





In 2014, the NAFO Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council established a joint working group on its ecosystem approach framework to fisheries management to, *inter alia*, promote the understanding of the functioning and dynamics of NAFO marine ecosystems including species interactions. This Working Group, supported by advice from the Scientific Council developed through the ongoing work of its Working Group on Ecosystem Science Assessment (WG-ESA), provides the primary guidance and recommendations to the Commission regarding the implementation of an Ecosystem Approach to the management of fisheries. The working group's responsibilities include the development and application of the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Roadmap and recommendations on mitigation strategies and measures to avoid significant adverse impacts of bottom fishing activities on vulnerable marine ecosystems, including the evaluation of associated risks.

The “*Roadmap for Developing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries for NAFO*” lays out the organizing framework to develop an Ecosystem Approach Framework. The “*Roadmap*” is proceeding but there are still gaps that need to be addressed. An extensive agenda along with limited human and resource capacity will require a practical and effective implementation based on priorities and short, medium and long-term objectives. An Ecosystem Approach Workshop held by NAFO in August 2022 focused on how ecosystem goals and objectives can be integrated more operationally into management decisions of NAFO. To prepare for the Workshop, NAFO undertook an independent review of Tier 1 (ecosystem state assessment) and Tier 2 (multispecies assessment) elements of the Roadmap.

Work is also on

resources, in the NAFO Regulatory Area. The surveys have been taking place since 2009. Data collected on these surveys are now being analyzed by Contracting Party scientists and this work is being used to provide valuable scientific advice for the study and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems.

NAFO is one of the active RFMO collaborating partners in the development of the FAO Vulnerable

NAFO cooperates in general with UN and FAO and their consultative processes (e.g. CWP, ASFA,