



# REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK

October 2015

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## Message from the Chair of the RSN

Dear RSN Colleagues and Friends,

In light of the fact that we all represent Regional Fishery Bodies, I think it is safe to assume that all of us agree that regional cooperation regarding fisheries is important. Stressing the importance of such cooperation to this forum is therefore a somewhat redundant exercise.

However, I think I should use this opportunity to convey to you that there seems to me to be an ever growing emphasis on the importance of regional cooperation regarding fisheries. I have participated in many different international meetings over the past year, and I am increasingly hearing regional cooperation being emphasised. States cannot resolve all issues on their own, and global solutions lack the ability to take account of the different situations that prevail in different regions. Whether the point of departure is fisheries management, environmental protection, or something else, regional cooperation regarding fisheries is being pinpointed as a part of the solution.

The latest example of this was the recent conference held in Vigo, Spain, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the FAO Code of Conduct. I made a presentation there on the role of Regional Fisheries Bodies, and was happy to note that the importance of strengthening such bodies, and giving them the appropriate financial and political support, was one of the main take-home-messages from the conference, as summarised by the FAO at the final session.

Of course, there is a great diversity among Regional Fishery Bodies. We cover inland, coastal and high seas fishing; we deal with capture fisheries and aquaculture; and, we provide advice and set legally binding measures. Different regional situations and different tasks call for different approaches, so this diversity is natural.

The cooperation we have within the Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariats Network should nevertheless be useful for all of us. It is unavoidable that we will come across issues that are more relevant for some than they are for others, but we should be able to share our experience and benefit from the information we get from the other bodies. It has certainly been my

experience that the Network has been useful both in hearing about what is happening in other bodies and in establishing and strengthening connections with other Secretariats, which makes it easier to have informal contact with them when needed.

Although we try to remain reasonably active at all times, there is no denying that the meetings of the Network are its main event and create the basis for all other contact. You may therefore be interested in knowing that we will soon be starting our preparations for the next meeting in 2016. The plan, as usual, is to meet in connection with the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), in Rome. We expect to have two sessions, one full-day session during the weekend before the COFI meeting and then a short session in the morning of the last day of the COFI meeting.

At recent meetings there have been a great variety of different presentations. I think these have been very useful, and hope you agree with that. We will soon circulate suggestions regarding main topics for the 2016 meeting. At this point, we are aiming to try to have a clear focus on issues that are of direct relevance to all Regional Fishery Bodies. I will not go into any details of this just yet, but as previously mentioned you should expect to receive suggestions for topics in a few weeks. We also hope to have a discussion at the meeting on how the different participants want to see the future development of the Network itself. Meetings that mostly revolve around how future meetings should be are generally not very interesting or useful. However, I think it is useful to take some time every few years to discuss what the participants want from the Network, if only to provide guidance to the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Network's Secretary.

I know that the final months of the year can be a very busy time for Regional Fishery Bodies, and that is certainly true for the one that I represent. I nevertheless hope that you will be able to find a few moments in the near future for issues related to the Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariat Network, and respond to the suggestions you will receive in the near future regarding the organisation of the 2016 meeting.

Stefán Ásmundsson

Secretary of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

Chair of the Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariat Network



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## The ACAP Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide is published in English, with a further seven language-versions available shortly

The *ACAP Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide* has been finalized and is currently available in English, with seven other languages available over the next month. It is primarily intended for use at sea by fisheries observers to assist in the identification of albatrosses and some commonly caught petrels and shearwaters brought aboard after being killed in longline operations. [Continue...](#)

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## COMISION TECNICA MIXTA DEL FRENTE MARÍTIMO (CTMFM)

### 1. Working Groups activities

The Joint Technical Commission of the Río de la Plata Maritime Front (CTMFM) has completed the calendar of Working Groups (WG) meetings scheduled for the first half of 2015. [Continue...](#)

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## Updates from the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

### Post-2015 development agenda



The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda was held from 25 to 27 September 2015. The draft outcome document entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” contains, inter alia, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” includes 10 targets; three are on means of implementation. [Continue...](#)

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## GFCM: Regional Conference on “Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”

With a view to sharing knowledge and generating political commitment to address the main socio-economic and environmental challenges of small-scale fisheries development, a Regional Conference on “Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” will take place on March 7-10, 2016 in Algiers, Algeria. [Continue...](#)

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## IOTC: Working towards the launch of the electronic Port State Measures application by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Worldwide efforts to manage fisheries extending across national and international boundaries onto the high seas continue to be undermined by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Port State measures have been recognized as one of the most cost-effective means for enhancing compliance in fisheries management. [Continue...](#)



## IWC: Building Capacity – the Entanglement Response Network apprentices now ready to share their knowledge

The IWC Whale Entanglement Response Network has gained two valuable new trainers who will continue work to build a professional, global response capacity, focusing on the extensive coastline of South America.

