

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)  
Intersessional Meeting**

07-09 May 2019  
Lisbon, Portugal

NAFO  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada  
2019

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## **Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting**

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### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The vice-Chair of STACTIC, Aronne Spezzani (European Union) opened the meeting at 09:30 hours on 07 May 2019 at the Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA) in Lisbon, Portugal. The vice-Chair welcomed representatives from the following Contracting Parties (CPs) – Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Norway, and the United States of America (Annex 1). The president of IPMA, Jorge Miguel Alberto de Miranda, welcomed participants to the Institute and Contracting Parties thanked the president and Portugal for hosting the meeting. The Chair (Judy Dwyer, Canada) was delayed in arriving to the meeting and Contracting Parties agreed that Gene Martin (USA) would serve as acting Chair until the arrival of the Chair.

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The NAFO Secretariat (Jana Aker) was appointed as rapporteur.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The following amendments were made to the agenda under agenda item 19 – Other Business:

- a. Presentation of registration formula for by-catches of Greenland shark
- b. CESAG working papers
- c. Closure of 3M Redfish fishery
- d. NAFO Inspectors Workshop

### **4. Compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review (2018), including review of Apparent Infringements**

The NAFO Secretariat highlighted the Compliance table in STACTIC WP 19-01 (Draft Compilation of Fisheries Reports 2018) and noted that Contracting Parties should provide any updates or corrections to the working paper prior to the circulation of the final version on 21 June 2019.

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 19-02 (NAFO 2018 Fisheries and Compliance). Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and offered the suggested enhancements below to be incorporated into the Compliance Review document that will be presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

1. Discussion of whether or not to include the tables in slides 13-15
2. Use trips as the proxy for submission rate coverage rather than fishing days throughout
3. Include a reference to the 15% coverage requirement in the table heading on slide 20
4. Separate out the trips that operated under Article 30.A from those that operated under Article 30.B in slide 21

Contracting Parties also noted that the bycatch analysis from slides 7-11 in the compliance review presentation should not be included in the final written report. Contracting Parties requested the NAFO Secretariat further enhance this analysis by determining compliance with the move along provisions and adjusting the bycatch limits analysis to only include Annex I.A species. This analysis should be presented to STACTIC at the 2020 Intersessional Meeting.

The NAFO Secretariat noted that the table on slide 23 is taken from STACTIC WP 19-03 (Summary of Inspection Information for 2018) and the tables from slides 24-28 were taken from STACTIC WP 19-39 (Apparent Infringements and their Disposition 2014-2018). Contracting Parties requested that going forward, this information should only be presented in the working papers to avoid duplication. Contracting Parties also

agreed that the headings outlined in Article 40.2, which suggest additional detail, be used in the tables in addition to the information on the disposition to clarify the status of each infringement. Contracting Parties noted that NEAFC has a similar labelling system for reporting on the disposition of infringements, and that perhaps STACTIC could consider aligning the terms between the two organizations in the future.

Contracting Parties continued discussion on STACTIC WP 19-03, noting that there were some infringements that did not have the disposition included. The relevant Contracting Parties agreed to provide updates to the NAFO Secretariat, and these are reflected in STACTIC WP 19-03 (Revised). The European Union highlighted the importance of this working paper and raised concerns about the varying degrees of penalties issued for the same or similar infringements across Contracting Parties. The United States expressed interest in having Contracting Parties identify cases where there have been varying penalties for similar infringements, so that the parties can engage in an informed discussion and address any potential inequities.

During the compliance review presentation, Contracting Parties raised concerns relating to the submission rates of the haul by haul data for 2018. The NAFO Secretariat highlighted the process for following up on haul by haul submission rates that was adopted by the Commission at the 2018 Annual Meeting in COM Doc. 18-27. Contracting Parties agreed that the NAFO Secretariat should follow-up with the Contracting Parties that have not submitted haul by haul data for 2018 following this process.

