

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



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

12-15 May 2020

NAFO
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
2020

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

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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 Chair of STACTIC, Kaire Märtin (European Union) opened the meeting at 11:05UTC on 12 May 2020 via WebEx. The 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, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America (Annex 1). The Chair thanked Contracting Parties for their cooperation and flexibility during the unprecedented situation.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair noted several agenda items that, prior to the meeting, were agreed to be deferred until the next in-person meeting. In addition, the following amendments were made to the agenda under agenda item 23 – Other Business:

- a. Discussion of COVID-19
- b. Mid-Season Report on the status of the 3M Shrimp Fishery
- c. Product Form presentation – Annex II.K

The agenda was adopted, as amended (Annex 2).

4. Annual Compliance Review, 2019

The NAFO Secretariat highlighted the Draft 2019 Compilation of Fisheries Reports table in STACTIC WP 20-02 (Revised) and presented the compilation of NAFO fishing reports for STACTIC Annual Compliance Review in STACTIC WP 20-12 (Revised). Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for the work on the compliance working papers and provided comments and clarifications. Contracting Parties agreed to forward any comments on STACTIC WP 20-02 (Revised) and STACTIC WP 20-12 (Revised) to the NAFO Secretariat by 12 June 2020 for inclusion in the final version that will be circulated on 22 June 2020.

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 20-03 (Revised) outlining the Summary of Inspection Information for 2019 submitted in accordance with Article 40.4 of the NAFO CEM. Iceland noted that they had a port inspection in 2019 and have sent the information to the NAFO Secretariat for inclusion. The European Union requested further information from the United States of America on a specific infringement, noting some of the details of the follow-up actions were not entirely clear. The United States of America provided further details and agreed to work with the European Union to clarify the details of the alleged infringement and follow-up actions. Contracting Parties agreed to forward written comments on STACTIC WP 20-03 (Revised) to the NAFO Secretariat by 12 June 2020. The United States of America also thanked the European Union for the invitation to participate in a port inspection and highlighted the importance of the ongoing collaboration between Contracting Parties in relation to NAFO inspection activities.

Canada presented a discussion paper on measures concerning vessels demonstrating repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area in STACTIC WP 20-04. Canada noted that there have been extensive discussions on this topic that started in 2016, and that it has been a difficult issue to address in a way that is compatible with the legislative mechanisms of all Contracting Parties. The working paper offered some options for discussion for defining repeated non-compliance and outlining a reporting process.

Contracting Parties thanked Canada for their work and highlighted the importance of this discussion, however also noted that there were still some issues with the process outlined in the discussion paper. One being having a vessel deemed as repeatedly non-compliant upon issuance of an apparent infringement rather than following the confirmation of the infringement and subsequent legal follow-up that would be required by some Contracting Parties, as well as clarification of which serious infringements would be included in the definition, specifically in relation to infringements that are considered serious according to Article 38.1 (m) when there is no observer onboard. Canada thanked Contracting Parties for their comments and agreed to reflect and were encouraged to continue the discussions on this topic, with the possibility of presenting another discussion paper at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties would provide written comments on the Draft Compilation table of Fisheries Reports 2019 (STACTIC WP 20-02 (Revised)), the Compilation of NAFO Fishing Reports for STACTIC Annual Compliance Review presentation (STACTIC WP 20-12 (Revised)), and the Summary of Inspection Information for 2019 (STACTIC WP 20-03 (Revised)) to the NAFO Secretariat by 12 June 2020.**
- **Canada will consider the comments from Contracting Parties on the measures concerning vessels demonstrating repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area discussion paper (STACTIC WP 20-04) with the possibility of presenting another discussion paper at the 2020 Annual Meeting.**

