

**41st ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2019****Recommendations from the WG-RBMS
to forward to the NAFO Commission and Scientific Council**

The NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) met on:

10-12 April 2019 (COM-SC Doc. 19-01); and

There were no recommendations from this meeting.

21 September (COM-SC Doc. 19-05).

On the 3M Cod MSE,

- **WG-RBMS concludes that work in WG-RBMS on the 3M cod MSE should be suspended for the time being.**

This conclusion was reached based on the strong variability observed in the stock dynamics and biological parameters in the past, that create substantial difficulties for developing realistic future simulations and successful development of an HCR. This situation, coupled with the low recruitment observed in recent years that will likely result in a strong decline of the stock biomass even without a fishery, implies that developing an HCR is not considered feasible at this stage. Reopening this issue in WG-RBMS should occur when SC determines that conditions are such that there is a reasonable probability of success.

On future MSE processes,

- **Noting that significant challenges were encountered in meeting the timetables set for the MSE process for both 3M cod and 2+3LMNO Greenland halibut, and that this resulted in insufficient time being available for adequate review and documentation of the results, WG-RBMS recommends that timeframes set for future MSE processes should be realistic, taking full account of the very large amount of work required. Sufficient time and human capacity should be allowed for the development of the technical work, review, communication with relevant actors and reporting of results.**

On 3LN Redfish,

- **WG-RBMS recommends to the Commission that Scientific Council be asked in 2020 to do an update assessment and five-year projections (2021 to 2025) to evaluate the impact of annual removals at 18 100 tonnes against the following performance statistics (from NCEM annex I.H):**

(a) Very low (< 10%) probability of biomass declining below B_{lim} .

(b) Low (< 30%) probability of fishing mortality $>F_{msy}$

(c) Less than 50% probability of declining below 80% B_{msy} on or before 2026

if this level of catch does not result in fulfilling these performance statistics, SC should advise the level of catch that would.

