

# Modalities for Cooperation

Project Scoping Meeting on Securing the Foundations for Fish  
Food Security in a Changing Ocean in West and Central Africa

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# Foundations for cooperation

- Not necessary to have overlapping mandates
  - complementarity and links can be the basis
- Need to have a common goal, objective, purpose or shared vision, and a mutual interest



# Identifying the common ground

Communication to build mutual understanding and recognition of roles, identifying

- Each other's mandates
- Operations and processes
- Programmes of Work
- Organisational expertise
- Legal opportunities and constraints
- Aspirations
- Funding realities

# Cooperative mechanisms

- Memoranda of Understanding
- Joint committees, working groups, taskforces on special issues
- Coordinated action plans
- Joint scientific requests
- Joint projects
- Meeting invitations, agenda sharing, informal exchange

# Memoranda of Understanding

- Background
- Intention
- Areas of immediate and potential cooperation
- Considerations of binding nature, financial implications
- Supported by invitations to meetings, standing agenda items on cooperation
- Expls: NEAFC & OSPAR; Abidjan & COREP

# **Joint committees, working groups, taskforces**

- Permanent or ad-hoc
- Defined role and purpose of mutual interest
- Terms of Reference describing composition, decision-making mechanisms, financing
- Sharing resources in a synergistic manner
- Building a common ground
- Expls: Joint FAO/IMO Ad Hoc Working Group on IUU Fishing

# Joint scientific requests

- Addressing mutual interests benefitting from common scientific understanding
- Facilitating recognition of respective decisions
- Sharing financial resources
- Expl: NEAFC/OSPAR ICES-request

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