The European Union raised the issue of increased reporting of Greenland shark in the NAFO Regulatory Area and expressed concern that this increased reporting may be a result of the mis-recording of shark species. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted that they will be presenting a paper on Greenland sharks under agenda item 19, and the Chair noted that this discussion should continue when DFG presents the paper.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat would incorporate the above-mentioned enhancements into the Compliance Review for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat would complete an analysis of compliance with the move along provisions for presentation at the 2020 Intersessional Meeting.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat should follow-up with the relevant Contracting Parties following the process outlined in COM Doc. 18-27.**

## **5. Measures concerning repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area**

Canada provided an update on the status of the work being done on the proposal to address repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Canada agreed to present the proposal at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Canada will continue work on a proposal for addressing repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area and present it at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**

## **6. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM**

Canada presented STACTIC WP 19-04 (Definitions of Bycatch (Article 6)) noting that there was a need for clarity on the bycatch calculations that are being used. The European Union raised concerns with the changes being proposed to Article 6.9, and Canada agreed to discuss this proposal with the European Union and present a revision at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Japan presented STACTIC WP 19-18 (Proposal for amendment to the NAFO CEM Annex II.M Format of observer trip reports), and noted that this was an editorial change to the observer reporting format in Annex II.M to align with the revisions that were adopted to the NAFO Observer Program (Article 30) in 2018. The European Union and Canada thanked Japan for their paper and noted that there were likely further changes required for this annex, in addition to the changes that Japan highlighted. Canada noted that they had started working on these changes, and the European Union offered to draft a proposal to modify Annex II.M to align with the revised Article 30 with the inclusion of input from Japan and Canada.

Canada presented STACTIC WP 19-25 (Adjustments to Multiple flap-type topside chafer (Annex III.B)) outlining a proposal to modify the existing measures to address the issue that the current chafer system allows for the obstruction of mesh in the codend. Several Contracting Parties noted that they have a ban on topside chafers in their domestic fisheries and questioned why these attachments were necessary in NAFO. Contracting Parties agreed to defer this working paper for discussion at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Canada presented STACTIC WP 19-27 (Fishing Logbook, Production Logbook and Stowage Plans Updated to the time of inspection (Article 28)). Contracting Parties expressed concerns with the proposed wording and noted that in some situations, it would not be possible for the Master to have up to date information if the inspection occurs directly after a haul has been taken onboard. Canada agreed to reflect on the wording and bring a revised proposal to the 2019 Annual Meeting for discussion.

The European Union and Canada jointly presented STACTIC WP 19-28 (Introduction of Trans-Boundary Reporting (COB) for 3NO Redfish (Article 28.6.d)) and STACTIC WP 19-29 (Restriction of Cross Divisional Tows/Sets (Article 28.1)). These proposals came out of the inspectors workshop and respond to the CESAG recommendation in COM-SC Doc. 17-08, that states that "*STACTIC review current measures relating to reporting of catch by NAFO Division to identify and implement improvements which ensure the most reliable information is available for catch estimation, recognizing its importance in stock assessments*". The European Union and Canada noted that the proposals could facilitate more accurate reporting of catch data. Contracting Parties discussed these working papers extensively and raised concerns, noting that further time to review the proposals was necessary. Contracting Parties agreed to submit comments on these working papers, or alternative approaches, to the European Union and Canada by 14 June 2019 to facilitate further discussions at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted that Russia, a key player in this fishery, was absent from this meeting which hampered a fulsome discussion on this issue.

The European Union presented STACTIC WP 19-30 (Amendment of MZZ in Article 28.6.g and Addition of fish mince in Article 27.4.d and Annex II.K) but requested to defer the discussion on this paper to the 2019 Annual Meeting.

The European Union and Canada jointly presented STACTIC WP 19-31 (Revisions to Inspection Form (Articles 36 and 37, Annex IV.B) noting that the inspection form (Annex IV.B) was redrafted in 2017. Inspectors reported on their experience with the updated form and made suggestions for improvements. Contracting Parties agreed to forward the proposal in STACTIC WP 19-31 to the Commission for adoption.

