

**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON
REVIEW OF RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMISSION (VWG-RRP)**

(Online, 28 March 2022)

1. Opening of the meeting

On 28 March 2022, the new Commission Chair, Ernesto Penas, convened the third meeting of the VWG-RRP, which was held online, from 12:00 to 14:00. The Secretariat served as rapporteur. Of the 38 members from 17 CPC members of the Group who received the invitation, 47.4 % participated in this meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 1**.

After welcoming the participants, the Chair expressed his satisfaction with the holding of this third meeting of the VWG-RRP, his first with the Group. The Chair noted that this Group is of high importance and recalled, as proposed in his letter distributed to the Group members, the two questions on which he would like to hear the views of members, based on the discussions so far, for him to be able to propose an informal non-paper. He stressed that he would like this process to be inclusive, called for more engagement from members while regretting the low number of participants in this Group, and pointed out that his intention is not to add unnecessary bureaucracy to the procedures.

2. Discussions on identified key issues

Upon request of the Chair, the Executive Secretary provided a summary of the two meetings the VWG-RRP held in 2020 and 2021. On the key issues, the Commission identified: 1) the process for the election of Commission officers, and 2) the process for submitting proposals and the progress of these following submission. He recalled that the first meeting discussed the scoping and framing of the work of the Group, while the second one focused on the nomination and election process for Commission Officers.

The Executive Secretary summarized the VWG-RRP discussions on the issue of elections to date. Some members noted that, although the Group did not come to the 2021 Annual Meeting with a concrete written proposal, the discussions it held regarding the election of Officers allowed the Commission to implement an approach for identifying and selecting interested candidates that took into consideration geographical balance, transparency, rotation, and the importance of consensus. The approaches taken to the 2021 election process should provide useful models to draw from, and it will be helpful to put on paper what worked well.

Echoing some of the suggestions for a more open consultation process, the Chair proposed that the non-paper he would prepare be sent to all ICCAT CPCs (not just members of this Group) to ensure that they are consulted equally and avoid exacerbating/aggravating the concerns expressed about a lack of transparency in the ICCAT election process. This document will be commented on for consolidation. The Group broadly welcomed the idea of this non-paper.

A CPC was of the view that as a lot of work was done in the previous meetings of the Group, it was expected that a paper from the Chair would be presented for discussion. The Chair clarified his approach and noted that he needed to hear from CPCs first before trusting his capacity to table something for discussion; this is the main objective of this meeting.

The Group also noted the need and benefit of building greater capacity in CPCs with regard to chairing while ensuring proper rotation in Officer positions.

Regarding the issue of proposal development and submission, the Group acknowledged that it had not discussed at length the issue of how management proposals are developed and adopted. It was noted that this general decision-making process needed to be further developed and that productive discussion had been ongoing on this matter in the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD). The VWG-RRP supported coordination with STACFAD to ensure no duplication of effort.

For the work calendar, the Group agreed to work toward development of a document on the Officers election process to submit for Commission consideration this year with a view to having new guidance in place in time for the next election year in 2023.

3. Additional question on meetings rapporteurs

After addressing the two key issues he had raised at the beginning of the meeting, the Chair proposed to the Group to discuss the issue of rapporteurs for ICCAT meetings. In general, the Group felt that the offer of a rapporteur should remain voluntary. The Secretariat noted, while thanking those CPCs that usually provide rapporteurs, that this volunteer approach had sometimes proved to be ineffective and that it would continue to encourage CPCs to take on this role even though they might face constraints such as limited staffing. The Secretariat also assured CPCs that all necessary support would be provided to rapporteurs (in terms of availability of meeting audio, facilitation of all required documents, answering all questions where possible). One CPC mentioned that his recent experience had been very positive and reiterated his willingness to continue to offer his services whenever possible, and others requested assistance in supporting the training of rapporteurs.

One CPC mentioned that he does not speak any of the Commission's languages and asked that the possibility of hiring professional rapporteurs when there are no volunteers be explored. The Secretariat shared some information on the estimated basic costs of this approach and suggested that more incentives be offered to entice volunteers. Another CPC proposed to have a formal mechanism to create a group of rapporteurs that would service the meetings although it was unclear how this could be effectively accomplished.

The Group agreed that its meetings should be published on the ICCAT meetings web page as is done for the meetings of other ICCAT bodies.

4. Next steps

The Chair indicated his intention to share with all CPCs, a non-paper that he would draft covering the two primary issues that have been under discussion by the VWG-RRP since its inception as well as the question of the rapporteurs. Sufficient time will be provided for CPCs to provide comments on the non-paper after which at least one more meeting of the VWG-RRP would be convened in 2022 to try to reach agreement on guidelines or another appropriate document that could be brought to the 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting for consideration.

The Chair thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting.

