



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Executive Secretary 2
- Financial Status Update..... 4
- Fisheries 5
- Science..... 8
- NAFO Meetings 2012..... 10
- External Meetings 10
- Secretariat Activities 12
- Internships 13
- Publications..... 14
- NAFO Website 14
- Annual Meeting Highlights 15



Aiming at **Conservational Management of Fisheries and Ecosystems** in the Northwest Atlantic



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**NORTHWEST ATLANTIC
FISHERIES ORGANIZATION**

Annual Report 2012

This Annual Report summarizes and highlights discussions, decisions and events of NAFO during 2012. It does not replace the detailed NAFO meeting reports (*Scientific Council Reports and Meeting Proceedings of the General Council and Fisheries Commission*) that are accessible on the NAFO Website.

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March 2013



**EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY** Vladimir Shibanov

NAFO continues to be a thoroughly modern RFMO. The efforts continue to ensure the international cooperation in the Convention Area and to maintain the compatibility of conservation and management measures between the coastal states and the international areas. NAFO Contracting Parties continue to ratify the amended Convention and several CPs reported they are close to completing to process within their own governments.

The process of reforming itself continues as NAFO incorporates recommendations from the 2011 Independent Performance Review Panel in the way it conducts its business. A substantial number of recommendations have been implemented and others are under the process of research and implementation by NAFO subsidiary bodies.

Although still much lower than historic levels, the number of vessels fishing and actual fishing effort in the NAFO Regulatory Area increased over 2011.

NAFO continues to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems by reducing the catch of coral and sponge needed to trigger “move on” rules, introducing catch thresholds for sea pens, a long, frond-like type of soft coral; and expanded the list of VME indicator species and elements in line with FAO international guidelines.

While half of the NAFO managed species are still under moratoria, the new approach of implementation, Conservation Plans

and Rebuilding Strategies continue to be developed. Relationships between stocks occupying the same areas are being investigated.

An independent peer-review of the way catches are estimated in stock assessment processes was initiated. Work will continue into the reasons for discrepancies between official catch figures and scientific estimates.

NAFO Secretariat Staff Members continue to be active in the international scene and provide good service to the Organization. NAFO fishery managers and scientists develop better cooperation and communication are developing by meeting together through-out the year. In total NAFO conducted its business during 15 meetings throughout the year.

The 34th Annual Meeting of NAFO was held successfully in my home country, in St. Petersburg, Russia.



CONTRACTING PARTIES OF NAFO



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STACFIS Chair
Jean-Claude Mahé
(EU)



STACFEN Chair
Gary Maillet
(Canada)



STACPUB Chair
Margaret Treble
(Canada)

Membership – remains unchanged

The Contracting Parties of NAFO (12) constitute the following membership to the NAFO three main bodies:

General Council (12)

*Canada
*Cuba
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG)
*European Union (EU)
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon) (SPM)
Iceland
Japan
Republic of Korea
*Norway
*Russian Federation
Ukraine
United States of America (USA)

Scientific Council (12)

Canada
Cuba
Faroe Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG)
European Union (EU)
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon) (SPM)
Iceland
Japan
Republic of Korea
Norway
Russian Federation
Ukraine
United States of America (USA)

Fisheries Commission (12)

Canada
Cuba
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG)
European Union (EU)
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon) (SPM)
Iceland
Japan
Republic of Korea
Norway
Russian Federation
Ukraine
United States of America (USA)

*Five NAFO Contracting Parties have now ratified the amended NAFO Convention and others were strongly encouraged to continue their efforts to do so in their respective governments.

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FINANCIAL STATUS UPDATE

The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) oversees the budget and administrative matters of the Secretariat. At the 2012 Annual Meeting in St. Petersburg, Fred Kingston was elected to serve as interim Chair to lead the committee during its deliberations.

In the area of human resources, the committee had to consider the increasing number of requests made to the Secretariat for data analysis and the need to update the current Secretariat HR structure for database management and analysis. The committee formally recommended the adoption of adding a new position of Data Manager within the NAFO Secretariat. However, as the financial implications of adding a new staff member have a significant impact on the budget, the hiring of the Data Manager was delayed until mid-April 2013.

The committee also discussed the fact that there are no provisions in the NAFO Financial Regulations that allow NAFO to receive and disperse funding for scientific research projects which fall within the objectives of the Organization. The Secretariat was requested to establish the necessary framework in order to manage such a fund and to put forward the appropriate amendments to the financial regulations.

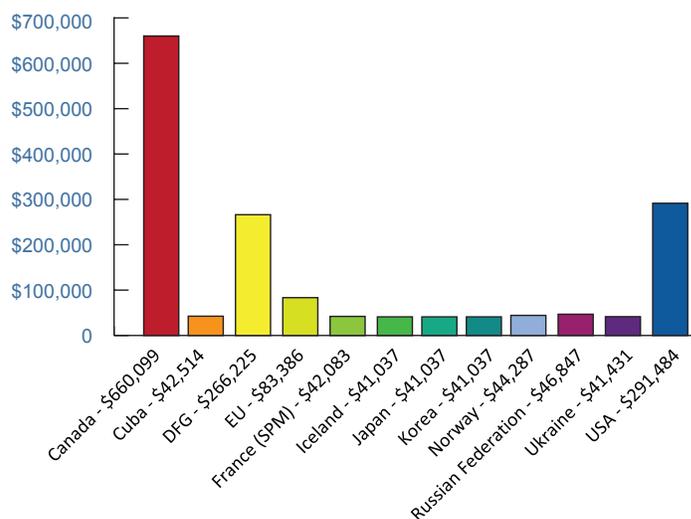
STACFAD was pleased to report that the overall financial affairs of the Organization are in sound shape with only one small partial contribution being outstanding from its members. After a considerable review and being mindful of the current global economic circumstances and financial constraints within many of NAFO's Contracting Parties, the committee put forward a budget proposal for the 2013 fiscal year of \$1.89 million. This represented an increase of only 0.8% over the 2012 approved budget.