Canada presented a discussion paper in STACTIC WP 19-34 (Including the Discards Field (RJ) in the Catch on Exit (COX) Report). Canada explained that vessels leaving the NAFO Regulatory Area are required to include their catch for that day as well as the total catch onboard in the COX report, but are not able to include the discards (RJ). As a result, vessels have to wait until the next day to submit a new CAT message in order to include the discards for the previous day. To provide a more effective process that would require only one report (COX) rather than two reports. Canada recommended adding a discards (RJ) field to the COX report and agreed to draft a proposal for the 2019 Annual Meeting, in consultation with the NAFO Secretariat on the technical aspects of the change.

The European Union highlighted the work that is currently being done on the DNA analysis project in NAFO and noted that a proposal is close to being complete for endorsement by ICES.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Canada would collaborate with the European Union on STACTIC WP 19-04 and present a revised version of the proposal at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **The European Union, in collaboration with Japan and Canada, would draft a revision of Annex II.M for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **Discussions on STACTIC WP 19-25 be deferred to the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **Canada would continue to work on the proposal outlined in STACTIC WP 19-27 and present a revision at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **Contracting Parties would submit their comments on STACTIC WP 19-28 and STACTIC WP 19-29 to the European Union and Canada by 14 June 2019 to facilitate further discussions on these proposals at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **Discussions on STACTIC WP 19-30 be deferred to the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **The proposed changes to the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC WP 19-31 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **Canada would draft a proposal based on the discussions outlined in STACTIC WP 19-34 for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**

## 7. NAFO website and application development

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 19-05 (MCS Website Enhancements) and noted Secretariat staff had an opportunity in early 2019 to meet with the Canadian and European Union at-sea inspectors and discuss potential enhancements to the MCS website that would facilitate inspections. The enhancements are outlined in the working paper and Contracting Parties agreed that the NAFO Secretariat could begin work on including these enhancements to the website.

The European Union presented STACTIC WP 19-23 (New process to post information on the NAFO MCS website, and related Access Rights) and highlighted proposed changes in the process for posting information to the MCS Website. The paper proposes new access rights to facilitate access to relevant information for port inspections. Japan noted that there were square brackets around “*all Contracting Parties*” and “*Accredited Inspectors*” throughout the document and highlighted a need to select an appropriate term. Canada also identified concerns about expanding access to the MCS website to all Contracting Parties, noting that the levels of access would need to be clearly defined, and further advice would have to be sought on the issue. Iceland pointed out that STACTIC has recognized the need for port State access to information to be able to fulfill the requirement of port State Control for NAFO. The European Union noted that these changes would also have to be paired with a process to define who has access within each Contracting Party to the MCS website, as well as a process for ensuring that the confidentiality rules are respected. The European Union agreed to update the proposal in STACTIC WP 19-23 for the 2019 Annual Meeting to remove the square brackets and bring a new proposal to outline the processes for receiving access and for ensuring confidentiality measures are being met. Iceland noted that it would be useful to review who has access to the MCS website at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat would begin working on the enhancements to the MCS Website outlined in STACTIC WP 19-05.**
- **The European Union would revise the proposal outlined in STACTIC WP 19-23 for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **The European Union would draft proposals outlining the processes for individuals within Contracting Parties to obtain access to the MCS Website and ensuring confidentiality measures are met for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat would present a report at the 2019 Annual Meeting on the current levels of access granted to the MCS Website for Contracting Party delegates.**

## 8. Report and recommendations of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)

The Chair highlighted that the EDG meeting report is available in STACTIC EDG-WP 19-03 for information.

The Chair presented STACTIC WP 19-06 (Suggestions for changes in CEM), which outlined editorial revisions to various measures in the CEM for clarification. The European Union inserted a clarification under Article 6.3.d and Contracting Parties agreed to forward STACTIC WP 19-06 (Revised) to the Commission for adoption.

