

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



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

10-13 May 2021

NAFO
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada
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Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting

10-13 May 2021

1. Opening by the Chair, Kaire Märtin (European Union)

The Chair of STACTIC, Kaire Märtin (European Union) opened the meeting at 11:05UTC on 10 May 2021 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, the United Kingdom and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated, with some agenda items being deferred.

The Chair noted that the NAFO ad hoc Working Group on STACTIC Participation (WG-SP) was not able to meet again this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Contracting Parties agreed to follow the procedure established at the 2019 Annual Meeting as an interim solution for this meeting without prejudice to any other future possible decisions. Contracting Parties agreed to identify agenda items and/or working papers which they deemed to be of a sensitive nature and discussed in a closed session. The closed sessions would be restricted to government officials and NAFO Commissioners from each delegation. Following the closed discussions, the Chair would report out the results or recommendations in open session. The United States of America noted their disagreement with having any agenda items in a closed session but agreed to continue with this procedure for this meeting and encouraged Contracting Parties to draft proposals on how to move forward with the issue of STACTIC Participation. For this meeting, Contracting Parties agreed to discuss agenda items 4, 5 and 25 in a closed session.

4. Annual Compliance Review, 2020

The NAFO Secretariat highlighted the Draft 2020 Compilation of Fisheries Reports table in STACTIC WP 21-01 (Rev. 3). Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for the work and provided comments and clarifications. Contracting Parties agreed to forward any further comments on STACTIC WP 21-01 (Rev. 3) to the NAFO Secretariat by 14 June 2021 for inclusion in the final version that will be circulated on 21 June 2021.

The NAFO Secretariat presented the Summary of Inspection Information for 2020 in STACTIC WP 21-02 (Rev. 2). Contracting Parties noted that some port inspection data were not included in Part 2 of the document and the Secretariat agreed to include those in the next revision, along with any comments received by Contracting Parties by 14 June 2021.

In addition to the summary of inspection information, the United States of America highlighted the provisions in Article 31.7 of the NAFO CEM outlining that Contracting Parties with inspection presence should conduct inspections in an equitable manner. STACTIC agreed that, to reflect on the requirement established by Article 31.7, the Secretariat will provide information comparing the number of NAFO at sea inspections by inspecting Contracting Party with regard to each Contracting Party's level of catches and days at sea for the last 5 years, noting that the compilation of this information is only a basis to inform further discussions on the issue.

The NAFO Secretariat presented the draft NAFO 2020 Fisheries and Compliance in STACTIC WP 21-15 (Rev. 2). Contracting Parties offered some suggestions for improvements in the document and some corrections which will be incorporated by the Secretariat in addition to any comments received by Contracting Parties by 14 June 2021.

Canada presented a format for the COVID-19 Annex to the 2020 Compliance Review in STACTIC WP 21-12. Contracting Parties thanked Canada for drafting the template for reporting, and provided some further comments. Contracting Parties agreed to complete the template for 2020 information outlined in STACTIC WP 21-12 (Revised) to the NAFO Secretariat by 14 June 2021. Contracting Parties also noted their preference for a summarized version of the submissions following the template to be included into the annex of the Compliance Review that is presented to the Commission at the Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will provide written comments on the Draft Compilation table of Fisheries Reports 2020 (STACTIC WP 21-01 (Rev. 3)), the Summary of Inspection Information for 2020 (STACTIC WP 21-02 (Rev. 2)), and the draft NAFO 2020 Fisheries and Compliance (STACTIC WP 20-15 (Rev. 2)) to the NAFO Secretariat by 14 June 2021.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat will provide information comparing the number of NAFO at sea inspections by inspecting Contracting Party with regard to each Contracting Party's level of catches and days at sea for the last 5 years, noting that the compilation of this information is only a basis to form further discussion on the issue.**
- **Contracting Parties will complete the template for 2020 information outlined in STACTIC WP 21-12 (Revised) to the NAFO Secretariat by 14 June 2021.**
- **The information submitted following the template in STACTIC WP 21-12 (Revised) will be summarized by the NAFO Secretariat and included as an annex in the draft Compliance Review.**

