1. **Opening of the meeting**
The President of NEAFC, Johán H. Williams, Norway, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates.

All Contracting Parties were represented. A list of participants is Annex 1.

2. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**
It was agreed that the President should chair the Working Group, at least for the duration of this meeting. The Contracting Parties would consult regarding a possible Chair that would preside over future meetings of the group.

3. **Adoption of the agenda and appointment of rapporteur**
The agenda was adopted, in the form that had been circulated before the meeting.

The Secretary was appointed as rapporteur.

4. **Consideration of individual points in the Working Group’s Terms of Reference**
   1. A common approach to the conduct of negotiations taking into account international principles and guidelines as well as good practices
   2. Rules on the duration, termination and opting out of coastal State arrangements; and a negotiation process in the event that the arrangement ceases to function
   3. The process to be followed in the case of negotiating a new arrangement, e.g. the developing of a report of the parties on the recent trends in the spatial distribution of the stock(s) and associated catches
   4. A model arrangement, including management options
   5. Practical arrangements on the organisation of the coastal State negotiations, including inter alia, location; timing and duration; and the possible role of the NEAFC secretariat to the negotiations
   6. Rules of procedure to address inter alia, agenda, appointment and role of chairperson(s); use of media; and presence of observers

There were lengthy discussions under agenda item 4, where many issues were raised. The delegates cooperated in the drafting of informal working documents, but no final agreement was made on the issues that were reflected in those working documents.
The Contracting Parties agreed that significant progress had been made in addressing the tasks given to the Working Group. However, further discussions would be needed before those tasks could be finalised and further work would be needed before proposals to the Annual Meeting could be formulated.

5. **Formulation of proposals to the 2016 Annual Meeting**
No proposals to the 2016 Annual Meeting were formulated at this meeting.

6. **Any other business**
No issues were raised under this agenda item.

7. **Arrangements for possible additional meetings of the Working Group**
It was agreed to hold another meeting of the Working Group at the NEAFC office in Berners Street on 18-19 May 2016.

8. **Report of the meeting**
The draft report was circulated on 11 March 2016 and the final report of the meeting was adopted on 18 March 2016.

9. **Closing of the meeting**
The President thanked all the participants for a fruitful meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**President**  Williams, Johán H

**Secretariat**
Ásmundsson, Stefán
Lewsley, Rachel
Neves, João
Hacker, Diane
van Heerde, Lauren

**Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)**
**Faroe Islands**
Skorini, Stefan í
Thomsen, Ingibjørg

**Greenland**
Poulsen, Katrin Vilhelm

**European Union**
Spencer, John
Thomson, Andrew
Hopkins, Peter
Dipper, Ben - UK
Fontaneda, Ignacio - Spain
Grafino, Carla - Portugal
Hotsma, Piebe - Netherlands
Lelionnais, Vincent - France
Mancebo, Margarita – Spain
Nielsen, Lisbet - Denmark
O’Donoghue, Sean - Ireland (Industry)
Sampson, Harry – UK
Iceland
Örgursson, Sigurgeir
Árnason, Kolbeinn
Höskuldsson, Benedikt
Matthíasson, Steinar Ingi

Norway
Westberg, Ann Kristin
Løbach, Terje
Maråk, Audun
Vikanes, Ingrid

Russian Federation
Golovanov, Sergei