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## NAFO: 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting over 21-25 September in Halifax, Nova Scotia

NAFO: The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held its 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting over 21-25 September in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to make decisions for the fishery in 2016. In particular, the final total allowable catches (TACs) were announced for NAFO stocks, as well as the elimination of all bottom fishing on seamount areas. [Continue...](#)

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## NASCO: New measures adopted for Atlantic salmon fisheries and major research initiative unveiled

Scientific information presented at NASCO's Thirty-Second Annual Meeting highlighted the continuing low, and in some areas critically low, abundance of salmon throughout the North Atlantic and the need for urgent action to improve understanding of these declines in abundance and to control threats. [Continue...](#)

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## NPAFC - International Year of the Salmon—Envisioning a New Initiative

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) is a concept being developed by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). The IYS is conceived as an intensive burst of internationally coordinated, interdisciplinary, stimulating scientific research focused on salmon, and their relation to people.

[Continue...](#)

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## OSPESCA: Nueva Política de Pesca y Acuicultura en los países del SICA

El 1º de julio de 2015, entró en vigencia la nueva Política de Integración de Pesca y Acuicultura para el periodo 2015-2025, en los países del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA) integrado por Belice, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá y República Dominicana.

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## Updates from SRFC

*2e Réunion du Comité consultatif régional* pour la promotion de l'exploitation durable et la gestion coopérative des petits pélagiques en Afrique du Nord-Ouest. [Plus...](#)

*Second meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee* for the promotion of sustainable exploitation and cooperative management of the small pelagics in Northwest Africa. [Continue...](#)

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## The ACAP Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide is published in English, with a further seven language-versions available shortly

The *ACAP Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide* has been finalized and is currently available in English, with seven other languages available over the next month. It is primarily intended for use at sea by fisheries observers to assist in the identification of albatrosses and some commonly caught petrels and shearwaters brought aboard after being killed in longline operations. Where possible, species identification is based on those characteristics that are most likely to be preserved in dead birds that may have been underwater for long periods of time. In most cases, these are primarily size and color. Because dead birds may look quite different to live birds, where possible, the photos included in the ID guide are of dead birds. In some cases it will not be possible to identify a bird to a single species, but in most cases it should be possible to narrow down the identification to two or three possibilities. For species with a restricted range, distribution maps have been added to eliminate them from the possible options.

The guide covers 37 procellariiform species, including 30 of the 31 listed within the Agreement. The ACAP-listed Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*, the Yelkouan Shearwater *P. yelkouan* and the four species of *Calonectris* shearwaters, all known to be at risk to longliners, are not currently covered.

French, Spanish (both ACAP official languages) and Mandarin versions will be available next month, and Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Taiwanese versions are expected to become available in October. The ACAP Secretariat can be contacted for commercial print-quality files, in any of these languages, to print for users' local needs.

The Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide has been printed on glossy water-resistant card with a ring binding that allows it to lie flat, although individual users are encouraged to print and use it in the format that best suits their needs. The Guide has been produced and published (under a Creative Commons license) in collaboration with Japan's National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries. It is planned to produce an interactive, electronic version that could be used on computer tablets and the like. Although titled as an update it is the first published version. <http://fsf.fra.affrc.go.jp/eng/index-e.htm>.

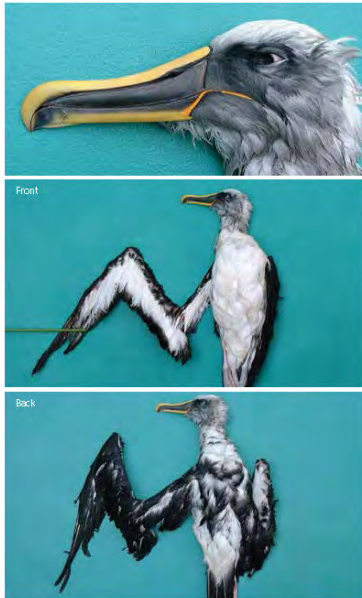
The principal authors are Nadeena Beck, Yukiko Inoue and Hiroshi Minami. ACAP gratefully acknowledges Richard Phillips, Ross Wanless, and Karen Baird for their helpful suggestions on the original draft and also wishes to thank Hiroshi Hadoram, James Lloyd, Aleks Terauds, Ron LeValley, Barry Baker, Ross Wanless, Andrea Angel, Roger Kirkwood, Scott Shaffer, John Cooper, Tony Palliser, Graham Robertson, Brook Whyllie, Tui de Roy, David Thompson, Drew Lee, Flavio Quintana, Marianne de Villiers, Ben Phalan, Department of Conservation, New Zealand, Mike Double, and Peter Hodum for their photographs.