5. Review of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM

The NAFO Secretariat presented the summary of observer information for 2020 in STACTIC WP 21-03 Revised. Contracting Parties highlighted the benefits of the annual review of the implementation of the observer program, and noted the importance of flagging specific limitations of the program to facilitate the 2022 review as per Article 30.19 of the NAFO CEM. The European Union noted the importance of training and interaction with the observers and observer contractors for the proper implementation of the programme, the early submission of the observers' trip report by the flag Contracting Party to the port Contracting Party, and thanked Canada for their assistance in a 2021 case of removal of the observer on board. Contracting Parties agreed to submit comments and missing information/reports, including the analysis under Article 30.6.e of the NAFO CEM, for inclusion in the working paper by 14 June 2021.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties would provide any comments and outstanding information for inclusion in the working paper on the summary of observer information for 2020 (STACTIC WP 21-03 Rev. 2) by 14 June 2021.**

6. STACTIC Participation

This item was deferred, however, a discussion regarding the format of the next meeting occurred under agenda item 27 – Time and place of next meeting.

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

The United States of America presented a proposal for the to modify the definition of serious infringements in STACTIC WP 21-05. The working paper sought to remove directed fishing from the list of serious infringements if the move-along provisions were followed. The United States also called for a longer-term solution to convene a working group of STACTIC to review the bycatch provisions and the directed fishery definition in the NAFO CEM. Contracting Parties thanked the United States for their proposal and agreed to further discuss the issues raised with respect to the bycatch and directed fisheries provisions of the NAFO CEM and supported the development of a working group. Contracting Parties requested further time to review the specific proposal for

changes to the NAFO CEM and agreed to forward comments to the United States of America on the proposal before the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Japan presented a proposal to amend NAFO CEM Article 13 - Gear Requirements in STACTIC WP 21-09 and highlighted that the issue being addressed is similar to the issue being addressed in the proposal from the United States of America. Japan noted that the proposal aimed to address a situation where redfish would accidentally compose the greatest weight, and therefore the directed fishery, during a fishery for squid with a 60mm mesh size, which would result in a serious infringement for directed fishery for redfish with an illegal mesh size. Some Contracting Parties indicated support to the proposed text although noting it would not solve the issues relating to the mesh size requirement. Japan revised its WP to amend NAFO CEM Article 13 and 38, incorporating the idea of move-along provision as a short-time solution. Contracting Parties thanked Japan for the proposal and agreed to provide comments to Japan in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting and to include this subject within the discussions of a possible working group.

Canada presented a discussion paper on measures concerning vessels demonstrating repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area in STACTIC WP 21-13. Canada noted that this version of the paper considered comments received at the 2020 Annual Meeting and aims to address the issue of repeat non-compliance of serious infringements that is within the domestic legislation of Contracting Parties. Contracting Parties thanked Canada for their continued efforts on this issue and offered further revisions, and it was agreed to forward the proposal outlined in STACTIC WP 21-13 (Revised) to the Commission for adoption.

The European Union presented a proposal to amend the list of serious infringements: use of sorting grids – Article 38.1 (g) outlined in STACTIC WP 21-20. The European Union highlighted that the measures in Article 38.1.g adopted for 3M cod (in COM Doc. 20-14) were not clear as there is no regulated grid size in the fishery and the proposal aimed to correct that. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for the proposal, and offered some additional edits, and agreed to forward the proposal outlined in STACTIC WP 21-20 (Revised) to the Commission for adoption.

The United States of America presented a proposal aimed to standardize observer data collection in STACTIC WP 21-22. Contracting Parties thanked the United States for the proposal and supported the standardization of data collection, however, expressed concerns with making the use of English a specific requirement in the NAFO CEM. Contracting Parties offered edits including the use of English being “to the extent possible” in the annex and not to change the text in Article 30. Contracting Parties agreed to forward the revisions in STACTIC WP 21-22 (Revised) to the Commission for adoption.

Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America presented a joint proposal on the modification to the bycatch definition of the “Others” category in STACTIC WP 21-04 (Revised). Contracting Parties thanked Canada, the European Union and the United States of America for the proposal and requested further time to review the proposal. Contracting Parties agreed to forward comments on the proposal to Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The Chair highlighted that several of the proposals aim to address the issue of bycatch, directed fisheries and discards in the NAFO CEM and that further discussion on how to move forward on these issues will be discussed under agenda item 17. Norway, Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), and Iceland reiterated their position that NAFO should aim to develop provisions to reduce bycatch rather than having provisions that limit retention onboard, noting several Contracting Parties of NAFO have domestic discard bans.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will forward comments on the proposal in STACTIC WP 21-05 on the modification to the definition of serious infringement to the United States of America in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting.**

- **Contracting Parties will forward comments on the proposal in STACTIC WP 21-09 (Revised) to amend NAFO CEM Article 13 - Gear Requirements to Japan in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting.**
- **The proposal on measures concerning vessels demonstrating repeat non-compliance of serious infringements outlined in STACTIC WP 21-13 (Revised) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The proposal to amend the list of serious infringements: use of sorting grids – Article 38.1 (g) outlined in STACTIC WP 21-20 (Revised) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The proposal on observer data collection outlined in STACTIC WP 21-22 (Revised) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **Contracting Parties will forward comments on the proposal in STACTIC WP 21-04 (Revised) to modify the bycatch definition of the “Others” category to Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting.**

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

The Chair opened this agenda item and recalled the discussions from previous meetings on the differences in interpretations of the provisions of Article 10 of the NAFO CEM, specifically in relation to the 100% port inspection requirements for Greenland halibut. Most Contracting Parties indicated that the provisions were clear that 100% port inspection was required for any landings of Greenland halibut, while others interpreted the provisions to be applicable only for vessels participating in a directed fishery for Greenland halibut, and that small quantities should not be subject to 100% inspection. The European Union noted that, in the case of 3M cod, there is a threshold of 1,250 kg on board for the inspection to be mandatory. Contracting Parties suggested to resolve the issue, that a proposal should be developed for a threshold for inspection similar to what was adopted for 3M cod at the 2020 Annual Meeting (in COM Doc. 20-14). Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agreed to draft a proposal, with assistance from the European Union, for a threshold for Greenland halibut port inspection for presentation at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) will draft a proposal for a threshold for Greenland halibut port inspections for presentation at the 2021 Annual Meeting.**

9. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO

This item was deferred.

10. Marking of gears

This item was deferred.

11. NAFO MCS website and application development

The NAFO Secretariat presented a brief overview of some of the latest enhancements to the MCS Website and an update on the NAFO Observer application. Contracting Parties thanked the NAFO Secretariat for the presentation and noted the importance of the MCS Website to facilitate NAFO Inspectors in their work. The European Union highlighted some additional enhancements for the website and agreed to submit those to the NAFO Secretariat in writing following the meeting. Contracting Parties supported the NAFO Secretariat to continue work on the MCS Website enhancements and the NAFO Observer application.

The NAFO Secretariat also presented a proposal for an enhancement for the user login/authentication for the MCS Website in STACTIC WP 21-14, and Contracting Parties supported the proposal.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat continue the work on the enhancements to the MCS Website and the NAFO Observer application.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat move forward with the enhancements to the login procedure for the MCS Website outlined in STACTIC WP 21-14.**

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

The Chair of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG), Patrick Moran (United States of America), presented the report of the EDG from the November 2020 meeting in STACTIC WP 20-32.

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 21-06, which included a poll for STACTIC participants on the time it would take to implement the proposed changes from the EDG on Annex II.J of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 20-03 (Revised). Contracting Parties indicated in the poll that it could take up to nine months for their FMCs to implement the changes. Contracting Parties also requested that the changes in STACTIC EDG-WP 20-03 (Revised) be forwarded to the Scientific Council for review to determine if there would be any impact their work and requested the Secretariat to investigate whether the changes will be applied historically in the NAFO database, or if it is possible for linkages to be made for the new codes. Contracting Parties agreed to continue discussions on the proposed changes outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 20-03 (Revised) at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The Chair highlighted the EDG proposal for the insertion of reference to Annex II.I Part B in Annex IV.A outlined in STACTIC WP 21-07 and Contracting Parties agreed to forward this proposal to the Commission for adoption.

