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| **IOC PRSP Extended Regional Coordination Unit Meeting**  **SAVOY HOTEL**  **Seychelles**  21st October | | |
| **Participants*:*** | | |
| **ERCU MEMBERS**  **Seychelles**  Mr. Nichol ELIZABETH  Mr. Johnny LOUYS  **Tanzania**  Mr. Zahor EL KHAROUSY  Mr. Christian NZOWA  **Kenya**  Mr. Daniel MUNGAI  Mr. Benedict KIILU  **Comoros**  Mr. Abdillah ZOUBEIRI  Mr. Mohamed Ali MOHAMED alias Rachad  **France/Réunion**  Mr. Romain SALMON  Mr. Jérôme LAFON  **Madagascar**  Mr. Njaka RATSIMANARISOA  Mr. Andrianaivonavalona RAKOTONIAINA  Mr. Jean Pierrot RANDRIAMIALIFIDY  **Mauritius**  Mr. Dharmendra DEGAMBUR  Mr. Shakeel MAHADOO  **ABSENT:**  Mozambique delegation | **ECOFISH TEAM**  Dr. Soobaschand SWEENARAIN  Technical Coordinator/Team Leader  Mr. Jude TALMA  MCS Expert  Mr. Tiana RANDRIAMBOLA  MCS Officer  Mr. Andry RASOANINDRAINY Communication expert  Mr. Said MMADI – IT expert  Claudia LAGUETTE  Administrative & Logistic Officer | **OBSERVER**  Mr. Mahamoud ABDELKADER Advisor to the minister for security and safety.  Mr. Devendra Kumar BEEDACEE – OPL Mauritius  Mr. Jacque BELLE – OPL Seychelles  Mr. Neil ANSELL – EFCA  Mr. Madev BALLOO -EUD Project Manager  Mr. Herve DELSOL – EUD Attaché Fisheries  Mr. Daroomalingum MAUREE IORA Main resident Expert  Ms. Harimbolamalala ANDRIANANTOANDRO  deputy OPL Madagascar |
| **IOC and Chairman of the** meeting – Mr. Marc MAMINIAINA– IOC Officer in charge of fisheries matters | | |
| **ISSUES** | **Discussion** | **Recommended actions** |

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| 1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING**   The Tenth meeting of the Extended Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan (ERCU) was held on the 21st October 2021 in Seychelles. The meeting was attended by country ERCU members from Comoros, France/Réunion, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the IOC Secretariat Officer in charge of Fisheries matters.  Observers from the following countries and organisation: European Union Delegation (EUD) in Mauritius, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), European Fisheries Agency (EFCA). Permanent Liaison Officers (OPL) or their representative of Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and the Comoros were also in attendance of the meeting. The list of delegates and observers is incorporated in **Appendix 1**.  E€OFISH technical team was also present for the meeting.  Following welcoming remarks by the meeting Chairman Mr Marc MAMINIAINA, IOC Officer in Charge of fisheries matters, Mr Vincent DEGERT, the EU ambassador to Seychelles and Mauritius; Mr. Jean Francois Ferrari, Seychelles Minister for Fisheries and the Blue Economy, the meeting was officially opened by Mr. Vêlayoudom MARIMOUTOU, the Indian Ocean Commission Secretary General. The full statements are attached as **Appendix 2** to the report. |
| 1. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING**   The agenda for the meeting (incorporated in **Appendix 3**) was adopted without amendments. After intervention from OPLs of Mauritius, Madagascar and the Comoros on the adhesion of Somalia and reviewing the zone of cooperation to be prioritised.  The meeting was informed that the RCU has decided on the way forward on the issue of Somalia for the approval of the ERCU. With regards to the Zone of cooperation the matter was not discussed in the RCU meeting given it’s a political decision that is required ERCU decision on the way forward and France/Réunion requested that the review of cooperation area should not be the subject of recommendation by the ERCU for lack of prior discussion on the substance.  The E€OFISH MCS TA reassured the ERCU, the RCU has taken numerous decision that will be brought to their attention for approval on the way forward and advice, to that effect the ERCU need to wait for the presentation on the summary of the outcome of RCU meeting.  Mauritius OPL requested copy of amendments undertaken in the administrative arrangement.  The agenda was approved without amendments. |
| 1. **SUMMARY ON THE OUTCOME OF THE RCU MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH AND 20TH OCTOBER 2021.**   **The IOC-MCS officer Mr. Tiana RANDRIAMBOLA** presented the outcome of the RCU meeting as per **Appendix 4**. Where applicable recommendations on the way forward were presented.  The meeting was informed that these recommendations will further be discussed during the course of the meeting for approval on the way forward.  **E€OFISH TA Mr. Jude Talma:** Inform that the RCU will be requesting agreement in principle to amend this administrative arrangement given that more work need to be done before validation.  **Chairman**: Based on the RCU proposal the protocol for fisheries information exchange will undergo further consultation before a regional legal workshop is held to finalise the document. |