**Reference:**

ACAP Secretariat & National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries 2015. *Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide, updated August 2015*. Hobart: ACAP Secretariat. 100 pp.

<http://www.acap.aq/en/resources/bycatch-mitigation>

John Cooper, ACAP Information Officer, 27 August 2015



**Buller's Albatross**  
*Thalassarche bulleri*

FAO CODE: DIB

NEAR-THREATENED



**Bill length:** 113-129 mm  
**Wing length:** 47-55 cm  
**Body length:** 76-81 cm

- Mostly black bill with yellow upper and lower ridges
- Yellow ridge broadens at base of bill
- Grey head with white cap and dark eye patch
- White body, black upper wings and back
- Juveniles similar to adults, grey bill with black tip (p. 52), white underwing

**Similar species:** May be confused with Grey-headed (p. 42). Separated by white cap, yellow upper ridge broadens rather than tapers at base of bill, yellow lower ridge extends to tip of bill (see also distribution). Distinguished from Yellow-nosed albatross (p. 40) by yellow lower ridge on bill.



## Updates from CTMFM

### 1. Working Groups activities

The Joint Technical Commission of the Río de la Plata Maritime Front (CTMFM) has completed the calendar of Working Groups (WG) meetings scheduled for the first half of 2015.

Over the last five years the Commission has shown significant progress in the adoption of science based management decisions with the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management as guiding principles. To that end, the Commission has established six WGs, five of them focusing on fishery resources status and one on marine environmental studies for the binational Common Fishing Zone (CFZ).

The WGs advise the Commission on harvesting levels and other management issues. Joint assessments to reflect the current status of relevant resources are carried out annually using both, production and age-structured models. In order to provide the Commission with the appropriate advice for fishery management, projections are carried out, biological reference points are estimated and decision tables of predicted outcomes are constructed as part of the annual assessments.



The Coastal Resources WG in the process of assessing whitemouth croaker abundance  
(<http://ctmfm.org/grupo/3/grupo-de-trabajo-recursos-costeros-1/>)

As a result of these activities the Commission established specific management measures (TAC's, area/season closures, access restriction) for 10 major fishery resources of the CFZ that account for 83% of all landings from the area and include four shark groups.

### 2. Publications

A special publication containing the most important contributions of the Workshop held in 2013 with the objective to optimize research activities in the joint surveys promoted by the Commission in the CFZ, has recently come out. Hence, onboard sampling protocols are now normalized in order to facilitate the integration of information collected in the four research vessels operating in the area (<http://ctmfm.org/noticia/9/ppublicacioacuten-especial-de-la-ctmfm-2015p>).



Volume 24 of the CTMFM series FRENTE MARÍTIMO (<http://ctmfm.org/revistas/>) is now in press. It will contain over 20 scientific contributions and three lectures given by the key note speakers on “Rebuilding of fisheries population, environmental and management considerations” the topic chosen for the theme session of the 17th. CTMFM Scientific Symposium, held in Piriapolis (Uruguay) on November 10-12, 2014.

### 3. Future activities

The CTMFM is convening relevant marine scientists and decision makers for the Special Workshop on Sharks and Rays of the CFZ to be held in Colonia (Uruguay) on December 2-4, 2015. The objective of this workshop is to lay the basis for a future Regional Plan of Action for sharks in the CFZ including a Joint Research Plan to advance in the knowledge of the fishery biology, ecology and socio-economical dimensions of the fishery that are required for the application of an ecosystem management approach to the Chondrichthyes of the region.



## Updates from the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

### Post-2015 development agenda

The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda was held from 25 to 27 September 2015. The draft outcome document entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” contains, inter alia, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” includes 10 targets; three are on means of implementation. While several targets explicitly address fisheries-related issues (i.e., targets 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b), all others may also have implications for fisheries. Among the other targets, 14.c reads as follows: “Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of ‘The future we want’”.

The Goals and targets will be followed-up and reviewed using a set of global indicators. These will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels which will be developed by Member States. The global indicator framework for SDGs, being developed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, will be agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission by March 2016. The High Level Political Forum, which meetings are convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, will have the central role in overseeing the follow-up and review processes at the global level.

Information on the United Nations summit, including the draft outcome document “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” is available at:  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>.

### [General Assembly resolution 69/292 on Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction](#)

Building on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction adopted in January 2015 (see RSN Newsletter April 2015 issue), the General Assembly, in resolution 69/292 of 19 June 2015, decided to develop an international legally binding instrument under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and, to that end, established a preparatory committee, which will meet in 2016 and 2017, to make substantive recommendations to the General Assembly on elements of a draft text of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In 2016, the meetings of the preparatory committee will be convened from 28 March to 8 April and from 29 August to 12 September.

In resolution 69/292, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to establish a special voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and small island developing States, in attending the meetings of the preparatory committee and the intergovernmental conference and invited Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund. The Division is in the process of establishing a new trust fund pursuant to the above resolution.

