



Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



Annual Report 2009

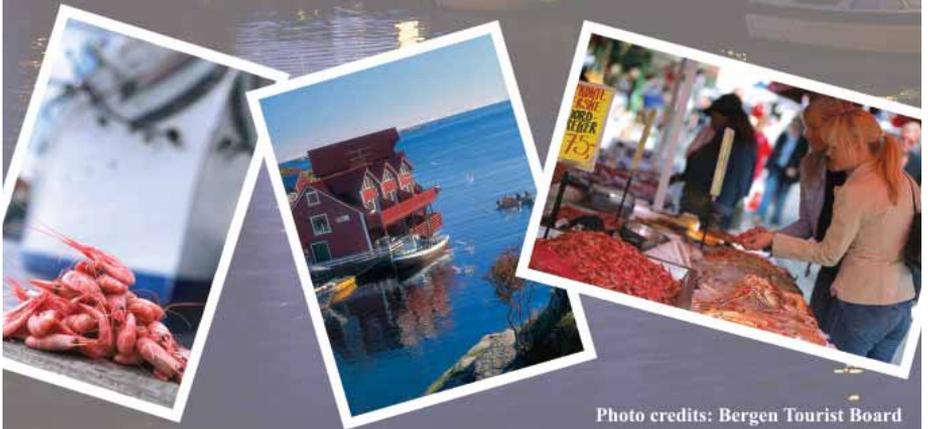


Photo credits: Bergen Tourist Board



You are free to copy and distribute the work and to make derivative works under the following conditions:

Attribution. You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor.

Noncommercial. You may not use this work for commercial purposes.

Any of these conditions can be waived if you get permission from the copyright holder. Your fair dealing and other rights are in no way affected by the above.

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/ca/legalcode.en>

ISSN-0704-4798

Produced and distributed by:

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

2 Morris Drive, Suite 100

P. O. Box 638

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 3Y9

Tel.: +1 (902) 468-5590 ► Fax: +1 (902) 468-5538

E-mail: info@nafo.int ► Website: www.nafo.int

April 2010

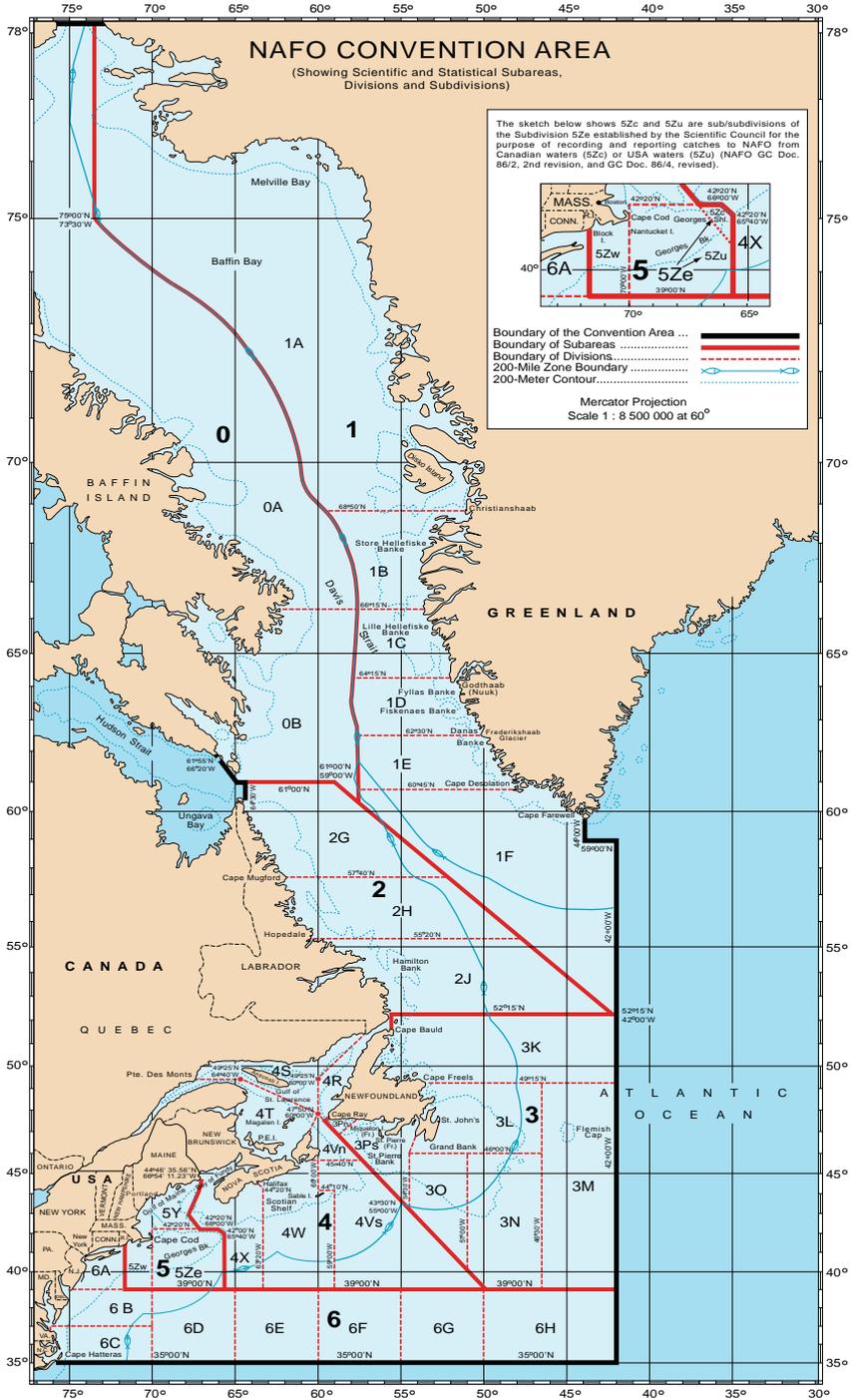


NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Annual Report 2009

This Annual Report summarizes and highlights discussions, decisions and events of NAFO during 2009. It does not replace the detailed NAFO meeting reports (*Scientific Council Report* and *Meeting Proceedings of the General Council and Fisheries Commission*) that are accessible on the NAFO Website.

