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29 November 2023

Subject: NAFO/23-242 (19 October 2023) - Updated Memorandum of Understanding between the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

Dear Executive Secretary Benediktsdóttir,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 October 2023, in which the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Secretariat enclosed the updated memorandum of understanding between NAFO and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), as approved by NAFO Commission at the 2023 Annual Meeting of NAFO.

We are pleased to now return a copy of the updated memorandum, signed by President William Karp, which entered into force upon signature on 31 October 2023. ICES Secretariat apologizes for the delayed return of the signed memorandum to NAFO Secretariat.

With the updated memorandum of understanding now in effect, ICES looks forward to renewed and further cooperation with NAFO Scientific Council.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Haynie
ICES General Secretary



ICES
CIEM

International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea
Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (NAFO) AND THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA (ICES)

Recognizing that the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization hereinafter called NAFO exists to (a) promote the optimum utilization and long-term sustainability of fishery resources; (b) adopt measures based on the best scientific advice available to ensure that fishery resources are maintained at or restored to levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield; (c) apply the precautionary approach in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 4 August 1995; (d) take due account of the impact of fishing activities on other species and marine ecosystems and in doing so, adopt measures to minimize harmful impact on living resources and marine ecosystems; (e) take due account of the need to preserve marine biological diversity in the NAFO convention area; (f) prevent or eliminate overfishing and excess fishing capacity, and ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of the fishery resources; (g) ensure that complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities within the Convention Area are collected and shared among Contracting Parties in a timely manner; (h) ensure effective compliance with management measures and that sanctions for any infringements are adequate in severity; and (i) take due account of the need to minimize pollution and waste originating from fishing vessels as well as minimize discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of species not subject to a directed fishery and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species.

Recognizing that the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, hereinafter called ICES, (a) has the mission to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide and to use this knowledge to generate state-of-the-art advice for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals; (b) is a science community that is able to address issues of relevance to the exploitation of living marine resources; (c) exists to promote and encourage research and investigations for the study of the sea, to advance the scientific understanding of marine ecosystems, including its living resources; (d) draws up the necessary programmes and organises such research and investigations as may appear necessary and publishes and disseminates the results of this work; (e) seeks to establish and maintain working arrangements with other international organizations and arrangements having related objectives; (f) provides scientific information and advice to ICES Member Countries and the regulatory commissions with which cooperative relationships have been established; (g) seeks to establish and maintain working arrangements with other international organisations and arrangements having related objectives;. In order to carry out these tasks appropriately and efficiently ICES seeks, *inter alia*, to establish and maintain mutually agreed working arrangements with other international organizations which have related objectives.

Recognizing that the Scientific Council of NAFO is the body within NAFO that is most closely aligned with the ICES as regards work activities and objectives, and that past collaborations have been of mutual benefit to NAFO and ICES.

Recognizing that there are mutual benefits to be gained, NAFO and ICES have, therefore, agreed to the following Memorandum of Understanding to be implemented through the Scientific Council of NAFO:

1. NAFO and ICES will encourage
 - a) reciprocal consultations and regular contact between NAFO and ICES on matters of common interest in the field of marine scientific research and related aspects, particularly those involving studies in the North Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas, and which fall within their respective competence;
 - b) regular exchanges between NAFO and ICES of information, documents, and publications relating to programme and project plans and to the results of activities of mutual interest, joint or otherwise;
 - c) joint activities, including the establishment of joint subsidiary bodies or other suitable arrangements as required, the study and reporting on matters of common interest, and the support of those programmes which are of joint concern and benefit.
2. NAFO and ICES will invite each other to be represented at their meetings that are of common interest, to the extent that this is possible within their respective working procedures.
3. The terms of this Memorandum of Understanding may be revised upon mutual agreement by NAFO and ICES. Either may withdraw from the Understanding at any time subject to giving one year's written notice.
4. Recognizing and fully respecting their various mandates, policies and priorities, the signatories agree that this Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force except for conditions as pursuant to Clause 3 above.
5. This Agreement neither binds NAFO nor ICES to provide funds or other resources, of their own property or that of others, nor does it impede the signing of similar agreements with other organizations. Both NAFO and ICES may request financial support from third parties, in a joint or individual manner, to proceed with the cooperation projects and activities.
6. Any notice or other communication to NAFO under this Agreement shall be in writing to the NAFO Secretariat (info@nafo.int) and addressed to NAFO Executive Secretary, 1601 Lower Water Street, Suite 401, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3P6, Canada. Any notice or other communication to ICES under this Agreement shall be in writing to the ICES Secretariat (info@ices.dk) and addressed to the ICES President, H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46, DK 1553 Copenhagen V, Denmark.

**FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC
FISHERIES ORGANIZATION**



Deirdre Warner-Kramer
President

Date: 18 October 2023

**FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR
THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA**



William Karp
President

Date: 31 October 2023