Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement and science: where to now?

Thought for the Pacific Arctic Group

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PAG fall meeting, 15 October 2019, Hangzhou, China
Outline

CAO Fisheries Agreement; what it is and how it came about

Options to advance the Agreement; short & long-term

Arkhangelsk Scientific Researchers Conference; summary

Signatories’ first meeting in Ottawa, Canada

Where are we? Who are there?

Where to now?
CAO Fisheries Agreement signed in October 3 2018 in Greenland by 9 countries and EU
Outcome of 2 year journey from December 2015 to November 2017 (6 rounds of negotiations plus 2 science meetings)
Key points of the CAOF Agreement

16 year moratorium; will lapse if a Party officially objects, a 5 year increment unless a Party objects

Development and implementation of ‘Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring (JPSRM)’ stipulated, biennial science meeting

‘Precautionary approach’ and ‘ecosystem approach’ embodied before fishery starts (agreement “not” to fish)
2018 Arctic Fisheries Agreement

Elements

- Agreement Area
- No Unregulated Commercial Fishing (16 year prohibition at least)
- Exploratory Fishing
- Joint Program of Scientific Research
- Regular Meetings
- Consensus Decision-Making
- Inclusion of Arctic Indigenous Peoples
- Stepwise Process (to potential RFMO/As)
- Entry Into Force

Central Arctic Ocean
NEXT STEPS: SHORT TERM

• Bring Agreement into Force

• Initiate Preparatory Process to:
  ✓ Organize Joint Program of Scientific Research and Monitoring
  ✓ Engage the “relevant scientific and technical organizations, bodies and programs”
  ✓ Engage holders of indigenous and local knowledge
  ✓ Develop data sharing protocol
  ✓ Draft Terms of Reference for joint scientific meetings
  ✓ Consider Exploratory Fishing Rules
NEXT STEPS: LONG TERM

Options for Implementing Joint Program

OPTION 1: Minimalist Approach

OPTION 2: Create Scientific Committee

OPTION 3: Establish New Marine Science Organization for CAO

Central Arctic Ocean
Where are we now with the Agreement?

How close are we to the entry into force? Ratification; Russia (Jan 29 2019), EU (March 4 2019), Canada (May 29 2019), US (August 27 2019)

Entry into force possible in a year?

Preparatory process envisioned and begun
Arkhangelsk
12-13 April / 2019
The scientific researchers conference of participating countries about The Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean
Characterization of the meeting

First conference after the signing; Russian initiative, scientific researchers

Government plus scientists (Russia, US, Japan, Can)

Russia; Federal Fisheries Agency, VNIRO

Institutions and experts; CCAMLR, NEAFC, ICES, Russian fish experts

Initial Russian proposal; Resolution -> Chairman statement
as requested in the last FiSCAO report
Chairman’s Statement from the Roundtable

Developing a Joint Research Plan for the Central Part of the Arctic Ocean

Conducted at the scientific researchers conference of Scientific Experts from the Signatories Participating in the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Sea Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.

Held in the City of Arkhangelsk, Russian Federation

April 12-13 2019

Chaired by Dr. Vladimir Belyaev

As part of the Conference, a roundtable was held in the city of Arkhangelsk, Russian Federation on April 12-13 2019. Roundtable participants are listed in Appendix 1. The roundtable considered progress made to date to develop a scientific program as called for under the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean and developed recommendations to the Parties for consideration at their next meeting, scheduled for May 29-30, 2019.
Summaries of the results of the FiSCAO process were presented by Norway and Canada at this meeting. The delegation from Canada provided a summary of the 5th meeting and noted areas where further dialogue and decisions from the Parties are required, including:

1. Approval of a governance structure (terms of reference, etc.) for a science coordinating body to support the scientific work and meetings under the Agreement;
2. The general scope of science and research work under the Agreement;
3. Development of data sharing protocols and guidelines; and,
4. Determinations of how to include participation of indigenous and local knowledge holders in mapping and monitoring programs.