The Chair highlighted the EDG proposal to change Article 5.15.f of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 20-05 and Contracting Parties agreed to forward this proposal to the Commission for adoption.

The Chair highlighted the draft legend for Annex I.A of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC WP 21-17. Contracting Parties agreed on the incorporation of a legend into Annex I.A of the NAFO CEM, but required further time to review the draft, and agreed to discuss this at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 21-18 outlining the request from the EDG to review the text placement of Article 7bis in the NAFO CEM. Canada presented STACTIC WP 21-28 in response to the request from the EDG to realign Article 7 and Article 7bis of the NAFO CEM. Contracting Parties thanked Canada for the proposal and agreed to provide comments to Canada in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The Chair noted that the recommendation from the EDG to review the text of Article 38.1.g outlined in STACTIC WP 21-19 was addressed under agenda item 7.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The proposed changes to Annex II.J of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 20-03 (Revised) be forwarded to the Scientific Council for their review.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat investigate whether the changes to Annex II.J of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 20-03 (Revised) will be applied historically in the NAFO database, or if it is possible for linkages to be made for the new codes.**
- **The discussion on the proposed changes to Annex II.J of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 20-03 (Revised) continue at the 2021 Annual Meeting.**
- **The EDG proposal for the insertion of reference to Annex II.I Part B in Annex IV.A outlined in STACTIC WP 21-07 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The EDG proposal to change Article 5.15.f of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 20-05 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

- **STACTIC continue discussions on the draft legend for Annex I.A of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC WP 21-17 at the 2021 Annual Meeting.**
- **Contracting Parties will provide comments on the proposal from Canada to realign Article 7 and Article 7bis of the NAFO CEM in STACTIC WP 21-28 to Canada in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting.**
- **STACTIC continue discussions on the proposal from Canada to realign Article 7 and Article 7bis of the NAFO CEM in STACTIC WP 21-28 at the 2021 Annual Meeting.**

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

The European Union highlighted that the provisions relating to the closure of the 3M cod fishery in Article 5.5.j (adopted in COM Doc. 20-14) may require further clarification at a later date.

14. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures

The Chair highlighted the latest list of Contracting Party practices and procedures in STACTIC WP 21-08 and requested Contracting Parties to review the submissions to ensure they are up to date. The European Union provided four new documents for inclusion onto the Practices and Procedures webpage: the Sanitary precautionary approach in relation to the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) to be taken on board of the EFCA chartered vessel(s) in view of the boarding of fishing vessels in EU and in International waters, the EU guidelines for port State control of vessels landing fish from the NAFO Regulatory Area, the fish products sampling for DNA testing International Manual of Procedures, and the ICES advice on the International Manual of Procedures (IMP) to be used in the NAFO Regulatory. The European Fisheries Control Agency made a brief presentation of the first two documents and Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for the presentation of the documents.

15. NAFO Inspectors workshop

Canada reported that the NAFO Inspectors Workshop has not been held since the COVID-19 pandemic started, noting that it is preferred to hold the workshop in person. Canada will host the next workshop once travel restrictions are lifted and will circulate any relevant information when it becomes available.