5. Review of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM

The NAFO Secretariat presented the summary of observer information for 2019 in STACTIC WP 20-09. The Secretariat noted that there was no reporting template for this requirement and had compiled the elements by each requirement outlined in Article 30 as most Contracting Parties submitted the information in that way. The table included only a synthesis of the information that was provided by Contracting Parties, and Contracting Parties provided further details on some of the points outlined in the table. It was agreed that additional details and updates could be provided to the NAFO Secretariat by 12 June. Furthermore, it was noted that not all Contracting Parties had submitted information in accordance with the requirements outlined in Article 30.10.d and 30.6.e, and that those Contracting Parties that participated in fishing activities in 2019 should submit the relevant information to the NAFO Secretariat following the template in the working paper by 12 June 2020. Contracting Parties agreed that the revised working paper should be reviewed again at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties that conducted fishing activities in 2019 agreed to submit the reporting requirements outlined in Article 30.10.d and Article 30.6.e (where relevant) to the NAFO Secretariat by 12 June 2020.**
- **The updated observer information from Contracting Parties be incorporated into STACTIC WP 20-09 and a revised version be presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting.**

6. STACTIC Participation

This item was deferred to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

7. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

Norway presented a discussion paper regarding the inclusion of vessels from IUU lists of other RFMOs to the NAFO IUU list in STACTIC WP 20-07. Norway recalled the proposal that was presented at the 2019 Annual meeting (STACTIC WP 19-47) and highlighted that NEAFC had agreed to amend the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement to include vessels from the IUU lists of a number of other RFMOs to its IUU list. As the problem of IUU is global, and NEAFC and NAFO are including vessels from each others IUU lists on their respective IUU lists, Norway was of the opinion that NAFO should include similar amendments to the NAFO CEM, and asked

for the views of Contracting Parties on this. Contracting Parties thanked Norway for the discussion paper and noted that they were fully supportive of mechanisms to prevent and deter IUU fishing activities in NAFO, but some required additional time, noting that they would need to seek additional input. Contracting Parties also noted that more details were required, such as which RFMOs would have a sufficient nexus to NAFO, e.g. location, type of fishery, etc...), the listing mechanisms of the other RFMOs, and details to ensure NAFO Contracting Parties have notice and opportunity to object to any vessel inclusion similar to the current processes outlined in Article 53 of the NAFO CEM. The European Union noted that cross-referencing RFMOs lists increases the effectiveness of this mechanism to fight IUU (e.g. limiting the market for illegal catches) and offered its assistance to Norway to table a proposal. Norway thanked Contracting Parties for their comments. They will reflect on them and agreed to cooperate with the European Union with regard to drafting a new proposal for presentation at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Norway will consider the comments made and cooperate with the European Union with regard to drafting a new proposal regarding the inclusion of vessels from IUU lists of other RFMOs to the NAFO IUU list for presentation at the 2020 Annual Meeting.**

8. Discussions on the interpretation of Article 10 of the NAFO CEM

This item was deferred to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

9. Port State Measures

a. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO

This item was deferred to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

b. FAO Port State Measures Agreement

The Chair presented the information on the NAFO implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement in STACTIC WP 20-01 (Rev. 2), and noted that this document was drafted by a smaller working group that met on 23 April 2020 in response to the request in COM Doc. 19-33. The Chair requested that Contracting Parties submit any further comments on the document to the NAFO Secretariat by 15 June 2020, and if they are not substantive, the comments will be incorporated and sent in response to the FAO survey which will be open from June-September 2020. If Contracting Parties provide substantive comments, the Chair will call another meeting of the small working group to review them. Contracting Parties agreed with this way forward.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will submit comments to the NAFO Secretariat on the NAFO implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement text in STACTIC WP 20-01 (Rev. 2) by 15 June 2020.**
- **The Chair will review the comments submitted by Contracting Parties on STACTIC WP 20-01 (Rev. 2) and determine if a second meeting of the working group will be required before submitting the responses to the FAO questionnaire.**

10. Marking of gears

This item was deferred to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

11. NAFO website and application development

The NAFO Secretariat highlighted STACTIC WP 20-08 and presented an update on the work to the MCS Website and the observer reporting application. Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for the developments to the NAFO MCS Website, noting the importance of the tools and information on the website that have greatly

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facilitated inspection and FMC activities. On the observer application, the NAFO Secretariat noted that there are currently technical issues with connecting the application with an independent communication device that will be resolved within the coming months and would provide an update at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for the update and continued to offer support for testing the application when required.

