

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Report of the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy
Advisory Group (CESAG) Meeting**

30 April 2019
via WebEx

NAFO
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada
2019

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Report of the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) Meeting

30 April 2019
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1. Opening by the co-Chairs

The NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) met via WebEx on 30 April 2019. The meeting was opened at 10:10 hours (Atlantic Daylight Time) by co-Chairs, Katherine Sosebee (USA) and Temur Tairov (Russian Federation), and participants were welcomed to the meeting (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat (Ricardo Federizon, Senior Fisheries Management Coordinator) was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda item 4 in the provisional agenda that was previously circulated was revised by inserting the word “*draft*” to indicate that the MRAG Americas, Inc. (MRAG) report was not final.

The revised agenda was adopted (Annex 2).

4. Review and finalization of comments to the MRAG Americas, Inc. draft final report – *Catch Estimates Methodology Study*

The draft final report was presented by MRAG during the March WebEx meeting (COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-01) and at that time it was agreed then that participants would provide written comments on this draft. CESAG participants, without the contractor present, would then discuss the submissions and develop an agreed upon set of comments and direction to be forwarded to MRAG.

A document incorporating all comments received from CESAG participants was drafted. Noting this document would comprise the formal feedback and direction to be provided from CESAG to MRAG, the following next steps were agreed upon by CESAG:

- The draft CESAG feedback and direction (COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-07) will be circulated to participants for comments by 03 May.
- The Secretariat will forward the final CESAG feedback and direction to MRAG.
- The Secretariat will coordinate with MRAG with regards to the time requirement for MRAG to accommodate the CESAG feedback and direction, and report to CESAG on the developments.
- A doodle poll will be used to determine the time and date of the next CESAG meeting.

5. Review and finalization of the 2018 Catch Estimates of the NAFO Managed Stocks in the NAFO Regulatory Area derived following the Catch Estimation Strategy.

The Secretariat presented the catch estimates of all NAFO TAC-managed stocks for 2018 using the CESAG Method (COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-03). This represents the core task that was assigned to the Secretariat – applying the Catch Estimation Strategy in deriving the catch estimates (see Annex 1 of COM-SC Doc. 17-08).

There was no substantive comment.

Canada indicated that it will provide supplementary catch data on 2+3K Greenland halibut and 3+4 Squid. The working paper will be revised to include the supplementary data and to address some formatting suggestions and minor points for clarification. The revised working paper (COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-03 Revised) is expected to be circulated to CESAG Participants and forwarded to the Scientific Council by the 01 May deadline as specified in the Terms of Reference.

Report of CESAG,
30 April 2019

The Secretariat also presented two working papers pertaining to:

- Availability of catch amounts by division in port inspections for all NAFO TAC-managed for 2018 (COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-04),
- Percentage of catch (from daily catch reports) for species by weight that was inspected in port for 2018 (COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-05).

It was noted that the compilation of the information contained in these working papers is in alignment with Recommendation 3 from the 2017 meetings and with the Revised Catch Estimation Strategy (COM-SC Doc. 17-08).

6. Review of the Catch Data Comparison prepared by the Secretariat

The Secretariat presented COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-06. It provides a comparison of catch data sources for all NAFO TAC-managed stocks (as well as alfonosinos and roughhead grenadier) by Division.

It was noted that the information contained in this working paper is helpful when calculating catch estimates using the Revised Catch Estimation Strategy (COM-SC Doc. 17-08).

7. Recommendations

The CESAG recommends that:

- the Secretariat forward the CESAG feedback and direction as contained in COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-07 to MRAG Americas, Inc. following the 03 May deadline for comments.
- the Secretariat forward the 2018 catch estimates as contained in COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-03 (Revised) to the Scientific Council.
- the Secretariat continue deriving information as contained in COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-03 to COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-06 for the subsequent years.
- CESAG re-iterates its 2017 Recommendation 5: *that the Commission request that STACTIC review current measures relating to reporting of catch by NAFO Division to identify and implement improvements which ensure the most reliable information is available for catch estimation, recognizing its importance in stock assessments* and agreed that the data analyses completed in COM-SC CESAG-WPs 19-04, 19-05 and 19-06 be forwarded to STACTIC for information.

8. Other Business

No other business was discussed under this item.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting will be determined via doodle poll. The date is contingent on the time requirement for MRAG to accommodate the CESAG feedback and direction after it receives the CESAG comments on the Catch Estimates Methodology Study draft report.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 hours (Atlantic Daylight Time).

Annex 1. Participant List

Tairov, Temur (Russian Federation) Sosebee, Katherine (USA)	co-Chairs
Dwyer, Shelley Fagan, Robert Hurley, Mike Milburn, Derrick Slaney, Lloyd	Canada
Alpoim ,Ricardo Błażkiewicz, Bernard Fernandez Llana, Carmen Gonzales, Fernando Granell, Ignacio Ribeiro, Cristina	European Union
Aker, Jana Blasdale, Tom Federizon, Ricardo Goodick, Stan Guijarro Sabaniel, Javier Kingston, Fred	NAFO Secretariat

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the co-Chairs
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review and finalization of comments to the MRAG Americas, Inc draft report – *Catch Estimates Methodology Study*
5. Review and finalization of comments to the 2018 Catch Estimate of the NAFO Managed Stocks in the NAFO Regulatory Areas derived following the Catch Estimation Strategy
6. Review of catch Data Comparison prepared by the Secretariat
7. Other Business
8. Recommendations
9. Date and Time of Next Meeting
10. Adjournment