The text of resolution 69/292 is available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at: [http://www.un.org/depts/los/general\\_assembly/general\\_assembly\\_resolutions.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/los/general_assembly/general_assembly_resolutions.htm).

### Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

The Group of Experts established under the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, completed the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment, also referred to as the “World Ocean Assessment”. The summary of the Assessment illustrates the importance of regular reviews as follows: “[The] regular reviews of the state of the ocean, the way in which the many dynamics of the ocean interact and the ways in which humans are using it should enable the many people and institutions involved in human uses to position their decisions more effectively in the overall context of the ocean.”

In the 55-chapter Assessment, experts have examined a wide range of issues that affect the oceans’ ecosystems and marine biodiversity, including the impacts of climate change, ice coverage, the frequency of storms, ocean acidification, land-based activities, unsustainable fishing practices, shipping activities, invasive non-native species, offshore hydrocarbon industries and marine debris. The Assessment shows that the world’s ocean is facing many pressures simultaneously on many different fronts.

The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its sixth meeting, held from 8 to 11 September 2015, recommended to the General Assembly, inter alia, to welcome with appreciation the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment and approve its summary; to launch the second cycle of the Regular Process; and to request the Secretary-General to convene the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in 2016 with a view to providing recommendations to the General Assembly on the follow-up of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment and on the implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process, before the end of the seventieth session and taking into full consideration the discussions on lessons learned and the way forward.

Additional information on the Regular Process is available on the website of the Division at: [http://www.un.org/depts/los/global\\_reporting/global\\_reporting.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm).

### Other developments (resumed Review Conference, bottom fishing review and the informal consultations on the draft General Assembly resolutions)

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/109, the Division has been undertaking work in preparation for the upcoming resumption of the Review Conference on the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement in the first half of 2016 and the review by the General Assembly of the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMO/As) in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68, relating to the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks (see RSN Newsletter April 2015 issue). Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in resolution 69/109, the Secretary-General is preparing reports on these issues in cooperation with the FAO. In this regard, the Division will soon circulate to States and RFMO/As a request for information regarding the implementation of paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72 and paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68.

The seventieth session of the General Assembly has just started. Under agenda item 79 (Oceans and the law of the sea) of its agenda, the General Assembly will consider issues related to oceans and the law of the sea (item 79(a)) and sustainable fisheries (item 79(b)). Informal consultations on the draft resolutions under this agenda item are scheduled to be held in September and November 2015.



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## GFCM: Highlights on current and future activities in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

[Regional Conference on “Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” \(7-10 March 2016, Algiers, Algeria\)](#)

With a view to sharing knowledge and generating political commitment to address the main socio-economic and environmental challenges of small-scale fisheries development, a Regional Conference on “Building a future for sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” will take place on March 7-10, 2016 in Algiers, Algeria. This conference, organized by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) in collaboration with the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, WWF, MedPAN and CIHEAM, will build on the successful outcomes of the “First Regional Symposium on Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” (Malta, 27-30 November 2013). The Conference includes a three-day technical event, comprised of five thematic panels followed by a one-day high-level meeting. The thematic panels will present the results of specific case studies addressing the crucial issues of small-scale fisheries data collection, Blue Growth strategies, co-management schemes, the role of MPAs and the enhancement of value chains. Furthermore, the foundations will be laid for the adaptation of the FAO SSF Guidelines to the practical reality of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Building on the concrete results of the case studies, the conference will provide a forum for discussion and an opportunity to devise tailored solutions and suggest practical recommendations for the consideration of decision-makers.

[Expert meeting on sustainable shellfish aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea \(23–27 November 2015, Cattolica, Italy\)](#)

The GFCM is organizing an Expert meeting on sustainable shellfish aquaculture in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea to be held in Cattolica, Italy, from 23 to 27 November 2015. This meeting is organized as part of the activities of the GFCM Committee on Aquaculture (CAQ) and in collaboration with the FAO AdriaMed regional project, the Italian Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies (MiPAAF), Eurofish, the Associazione Mediterranea Acquacoltori (AMA), and the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA). The main objective of this event is to take stock of shellfish aquaculture activities (with particular reference to mussel and oyster aquaculture) in the GFCM area Mediterranean and Black Sea and discuss the use of sustainability indicators for mussel and oyster farming. Experts, actors and stakeholders from different countries in the region will thus have an opportunity to share their experiences, discuss challenges and explore potential synergies and cooperation. The meeting languages will be English, French and Italian.