In 2012 the operating budget was set at \$1.875 million of which \$1.64 million was financed through contributions received from its Contracting Parties. The NAFO Convention (Article XVI.3) establishes a three part cost sharing formula, including a proportion based on the nominal catches in the Convention Area.

2012 Budget - \$1,875,000



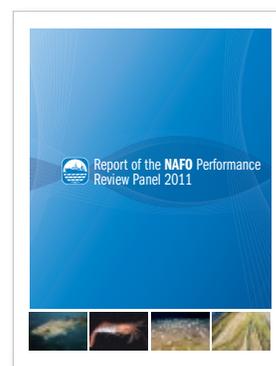
2012 Membership Contributions



4

Follow-up to Performance Assessment

NAFO has continued the process of reforming itself following the 2011 Performance Assessment Report. Following a working group session in March 2012 which looked into the best way forward, the General Council of NAFO adopted its plans, particularly endorsing those which enable closer working relationships between scientists and managers and ensuring best data and science are available. Consequently, a number of working groups on conservation and rebuilding of fish stocks, management strategies, and vulnerable marine ecosystems, which were previously held under the auspices of the Fisheries Commission, will become joint working groups of the Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission.



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Fishery Trends

NAFO identifies three main fisheries in its Regulatory Area: the groundfish (GRO – primary in Div. 3KLMNO), shrimp (PRA – primary in Div. 3LM) and pelagic redfish fisheries (REB – primarily in Div. 1F and 2J).

In 2012, there were 57 fishing vessels spending a total of 5 510 days in the NAFO Regulatory Area (Table 1). 161 trips were identified. Groundfish fishery accounted for 91.6% of the total fishing effort, shrimp for around 4.5%, and the pelagic redfish fishery for around 3.8% (Fig.1).

Although there was a decrease of about a third of the total number of days of the shrimp fishing effort in 2012 compared to the previous year, an overall 4% increase of the total fishing effort was observed (Table 1). The net increase could be attributed largely to the pelagic redfish fishery in 2012. Shrimp fishing effort has continued its decline since the 3M shrimp moratorium in 2010. The groundfish fishery effort increased at a modest 2.6%, and has remained at the 2006-2007 level (Fig. 2).

For the period 2004-2012, the overall fishing activities in the NRA show a declining trend, from 134 active vessels in 2004 to 57 in 2012, representing a 58% decrease (Fig. 2). The decline is even more pronounced in terms of overall fishing days, with a 67% decrease for the same period from 16 480 days in 2004 to 5 510 days in 2012. The average number of days each vessel operates in the NAFO also declined from 123 days in 2004 to 97 days in 2012.

Fig. 2 illustrates the changes described above for each of the major fisheries. The general decline since 2004 is observed for the three fisheries, with pelagic redfish fishery being close to disappearance in 2009 and resurging in 2012. NAFO fisheries remain dominated by the groundfish category.

Compliance

The Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme is implemented to ensure compliance of NAFO-registered fishing vessels in

Percentage fishing effort in NRA 2012



Fig. 1. Percentage fishing effort (Days present) distribution in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

the NRA. Inspectors are appointed by Contracting Parties and assigned to fishery patrol vessels task to carry out inspection duties at sea. In 2012, 193 boardings were conducted. Seven fishing vessels were cited by at-sea inspectors with Apparent Infringement (AI). Six of the seven AIs issued to the different vessels were minor in nature concerning product labelling and capacity plans. One serious AI was issued involving mis-recording of catches. However, at the subsequent port inspection the serious AI detected at sea was not confirmed.

The Port State Control measures require a 100% coverage of port inspection of fishing vessels landing species under a recovery plan, e.g. Greenland halibut. 89 port inspections were conducted by the Port States. Of the eight incidents AIs that were detected on four vessels during port inspections, one AI concerning port inspection protocol was considered serious. A case against this vessel was initiated by the Contracting Party concerned.

Table 1. 2011–2012 Comparison of Fishing Effort in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

Number of fishing vessels					Fishing effort (days present)				
Year	Groundfish (GRO)	Shrimp (PRA)	Pelagic Redfish (REB)	TOTAL	Year	Groundfish (GRO)	Shrimp (PRA)	Pelagic Redfish (REB)	TOTAL
2011	47	8	2	56	2011	4 922	360	18	5 300
2012	44	5	8	57	2012	5 050	250	210	5 510
% change	-6.4%	-37.5%	300.0%	1.8%	% change	2.6%	-30.6%	1066.7%	4.0%

