

**40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2018****Follow-up Procedure Regarding Haul-by-Haul Submissions**

*Mindful* that reliable catch information is necessary to support the best available scientific advice, the sustainable management of NAFO fish stocks, and the credibility of the Organization as a whole;

*Recognizing* that significant efforts have been made by NAFO to develop reliable catch estimates;

*Further recognizing* the ongoing efforts to enhance the catch estimation process, which relies in part on the timely provision of haul-by-haul (logbook) information to the NAFO Secretariat;

*Mindful* that Contracting Parties are to ensure that logbook information is submitted to the NAFO Secretariat within 60 days following the completion of each fishing trip in accordance with Article 28.8 (b) of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures;

*Noting* that a number of Contracting Parties have not submitted the required data within the 60 day period outlined by Article 28.8 (b);

*Noting* that both the Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) and the Commission Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) have recommended that the Commission consider a means of formal follow-up procedure with Contracting Parties to enhance compliance to the haul-by-haul submission requirement;

*Noting* that the 2018 NAFO Performance Review, in relation to data collection and sharing, recommended that NAFO agree on a means to respond to instances of non-compliance by a Contracting Party with its reporting requirements, including logbook data;

**It is recommended:**

That a formal follow-up procedure with Contracting Parties be established to respond to late submissions or non-submissions of haul-by-haul data to the Secretariat, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the haul-by-haul submission requirement.

**Procedure:**

The NAFO Secretariat will send a letter to Contracting Parties that have not complied with the haul-by-haul reporting requirements. The letter will identify the nature of the issue and request a response by the Contracting Party on actions taken to resolve the issue.

On an annual basis, the NAFO Secretariat will compile an administrative haul-by-haul report that identifies late submissions and/or non-submissions of haul-by-haul records by Contracting Parties. The report will also include any follow-up efforts by the NAFO Secretariat consistent with current practice in response to late submissions and/or non-submissions and any responses/explanations received from the Contracting Parties.

The annual haul-by-haul report will be presented to the Commission by the NAFO Secretariat at the NAFO Annual Meeting and included in the Annual Meeting Report. Contracting Parties at that time will be provided an opportunity to provide additional information regarding any outstanding records.

