

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Report of the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group
Process (E-WG) Meeting**

22 February 2022
via WebEx

NAFO
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
2022

Report of E-WG,
22 February 2022

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Process (E-WG) Meeting**

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Report of the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG) Meeting

22 February 2022
via WebEx

1. Opening by the Chair, Fred Kingston (NAFO Secretariat)

The Chair, Fred Kingston (NAFO Secretariat) opened the meeting on Tuesday, 22 February 2022 at 10:00 hours. The Chairs and co-Chairs of the NAFO Working Groups were welcomed to the virtual meeting (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 2).

4. Finalize schedule for upcoming meetings scheduled for 2022 (COM-SC WP 22-01)

The 2022 NAFO Meeting Schedule to-date was presented in COM-SC WP 22-01. The group focused its discussions on the NAFO Meetings still to be scheduled for 2022. The format and location of most of these meetings are still to be determined as the Secretariat, in consultation with the relevant co-Chairs, continue to monitor the situation regarding the current pandemic, including travel and gathering restrictions.

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

The Working Group agreed that the CESAG meeting could be held via correspondence with its work to be completed prior to 30 April 2022. However, if needed, **a half-day virtual meeting could be scheduled sometime during the weeks of 11 and 18 April**. For that reason, a doodle poll will be created and circulated to CESAG members to help identify a suitable virtual meeting date if CESAG participants determine a meeting is required.

The Secretariat would prepare the typical Working Papers and circulate to Advisory Group members by Friday, March 25 with a two-week review and discussion period. A meeting summary would be compiled, via correspondence, archiving the outcomes and/or recommendations of the Advisory Group.

- **NAFO Commission *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting**

The Working Group agreed that a formal meeting may not be required. However, a meeting date should be selected in the event that a meeting is required. Progress in the work of the NAFO STACTIC *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the issue of bycatch, directed fisheries, discards, and consideration of the elements necessary to consider adopting a landing obligation policy in NAFO will be considered in determining if a formal meeting be held.

- **NAFO Scientific Council Precautionary Approach Framework (PA-WG) Workshop**

The PA-WG Workshop is anticipated to require between two and possibly up to four days and at this point it is not known when it will be possible, however it could meet during the summer session (week of 15 August).

A further update on the possible scheduling of this Workshop will be provided by the Scientific Council at a later date.

- **NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting**

The Working Group agreed that this year's meeting is anticipated to require two- to three-days. **It recommended that the meeting could take place during the week of 15 August 2022** and in Halifax, Nova Scotia (if possible).

A further update will be provided following the NAFO Scientific Council and its Standing Committees Meeting taking place 03–16 Jun. 2022 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

- **NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) Meeting**

It was noted that traditionally this meeting is scheduled back-to-back with another meeting, when possible, to reduce travel requirements for delegates. For that reason, the Working Group **recommended that this meeting could take place during the week of 08 August 2022** back-to-back with the NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council WG-EAFFM Workshop of fisheries managers and scientists to draft ecosystem objectives.

The WG-EAFFM is anticipated to require one- to two-days for its deliberation and would meet in-person in Halifax, Nova Scotia (if possible).

- **NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council WG-EAFFM Workshop of fisheries managers and scientists to draft ecosystem objectives**

As noted above, the Working Group **recommended that this meeting could take place during the week of 08 August 2022** back-to-back with the NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) Meeting.

The Workshop is anticipated to require two- to three-days and would meet in-person in Halifax, Nova Scotia (if possible).

The 2022 NAFO Meeting Schedule was revised in COM-SC WP 22-01 (Revised) to incorporate the discussions of the group below (Annex 3).

5. Set the three two-week periods during the NAFO year for possible intersessional meetings 2023 (COM-SC WP 22-02)

The proposed three two-week periods during 2023 to be recommended to the Commission and Scientific Council for possible NAFO meetings were presented in COM-SC WP 22-02 as follows:

The Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process recommends that:

- For the 2023 NAFO year, the following two-week periods, be considered for NAFO intersessional meetings:
 - 21 February – 03 March 2023;
 - 24 April – 05 May 2023; and
 - 17 – 28 July 2023

The participants were requested to consider these dates and contact the Secretariat if there are any concerns. The Chair will send a note to this Working Group in the future to finalize, by written procedure, this proposed recommendation to the Commission and Scientific Council.

6. Recommendations to forward to the Commission and Scientific Council

The recommendations of this Working Group to forward to the Commission and Scientific Council at the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO, will be agreed on via correspondence (see agenda item 5 above).