| 1. **SUMMARY ON THE OUTCOME OF THE 54th , 55th AND 56th REGIONAL FISHERIES SURVEILLANCE MISSION BY OSIRIS II**   **The IOC-MCS officer** presented the outcome of the 54th , 55th and 56th regional patrol missions with PV OSIRIS II as per **Appendix 5**  **Mauritius OPL** wanted to know the number of infractions that these missions detected. He has the impression that there are not many and that is possibly due to **no IUU fishing** or the **PRSP is malfunctioning.** The OPL was informed that there were 29 infractions detected in totality for the three missions.  The chair highlighted that the objectives of PRSP patrol mission are preventive, deterrent and dissuasive missions and not reactive missions.  **France/Réunion** confirmed that PRSP mission are dissuasive mission and the offences detected were minor offences. He reiterated the objective of PRSP mission are to complement what the participating states are doing nationally and not to replace them. The presence at sea as a dissuasive tool must tool must remain constant and should be sustained.  **Seychelles** intervene to compliment and support France intervention, by reminding the meeting that we should never underestimate the power and efficiency of PRSP missions are bringing to the region.  Efficiency of a mission should not be based on infractions detected. There has been a significant rise in illegal activities in the period PRSP was inactive.   * Seychelles has experienced a surge of illegal vessels from Sri Lanka; * Possible illegal fishing on the Saya de Malha Bank and Mauritius waters by same vessels; * there are lot of indications that illegal fishing is ongoing; and * more need to be done to ensure under-reporting and compliance by vessels monitored.   We should never underestimate the PRSP mission or solely judge its effectiveness based on number of infractions. The deterrent effect and compliance are more important factors for the PRSP. Seychelles believes that we need to choose more realistic indicators to measure effectiveness of PRSP missions and its other tool to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, instead of concluding that low level of infractions indicate ineffectiveness. Seychelles wishes to share with PRSP evidence that during the inactive phase of PRSP there has been increase of IUU fishing in our respective jurisdictions.  **E€OFISH technical coordinator** highlighted the impact of COVID -19 on the three missions, the economic impact on the deterrent and dissuasive missions and vessels that are not on the PRSP radar that cannot be detected, (better known as the blue boats) have over the recent years been the culprit of increase in IUU fishing activities in our region.  **Comoros** congratulate France/Réunion for the three missions that the Comoros benefited immensely, however has concern that the last mission inspection were carried out in the jurisdiction of Mayotte that is considered as a grey area in the zone of cooperation.  The ERCU took note and concur that regional mission should not be undertaken in the grey areas of dispute as per the present zone of cooperation. |

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| 1. **PRESENTATION ON THE DECISIONS DURING THE FISHERIES MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON JULY 21, 2017**   **The E€OFISH MCS TA** presented the objective and outcome of the 2017 Fisheries ministerial declaration including the working group recommendations. Most importantly the recommendations on the sustainability, institutionalisation of PRSP and to establish working relationship with regional MCS and maritime security initiative in the region. Namely the SADC MCSCC and the IOC MASE programme.  The ERCU was in agreement that we need to pursue the sustainability of PRSP as the main recommendation of the Ministerial declaration and establish working relationship with other MCS and maritime security organisation and with the MASE programme and the SADC MCSCC as a priority.  As part of the institutionalization process it was recommended to restructure PRSP for it to be country driven and meetings chaired by the countries (in turn) rather than the IOC secretariate. |
