

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)
Intersessional Meeting**

06-08 May 2024
Copenhagen, Denmark

NAFO
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
2024

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1.	Opening by the Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America)	3
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur	3
3.	Adoption of Agenda	3
4.	Annual Compliance Review 2023	3
5.	NAFO MCS website and application development	4
6.	Review of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM	4
7.	New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM.....	5
8.	Discussion on the review of Article 4 of the NAFO CEM	6
9.	Review of the new measures in the yellowtail fishery	6
10.	Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures	7
11.	Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches.....	7
12.	Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO	7
13.	Marking of gears	8
14.	Report and Recommendations of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)	9
15.	Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures.....	9
16.	Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM, Article 53	9
17.	Report and advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)	9
18.	Implementation of the Performance Review Recommendations.....	9
19.	STATLANT 21.....	10
20.	Other Business.....	11
	a. Introducing Electronic Reporting System (ERS) & Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) in NAFO	11
	b. 2024 NAFO Inspectors Workshop.....	11
	c. Closure of Others quota - Article 5.5(h).....	11
	d. FAO gear codes.....	11
21.	Time and place of next meeting	11
22.	Adoption of report	11
23.	Adjournment	12
	Annex 1. List of Participants	13
	Annex 2. Agenda.....	17

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06–08 May 2024
Copenhagen, Denmark

1. Opening by the Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America)

The Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America), opened the meeting at 09:06 hours on Monday, 06 May 2024. The Chair welcomed representatives, both in person and virtually, from the following Contracting Parties (CPs): Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Provisional Agenda was circulated on 06 March 2024, with two insertions under agenda item 20 - Other Business, and four additional items were included at this meeting:

- a. From Norway on Introducing Electronic Reporting System (ERS) and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) in NAFO based on the FLUX UN/CEFACT International Standard
- b. From Canada on the 2024 NAFO Inspectors Workshop.
- c. From Canada on Closure of Others quota – Article 5.5(h)
- d. From Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) on the revision of FAO gear codes

The agenda was adopted as outlined in Annex 2.

Following the rules outlined in the *Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Rules of Procedure regarding data confidentiality and participation in meetings (COM Doc. 22-19)*, the Chair highlighted a nomination for in-camera sessions for agenda item 4 (specifically STACTIC WP 24-01 and STACTIC WP 24-02 including associated revisions and discussions), agenda item 5 (if the NAFO Secretariat was intending to display any information from the MCS Website), and agenda item 6 (specifically STACTIC WP 24-05 and associated revisions and discussions, depending on the data included). The Secretariat would not be presenting any detailed information from the NAFO MCS Website under agenda item 5, and Contracting Parties agreed that STACTIC WP 24-05 could be discussed in an open session. As a result, STACTIC WP 24-01 and STACTIC WP 24-02, and associated revisions and discussions under agenda item 4, were agreed to be held in an in-camera session.

4. Annual Compliance Review 2023

The NAFO Secretariat presented the draft Compilation of Fisheries Reports 2023 in STACTIC WP 24-01 (Rev. 2). Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for the work and provided initial comments and clarifications. Contracting Parties agreed to forward any further comments on STACTIC WP 24-01 (Rev. 3) to the NAFO Secretariat by 10 June 2024 for inclusion in the final version that will be circulated on 24 June 2024 in accordance with Rule 5.1(e) of the *NAFO Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations*.

The NAFO Secretariat also presented the Summary of Inspection Information for 2023 in STACTIC WP 24-02 (Rev. 2). A question was raised regarding the statute of limitations for NAFO infringement cases, and Contracting Parties shared information on the statute of limitations within their domestic procedures. The European Union also noted that some of the infringements issued in port were confirmation of infringements issued at-sea, and these will need to be clarified as some may be double counted in figure 5.4.2 of the draft

annual compliance review. Contracting Parties agreed to provide additional comments and feedback to the NAFO Secretariat by 10 June 2024.

