



40th ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2018

Action Plan to minimize or eliminate discards in NAFO

At the 2017 Annual Meeting, the Commission agreed to an examination of the feasibility of introducing policies to minimize or eliminate discards in NAFO (COM Doc. 17-23). As part of this examination, STACTIC along with the Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) were tasked with:

STACTIC and WG-BDS shall coordinate their plans, including realistic timetables, and present them to the Commission during the annual meeting in 2018.

Action Item: STACTIC will review the action plan developed by the WG-BDS and the Chairs of the two Working Groups will coordinate their respective plans and report to the Commission at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

STACTIC was also asked to consider four main tasks as part of this process and STACTIC's plan for moving forward with each one is detailed below:

ACTION ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
1. Identification of the current discard obligations in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures.		
Action Item 1	<p>The Secretariat agreed to inform STACTIC, WG-BDS and other interested CPs on current NAFO discard measures. The Secretariat will collate all CEM measures relevant to discards (e.g. Articles 5, 6, 14) as well an overview of how discards are currently being reported by CPs, and how that information is being used by the Secretariat.</p> <p><i>STACTIC has addressed this action item in STACTIC WP 18-23.</i></p>	Completed
2. Compilation of existing relevant domestic legislation of the Contracting Parties and review the various policies implemented.		
Action Item 2	<p>To help facilitate this the NAFO Secretariat circulated an email on 08 March 2018 requesting information on the following bullet points from COM Doc. 17-23:</p> <p><i>STACTIC shall consider the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation of existing relevant domestic legislation of the Contracting Parties and review the various policies implemented, • Review the approaches to the control of the landing obligations implemented domestically by Contracting Parties and identify best practices and challenges. 	Completed
Action Item 3	By mid-August, CPs will review and revise their submissions, with a view to summarize domestic and, as appropriate other RFMOs', discard and landing obligation best practices and challenges to address the discard requirements in	Completed



ACTION ITEM	ACTION	STATUS
	the CEM. This analysis should focus on fisheries similar to NAFO fisheries (e.g. groundfish) and include information on how these policies overcome challenges to minimize discards, such as incentives for industry.	
Action Item 4	The NAFO Secretariat will collate submissions of these best practices for distribution at the 2018 Annual Meeting to STACTIC, BDS and SC.	Completed
Action Item 5	At the Annual Meeting, STACTIC will identify any additional information that would be necessary to inform a discussion of possible measures to minimize or eliminate discards.	Completed
<p>3. Examination of possible measures to minimize or eliminate discards in the various NAFO fisheries, including measures such as selectivity requirements, incentives for fishermen not to discard, and/or bans on discarding.</p>		
Action Item 6	A questionnaire has been developed and Contracting Parties will provide responses by 31 December 2018.	Pending
Action Item 7	<p>STACTIC members expressed concern that a true picture of the bycatch and discards in NAFO waters could be compromised by potentially unreliable available data. They also noted that STACTIC, WG-BDS and SC have different, but complementary, mandates, and to that end, the Chairs of these bodies should meet jointly in advance of 2019 Annual Meeting.</p> <p>At the joint meeting, the Secretariat should present an initial analysis on bycatch/discard data completeness and gaps, as well as trends, patterns and anomalies, per the bycatch action plan. Contracting Parties should be prepared to present their discard and landing obligation best practices, as well as their responses to the questionnaire.</p> <p>The reports from the secretariat, answers to the questionnaire and other relevant information would form basis for the discussions at the joint meeting.</p> <p>The joint meeting will report on its progress at the 2019 Annual Meeting, with a goal of developing recommendations at a following meeting of the three bodies in 2020.</p>	Pending
<p>4. Review the approaches to the control of the landing obligations implemented domestically by Contracting Parties and identify best practices and challenges.</p>		
	<i>Reflected under item 2.</i>	

Annex 1. Proposed Questionnaire

How are technical measures relevant to NAFO used to reduce/eliminate discards?

Gear (describe how the selectivity of the gear in main fisheries is regulated i.e. with mesh size, sorting grids, or other devices that enhance the selectivity).

Area closures (describe eventual use of closing areas and the purpose, are closures permanent, seasonal, or short-term Real Time Closures)

Other (describe other measures that are used, i.e. move on rules, utilization of illegal catch etc.)

Gear	
Mesh size	
Sorting grids	
Other devices	
Area closures	
Permanent	
Seasonal	
Short term (Real time closure)	
Gear limitations in an area.	
Other measures	
Move-on rules	
Minimum catch size	