



(No. 4) October 2012

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHALES AS FOOD-SECURITY?

NEWS FROM NAMMCO

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission held its 21st Annual Council meeting from 11-13 September 2012, in Svolvær, Lofoten Islands, Norway. The member countries of NAMMCO: the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway again confirmed their commitment to ensuring the sustainable utilisation of marine mammals through active regional cooperation and science-based management decisions. Observers included the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Japan and the Russian Federation. It was decided by the NAMMCO Council to form a working group to look at the possibilities of organising an international event in 2014 where the use of marine mammal products will be examined in the context of global food security.

RFBS SEEKING REGULATORY POWERS AND RFMO STATUS:

NEWS FROM THE BOBP-IGO

The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) concluded its Eighth Meeting of the Governing Council (GCM-8) in Dhaka, Bangladesh (11- 12 September 2012). Perhaps the most noteworthy decision of the meeting was that the member-countries expressed an intent to change the mandate and functions of the BOBP-IGO from a purely advisory body to an RFMO. A Technical Committee constituted under the chairpersonship of the Maldives Minister of State for Fisheries, working with members drawn from the other three member-countries, will be meeting later this year to take this important proposal of the GCM-8 forward.

NEWS FROM SWIOFC

The South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission has just completed SWIOFC6 in Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius. The Agenda for the meeting included several watershed issues that will mark an important turning point in the evolution of the Commission, including whether SWIOFC members should consider changing the Commission from an Article VI Advisory FAO body to an Article XIV Regulatory FAO body. The meeting decided to appoint a consultant who would examine the financial, structural and technical repercussions for SWIOFC member countries of transforming their Commission into a FAO Article XIV body.

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS:

NEWS FROM IPHC

The International Pacific Halibut Commission was formed in 1923, and in 2012 the Commission agreed to undertake an independent Performance Review. The IPHC may not be young, but they are not complacent, and the core finding of the review was that:

For nearly 90 years the Commission has successfully shepherded the thoughtful management of the Pacific halibut resource, and it has been widely praised for its skill in managing a sustainable fishery. Stocks have been strong, and the fishery has evolved into a \$600 million per year industry (retail value) that employs thousands of people in the US and Canada. Stakeholders are committed to and supportive of the Commission and its work.

Recommendations were given to the Commission with the aim of strengthening transparency, promoting informed decision-making, furthering strategic thinking and strengthening the implementation of treaty obligations. Well done Bruce and all at the IPHC!

AND SECOND PERFORMANCE REVIEWS:
NEWS FROM NASCO

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) was one of the first regional fishery bodies to conduct a performance review. In 2012 they underwent review for a second time. The External Performance Panel commended:

... the great efforts made by NASCO to address issues affecting all phases of the salmon life cycle, in the rivers, in estuaries and during the migration from natal waters to the feeding areas in areas beyond fisheries jurisdiction. Importantly, NASCO has also addressed external impacts, such as habitat destruction in the rivers, habitat restoration and the effect of aquaculture near salmon rivers.

The panel did however also highlight an imbalance between the Convention-based decisions and the "soft law" measures that have been adopted by the Organization.

Malcolm has now retired from NASCO, and we all send Peter our best wishes for the ongoing success of the Organization.

AND IMPLEMENTING THE AFTERMATH OF A PERFORMANCE REVIEW:
NEWS FROM CECAF

The Twentieth Session of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) met in Morocco this year to discuss, *inter alia*, the 2011 Performance Review of CECAF. Twenty-four recommendations were identified as being conducive to progressing the role of CECAF. These items included improving data collection, sharing schemes for trans-boundary stocks, a possible expansion of the Convention Area, extra-budgetary funding, better incorporation of the Ecosystem Approach and the Precautionary Approach and the problem of overlapping projects and RFBs that are all operating in the CECAF area. Best wishes Moustapha with uniting the CECAF members in addressing these important issues.

NOW A QUESTION FROM GAIL

What should we do about monitoring the progress that is made by RFBs in implementing the findings of their performance reviews?

I am thinking of doing a report on this subject? ☺ Are there any other ideas on how we can monitor this subject?

GOOD NEWS FOR SHARKS
NEWS FROM THE CTMFM

The October Plenary Session of the Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front has succeeded in establishing management measures, including TACs, for four shark-resources (Mustelus, Squatina, coastal water rays deep water rays). The CTMFM has also established an area closure, to be in force from 1 November to 31 March in order to protect shark reproduction grounds. In early November, the CTMFM will be launching a demersal resources survey with two research vessels operating simultaneously for the purpose of assessing demersal species (including several sharks) which are not targeted commercially. Thanks Ramiro!

RFBs, OUTREACH AND SOCIAL MEDIA
NEWS FROM CCAMLR

The Commission only has 11,000 "Likes" on Facebook ☺ (<http://www.facebook.com/CCAMLR>). Drew Wright would be much happier if you (and I) would all go on Facebook and "Like" CCAMLR!! I wonder, should we turn this into a competition and see which RFB can get the most "Likes"? I hate to tell you this Drew, but ICCAT with its massive 48 State members will easily beat you.

So what do you think Driss? Are you up to the challenge?

Most RFBs are only pioneering their foray into social media. It certainly deserves some thought for outreach and raising profiles. However, it also comes with challenges as Drew notes, “We monitor posts daily finding that, depending on the topic (currently MPAs is the “hot” topic), we have to be quite a pro-active moderator”. Please give it some thought as a tool for your RFB.

In fact, Yugraj Yadava from BOBP-IGO has written to tell me that they are also on Facebook and we should all click on the following link to see their site:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bay-of-Bengal-Programme-Inter-Governmental-Organisation/393366977345385>.

Hmmm, with a quarter of the world’s population living in the Bay of Bengal rim states, the BOBP-IGO might even beat Driss!

A HELPFUL INITIATIVE FROM LISA AT NAFO

Below is a DRAFT 2013 Meetings Calendar. Please note, dates are subject to change.

28 Jan – 1 Feb	Inaugural meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) New Zealand
04—08 Feb	FAO - Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) and Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)
23-27 Sep	(NAFO) 35 th Annual Meeting
30 Sep—4 Oct	FAO - COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (7 th Session) St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
11—20 Oct	North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada
22—31 Oct	32 nd meeting of the Commission (CCAMLR XXXII) Hobart, Australia
TBD Oct/Nov	NAMMCO SC 20 Meeting, Reykjavik, Iceland?
11—15 Nov	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) Annual Meeting
TBD Nov/Dec	SEAFO 10th Annual Meeting and pre-meetings (SC etc.) Namibia?

CAN ANYONE ADD TO THIS? WE JUST WANT COMMISSION MEETINGS, NOT SCIENCE COMMITTEE / AND OTHER PRE-MEETINGS.

I am really hopeful to send out another newsletter before the end of 2012, but it depends on YOU! Have you got any exciting news to share with the RSN family????? If so, send it along to me, (just a small paragraph) and I will add it to the December issue. Perhaps I can also add to the calendar, and keep a tally on the facebook “likes”. Would you “Like” that?

Gail