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[Adopted]

39th ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2017

Terms of Reference – Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG)

Recognizing the significant recent progress of both the Joint FC-SC Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR) and the Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG) on specific tasks identified in the respective Terms of Reference for each body;

Noting that in the course of completing these tasks, numerous recommendations have been made that provide direction for further work in the future;

Mindful that accurate catch reporting/estimation of catch are critically important in supporting the best available scientific advice, the sustainable management of all NAFO fish stocks, and the credibility of the Organization as a whole;

Noting that the Catch Data Advisory Group and the FC-SC Working Group on Catch Reporting have recommended that they be merged into a single technical body with a revised Terms of Reference to address ongoing issues related to catch validation;

It is recommended:

That the Ad hoc FC-SC Working Group on Catch Reporting and the Catch Data Advisory Group be merged into one body called the Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) with the following Terms of Reference:

Objectives:

1. To provide oversight in the implementation of the catch estimation strategy and provide recommendations to the Commission on ongoing refinement.

Structure:

The Group shall be comprised of technical experts from Contracting Parties with knowledge of catch data sources and accuracy thereof and/or operational practices within the fishery and the NAFO Secretariat.

The CESAG shall be co-chaired by representatives of the Commission and Scientific Council.

The Advisory Group shall report to the Commission and the Scientific Council.

The Advisory Group may engage, through the NAFO Secretariat, other NAFO bodies (e.g. STACTIC) on the implementation of the strategy.

Specific Duties:

1. To support the application of the Catch Estimation Strategy by the NAFO Secretariat to all NAFO managed stocks; and
2. To consider and identify potential refinements of the Catch Estimate Strategy including the incorporation of haul-by-haul data within the strategy.



Meetings:

Meetings of the Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) shall be held:

1. At least annually in advance of the May 1 deadline to support the development of catch estimates for the Scientific Council; or
2. At the request of the Commission or Scientific Council, in consultation with Contracting Parties and the NAFO Secretariat.

The Advisory Group shall communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically (WebEx).