

**Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization****2005 Annual Meeting Press Release****23 September 2005****NAFO Starts a Reform Process**

TALLINN, ESTONIA – Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) has launched a review of the NAFO Convention, especially with a view to incorporating more integrated oceans management approaches, reforming decision-making processes, and examining the current structure of NAFO.

The decision was made at the 27th Annual Meeting of NAFO held in Tallinn, Estonia, 19-23 September 2005.

In the context of modernization, NAFO bodies were asked to make recommendations to strengthen NAFO monitoring, control and surveillance measures through modifications in the areas of sanctions, role of observers and follow-up on infringements.

First steps towards an ecosystem approach

NAFO scientists were tasked to look into areas of marine biological and ecological significance for NAFO. In addition, NAFO fishing vessels will collect, on a voluntary basis, data on seamounts in the NAFO area. These undersea mountains are viewed as potentially vulnerable ecosystems that might warrant special protection.

Ecosystem studies have long been a part of the work of the Scientific Council. In 2006, NAFO will hold a symposium to advance knowledge of the Northwest Atlantic ecosystems.

During the past year NAFO began discussions of applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. An important milestone was made in 2004 when NAFO adopted and began to implement a framework for the Precautionary Approach. Progress continues to be made in the application of the Precautionary Approach to stock assessments.

NAFO bans shark finning

In keeping with its ecosystem approach, NAFO adopted measures banning finning, and the transshipment and landing of shark fins to improve the protection of sharks in the NAFO area. These measures are consistent with those adopted by regional tuna commissions (ICCAT, IATTC).

Blacklist for IUU vessels

NAFO has created a procedure to blacklist non-NAFO member vessels involved in Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Northwest Atlantic. This is an important step for global cooperation. In addition, NAFO will automatically share information about these IUU fishing activities with other regional fishery bodies and with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The meeting was attended by 200 delegates from eleven Contracting Parties - Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russia, Ukraine and United States of America.

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Additional highlights of the meeting can be found in the attached backgrounder.

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2005 Annual Meeting (19 – 23 September 2005)

Backgrounder

The **General Council** was chaired by David Bevan (Canada), and looked into administrative matters.

The **Scientific Council** under the chairmanship of Dr. Joanne Morgan (Canada) conducted assessments of stocks in the NAFO Convention Area during the past year and its advice was presented to Fisheries Commission. The scientific assessments concluded that yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO and northern shrimp on the Flemish Cap and the Grand Bank remain bright spots with healthy populations. NAFO scientists also advised that directed fisheries continue on two stocks of redfish, white hake, thorny skate and Greenland halibut. However, Scientific Council recommended that moratoria be maintained for 8 of the 15 fish stocks assessed by NAFO.

The Scientific Council also coordinates research on a variety of subjects including studies on fishing gear, oceanography, and a range of biological issues on various marine species in the Northwest Atlantic.

NAFO Fisheries Commission, chaired by Dean Swanson (USA) adopted the recommendations made by the Scientific Council. In addition, NAFO agreed on a number of measures to maintain and increase NAFO's ability to protect the fishery resources of the Northwest Atlantic (a complete list of these measures will be available in the meeting reports). **Attached is the table of Total Allowable Catches (TAC) and quotas agreed at this session.**

The following points represent additional highlights from the Annual Meeting:

More fishing opportunities for shrimp in 3L

The increased growth of the shrimp stock in Div. 3L allowed NAFO to raise the TAC to 22,000 tons following the scientific advice.

NAFO Compliance Review

The second NAFO Annual Compliance Review was adopted. This review summarizes issues regarding compliance with the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures and will be available on the NAFO website (www.nafo.int).

Reduced TAC for straddling oceanic redfish

The oceanic redfish stock that straddles the Northwest and the Northeast Atlantic is managed jointly with the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). In accordance with a decision taken earlier by NEAFC to reduce its TAC, NAFO reduced its TAC for oceanic redfish.

Protection of Greenland halibut continues

Following the 15-year rebuilding plan for Greenland halibut adopted in 2003, NAFO confirmed the reduction for the TAC in 2006.

Greenland halibut is estimated to be at its lowest level since 1975. Fishing mortality is high and prospects for the rebuilding of this stock in the short term are poor.

Combating fishing by non-NAFO member vessels

NAFO was informed that seven vessels flagged to Dominica had been sighted by Canadian aerial surveillance in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2004 and 2005. Following diplomatic demarches made to Dominica by several NAFO members, Dominica cancelled the registration of seven of the vessels in question.



