

**35TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2013****Terms of Reference of the proposed Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies**

At the 34th Annual Meeting, the Fisheries Commission adopted the proposal to establish a Joint FC-SC Working Group on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies (FC Doc 12/27, FC Doc 12/31). The proposal was developed in line with the Performance Review recommendation of increasing communication between the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission. It considers enhancing the application of risk-based assessment approaches when evaluating management strategies as well as broader use of the Precautionary Approach framework.

Following the adoption of the proposal detailed in FC Doc 12/27, FC tasked the FC Chair to draft in collaboration with the Chairs of SC and other relevant WG the Terms of Reference of the proposed joint WG.

The drafting group believes that the scope of the joint WG is broader than conservation and rebuilding plans and thus it is proposed to change the name to Risk-based Management Strategies.

The draft ToR has been presented to the Scientific Council in June 2013 and to the WGFMS-CPRS in July 2013 for feedback and comments. The draft ToR was also circulated to the Contracting Parties in May 2013 for review. Feedback and comments received are already incorporated in the attached draft ToR.

The draft ToR of the *Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies* (attached) is hereby presented to the Fisheries Commission for consideration and adoption.

Terms of Reference

Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies

Structure:

The Working Group shall be comprised of fishery managers and scientists from Contracting Parties supported by experts and advisors.

The work form may be an open forum/dialogue at the discretion of the chairs of the working group and with the consent of Contracting Parties.

Recommendations to Fisheries Commission shall be developed through formal sessions of official delegations.

The Co-Chairs shall be selected from participating fishery managers and scientists with both a fishery manager and a scientist represented in the two positions.

Accredited observers may attend meetings of the working group Participation will be subject to the *NAFO Rules of Procedure*.

If a Contracting Party so requests, particular agenda items of the meeting, or parts thereof, shall be restricted to delegates representing Contracting Parties and Scientific Council. A total of up to two persons per non-governmental organizations that have been given the right to participate as observers shall be permitted.

The Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies reports to both the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council; considers the advice of Scientific Council; and provides recommendations to Fisheries Commission.

Objective:

The main objectives of the Working Group are, to make recommendations to the Fisheries Commission and feedback to Scientific Council on the development and effective implementation of management strategies, based on the application of the precautionary approach, including conservation plans and rebuilding strategies, and to facilitate dialogue between SC and FC

Specific Duties:

In responding to requests for advice and recommendations from the Fisheries Commission, considering the associated advice of Scientific Council, the Working Group shall:

- Review, update and further develop a general framework including management objectives and performance statistics for the elaboration of management strategies, conservation plans and rebuilding strategies for all NAFO managed stocks.
- Evaluate, and as appropriate update and develop new ones where none exist, all management strategies, conservation plans and rebuilding strategies implemented in NAFO with respect to the Precautionary Approach framework, management objectives and performance statistics.
- Develop alternative strategies for stocks that may not be suited to formulaic rules and/or for stocks where reference points do not exist or cannot be developed.
- Consider all matters related to use of the NAFO Precautionary Approach framework.
- Consider risk management approaches in the review, update and future development of Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies.

Meetings:

Meetings may be held at the request of the Fisheries Commission or the Scientific Council, in consultation with Contracting Parties and the NAFO Secretariat. Timing should be decided on a case by case basis.

The working group shall communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically, as required.

Reporting

The Working Group will issue a written report to the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council.

An oral update can be provided to both SC and FC during the annual meeting.