The NAFO Secretariat presented the first draft Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review in STACTIC WP 24-03 (Rev. 2). Contracting Parties provided initial comments and clarifications. Contracting Parties agreed to forward any further comments on STACTIC WP 24-03 (Rev. 3) to the NAFO Secretariat by 10 June 2024. STACTIC also reflected on the agreement from the 2023 Annual Meeting to review the format of the annual compliance review and discuss the inclusion of other compliance elements and agreed to include a specific agenda item on the format of the annual compliance review at the 2024 Annual Meeting. It was also agreed that the Secretariat research the publicly available compliance review documents from other RFMOs to determine the type of information that is being included as background information for these discussions.

The NAFO Secretariat presented an analysis of available catch per unit of effort (CPUE) information in STACTIC WP 24-04, noting that the analysis was expanded following a request from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) from the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) highlighted that CPUE information would be useful in determining whether fishing capacity is commensurate with the quota available for a specific species and area and requested that the analysis continue to be expanded. Contracting Parties reflected on the information and noted a preference to have a specific proposal from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) to gain a better understanding of how this information would facilitate the compliance review process before tasking the NAFO Secretariat with additional data analysis. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agreed to draft a proposal on this for the 2024 Annual Meeting, with the inclusion of some examples to further assist with the analysis.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will provide comments to the NAFO Secretariat on STACTIC WP 24-01 (Rev. 3), STACTIC WP 24-02 (Rev. 2), and STACTIC WP 24-03 (Rev. 3) by 10 June 2024.**
- **An item on the format of the annual compliance review be added to the agenda for the 2024 Annual Meeting. The NAFO Secretariat will review the publicly available compliance reports from other RFMOs and compile background information to facilitate the discussions.**
- **Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) will draft a proposal to clarify the request for the CPUE analysis and how it can inform the compliance review process.**

5. NAFO MCS website and application development

The NAFO Secretariat provided an update on the MCS website and noted that there have been no significant updates to its functionality since the last meeting.

The NAFO Secretariat also provided an update on the status of the observer reporting application. The application is currently in a beta phase and has had successful testing at-sea by two Contracting Parties, with more at-sea testing scheduled. Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for the update and the work on the application and noted that discussions will continue on the language requirements within the application, whether the application will replace the need for the daily OBR reports, and any additional functionality that may be beneficial to include.

6. Review of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM

The Chair of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR), Brent Napier (Canada), provided a status update, noting that the group had not been able to meet since the 2023 Annual Meeting. The WG-OPR Chair highlighted the importance of the ongoing work of the WG-OPR in continuing to address the items outlined in the Terms of Reference (COM Doc. 23-25), and noted the goal of convening a meeting, in July 2024, subject to Contracting Party availability, to provide a report to STACTIC at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Contracting Parties thanked the Chair of the WG-OPR for the update and noted their support for the continued work of this group.

The NAFO Secretariat presented the Summary of Observer Information for 2023 in STACTIC WP 24-05 (Rev. 2). The European Union highlighted that additional review may be required by Contracting Parties on some of the items in the table of the implementation of the observer program: as an example, some Contracting Parties noted that the provisions of Article 30.3(h)(i) were not applicable because no reports were received, however the provision to treat the reports with confidentiality is still applicable, even if no reports were received. The European Union again raised concerns with the absence of OBR discrepancies reported by the observers on board fishing vessels of other Contracting Parties, including in cases where suspected infringements were detected during observed trips.

The European Union expressed concern about the independence of observer data and observers onboard where the observer reports the same quantities as the masters' estimations. Contracting Parties agreed to review the implementation of the NAFO Observer Program in order to ensure that observers are reporting independent data.

