

PAME I-2020: Agenda item 8.3

Reporting from the meeting of the Provisional Scientific Coordinating Group under the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean and opportunities for collaboration.

In 2017, and as a request of the 10 parties¹ negotiating on an agreement to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the High Seas portion of the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO), the meeting addressed:

- ToR 1. Design a 1-3 year long mapping program.
- ToR 2. Design a monitoring program.
- ToR 3. Identify human, financial, vessel/equipment resources needed for mapping and monitoring.
- ToR 4. Develop data collection, sharing, and hosting protocols that outline the details of what and how data shall be collected, shared, and hosted for consideration by the Parties.

Scientific representatives: Canada, China, EU, Iceland, Korea, Norway, USA, and representatives from ICES, PICES, PAME, CAFF working groups.

The 1st meeting of the Provisional Scientific Coordinating Group (PSCG) of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean will be 11-13 February 2020, Ispra, Italy. Here the group will address:

TOR 1 Develop Interim Rules of Procedure for the PSCG

TOR 2 Identify processes and mechanisms to incorporate indigenous and local knowledge, through the inclusion of representatives of Arctic communities, including Arctic indigenous peoples, in the work of the PSCG, taking into account the outcomes of the workshop on this topic to be hosted by Canada.

TOR 3 Update the list in the 5th FiSCAO Report of current or upcoming scientific activities and platforms of opportunity for scientific mapping work in the CAO that could contribute relevant information and data to the Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring (JPSRM) and identify the knowledge gaps addressed by each activity or platform.

TOR 4 Prioritize mapping work based on gaps identified in the 5th FiSCAO Report, and any updates to these gaps, and coordinate among Signatories opportunities for conducting scientific mapping work in accordance with the JPSRM, including by using upcoming scheduled scientific activities and platforms of opportunity identified by the Signatories.

TOR 5 Update the Inventory of Monitoring Programs in the High Seas CAO and adjacent water

¹ Negotiating states: Canada, China, Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Norway, Russia and USA