www.nafo.int



NAFO CONVENTION AREA

(Showing Scientific and Statistical Subareas, Divisions and Subdivisions)

The sketch below shows 5Zc and 5Zu are sub/subdivisions of the Subdivision 5Ze established by the Scientific Council for the purpose of recording and reporting catches to NAFO from Canadian waters (5Zc) or USA waters (5Zu) (NAFO GC Doc. 86/2, 2nd revision, and GC Doc. 86/4, revised).



Boundary of the Convention Area ... **Thick black line**
 Boundary of Subareas **Dotted line**
 Boundary of Divisions **Dashed line**
 200-Mile Zone Boundary **Dotted line with arrows**
 200-Meter Contour **Dotted line**

Mercator Projection
 Scale 1 : 8 500 000 at 60°



CONTENTS

Contracting Parties of NAFO	6
NAFO Officers and Committees	7
Note by the Interim Executive Secretary	8
General Council	9
Performance Review.....	10
NAFO Reform	10
External Affairs	10
Finance and Administration	11
Fisheries Commission	12
New measures adopted by NAFO	12
Closure of eleven areas of significant concentration of corals and sponges	12
Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem Encounter Protocol	12
Elaboration of Exploratory Fishery Protocol.....	12
NAFO Regulatory Area Fishing Footprint.....	13
Fisheries Regulations	13
Enhanced Conservation and Enforcement Measures	13
Quotas and TACs (Quota Table)	14
Fishing Bans Continue.....	14
Compliance Review.....	14
Shrimp management on the Flemish Cap	14
Elections	15
Scientific Council	16
Scientific Assessments.....	16
Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.....	19
Oceanography	19
Merit awards.....	20
Time for change.....	20
Secretariat Activities	22
Staff and Administration	22
Internships	22
Staff Committee	22
Meetings.....	23
Publications.....	24
Information and Public Relations	25
Fishery Management and Science Support.....	26
Co-operation with other Organizations.....	27
NAFO PUBLICATIONS	29

CONTRACTING PARTIES OF NAFO



Canada



Iceland



Cuba



Japan



Denmark (in respect
of the Faroe Islands
and Greenland)
(DFG)



Republic of Korea



Norway



Russian
Federation



European Union



Ukraine



France (in respect of
St. Pierre and Miquelon)



USA

NAFO OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

General Council

Terje Lobach (Norway)	Chair and President
John Spencer (EU)	Vice-Chair

Fisheries Commission

Kate Sanderson (DFG)*	Chair
Vacant	Vice-Chair

Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

Mads Trolle Nedergaard (DFG)	Chair
Gene Martin (USA)	Vice-Chair

Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

Bob Steinbock (Canada)	Chair
Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)	Vice-Chair

Scientific Council

Ricardo Alpoim (EU-Portugal)*	Chair
Carsten Hvingel (Norway)*	Vice-Chair

Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN)

Gary Maillet (Canada)*	Chair
------------------------	-------

Standing Committee on Fisheries Science (STACFIS)

Joanne Morgan (Canada)*	Chair
-------------------------	-------

Standing Committee on Publications (STAC PUB)

Margaret Treble (Canada)*	Chair
---------------------------	-------

Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC)

Carsten Hvingel (Norway)*	Chair
---------------------------	-------

NAFO Secretariat – 2009

George Campanis	Information Technology Manager
Barry Crawford	Senior Publications Manager
Dr. Ricardo Federizon	Fisheries Commission Coordinator
Stan Goodick	Interim Executive Secretary and Senior Finance and Staff Administrator
Cindy Kerr	Fisheries Information Manager
Barbara Marshall	Information Officer
Beverly McLoon	Senior Personal Assistant to the Executive Secretary
Lisa Pelzmann	Office Manager
Dr. Vladimir Shibanov	Executive Secretary
Dr. Anthony Thompson	Scientific Council Coordinator

www.nafo.int

*Newly elected since Annual General Meeting, September 2009

NOTE BY THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

In 2009, the effectiveness of NAFO's long-term stock management plan was clearly evidenced. Two stocks previously under moratoria for more than ten years are now once again open for directed fishing - Atlantic cod on the Flemish Cap (Div. 3M) and Redfish on the Southern Grand Bank (Div. 3LN).



NAFO continued to focus on the long-term sustainability of fisheries and their ecosystem in 2009. The Organization answered the call of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA Resolution 61/105) for regional fisheries management organizations to implement measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs). In particular, NAFO responded by closing an additional eleven areas identified as having significant concentrations of corals and sponges. These closures are further testament to NAFO's unwavering commitment to the "Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management".