This further raised the topic of confidentiality and the relationship between Article 30.3(h)(i) and the Rules on Confidentiality within Annex II.B. The United States expressed some concern with the lack of clarity as to whether the observer could share their data with the master. The United States also noted that Annex II.B specifically references Articles 28 and 29, not Article 30. Given this, there is no prohibition from sharing information between the observer and master. Contracting Parties have different views on this issue. Given the different interpretations, Contracting Parties agreed that it would be beneficial to review the provisions on the data confidentiality measures in the NAFO CEM. Contracting Parties also reflected on the reporting template that was agreed to at the 2023 Annual Meeting in STACTIC WP 23-20 and agreed that the WG-OPR should review the reporting template at their upcoming meeting to ensure that it captures the type of information that is required to be reported.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties review the information provided in STACTIC WP 24-05 (Rev. 2) and provide any updates to the NAFO Secretariat.**
- **The next WG-OPR meeting will take place in advance of the 2024 Annual Meeting.**
- **The WG-OPR will review the reporting template outlined in STACTIC WP 23-20 during the next meeting.**
- **The WG-OPR should consider a review of the provisions on the data confidentiality measures in the NAFO CEM.**

7. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

The European Union presented a proposal for the publication of the NAFO register of fishing vessels and authorizations outlined in STACTIC WP 24-12. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union and noted their support to the proposal to further increase transparency. Contracting Parties noted some editorial improvements that can be made to the text of the proposal and agreed to forward any comments to the European Union in advance of the 2024 Annual Meeting.

The European Union presented a proposal on surveillance procedures outlined in STACTIC WP 24-13. While there was some support for the concept of the proposal, Contracting Parties raised several discussion points on the proposal including the potential increased workload for those Contracting Parties that carry out a significant number of sightings, the details on the flow of information to the MCS Website, the specific definition of a sighting that should be used, the confidentiality rules applicable to the information being shared, as well as the general objective of sightings where VMS data is available for vessels. The European Union thanked Contracting Parties for the discussions and welcomed additional feedback on the proposal in writing in advance of the 2024 Annual Meeting.

The European Union invited Contracting Parties to reflect on the proposal for measures for shallow and deep pelagic beaked redfish (Article 5) outlined in STACTIC WP 23-13 (Rev. 2), noting that the decision on the total allowable catch (TAC) has not been made for 2025, and that these discussions will likely need to continue at the 2024 Annual Meeting. The European Union recalled that the proposal was tabled at the 2023 NAFO Annual Meeting by five Contracting Parties, who issued a joint statement on the need to adopt measures to avoid the continuation of unsustainable fishing. Norway noted their support to the proposal and that they have also established national legislation to address this issue.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will submit editorial revisions to the European Union on the proposal for the publication of the NAFO register of fishing vessels and authorizations to the NAFO public website outlined in STACTIC WP 24-12, which will be incorporated and presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**
- **Contracting Parties will provide comments to the European Union on the proposal on surveillance procedures outlined in STACTIC WP 24-13 and continue discussions on this proposal at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

8. Discussion on the review of Article 4 of the NAFO CEM

The NAFO Secretariat presented a summary of the implementation of Article 4 in STACTIC WP 24-06 (Revised), noting that four research plans have been received to date in 2024. Contracting Parties noted additional information should be included in this working paper on how Contracting Parties met each of the requirements outlined in Article 4 of the NAFO CEM. The Secretariat was requested to compile the additional details into a revision of the working paper for presentation at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat will update STACTIC WP 24-06 (Revised) to include detailed information on each of the research plans for presentation at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

9. Review of the new measures in the yellowtail fishery

The Chair opened this agenda item by reflecting on the measures in the yellowtail fishery (COM Doc. 23-12) that were adopted at the 2023 Annual Meeting, and that STACTIC shall review the new measures in accordance with Article 6.11 of the 2024 NAFO CEM. Contracting Parties noted that there has not been much activity in this fishery since the measures came into force, and there is limited data available to determine if the new measures have led to an increase of American plaice bycatches or directed fishery on American plaice, in accordance with Article 6.11(a) of the NAFO CEM. To facilitate the data analysis, it was agreed that the NAFO Secretariat, with the assistance of representatives from Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America, will work to determine the required data analyses to facilitate the review of the measures which will be discussed further at the 2024 Annual Meeting. The European Union recalled that the measures in the yellowtail fishery expire automatically on December 31, 2024, and that it would be necessary to have that analysis to review the measures and consider whether the measures should be maintained, be further tailor-made or consist on a horizontal measure instead of derogations for a particular fishery. Additionally, the European Union explained the shared understanding with Canada already noted at the last EDG meeting regarding the interpretation of 9 fishing days in accordance with Article 6.3(g)(ii) of the NAFO CEM, noting that a fishing day defined in Article 1.6 of the NAFO CEM, and that the 9 days are not reset by exiting the NRA, but when the fishing trip ends as defined in Article 1.7 of the NAFO CEM. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for the clarification. Contracting Parties noted the opportunity to review the language during the revision of the measures for better clarity.