[Pilot studies with the GFCM Data Collection Reference Framework \(DCRF\)](#)

The GFCM has recently established the first comprehensive framework for the collection and submission of fisheries-related data in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. As agreed at its last annual session in May 2015, the GFCM is now launching a pilot study in collaboration with selected countries. This work should be carried out from September 2015 to March 2016 on voluntary basis in five GFCM subregions (western Mediterranean Sea, Ionian Sea, Adriatic Sea, eastern Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea). The main purpose of this pilot study is to finalize data submission tools through the Data Collection Reference Framework (DCRF) Online Platform, identify the main difficulties faced to collect/transmit data and perform a preliminary assessment of data quality. The results of this undertaking should be on the occasion of a Meeting of DCRF Focal Points for data submission in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, due to be held in February 2016 and then presented at the next annual session of the GFCM Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in March 2016. Further information about the GFCM DCRF can be found at:

<http://www.fao.org/gfcm/data/dcrf> . For any query, please do not hesitate to contact the GFCM Secretariat at [GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GFCM-Secretariat@fao.org)



## IOTC: Working towards the launch of the electronic Port State Measures application by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Worldwide efforts to manage fisheries extending across national and international boundaries onto the high seas continue to be undermined by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Port State measures have been recognised as one of the most cost-effective means for enhancing compliance in fisheries management.

Following the approval of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSM) and pending the Agreement coming into force, in 2010 the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) moved forward and adopted Resolution 10/11 on PSM to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing, which entered into force on 1 March 2011.

With the support of several organisations - European Union, World Bank, Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project, EU/IOC Smartfish project, the IOTC has developed a comprehensive set of capacity building activities related to Port State Measures: national PSM training, regional PSM training on national interagency collaboration and regional cooperation, and the e-PSM application.

In order to provide technical support to its Members and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) of the IOTC, and to facilitate and strengthen the implementation of the PSM Resolution, the IOTC Secretariat has developed a web-based information system with the financial support of the [Global Partnership for Oceans](#) project of the World Bank; the fund is administrated by the Indian Ocean Commission. The e-PSM application is expected to be launched in 2016 once national e-PSM trainings will be completed.

In this context, monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) officials from IOTC CPCs gathered in Maputo, Mozambique, from 23-26 June 2015 for a Regional training on the e-PSM application, to learn more about the application and to provide feedback to the IT experts who developed the application.

The electronic [PSM Regional Training](#) was implemented by staff members of the IOTC Secretariat and two IT experts, supported by the [Global Partnership for Oceans](#) project of the World Bank, the [Indian Ocean Commission and the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project](#).

The 23 participants, representing 14 different IOTC CPCs, were familiarized with the application before moving to a hands-on training where they took up different roles and responsibilities in the application (Industry, Flag State and Port State).

The e-PSM application is a monitoring, control and surveillance web-based tool developed to assist IOTC CPCs to implement IOTC Port State Measures. It consists of three modules.

Module 1 aims to manage the information on activity of vessels in port. It allows vessels to request entry into port electronically, via Internet. The advantages of requesting entry into port through the e-PSM application are multiples:

- FASTER REQUEST: It fastens processing of request of entry into port and the decision making process of the port State,
- PAPERLESS REQUEST: It reduces paperwork for the master of the vessel or the agent, and the port State,
- ENHANCED COMMUNICATION: It provides a direct communication platform between the master or agent of the vessel and the Competent Authority of the port State and the flag State of the vessel. It allows port State CPCs to monitor requests of entry into port using a dashboard from which they can provide a response to the vessel through the application and implement all the steps of the

PSM process while a vessel is in port: issue authorisation to enter port, request additional information, record information on port inspection, record information on landing and transshipment of vessel in port. Flag State of vessel requesting entry into port are provided as well with a dashboard allowing them to follow the activity of their vessels in foreign ports.

Module 2 is a sharing-information platform on PSM and fisheries management, called e-PSM library, where users can find previous inspection reports, documents (e.g. reports, publications, etc.), useful internet links, information on designated ports, port State contacts and flag State contacts.

Module 3 is a report-building tool where CPCs can generate PSM reports and statistics related to the activity of vessels in port.

The application was very well received by the participants of the training, and it is envisioned that it will become a starting point in the development of a global application that could facilitate implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement in countries around the world.

The Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project is implemented by FAO with a wide range of partners and is funded by the Global Environment Facility. The project seeks to bring global benefits, while at the same time, working with existing initiatives and management frameworks.





## IWC: Building Capacity – the Entanglement Response Network apprentices now ready to share their knowledge

The IWC Whale Entanglement Response Network has gained two valuable new trainers who will continue work to build a professional, global response capacity, focusing on the extensive coastline of South America.

Having previously attended an IWC training workshop and participated in a number of disentanglement operations, the apprentices undertook an advanced, three week programme over the summer. They have now returned to South America and have already begun leading their own training sessions.