| 1. **PRESENTATION OF THE SMARTFISH TO ECOFISH TRANSITION - RESULT 2.**   **The E€OFISH MCS TA** presented work undertaken in between the Ministerial declaration and the start of the E€OFISH project with regards to sustainability and Institutionalisation of the PRSP, including decision of the 9th ERCU meeting of April 2018. Presentation proved that the EU, the World Bank, the participating states were all committed to the sustainability of the PRSP activities during the transition phase from SmartFish project to E€OFISH Project. However, recommendations emanating from the 9th ERCU meeting were not upheld.  Despite this disappointment the ERCU was positive to take lessons learnt from both the positives and negatives and continue to press ahead with the process of institutionalization as reiterated by the EUD Ambassador, the Secretary General of the IOC and the Seychelles designated Minister in their opening speech of the meeting toward the need to sustainability and institutionalisation of PRSP. |

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| 1. **PRESENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE 35th IOC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**   **The Chairman** in his capacity as the officer in charge of the fisheries matters of the IOC present the decision of the 35th Council of IOC ministers in relation to the sustainability of PRSP and collaboration with MASE  **Mauritius OPL** recognised that the issue of collaboration and synergy of efforts were discussed in the RCU. However, given that the decision of the IOC council of ministers was explicit that there is synergy between the two programmes he has difficulty to see this synergy being realised, because the council of Ministers was explicit that the data sharing be done through the MASE CRFIM and the main server is based at IOC. Hence there is contradiction by the two programme visions/initiatives and wish to have clarification on the way forward to put in place this council decision.  **Chairman** informed the ERCU thatthe objective is for the two programme to have a convergent decisionin line with the decision of the council. The council has simply taken note of this possibility and it is still a perspective and that requires on behalf of the two programs to undertake preliminary consultation before the next council of ministers.  **Seychelles** representative expressed difficulty to engage with this discussion given the fact that the decision of the IOC Ministers Council has not been communicated to the respective Ministries responsible for Fisheries or competent authorities for fisheries MCS. He has no sight of the document and pointed out that the PRSP already have guidance on how to share information by the Ministerial declaration and established protocol where it clearly stipulated that the regional VMS must be hosted at the IOC Secretariat and information should be shared through the PRSP.  **France** recalled that the declaration of ministers should not be overinterpreted but focus on the practicality of sharing information between the two programmes. However, agrees with Seychelles that the VMS protocol clearly state the regional VMS shall be hosted at the IOC Secretariat. Fully agree that the CFRIM must have access to the regional VMS and what the ministers await from us is to establish cooperation with the MASE.  **Seychelles** requested that this discussion should be suspended and that IOC secretariat circulated a copy (English & French versions) to all ERCU representative before discussion on the matter can be continued.  The ERCU agreed to Seychelles recommendation and discussion on the matter was halted until a copy is circulated to participating states |
| 1. **PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES**   **The E€OFISH technical coordinator presented the** prospects and challenges for institutionalisation and consolidation of the IOC-PRSP as regional MCS coordination & intelligence centre for the SWIO region. The presentation touched on the economic aspect of the fisheries sector contribution SWIO coastal states. An overview of the tuna fisheries in the SWIO and what need to be changed to enhance the economic returns. The pros of PRSP were presented in term of a fact sheet and the challenges to fight IUU fishing in the SWIO basin remain real despite the success of the PRSP over the last 15 years. The final part of the presentation dealt with the prospect of PRSP as a cost effective and impacting MCS intelligence and coordination centre in the context of fisheries managements framework and the blue economy.  **“WHERE SOCIO-ECONOMICS MEETS BIO-ECOLOGY “** |