It was agreed that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat, with assistance from Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America will work to determine the required data analyses to facilitate the review of the measures as outlined in Article 6.3(g)(ii) of the NAFO CEM, for presentation at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

10. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures

The NAFO Secretariat noted that there were no substantive issues to raise under this agenda item that are not already being discussed under other agenda items.

11. Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches

The Chair opened the agenda item noting the agreement from the 2023 STACTIC Annual Meeting that STACTIC will start the discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches at this meeting, with the Commission requesting STACTIC to ensure that there is coordination with other relevant NAFO bodies where appropriate. The United States of America reiterated their opinion from the 2023 Annual Meeting that the discussion on, and potential modification to, the definitions of bycatch and directed fisheries in the NAFO CEM involve substantial policy determinations and are better situated to be discussed in other NAFO bodies, such as the WG-RBMS or WG-EAFFM. Several Contracting Parties noted the importance for STACTIC to be part of those discussions. The Secretariat highlighted the Commission request for the working groups to reflect on the status of the Action Plan ([COM Doc. 17-26](#)) from the WG-BDS to ensure the work of that group continues. The Secretariat noted that this will be on the agenda for the August 2024 WG-EAFFM meeting and that the co-Chairs have requested the NAFO Secretariat to compile a summary of the work completed to date. Contracting Parties requested that the Secretariat share the summary with STACTIC for their review, as well as any working papers discussed during those working groups relating to changes to the bycatch and directed fisheries provisions of the NAFO CEM so that STACTIC may review such changes from a control and enforcement perspective in advance of the 2024 Annual Meeting.

It was agreed that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat will share the background information on the status of the BDS Action Plan and working papers from NAFO working groups relating to changes to the bycatch and directed fisheries provisions of the NAFO CEM with STACTIC when documents become available.**
- **Proposals for revisions to the NAFO CEM on measures pertaining to bycatch and directed fisheries from other NAFO working groups be forwarded to STACTIC for information and review in advance of the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

12. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO

The Chair opened this agenda item and reflected on the discussions from the 2023 Annual Meeting relating to the calculation of the percent difference in PSC3 reports, noting that STACTIC was awaiting the results of the discussions from PECMAC. The Chair of PECMAC, Thord Mosen (Norway), reported that all NEAFC meetings this year have so far been cancelled, and there have been no updated discussions in PECMAC. Norway reiterated that their calculation uses the landed weight as the denominator, as this is the verified weight, and Iceland noted that despite some practices, the policy is to do the same. The European Union reflected on the several provisions in the NAFO CEM which require to use the masters' estimations as the reference for the calculations, including the procedures outlined in Article 38.3(c) of the NAFO CEM for the calculation of the threshold that trigger additional enforcement actions, and that several Contracting Parties are applying that definition in the PSC3 calculations. Some options for a way forward on this issue were discussed, such as including a reference in the PSC3 forms for how the calculation was made or standardizing the calculation to be used in PSC3 forms across all Contracting Parties. It was decided that further information was required to better facilitate these discussions. The European Union additionally noted that there is a minimum threshold defined for the triggering of enforcement actions in the at-sea inspections, but this is not defined for port inspections and that

