1. **Opening of the meeting**

The Chair Gylfi Geirsson (Iceland) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. All Contracting Parties, other than the Russian Federation, were represented. The detailed list of 13 participants is, as set out in document AHWG ERS 2016-03-02 Rev1, is annexed to this report.

2. **Discussion and adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda was approved in the form circulated before the meeting, as presented in document AHWG ERS 2016-03-01.

3. **Appointment of the rapporteur**

The Secretariat was appointed as the Rapporteur.

4. **Advice from the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)**

The Chair briefly summarised the work previous done by the working group and noted the possible developments ahead of the September PECMAC meeting.

The Secretariat briefly summarised the recent work at JAGDM meeting. She introduced documents AHWG ERS 2016-03-07, 8, 9, 10 and 11 mentioning the relevant issues addressed by JAGDM requested either by PECMAC or by this working group.
Participants commented the different documents and asked questions trying to clarify possible future procedures for ERS data exchange. Some concerns about some of the technical definitions (i.e. fishing depth) were noted. Minor changes were made and it was noted that in some cases PECMAC or PECMAS were required to decide on the usefulness of including specific data elements with the definitions as proposed.

5. **Continuation of work according to the mandate from the NEAFC 2012 Annual Meeting**

The Chair introduce document AHWG ERS 2016-03-03 explaining briefly the main issues addressed by the document.

The participants thanked the Chair for producing the documents noting that it was a good draft for the document that will have to be presented to PECMAC. The document was extensively reviewed by participants and the result of this work was a revised version – document AHWG ERS 2016-03-03 Rev1.

It was agreed that the Chair will further update document AHWG ERS 2016-03-03 Rev1 according to the discussions and comments made and then circulated to the participants for their comments in order to send it as a draft to PECMAC well before the September meeting in order for PECMAC to receive advance information on the work of the ERS WG.

5.1. **Define appropriate data requirements (control and enforcement, catch and activity reporting), which are to be included in a NEAFC ERS**

The Secretariat presented document AHWG ERS 2016-03-05 on possible data elements and message format.

The document was reviewed and discussed by the participants and amended as document AHWG ERS 2016-03-05 Rev1.

The Secretariat also presented document AHWG ERS 2016-03-06 in the same context as the previous document. Document AHWG ERS 2016-03-06 is an alphabetical list format of the data elements and definitions in document 05 and will be revised on the basis of the discussions.

5.2. **Define the requirements and the necessary accessibility of relevant information from the NEAFC ERS for inspection purposes during inspections at sea**

This agenda item was dealt with by document AHWG ERS 2016-03-03 Rev1.

5.3. **Consider how appropriate additional data for statistical and scientific purposes can be included in the NEAFC ERS**
This agenda item was dealt with by document AHWG ERS 2016-03-03 Rev1.

5.4. **Define how the flow of data should be organized, and the role of the Secretariat in this process, including resource implications**

The Chair introduced document AHWG ERS 2016-03-04 containing a possible data flow diagram.
There was some exchange of views by the participants on the document.

5.5. **Develop a timeframe for the implementation of the system**

Norway introduced document AHWG ERS 2016-03-12 as a joint EU/Norway document on the possibility of having in the Secretariat one or more ERS data management systems.
Comments were made that tendering of the Secretariat’s system as well as possible uptake of the UN/CEFACT standard might affect the time plan of possible implementation of ERS in NEAFC.

6. **Procedures for the correction and cancellation of reports**

The Chair noted that in previous meetings the Iceland Norway bilateral agreement had been used as the basis for the current discussions on NEAFC ERS, and so should also be the starting point for this work. This represents a significant improvement on the current NEAFC system which is very basic.

The Chair also noted that since the mandate which the ERS WG is following was issued, there have been changes regarding correction and cancellation of reports as the Cancellation Report has been taken up in the NEAFC system.

7. **Identification of Articles in the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement that may be affected by introduction of a NEAFC ERS**

The Secretariat presented document AHWG ERS 2016-03-14 on the identification of Scheme articles likely to be amended by the introduction of ERS.

Some participants raised concerns on the fact that UN/CEFACT FLUX is being tested and not fully operational yet. Making a decision on it prior to conclusive testing would be risky.
There was also exchange of views on the access to data by the inspectors at sea and also what type of data and time frame for its availability.

It was noted that a link between existing PSC and future ERS was desirable, considering the need of PSC inspectors to access ERS data.
The issue of non-compliance by vessels and by FMCs, in particular the need to identify ERS malfunctions and clearly distinguish non-compliance from technical malfunctions was also noted.

Reflecting discussions and comments by participants the Secretariat produced an amended document AHWG ERS 2016-03-04 Rev1. This document lists places in the Scheme where changes are proposed and gives the reason for the changes.

7.1. **Drafting new and/or amended articles to the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement**

The participants considered it premature to start the exercise of drafting text for the amended articles.

8. **Interoperability of ERS with legacy systems**

The Norway/EU document AHWG ERS 2016-03-12 was taken under agenda item 5.5, but could also have been looked at in this agenda point. The document lists the data which is currently managed within the NEAFC system and clearly states that not all of this is within the scope of ERS. The document lists possible pros and cons of making an entirely new system or of designing a system which needs to be interoperable.

9. **FLUX FLUX-UN/CEFACT**

9.1. **Open source tools (Union VMS and VMS ERS viewer)**

The EU made a presentation on their open source UVMS project.

Some participants requested clarification on functionalities, future management and main building blocks of existing UVMS version.

The EU also presented the future ERS viewer. There were no further comments.

9.2. **Flux Implementation document for NEAFC**

The EU presented document AHWG ERS 2016-03-13 on the implementation of FLUX in the NEAFC context. It contained a detailed description of concepts and functions.

Participants asked a few questions for clarification concerning the extent to which the document represented a proposal from EU or an example of the type of documents which need to be agreed in addition to the main legal instrument. NEAFC has not previously had any agreements further to the main legal instruments. This implementation document contained descriptions of return messages and identification of errors which have not yet been discussed by AHWG ERS in the context of a NEAFC ERS, as well as descriptions of cancellation and correction policies which
have only been touched on by AHWG ERS. EU responded that the document should be considered as an example rather than a proposal.

10. **Any other business**

There were no additional issues raised by the participants.

11. **Report to the September 2016 meeting of PECMAC**

The Chair will report on the developments to the next PECMAC meeting on 14 and 15 September in London.

12. **Date and place of the next meeting**

The Chair confirmed the date for the next meeting as 12 and 13 September in London.

13. **Closure of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the participants and the Secretariat for the good work and wished all a safe return home.
AD HOC WORKING GROUP - ERS
14-15 June 2016

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chair  Geirsson, Gylfi

Secretariat
Neves, João
Lewsley, Rachel
Early, Anthony

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Gaardlykke, Meinhard - Faroe Islands
Kruse, Martin - Faroe Islands
Lund, Mads Rossing – Greenland

European Union
Ben Kloppenborg – EC
Andreasson, Niclas - Sweden
Faulds, Mike – UK
Shalloo, Jim – Ireland
van Koningsveld, Wim - Netherlands

Iceland
Magnússon, Leifur
Ingason, Björgólfur H.

Norway
Andreas Haugstvedt
Ellen Fasmer

Russian Federation