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

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 21-23, noting that NEAFC has adopted a provision to include vessels from other RFMOs in their IUU list. In accordance with Article 49.1.c of the NAFO CEM, any vessel on the NEAFC IUU list is to be included in the NAFO IUU list, and the Secretariat sought advice on how to make these changes. Contracting Parties agreed that the Secretariat will draft a provisional IUU list based on the NEAFC IUU list for presentation to STACTIC at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The European Union, Norway, and the United States of America also indicated that they are still working on a proposal for the revision of the IUU provisions in the NAFO CEM to include vessels from IUU lists of other RFMOs on the NAFO IUU list, and to revise the section of the NAFO CEM relating to the procedures on IUU listing which will be presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The Secretariat will draft a provisional IUU list based on the NEAFC IUU list for presentation to STACTIC at the 2021 Annual Meeting.**
- **The European Union, Norway, and the United States will continue working on the proposal for the inclusion of vessels from IUU lists of other RFMOs to the NAFO IUU list and the revision of the IUU listing procedures for presentation at the 2021 Annual Meeting.**

17. Bycatch, discards, and selectivity**a. STACTIC input in the development of management options as outlined in sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards (NAFO COM Doc. 17-26)**

The Chair opened the discussions noting the Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards in COM Doc. 17-26 and highlighting the need for cooperation between STACTIC and the WG-BDS. The Chair of the WG-BDS, Temur Tairov (Russian Federation) also provided an update on the status of the work of the WG-BDS. STACTIC agreed that the vice-Chair of STACTIC will participate in the upcoming WG-BDS Meeting to facilitate this cooperation.

b. Measures on discards

The European Union presented a discussion paper on measures on discards and control elements that would be necessary to consider for NAFO to adopt a landing obligation policy in STACTIC WP 21-21. The European Union also highlighted the mandate to STACTIC from the Commission at the 2020 Annual Meeting to consider what control elements would be necessary for NAFO to adopt a landing obligation policy, representing an additional task although closely linked to those relating to the Action Plan for the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards. The European Union noted that several proposals at this meeting were relating to the issue of discards in NAFO and reflecting on the domestic landing obligations in many Contracting Parties and suggested to cover the subject matters of discards, bycatches and landing obligation under a dedicated working group or meetings. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for the presentation and noted that some work to address these issues has already been done in STACTIC. However further work is required, including a review of the status of discard policies in Contracting Parties to ensure the information is up to date. All Contracting Parties agreed on the importance of addressing the issue of bycatch and discards as well as the definition of directed fishery in NAFO. Some Contracting Parties also highlighted that the most important aspect of a discard ban/ landing obligation would be to include measures to prevent bycatches and discards, such as gear selectivity, time and area closures etc. STACTIC agreed that a dedicated working group would be required to discuss these issues in detail following the WG-BDS Meeting and before the 2021 Annual Meeting to facilitate further discussions.

STACTIC further considered how to best coordinate this work with the ongoing discussions in BDS. It was agreed that the STACTIC Vice Chair would participate as a liaison to the BDS group. Additionally, the United States of America suggested that a joint STACTIC – BDS meeting would be useful in addressing the both the discard and the bycatch action plans.

It was **agreed** that:

- **A STACTIC working group meeting be held prior to the 2021 Annual Meeting to discuss the issue of bycatch, directed fisheries, discards, and consider the elements necessary to adopt a landing obligation policy in NAFO.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat circulate a Doodle Poll for the end of August and beginning of September to find a date for the meeting.**
- **The vice-Chair of STACTIC agreed to participate in the next WG-BDS Meeting to facilitate collaboration.**
- **The STACTIC Chair and Vice Chair, in collaboration with the Secretariat, will work to develop an agenda for this working group meeting.**

c. Bycatch and discard analysis

The NAFO Secretariat presented the preliminary bycatch analysis to determine difference in the interpretations of bycatch calculations using only Annex I.A species versus the total catch in any one haul and the impacts it would have on employing the move-along provisions. The Secretariat highlighted some data

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deficiencies with the analysis but noted that the preliminary analysis shows there is little to no difference in the final calculations based on the different interpretations. The data deficiencies were discussed and clarity on the details of the exact issue was sought from NAFO Secretariat, including whether or not other working groups were made aware and if the data gap has been resolved. Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for their work on the analysis.

18. Discussion of data classification and access rights

This item was deferred.

19. Report and advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)

This item was deferred.