The 5th FiSCAO meeting report also noted that the Parties will need to address cost estimates for the scientific program and potential contributions by each of the Parties.
Conclusions and Recommendations:

Scientific dialogue and research activities need to continue and progress, building on the achievements of the 5th FiSCAO meeting, and not wait until the Agreement comes into force. Therefore the Roundtable recommends:

1. The Parties to the Agreement establish a scientific coordinating body or committee at their upcoming meeting in Ottawa, Canada on May 29-30, 2019;
2. Task the scientific coordinating body to continue work to further develop and operationalize the JPSRM; The Parties review the draft data sharing policy, including details of the mechanism for timely data sharing;
3. Develop processes and mechanisms to include participation of local and indigenous knowledge holders into the JPSRM, and provide for the participation of Arctic residents, and in particular Arctic indigenous peoples, in the work of the science group pursuant to Article 5.2 of the Agreement.

The scientists also note the importance of continued consultation with other science bodies and institutions doing work in the Arctic, including ICES, PICES, PAME, and other relevant science organizations in order to take into account the work of such organizations as called for under Article 4.4.
Summary and Recommendations

The Parties establish a **scientific coordinating body or committee** at their upcoming meeting in Ottawa Canada on May 29-30.

Task the scientific coordinating body to continue work to further **develop and operationalize the JPSRM**; the Parties review the **data sharing policy**, including the details of the mechanisms for timely data sharing.

Develop processes and mechanisms to include participation of local and indigenous knowledge holders into the JPSRM, and provide for the participation of Arctic residents, and in particular Arctic indigenous peoples, in the work of the science group pursuant to Article 5.2 of the Agreement.
1st ever preparatory meeting

Held in Ottawa, Canada in May 29-30, 2019
To determine interim science governance and to schedule it

Government officers and science experts from all 10 governments

Key decision; Provisional Scientific Coordinating Group (PSCG)
1st ever preparatory meeting

Scheduling

Indigenous knowledge & science workshop (2019 November in Canada)

1st PSCG (2019 February in Ispra Italy); procedure, data protocol, survey inventory

Preparatory Conference (mid 2019); Signatory government delegations
Three major paths

Government (Signatories) meeting; begun in December 2015, 6 rounds of negotiations, 2017 November draft text agreed, 2018 January signed

FiSCAO (Fish Expert on CAO); begun in 2011, was an independent process, linkage became apparent from the 4th round of negotiation

WGICA; integrated ecosystem assessment, joint efforts of ICES, PICES, PAME, impacts from major human activities (fisheries, shipping, pollution)

* other initiatives; scientists, NGOs, Asia Dialogues
Thought well shared and appreciated

Appreciation for a science coordinating body becoming stronger among Signatories, Outsourcing to a third party, hmm...

Full use of already planned efforts; MOSAiC, Synoptic Arctic Survey

More proactive stance well justified

JPSRM is certainly the key

Terms of Reference for a new science body important
Personal thought for WGICA report

Where to go and dig deeper and harder

Cover more and longer?

What to look out for (target species, process, mechanism)

Whatever will help, anything better than nothing?

Instructive (or inspirational) commentaries concerning “data”
Concerns

PAG contribution, despite the substantial assets and accomplishments, if not well used and not appreciated, it will be remiss of us.

Some particulars worthy of attention

PICES WG for WGICA (WG39) formed and activated, but could be stronger?
Make-up of delegations: the recent preparatory meeting and PICES WG
Where in the loop are the scientists who are actually working at the moment?
Issues

Ensuring that voice of real science is listened to and reflected

When PSCG formed, how to interact with it and contribute to it, as one of the potential developers of joint research

Active role in incorporating other knowledge and considerations (indigenous knowledge, most importantly) into joint research
Suggestion

Communication with other entities (including PICES WG)

Exploring to incorporate CAO relevant observations and measurements into the routines, particularly with SAS voyages