NAFO's closed areas now include eleven coral and sponge areas, six seamount areas and a large coral zone in Division 3O. Additional measures to protect VMEs were agreed upon in 2009 including: a new Coral Identification Guide; further development of templates for reporting on exploratory fishing; and a reduction in threshold levels for vessels encountering corals and sponges, in accordance with the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. In 2009, NAFO mapped areas in the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic where bottom fishing has occurred over the past 20 years.

Recognizing the need for the Organization to continue its progress on conserving and managing vulnerable marine ecosystems, several meetings are planned for 2010. NAFO managers and scientists will continue to draw on their collective experience and knowledge to ensure that the NAFO waters offer a healthy and biologically diverse balance of sustainable fishing and pristine habitats, well into the future.

And finally I would like to welcome Dr. Vladimir Shibanov to the NAFO Secretariat as he takes over as Executive Secretary in January 2010. Dr. Shibanov brings with him from his native Russia more than 30 years of practical experience in fisheries science, including 15 years in the international fisheries management process. The NAFO Secretariat staff is looking forward to working with Dr. Shibanov as he begins the next chapter of his career.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stan Goodick".

Stan M. Goodick
Interim Executive Secretary



GENERAL COUNCIL

In 2009, the General Council convened during the Annual Meeting in Bergen, Norway from 21 to 25 September. It was attended by 200 Delegates from all 12 Contracting Parties and by a number of observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and PEW Environment Group.

The NAFO President and GC Chair, Terje Lobach (Norway) introduced Liv Holmefjord, the Norwegian Director General of Fisheries, who made a presentation to all delegates welcoming us to Bergen. The Chair also welcomed all delegates to his home town of Bergen and made an opening statement to the meeting, followed by statements from other Contracting Parties and observers present at the meeting.

A welcoming reception was hosted by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries at Haakons Hall, the largest and most imposing building of the royal residency in the 13th century.



Back row: *Sung-Woo Park (Republic of Korea), David Balfour (Canada), Kenro Iino (Japan), Kate Sanderson (Denmark in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Stéphane Artano (France in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Dean Swanson (USA), Constantin Alexandrou (EU), Vasily Sokolov (Russian Federation), Stan Goodick, (Interim Executive Secretary)*

Front row: *Hrefna Karlsdóttir (Iceland), Sonja Feldthaus (Denmark in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Terje Lobach (President), Sigrun M. Holst, (Norway), Martha Torres Soroa (Cuba), Dina Sharko (Ukraine)*

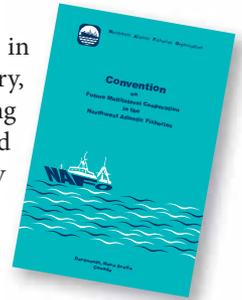
Performance Review

NAFO Contracting Parties have agreed to hold a working group meeting in 2010 to develop terms of reference, assessment criteria and composition of a panel to review the Organization. The Working Group will report to the 2010 Annual Meeting.



NAFO Reform

NAFO adopted important amendments to its Convention in 2007. However it was required by Canada, as the Depositary, that these amendments be translated into French. So, during the 2008 Annual Meeting the French version of the reformed Convention was agreed thus freeing the way for the Depositary of the NAFO Convention (Canada) to initiate the process of ratification.



Before the amended Convention comes into place it must be ratified by three-quarters of NAFO Contracting Parties. Norway was the first to ratify the amended Convention as reported at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Other Contracting Parties are in the process of taking steps to ratify through their own parliaments. In some cases it can be a lengthy procedure due to translations and other issues. Many States hope to have the process completed within the year.

External Affairs

At the Annual Meeting in 2008, it was agreed to appoint NAFO members to serve as observers to (or at) other relevant organizations. It was reported that a representative from Norway attended the annual meeting of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) on behalf of NAFO. Representatives of NAFO will also attend meetings of the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) in 2010.



Finance and Administration

After years of facing cash flow difficulties due to significant levels of outstanding contributions, it was noted that the current financial situation for NAFO has much improved and returned to normal levels. NAFO adopted a budget for 2010 of \$1,782,000.

NAFO adopted a Headquarters Agreement that will be signed between NAFO and Canada which is required upon ratification of the amended NAFO Convention. In addition a working group has been struck to amend the current Rules of Procedure and to address other elements of an administrative nature. New rules are also in place to give accreditation and harmonization to observers to the various constituent bodies. Observers will now be accredited for five years provided certain conditions are met. 



(from left to right)

Back: *Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Douglas Forsyth, Bob Steinbock, Rhonda Hash, Alan Gray, Julius Peedah*

Front: *Hilde Ognedale, Stan Goodick, Bev McLoon, Olga Sedykh*

32nd Annual Meeting

The next Annual Meeting is scheduled for 20 to 24 September 2010 and will be held in the home of the NAFO Secretariat, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

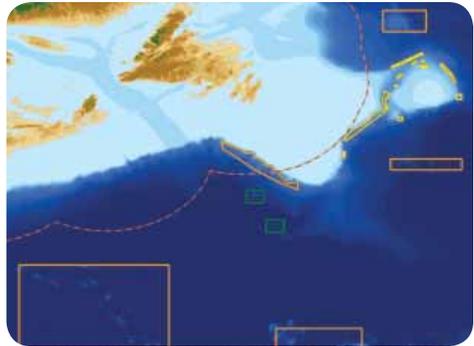


New measures adopted by NAFO

The Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists (chaired by Bill Brodie, Canada) met twice this year – during May in Vigo, Spain, and in September in Bergen, Norway. The following recommendations were adopted at the 2009 Annual Meeting:

Closure of eleven areas of significant concentration of corals and sponges

In 2008 and 2009, the Scientific Council identified the areas of significant coral and sponge concentrations within the NAFO Regulatory Area. The identification of these areas served as the basis of the delineation of the closed areas. Buffer zones were applied around the



locations of significant concentrations of corals and sponges. The buffer zones are considered conservative and precautionary until detailed mapping of these areas and additional research on buffer areas becomes available.