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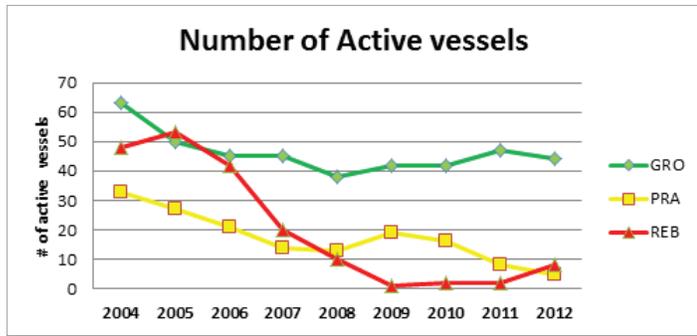
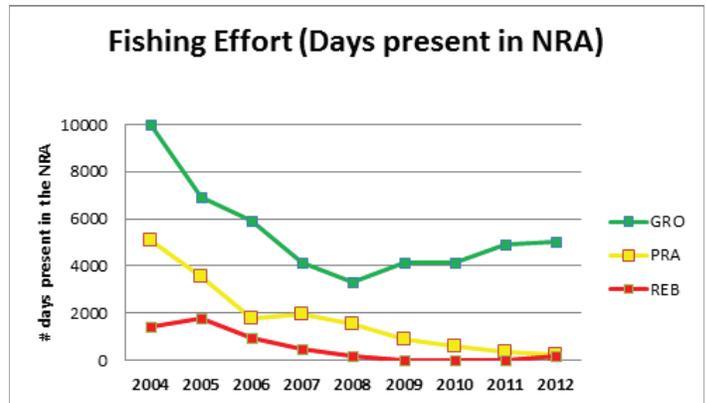


Fig. 2. The trend of fishing effort (number of fishing vessels and number of days) in the NAFO Regulatory Area in the period 2004–2012.



Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

NAFO manages 18 fish stocks through TAC (Total Allowable Catch) measures and one stock (shrimp in 3M) through a fishing effort allocation scheme.

Table 2 presents the TAC for 2013 in comparison with 2012. TAC for 2013 of four fish stocks were reduced. These are white hake, skates, Greenland halibut and shrimp in 3LNO. TAC for two stocks — 3M Cod and 3LN Refish — were increased for 2013.

Incidentally these two stocks were re-opened for fishing in 2010 after a decade of fishing moratoria.

The number of stocks under fishing moratorium remains the same. Shrimp at 3L and 3NO are considered as one stock, and thus the “no fishing” regulation for shrimp in 3NO is considered as an area closure rather than a moratorium. Shrimp in 3M, although not listed in the Quota Table, is also under moratorium.

TAC table for 2012 and 2013

6

2012

Species	Cod			Redfish				American plaice		Yellowtail
Division	3L	3M	3NO	3LN	3M	3O	Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K	3LNO	3M	3LNO
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	9 280	*	6 000	6 500	20 000	0	*	*	17 000

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex)	Shrimp	
Division	3L	3NO	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	*	5 000	*	8 500	12 098	34 000	12 000	*

2013

Species	Cod			Redfish				American plaice		Yellowtail
Division	3L	3M	3NO	3LN	3M	3O	Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K	3LNO	3M	3LNO
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	14 113	*	6 500	6 500	20 000	0	*	*	17 000

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex)	Shrimp	
Division	3L	3NO	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	*	1 000	*	7 000	11 493	34 000	8 600	*

*Moratorium

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MSE (Management Strategy Evaluation)

The Fisheries Commission adopted in 2010 the MSE approach for Greenland halibut stock in Subarea 2 + Division 3KLMNO, and continues to implement the MSE in setting the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of this stock. This approach considers a survey based harvest control rule (HCR) in setting the TAC. For 2013, the TAC of this stock in Subarea 2 + Division 3KLMNO is set at 15 510 t (11 493 t in Div 3LMNO).

VME (Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems)

NAFO has been proactive in protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems, which can be harmed by fishing closing over 360 000km² to bottom fishing since 2006. At their latest meeting NAFO took steps to enhance this protection, in accordance with UNGA Resolution 61/105, by lowering the catch of sponges and corals needed to trigger “move-on” rules, requiring fishing vessels to move away from areas where there may be high densities of these creatures. Positions of these vulnerable marine indicators must be reported.

Catch thresholds for “sea-pens”, a long, frond-like type of soft coral, have been introduced for the first time. NAFO also revised its rules on fishing outside of currently fished areas, requiring national administrations to submit a plan of any bottom fishing in exploratory and new areas to be submitted for review by NAFO’s scientific and management bodies, which can result in permission to fish being granted, prohibited or requiring specific measures to protect marine life.

NAFO continues the closure of 11 areas of coral/sponge concentrations and six seamounts to bottom fishing. These areas contain significant concentrations of VME indicator species.

