



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Yobana Bermúdez

Chair

Zoom

Thursday, 30 November 2023

# AGENDA (CET TIME ZONE)

- 14:00 Welcome from the Chair, Yobana Bermúdez
- 14:05 Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes (20.09.23)
- 14:10 Action Points
- 14:15 Membership of General Assembly
- 14:30 Working Groups
- 14:45 Inter-Advisory Council's Coordination
- 15:15 Finances
- 15:30 Organisation of meetings
- 15:50 AOB
- 15:55 Summary of actions points
- 16:00 End of the meeting*

# ACTION POINTS (20 SEPTEMBER 2023)

## Secretariat:

- Chair to proceed with the celebration of a contract for administrative and financial support services, for the period of three years, with EBCD
- Chair to send letter of appreciation to the Director of EBCD for the previous years
  - Services contract signed by both parties on 30 October 2023
  - Letter of appreciation to the Director of EBCD sent on 30 October 2023

## Statutes:

- Following the approval of the required modifications to the Statutes by the members, Secretariat to proceed with the corresponding filing in the clerk's office of the competent Commercial Court
- Modifications to the Statutes filed at the French-speaking Commercial Court of Brussels on 22 November 2023

# ACTION POINTS (20 SEPTEMBER 2023)

## Seat:

- **Following the approval of the transfer of the seat of the association, Secretariat to proceed with the official registration of the transfer**
- **Transfer of the seat to “Regus EU Commission, 6 Rond-Point Robert Schuman, 1040 Bruxelles” filed at the French-speaking Commercial Court of Brussels on 22 November 2023**

## AOB:

- **Ahead of the next meeting, Secretariat to prepare an overview comparing the costs of organizing in-person, hybrid, and remote meetings**
- **Financial Officer to calculate the current financial reserves**
  - **Agenda items scheduled on these two issues**

# MEMBERSHIP OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Endorsement of new member**
  - **Cofradía de Isla Cristina from Spain**
  
- **Endorsement of new member**
  - **Ribarska Zadruga Friska Rika from Croatia**

# WORKING GROUPS

## ➤ Working Group 1

- Julien Lamothe

## ➤ Working Group 2

- Pierre Commère

## ➤ Working Group 3

- Benoît Thomassen

# INTER-ADVISORY COUNCIL'S COORDINATION

## ➤ EU-China Blue Partnership Forum for the Oceans (23 September 2023)

### ▪ **Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

#### ▪ Opening remarks by Commissioner Sinkevičius

- Importance of shared knowledge and experience
- Strong partnership, under a rules-based global order, to improve the global ocean framework
- Calls for ocean protection, sustainable fisheries, fight against IUU, sustainable use of marine resources & MPAs, using international agreements
- Strong partnership, under a rules-based global order, to improve the global ocean framework

#### ▪ Opening remarks by Youxiang Ma, Vice-Minister, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

- Very productive & fruitful communication with EU on IUU (meetings, exchanges, joint efforts)
- Called for healthy development of aquatic industries between EU and China, solidarity and cooperation on climate change, work based on mutual reciprocity
- Strengthen efforts on IUU + protection of sustainability of fishing industry
- Collaboration in science (fisheries resources, genetic resources, processing, disease control, energy saving, equipment update, resources restoration)
- Expand market access and free trade + more joint development projects

# INTER-ADVISORY COUNCIL'S COORDINATION

## ➤ EU-China Blue Partnership Forum for the Oceans (23 September 2023)

### ▪ **Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

#### ▪ Opening remarks by Guanghua Wang, Minister, Natural Resources

- Opportunities for collaboration on blue growth + ocean energy
- Concept of “community for future of mankind” = Human & ocean ecosystem together
- Principles of mutual respect, equal treatment, extensive communication
- EU & China: Strong ties & relationship | Blue economy can bring benefits for both
- Invest in intelligent ports, blue investments, blue finance
- Climate change: protect biodiversity + research + ocean carbon sinking mechanisms



# INTER-ADVISORY COUNCIL'S COORDINATION

## ➤ EU-China Blue Partnership Forum for the Oceans (23 September 2023)

### ▪ **Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

#### ▪ Session 2 – Xinzhong Liu, Director-General, Bureau of Fisheries

- Unbalanced distribution in the resources and development across regions
- “All-encompassing approach to food” – respecting national conditions & reality
- Flag State obligations (RFMOs limit on number & tonnage of fishing vessels + fishing quotas, data collection system for distant water fisheries, observer system for transshipment, electronic fishing logbook for high seas)
- Combat IUU fishing (supervise high seas transshipment, import & export validity certification, zero tolerance against IUU, annual “blacklist” of vessels)
- Science & technology support (establishment & improvement of support system, compliance training, fisheries resources surveys)
- Fisheries cooperation (high-level dialogues, conferences)

# INTER-ADVISORY COUNCIL'S COORDINATION

## ➤ EU-China Blue Partnership Forum for the Oceans (23 September 2023)

### ▪ **Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

#### ▪ Session 2 – Roberto Cesari, Head of Unit for IUU Fisheries Policy

- EU & China must be leaders of implementation of Agenda 2030 and SDG14
- Welcomed signing of BBNJ agreement and deposit of WTO agreement
- EU & China must work in all oceans & RFMOs (manage stocks, strengthen food security, conserve biodiversity)
- Importance of science, data, transparent legal environment, fight against IUU fishing
- Highlighted EU's IUU "carding" system & new CATCH IT system + encouragement of voluntary use of the system by China
- Appreciation for EU-China cooperation under IUU Working Group

