

The banner features the text 'REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES SECRETARIATS NETWORK' in a bold, black, serif font. The text is centered on a light brown, textured background that resembles aged paper. Several small, detailed illustrations of fish are scattered around the text, some appearing to be part of the paper's texture or as if they are swimming in the background.

# REGIONAL FISHERIES BODIES SECRETARIATS NETWORK

## **NEWS FROM FAO**

On 22 August 2011 two new fishery liaison officers commenced work at FAO, and are based in the Policy, Economics and Institutions branch (FIPI). My name is Gail Lugten and I am one of the two new officers. An initial task that has been given to me is to support Andrew Wright, the current Chairperson of the Regional Fisheries Bodies Secretariats Network (RSN), by acting as Secretary of the RSN. Andrew and I have conceived the idea of a quarterly newsletter, just to keep all RFBs informed of what we are each doing, any important developments in the RFB world and important dates or events on the horizon. RFBs are a diverse group, and it is difficult to find a common theme that applies to all of us. So, rather than ask you for news that fits under a contrived heading: VMEs, IUU, etc, we are just interested to publish ANY news from you. What are you doing out there? Where are you winning, and where are you losing? What is giving most reward, and what is most frustrating? A small paragraph would be great, and don't forget that a picture paints a thousand words, so we will also try to publish any photographs that you can send to us.

A first aim that I would like to fulfill is a calendar list of when every RFB will hold its annual meeting in 2012. If this date is already known to you, and you have a meeting location, would you mind sending the information back to me as soon as possible. My email address is [Gail.Lugten@fao.org](mailto:Gail.Lugten@fao.org)

Incidentally, my colleague Matthew Camilleri is the other new fishery liaison officer to be appointed to FIPI. Matthew is currently working on the COFI presentation for the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Many thanks to those of you who have already replied to Matthew's questionnaire.

I hope to hear from you soon. Gail

## **NEWS FROM NAFO**

During the period of September 19-23, NAFO conducted their 33<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. In addition to their traditional agenda items, all NAFO constituent (and subsidiary) bodies, also discussed the relevant findings and recommendations of the NAFO independent performance review panel. In summary, the organization is performing well. The meeting adopted a range of conservation and management measures, based on the NAFO precautionary approach framework and the ecosystem approach, for twenty commercial fish stocks. Moratoria were continued for eight stocks, and TACs were established for all others. Interim Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies were adopted for two recovering stocks – American plaice and Cod on the Grand Banks. The organization has implemented an agreed management strategy for fishing on Greenland halibut stocks. To prevent significant adverse impacts from bottom trawling on vulnerable marine ecosystems, eighteen areas (including seamounts and coral and sponge protected areas) have been reviewed and kept closed, and the next review dates have been extended to 2014. Encounter Thresholds for VME indicator species (sponges) were reduced from 800 kg/tow to 400 kg and 600 kg on new and existing fishing grounds respectively.

## **NEWS FROM CCAMLR**

CCAMLR will hold its regular annual series of meetings in Hobart, Tasmania from October 10 through to November 4. The meetings commence with Scientific Committee working group sessions that are concerned with fish stock assessment and incidental mortality associated with fishing operations. The outcomes of these meetings, together with the reports of the Ecosystem Monitoring and Management working group and the Statistics, Assessment and Modelling working group which met in Korea in July will be considered by the Scientific Committee when it meets from October 24 through October 28. At the same time the Scientific Committee meets, the Commission's Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance and its Standing Committee on Administration and Finance will also meet.