Report of STACTIC,
06–08 May 2024

having common minimum thresholds would increase level playing field and legal certainty for operators. Contracting Parties discussed the difficulties to base this threshold only on the percentage of the discrepancies of the quantities as other elements are required and relevant to consider to decide on whether proceedings should be launched following a port inspection. In order to collect the relevant information to facilitate these discussions, STACTIC requested the NAFO Secretariat to develop a standardized questionnaire to collect this information from Contracting Parties on both how calculations in PSC3 forms are made and what conditions are used to consider the enforcement of discrepancies, which will be compiled and presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

The NAFO Secretariat updated that the NAFO e-PSC system is still in a development phase. STACTIC requested the Secretariat to provide a demonstration of the current e-PSC system to those Contracting Party representatives that expressed interest in assisting the Secretariat with the system in advance of the 2024 Annual Meeting. The NAFO Secretariat also noted that they have been in contact with the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) Secretariat and are developing the NAFO e-PSC system in such a way that, if a future decision is made by NAFO to forward the information from the NAFO system to the Global Information Exchange System (GIES) system, this would be possible. It was noted that the priority for the Secretariat is to remain focused on the NAFO e-PSC system in the interim, and potential connections to the GIES can be discussed in future.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat develop a standardized questionnaire to collect information from Contracting Parties on how they are calculating the percent difference in the PSC3 forms, and what conditions are considered to decide on the enforcement of discrepancies.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat continue development on the NAFO e-PSC system and provide a demonstration, via a virtual meeting, of interested Contracting Party representatives, in advance of the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

13. Marking of gears

The NAFO Secretariat presented an information paper on the vessel and gear marking requirements of other RFMOs in STACTIC WP 24-07. Contracting Parties thanked the NAFO Secretariat for the information paper, and noted some revisions may be required.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) presented a proposal, outlined in STACTIC WP 24-11, for amending NAFO CEM Article 13 relating to gear requirements to include an option for AIS-transponders to be used in place of radar reflectors on the westernmost and the easternmost buoys. Contracting Parties raised several questions about the AIS-transponder technology noting that there may be a need for minimum standards to accompany this proposal and requested Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) to provide some additional information on the AIS-equipped buoys, including any information from fishing operations currently using the AIS transponders, for further discussion at the 2024 Annual Meeting. Several Contracting Parties noted that the use of AIS transponders is not prohibited by the current NAFO CEM and it would be useful to consider any changes in the current rules that those Contracting Parties using these requirements provide information on their experience. Several Contracting Parties mentioned the possibility to consider in the future a broader revision of the rules on gear marking. It was also mentioned that the telecommunication authorities of some coastal States have concerns on the use of AIS beacons on fishing gears and that the outcome of this investigation should be reviewed.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) also noted in the proposal that there is a need to examine the definitions in Article 1 of the NAFO CEM to add the FAO definition of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), and agreed to draft a proposal for the 2024 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **In relation to STACTIC WP 24-11, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) will provide additional information on the AIS-transponder technology for continued discussions at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**
- **Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) will draft a proposal on a definition of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), that could be included in Article 1 of the NAFO CEM for discussion at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

14. Report and Recommendations of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)

The Chair highlighted the report of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) meeting that took place on 3 November 2024 in STACTIC WP 23-27 and noted the recommendation for STACTIC to review Article 12.6 of the NAFO CEM regarding the results of research data on sharks to be submitted by the Contracting Parties to the Secretariat, and where this information should be posted or published. Contracting Parties requested the NAFO Secretariat to consult with the Scientific Council and relevant working groups to determine where the information should be forwarded. The Secretariat will report back to STACTIC on this issue at the 2024 Annual Meeting to assist STACTIC with any necessary revisions to Article 12.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat will consult with the Scientific Council and relevant working groups to determine the best recipient for the information received in accordance with Article 12.6 of the NAFO CEM and report back to STACTIC at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

15. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures

The NAFO Secretariat presented the latest list of Contracting Party practices and procedures in STACTIC WP 24-08, noting that there have been no updates made since the 2023 Annual Meeting. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted that one submission can be removed from the list, as it is now out of date.

16. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM, Article 53

The NAFO Secretariat presented the latest version of the NAFO IUU list in STACTIC WP 24-09. The Secretariat also highlighted the vessels on the provisional IUU lists for listing and de-listing for review by STACTIC. Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for the work in maintaining the IUU list following the provisions that were adopted at the 2022 Annual Meeting and requested an update from the Secretariat on the process. The Secretariat noted that the workload for maintaining the IUU list is manageable but noted that several RFMOs are completing the same exercise, which has the potential for errors to occur from multiple cross-referencing exercises, and that a centralized IUU list would alleviate the potential for discrepancies across RFMOs.

17. Report and advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)

The NAFO Secretariat updated that the meeting scheduled to take place in April 2024 was postponed, and that there were no further updates at this time.

18. Implementation of the Performance Review Recommendations

The NAFO Secretariat presented the recommendations from the NAFO Commission Working Group to Address the Recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review Panel (WG-PR) relevant to STACTIC and the status of each in STACTIC WP 24-10.

As a general comment, Canada noted that given the Performance Review had been tabled in 2018, STACTIC should make concerted effort to conclude on the two outstanding items, either by identifying a path forward to

Report of STACTIC,
06–08 May 2024

respond to the recommendations, or alternatively by recommending to close the items, with appropriate rationale.

In relation to recommendation 18, STACTIC agreed that the WG-OPR should discuss the possibility of having a garbage disposal data collection requirement as part of the tasks of NAFO observers. It was also noted that while this would serve to contribute to the recommendation, that STACTIC should continue discussions on determining if amendments to the NAFO CEM, such as the reference made in NEAFC to MARPOL, are required to fulfill this recommendation and agreed to make a determination on how to move forward with this PR recommendation at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

In relation to recommendation 20 on Contracting Party self-assessments of flag State performance, the European Union noted the need to take a decision on whether the recommendation should be limited to the revision of the criteria in the FAO Guidelines or to include that Contracting Parties carry out their self-assessments in the context of NAFO. In order to move forward with the second option, several Contracting Parties indicated that the exercise should be carried out by all Contracting Parties, focused on the current NAFO framework, subject to clear deadlines and with the aim of improving how Contracting Parties implement the NAFO CEM and to identify room for improvement of the NAFO CEM. The European Union proposed to include these elements in a proposal for STACTIC mandate to be submitted to and gathered from the NAFO Commission. STACTIC discussed two options and agreed to carry out a NAFO exercise on self-assessments of flag State performance. No Contracting Parties objected to performing a self-assessment. Therefore, it was agreed that STACTIC will draft a mandate for endorsement by the Commission for Contracting Parties to complete their self-assessments. A suggested timeframe was discussed including presentation of the reports by the 2025 Annual Meeting and the review in the year following, but Contracting Parties agreed to reflect on more specific timelines. The European Union agreed to draft the mandate for review by STACTIC at the 2024 Annual Meeting, which will be forwarded to the Commission.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The WG-OPR continue discussions on the possibility of having a garbage disposal data collection requirement as part of the tasks of NAFO observers.**
- **STACTIC, at the 2024 Annual Meeting, make a final determination on if edits are required to the NAFO CEM to fulfill PR recommendation 18.**
- **The European Union will draft a mandate for Contracting Parties to complete the self-assessments of flag State performance to seek approval from the Commission on the way forward in addressing PR recommendation 20.**

19. STATLANT 21

The Chair reflected on the discussions from the 2023 Annual Meeting and highlighted the response from the Scientific Council Chair in NAFO/24-056. Contracting Parties thanked the Chair for coordinating the correspondence with the Scientific Council Chair and reflected on the importance of the STATLANT data in terms of the historical records, the transparency of the data, and that they are used in determining the annual fees for Contracting Parties. The United States highlighted that as a coastal State they provide STATLANT 21 data for the NAFO Convention Area. The European Union noted the reply indicates that only STATLANT 21 data from jurisdictional waters of Canada and France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) is used for fisheries management and that these data could be replaced by haul by haul data, highlighting there is a potential to streamline data submission requirements. The European Union noted that, based on the research carried out by the NAFO Secretariat, the submission of STATLANT 21 data by Contracting Parties is based on the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Council, and therefore this is something that should be discussed further within the Scientific Council. Contracting Parties were encouraged to highlight this issue with their Scientific Council representatives.