The programme was hosted by the Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, who partner the IWC on this initiative. Both apprentices, Karel Beets and Francisco Rebolledo, are members of Mexico's RABEN disentanglement team. Mexico has been heavily involved in the IWC capacity building programme since it began in 2012, and the establishment of two in-country training posts will enable a more extensive workshop programme to be delivered for the benefit of all South American countries.

Building on the original training workshop, the apprenticeship covered more advanced aspects of entanglement response, from boat safety regulations and design of the custom-built tools, to a study of the varying approaches taken by different response teams around the world. The apprentices were also able to join the CCS team on a real and very challenging entanglement response. The importance of patience and teamwork were demonstrated during the successful, 11-hour operation to free a humpback.

Also on the water, the apprentices took part in data collection and were trained in the use of the crossbow and dart biopsy system. This allows researchers to gather genetic information and contributes to health assessments.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the apprenticeship was learning the most effective way to deliver entanglement response training to others. David Mattila, who leads both the IWC Entanglement Response Network and the training programme, explained which topics should be covered, and provided copies of the presentations and material currently used in training workshops.

Back in Mexico, the apprentices have already conducted two sessions. Thirty participants attended a 2-day workshop in Oaxaca, and a separate session was held for local fishermen which focused on prevention.

There is much still to do in terms of both building safe and effective entanglement response capacity, and understanding how entanglements might be prevented from happening in the first place, but this apprenticeship is an important step forward and it is hoped more will follow.





## NAFO: 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting over 21-25 September in Halifax, Nova Scotia

The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held its 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting from 21-25 September in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to make decisions for the fishery in 2016. In particular, the final total allowable catches (TACs) were announced for NAFO stocks, as well as the elimination of all bottom fishing on seamount areas.

“While some NAFO stocks are still at low levels, it seems clear that our efforts at conservation and the sustainable use of our fishery resources are bearing fruit,” says NAFO President Veronika Veits, “with evidence that stocks are rebounding, including some which have recently been reopened.”

It was noted that the management of the cod and redfish (ocean perch) stocks on the Flemish Cap (Div. 3M), both of which are in a healthy state, can support an increase in catches over the next two years. Catches were also increased for witch flounder (grey sole) on the Grand Bank.

To protect marine ecosystems, in particular slow growing deep water corals, it was also decided that all bottom fishing is now banned on seamounts in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA). This decision is based on NAFO’s continuous efforts in maintaining the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management.

It was also decided that a mechanism will continue to exchange information about fisheries and oil and gas exploration activities to ensure smooth co-existence of these activities.

At this meeting, it was decided to start preparations for NAFO’s second performance review. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations called on all Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), such as NAFO, to undergo regular performance reviews. As a result, NAFO underwent its last performance review in 2011, and has since addressed all recommendations.

NAFO also agreed on additional technical measures to further improve compliance and enforcement measures in the northwest Atlantic, such as follow-up to infringements. NAFO noted that its latest comprehensive compliance review demonstrates a trend of continued increasing compliance.

NAFO’s 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held 19-23 September 2016 in Varadero, Cuba.





## NASCO: New measures adopted for Atlantic salmon fisheries and major research initiative unveiled

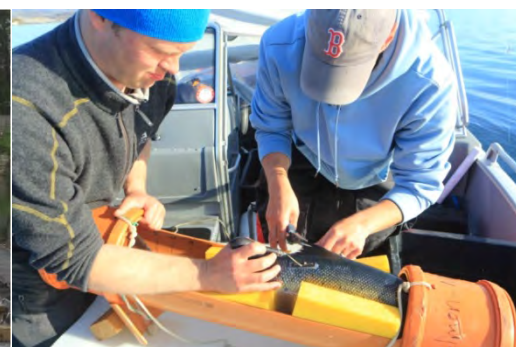
Scientific information presented at NASCO's Thirty-Second Annual Meeting highlighted the continuing low, and in some areas critically low, abundance of salmon throughout the North Atlantic and the need for urgent action to improve understanding of these declines in abundance and to control threats.

New measures were agreed for the salmon fisheries around the Faroe Islands and at West Greenland. For the salmon fishery at the Faroe Islands, a new multi-annual measure was agreed such that management decisions will be made with due consideration to the scientific advice, which indicates that there should be no fishery in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Under similar measures adopted previously, there has been no commercial fishery at the Faroe Islands for nearly 20 years. For the West Greenland salmon fishery, a new plan was agreed as part of a new regulatory measure that, when implemented, will further improve monitoring and control of that fishery. Greenland committed to limit its total annual catch to 45t in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Building on the recent marine surveys under the Salmon at Sea (SALSEA) Programme, NASCO's International Atlantic Salmon Research Board has developed plans for an ambitious and innovative programme of research to track salmon from their rivers of birth out into the ocean. This important initiative will improve knowledge of where mortality is occurring and what is causing it. This programme is called SALSEA – Track.