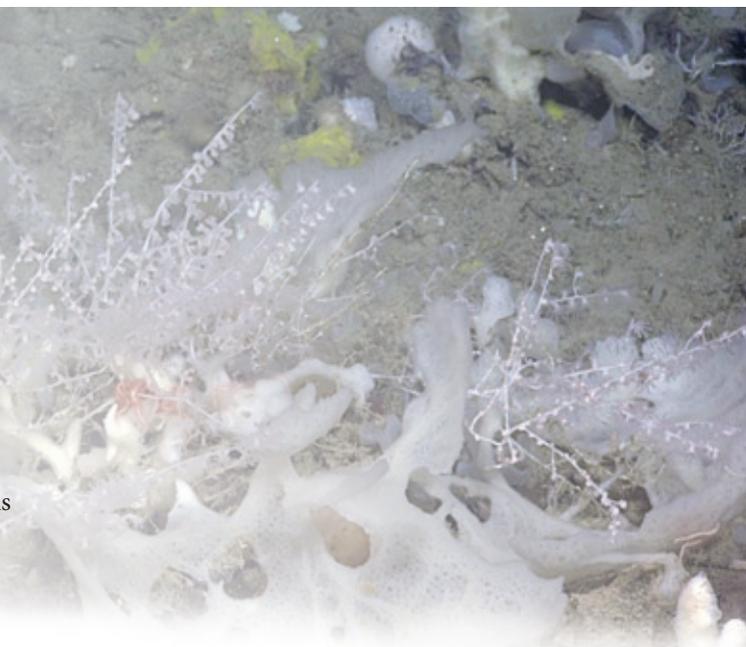
Drawing on the latest scientific information, NAFO expanded the list of VME indicator species (now recognizing 67 species which signal a potential VME) and adopted a new list of VME elements in line with the FAO International Guidelines.

VMS (Vessel Monitoring System)



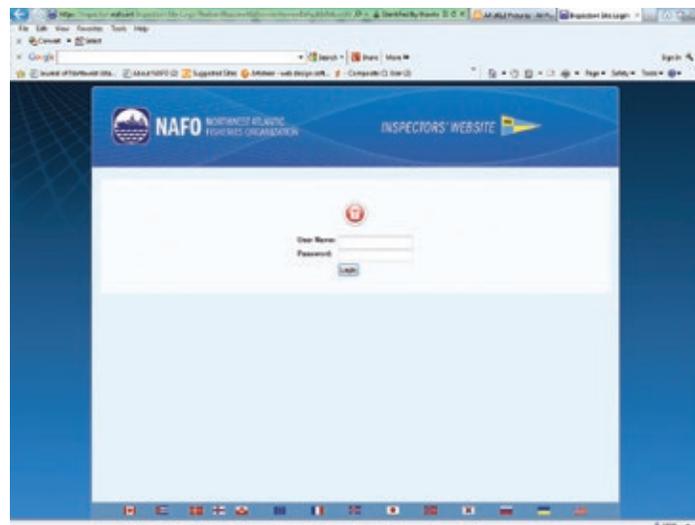
Changes have been made in the system to adapt to the new Conservation and Enforcement Measures requirements as recommended by STACTIC and adopted by the Fisheries Commission. The most significant change adopted in 2012 is the new requirement for Contracting Parties to send individual

authorization for individual fish stocks for each vessel that is notified to conduct fishing activities in the NRA.



Inspection Website

The secured website was developed for the inspectors at sea. They are now able to access up-to-date fisheries information in real time, e.g. on notified fishing vessels, chartering arrangements, etc.



Science



Stock Status

NAFO Scientific Council carried out a number of assessment in 2012, and performed updates for others. The cod stock on the Flemish Cap which was reopened to fishing in 2010 continues to grow at a good rate, while American plaice on the Grand Bank continues its recovery towards its precautionary thresholds at a slower rate. The stock of redfish on the west of the Grand Banks, again one which has been recently reopened to fishing, appears very healthy. As this is a relatively long-lived species, and much of the biomass is still made up of young fish, Scientific Council advised caution in the expansion of this fishery. Thorny skate remain at a low level, although recruitment in recent years appears to have been good.

8

Ecosystem Approach

Scientific Council continues to explore ecosystem issues within the context of NAFO's "Roadmap to an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management". Foremost amongst the issues dealt with recently is the predator-prey interactions between a rapidly growing cod population on the Flemish Cap, and the redfish and shrimp stocks which inhabit the same area.

A comprehensive list of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem indicator species was prepared which will enhance the protection offered to important habitats in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

Fisheries Environment

Oceanographic conditions in NAFO waters are to a large degree determined by the strength of the winter atmospheric circulation over the Northwest Atlantic. The North Atlantic Oscillation index (Rogers, Dec.–Feb.) for 2011 continued in the negative phase and as a consequence, outflow of arctic air masses to the Northwest Atlantic was weaker than normal. Annual sea surface temperatures in 2011 were above normal over much of the north Atlantic with values from 0.5-1°C above normal over much of the NAFO Area. Annual air temperatures were above normal over much of the NAFO area (except SA 1) with positive anomalies greater than 1°C over Davis Strait. Sea ice extent during 2011 on the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelf remained lighter than normal for the 17th consecutive year. The annual average extent was the lowest on record. In 2011 only three icebergs were detected (in May) south of 48°N.