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

This item was deferred to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

13. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures

No items discussed under this agenda item.

14. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures

The Chair noted that there were no updates since last discussed at the 2019 Annual Meeting in STACTIC WP 19-46.

15. 2019 NAFO Inspectors workshop

The European Union presented the summary report of NAFO Inspectors Workshop in STACTIC WP 20-05. The European Union noted that the meeting took place in October 2019 in the Azores, Portugal, and was open to participation from inspectors from all Contracting Parties. Representatives from Canada, Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, and the United States of America participated in the workshop along with a member of the NAFO Secretariat. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for hosting the workshop and noted the importance of the ongoing communication and collaboration of Contracting Party inspectors to ensure the consistency of the enforcement of the NAFO CEM. The NAFO Executive Secretary noted that the inclusion of the NAFO Secretariat in the Inspectors Workshop has increased spending under the travel budget of the Secretariat and this spending was not anticipated when the budget was approved by the Commission. Consequently, the Secretariat will be asking for an increase to its budget at the 2020 Annual Meeting to accommodate this increased cost. Contracting Parties supported this and noted the importance of having the NAFO Secretariat present at the workshop. Canada noted that they will be hosting the next NAFO Inspectors Workshop, but the date is yet to be determined given the current COVID-19 situation.

16. Review of current IUU list Pursuant to NAFO CEM, Article 53

The Chair noted that there were no updates to the NAFO IUU list since last discussed at the 2019 Annual Meeting in STACTIC WP 19-14. The Chair also highlighted the discussion paper from Norway (STACTIC WP 20-07), specifically that NEAFC has adopted the proposal to include other RFMO IUU lists into their IUU list and that will be finalized at the NEAFC annual meeting. It was noted that this may have an impact where NAFO adopts the NEAFC IUU list as per Article 49.1.c of the NAFO CEM and that STACTIC will need to discuss these changes and how they relate to the NAFO IUU list. Canada also noted that there had been discussion of the status of some of the vessels that are currently listed on the IUU list, and the European Union agreed to follow-up on this and provide an update at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The European Union would follow-up on some of the vessels listed in the NAFO IUU list and provide an update at the 2020 Annual Meeting.**

17. Bycatch, discards, and selectivity**a. Results of the WG-BDS meeting, April 2020**

The NAFO Secretariat provided a summary of the results from the 30 April 2020 meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area in STACTIC WP 20-13, noting that the report of the meeting has not been finalized. The Chair of the WG-BDS, Temur Tairov (Russian Federation), noted that there is further work to be completed by the working group, and another meeting may be called prior to the 2020 Annual Meeting depending on the analyses being completed by the NAFO Secretariat. Contracting Parties raised several questions relating to the analysis completed by the NAFO Secretariat including which calculation of bycatch was used as the basis for the analysis, how targeted species was determined in relation to vessels that have quota for multiple stocks, and how the threshold levels were calculated. The NAFO Secretariat agreed to follow-up with Contracting Parties on their questions and continue working on the analyses for presentation to the WG-BDS and report back to STACTIC.

b. Sorting grids for 3M Cod

This item was deferred to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

18. Discussion of data classification and access rights

This item was deferred to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

19. Report and advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM), 17-18 March 2020

The vice-Chair of JAGDM, Natasha Barbour (Canada), presented a summary of meeting highlights from the JAGDM meeting in March 2020 (report available in COM Doc. 20-03) and noted that no NAFO-specific items were discussed during the meeting with the exception of providing updates on recent work that NAFO had completed. The vice-Chair also highlighted that an election for a new chair will be taking place via correspondence from the NAFO and NEAFC Secretariats. The time and place of the next meeting of JAGDM is to be determined.