The Chair presented STACTIC WP 19-07 (Addition of footnote to Annex I.C of the NAFO CEM) and highlighted that the EDG proposed a reference to the FAO ASFIS list for species codes that are not available in Annex I.C. Contracting Parties agreed to forward STACTIC WP 19-07 to the Commission for adoption.

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 19-10 (Revised) (Greenland halibut port inspection coverage) and noted that this paper was in response to a request from the EDG to review the port inspection levels for Greenland halibut. Canada sought clarification from Contracting Parties on their interpretation of engaged in the Greenland halibut fishery with respect to Article 10.4. Canada indicated that they conduct inspections of all vessels carrying Greenland halibut, but explained that it was Canada's interpretation that PSC3s were only required for vessels directing for Greenland halibut. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted that they do not always inspect vessels carrying small amounts of Greenland halibut that were caught as bycatch, and seek clarification of Article 10. The European Union stated that failing to systematically inspect in port vessels carrying Greenland halibut is contrary to the NAFO CEM Article 10.4 and, consequently, has to be considered as a serious compliance issue given that Contracting Parties appear to be interpreting the NAFO CEM provisions differently. The European Union also stated that it currently inspects all vessels landing any quantity of Greenland halibut. The United States agreed with the European Union, noting that it is not an effective measure if it is being interpreted differently between Contracting Parties. The Chair highlighted the need to continue this discussion at the 2019 Annual Meeting to work toward a consistent interpretation of this measure amongst Contracting Parties.

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 19-11 (Editorial changes in the CEM that require discussion in STACTIC) noting that these changes were flagged by the EDG but were outside of the mandate of the EDG and required review by STACTIC. The European Union noted that the changes to Article 28.3.b in this working paper are being addressed in STACTIC WP 19-21. Contracting Parties agreed to review the remaining changes intersessionally and discuss this working paper at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

The European Union presented STACTIC WP 19-21 (Reference to "*the smallest geographical area*" in Article 28.2.a and 28.3.b) and noted that this change is to clarify what is meant by the concept of the smallest geographical area by changing this wording to "*division*". Contracting Parties agreed to forward this working paper to the Commission for adoption.

The United States presented STACTIC WP 19-38 (Identification of Incompatible Measures for Longline Vessels in the NAFO CEMs) and noted that this was an exercise to highlight throughout the NAFO CEM areas where the measures do not align with the use of longline gear. The Chair thanked the United States for the review and sought clarification on the way forward for this proposal. The United States highlighted that they had drafted some text to address some of the issues and presented STACTIC WP 19-41 to Contracting Parties for discussion. Contracting Parties agreed to provide comments to the United States on the proposal before the Annual Meeting and the United States agreed to continue to develop the draft for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC WP 19-06 (Revised) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **STACTIC WP 19-07 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

- **Contracting Parties would review STACTIC WP 19-11 intersessionally for discussion at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **STACTIC WP 19-21 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **Contracting Parties would provide comments on STACTIC WP 19-41 to the United States prior to the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **The United States would continue work on STACTIC WP 19-41 for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**

### **9. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures**

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 19-12 (Half-year review of the implementation of the new measures in the 2019 NAFO CEM) highlighting some questions on the required fields in the OBR report. Canada also presented STACTIC WP 19-24 (A Consideration of the PR field of the Observer Report (Annex II.D.c and II.G) relating to the PR field in the OBR report. Contracting Parties discussed the utility of these fields. The European Union noted that under the revised Article 30, the purpose of the OBR was to offer an independent source of information comparable with the CAT (same fields / same transmission frequency), therefore at a minimum, the fields of the CAT should be present in the OBR and that the current CAT should remain unchanged. Canada and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) indicated a preference to keep the PR field as they utilize the data reported through it. The European Union highlighted that the NAFO Secretariat is also currently developing the Observer reporting application and any changes to the OBR report should be made in consideration of the IT developments and the results of the pilot project testing the application and equipment necessary currently underway in NAFO. Canada agreed to work in consultation with the NAFO Secretariat to propose changes to the OBR report for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