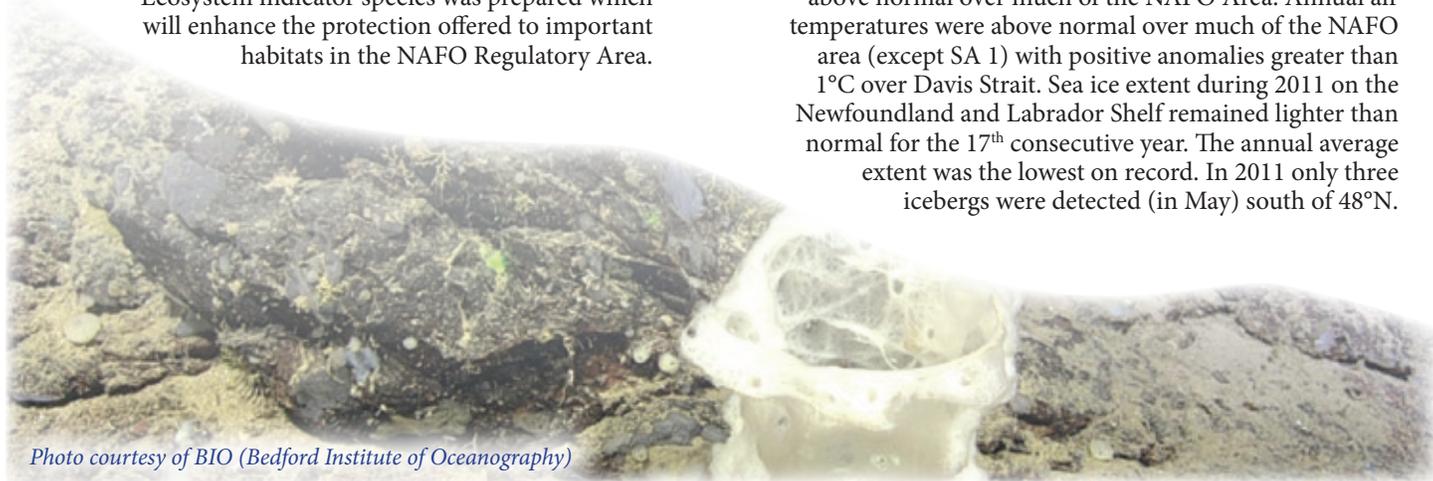


Photo courtesy of BIO (Bedford Institute of Oceanography)

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Back row, left to right: Neil Campbell, Scientific Council Coordinator; Don Stansbury, Vice-Chair SC and Chair of STACREC; Carsten Hvingel, Chair of SC.

Front row, left to right: Jean-Claude Mahé, Chair of STACFIS; Margaret Treble, Chair of STACPUB; Gary Maillet, Chair of STACFEN

Scientific Council members, left to right from the top: Ellen Kenchington, Antonio Vázquez, Diana González-Troncoso, Heino Fock, Jean-Claude Mahé, Yuriy Korzun, Fernando González-Costas, Rasmus Nygaard, Neil Campbell, Mark Simpson, Konstantin Fomin, Bob Branton, Ole Jørgensen, Ricardo Alpoim, Ivan Tretiakov, Kathy Sosobee, Dave Hebert, Eugene Colbourne, Don Power, Antonio Avila de Milo, Estelle Couture, Daniela Diz, Joanne Morgan, Barb Marshall, Rick Rideout, Carina Gjerdrum, Andrew Kenney, Brian Healey, Margaret Treble, Dawn Maddock Parsons, Mariano Alonso, Carsten Hvingel, Bill Brodie, Karen Dwyer, Don Stansbury, Alejandro Buren



Fishery Statistics

NAFO took steps to ensure the quality of its scientific advice for fish stocks by engaging in an independent peer review of the way catches are estimated in stock assessment. This examination will continue with further investigation into the reasons for the discrepancy between official catch figures and scientific estimates.

NEREIDA

NAFO has been asked to establish the framework to manage a fund to continue to support mapping Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NAFO Potential Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems-Impacts of Deep-sea Fisheries — NEREIDA).

Photo courtesy of BIO (Bedford Institute of Oceanography)

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NAFO MEETINGS 2012



Scientific Council Meeting, June 2012



NAFO Annual Meeting, September 2012



SC/NIPAG Meeting, October 2012

■ Scientific Council Ad hoc Working Group on Exceptional Circumstances (by correspondence)	January–March 2012
■ GC Working Group on the Development of Plans of Action for the Implementation of the Recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel, Halifax, NS, Canada	20–22 March 2012
■ Joint NAFO/ICES Working Group on Deep-water Ecology (WGDEC), Copenhagen, Denmark	26–30 March 2012
■ International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA	19–20 April 2012
■ Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC), Brussels, Belgium	2–4 May 2012
■ Scientific Council Working Group on Reproductive Potential (by correspondence and Ad hoc meetings)	
■ Scientific Council and its Standing Committees, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada	1–14 June 2012
■ Scientific Council Meeting to update shrimp advice, by correspondence	27 August–7 September 2012
■ FC Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies, by WebEx	4 September 2012
■ FC Working Group of Fishery Manager and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, Bergen, Norway	11–13 September 2012
■ NAFO 34 th Annual Meeting, St. Petersburg, Russia	17–21 September 2012
■ Scientific Council/NIPAG Meeting on Shrimp Assessment, Tromsø, Norway	17–25 October 2012
■ Scientific Council WGEAFM, Dartmouth, NS, Canada	21–30 November 2012

10

External Meetings

Throughout the year NAFO cooperates with other organizations. Various staff members participated at these external meetings and events:

NEAFC Advisory Group (AGDC)

While the AGDC is technically a NEAFC group, NAFO has participated in past meetings and some of the topics are applicable to both NAFO and NEAFC. These include the AGDC Mandate and NAFO's role in it; the NAF website; the relationship between NEAFC and NAFO in the development of the NAFO inspection website and the “resource sharing” arrangement; and the development of a harmonized document to update security and confidentiality provisions in the respective schemes of enforcement.