7. Other matters

No other matters were raised under this agenda item.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Chair of Commission	Temur Tairov (Russian Federation)
vice-Chair of Commission	Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)
vice-Chair of Scientific Council	Diana González-Troncoso (European Union)
Chair of STACFAD	Robert Fagan (Canada)
Chair of STACTIC	Kaire Märtin (European Union)
co-Chairs of CESAG	Katherine Sosebee (USA) Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)
Chair of WG-BDS	Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)
co-Chair of WG-EAFFM	Elizabethann Mencher (USA) Jack Ryan participated for Andy Kenny (United Kingdom)
co-Chairs of WG-RBMS	Fernando González-Costas (European Union) Ray Walsh (Canada)
NAFO Secretariat	Fred Kingston (Executive Secretary) Tom Blasdale (Scientific Council Coordinator) Ricardo Federizon (Senior Fisheries Management Coordinator) Lisa LeFort (Senior Executive Assistant)

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Fred Kingston (NAFO Secretariat)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Finalize schedule for upcoming meetings scheduled for 2022 (COM-SC WP 22-01)
5. Set the three two-week periods during the NAFO year for possible intersessional meetings 2023 (COM-SC WP 22-02)
6. Recommendations to forward to the Commission and Scientific Council
7. Other matters
8. Adjournment

Annex 3. 2022 NAFO Meeting Schedule

[COM-SC Working Paper 22-01 Rev.]

The following NAFO Meetings are scheduled for 2022:

Date	Title	Venue
13 Jan.	Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) Meeting - Strategic Planning	Virtual
31 Jan.	NAFO: Scientific Council Precautionary Approach Framework Working Group (PA-WG)	WebEx
	<i>*First period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings 21 Feb.-04 Mar.</i>	
22 Feb.	NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG)	WebEx
24 Feb.	Informal chat to discuss 2022 plans of WG-EAFFM	WebEx
22-23 Mar.	Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) Meeting	WebEx
	<i>*Second period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings 25 Apr.-06 May</i>	
27-28 Apr.	NAFO Fishing Regime for Shrimp in Division 3M Meeting	Halifax, Nova Scotia**
09-12 May	NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting <u>The format of the meeting to be decided for circulation with the Provisional Agenda on or before 10 Mar. 2022</u>	Halifax, Nova Scotia**
03-16 Jun.	NAFO Scientific Council and its Standing Committees Meeting	Halifax, Nova Scotia**
	<i>*Third period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings 08-19 Aug.</i>	
12-17 Sep.	NAFO/ICES <i>Pandalus</i> Assessment Meeting	Copenhagen, Denmark
19-23 Sep.	NAFO 44 th Annual Meeting	Portugal**

* As always, these two-week periods would not require meetings of NAFO subsidiary bodies to meet during those dates nor would they preclude the scheduling of meetings of NAFO subsidiary bodies outside those dates.

** The above-mentioned meeting is scheduled to take place in-person however the format of the meeting will be discussed, in consultation with the relevant Chair, as we continue to monitor the pandemic and resulting travel restrictions.



The following NAFO Meetings are still **to be** scheduled for 2022:

Date	Title	Venue
TBD	NAFO: Scientific Council Precautionary Approach Framework Working Group (PA-WG)	WebEx
TBD	NAFO: Scientific Council Review of the Roadmap Tier I and Tier II	WebEx
<u>Work to be completed</u> prior to 30 Apr.	<p>NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A doodle poll to be created and circulated to select virtual meeting date, if required.</u> • <u>The Secretariat to prepare the typical Working Papers and circulate to Advisory Group members by Friday, March 25 with a two-week comment/review/discussion period.</u> • <u>A meeting summary to be compiled to archive the outcomes and/or recommendations of the Advisory Group.</u> 	<u>To meet via correspondence instead of WebEx.</u>
Aug. <u>(TBC)</u>	<p>NAFO Commission <i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting</p> <p><u>A formal meeting may not be required however a meeting date should be selected in the event that a meeting is required. The work of the sub-Working Group to be considered in determining if a formal meeting be held.</u></p>	TBD
<u>TBC: Jul. or Sep.</u>	<u>NAFO Scientific Council Precautionary Approach Framework (PA-WG) Workshop (4 days anticipated)</u>	<u>TBD</u>
<u>Week of the 08 Aug.</u>	NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) Meeting <u>(1–2 days anticipated)</u>	<u>Halifax, Nova Scotia</u>
<u>Week of the 15 Aug.</u>	NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting <u>(2–3 days anticipated)</u>	<u>Halifax, Nova Scotia</u>
<u>Week of the 08 Aug.</u>	NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council WG-EAFFM Workshop of fisheries managers and scientists to draft ecosystem objectives** <u>(2–3 days anticipated)</u>	<u>Halifax, Nova Scotia</u>
TBD	NAFO <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on STACTIC Participation (WG-SP) Meeting	TBD
Nov. TBC	NAFO/ICES <i>Pandalus</i> Assessment Meeting	WebEx
Nov.	NAFO Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA) Meeting	Halifax, Nova Scotia