

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



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

14 December 2022
via WebEx

NAFO
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
2023

Report of E-WG,
14 December 2022

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(E-WG) Meeting**

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

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

The Chair, Fred Kingston (NAFO Secretariat) opened the meeting on Wednesday, 14 December 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 (Lisa LeFort) was appointed rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 2).

4. Finalize schedule for upcoming meetings scheduled for 2023

The tentative schedule of 2023 NAFO Meetings was presented in COM-SC WP 22-11. The group focused its discussions on the NAFO Meetings still to be scheduled for 2023. It was noted that the exact date(s) and format (i.e. virtual or in-person/hybrid) and location of most of these meetings are still to be confirmed by the Secretariat, after consultation with the relevant Chairs, co-Chairs and Contracting Parties.

The 2023 NAFO Meeting Schedule was revised in COM-SC WP 22-11 (Rev. 2) to incorporate the discussions of the group (Annex 3).

5. Consider the three two-week periods during the NAFO year for scheduling of possible intersessional meetings in 2024

The proposed three two-week periods during 2024 to be recommended to the Commission and Scientific Council for possible NAFO meetings were proposed in COM-SC WP 22-12 as follows:

- **For the 2024 NAFO year, the following two-week periods, be considered for NAFO intersessional meetings:**
 - **26 February – 08 March 2024;**
 - **22 April – 03 May 2024; and**
 - **12 – 23 August 2024**

The Working Group noted that having the second two-week period earlier in April would ensure meeting outcomes may be communicated to the Scientific Council with sufficient time to consider them prior to its meeting in June.

For that reason, the following revised three two-week periods were proposed for 2024:

- **For the 2024 NAFO year, the following two-week periods, be considered for NAFO intersessional meetings:**
 - **26 February – 08 March 2024;**
 - **15 – 26 April 2024; and**
 - **12 – 23 August 2024**

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The participants were requested to consider these proposed dates and contact the Secretariat if there are any concerns. The incoming Chair (Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir) will send a note to this Working Group in the future to finalize 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 2023 Annual Meeting of NAFO, will be agreed on via correspondence (see agenda item 5 above).

7. Other matters

The group agreed that it was good practice each year to continue to have the first meeting of this Working Group late in the calendar year”, such as in late November or early December after the Annual Meeting. This would better enable utilization of the first meeting block if required and provide additional time to the Secretariat for planning purposes. No other matters were raised under this agenda item.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The incoming Chair (Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir) will discuss with the Working Group if another virtual meeting is required before the 2023 Annual Meeting or if the recommendations may be adopted via correspondence.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 hours.

Annex 1. List of Participants

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Acting Chair of Commission | Warner-Kramer, Deirdre (USA) |
| Chair of Scientific Council | Dwyer, Karen (Canada) |
| Chair of STACFAD | Fagan, Robert (Canada) |
| Chair of STACTIC | Moran, Patrick (USA) |
| co-Chairs of CESAG | Sosebee, Katherine (USA) Warner-Kramer, Deirdre (USA) |
| Chair of WG-BDS | Warner-Kramer, Deirdre (USA) |
| co-Chair of WG-EAFFM | Mencher, Elizabethann (USA) Sacau Cuadrado, Mar (European Union) |
| co-Chairs of WG-RBMS | González-Costas, Fernando (European Union) Walsh, Ray (Canada) |
| NAFO Secretariat | Kingston, Fred Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur (incoming Executive Secretary) Blasdale, Tom Federizon, Ricardo LeFort, Lisa |

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 2023
5. Consider the three two-week periods during the NAFO year for scheduling of possible intersessional meetings in 2024
6. Recommendations to forward to the Commission and Scientific Council
7. Other matters
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting
9. Adjournment

Annex 3. 2023 NAFO Meeting Schedule
[COM-SC Working Paper 22-11 Rev. 2]

The following NAFO Meetings are scheduled, or are to be scheduled, for 2023:

| Date | Title | Venue |
|--|---|--|
| 31 Jan. | Scientific Council Meeting Focus: <i>Finalize data sources for the MSEs</i> | Webex |
| <i>Proposal:</i> Week of 13 Feb. To be confirmed with co-Chairs | Informal Working Group on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM) Meeting <i>The NAFO Secretariat to request names from Contracting Parties for the informal Working Group</i> | Webex |
| 21 Feb.–03 Mar. | <i>* First period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings</i> During this two-week period, it is proposed to schedule the Informal Working Group to reflect on the Scientific Council workload. | |
| TBD | NAFO Focus Group to design a potential new visual identity for NAFO | Webex |
| End of Feb. TBD | NAFO: Scientific Council/Precautionary Approach Framework Working Group (PA-WG) <i>The February meeting will discuss/determine what will be presented to WG-RBMS.</i> | Webex |
| TBD | NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG) | TBD |
| <i>Proposal:</i> 18–20 Apr. | NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting <i>The dates of 18–20 April are proposed to allow time for outcomes to be provided for presentation at the June SC Meeting.</i> | Halifax with Webex capabilities provided |
| 20–21 Mar. | Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) Meeting | TBD |
| 24 Apr.–05 May | <i>* Second period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings</i> | |
| Prior to 30 Apr. | NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) Meeting (if required) | By correspondence |
| <i>Proposal:</i> 03–04 May | NAFO Commission Intersessional Meeting concerning Fishing Regime for Shrimp in Division 3M <i>The Chair to consult Contracting Parties regarding the meeting.</i> | Halifax with Webex capabilities provided |
| Prior to STACTIC May Mtg. | NAFO STACTIC Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG) Meeting (if required) | Webex |

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|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Proposal:</i> 09-11 May | NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting | Halifax with Webex capabilities provided |
| 02-15 Jun. | NAFO Scientific Council and its Standing Committees Meeting | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| 17-28 Jul. | <i>* Third period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings</i> | |
| Jul. | NAFO Commission Ad Hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting <i>The meeting is proposed to be held virtually as a half-day planning meeting.</i> | TBD |
| <i>Proposal:</i> 18-21 Jul. | NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk- based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting <i>The NAFO Secretariat to inquire re: availability of NEAFC venue during this time period.</i> | Halifax with Webex capabilities provided |
| <i>Proposal:</i> 24-26 Jul. | NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) Meeting <i>The NAFO Secretariat to inquire re: availability of NEAFC venue during this time period.</i> | Halifax with Webex capabilities provided |
| Sep. (TBD) | NAFO/ICES <i>Pandalus</i> Assessment Meeting Focus: <i>Assess the NAFO Div. 3M and NAFO Divs. 3LNO stocks</i> | TBD |
| 18-22 Sep. | NAFO 45 th Annual Meeting | Santiago de Compostela, Spain |
| TBD Oct./Nov. | NAFO STACTIC Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) Meeting Focus: To review the 2024 NAFO CEM. | Webex |
| 14-23 Nov. | NAFO Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA) Meeting | Halifax, Nova Scotia |
| TBD Dec. | NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG) Meeting | Webex |

* *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.*

** *Please note, the meeting dates have not all been confirmed and may be subject to change.*