

Progress on Arctic science cooperation

This document gives an update on Arctic Science cooperation, for information for Council

Fifth Meeting of Scientific Experts on Fish Stocks in the Central Arctic Ocean (FiSCAO), October 24–26, 2017, in Ottawa, Canada, and

Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean, concluded 4 December 2017

ICES was represented by Eskild Kirkegaard, ACOM Chair at the 5th meeting of FiSCAO, which focused on potential fisheries resources in the Central Arctic Ocean and the work initiated at the 4th meeting;

- on designing a 1-3 year long mapping program for fisheries resources and a potential monitoring program,
- to identify human, financial, vessel/equipment resources needed for mapping and monitoring, and
- to develop data collection, sharing, and hosting protocols.

Good progress were made on both the mapping and the monitoring programs. With respect to resources needed, the meeting concluded that a coordinating body will be required and that further work on the mapping and the monitoring programs are required before the resource needs can be identified. Regarding the developments of protocols the meeting agreed on a draft data sharing policy, concluded that the development of a data sharing protocol will require negotiation and legal review among the parties, and recommended that a data management/sharing pilot study be undertaken. In accordance with the proposal agreed by 2017 ICES Council, USA, ICES and PICES in cooperation offered to undertake the pilot study.

During ASC ICES representatives met with PICES representatives Chul Park, and Hiroaki Saito, amongst others to discuss the follow-up on the FisCAO action to be led by PICES, ICES, and NOAA (database of fish observations in the central Arctic Ocean). The US delegates have identified the NOAA leads; Chris Lunsford - chris.lunsford@noaa.gov, Candace Nachman - Candace.nachman@noaa.gov.

Neil Holdsworth, Head of Data and Information will initiate the work within the Secretariat, and report to SCICOM/Council.

2nd Arctic Science Ministerial meeting, scheduled to take place in Berlin, 25-26 October 2018, co-arranged by Finland (in their capacity as Arctic Council Chair), Germany and EU

The Ministerial meeting will be preceded by an [Arctic Science Forum](#), on 25 October. ICES has on 7 February 2018 received an invitation to participate in the

science event on the 25 October, and to report on the organization as well as our contribution to the three overall themes.

A similar invitation has been received for participation in the Arctic Environment Ministers' meeting taking place in Rovaniemi, FI on 11-12 October 2018, and a statement has been submitted providing information on ICES Arctic Science cooperation.