20. Discussion on garbage disposal and labour conditions onboard vessels

The Secretariat noted that not all Contracting Parties have provided their Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for labour conditions to the NAFO MCS Website and Contracting Parties agreed to submit and provide relevant updates to the NAFO Secretariat.

The European Union presented a discussion paper outlining a proposal for inclusion of measures relating to marine pollution in the NAFO CEM in STACTIC WP 20-10, noting it was a revision of a proposal that was presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for their work on the proposal and agreed on the importance of addressing the issues of garbage disposal and pollution at sea. Contracting Parties noted that there were several elements in the proposal that would require further review and consultation before moving forward with the proposal. Some Contracting Parties expressed concerns about the potential ambiguity that could be caused by including specific details relating to marine pollution within the NAFO CEM, noting that a reference to Annex 5 of MARPOL could be sufficient to address the issue. The European Union thanked Contracting Parties for their input and agreed to work further on the proposal in consideration of the comments received from Contracting Parties and bring a revised proposal to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will provide the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for labour conditions and any relevant updates to the NAFO Secretariat for inclusion on the NAFO MCS Website.**

- **The European Union will consider comments received from Contracting Parties on STACTIC WP 20-10 and bring a revised proposal to the 2020 Annual Meeting.**

21. Discussion of the reporting of shark catches in the NAFO Regulatory Area

This item was deferred to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

22. Implementation of the Performance Review Recommendations

This item was deferred to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

23. Other business

a. Discussion of COVID-19

The Chair opened this agenda item by highlighting the various correspondence that has been circulated relating to the measures being applied by Contracting Parties during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair noted that in the correspondence submissions, there is a common reference that STACTIC has a role to discuss the measures relating to the situation, but the specific tasking to STACTIC remains unclear. Considering this, the Chair requested that Contracting Parties each provide an update on the current issues they are facing, both domestically and within NAFO, as well as their interpretations of the role of STACTIC.

The European Union informed that the discussion on the way forward with regard to the difficulties is ongoing at NAFO Heads of Delegation (HoD) level. The options considered with regard to situations in which a Contracting Party cannot comply with a NCEM obligation due to the pandemic are the general suspension of the obligation and the assessment of this non-compliance as deriving from emergency circumstances. A general suspension was proposed for the observer scheme, later withdrawn, with a number of HoD currently supporting the European Union approach based on identification of emergency circumstances, given that the general suspension affecting all Contracting Parties regardless of the COVID-19-related circumstances would be non-optimal. The European Union noted that the role of STACTIC would be decided at HoD together with the approach to be followed. The role for STACTIC proposed in the European Union HoD letter would consist of compiling the information from the Contracting Parties on the emergency circumstances surrounding a non-compliance linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, including technical discussions and clarifications needed. The information would be then transmitted for decision making to the NAFO Fisheries Commission, which would be in a position to identify and treat accordingly the emergency circumstances linked to the COVID-19 crisis.

Canada informed Contracting Parties that there was a Ministerial Order to suspend observer operations in Canada that came into force in April. Because of this, Canada opted to use the observer derogation clause outlined in Article 30.6 of the NAFO CEM, and subsequently proposed a suspension of the NAFO Observer Program (NAFO/20-133), but following further discussions withdrew the proposal. However, Canada expressed some concerns with the potential issues their current derogation could cause, specifically in relation to Article 38.1.m. Canada reflected on the European Union proposal (NAFO/20-128), and agreed in principle with the way forward, where Contracting Parties use their own discretion to address their specific issues related to COVID-19, and STACTIC review issues during the 2021 compliance review process. Canada did raise concerns with the use of the term “force majeure”, as this has specific meaning in the context of port State measures, and offered the suggestion to use “emergency circumstances related to COVID-19”, and offered to present a proposal. Canada also noted that at the time, the domestic and international conservation and patrol efforts have been considered critical by the Minister, and therefore will continue to be an active presence in the NRA in terms of control and enforcement, and highlighted that there are many procedures and protocols that have been developed to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved.