The Chair highlighted the lack of clarity with the implementation of Article 37.5, referring to the notification of infringements to all Contracting Parties. Canada offered to prepare draft language for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting to provide clarification.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Canada, in consultation with the NAFO Secretariat, would draft a proposal to modify the OBR report for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **Canada would prepare a proposal to clarify the language in Article 37.5 for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**

### **10. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures**

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 19-13 (Practices and Procedures) and noted that there have been no new additions since the last meeting.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) requested to defer the presentation of their quota monitoring system to the 2019 Annual Meeting.

The European Union highlighted that they are currently developing some risk assessment tools for inspections and noted that once completed, they will upload to the Practices and Procedures webpage.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) would present their quota monitoring system at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**



## 11. Review of current IUU list

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 19-14 (NAFO IUU List Update) and noted that the name of the vessel Maine had been updated in accordance with the recommendation from the 2018 Annual Meeting.

## 12. Review of data reporting requirements in the NAFO CEM

### a. Review of the reporting of haul by haul data (Article 28.8.b)

The discussions on the review of the reporting of haul by haul data are reflected under agenda item 4.

### b. Review of the reporting of Provisional Monthly Catch (Article 28.8.a)

The European Union presented STACTIC WP 19-22 (Monthly Catch report (CEM Art 28.8.a)) proposing to remove the obligation to submit the monthly reporting obligation for those Contracting Parties that submit daily CAT reports. Canada noted a need for further discussion on the language, and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) questioned if the electronic reporting system (ERS) could replace this requirement in the coming years.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The European Union, Canada and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) would work together on this issue in advance of the 2019 Annual Meeting.**

## 13. Bycatches and discards

Norway presented STACTIC WP 19-17 regarding measures to minimize or eliminate discards in NAFO fisheries. Norway noted that there are several Contracting Parties in NAFO that have a discard ban in their domestic regulations and that NAFO has been discussing this issue for a number of years. The working paper outlined a proposal 1. to amend the CEM to exempt the discard obligations for Contracting Parties with discard bans and 2. for a template to evaluate the NAFO fisheries, assessing problems with bycatches and discards and how to address them. Contracting Parties noted that the NAFO Commission Ad Hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) was tasked to start working on these analyses in 2014 but there have not been substantial results. The European Union stated that this issue of an exemption for Contracting Parties with a discard ban should be a discussion in the Commission and that the role of STACTIC is to come up with practical solutions to the problems with bycatches and discards in NAFO, but that the WG-BDS has to flag the specific issues for STACTIC to address. A WG-BDS participant noted that work is ongoing and that the next meeting is taking place in July 2019. The Chair highlighted the outcomes of the meeting of the Chairs of STACTIC, WG-BDS, and Scientific Council that took place in January 2019 (COM-SC WP 19-01), and the discards overview analysis that was asked of the Secretariat in STACTIC WP 19-40. Contracting Parties discussed the possibility of having a joint meeting of STACTIC, WG-BDS and the Scientific Council as outlined in the action plan (COM Doc. 18-18) to analyze the bycatch and discards issues in NAFO. It was suggested that any future meeting should include STACTIC expertise, as well as participation from managers and scientists. Canada suggested that, as an alternative to the joint meeting, STACTIC would discuss the potential for a small working group and the terms of reference for such a group at the 2019 Annual Meeting. It was agreed to defer discussions on STACTIC WP 19-17 to the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) presented COM WP 18-26, which was a proposal on bycatches and discards originally presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting. The European Union highlighted that this proposal contradicts the definition of bycatch in Article 6. Contracting Parties expressed concerns with the term "*living resources*" in the proposal, noting that NAFO has no mandate for sedentary species in the NAFO Regulatory Area, and highlighting the complexities of aligning the quota allocation and licencing systems. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) thanked Contracting Parties for the comments and stated they would reflect on the comments and may make a revision for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Discussions on STACTIC WP 19-17 be deferred to the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **STACTIC would discuss the potential for a small working group and the terms of reference for such a group at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) would reflect on the comments provided on COM WP 18-26, and possibly present a revision at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**