Science and Sustainability Forum

Barbara Marshall (Information Officer) was asked to represent FIRMS at The Science Sustainability Forum held in Washington, DC, 29 Feb.–2 Mar. The Forum brought together scientists and those that elaborate scientific information with USA seafood retail buyers and other industry types.

International Monitoring Control and Surveillance Network (IMCS)

The IMCS has plans to reinvigorate itself and so Ricardo Federizon (FC Coordinator) attended the IMCS business meeting on behalf of NAFO. It was held on 27–29 March 2012 in Valparaiso, Chile.

Currently under discussion is whether NAFO should join the organization in consideration of the potential benefits and the financial commitments.



International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS)

The annual meeting of the IFCPS was hosted by the US State Department during 19–20 April 2012 in Washington, DC,

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USA. The meeting was attended by representatives of the seven International Fisheries Commissions with headquarters located in Canada and the United States of America and whose employee pension plans are administered by the society. NAFO was represented by Vladimir Shibanov (Executive Secretary) and Stan Goodick (Deputy Executive Secretary/Senior Finance and Staff Administrator).

UN Ad hoc Open-ended informal Working Group on the Issues Relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction

The WG was held 7–11 May 2012 at the UN HQ in New York and was attended by the NAFO Executive Secretary Vladimir Shibanov in an observer capacity. The meeting was convened in accordance with the UNGA resolution 66/231 of 24 December 2011 entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea” and focused on the preparation of recommendations to the 67th session of UN General Assembly.

World Fisheries Congress

Ricardo Federizon (FC Coordinator) and Neil Campbell (SC Coordinator) attended the World Fisheries Congress at the Edinburgh International Conference Center, from 7–11 May, 2012. They presented information on NAFO’s management measures in place for the conservation and management of deep water fish (Confronting challenges in the management of deep-water fish stocks and the protection of VME’s in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean), and an e-poster on NAFO’s institutional structures which enable closer working of managers and scientists (Co-working of Managers and Scientists in NAFO: Protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and stock conservation plans). This meeting also provided the opportunity to hold discussions and gather information of use to Scientific Council, regarding an upcoming stock assessment conference, and on a global research network on climate change.



ICES Training Course

Neil Campbell participated in a training course on the presentation of science and advice, run by ICES at their headquarters in Copenhagen. The course covered best practice in presentation of science to diverse audiences, communications skills, the construction of press releases and development of social networking strategies, and will strengthen NAFO’s ability to address requests from the media in the future.

Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)

Alexis Pacey (Publications Manager) attended The 41st Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) from 25–29 June, in Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Ireland. The meeting covered many topics ranging from software and technical information, the ASFA partnership status, ASFA’s publishing partner ProQuest, the ASFA trust fund, training activities and demos, new products, in particular the new ASFA database/platform, and discussion around the future direction of ASFA.

Cliffs of Moher, Ireland



Marine Institute, Foras na Mara

11

NEAFC (Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission) Symposium on Bottom Fishing

On 26 June 2012, at the invitation of NEAFC Secretariat, NAFO Executive Secretary attended the NEAFC Symposium as invited speaker with the presentation titled “Bottom trawl fishery management in the NAFO Regulatory Area”. The aim of the Symposium was to collect information necessary for the internal review by NEAFC of bottom trawl fishery.

30th Session of COFI

The 30th Session of COFI of FAO took place at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy during 09–13 July 2012 and was attended by the Executive Secretary in an observer capacity. In addition to administrative issues of COFI, participants welcomed the new approach in presentation of World Fisheries Statistics (SOFIA). The focus was concentrated on the issues of implementation of the most recent international Agreements by FAO members States, combating of IUU fishing, capacity building, fast grow of aquaculture production etc.

EU Conference “RFMO’s – Fit for the Future”

The Executive Secretary attended the Conference held at the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium on 01 June 2012. The Conference was attended by the executive secretaries of most RFMOs with EU participation and was aimed at discussing the role of RFMOs in improvement of scientific advice, science capacity building, compliance with management measures adopted, IUU fishing combating, balance between fisheries resources and fishing capacity. Most of the speakers underlined the key role of RFMOs in reaching of the sustainable fisheries.



RSN (Regional Secretariats Network)

The NAFO Executive Secretary also attended a one day meeting (13 July) of Regional Fisheries Management Bodies Secretariats Network held at FAO HQ. Following discussion of the outputs from 30th COFI meeting relevant to RFMOs, RSN-4 discussed current problems of the fisheries management (FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, IUU fishing, Deep-Sea Fisheries, Conservation of VMEs and Marine protected Areas, Aquaculture development). The presentation titled “VMEs conservation: international legal instruments and NAFO experience” was given by the Executive Secretary in order to moderate the discussion on this topic among the participants. Main focus was given on developments relating to the avoidance of an adverse impact on VMEs and their conservation.



RSN Meeting

Oceans Day

The NAFO Secretariat celebrated World Oceans Day by participating in the activities held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 7 June. This was the third year NAFO was a part of the annual exhibition held to celebrate the oceans! The celebration is held on the Halifax Waterfront at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and is open to the general public.