Denmark (Faroe Islands) reported that there are currently no vessels operating in the NRA, but that there has been one issue where a vessel landed in port that had Greenland halibut (GHL) onboard, and that no physical inspection was possible for that vessel (Article 10.4). The Faroe Islands noted they circulated correspondence

in relation to this issue, but that it was likely that port inspection operations would be returning to normal in the near future as there were no more cases of COVID-19 in the Faroe Islands. The Faroe Islands noted that they would like to see the specific issues being faced by Contracting Parties in this situation highlighted and forwarded to the Commission for review. Denmark (Greenland) noted that they currently have no vessels in the NRA and have not received any vessel for landing, so have had no issues complying with the NAFO CEM to date. Greenland supported the suggestion of reporting to the Commission on the specific issues being faced by Contracting Parties and noted the need for guidance on how STACTIC should be evaluating these specific issues.

Iceland reported that they have no vessels currently operating in the NRA and are not at present conducting port inspections. Iceland noted that they have not received any vessels landing Greenland halibut (GHL) but are monitoring the situation to meet the required 15% port inspection coverage outlined in Article 43.10 of the NAFO CEM. Iceland noted their support for the approach proposed by European Union and that the role of STACTIC be to review the compliance issues related to COVID-19. Iceland also noted concerns with any temporary suspensions of the NAFO CEM as each country will be lifting the restrictions at different times, so having one timeline for all Contracting Parties would not be practical, and also that further guidance is required from the Commission before moving forward with any decisions on the COVID-19 issue.

Japan reported that there is currently one vessel operating in the NRA, and because of the restrictions on travel, the same observer remains onboard that vessel. Japan expressed concerns that if something were to happen to that observer, they would not be able to deploy another observer onboard (Article 30). Japan noted its support for the process outlined in the European Union proposal on the role of STACTIC to review the specific issues related to COVID-19 during the compliance review 2021 and agreed that further guidance from the Commission would be necessary to move forward.

Norway reported that domestically risk assessment had been conducted and general standards to avoid contamination during inspections had been developed, and that physical inspections now would resume gradually. Norway also noted that there is currently one Norwegian vessel fishing for cod in the NRA, and that although there had been some challenges, they had been able to deploy an observer from the Canadian company Seawatch to this vessel. As the vessel had been carrying an observer for the first period it was fishing in the NRA, Norway was now employing the derogation in accordance with Article 30.6, and the observer had left the vessel earlier this week. Norway also noted support for the European Union proposal not to suspend any particular provision of the NCEM. However, if it was agreed that Contracting Parties may take unilateral measures and these would be considered force majeure or emergency circumstances, Norway was of the opinion that it seemed inappropriate for STACTIC to re-examine those measures. If STACTIC should have any role with regard to COVID-19 measures, it should be to conduct a subsequent evaluation of the situation with the aim of identifying best practice solutions to be applied in similar situations in the future.

The Russian Federation reported that there are several vessels that have been operating in the NRA since the COVID-19 pandemic started and their main concern is ensuring there is no contamination for the crew members onboard the vessels. The Russian Federation felt the role of STACTIC was to develop recommendations in response to the current COVID-19 to forward to the Commission for review and adoption, specifically measures relating to safety procedures and protocols to be followed by the NAFO Inspectors at sea. The Russian Federation noted their correspondence (NAFO/20-140) relating to a recent inspection of a Russian vessel by a European Union inspection presence. The master of the vessel reported concerns to the Russian Federation relating to the inspection, and the European Union clarified the details of the inspection and noted no issues were raised at the time of the inspection and explained that the measures of the protective protocol applied during the deployment were notified to all Contracting Parties several weeks in advance of the inspection. The protective protocol accommodated all measures suggested by the Russian Federation and included a 3-weeks quarantine period for all crewmembers. The European Union expressed readiness to discuss further the inspection protocols in place with a view to share best practices. The Russian Federation asked Contracting Parties with inspection presence to upload their protective safety protocols to the NAFO MCS Website and the European Union agreed to provide an updated version.

