PECMAC’s
AHWG on Electronic Reporting (ERS) 4 2017

Tuesday 12 September to Thursday 14 September 2017

REPORT

1. Opening of the Meeting
The Chair Gylfi Geirsson, Iceland, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, stressing that this was supposed to be the last meeting of the WG and progress needed to be made ahead of the PECMAC meeting. All Contracting Parties were represented. The list of participants, document AHWG-ERS 2017-04-02 is annexed to this report.

2. Appointment of the rapporteur
The Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Discussion and adoption of the Agenda
The agenda was agreed as circulated in document AHWG-ERS 2017-04-01.

4. UN/CEFACT Proof of Concept
4.1 Continued work on the FLUX UN/CEFACT implementation document for the NEAFC Context
The Secretariat summarised the tasks performed by the Secretariat on the testing of ERS/FLUX with EU. There was a question for clarification from a participants regarding the type of reports transmitted and the Secretariat confirmed that different types of reports were transmitted.
5. **Continued work on Proposed Amendments of the Scheme**

5.1 **Scheme**
The Secretariat introduced document AHWG-ERS 2017-04-06 on the “Amended Articles of the Scheme”. Each article likely to be amended was reviewed and participants intervened either to ask for clarification or to clarify their understanding of the text. Substantial discussion on concepts such as “joint fishing operation” and “relocation of catches”; also discussed was the timing for catch report transmission and the correction and cancellation of reports.

The text was improved and revised as document 2017-04-06 Rev 1.

5.2 **Annexes**
The Chair presented document AHWG-ERS 2017-02-08 on “Proposed Annex IV as harmonised with Annex VIII” and 2017-02-09 on the amended “Annexes and Appendices”. There was some exchange of views on the way forward regarding the presentation of proposed amended text to the Commission.

Participants agreed that a single document with the proposed amendments to articles and annexes should be presented to the Commission as the result of the work of the WG. It was also agreed that further work needed to be done in relation to the Annexes in the near future but most likely after the Annual Meeting.

5.3 **Sending the whole logbook versus catch reporting**
The Chair presented document AHWG-ERS 2017-02-08 on “Proposed Annex IV as harmonised with Annex VIII” as part of the ongoing work on the Annexes of the NEAFC Scheme. The data in this document represented a single list containing all the information currently required to be recorded in the logbook (Annex IV) and everything required to be transmitted to the FMC (Annex VIII). This document was a result of the discussions in the June meeting of PECMAC and had been worked on between meetings.

The list of data in this table was reviewed and participants intervened either to ask for clarification or to clarify their understanding of the text. The result was listed as AHWG-ERS 2017-02-08 Rev 1.

Participants agreed on the principle that everything that was recorded should be transmitted. The final version of this harmonised list shall replace the requirements of Annex VIII for vessels with an electronic fishing logbook. Sections of Annex VIII will remain only for vessels without an electronic fishing logbook.

5.4 **Implementation Document: Outstanding business questions**
The Secretariat summarised the progress so far in relation to the business questions. Establishing a common answer to these questions has been a fundamental part of the plan of the working group. Fundamental questions have been answered. There were outstanding areas for detailed harmonisation which would require work next year, with regarding to gear and vessel codes as well as size groups.
6. Discussion on Requirements for the new NEAFC system

6.1 Identifying Requirements for the Inspectors Web Interface
The Chair referred to document AHWG-ERS 2017-02-03 noting the specific issue of the data that should be available to inspectors. There were comments and questions from the participants but no additional changes to the document was produced.

7. Testing of the FLUX transportation layer and the VMS data exchange with NEAFC Secretariat
The Secretariat briefly summarised the tests done since 2015. The participants requested some additional information that was provided by the Secretariat. EU confirmed that the new version of FLUX TL would be running from next 1st November.

8. Timeline for the implementation of ERS in NEAFC

8.1 End date of the transition period
The Chair noted that, given the present situation the transition period should be between 3 and 5 years. The Secretariat noted that once FLUX TL is stable it was reasonable to accept that by the end of 2018 an ERS will be up and running at the Secretariat.

Participants agreed to a transition period of 2 years from the date that Secretariat system was ready. The Secretariat considered it was feasible that the system would be ready during the first semester of 2019.

8.2 Recommendation on the adoption of UN/CEFACT
The Secretariat briefly introduced document AHWG-ERS 2017-02-04. The document was amended in accordance with comments by the participants. A revised version of the document was produced AHWG-ERS 2017-02-04 Rev 1.

8.3 Proposal to PECMAC/Annual Meeting
Secretariat introduced document AHWG-ERS 2017-02-05 which is a draft letter to CNCPs on future changes of reporting requirements. This was requested by the Commission as part of the work for the ERS group for 2017. No additional amendments to the document was made.

9. Preparation of a transition plan

9.1 System to be used during the transition period
Participants agreed to use current system (NAF) until CPs are ready to use UN CEFACT FLUX. The principle of a definitive final cut-off point for the use of NAF was more practical than trying to agree a simultaneous switch over to start using UN/CEFACT. According to the draft recommendation, NAF transmissions would end by June 2021 at the latest.
10. JAGDM

10.1 Questions to JAGDM
No questions for JAGDM were drafted during the meeting.

11. Any other business
Nothing was referred by the participants under this agenda point.

12. Access to documents
Participants were asked to identify any documents discussed at this meeting which they viewed as sensitive and as such, not for publication following the adoption of the Annual Meeting report. No such documents were identified.

13. Report to the September 2017 Meeting of PECMAC
The work of this meeting will be reported to the PECMAC meeting.

14. Date and Place of the next meeting
PECMAC will have to decide whether to propose to the Commission that further work is required and that the WG should meet in 2018.

15. Closure of the Meeting
The Chair thanked participants and the Secretariat for their active participation and wished all a safe journey back home.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chair  Geirsson, Gylfi

Secretariat
Lewsley, Rachel
Early, Anthony
Neves, João

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

European Union
Kloppenborg, Ben – European Commission
Andreasson, Niclas - Sweden
Faulds, Mike – UK
Reijmer, Gerard – Netherlands
Shalloo, Jim – Ireland

Iceland
Ingason, Björgólfur
Ásgeirsson, Hrannar Már
Magnússon, Leifur

Norway
Haugstvedt, Andreas
Fasmer, Ellen
Wathne, Jens Altern

Russian Federation
Volkov, Victor
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13. Date and Place of the next meeting

14. Closure of the Meeting
# AD HOC WORKING GROUP - ERS

**12-14 September 2017**

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