12



Left to right: Geneviève Scott (Intern), Vladimir Shibanov (ES), Lisa LeFort (Office Manager), Alexis Pacey (Publications Manager)

Danish Embassy Delegation

After the Annual Meeting, the Secretariat welcomed a visit from the Danish parliamentary Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Committee, lead by their chair, René Christensen, and accompanied by the Danish Deputy Ambassador to Canada, Christen Krogh, the Deputy Head of the Danish Mission to Canada, who were engaged on a fact-finding mission. Staff presented information on the challenges facing scientists and managers in the NAFO regulatory area, and a lively debate on the on the future direction for high-seas fisheries ensued.

Secretariat Activities

Staff Members

In July, George Campanis (IT Manager) accepted a new position as the Database/GIS Manager at the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) Secretariat, based in Swakopmund, Namibia. We wish George and his family the best of luck in their newest journey.



Matthew Kendall joined the NAFO Secretariat as the IT Manager in June, 2012. Matthew's primary responsibility is the management and support of NAFO's software, hardware and network security. His extensive educational and professional experience in computer systems engineering and management are much valued assets to the NAFO Secretariat. Matthew's background is truly international: Born in Nova Scotia, he spent many years living and working in the United States, Bermuda and the UK. He easily convinced his British wife to immigrate to Canada in 2006.



SECRETARIAT STAFF MEMBERS 2012

Executive Secretary	Vladimir Shibanov
Deputy Executive Secretary and Senior Finance and Staff Administrator	Stan Goodick
Sr. Fisheries Commission Coordinator	Ricardo Federizon
Scientific Council Coordinator	Neil Campbell
Senior Personal Assistant to the Executive Secretary	Beverly McLoon
Sr. Information Officer	Barbara Marshall
Sr. Fisheries Information Manager	Cindy Kerr
IT Manager	George Campanis (Jan.–July)
	Matt Kendall (June–present)
Publications Manager	Alexis Pacey
Office Manager	Lisa LeFort



Left to right, back row: Neil Campbell, Vladimir Shibanov, George Campanis, Barb Marshall, Ricardo Federizon, Bev McLoon, Lisa LeFort.

Left to right, front row: Alexis Pacey, Stan Goodick, Cindy Kerr

Staff Celebrations

In August, Secretariat staff enjoyed a warm summer day at Hubbard's Beach for the annual staff picnic. Thank you to Alexis Pacey (Publications Manager) for the use of her family cottage for the day.

Stan (and his wife) welcomed staff to their new home to celebrate the Christmas season. The gathering was complete with festive cheer. Thank you to the Goodicks for their hospitality!

Wedding bells were ringing at the Secretariat with two staff members getting married this year. Barb Marshall got married to a long-time participant of NAFO, David Kulka. Lisa LeFort (Office Manager) also got married on Thanksgiving in early October 2012. Congratulations!



Barb and Dave Kulka

Internships

Erica Kidd

Erica became the first intern under the formal NAFO internship program, working at the Secretariat between February and April 2012. Erica hails from the USA and was completing her second year of a Master's program on Conservation Biology in New Hampshire, from which she graduated in May. Erica worked with the Science team documenting NAFO's implementation of the precautionary approach since 2004. She also had the opportunity to learn some of the techniques used in fish stock assessment, observe a NAFO meeting and develop her GIS skills, helping to convert NAFO's VME closures into a Google Earth format.



Geneviève Scott

Geneviève joined the NAFO Secretariat in May for a 6-month internship. She recently graduated from Memorial University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. A Canadian citizen, she moved to Newfoundland from Ottawa to be closer to the ocean and learn about marine biology. Geneviève applied to the NAFO internship program to gain experience in fisheries, to learn how a fishery operates and how it is managed. Geneviève split her time at NAFO between a science and a fisheries focus.



Publications

NAFO publications continued to keep the Secretariat busy in 2012 and a complete list of all publications and documentation is available on the web as well as being listed below.

Studies No. 44 was published in October 2012, titled “*Report of the Workshop on Implementation of Stock Reproductive Potential into Assessment and Management Advice for Harvested Marine Species*”. This is available on-line as well as in CD format, if requested.

The *Journal of the Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science* published its 44th Volume December 2012, which included six articles.



More information posters were designed and created to explain the different activities of NAFO, such as Satellite Monitoring, which includes information on the VMS (vessel monitoring system), the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, and Scientific Council and how science advice is given to the Fisheries Commission, which illustrates the flow of information between the two bodies. The closed areas poster and general poster were revised as well.



14

NAFO Website

In September a new updated NAFO website was presented. In recent years input has been sought from Contracting Parties and Constituent Bodies of NAFO, on how to increase the usability of the site and this input has been considered when designing the updated pages. As well, the Performance Review Panel concluded that the website, while functional and containing a great deal of information, could be enhanced.

ICNAF Historical Documentation

The ICNAF historical documentation continues to be scanned and uploaded to the NAFO website.

A new ICNAF section for the NAFO website has been produced (<http://www.nafo.int/icnaf/frames/icnaf.html>) which includes a history of the predecessor of NAFO. The ICNAF publications, including the Annual Reports, Redbooks, Special Publications, etc, have been digitized, with links being made both in the ICNAF tab and the Publications tab. In the future, comprehensive Tables of Content for the ICNAF publications will be developed. ICNAF meeting and research documents are also being scanned and will be uploaded as they are finalized.

While the most of the content remains similar to the previous website, the look and feel has been modernized and some information has been updated and reorganized. A new “Data” section has been created to provide easier access to statistical and geo-spatial information and material on frameworks, such as Precautionary Approach, Ecosystem Approach, CPRS and MSE have been added.