2006 NAFO Symposium

The Scientific Council is sponsoring a symposium entitled “*Environmental and Ecosystem Histories in the Northwest Atlantic – What Influences Living Marine Resources?*”. This Symposium will take place in conjunction with the NAFO 28th Annual Meeting in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, on 13 to 15 September 2006.

Election of Officers

The following NAFO officers were elected in 2005:

General Council

Chair: David Bevan (Canada)

Vice-Chair: Terje Lobach (Norway)

Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

Chair: Fred Kingston (EU)

Vice-Chair: Frederik Schmidt (Denmark in respect of Faroe Islands & Greenland)

Fisheries Commission

Chair: Vladimir Shibanov (Russian Federation)

Vice-Chair: Kolbeinn Arnason (Iceland)

Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

Chair: Höskuldur Steinarsson (Iceland)

Vice-Chair: Mads Nedergaard (Denmark in respect of Faroe Islands & Greenland)

Scientific Council

Chair: Antonio Vázquez (EU-Spain)

Vice Chair: Konstantin Gorchinsky (Russian Federation)

Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC)

Chair: Konstantin Gorchinsky (Russian Federation)

Standing Committee on Fisheries Science (STACFIS)

Chair: Don Power (Canada)

Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN)

Chair: Eugene Colbourne (Canada)

Standing Committee on Publications (STACPUB)

Chair: Manfred Stein (EU-Germany)

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held during 2005: (1) Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) (Reykjavik, Iceland, 13-15 April) and (2) Scientific Council Regular Meeting (Dartmouth, N.S., Canada, 1-15 June).

NAFO Executive Secretary

23 September 2005, Tallinn, Estonia

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Annex I.A Annual Quota Table

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2006 of particular stocks in Subareas 1-4 of the NAFO Convention Area. The values listed include quantities to be taken both inside and outside the 200-mile fishing zone, where applicable.

Species	Cod			Redfish				American plaice		Yellowtail	Witch	
	3L	3M	3NO	3LN	3M	3O	Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K	3LNO	3M	3LNO	3L	3NO
Canada		0	0	0	500	6000	627 ^{2,4}	0	0	14624 ⁵		0
Cuba		0	-	0	1750		627 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		0	-	-	69		15675 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-
European Union		0 ¹¹	0 ¹¹	0 ¹¹	7813 ¹²	7000	$\frac{15675^{2,3}}{4076^{2,15}}$	0	0 ¹¹	-		0 ¹¹
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-	-	-	69		627 ^{2,4}	-	-	300 ⁵		-
Iceland		-	-	-	-		15675 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-
Japan		-	-	-	400	150	627 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Korea		-	-	-	69	100	627 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Norway		0	-	-	-		15675 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-
Russia		0	0	0	9137	6500	15675 ^{2,3}	-	0	-		0
Ukraine						150	627 ^{2,4}					
United States of America		-	-	-	69		627 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Others		0	0	0	124	100	-	0	0	76 ⁵		0
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	*	* ¹⁶	* ¹⁶	5000 ^{8, 16}	20000 ¹⁶	20378 ^{10,17}	* ¹⁶	*	15000 ⁹	* ¹⁶	*

Species	White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) ¹	Shrimp	
						3L	3NO
Division/Contracting Party	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4		
Canada	2500	0	2250	2056	N.S. ⁶	18325	
Cuba		0		-	510	245	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		238	-	245	
European Union	5000	0 ¹¹	8500	8038 ¹⁸	<u>N.S.</u> ⁶ 611 ¹³	1225 ¹⁴	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		224	453	245	
Iceland		-		-	-	245	
Japan		0		1405	510	245	
Korea		-		-	453	245	
Norway		0		-	-	245	
Russia	500	0	2250	1748	749	245	
Ukraine				-		245	
United States of America		-		-	453	245	
Others	500	-	500	0 ⁷	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	8500 ¹⁶	* ¹⁶	13500 ¹⁶	13709	34000	22000	*

* Ban on fishing in force – The provisions of Article 9, paragraph 3 shall apply.