Implementation date of the closure starts on January 1, 2010. The closure of eleven areas (yellow) represents an addition to the list of area closures which already includes a large portion in Division 3O as coral protection zone (orange) and six seamount areas (green).

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem Encounter Protocol

At the 2008 Annual Meeting held in Vigo, an interim encounter provision was established specifying “move-away” protocol for fishing at the existing and new fishing areas, when Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) indicator species are encountered, at a threshold level of 100 kg of live coral and/or 1000 kg of live sponge. At the 2009 Annual Meeting in Bergen, Norway, the threshold was amended to a more precautionary level of 60 kg of live coral and/or 800 kg of live sponge.

Elaboration of Exploratory Fishery Protocol

At the 2008 Annual Meeting in Vigo, Spain, templates for the Exploratory Fishery Protocol for New Fishing Areas were developed. At the 2009 Annual Meeting, the template Data Collection Plan was elaborated, specifying the data collection requirements of research and fishing vessels. The new NAFO Coral identification Guide will be used in identifying corals.

NAFO Regulatory Area Fishing Footprint

NAFO continued to map areas in the NRA where bottom fishing has historically occurred. This “footprint” distinguishes between existing and new fishing areas. An encounter protocol will apply and Contracting Parties will complete assessment of their fisheries for known or anticipated impacts on VMEs. This footprint was reviewed by NAFO. The footprint will continue to be revised as additional information is received.



Participants of the Intersessional STACTIC meeting in May 2009 in St. Pierre et Miquelon

Fisheries Regulations

All NAFO measures are compiled in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) which are updated every year. These measures are very comprehensive and contain conservation measures such as TACs, closed areas, minimum fish and mesh sizes, etc., as well as control, monitoring and surveillance measures such as licenses, product labeling, recording and reporting of catches, Vessel Monitoring System, observers, inspections, etc.

The abundance of some straddling stocks of American plaice, redfish and cod is showing improvement. Others, such as yellowtail flounder are already in relatively good condition. This is good news and encourages NAFO to continue with strengthening its management regime in the Northwest Atlantic.

Enhanced Conservation and Enforcement Measures

- New requirements for weekly reporting of catch, for all types of fisheries in the NRA, through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).
- Additional requirements on VMS reporting: a) 1-hr interval position reports, b) Course as a required field, c) Speed as a required field.

Quotas and TACs (Quota Table)

Re-opened Fisheries	Cod Div. 3M	Redfish Div. 3LN
TAC (metric tons)	5,500	3,500

TACs 2010	Redfish Div. 3M	Redfish Div.3O	Redfish Div. 1F+ 2J+3K	Yel- lowtail Div. 3LNO	White hake Div. 3NO	Skates Div. 3LNO	G. hali- but Div. 3LM- NO	Squid SA 3+ 4	Shrimp Div.3L
(metric tons)	10,000	20,000	12,516	17,000	6,000	12,000	11,856	34,000	30,000

Fishing Bans Continue

- American plaice in Divisions 3LNO, 3M
- Capelin in Divisions 3NO
- Cod in Divisions 3L, 3NO
- Shrimp in Divisions 3NO
- Witch flounder in Divisions 3L, 3NO



Compliance Review

The annual compliance review was first undertaken in 2004 and since then its format continues to evolve as control requirements and fishing regulations are updated. Last year, NAFO introduced stricter Port Control Measures to deter IUU (illegal, unregulated and unreported) fishing activities and to monitor more effectively the catches of the NAFO registered vessels.

A trend of decreased fishing was observed. The current level of fishing effort has declined to about one third of the 2004 level. A considerable improvement in the compliance to catch reporting requirements through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) has been observed.

At-sea inspections continued to be conducted mainly by Canada and the EU. In 2008, there were 263 at-sea inspections conducted and 133 port landing inspections (required on all fishing vessels). Rates citation of apparent infringement rates were at 2% at both at-sea and port inspections.

Shrimp management on the Flemish Cap

A special meeting of the Fisheries Commission was held after the Annual Meeting to decide on management measures for the shrimp stock on the Flemish Cap. New information from the Scientific Council revealed that the stock is now in the collapse zone as defined by the Precautionary Approach Framework. As an interim measure



for 2010 the amount of fishing days allocated will be reduced by 50%. The stock will be reviewed again next year and additional measures will be taken if required.



Elections

Kate Sanderson (DFG) was elected as the new Chair of Fisheries Commission at the 2009 Annual Meeting, replacing Dr. Vladimir Shibarov who accepted the post of Executive Secretary to NAFO. 

*Kate Sanderson (Denmark in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)
– Fisheries Commission Chair*



*EU representative presents
OMEGA mesh gauge device at
the NAFO Annual Meeting.*



SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

The NAFO Scientific Council (Chair: Don Power (Canada)) and its standing committees met in June in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada and in September in Bergen, Norway. The final meeting of Scientific Council (Chair: Ricardo Alpoim (EU-Portugal)) was at the Secretariat Headquarters in Dartmouth, with participation coming from the NAFO/ICES Pandalus Assessment Group (NIPAG).