#### **14. Discussion of data classification and access rights**

The United States presented STACTIC WP 19-15, a proposal to improve transparency by requiring all STACTIC working papers to be published in the public portion of NAFO's website unless the working paper contains confidential information. The United States clarified that the default would be that all STACTIC working papers would get posted to the public website prior to meetings unless a Contracting Party requested, at the time of submission, that a specific working paper remain confidential. The NAFO Secretariat indicated that the current process is that only working papers that have been adopted by the Commission get posted to the NAFO website, and NEAFC members noted that they have the same process. Contracting Parties expressed concerns about the proposed process, and some noted that it was more appropriate for discussion in the Commission. The United States stated that it intends to consult with their Commission delegation in relation to this proposal prior to the 2019 Annual Meeting.

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 19-16, an update from the NAFO Ad hoc Virtual NAFO Website Re-design Working Group, requesting that STACTIC review the fisheries information available on the NAFO Members pagers and determine if this information should be posted to the NAFO public website. Contracting Parties agreed to the concept of posting the information to the public website, in particular the vessel registry, as most other RFMOs have this information publicly available, but requested more time to review the detailed information before making a decision on the items. The NAFO Secretariat agreed to provide a detailed presentation of the information at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat would provide a detailed presentation of the information outlined in STACTIC WP 19-16 to facilitate the decision to move some or all of this information to the NAFO public website.**

#### **15. Report and advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)**

The vice-Chair of JAGDM (Natasha Barbour, Canada) presented STACTIC WP 19-37, a summary of meeting highlights from the JAGDM meeting in March 2019. The vice-Chair also presented a letter from the JAGDM Chair to the STACTIC Chair (STACTIC WP 19-35) providing a response to STACTIC on their requests relating to an update on the ERS system in NEAFC and the electronic PSC forms. Contracting Parties thanked the vice-Chair for the presentation and noted that NEAFC and JAGDM have provided a lot of information relating to the ERS system that will be very useful to NAFO if it decides to adopt an ERS in the future. Contracting Parties also noted that the responses relating to the electronic PSC system were encouraging and agreed that the NAFO Secretariat should begin work on developing this system for NAFO.

In response to the recommendation from the 2016 Annual Meeting that JAGDM continue reviewing the NAFO CEM Annexes for clarity, the vice-Chair presented STACTIC WP 19-19 to clarify the number of characters in the GE data element in Annex II.D of the NAFO CEM to align with footnote 1 of Annex II.J. The European Union noted that the codes in footnote 1 of Annex II.J are no longer relevant, and proposed deleting the footnote rather than amending Annex II.D. Contracting Parties agreed with this suggestion, and the vice-Chair agreed to forward this information to the JAGDM chair for presentation at PECMAC. The vice-Chair also presented STACTIC WP 19-20 which highlighted a clarification to the DA and TI fields in the annexes of the NAFO CEM. Contracting Parties agreed to forward this working paper to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat would begin work on electronic PSC reporting in NAFO.**
- **STACTIC WP 19-19 be revised to delete footnote 1 in Annex II.J of the NAFO CEM.**
- **The vice-Chair of JAGDM forward the decisions of NAFO to the JAGDM Chair for presentation in PECMAC.**
- **STACTIC WP 19-20 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