| 1. **PRESENTATION OF THE GRANT CONTRACT BETWEEN PRSP PARTNER COUNTRIES AND THE EUD**   **Mr. Madev BALLOO Project Manager of the EUD Mauritius** presented the status of the direct grant contracts approved by the EUD for eligible PRSP participating states in total of approximately 2 million Euros. With the exception of Kenya all grant contracts have been signed.  EUD will be providing training on the management of the grant and will be monitoring the implementation. Mauritius and Seychelles need to close their SmartFish grant before disbursement of the E€OFISH grant.  **Kenya** informed the EUD that the opening of the new account will be discussed at the next board meeting of the Kenya Fisheries Service (KeFS) on the 15th of November and he is positive that approval will be given for the new account.  **EUD:** There is an urgent need for Kenya to sign the contract for EUD to upload in their system and the new account details can be submitted later, pending the KeFS approval. |

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| 1. **PRESENTATION OF THE FEDER / INTERREG COMPLEMENTARY FUND**   **Mr. Jérôme LAFON** provide the meeting with detail of the FEDER/INTERREG funding for information as follows:  The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is an EU policy aims to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. For the period 2021-2027 the fund is being used to the benefit of the EU member states and non-EU neighbouring states.  It works well in the context of PRSP given that France/Réunion project integrates participating states of the PRSP.  For the Indian Ocean region, the fund is managed by the La Réunion Regional Council and has a budget of 63.2 million euro to reinforce regional cooperation.  The programme has two components: 1-. Cross-border cooperation between Réunion and the IOC countries 2- Transnational cooperation between all the French territories of the Indian Ocean and all the interested riparian countries of the Indian Ocean.  The ERDF focuses its investments on several key priority areas. This is known as 'thematic concentration':   * Innovation and research; * Information and communication technologies; * Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); * The low-carbon economy.   Regional patrol falls under the sub activity environment and resource efficiency at an amount of 1,164 million euros.  Three joint patrols have been conducted since 2020 at a cost of 850 thousand euro over 100 patrol days. 314 thousand euros remain to be spent. Another regional mission is being planned in the second quarter of 2022.  France/Réunion will seek additional funding for continuing support to the PRSP under the end of the current ERDF/INTERREG programming and the new programming of the 2021-2027 EU Cohesion Policy. |

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| 1. **The European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) PRESENTATION**   **Neil ANSELL:** EFCA is the agency of the European Union that co-ordinates the national operational activities in the area of fisheries and assists the member states in their application of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The agency is based in Vigo, Spain; it support EU member states in all aspect of fisheries MCS.  Areas of collaboration that may be develop with PRSP are   * surveillance operations; * exchange of experiences; * capacity building; and * risk assessment.   EFCA has loads of experiences and has own methodology of risk assessment. Surveillance operations are very expensive and should focus on high-risk areas and hotspot for possible IUU fishing and non-compliance, thus, risk assessment is a highly valuable for specific and targeted mission in high-risk areas.  EFCA will support PRSP as it moves forward with the next phase of its activities.  **E€OFISH MCS TA** welcome EFCA for their support and agree with EFCA for the need of developing a more comprehensive risk analysis methodology and look forward to work with EFCA in implementing E€OFISH R2 strategic action 2.7.  **France/Réunion:** EFCA risk analysis is a well-developed and effective methodology used within Europe to improve the control of fishing vessel at sea. France has its own risk analysis system based on the EFCA methodology. To have an effective risk analysis system we need maximum data possible and that’s where the protocol is important for information sharing, especially economic that form part of risk analysis to better understand activities of fishing vessel in the region.  **E€OFISH MCS team leader** expressed the need forthe possibility to include **f**inancial economic aspectdimension of risk assessment, that will contribute to allowing us to know the potential threat of possible threats of high-risk fishing vessels. |

