**Decision by the Commission at the 2017 AM**

It was agreed to adopt the proposal, as set out in AM 2017-92, requiring Contracting Parties to carry out self-assessments on flag-state performance in accordance with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State performance, reporting to PECMAC 2019, with CNCPs also being invited to carry out such assessments. The proposal also asked PECMAC to present a summary report to the Annual Meeting in 2020. Furthermore, PECMAC was to assess whether the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement needed amendment to ensure consistency with the assessment criteria in the Guidelines. The meeting noted that PECMAC would put forward proposals for amendments to the Scheme, only as necessary.

It was noted that any requirement for CNCPs to carry out a self-assessment would only follow a future amendment of the Scheme. Several CNCPs commented that in the interim they would be content to provide information on a voluntary basis.

**Text of the proposal**

Agenda Item 14.5

**PROPOSAL BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NORWAY ON FLAG STATE PERFORMANCE BY NEAFC CONTRACTING PARTIES AND COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES**

Contracting Parties shall and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties are called upon to carry out self-assessments in accordance with the performance assessment criteria in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, whose objective is to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Reports of the self-assessments shall be submitted to PECMAC in 2019, in order for it to present a summary report to the NEAFC Annual Meeting in 2020.

Contracting Parties shall inform PECMAC of any delays in the self-assessment exercise which would jeopardise the timely presentation of the report by PECMAC to the NEAFC Annual Meeting.

PECMAC is asked to further analyse the FAO Guidelines in order to submit appropriate proposals to amend the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement to ensure consistency of the Scheme with the performance assessment criteria set out in the FAO Guidelines.