

**40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2018****Recommendations from the WG-BDS to forward to the NAFO Commission**

The NAFO Commission Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area met in May of 2018 (COM Doc. 18-04) and agreed on the following recommendations to forward to the NAFO Commission:

The WG-BDS **recommends** that:

1. **The Commission and Scientific Council, and their subsidiary bodies, as well as the Secretariat, move forward with full implementation of the Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards (COM Doc. 17-26).**
2. **The Commission consider a means of formal follow-up with Contracting Parties to address non-compliance with the requirement to submit haul by haul data, including previous years (2016 and 2017).**
3. **Contracting Parties be encouraged to explore with their respective industry representatives the reasons for discards and bycatch and report back to the Working Group at its next meeting. To the extent possible, this information should seek to identify specific times, areas, fisheries and/or other factors.**
4. **The Commission include in its request for advice to Scientific Council at the 2018 meeting the task identified under Section 2.2 of the Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards (COM Doc. 17-26).**
5. **STACTIC review existing NAFO observer and haul-by-haul reporting requirements to consider enhancements that would provide specific information related to the rationale for discards.**
6. **The Secretariat, in conjunction with STACTIC and WG-EAFFM, develop tools to cross-reference the relevant FAO 3-alpha code with the VME indicator species, set out in Annex I.E of the NCEM to facilitate their inclusion in observer and haul by haul catch reports.**