## **16. Discussion on garbage disposal and labour conditions onboard vessels**

The European Union presented STACTIC WP 19-33 proposing measures in the NAFO CEM to address the issue of garbage disposal at sea. Japan thanked the European Union for the proposal but requested that the language that is currently in the SIOFA measures be included in NAFO to allow an exemption for the accidental discharge of garbage at sea. The European Union agreed to amend the proposal to include the language provided by Japan. Japan also sought clarification from Canada on whether they would accept the garbage from Japanese vessels landing in Canadian ports, and Canada confirmed that there is a process in place for this. Norway indicated that there is a meeting of the IMO Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) taking place next week and that the IMO has developed an Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships, and suggested that any decisions from NAFO on this issue should await the outcomes from this meeting. It was highlighted that the IMO was considering binding actions that could directly impact Contracting Parties' fisheries management; STACTIC members were encouraged to follow the discussions at the MEPC. Contracting Parties agreed to delay discussions on this working paper to the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Norway also noted under this agenda item that they had agreed, at the 2018 Annual Meeting, to develop a proposal with regard to lost gear, however, decided to await the outcomes of the IMO meeting as lost and abandoned fishing gear is also being discussed at that meeting.

The Chair highlighted the discussion of labour conditions and noted that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) had requested the circulation of a Purple Notice from Interpol on human trafficking and forced labour in fishing vessels and the IMO Cape Town Agreement. Iceland recalled the decision at the 2018 Annual Meeting for Contracting Parties to submit a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to the NAFO Secretariat to post to the MCS Website and the Chair encouraged Contracting Parties to submit this information. Contracting Parties noted the importance of the discussions on labour conditions in order to identify how NAFO can contribute to this matter. It was agreed that the suggestions made in the Purple Notice for inspectors to note indications of human trafficking could require duties not specified in the NAFO CEM. Canada suggested that it would also have to consider other departments and authorities. The European Union suggested that contact could be made by NAFO and the ILO/IMO on how NAFO Inspectors could approach this issue.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Discussions on STACTIC WP 19-33 be deferred to the 2019 Annual Meeting.**
- **Contracting Parties would continue to submit their Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to the NAFO Secretariat to post on the MCS Website.**

## **17. Catch estimates methodology study**

This agenda item was deferred.

## **18. STACTIC Participation**

Contracting Parties discussed the guidance from the Commission at the 2018 Annual Meeting to seek a solution to the issue of STACTIC participation by non-government representatives.

The United States stated that the NAFO Convention provides that Contracting Parties are free to select experts and advisors as members of their delegation, and, therefore, such advisors may attend meetings of STACTIC.

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Japan concurred with the United States view on this matter. The United States reminded STACTIC that it had suggested at last year's Annual Meeting possible alternative processes for addressing Contracting Parties concerns about the presence of industry advisors at STACTIC meetings but did not receive any support for such suggestions. The United States further stated that it does not intend at this time to offer any further suggestions on this issue because it is fully authorized by the NAFO Convention to continue to invite industry advisor members of its delegation to STACTIC.

As, no consensus could be found toward a solution, it was determined that STACTIC should return to the Commission for further guidance.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC would seek further guidance from the Commission on the issues of STACTIC participation by non-government representatives.**

## 19. Other Business

### a. Presentation of registration formula for by-catches of Greenland shark

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) presented STACTIC WP 19-36 outlining the presentation of a registration formula for by-catches of Greenland shark. DFG noted that this was prepared in collaboration with a biologist at the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources. Contracting Parties thanked Greenland for the information and Canada and the United States indicated that they have also been working on identification and reporting methods for Greenland sharks. Contracting Parties agreed that all of the information that has been completed to date should be posted to the Practices and Procedures webpage, and the NAFO Secretariat would notify participants when information has been updated. The European Union highlighted the importance of proper identification of Greenland sharks in light of the increased reporting of this species in NAFO.