# INTER-ADVISORY COUNCIL'S COORDINATION

## ➤ Inter-Advisory Council's Brexit Forum (9 October 2023)

### ▪ **Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

- Update from DG MARE representatives on outcomes of Working Groups & Specialised Committee on Fisheries
- Update on upcoming EU-UK bilateral consultations (schedule of meetings)
- Items / actions point proposed by ACs (request to ICES on role of forage fish in North Sea, preparations for the revision of the TCA, updates on UK consultations, compatibility of TCMs and control and enforcement)
- Review of list of horizontal topics

# INTER-ADVISORY COUNCIL'S COORDINATION

## ➤ **Inter-Advisory Councils' coordination meeting with DG MARE (10 October 2023)**

- **Yobana Bermúdez (Chair), Christine Absil (Vice-Chair), Julien Lamothe (Vice-Chair & WG1 Chair), Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**
  - Opening address: Advisory Councils working towards fisheries of the future
  - Commission Update on the functioning of the Advisory Councils
  - Revision of the Control Regulation
  - Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems - STECF opinion
  - Update on international developments for external EU fisheries

# INTER-ADVISORY COUNCIL'S COORDINATION

## ➤ **Advisory Board of the European Fisheries Control Agency (19 October 2023)**

### ▪ **Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

- Advisory Councils – State of Play
- Draft Single Programming document: multiannual work programme 2024-2028 and Annual Work Programme 2024
- Rotation of the Advisory Board representative in the Administrative Board of EFCA

# FINANCES

- **Update on current financial reserves**
  - **Dawlat Bik (Financial Officer)**

# ORGANISATION OF MEETINGS

- **Presentation on the financial and operational implications of the different organisation methods**
  - **Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**
    - Action points of 24 April 2022 meeting:
      - *Meetings to be organised, with some alternation, in physical or online formats. General Assembly meetings should take place in physical format.*
      - *September 2022 and January 2023 meetings to take place in physical format, while March 2023 meetings to take place in online format.*
  
- **Exchange of views**

# ORGANISATION OF MEETINGS

## ➤ Presentation on the financial and operational implications of the different organisation methods

### ▪ **Pedro Reis Santos (Secretary General)**

#### ▪ Calendar of meetings of Year 8 (October 2023 – September 2024):

- November 2023: WGs + ExCom (Online)
- January 2024: WGs + ExCom (Brussels)
- March 2024: WGs + ExCom (Online)
- May 2024: WGs + ExCom (Brussels)
- July 2024: ExCom (Online)
- September 2024: WGs + ExCom + GA (Brussels)

- Focus Groups + Management Team meetings: online



# ORGANISATION OF MEETINGS

- Costs of In-Person Meetings: 19 & 20 September 2023 WGs, GA, ExCom (example)
  - Meeting venue (Copa Cogeca): 3,467.20 €
  - Catering (lunch & coffee breaks): 5,208.85 €
  - Interpreters (EN, ES, FR): 6,098.40 €
  - Reimbursements (travel, accommodation, per diem): 19,240.81 € (29 reimbursements)
  - Total: 34,015.26 €
- Advantages of In-Person Meetings:
  - Networking (w/ other members, COM & MS representatives)
  - Informal negotiations during breaks / lunch
  - “Team building”
  - More focus from the members on one task
  - Easier for Chair & Secretariat to interpret the reactions of members (e.g., approval vs disapproval)
- Disadvantages of In-Person Meetings:
  - Higher costs (room rental, catering, reimbursements)
  - Travel time and effort

# ORGANISATION OF MEETINGS

- Costs of Hybrid Meetings: 23 & 24 May 2022 WGs, ExCom (example)
  - Meeting venue (Martin's Hotel Brussels EU): 5,537.26 €
  - Catering (lunch & coffee breaks): 5,909 €
  - Audiovisual & technicians: 5,537.26 €
  - Interpreters (EN, ES, FR): 6,001.60 €
  - Reimbursements (travel, accommodation, per diem): 3,935.70 € (8 reimbursements)
  - Total: 26,920.19 €
- Advantages of Hybrid Meetings:
  - More flexibility for members to participate
  - Easier to invite external experts
- Disadvantages of Hybrid Meetings:
  - Uncertainty for venue size & catering
  - Feeling of “two separate meetings”
  - More difficult to network (including uncertainty for travelling members on added value)
  - More concentration required from Chair & Secretariat to follow developments online + in-person

# ORGANISATION OF MEETINGS

- Costs of Online Meetings: 27 – 30 March 2023 WGs, ExCom (example)
  - Meeting venue (Zoom): 107.68 € (per month)
  - Interpreters (EN, ES, FR): 8,179.60 €
  - Zoom support expert: 2,044.90 €
  - Total: 10,332.18 €
- Advantages of Online Meetings:
  - Low cost when compared to other meetings
  - Easy attendance for members, observers, experts
- Disadvantages of Online Meetings:
  - Harder to network
  - Higher likelihood of members “multitasking” during meetings
  - Harder for Chair & Secretariat to interpret the reactions of members (e.g., approval vs disapproval)

# AOB, ACTION POINTS, END OF MEETING

## ➤ AOB

- Roundtable of AC Chairs & Vice-Chairs with Commissioner Sinkevičius ahead of December Council (Brussels, 7 December 2023)
  - Disturbances due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine
  - Recommendations to STECF economic reports (fleet, aquaculture, processing)
- Collaboration with Outermost Regions Advisory Council (CCRUP)
  - Proliferation of invasive algae species in the Outermost Regions

## ➤ Summary of action points

## ➤ End of meeting