1. Any quota listed for squid may be increased by a transfer from any “coastal state” as defined in Article 1, paragraph 3 of the NAFO Convention, provided that the TAC for squid is not exceeded. Transfers made to Contracting Parties conducting fisheries for squid in the Regulatory Area shall be reported to the Executive Secretary, and the report shall be made as promptly as possible.
2. The Contracting Parties shall notify the Executive Secretary every second week of catches taken by its vessels from this allocation until accumulated reported catch reaches 50%, after which time weekly notification shall apply. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties the dates on which accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of Contracting Parties estimated equal to 50% and then 100% of that allocation.
3. Quota to be shared by vessels from Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), European Union, Iceland, Norway and Russia. Catches in the NAFO Convention Area shall be deducted from the quotas allocated in the NEAFC Convention Area.
4. Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
5. Contracting Parties shall inform the Executive Secretary before 1 December 2005 of the measures to be taken to ensure that total catches do not exceed the levels indicated.
6. The allocation to these Contracting Parties are as yet undetermined, although their sum shall not exceed the difference between the total of allocations to other Contracting Parties and the TAC (= 29.458 tons).

7. In 2005, the previous 935 t "Others" quota was assigned to three Contracting Parties. When the TAC exceeds 30,000 t the next 1,300 t beyond 30,000 will be allocated to an Others quota which can be accessed by those who do not hold Greenland halibut allocation. In deciding the relevant contributions of Contracting Parties to the 1300 t Others quota, the Fisheries Commission will take into account the fact that some Contracting Parties received a benefit from the 935 t quota which was reassigned in 2005.
8. Each Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary every second week of catches taken by its vessels from this stock until accumulated reported catch reaches 50%, after which time weekly notification shall apply. Not more than 2500 tons may be fished before July 1, 2006. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties of the date on which, for this stock, accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of the Contracting Parties is estimated to equal 50% and then 100% of the TAC.
9. The provisions of Article 9, paragraph 3 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
10. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC for this stock in 2006 as compared to 2005, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted by NAFO and formalized through a mail vote.
11. Including fishing entitlements of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union and in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7).
12. Including allocations of 1571 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania out of a sharing of 20,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
13. Allocations of 128 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as 227 tonnes for Poland out of a TAC of 34,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
14. Including allocations of 245 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of a TAC of 22000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union
15. Allocation of 3637 tonnes for Lithuania and 439 tonnes to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
16. Applicable to 2006, and 2007.
17. The quota shares in footnotes 4 and 15 can only be fished in the NAFO Regulatory Area. If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 10 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share referred to in footnote 4.
18. Including an allocation of 450 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.

Annex I.B
Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2006

CONTRACTING PARTY	NUMBER OF FISHING DAYS	NUMBER OF VESSELS
Canada	456	16
Cuba	100	1
Denmark		
– Faroe Islands	1606	8
– Greenland	515	14
European Union	3293 ¹	33 ¹
France (in respect of St Pierre et Miquelon)	100	1
Iceland	N/A	N/A
Japan	100	1
Korea	100	1
Norway	1985	32
Russia	2100	N/A
Ukraine	100	1
USA	100	1

¹ Including fishing entitlements transferred from Poland (100 fishing days with one vessel), Estonia (1667 fishing days with 8 vessels), Latvia (490 fishing days with 4 vessels) and Lithuania (579 fishing days with 7 vessels) following their accession to the European Union.

Annex I.C

Rebuilding Plan for 3LMNO Greenland Halibut

Species	Greenland halibut	Greenland halibut	Greenland halibut	Greenland halibut
Division/ Contracting Party	3LMNO 2004	3LMNO 2005	3LMNO 2006	3LMNO 2007
Canada	2223	2112	2056	1778
Cuba	-	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	-	244	238	206
European Union	8203	8254 ³	8038 ⁴	6951 ⁵
France (St Pierre et Miquelon)	-	230	224	194
Iceland	-	-	-	-
Japan	1519	1443	1405	1215
Korea	-	-	-	-
Norway	-	-	-	-
Russia	1890	1796	1748	1512
Ukraine	-	-	-	-
United States of America	-	-	-	-
Others	985 ¹	0 ²	0 ²	0 ²
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	14820	14079	13709	11856

¹ Of which no more than 60% may be fished before 1 May in each year.

² In 2005, the previous 935 t "Others" quota was assigned to three Contracting Parties. When the TAC exceeds 30,000 t the next 1,300 t beyond 30,000 will be allocated to an Others quota which can be accessed by those who do not hold Greenland halibut allocation. In deciding the relevant contributions of Contracting Parties to the 1300 t Others quota, the Fisheries Commission will take into account the fact that some Contracting Parties received a benefit from the 935 t quota which was reassigned in 2005.

³ Including an allocation of 461 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.

⁴ Including an allocation of 450 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.

⁵ Including an allocation of 389 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.