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| 1. **REACTIVATION OF THE REGIONAL VMS**   **Said MMADI,** the regional VMS Administrator based at IOC presented the status of the reactivation of the regional VMS. The reactivation was done in August, Contract with CLS was re-established and the following countries are now sharing their VMS data, La Réunion, Mauritius, Madagascar. Comoros has certain technical issue that need to be resolved first at national level. Seychelles have not reacted to IOC request and have not yet confirm their list of users and administrator.  The linked between the main server and CRFIM has been created and awaiting approval by the ERCU through an establish protocol for information exchange between the two programmes.  **Seychelles** informed the ERCU that they are in process of upgrading their Themis (VMS) server to cope with the increase load of data traffic since their FMC will be making use of other form of satellite tools. However, they have reservation with regards to the data security at the IOC secretariat given they have information that data has in the pass been leaked. Seychelles wanted to be guaranteed that the regional server is in a secured space and that the operationalisation of the VMS data by authorised IOC staff and E€OFISH experts are visually secured before they can proceed with data transfer to the regional server.  **The IOC officer in charge** confirmed that the central server is well secured and only IOC PRSP technician have access to it. However, as explained in the RCU meeting there is a lack of capacity with regards to office space and its operationality and visual security is not guaranteed yet, and the IOC is still looking into the matter.  **Seychelles** reiterated that it wants to be guaranteed that the data will be safe and secured. Therefore, they wish to understand what the IOC secretariat is doing to ensure security and confidentiality of VMS data,  given that in 2018 Seychelles was made aware that data is being leaked, hence the 2014 protocol could have been flawed and does not necessarily protect our data. Seychelles proposed that an interim arrangement should be put in place if the present protocol cannot guarantee data protection. Seychelles is committed to share data but IOC secretariat should deeply assess the current situation, what are the current risk and how to mitigate them and improve the gaps of the 2014 protocol.  **Mauritius OPL** concur with Seychelles concern and support the recommendation.  **E€OFISH MCS TA c**larified that there is a confusion with regards to the 2014 protocol and the new protocol. As agreed by the RCU in Mombasa Kenya in 2016, the 2014 protocol is too VMS specific and need to define a new protocol that will encompass other fisheries data to be shared. The need for such protocol was reiterated by the 2017 Ministerial declaration, stating that the PRSP should develop a protocol for information exchange within PRSP and with other partners  **E€OFISH MCS Technical Coordinator** asked Seychelles if it’s the security that is a challenge, given that the server is well secured. Do Seychelles have a specific issue? Otherwise, can Seychelles live with the present protocol.  **Seychelles** reiterated that in 2018 we were made aware that data was being leaked, so what is the current situation? We know that the server is secured, but anyone can access the data anywhere. To that effect:   * **Who can get access?** * **Where can they access the data?** * **Given the modality is there a compromise?** * **If there is a compromise how to mitigate it?**   The above need to be addressed so that Seychelles can be comforted when they start sharing data between now and when we have an improved VMS protocol, or the issue may be addressed in information sharing protocol being develop. Meanwhile Seychelles wants to ensure that an interim measure should be put in place to guarantee the security and confidentiality of data and to conduct an assessment of the present situation.  **SAID** **MMADI :** The IOC VMS administrator confirmed that the regional server is secured in the main IOC server room, secured and he is the sole administrator. He also assured the ERCU that there has never been any leakage of data and if that was the case he would know, since the system unable the administrator to trace all transaction by all users. However, with regards to visual security by users at the IOC this is still an outstanding problem that need to be resolve by the secretariate to have a secured space for operationalization of the regional VMS at the IOC secretariat.  **E€OFISH Technical Coordinator** assured the ERCU that as of April 2018 until August 2021 the regional server was handed over from the SmartFish project to the IOC secretariat.  The ERCU agreed to the Seychelles recommendation to assess the present situation with regards to **confidentiality, physical and visual security** of the regional VMS in line with the 2014 protocol. |
