

**REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP
ON REVIEW OF RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMISSION (VWG-RRP)**
(Online, 13 September 2022)

1. Opening of the meeting

On 13 September 2022, the Commission Chair, Mr. Ernesto Penas, convened the fifth meeting of the VWG-RRP (the Group), which was held online from 12:00 to 14:30. The Secretariat served as rapporteur. Thirty-two participants from 13 CPCs participated in the meeting. The participant list is contained in **Appendix 1**.

Considering the progress made during the last meeting of the VWG-RRP in July 2022, the Chair proposed to mainly focus on the items relating to the presentation of SCRS based proposals by the CPCs before the annual meeting and on the rapporteurs of the meetings. The Chair thanked the United States for the comments they sent and informed about his wish to discuss them in this meeting.

2. Discussions

The meeting had a long discussion on the timing of the presentation of the proposals which were dependent on the SCRS advice to the annual meeting.

On the question of advancing the SCRS meeting, the Secretariat noted that there is insufficient time due to data submissions which must then be checked and processed before they are made available to the various scientists. This data check is indispensable and requires time. It was also recalled that the calendars of other international organisations should be taken into account as, for some CPCs, the same participants are engaged. Considering the various points made, the general idea of the Group was not to change the timing of the SCRS plenary meeting.

As for the option of a strict proposal submission deadline or a deadline with some flexibility that allows the Chair to permit late submissions, some members were in favour of strict, clear rules but noted that, in case of flexibility, the reasons should be clearly explained to reduce to a minimum the interpretation of the rule and facilitate the Chair's decision. Others believed that predefining all cases where flexibility might be needed was not feasible as that will depend on the circumstances.

Concluding on this point, the meeting agreed to consider the submission of SCRS-based proposals not later than ten calendar days before the annual meeting while not closing the door to unforeseen circumstances requiring submission of proposals after that date at the discretion of the Commission Chair who, in full transparency, will consult with the relevant Chairs of the subsidiary bodies and concerned CPCs.

The issue of the use of binding language in the text was also discussed in light of the status of the Chair's Non-paper. The Chair noted that if the text became guidelines, binding language should not be used. He further noted that, consequently, any eventual amendments of the Rules of Procedure should be with binding language. He asked the Group for their views.

On this point, the STACFAD Chair intervened and noted that the issues discussed by this Group have expanded beyond the issue for which the Group was originally formed, namely, adding transparency to the process of electing Commission Officers, to now include other issues, such as the submission of proposals and identifying/developing competent rapporteurs, all of which are matters under the purview of STACFAD. She reminded the Group that any proposal to change the Rules of Procedure must be circulated sixty days before the annual meeting, a deadline that could not be met before the forthcoming annual meeting. She suggested that the STACFAD may need to pick up elements of the proposed Chair's non-paper for further work.

On the rapporteur issue, the Group generally agreed that the text in the Chair's non-paper should not be too directive but rather it should continue to encourage CPCs to volunteer for these important positions, which assistant rapporteurs, if appointed, would assist.

The meeting agreed that the Chair would present the non-paper to the Commission this fall and, if further work were necessary, it would be referred that to STACFAD to finalise the three separate issues: the Officers' election process, the presentation of proposals with associated deadlines, and the issue of the rapporteurs.

In addition, it was suggested that the last point on the interpretation in the three ICCAT languages for SCRS meetings be referred to the STACFAD.

3. Next steps

In his final summary, the Chair indicated that he would develop a new, clean version of the text, trying to incorporate as much as possible the elements from the suggestions made during the meeting for a clearer text while not changing the substance of what the group had agreed. He noted that the text would be circulated in advance of the annual meeting and presented to the Commission for consideration.

The Chair thanked the participants for their extremely useful and constructive contributions and adjourned the meeting.

4. Adoption of the report

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence.

List of Participants

CONTRACTING PARTIES

ALGERIA

Belacel, Amar ¹

Directeur du Développement de la Pêche, Ministère de la pêche et des productions halieutiques, Route des quatre canons, 16000

Tel: +213 796 832 690; + 213 234 955 55, E-Mail: amar.belacel67@gmail.com; amar.belacel@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

Marsden, Dale

Deputy Director, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Tel: +1 613 791 9473, E-Mail: Dale.Marsden@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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

EGYPT

Abdou Mahmoud Tawfeek Hammam, Doaa

Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency, 210, area B - CITY, 5TH DISTRICT ROAD 90, 11311 New Cairo

Tel: +201 117 507 513, Fax: +202 281 17007, E-Mail: gafrd_EG@hotmail.com; doaahammam01@gmail.com

Atteya, Mai

Production Research Specialist, 210, area B - CITY, 5TH DISTRICT ROAD 90, 11311 New Cairo