The NAFO Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (WGAEFM) met through correspondence to discuss issues relating to sponges and coral as components of vulnerable marine ecosystems, and they built on work undertaken earlier in the year by the NAFO/ICES Working Group on Deepwater Ecology (WGDEC). This year's Greenland Halibut Assessment was supported by the ad hoc Working Group on Assessment Methods for SA2+Div. 3KLMNO Greenland Halibut.



Left to right: *Anthony Thompson, Don Power, Stan Goodick, Michael Kingsley*

There was no meeting of the NAFO Working Group on Reproductive Potential in 2009. It was nice to see that a poster entitled “Mortality and development during early life phases of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) in relation to paternity and water temperature” co-authored by the Chair of this working group received the Best Poster Merit award at the ICES Annual Science Conference in Berlin this year.

NAFO did not hold its own special session symposium this year, but was co-sponsor of the ICES-UNCOVER symposium on “Rebuilding Depleted Fish Stocks” where NAFO was represented on the steering committee by Dr. Fred Serchuk (USA).

Scientific Assessments

NAFO Scientific Council fully assessed the status of nine finfish and two shrimp stocks this year, and reviewed the status of a further six finfish stocks and the same two shrimp stocks, whole or partially within the NRA. A further eight stocks were reviewed for Coastal States. Below is a very approximate summary of the status of



the exploited stocks within the NRA, based on a classification developed jointly with FIRMS. Such classifications are rather static and give no indication of short or long term historical trends or predictions. Those stocks not highlighted are currently exploited by an active fishery, whereas those in red are currently closed to directed fishing. As expected, most stocks have shown little change in abundance during recent years, are at intermediate or small stock sizes, and support an active fishery. Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO is at the highest levels seen in 40 years, and with moderate fishing mortality and a recruitment level that is just below average, the prospects for this stock remain good. Stocks of Divisions 3LN redfish and Division 3M cod have increased and this led to a recommendation for re-opening these species to directed fishing.



Greenland Halibut Assessment Method Working Group - May 2009

The status of Greenland Halibut in the NRA and along the shelf of the Grand Bank was discussed at length. This is an important commercial stock that always provides a challenge to the assessment biologists. There was evidence of immigration of larger older fish to the fishing grounds, perhaps from deeper waters beyond the normal survey depths. Further the commercial cpue has been reasonable, which is at variance to research survey results and known to be an unreliable indicator of trends in stock size. This year's autumn research survey had reduced coverage and could not be used to tune recent years for the stock size analysis.

A 3-day workshop held immediately prior to the assessment meeting examined a range of methods including new and potentially powerful techniques, but mainly for reasons of consistency and reliability, the assessment was based on last years model fit with updated catch estimates. The recent poor recruitment and a high but decreasing fishing mortality has not helped to rebuild the stock with the hope that these trends will dramatically reverse and the 2015 rebuilding target of 140 000 t will be achieved.

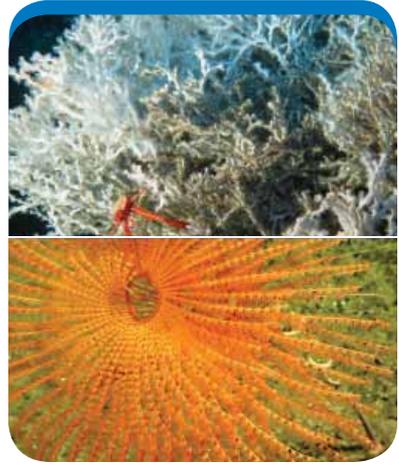
Stock Size (incl. structure)	Fishing Mortality			
	None–Low	Moderate	High	Unknown
Virgin–Large		3LNO Yellow-tail flounder		
Intermediate	3M Redfish 3LN Redfish	3LNO Northern shrimp		
Small	3M Cod SA3+4 Northern shortfin squid 3M Northern shrimp		SA2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut	3NOPs White hake 3LNOPs Thorny skate
Depleted	3M American plaice 3LNO American plaice 2J3KL Witch flounder		3NO Cod	SA1 Redfish 3NO Witch flounder
Unknown	SA2+3 Roughhead grenadier 3NO Capelin			3O Redfish SA2+3 Roundnose grenadier

The timing of the assessment of shrimp has never been ideal for Scientific Council. An accurate assessment is highly dependent on survey results from the previous year. For the reason, the assessment occurs at the end of the year (October–November), and is too late for consideration by Fisheries Commission during the September Annual meeting. The solution to this is to advise on the stock status for the year after next and to undertake an interim update assessment at the Annual Meeting. This worked well in the past when shrimp stocks were increasing, but caused great concern this year when the stocks are in decline. The interim update assessment of the 2010 advice undertaken by Scientific Council at the September 2009 Annual Meeting, from advice prepared in the 2008 October full assessment, was over-optimistic especially for the Flemish Cap Div. 3M stock. This interim update put stocks below the biomass limit reference point, and with no signs of good recruitment in the next few years, this led Scientific Council to recommend that fishing on this stock be reduced to the lowest possible levels. For economic reasons, this stock has not been heavily fished in recent years, so why the decline? Two likely causes are variable and extreme climatic conditions in recent years, and increased predation from the recovering cod stocks in the area.



Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

Identifying priority areas for protection is part of the international strategy, supported by UN General Assembly resolutions, for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation. This is approached from two opposing angles. There is the identification of areas currently fished with bottom contact gears, and the consequent identification of areas currently unfished. And there is the identification of areas containing structures, mainly certain species of corals and sponges, that would be susceptible to damage by bottom contact fishing gears, and in particular by mobile gears such as trawls.