| 1. **MULTI-YEAR PLAN 2021 – 2024**   **The E€OFISH MCS TA** presented the multi annual plan. The plan consists of the activities under the E€OFISH programme estimate that is in direct benefit to the PRSP including the direct grant for joint fisheries surveillance under direct management of the EUD. See **appendix 6** for the approved plan.  The multi annual plan was approved by the ERCU with due consideration of flexibility in the implementation and subject to changes in the context of annual plans. |
| 1. **ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**   Based on discussion in the RCU meeting proposed amendments were presented, by the E€OFISH MCS TA, to the ERCU for approval in principle and to agree on the way forward to the process, that include further consultation and input from the IOC observer working group.  See **appendix 7** of the proposed amendments.  **Mauritius OPL** recommended that the administrative arrangement be one document signed by all PRSP participating states rather than separated individual document with each country.  **Annex 1**: Zone of cooperation was never shared with the previous and present protocol.  **Seychelles** agreed that the present setup may provide some challenges and the administrative arrangement should be one concise document signed by all parties.  The ERCU concurs with the Mauritius OPL proposal and the secretariat promise to share corresponding annex. |
| 1. **MISE A JOUR SUR LA COLLABORATION AVEC D’AUTRES ENTITES TRAVAILLANT DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA PECHE (MASE, SADC, CTOI, SWIOFC, SIOFA ...)**   **The E€OFISH MCS TA** presented development of collaboration with other organisation, most importantly the collaboration between the PRSP with the IOC-MASE, SADC MCSCC and the European fisheries control Agency (EFCA).  In line with the Fisheries Ministers declaration of 2017, the PRSP aim to pursue strong collaboration with the MASE programme and the SADC MCSCC in the context of information exchange and surveillance aspect in the context of fisheries MCS and Maritime security.  Collaboration with EFCA is based on the E€OFISH project marine workplan strategic action 2.7 on establishment of a regional risk assessment framework with support of EFCA through a twinning programme.  Collaboration with IOTC will be based on the continuation of the SWIOFish and SmartFish support for capacity building with regards to PSMA and PSMR. Discussion is also underway to facilitate PRSP participating state capacity building for the regional observer standard under development by IOTC. A concept note is being develop by IOTC.  Collaboration with SWIOFC is link with the development of regional observer programme that will have a better coverage area than that of only PRSP zone of cooperation. PRSP will explore other avenue of cooperation with SWIOFC.  Collaboration with SIOFA has not been addressed yet. Area of collaboration will need to be identified and most probably in the area of regional observer programme and inspection at sea if ever the PRSP agrees to venture in the joint management area manage by Seychelles and Mauritius.  The PRSP recommended that we should seek collaboration with the following organisation:   * MASE – CRFIM - RCOC * SADC MCS CC * EFCA * IOTC * SIOFA |
| 1. **INTEGRATION OF SOMALIA INTO PRSP**   **IOC MCS officer** presented the request from Somalia to join the PRSP. He gave a brief history of the Somalia interest since 2017. He informed the ERCU that RCU overwhelmingly recommended the integration of Somalia to the PRSP.  The ERCU agreed to the integration of Somalia in the PRSP and will be a good asset in the regional prevention, deterrent and elimination of IUU fishing. However, final decision to be approved by the Council of Ministers. However as agreed at the 2018 ERCU meeting and further stressed by Madagascar the integration of Somalia be at the level of Information exchanges and capacity building and the integration should be affected after the signatory of the reviewed administrative arrangement and information exchange protocol. |