Ensuring accessible habitat is fundamental to the health of Atlantic salmon. A primary focus at the meeting concerned river connectivity with particular focus on the impacts of hydropower. A very successful theme-based session, organised with NASCO's accredited NGOs, was held to explore this topic and several presentations on the numerous actions being taken in rivers across the North Atlantic to enhance river connectivity were made. The resulting information sharing will help inform future management.

NASCO is liaising with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission on the possibility of holding an International Year of the Salmon to raise awareness of the issues facing salmon throughout the 'salmosphere', the research being undertaken and the considerable efforts being made to conserve and restore them.





## NPAFC - International Year of the Salmon—Envisioning a New Initiative

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) is a concept being developed by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). The IYS is conceived as an intensive burst of internationally coordinated, interdisciplinary, stimulating scientific research focused on salmon, and their relation to people. New technologies, new observations, and new analytical methods, some developed exclusively during the IYS, will be focused on gaps in knowledge that prevent the clear and timely understanding of the future of salmon in a rapidly changing world.

At the 2015 Annual Meeting of the NPAFC, the Commission endorsed a broad IYS concept that had been identified at the first IYS scoping meeting, which took place earlier that year. At the first scoping meeting, 30 scientists drawn from all of the NPAFC-member countries (Canada, Japan, Korea, Russia, and United States) met to consider high-level scientific objectives and their feasibility for an IYS.

A new word for IYS planning was conceived—the salmosphere. The salmosphere is the area of current and future geographic range of salmon in the Subarctic and Arctic and the word was coined in recognition of the current and future distributional range of salmon as it might be affected by climate change.

Scientists at the first IYS scoping meeting developed the following general IYS research themes:

- Status of Salmon to understand the present status of salmon and their environment
- Salmon in a Changing Salmosphere to understand and quantify the effects of natural environmental variability and anthropogenic factors affecting salmon and to make projections of future changes
- New Frontiers to develop new technologies to advance salmon science
- Human Dimension to investigate the cultural, social, and ecological processes that foster sustainable salmon populations
- Information Systems to develop an integrated archive of accessible electronic data collected during the IYS and tools to support future research

The NPAFC decided to further elaborate on the IYS concept by committing effort this year in identifying potential partners, developing a business/organizational plan, and further explaining the general research themes. To accomplish these goals, a working group was established and funds were set aside to convene a second scoping meeting early in 2016.

As currently proposed, the timing and duration of the IYS sets aside 2016-2017 for lead-up, planning, and coordination, 2017 and 2018 for field seasons and new scientific data collection, and 2020-2022 for final analysis, publication, and resolution.

Organizations concerned with salmon in the Pacific, Atlantic, or Arctic Ocean and interested in IYS planning and in taking the next step in making this exciting initiative a reality, should visit the NPAFC IYS webpage at [http://www.npafc.org/new/science\\_IYS.html](http://www.npafc.org/new/science_IYS.html) and contact the NPAFC Secretariat [secretariat@npafc.org](mailto:secretariat@npafc.org).

*By Mark Saunders and Nancy Davis*

*North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission*



## International Year of the Salmon (IYS)

### Concept of the IYS

- The International Year of the Salmon is an **intensive burst** of internationally coordinated, interdisciplinary, scientific research focused on salmon, and their relation to people.
- New technologies, new observations and new analytical methods, some developed exclusively during the IYS, will address knowledge gaps that prevent a clear understanding of the future of salmon in a rapidly changing world.



## OSPESCA: Nueva Política de Pesca y Acuicultura en los países del SICA

El 1º de julio de 2015, entró en vigencia la nueva Política de Integración de Pesca y Acuicultura para el periodo 2015-2025, en los países del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA) integrado por Belice, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá y República Dominicana.

La política se elaboró en un proceso participativo de las diferentes instancias gubernamentales a nivel regional y nacional, así como de los sectores organizados de la pesca y acuicultura, siendo aprobada por el Consejo de Ministros Responsables de las Actividades de la Pesca y Acuicultura de la Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA) y respaldada por los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de los Países del SICA en su XLV Reunión realizada el pasado 26 de junio de 2015 en la ciudad de Antigua Guatemala.

El objetivo central de la política es asegurar el aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos hidrobiológicos y de la acuicultura, fortaleciendo el marco de coordinación y armonización dentro del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana y así contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria y a la mejora de la calidad de vida de la población.

La política continuará realizando acciones iniciadas en la Política anterior y promoverá los siguientes componentes estratégicos: a) El fortalecimiento de la organización y la institucionalidad, b) La gobernanza regional, c) La ordenación de la pesca y la acuicultura regional, d) el cambio climático en la pesca y la acuicultura, e) El desarrollo de la pesca y la acuicultura, f) La seguridad pesquera y acuícola, g) el comercio intra y extra regional, h) la Pesca y la acuicultura asociada al turismo, e i) Las relaciones internacionales aplicada a la pesca y la acuicultura. Su ejecución será en un modelo participativo intersectorial de alcance regional.