The NAFO Secretariat undertook an analysis of areas fished over the past 20 years, following the criteria specified by Fisheries Commission, and submitted this map for review by Scientific Council in June. This was approved and the map later adopted by Fisheries Commission to identify fished and unfished areas by bottom contact gears within the NRA. This was a critical milestone this year in the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, as it allows for the application of encounter provisions and impact assessments.

The other milestone was the detailed identification of areas containing sponges, that has built on last year's work on the identification of coral areas. This has allowed NAFO to close a total of 17 areas in 2010 to bottom fishing in order to protect benthic habitats and protect the long term future of the fishery.

Oceanography

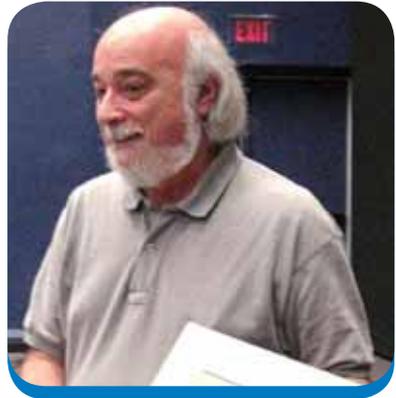
The complex current circulation in and the seasonal effects make the Northwest Atlantic difficult to provide meaningful summaries of environmental changes. In general, waters around the Labrador Sea, Grand Banks and Flemish Cap are continuing to show warmer than average temperatures. The area of the Cold Intermediate Layer (CIL, $<0^{\circ}\text{C}$) over the Grand Bank is down and the number of winter icebergs in the northern Grand Banks is well up at over 900 recorded in 2007. Not all measurement series indicate above



average temperatures. The central Labrador Sea had the coldest winter surface air temperatures for 16 years. Further information is available on the Ocean Climate Summary pages.

Merit awards

NAFO Scientific Council (SC) has been fortunate in having some very dedicated and long-serving members. The first Scientific Council Merit Award was presented to Ralph Mayo (USA). As a relative newcomer to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), and with just three years involvement with Scientific Council under my belt, I have only seen Ralph's contributions at a few meetings.



Ralph Mayo

Ralph strikes me as being quiet, happy and wise, with an influence that is larger-than-life. He sits, he listens, and then he talks in clear concise sentences that make me think

“Thank you Ralph - that helps”. I knew a little about ICNAF and NAFO back in the 1970s/1980s when the organization was very much leading the world in Fisheries, and Ralph was there. Now, thirty years on, there are many organizations that influence world fisheries and Ralph has contributed to that as well.

Ralph's last meeting was a tough one. Lots of talk about Greenland halibut (very much the typical assessment kind of thing that Ralph knows so well) and lots of talk about vulnerable marine ecosystems and habitat protection (a new and exciting area of fisheries and ecosystem management that Ralph also knows and understands well!). Always a wise word, and always said with enthusiasm. We at NAFO's Scientific Council have good people that will take Ralph's place, but it won't be quite the same. So, I feel that it was great that Ralph was the first recipient of the award, and he has set a high standard by which future awards will be judged and given.

Time for change

The Chairs of Scientific Council and the standing committees are elected for two year terms, and 2009 was an election year. There were a lot of changes this year. The Vice-Chair, Ricardo Alpoim from Portugal, was nominated as Chair of Scientific Council and was delighted to accept this “promotion”. We very much welcome Carsten Hvingel from Norway who is relatively new to NAFO though an established ICES player, as the Chair of STACREC and Vice-Chair of Scientific Council. We also welcome back Joanne Morgan from Canada, a former Scientific Council Chair but wearing a new hat this year as the STACFIS Chair. Gary Maillet (Canada) has agreed to return to the STACFEN Chair after a one-year “time-out” in



Hawaii working on a large coordinated oceanographic project. Margaret Treble (Canada) is the new STACPUB Chair and replaces one of NAFO's most distinguished oceanographic scientists, Manfred Stein.

Lastly we say, with a very big thank-you, goodbye to our outgoing Scientific Council Chair Don Power from Canada. Don has been pivotal in developing the ecosystem approach to fisheries and its integration with stock assessment. He has provided solid guidance and has made positive suggestions on structural changes that will allow the increasing work loads to be completed within the ever decreasing amount of time available.



*Don Power and
Antonio Vázquez*

 *Anthony Thompson, Scientific Coordinator*



Scientific Council at Annual Meeting in Bergen, Norway

Back Row: Ellen Kenchington, Ilya Skryabin, Vladimir Babayan, Toomas Saat, Silver Sirp, Antonio Avila de Melo, Enrique de Cardenas, Antonio Vázquez, Bill Brodie, Estelle Couture, Anthony Thompson

Front Row: Ricardo Alpoim, Don Power, Michael Kingsley





SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

2009 saw a major change in the NAFO Secretariat. Dr. Johanne Fischer accepted a position with FAO in Rome, Italy leaving the Executive Secretary position unexpectedly vacant. Stan Goodick, Senior Finance Officer, stepped in as Interim Executive Secretary. Interviews were conducted at the 2009 NAFO Annual Meeting in Bergen, Norway and we look forward to welcoming Dr. Vladimir Shibanov to the Secretariat in 2010. Dr. Vladimir Shibanov was most recently the Chair of the Fisheries Commission and has also been a member of the Scientific Council.



