1. Opening of the meeting
The Chair, Thord Monsen, Norway, opened the extraordinary meeting of PECMAC and welcomed the participants. All Contracting Parties were represented.

2. Appointment of the rapporteur
In the case of this Extraordinary PECMAC meeting, which took place during the 2019 Annual Meeting, the Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Discussion and adoption of the agenda
The agenda that had been circulated before the meeting (document PE 2019-03-01) was adopted.

4. Scheme of Control and Enforcement
4.1. Cooperating NCP status and activities in the RA
The Chair reported and informed participants about the new information provided by Liberia and Curacao (documents PE 2019-03-03 Competent Authority for Fisheries in Liberia; PE 2019-03-05 Curacao supporting letter and; PE 2019-03-06 Curacao Vessel Registration).

The Chair reflected on the discussion taken place at PECMAC 2 in regards to CNCPs applications. The Chair than asked Contracting Parties to express if their positions from the PECMAC 2 meeting had changed and especially the positions of DFG and Russia that had indicated they would express their positions at the 2019 Annual Meeting. In summary, the discussions concluded with Norway, European Union and Iceland expressing that their position had not changed from PECMAC 2, where they supported the applications of Bahamas, Canada and New Zealand but in the cases of Curacao, Liberia and Panama they would not support the applications. The Kingdom of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) stated that they were on the same opinion as Norway and the European Union. The Russian Federation stated that they would abstain from voting on all of the applications.
PECMAC did not reach consensus on the applications from the CNCPs.

5. Annual Meeting issues referred to PECMAC

The European Union introduced document PE 2019-03-04 on a fall back procedure for masters of fishing vessels in case of technical failures of an electronic reporting system.

In discussion, parties expressed their views on the proposal from the European Union where they highlighted the importance of being absolutely clear that the responsibility for fulfilling the reporting requirements lies with the master of the vessel, not the FMC. Also, the issue of the “down-time” of the systems on board the vessels was discussed where some of the parties stated that a month was too long time period as was expressed in the proposal from the European Union. The European Union revised their proposal as PE 2019 03-04 Rev. 1.

PECMAC endorsed the changes without any further comments. The document was adopted by PECMAC for submission to the 2019 Annual Meeting as AM 2019-54 Rev.1 for adoption by the Commission.

PECMAC agreed to consider the allowed down-time for the systems on board the vessels at the next PECMAC meeting, including both article 11 of the Scheme and article 14 of the new Scheme.

The Chair explained the reason and intention for document PE 2019-03-09 FLUX Fishing Activities Implementation Document for NEAFC - v 1.0 (TS) – (ERS-IMP 2019-07-03 Rev.1) being on the agenda for this meeting, whereas he wanted to hear from the Russian Federation on their reservation on the adoption of version 1 of the FLUX ERS implementation document at the PECMAC 2 meeting. The Russian Federation stated that they could adopt version 1 of the FLUX ERS implementation document.

However, the Russian Federation noted that it will not be able to use software developed by the EU. The Russian Federation expressed its readiness to start software development when all issues regarding ERS documents are resolved and the documents are agreed and approved by all CPs. The Russian Federation noted that they will need at least a year to coordinate with the regulatory authorities in accordance with national legislation and after that develop the necessary software.

PECMAC agreed to adopt document PE 2019-03-09 for submission to the 2019 Annual Meeting as AM 2019-33 Rev.2 for adoption by the Commission.

6. Any other business

Norway introduced document PE 2019-03-07 Proposal by Norway on amendments to the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement relating to abandoned, lost or otherwise
discarded fishing gear (ALDFG). In discussion, it was suggested that Contracting Parties would exchange comments to be able to come to conclusion on the proposal from Norway.

PECMAC agreed, by correspondence, to adopt document PE 2019-03-07 Rev. 1 for submission to the 2019 Annual Meeting as AM 2019-48 Rev.3 for adoption by the Commission.

In discussion on document PE 2019-0308 NEAFC IUU B-List it was mentioned that the IUU listed vessel Labiko with previous name Maine have been granted Liberian flag status where the name had been changed from Labiko to Labiko 2. The NEAFC IUU B-List may therefore need to be updated. It was agreed to look into this and gather further information before taken a decision on the issue.

In discussion, Contracting Parties mentioned that in document AM 2019-21 Rev.2 Proposal by PECMAC to modify Article 44 of the NEAFC Scheme in respect of vessels listed as IUU by other RFMOs, that there were no procedure for the Secretariat to receive up to date lists from the RFMO mentioned in the proposal. It was agreed that the Secretary should establish arrangements as necessary, to ensure that notifications relating to IUU lists and any amendments to those lists were [promptly] received from all of the RFMOs listed in the new Article 44 paragraph 7.

7. Report to the 2019 Annual Meeting

The Chair thanked and participants and the Secretariat for their work and the progress made in the meeting.

8. Closure of the meeting