20. Other Business

a. Introducing Electronic Reporting System (ERS) and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) in NAFO

Norway requested this item be added to the STACTIC agenda noting that NEAFC has adopted an Electronic Reporting System (ERS) based on the UN/CEFACT “Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange” (flux), with a two-year transition implementation period since the implementation of the system by the European Union in January 2024. Contracting Parties were supportive of discussing upgrades to the reporting technology used in NAFO, considering a stepwise approach, and streamlining data reporting obligations. and requested additional information from Norway for further discussions at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Norway will provide a proposal on the way forward, including additional information on the FLUX standard, and how the implementation took place in NEAFC to facilitate further discussions on this item at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

b. 2024 NAFO Inspectors Workshop

Canada provided an update on the 2024 NAFO Inspectors Workshop that took place from 05-07 March 2024 in STACTIC WP 24-15, noting that several Contracting Parties were in attendance. Contracting Parties thanked Canada for hosting the workshop and noted the importance of this work to ensure consistency of how the NAFO CEM are applied. The European Union noted that they are planning to host the next workshop.

c. Closure of Others quota - Article 5.5(h)

Canada reflected on a situation from this year, where two vessels were fishing under the Others quota during the same period, which resulted in catches significantly exceeding the allocated quota. It was noted that the closure notification procedure outlined for the NAFO Secretariat for the Others quota may require review. The NAFO Secretariat reflected that there has been difficulty with the Others quota closure notifications in the past, as some of the quotas are so small that they can be fished in less than five (5) days, and the current procedure requires the Secretariat to provide a notice five (5) calendar days in advance of when the quota is projected to reach 100%. Contracting Parties agreed to continue discussions on this issue at the 2024 Annual Meeting and requested the NAFO Secretariat to provide some background information on past procedures to facilitate the discussions.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The discussions on the closure notification for the Others quota continue at the 2024 Annual Meeting, and that the Secretariat will prepare some background information to facilitate the discussions.**

d. FAO gear codes

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) presented a proposal in STACTIC WP 24-14 for a revision of Annex II.J of the NAFO CEM to be consulted with the Scientific Council, noting there have been changes in gear used by shrimp trawlers using twin trawls (OTS) or (OTT) or even multiple trawl (OTP) (triple). It was agreed to postpone making any changes to the gear code requirements pending the discussions regarding introduction and possibly implementation of ERS.

21. Time and place of next meeting

The next STACTIC meeting will be held in Halifax, Canada from 23–27 September 2024.

22. Adoption of report

The report was adopted on 08 May 2024, prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

Report of STACTIC,
06–08 May 2024

23. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 hours on 08 May 2024. Contracting Parties expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for his leadership. The Chair and Contracting Parties thanked Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) for hosting the meeting and the NAFO Secretariat for their support.



Annex 1. List of Participants**CHAIR**

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Annual Compliance Review 2023
5. NAFO MCS website and application development
6. Review of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM
7. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
8. Discussion on the review of Article 4 of the NAFO CEM
9. Review of the new measures in the yellowtail fishery
10. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures
11. Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches
12. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO
13. Marking of gears
14. Report and Recommendations of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)
15. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures
16. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM, Article 53
17. Report and advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
18. Implementation of the Performance Review Recommendations
19. STATLANT 21
20. Other Business
 - a. Introducing Electronic Reporting System (ERS) and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) in NAFO
 - b. 2024 NAFO Inspectors Workshop
 - c. Closure of Others quota – Article 5.5(h)
 - d. FAO gear codes
21. Time and place of next meeting
22. Adoption of report
23. Adjournment