During the meeting, other working papers were highlighted as being relevant to include in a general discussion relating to sharks. The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 19-09 which identified the shark species that have been reported in the CAT messages for information. Canada presented STACTIC WP 19-32 (Revised) (Defining a Directed Fishery – Discussion Paper) under this agenda item. Iceland suggested that STACTIC explore methods to address the problem, such as an exemption from calculations for determining directed fisheries for individuals over a certain weight and the European Union suggested to move the observer task in Article 12.1.b to Article 30 as a new duty for observers. The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 19-08, which was a proposal from the EDG to clarify the provision in Article 12.1.e of the NAFO CEM relating to conducting a directed fishery for Greenland shark. Norway and Iceland expressed concerns with the proposed changes because fishing activities includes other activities, such as landing, they could not agree to as a matter of principle, due to their landing obligation. The European Union noted that an exemption for large individuals in the calculation to identify the directed fishery in accordance with Article 5 would contradict the current wording in Article 12.1.e. It was agreed that Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), and the United States would work together to exchange information with a goal of identifying a single methodology, where possible, for observers to collect information as required by Article 12.1.b for Greenland sharks. These Contracting Parties agreed to provide an update at the 2019 Annual Meeting. The Chair stated that it would be beneficial to consider all of this information further and as a package.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties would submit relevant information relating to the recording of Greenland sharks to the NAFO Secretariat to include on the Practices and Procedures webpage.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat would notify STACTIC participants when information is posted to the practices and procedures webpage.**

- **It was agreed that Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), and the United States would work together to exchange information with a goal of identifying a single methodology, where possible, for observers to collect information as required by Article 12.1.b for Greenland sharks. These Contracting Parties agreed to provide an update at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**

#### **b. CESAG working papers**

The NAFO Secretariat highlighted the latest working papers (COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-04 (Calculation of the availability of catch amounts on a division basis in port inspections for all NAFO managed stocks for 2018), COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-05 (Calculation of the percentage of catch (CAT) for species by weight that was inspected in port for 2018), and COM-SC CESAG-WP 19-06 (Revised)( Comparison of catch data sources for 2018 data available to the NAFO Secretariat)) from the Catch Estimation Advisory Group (CESAG) for information.

#### **c. Closure of 3M Redfish fishery**

The European Union noted that there are still issues with the process for closing the 3M Redfish fishery, specifically, the need for a time of closure when the Secretariat provides a quota uptake projection date, i.e. midnight on the day previous. The European Union will draft a proposal for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The European Union would draft a proposal on the 3M Redfish fishery closure for presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting.**

#### **d. NAFO Inspectors Workshop**

The European Union informed Contracting Parties that the next NAFO Inspectors Workshop will take place in the Azores, Portugal, possibly in October 2019, but the dates are yet to be confirmed. At sea and port inspectors from all Contracting Parties are welcome to participate in this workshop.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The European Union would provide an update on details of the NAFO Inspectors Workshop to STACTIC participants when they are confirmed.**

### **20. Time and Place of next meeting**

The next STACTIC meeting will be held in Bordeaux, France from 23-27 September 2019.

The Chair reminded Contracting Parties that there will be an election of the Chair and vice-Chair of STACTIC at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

### **21. Adoption of Report**

The report was adopted on 09 May 2019, prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

### **22. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 13:35 hours on 09 May 2019. The Chair thanked Portugal for hosting the meeting and the NAFO Secretariat for their support during the meeting. She also thanked the meeting participants for their cooperation and input. The participants likewise expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for her leadership.

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## Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review (2018), including review of Apparent Infringements
5. Measures concerning repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area
6. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
7. NAFO website and application development
8. Report and recommendations of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)
9. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures
10. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures
11. Review of current IUU list
12. Review of data reporting requirements in the NAFO CEM
  - a. Review of the reporting of haul by haul data (Article 28.8.b)
  - b. Review of the reporting of Provisional Monthly Catch (Article 28.8.a)
13. Bycatches and discards
14. Discussion of data classification and access rights
15. Report and advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
16. Discussion on garbage disposal and labour conditions onboard vessels
17. Catch estimates methodology study
18. STACTIC Participation
19. Other Business
  - a. Presentation of registration formula for by-catches of Greenland shark
  - b. CESAG working papers
  - c. Closure of 3M Redfish fishery
  - d. NAFO Inspectors workshop
20. Time and Place of next meeting
21. Adoption of Report
22. Adjournment