



AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

between
the Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO),
Murmansk, the Russian Federation

and
the Institute of Marine Research (IMR), Bergen, Norway

The Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO) and the Institute of Marine Research (IMR), hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Realising that the Barents Sea and adjacent waters lie under the jurisdiction of Norway and the Russian Federation and that the two countries are responsible for the conservation and management of marine ecosystems in that area, including resources of commercial fish species, marine mammals and invertebrates;

Considering long-standing and close scientific relations between the Parties;

Being committed to further strengthening the scientific and technical cooperation;

Considering that sustainable exploitation of biological resources must be based on scientific advice developed through regular marine surveys, scientific assessment of stocks and evaluation of impacts of fisheries on ecosystems and biological resources of the Barents Sea and adjacent waters;

Attaching particular significance to protection and rational exploitation of biological resources;

Emphasising the role of the Joint Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission as the key mechanism for co-ordinating fisheries, ecosystem and other research by the Parties, taking into account references to the Russian-Norwegian Environmental Commission;

Basing their research activities on national legislation as well as international bilateral and multinational agreements and arrangements with a special emphasis placed on the Agreement on Cooperation in Fisheries between the Government of the USSR and the Government of Kingdom of Norway of 1975,

Hereby have agreed to the following:

1. GOAL OF THE AGREEMENT

The goal of this Agreement is to foster long-standing scientific cooperation between the Parties in order to improve their advisory function, in particular, with respect to the management of marine biological resources by the Joint Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission.

2. AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Parties will pursue cooperation within the following main areas:

- 2.1. Planning and coordination of scientific activities;
- 2.2. Conducting joint and complementary stock assessment surveys;
- 2.3. Participation in joint scientific studies and modelling;
- 2.4. Exchange of data and development of joint databases and/or mirror databases. The terms and regulations for exchange and use of such data are to be agreed upon during annual scientific meetings and approved by the authorised representatives of the Parties;
- 2.5. Harmonisation of national research based on agreed methods, including standardization and development of survey methodology;
- 2.6. Developing scientific advice on conservation and management of living marine resources.

3. FORMS OF COOPERATION

3.1. The main forms of scientific cooperation between the Parties will be as follows:

- 3.1.1. Annual scientists' meetings held in March-April to discuss scientific programmes and coordinate research activities;
- 3.1.2. Joint scientific symposia;
- 3.1.3. Exchange of experts;
- 3.1.4. Presentation and publication of results from joint research and activities in international scientific organizations and journals;
- 3.1.5. Reporting of status and development of the Barents Sea ecosystem and adjacent waters.

3.2. To facilitate scientific cooperation the Parties undertake to provide support in:

- 3.2.1. Arranging timely the visits of scientists to Norway and Russia, including letters of invitation and other logistics as required;
- 3.2.2. Arranging exchange of scientists between two institutes, including help for the scientists in arranging housing during the exchange period;
- 3.2.3. Sending applications for national and international funding of joint projects in accordance with Russian and Norwegian strategic policy in the areas covered by this agreement;
- 3.2.4. Providing modern equipment;

3.2.5. Printing, publishing and distribution of scientific publications and other printed material.

4. OTHER PROVISIONS

4.1. Each joint activity/project under this Agreement shall be explicitly agreed upon and approved by the authorized representatives of the Parties;

4.2. Proposals for any joint activity/project under this Agreement shall be sent to the authorized representatives of the Parties and be decided in accordance with the respective Parties' budget policy;

4.3. The present Agreement will be effective from the date of its signature and will remain in force for an indeterminate time. Either Party may terminate this Agreement by means of written communication to the other Party on a 6 months' notice.

Signed on 17 March 2011 in two copies in English.

Authorised Representatives:

For the Knipovich Polar Research Institute of
Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO):

For the Institute of Marine Research (IMR):

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