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The United States of America reported that they have temporarily suspended their domestic observer program in the Greater Atlantic Region and that this suspension is regularly reviewed in light of the changing circumstances. The United States noted that they continue to have an inspection and enforcement presence while undertaking appropriate risk assessments. The United States highlighted their proposal that was circulated to Contracting Parties in NAFO/20-143 noting their concerns with having Contracting Parties advise of their inability to comply with relevant measures due to COVID-19 on a case-by-case basis rather than having a decision by all Contracting Parties to temporarily suspend the relevant measures. Particularly, the United States noted that there is no process in place under the CEMs or otherwise to consistently evaluate the application and use of any such defense on a case-by-case basis. The United States proposed that STACTIC identify the measures that are currently difficult for Contracting Parties to meet because of COVID-19 and draft a proposal to the Commission to temporarily suspend these measures on an expedited timeline.

The European Union noted that the difficulties due to the pandemic expressed by STACTIC members mainly relate to Article 10 (GHL landings) and Article 30 (Observers scheme) NAFO CEM for which no suspensions are currently proposed. The European Union informed that their proposal that was circulated in NAFO/20-128 favors the approach of assessing the measures taken at a later date, trusting that all Contracting Parties are doing their best to comply with their obligations, rather than suspending specific measures for all Contracting Parties, even those that are still able to comply with those measures.

The Chair thanked all Contracting Parties for the valuable discussions and for their input on the COVID-19 issue. The Chair noted that there was no clear consensus on the way forward to address the COVID-19 issue and what the role of STACTIC should be. In light of the discussion and the urgency of the situation, the Chair proposed that STACTIC requests advice from the Commission, as soon as possible, on whether the current COVID-19 situation requires a proposal for the temporary suspension of specific measures in the NAFO CEM or whether Contracting Parties can continue to operate under their own discretion under emergency measures relating to COVID-19. Contracting Parties agreed with the proposal offered by the Chair.

Based on the decision of the Commission on the way forward, STACTIC requests advice on what their role should be going forward with the current COVID-19 situation. If the Commission agrees that current measures in the NAFO CEM need to be suspended, STACTIC requests clarification on whether it will then be the responsibility of STACTIC to propose these measures to the Commission. If the Commission agrees that Contracting Parties can continue to operate under their own discretion under the emergency measures relating to COVID-19, STACTIC ask for clarification on whether STACTIC should compile, make a first review of and report for decision-making to the Commission on the measures undertaken by Contracting Parties via the compliance review, or simply review the measures reported in order to identify best practice solutions to be applied in similar situations in the future.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC will request advice from the Commission on whether the current COVID-19 situation requires a proposal for the temporary suspension of specific measures in the NAFO CEM or whether Contracting Parties can continue to operate under their own discretion under emergency measures relating to COVID-19.**
- **Following the decision of the Commission, if the Commission agrees that current NAFO CEM measures need to be suspended, STACTIC requests clarification on whether it will then be the responsibility of STACTIC to propose these measures to the Commission. If the Commission agrees that Contracting Parties can continue to operate under their own discretion under the emergency measures relating to COVID-19, STACTIC requests clarification regarding whether STACTIC should compile, make a first review of and report for decision-making to the Commission on the measures undertaken by Contracting Parties via the compliance review, or simply review the measures reported in order to identify best practice solutions to be applied in similar situations in the future.**