Johanne Fischer

Staff and Administration

The teamwork approach continued to allow the NAFO Secretariat the flexibility to carry out its work effectively, especially during the transition time between Executive Secretaries.

Natalia Alonso also accepted a position elsewhere. Natalia was responsible for digitizing fisheries reports.

The Staff Representative Barry Crawford continued to represent staff during the first part of the year. When the elections were held George Campanis (assisted by Barbara Marshall) took over the duties.

Internships

In a move to digitize historical document holdings, a pilot project was started to begin the process. Colin Hebb was employed for 200 hours to begin scanning some of the paper documents held in the NAFO archives. NAFO houses all paper publications of NAFO and ICNAF and there are many, many filing cabinets full of valuable information.

Digitized documents will eventually be placed on the NAFO website and users will be able to search and access the information with a click of a button.

Staff Committee

The NAFO Staff Committee 2010 is once again composed of Bill Brodie (Canada), Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) and Bob Steinbock (Canada), who were re-nominated by NAFO staff and appointed by General Council. The Committee provides advice and mediation in the event that a conflict within the Secretariat cannot be solved internally.





*Lisa Pelzmann,
Office Manager*

Meetings

The main conference room at the Secretariat continues to be available for smaller meetings. In addition to routine staff meetings, the SC Greenland Halibut Assessment Methods Working Group and the Scientific Council and joint NAFO/ICES shrimp assessment meetings were held there. In addition, the room has been made available to local groups requiring meeting space and a working group from BIO (Bedford Institute of Oceanography) used the space.

The Secretariat staff is also involved organizing meetings held away from headquarters. Much work continues to be put into the smooth running of the Scientific Council June meeting and the Annual Meeting in conjunction with hosts and outside venues. As well, other groups of NAFO are held in various places around the world. This year we travelled to Spain, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Norway and England.



(from left to right)

Back: *Barry Crawford, George Campanis, Barb Marshall, Anthony Thompson*
Front: *Lisa Pelzmann, Ricardo Federizon, Bev McLoon, Stan Goodick, Cindy Kerr*



(from left to right)

Meeting in Bergen, Norway, St. Pierre et Miquelon, Conference Room at NAFO Secretariat.

Date	Title	Venue
19 - 20 Mar	WG of Fishery Managers and Scientists on VMEs	Vigo, Spain
5 - 7 May	STACTIC	Saint Pierre, St. Pierre et Miquelon
1 - 3 Jun	WG on Greenland Halibut Assessment Methods	Dartmouth, NS, Canada
4 - 18 Jun	Scientific Council	Dartmouth, NS, Canada
17 - 18 Sep	WG of Fishery Managers and Scientists on VMEs	Bergen, Norway
21 - 25 Sep	Annual Meeting	Bergen, Norway
21 - 29 Oct	Scientific Council / NIPAG Shrimp	Dartmouth, NS, Canada
3 - 6 Nov	Symposium on Rebuilding Depleted Fish Stocks - Biology, Ecology, Social Science and management Strategies	Warnemünde, Germany
16 Nov	Fisheries Commission Intersessional	London, UK

Publications

In 2009 the Publications Team focused on the further reduction of paper production of current and future publications. These efforts will hopefully reduce publication costs and enforce the NAFO Secretariat's ongoing concern for the environment. Some of the steps taken this year were:

- A concerted effort in reducing mailing lists by advertisement of our digital and web based publications;
- The initiation of digitization of archived documentation that is presently only available in a hardcopy format;
- The promotion of the Meeting Documentation CD which contains the rules of procedure, CEM, reports, proceedings, and documentation for the current and some previous years. This step is hoped to significantly reduce the number of copies of the Meeting Proceedings produced for the Annual Meetings.
- Continued production of scientific articles on the web in html or pdf versions.



Barry Crawford, Senior Publications Manager

The Publications Team was also busy with the preparation of three volumes of the Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science (Volumes 40, 41, and 42). Volume 41 was published in April, Volume 40 was published in December, and Volume 42 will be finalized in 2010.





The NAFO Secretariat also published a full color Coral Identification Guide. This pictorial ID guide is published on water proof stock to ensure its sustainability on board fishing and research vessels.

The Secretariat continued its efforts to update the ASFA (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts) database and is currently linking all DOIs in the PDFs of the Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science (JNAFS), past and present.

The NAFO Secretariat prepared, posted to the web and/or printed the following publications:

- **NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures** (160 pages)
- **Annual Report for 2008** (booklet – 31 pages)
- **NAFO Meeting Proceedings for 2008/2009** (246 pages)
- **Scientific Council Reports for 2008** (328 pages)
- **Coral Identification Guide** (35 pages)
- **NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 40** (103 pages)
- **NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 41** (240 pages)
- **NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 42** (partial – 6 articles uploaded)
- **NAFO Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations 2009** (36 pages)
- **NAFO Perspectives** (20 pages)

Information and Public Relations

In addition to serving the requirements of Contracting Parties, the Secretariat also continued to provide general information about NAFO to the public with the use of its website. The website continues to attract viewers on many topics including the IUU list, fishery statistics, the media kit as well as those wishing to read the latest Conservation and Enforcement Measures and access NAFO stock information.

The Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science (JNAFS) website <http://journal.nafo.int/> continues to flourish with articles being published as they are completed. The Secretariat is looking at improving the search ability of JNAFS articles.

As well, historic meeting documents are being digitized and uploaded as time permits and this will allow greater accessibility to all NAFO documentation.