Tel: +201 003 878 312, Fax: +202 281 117 007, E-Mail: janahesham08@gmail.com

EL SALVADOR

Galdámez de Arévalo, Ana Marlene

Jefa de División de Investigación Pesquera y Acuícola, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Head Final 1a. Avenida Norte, 13 Calle Oriente y Av. Manuel Gallardo. Santa Tecla, La Libertad

Tel: +503 2210 1913; +503 619 84257, E-Mail: ana.galdamez@mag.gob.sv; ana.galdamez@yahoo.com

EUROPEAN UNION

Malczewska, Agata

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

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

GABON

Mba-Asseko, Georges Henri

Conseiller Technique du Ministre de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage, de la Pêche et l'Alimentation, BP. 9498 Boulevard Triomphal, Libreville

Tel: +241 666 11140, E-Mail: g.h.mbaseko@gmail.com; dgpechegabon@netcourrier.com; davyangueko83@gmail.com

JAPAN

Kumamoto, Jumpei

Technical Official, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, International Affairs Division, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: jumpei_kumamoto270@maff.go.jp

¹ Head Delegate.

Morita, Hiroyuki

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, 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

MEXICO

Soler Benitez, Bertha Alicia

Comisión Nacional de Acuacultura y pesca (CONAPESCA), Av. Camarón Sábalo 1210 Fracc. Sábalo Country Club., 82100 Mazatlán, Sinaloa
Tel: +52 669 915 6900 Ext. 58462, E-Mail: bertha.soler@conapesca.gob.mx; berthaa.soler@gmail.com

MOROCCO

Anwari, Nabil

E-Mail: anwari@mpm.gov.ma

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

Haoujar, Bouchra

Cadre à la Division de Durabilité et d'Aménagement des Ressources Halieutiques, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, 10150 Haut Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 253 768 8121, Fax: +212 537 688 089, E-Mail: haoujar@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

NORWAY

Selbekk, Kari

Kongens gate 8, 0153 Oslo
Tel: +47 911 95712, E-Mail: Kari.selbekk@nfd.dep.no

PANAMA

Kant, Rudick

Asesor Administrativo, ARAP, Calle 45, Bella Vista, Edificio Riviera, 0819-05850
Tel: +507 511 6057, E-Mail: rkant@arap.gob.pa

Quiros, Vivian

Analista y Operadora de Cooperación Internacional, Dirección de Cooperación y Asuntos Pesqueros Internacional, Edificio la Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Árbol)
Tel: +507 511 6008 Ext. 205, E-Mail: vquiros@arap.gob.pa

Vergara, Yarkelia

Jefa de Cooperación Internacional, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá - ARAP, Calle 45, Bella Vista, Edificio Riviera, 0819-02398
Tel: +507 511 6008, E-Mail: yvergara@arap.gob.pa

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

Talla, Marième Diagne

Conseiller juridique du Ministère des Pêches et de l'Économie Maritime, Sphères Ministérielles Diamniadio Bâtiment D, 1, rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, B.P. 289, Dakar
Tel: +221 772 700 886, Fax: +221 338 498 440, E-Mail: masodiagne@yahoo.fr

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

Campbell, Derek

Attorney-Advisor International Section, Office of General Counsel - International Law, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. HCHB Room 48026, Washington, D.C. 20230
Tel: +1 202 482 0031, Fax: +1 202 371 0926, E-Mail: derek.campbell@noaa.gov

O'Malley, Rachel

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IASI), NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8373, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: rachel.o'malley@noaa.gov

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

BOLIVIA

Alsina Lagos, Hugo Andrés

Director Jurídico, Campomarino Group, Calle Yanacochoa No. 441 Efi. Arcoiris, piso 15, oficina 10, La Paz
Tel: +1 321 200 0069, Fax: +507 830 1708, E-Mail: hugo@alsina-et-al.org

Cortez Franco, Limbert Ismael

Jefe de la Unidad Boliviana de Pesca Marítima (UBPM), Calle 20 de Octubre 2502, esq. Pedro Salazar, La Paz
Tel: +591 6 700 9787, Fax: +591 2 291 4069, E-Mail: limbert.cortez@protonmail.ch; limbert.cortez@mindef.gob.bo; licor779704@gmail.com

CHINESE TAIPEI

Chen, Yen-Kai

Section Chief, Agriculture, Fisheries and Economic Organizations Section, Department of International Organizations, No.2 Ketagalan Blvd., 100202
Tel: +886 2 2348 2526, Fax: +886 2 2361 7694, E-Mail: ykchen@mofa.gov.tw

Chou, Shih-Chin

Section Chief, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., 10070 Taipei
Tel: +886 2 2383 5915, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: chou1967sc@gmail.com; shihcin@ms1.f.a.gov.tw

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

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Penas Lado, Ernesto

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

STACFAD CHAIR

Warner-Kramer, Deirdre

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

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

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Faillace, Linda
González, Fernando
Herrero Grandgirard, Patricia
Liberas, Christine
Linaae, Cristina
Pinzon, Aurélie