b. Mid-Season Report on the status of the 3M Shrimp Fishery

Canada presented a discussion paper to propose the creation of a mid-season report on the status of the 3M shrimp fishery in STACTIC WP 20-06. Canada noted the potential utility of having this report in advance of the 2020 Annual Meeting to facilitate discussions in anticipation of a request to STACTIC from the Commission and/or working group on 3M shrimp. Contracting Parties thanked Canada for the paper but noted that the Secretariat would need to produce this information for both the working group on 3M shrimp and the Commission (as outlined in COM Doc. 19-27). The Secretariat noted that the elements in the proposal can be produced in advance of the 2020 Annual Meeting for discussion at the Commission and communicated to STACTIC. Canada noted that the purpose of the paper was to initiate a discussion on what analysis and reports would be required to review the 3M shrimp fishery and thanked Contracting Parties for their engagement in the discussion. Recognizing the elements of the discussion paper would be made available by the Secretariat in advance of the 2020 Annual Meeting, Canada withdrew the proposal from STACTIC.

c. Product Form presentation – Annex II.K

The European Union presented an information paper on the product form presentation in Annex II.K in STACTIC WP 20-11, noting that the background of the paper was an infringement issued to a European Union vessel in 2019. The European Union clarified that the traditional cut for cod in the European Union is gutted and headed with collars left on but that there is no code for this in Annex II.K. GUH is used for gutted and headed presentation without collars and the generic code OTH or OTH-GUH is used instead for the traditional cut. The infringement had no follow up because the use of OTH is appropriate in the absence of a dedicated product form code. Canada indicated that the GUH code is being used for gutted and headed with collars left on by a number of other Contracting Parties and agreed to work interessionally with the European Union to find a solution. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for the discussion paper noting the importance of this issue. The European Union agreed to work intersessionally with interested Contracting Parties to develop a proposal for a dedicated product form code for gutted and headed presentation with collars on.

It was agreed that:

- **The European Union will work intersessionally on a proposal on a specific product form code.**
- **The European Union will provide an update to the follow up of the reported infringement in relation to this issue in STACTIC WP 20-03 by 12 June 2020.**

24. Time and place of next meeting

The next STACTIC meeting is scheduled to take place from 21-25 September 2020 in Halifax, Canada. The Chair noted that this is dependent on the status of the COVID-19 situation.

The Chair also asked participants if there was interest in scheduling the STACTIC Participation and Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) from 16-18 September 2020 in Halifax, Canada in advance of the Annual Meeting. Contracting Parties requested time to review scheduling before committing to those meeting dates and the Chair requested feedback on this by 26 May 2020.

25. Adoption of Report

The report was discussed during the meeting and adopted via correspondence following the end of the meeting.

26. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 13:15UTC on 15 May 2020. The Chair thanked meeting participants for their cooperation and input. The participants likewise expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for her leadership as well as to the NAFO Secretariat for their arrangements/technical work.

Annex 1. Participant List

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Annual Compliance Review, 2019
5. Review of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM
6. STACTIC Participation
7. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
8. Discussions on the interpretation of Article 10 of the NAFO CEM
9. Port State Measures
 - a. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO
 - b. FAO Port State Measures Agreement
10. Marking of gears
11. NAFO website and application development
12. Report and recommendations of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)
13. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures
14. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures
15. 2019 NAFO Inspectors workshop
16. Review of current IUU list Pursuant to NAFO CEM, Article 53
17. Bycatch, discards, and selectivity
 - a. Results of the WG-BDS meeting, April 2020
 - b. Sorting grids for 3M Cod
18. Discussion of data classification and access rights
19. Report and advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM), 17-18 March 2020
20. Discussion on garbage disposal and labour conditions onboard vessels
21. Discussion of the reporting of shark catches in the NAFO Regulatory Area
22. Implementation of the Performance Review Recommendations
23. Other business
 - a. Discussion of COVID-19
 - b. Mid-Season Report on the status of the 3M Shrimp Fishery
 - c. Product Form presentation – Annex II.K
24. Time and place of next meeting
25. Adoption of Report
26. Adjournment