LIST OF NAFO PUBLICATIONS

NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (178 pages)

NAFO Annual Report 2011 (16 page booklet)

NAFO Meeting Proceedings of GC/FC for 2011/2012 (227 pages)

NAFO Scientific Council Reports 2011 (389 pages)

NAFO Scientific Council Studies Vol. 44, 2012 (on-line and CD only, 85 pages)

NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 44, 2012 (83 pages)

NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 45, 2013 (partial - 1 Article uploaded)

Meeting Documentation CD (GC/FC Proceedings 11–12, SC Reports 2011, NAFO Convention, NCEM 2013, Rules of Procedures, Annual Report 2011)

NAFO Rules of Procedure & Financial Regulations booklet (pages)

Coral Identification Guide NAFO Area – a booklet featuring the various corals and seamounts in the NAFO area. (water resistant and tear-proof coilbound booklet - 37 pages)

Sponge Identification Guide NAFO Area – a booklet featuring the various sponges and seamounts in the NAFO area. It is based on the same style as the *Coral Guide*. (water resistant and tear-proof coilbound booklet - 52 pages)

Early Stages of Fishes in the Western North Atlantic Ocean by Michael P. Fahay - Two volume monograph.



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

St. Petersburg, Russia - 17–21, September, 2012



The Hermitage Museum

The 34th Annual Meeting was held during 17–21 September 2012 at the Pribaltiyskaya Park Inn Hotel, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. The meeting was attended by 160 delegates from all Contracting Parties (Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America.

The meeting was also attended by observers from the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Atlantic Marine mammal Commission (NAMMCO), International Commission Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) and Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and Pew Environment Group.

The three bodies of NAFO, General Council (chaired by Veronika Veits, EU), Fisheries Commission (chaired by Sylvie

Lapointe, Canada) and Scientific Council (chaired by Carsten Hvingel, Norway) and their subsidiary bodies met over the course of a week to deliberate on management measures and scientific assessment regarding the international fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic. The scientific advice and a quinquennial review of environmental conditions were presented.

Taking into account the scientific advice, positive decisions for the management of fish stocks and protection of ecosystems in the Northwest Atlantic Area were made.

Five NAFO Contracting Parties have now ratified the amended NAFO Convention and others were strongly encouraged to continue their efforts to do so in their respective governments.

15



Heads of Delegation – left to right; back row: Kenro Iino (Japan), Mads Trolle Nedergaard (DFG), Dean Swanson (USA), Nicolas Dross (EU), Vladimir Shibanov (ES), Vasiliy Sokolov (Russia), Viktor Dronyk (Ukraine), Stéphane Artano (SPM), Jong Hwa Bahng (Korea)

front row: Ulla Wang (DFG), Sigrun Holst (Norway), Nora Yong Mena (Cuba), France Pegéot (Canada), Hrefna Karlsdóttir (Iceland), Veronika Veits (President of NAFO & GC Chair)



Left to right: Vladimir Shibanov, Executive Secretary; Veronika Veits, Chair of General Council and President of NAFO; Sylvie Lapointe, Chair of Fisheries Commission; Carsten Hvingel, Chair of Scientific Council

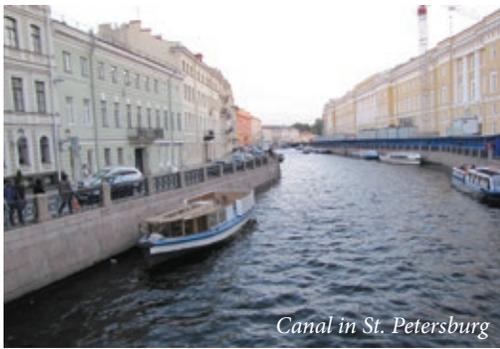
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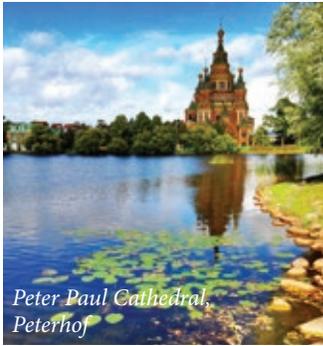
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Canal in St. Petersburg



Peter Paul Cathedral,
Peterhof



Kazan Cathedral



STACFAD - back row, left to right: Fred Kingston, Doug Twining, Rasmus Fughholt, Vladimir Shibanov, Stan Goodick.

Middle row: Bev McLoon, Elizabeth-Ann English
Front row: Guri Mæle Breigutu, Akiko Onodera



Scientific Council, left to right: Jean-Claude Mahé, STACFIS Chair; Don Stansbury, Vice-Chair SC and STACREC Chair; Neil Campbell, SC Coordinator; Carsten Hvingel, SC Chair; Gary Maillet, STACFEN Chair.



Left to right: Sylvie Lapointe, FC Chair and Ricardo Federizon, FC Coordinator



Left to right: Cindy Kerr, Fisheries Information Manager and Gene Martin, STACTIC Chair.



Opening session. head table, left to right: Vladimir Shibanov, Veronika Veits, Igor Golikov - Representative of the Government of the city S.-Petersburg, Natasha Katson - translator.



Russian Folk Dancers with Delegates (left: Tom Dooley-Canada; far right: Andriy Chuklin-Ukraine)

Ricardo Federizon joining in on a Russian Folk Dance

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