### Dirección Especializada de Pesca y Acuicultura adscrita a la Secretaría General del SICA

Atendiendo una solicitud de las autoridades de la Pesca y la Acuicultura de los países del SICA, la Secretaría General del SICA mediante Resolución fechada el 12 de diciembre de 2014, admitió la adscripción de la Dirección Regional Especializada de OSPESCA a dicha Secretaría. La nueva Dirección Regional conocida como Dirección Regional de Pesca y Acuicultura (SICA/OSPESCA), es una entidad especializada del Sistema de la Integración con el objetivo de coordinar la definición, aprobación y puesta en marcha de estrategias,

acuerdos y acciones en torno a la nueva Política de Integración de la Pesca y la acuicultura con enfoque ecosistémico; así como los órganos del SICA y particularmente los de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de sus países miembros.



### Sesión Conjunta de la Pesca y Acuicultura del SICA

En el marco de la nueva Política de Integración de Pesca y Acuicultura, se ha sostenido una importante reunión entre el Comité Ejecutivo de OSPESCA, integrado por los Señores Viceministros de Pesca y Acuicultura, los Directivos de la Organización de Empresarios de la Acuicultura y Pesca (OECAP) y la Junta Directiva de la Confederación Centroamericana de Pescadores Artesanales (CONFEPESCA).

Durante la misma, se abordaron temas de interés común para el desarrollo responsable y sostenible de la pesca y acuicultura, así como de la organización regional en el marco de las sinergias y participación intersectorial por medio de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil establecido en la nueva Política de Integración y sus mecanismos de evaluación y seguimiento.





## Updates from SRFC

- ✓ *2e Réunion du Comité consultatif régional* pour la promotion de l'exploitation durable et la gestion coopérative des petits pélagiques en Afrique du Nord-Ouest. [Plus ...](#)

*Second meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee* for the promotion of sustainable exploitation and cooperative management of the small pelagics in Northwest Africa. [More ...](#)

- ✓ *Ateliers nationaux de sensibilisation sur l'Avis consultatif rendu le 2 avril 2015* par le Tribunal international du Droit de la Mer au profit des Etats Membres de la CSRP, organisés par la CSRP et le PRCM, du 17 août 2015 au 16 septembre 2015. [Plus ...](#)

*National awareness-raising workshops on the advisory opinion* delivered by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) to SRFC Member States. [More...](#) (for the English version, [click here](#))

- ✓ *Atelier de formation sur le Droit international des Pêches* pour les Etats membres de la CSRP, plus le Ghana et le Libéria. Organisé par la CSRP et l'Administration Océanique et Atmosphérique Nationale des États-Unis d'Amérique (NOAA) les 27-29 juillet 2015 à Dakar (Sénégal). [Plus ...](#)

*International Legal training in Fisheries for SRFC Member States* plus Ghana and Liberia. Organized by the SRFC and the NOAA on 27-29 July 2015 in Dakar (Senegal). [More ...](#)

- ✓ *Sénégal - Loi n° 2015-18 du 13 juillet 2015 portant Code de la pêche maritime*. Ce nouveau texte prend en compte de nouvelles dispositions en matière de pêche INN, de durcissement des sanctions, de cogestion des pêcheries, d'aménagement et sur le principe de précaution et la démarche participative. [Plus ...](#)

*Senegal - Law N° 2015-18 of 13 July 2015 promulgating the Sea Fishing Code*. This new text takes into account new IUU provisions, tougher sanctions, co-management and management of fisheries, the precautionary principle and the participatory approach. [More ...](#)

- ✓ *Atelier sur l'avis consultatif du Tribunal international du droit de la mer* sur la demande soumise par la CSRP sur la pêche INN et la gestion durable des stocks partagés ou d'intérêt commun (Affaire n° 21). Sous l'égide de la CSRP avec le PRCM et le WWF. Du 9 au 11 juin 2015 à Dakar (Sénégal). [Plus ...](#)

*Workshop on the advisory opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea* on the request submitted by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission regarding IUU fishing and shared or common interest stocks management. Under the auspices of SRFC with the PRCM and WWF. 9 - 11 June 2015 in Dakar (Senegal). [More ...](#)

- ✓ *Rendu de l'avis consultatif du Tribunal international du droit de la mer*: le 2 avril 2015, le Tribunal international du droit de la mer en sa formation plénière, a rendu son avis consultatif sur la requête soumise par la CSRP. [Plus ...](#)

*The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea delivers its advisory opinion*: on 2nd April 2015, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea delivered an Advisory Opinion on the Request submitted by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission. [More ...](#) (the English version, [click here](#))