In July of 2009 the Secretariat was pleased to welcome Aureliano Gentile, a staff member of the FIES department at FAO, for a week long (20–24 July 2009) training

seminar on XML and FIRMS. Two staff members from IATTC also attended the training. The Secretariat gained much from the training, in particular: the training has enriched the Secretariat's appreciation and understanding of the workflow, infrastructure and methodology of FIRMS. Furthermore, the training on XML has helped the Secretariat gain a better understanding of how to use XML when publishing documents to web and print.

This year a booklet was created in conjunction with a professional copywriter. NAFO Perspectives gives an introduction to NAFO and its recent developments. It contains a selection of summarized descriptions of NAFO's history, scope, structure, decision-making and activities. More comprehensive information is available on our website.

Fishery Management and Science Support

In order to respond to UN calls, NAFO officially mapped areas in the NAFO Regulatory Area where bottom fishing has historically occurred. This "footprint" distinguishes between existing and new fishing areas. An encounter protocol will apply and Contracting Parties will complete assessments of their bottom fisheries for known or anticipated impacts on VMEs. The maps were created by the Secretariat's IT team, using data submitted by Contracting Parties.

Other visual GIS based analysis of fishing effort in the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic was also prepared again this year and the Scientific Council encouraged the Secretariat to continue with this work.

The Fisheries Monitoring team, while continuing to monitor and manage fishery information from the NAFO Regulatory Area, is now also responsible for managing the information from the new Port State Control measures. The four basic principles of these measures are:

- prior notification
- confirmation from the Flag state
- authorization to land or transship
- transparency

The flow of information between the vessels, contact points and the Secretariat is functioning well. A similar system in NEAFC and NAFO simplifies the operations for each Contracting Party.



*George Campanis, IT Manager
and Anthony Thompson, Scientific
Council Coordinator*



*Ricardo Federizon,
Fisheries Commission Coordinator*



Co-operation with other Organizations

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Executive Secretary attended the following external activities: Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Second Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN-2), and Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

Other members of the Secretariat attended the following:

- In January, Scientific Council Coordinator (Dr. Anthony Thompson) attended the ICES Roundfish Benchmark Workshop 16-23 January 2009.
- The Information Officer (Barbara Marshall) attended the FSRS (Fishermen and Scientists Research Society) Annual Meeting in 2009. Barbara also presented NAFO to the Marine Affairs Program in order for students to better understand NAFO and perhaps seek internship opportunities here.
- The Fisheries Commission Coordinator (Dr. Ricardo Federizon) served as a panel member in round table discussions of the IOI (International Ocean Institute) Ocean Governance Training Program at Dalhousie University in Halifax.
- The Finance and Administration Officer (Stan Goodick) attended the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 16-17 April 2009. This group maintains the pension plan that NAFO Secretariat employees, along with other members of International Fisheries Commissions in North America, belong to.
- The Fisheries Information Manager (Cindy Kerr) attended the 2009 meeting of the Advisory Group for Data Communications (AGDC of NEAFC).



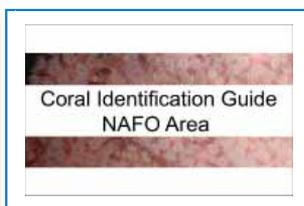
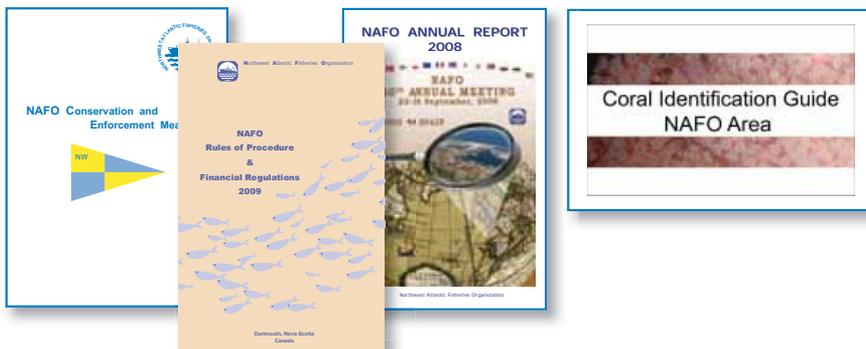
Cindy Kerr, Fisheries Information Manager, Takahisa Tanabe (Japan) and Bev McLoon, Senior Personal Assistant to the Executive Secretary.

- The first D4Science World User Meeting was held in Rome (FAO Headquarters), in November 2009 and was attended by Dr. Ricardo Federizon on behalf of the NAFO Secretariat. D4Science is an EU funded project that combines the skills and knowledge of several agencies (European Space Agency, FAO, ICES, NAFO, NEAFC, WorldFish Center, amongst others). The primary aim of the project is to address the growing needs of inter-agency networking to enable consolidated data management and information exchange.

The Secretariat continues to maintain good relations with our neighbours in Halifax, the Russian Fishery Representative, Temur Tairov, and the representative of the Japanese Fishing Association, Takahisa Tanabe. Unfortunately in the new year the Japanese office in Halifax will be officially closing and the Secretariat will miss the close cooperation enjoyed in the past. 



NAFO PUBLICATIONS



Many NAFO publications are now available FREE online at www.nafo.int. The Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science is available FREE online at journal.nafo.int

Publications are available for sale through the NAFO Secretariat. An updated price list can be requested via:

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
2 Morris Drive, Suite 100, P.O. Box 638
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 3Y9
CANADA

Phone: +1 902 468-5590

Fax: +1 902 468-5538

Email: info@nafo.int