List of participants

CONTRACTING PARTIES

ALGERIA

Cheniti, Sarah

Directrice de développement de la pêche, Ministère de la Pêche et des Productions Halieutiques, Route des Quatre Canons, 1600 Alger

Tel: +213 21 43 33 37, Fax: +213 21 43 31 97, E-Mail: sarah.cheniti@mpeche.gov.dz

Hentour, Abderrahmane

Sous-Directeur du contrôle des activités de la pêche et d'aquaculture, Ministère de la Pêche et des Productions Halieutiques, Route des quatre canons, 16000

Tel: +213 559 139 817, Fax: +213 214 33161, E-Mail: abdou.hentour@gmail.com

CANADA

Smith-Laplante, Robynn-Bella

Policy Analyst, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A0E6

Tel: +1 343 542 8414, E-Mail: Robynn-Bella.Smith-Laplante@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

EL SALVADOR

Chavarría Valverde, Bernal Alberto

Asesor en Gestión y Política Pesquera Internacional, Centro para el Desarrollo de la Pesca y Acuicultura (CENDEPESCA), Final 1ª Avenida Norte, 13 Calle Oriente y Av. Manuel Gallardo, 1000 Santa Tecla, La Libertad

Tel: +506 882 24709, Fax: +506 2232 4651, E-Mail: bchavarria@lsg-cr.com

EUROPEAN UNION

Malczewska, Agata

European Commission DG MARE, J-99 4/073, 1000 Belgium, Belgium

Tel: +32 229 6761; +32 485 853 835, E-Mail: agata.malczewska@ec.europa.eu

GABON

Angueko, Davy

Chargé d'Etudes du Directeur Général des Pêches, Direction Générale des Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, BP 9498, Libreville Estuaire

Tel: +241 6653 4886, E-Mail: davyangueko83@gmail.com; davyangueko@yahoo.fr

JAPAN

Morita, Hiroyuki

Assistant Director, Responsible for the JCAP-2 Programme, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: hiroyuki_morita970@maff.go.jp

MOROCCO

El Aroussi, Mohamed Yassine

Chef de la Division de la Coopération à la Direction de la Stratégie et de la Coopération, Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche Maritime, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts, P.O. Box 476 Quartier Administratif, Rabat, Agdal

Tel: +212 660 112 878, E-Mail: elaroussi@mpm.gov.ma

Hassouni, Fatima Zohra

Chef de la Division de Durabilité et d'Aménagement des Ressources Halieutiques, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, Haut Agdal, B.P.: 476 Rabat

Tel: +212 537 688 122/21, Fax: +212 537 688 089, E-Mail: hassouni@mpm.gov.ma

NICARAGUA

Guevara Quintana, Julio César

Comisionado CIAT - Biólogo, INPESCA, Altos de Cerro Viento, calle Circunvalación B. Casa 187, Managua

Tel: +505 2278 0319; +507 699 75100, E-Mail: jguevara@inpesca.gob.ni; juliocgq@hotmail.com

NORWAY

Brix, Maja Kirkegaard Rodriguez

Directorate of Fisheries, Strandgaten 229, Postboks 185 Sentrum, 5804 Bergen

Tel: +47 416 91 457, E-Mail: mabri@fiskeridir.no; Maja-Kirkegaard.Brix@fiskeridir.no

Sørdahl, Elisabeth

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Department for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Kongensgate 8, Postboks 8090 Dep., 0032 Oslo
Tel: +47 22 44 65 45, E-Mail: elisabeth.sordahl@nfd.dep.no

SENEGAL

Sèye, Mamadou

Ingénieur des Pêches, Chef de la Division Gestion et Aménagement des Pêcheries de la Direction des Pêches Maritimes, Sphère Ministérielle de Diamniadio Bâtiment D., 1, Rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, 289 Dakar
Tel: +221 77 841 83 94, Fax: +221 821 47 58, E-Mail: mdseye@gmail.com; mdseye1@gmail.com; mdouseye@yahoo.fr

TUNISIA

Mejri, Hamadi

Directeur adjoint, Conservation des Ressources Halieutiques, Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 30, Rue Alain Savary - Le Belvédère, 1002 Tunis
Tel: +216 24 012 780, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: hamadi.mejri1@gmail.com

TURKEY

Elekon, Hasan Alper

Senior Fisheries Officer, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL), T.C. Tarım ve Orman Bakanlığı, Üniversiteler Mah. Dumlupınar Bulvarı, No: 161 / 1-0, 06800 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 312 258 30 76, Fax: +90 312 258 30 75, E-Mail: hasanalper.elekon@tarimorman.gov.tr; hasanalper@gmail.com

UNITED STATES

Blankenbeker, Kimberly

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce (F/IATC), NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 1081, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

Warner-Kramer, Deirdre

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Department of State, Rm 2758, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520-7878
Tel: +1 202 647 2883, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: warner-kramerdm@fan.gov

OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES

CHINESE TAIPEI

Kao, Shih-Ming

Associate Professor, Graduate Institute of Marine Affairs, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70 Lien-Hai Road, 80424 Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 525 2000 Ext. 5305, Fax: +886 7 525 6205, E-Mail: kaosm@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

COM CHAIRMAN

Penas Lado, Ernesto

Union européenne - D.G. Affaires Maritimes et de la Pêche, 200, Rue de la Loi - J-99 (3/44), B-1046 Brussels, Belgium
E-Mail: ernestopenas@gmail.com

ICCAT Secretariat

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

Manel, Camille Jean Pierre

Neves dos Santos, Miguel

Moreno, Juan Antonio

Cheatle, Jenny

Martín, África

Martínez Guijarro, Ana Isabel

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Baena Jiménez, Eva J.

Fleming, Jack

Gelb Cohen, Beth

Liberas, Christine

Linaae, Cristina

Pinzon, Aurélie