

REGIONAL FISHERY BODY SECRETARIATS' NETWORK**Sixth Meeting****Rome, 9 and 15 July 2016****PROPOSAL FOR WMO AND RFMO COLLABORATION**

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is dedicated to international cooperation and coordination on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources.

Over the past few years, there has been greater interaction of the WMO community with the fisheries communities of the world and increased discussion between WMO and FAO on fisheries issues. WMO has learned that Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and other institutions collect marine meteorological and ocean observations by ships and anchored fish aggregating devices (FADs).

WMO Members, the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of the world, work around the clock to provide vital weather and climate information worldwide. Their early and reliable warnings of severe weather and ocean conditions as well as of climate variability and change allow decision-makers, communities and individuals to be better prepared for weather and climate events. This includes such events such as El Niño and La Niña and other ocean conditions that can greatly impact oceanic and inland fisheries.

In order to provide warnings over land and oceans, there is a need for the establishment and liaison of networks of observational sources to provide weather, climate and ocean related data. The National Meteorological and Hydrological Services maintain their own observational networks along with liaising with other national and regional partner institutions. The observations collected are also used to determine the status of the atmosphere and oceans with regards to climate change. The amount of direct surface and sub-surface ocean observations are very sparse and any increase in the number of observations will lead to increased accuracy of short-term weather forecasts (1-10 days) and long-term climate predictions (3-12 months) over the coastal and open oceans areas.

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RSN members are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings. RSN related documents can be accessed at <http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/40832/en>, in order to minimize environmental impact and promote greener communications.

WMO possibly in partnership with FAO would like to propose collaborations with RFMOs on the following issues:

- Explore the possibility of RFMOs of informing their members about the advantages of reporting relevant marine meteorological and ocean observations to the various WMO observation and information systems;
- Recognize the time-sensitivity of these observations and to develop mechanisms on exchanging these data while respecting the mandates of RFMOs and their members;
- Develop possible guidelines and standards in collecting and transmitting these observations;
- Obtain feedback from RFMOs on improving weather and climate products that are used to protect the safety of marine fleets and possible movements of fish.