR of relevance to the collective arrangement.
2.2. Updates on national initiatives of relevance to the collective arrangement
2.3. Initiatives from other competent international organisations relevant to the collective arrangement
2.4. Developments on the expansion of the collective arrangement to other competent organisations.
2.5. Update from Parties on the ongoing negotiations on an International Legally Binding Instrument on BBNJ.

Agenda Item 3 – Areas notified to the collective arrangement
3.1. OSPAR update on its programme on Marine Protected Areas.
3.2. NEAFC update on its VMES and fisheries closure areas.

2 www.ospar.org/about/international-cooperation/collective-arrangement, www.neafc.org/collective-arrangement
Agenda Item 4 – Scientific information and environmental assessment

4.1 Information on new scientific information and monitoring on the marine environment of human activities

4.2 OSPAR and NEAFC cooperation on generating better knowledge on deep sea elasmobranchs.

4.3 Update on OSPAR and NEAFC collaboration with CBD on organising a regional workshop on identifying Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA)

4.4 Cooperation on Environmental or Strategic Impact Assessments, (possible update on Regional Environmental Management Plans)

Agenda Item 5 - Any other business

5.2 Participants may propose issues to be discussed

Agenda Item 6 - Conclusion and future meeting

6.6 Conclusions from the meeting

6.7 Arrangements for the 6th meeting under the collective arrangement

6.8 Process for developing the aide memoire of the meeting