| 1. **REVISION OF THE PRSP COOPERATION ZONE:**   Both Mauritius and Madagascar presented their case with regards to amendments of the zone of cooperation for the approval of the ERCU. Mauritius recommended the inclusion of Chagos archipelagos waters and Madagascar requested the zone of dispute between and Madagascar and France as grey areas  The ERCU believed this decision surpassed its capacity and expertise and should be discussed at the level of the council of IOC Ministers and a top-down directive be given to the PRSP on the way forward and the PRSP will respect the decision of the Council of Ministers. Therefore, it was recommended that the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the council of ministers.  **Mauritius OPL and Madagascar deputy OPL** agreed to the proposal of the ERCU, however, the France/Réunion recommended that such request to the ERCU should give ample time for national consultation and not minutes or hours before the ERCU meeting and added that the PRSP cooperation area is the whole of the Indian ocean in terms of fishing observation and fisheries police to fight against IUU fishing.  **The IOC officer in charge** recommended that there is a need for clear definition of the role of RCU and ERCU and that TOR for both should be defined in the process of institutionalization and the ERCU concurred to the recommendation. |
| 1. **PLANNING OF THE FISHERIES MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE FOR 2022**   **The IOC MCS officer** informed the ERCU of the proposal of the RCU meeting to organize a ministerial meeting in 2022, however given the amount of work that need to be completed it may be unlikely that it will happen in mid-2022 as define in the multi annual action plan. All relevant works such as the information exchange protocol, amendments to the administrative arrangement, observer programme MOUs, ToR for RCU and ERCU ect… need to be completed before the ministerial meeting can take place.  The ERCU concurred and reiterate the need to finalise all outstanding documents prior to the ministerial meeting and to clearly define the purpose of the meeting. |
| 1. **RECOMMENDATIONS VALIDATION**   **a) -Request for an agreement in principle relating to the protocol for the exchange of information and sharing of fisheries data:**  The ERCU welcome all comment made prior to the RCU meeting by the participating states and discussion and consensus made during the RCU meeting. The ERCU recognized that there are more work to be done inter-seasonally including a legal workshop as the final stage of developing the protocol. To that effect the ERCU approve the development of the ***protocol for fisheries data for the purpose of fisheries management and MCS.***  **b)-Request for an approval in principle to review administrative arrangements amendments:**  **The ERCU** agreed in principle to update the Administrative arrange in line with the present technical and financial status of the PRSP. In addition, other recommendations were made as highlighted in item 14 above.  **c) Validation of the short-term deputation of national technical MCS personnel:**  As discussed and approved by the RCU the ERCU agreed to the proposal for short term deputation of national MCS personnel to support PRSP operations at the IOC secretariate as part of the regional capacity building strategy.  **d) Validation of the multi-annual plan:**  The 2021-2024 multi annual plan was approved as presented with due consideration of possible changes on an annual basis in the context of an annual plan.  **e) Others:**  Additional recommendations were made and approved by the ERCU during the course of the meeting as per the below item areas:  4. summary of the 54th, 55th and 56th regional fisheries surveillance mission by Osiris II;  5. decisions of the fisheries Ministerial Conference in July 21, 2017;  7. decisions of the 35th IOC Council of Ministers;  12. reactivation of the regional VMS;  16. Integration of Somalia into PRSP;  17. revision of the PRSP Zone of cooperation, subject to France/Réunion; and  18. planning of the fisheries Ministerial Conference for 2022. |
| **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**   1. **Seychelles** recall that there is still an outstanding matter with regards to the recommendation of the 35th IOC Council of Ministers. Discussion on the matter was suspended until IOC circulate copy of the recommendation. This has not been done during the meeting and Seychelles therefore recommend that recommendation be circulated inter sessionally and be discussed at the next ERCU meeting. 2. **Mauritius OPL** expressed his wish to reassured Seychelles decision of IOC Council of Ministers, referred to the proposed collaboration with the two Mase centres. What is reflected is not in the proposed recommendation that is being made for our consideration and there is nothing to worry about.   The Mauritius OPL went on to state that PRSP has been in existence since 2007 and MASE programme is recent and now there is a new structure, he reiterated that he has a broader understanding about the value addition that the MASE programme has. He wishes to know how effective the PRSP has been up to now.  **His feeling is and has been confirmed by his colleagues at Mauritius Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, is that PRSP is not really effective. He stressed that we need to understand why the PRSP has not been given the opportunity to deliver concrete results. He asked two questions:**  **is it that we don’t fine boats involve in IUU fishing or is it because there is no IUU fishing in the Indian Ocean? and**  **is it the state of affairs because the concept of PRSP need to be enhanced because it’s not delivering?**  **There is a centre in Madagascar that got equipment and real time artificial intelligence, do we have it in PRSP?**  **IOC** do not wish to revisit the criteria that defines the effectiveness of PRSP given we have largely discussed on the number inspections, infractions, observation and tools put in place over the years by PRSP.  He just wishes to reassure Seychelles on the perspective of collaboration between MASE and PRSP and agree that the PRSP participating states must have the chance to examine this decision taken to ensure that the necessary is done on the way forward to concretise this collaboration.  **E€OFISH MCS Expert** recommend that the Mauritius OPL statement and claim that PRSP, according to the Mauritius Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, is ineffective be evidently documented in the meeting report.  **Seychelles: need to understand the purpose of what we’re doing here.**  Understand the scope of what MASE operates under; however, we need to be clear guided on what and how we are going to engage with MASE. Seychelles wish to remind the ERCU that PRSP, now ‘‘maybe the name is confusing’’ we don’t do only surveillance. Surveillance falls well under maritime security actions, but PRSP are dealing with much wider issues with regards to preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing, such as:   * under reporting; * unregulated fishing; * observation missions; * improving fishing governance; * intelligence and fisheries data sharing; * national capacity building; * improving participating states IUU indexes; * improved economic sustainability; and * compliance to national, regional and international norms.   and most of the above does not fit well under MASE objectives. We understand that there has been an IOC ministers decision, but we wish to put on record that we are clearly guided and educated on what these decisions were. We see the value of PRSP as fisheries MCS practitioners and this value need to be conveyed to our colleagues of MASE.  **IOC** reiterated that the Ministers Council has taken note of this possibility of collaboration and need to have further technical discussion between PRSP and MASE on the sustaining the PRSP under the MASE programme.  **France/Réunion** wasextremely astounded by the statement of Mauritius OPL and confirmed by the Mauritius Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, that the PRSP is not efficient. If PRSP was not effective the EU would not be re-investing millions of EUROs into the programme. France wished that this statement would have been made in the presence of the EUD representative who unfortunately had to leave for another meeting and sees it as denigrating act against the PRSP. It is a programme has been largely successful and recognised worldwide.  **E€OFISH TA / Team leader** stated thatwe should not forget the role of our East African partners in this enlarged consultation and should treat them as partners in this collaboration. We need to harmonise our procedure for our east African partners to feels comfortable in this regional cooperation. As you know we are extending to cover the whole of the IOR. There are two functionalities, however, a big cat is not a small lion.  It was agreed that theIOC Ministers Council recommendation be circulated to all participating states and that discussion on the collaboration between MASE and PRSP be discussed later.  **E€OFISH Team leader** confirmed thatthe ERCU is agreement with that the collaboration be discussed later but wish to inform the IOC that with regards to procedure it is advisable that any decision emanating from the council of Ministers or other document be submitted for discussion at the earliest possible. Work has already started between PRSP and the two MASE.   1. **Proceeding of meetings**   **Seychelles**: As a matter of principle recommended that technical paper of information note to the different subject matter to the meeting be circulated well in advance so that participant can familiarise themselves before attending the meeting.   1. **Meeting report**   Tanzania asked to be guided how the report will be validated.  France/Réunion share the same concern on how the report will be drafted and validated.  **IOC:** The report will be circulated to all participating states for validation. |
| Meeting ended at 19.00 hrs |