20. Recommendations from NAFO working groups

The Chair highlighted a recommendation from the Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) in STACTIC WP 21-25 that proposed an addition footnote into Annex II.N of the NAFO CEM to align the definition for start and end of haul with the observer reporting template in Annex II.M. During the discussion, it was highlighted that Contracting Parties may be using different definitions for start and end of haul in trawl fisheries and that this issue needed to be clarified before any changes could be made to the reporting templates. It was noted that from a control point of view, the start of the fishing operation can be considered as the moment the net touches the water instead of when it reaches the fishing depth and that the end of the haul would be the moment the net leaves the water instead of the beginning of the retrieval of the net. Contracting Parties agreed to provide the definitions they are using in connection with Annex II.A fishing logbook requirements advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting to facilitate further discussion on this proposal.

The Chair highlighted the second recommendation from the WG-EAFFM in STACTIC WP 21-26 in relation to the review of Chapter 2 of the NAFO CEM. The Co-Chair of WG-EAFFM, Elizabethann Mencher (United States of America), also provided some background information on the recommendation, noting that WG-EAFFM is tasked with reviewing the provisions of Chapter, but input from STACTIC would greatly facilitate this review. Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) highlighted that there is some difficulty in identifying VME species when they are brought onboard the vessels. Contracting Parties agreed to submit any comments in relation to the review of Chapter 2 of the NAFO CEM to the Secretariat by 14 June 2021 and those comments be forwarded to the WG-EAFFM in advance of their next meeting.

The Chair highlighted the recommendations from the Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) in STACTIC WP 21-27. On the first recommendation in relation to the inclusion of codend (minimum) mesh size and hook size to be included in the Annex II.N template, several Contracting Parties noted these requirements were already in place for the logbooks, so could be included in Annex II.N, but requested more time to review and agreed to continue this discussion at the 2021 Annual Meeting. On recommendation number three from STACTIC WP 21-27, STACTIC noted that they continually strive to make improvements in the data collection methods outlined in the NAFO CEM.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will provide their definitions of the start and end of a haul in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting to facilitate further discussion on the proposal from the WG-EAFFM outlined in STACTIC WP 21-25.**
- **Contracting Parties will submit any comments in relation to the review of Chapter 2 of the NAFO CEM to the Secretariat by 14 June 2021 and those comments be forwarded to the WG-EAFFM in advance of their next meeting.**
- **The discussion on the inclusion of a field for reporting codend (minimum) mesh size or hook size in Annex II.N of the NAFO CEM continue at the 2021 Annual Meeting.**

21. Discussion on garbage disposal onboard vessels

Norway and the United States of America presented a proposal to address marine pollution in STACTIC WP 21-11 by including a reference to MARPOL Annex V in Article 25 of the NAFO CEM. Contracting Parties thanked Norway and the United States of America for the proposal and supported the inclusions of measures relating to addressing the issue of marine pollution in the NAFO CEM. The European Union recalled its past proposal on this subject and, together with some Contracting Parties, indicated their preference for concrete and enforceable measures to be included in the NAFO CEM. The European Union noted that it is already mandatory for all NAFO Contracting Parties to apply MARPOL Annex V so the text being proposed would not be necessary. The European Union offered its support to the proposed text if it was the starting point to look into concrete measures on the subject of marine pollution, such as those previously tabled by the European Union (e.g. the prohibition to use plastic bands in bait boxes). The European Union noted that considering the adoption of such measures in NAFO is within the remit of the amended NAFO Convention and a NAFO Commission's recommendation. Other Contracting Parties preferred to keep the measures as a reference to MARPOL Annex V. Norway noted that the IMO is the organization responsible for addressing marine pollution, and that there is currently a process in IMO to strengthen the reporting requirements for lost gear in MARPOL Annex V. Norway was of the opinion that measures related to marine pollution should be adopted by the IMO instead. In their opinion, adopting different measures in different RFMOs could lead to confusions and misunderstandings with regard to which measures should be applied. In an effort to find some common ground, the United States suggested that incorporating a reference to MARPOL Annex V into the NAFO CEM may be a mechanism for NAFO Inspectors to enforce MARPOL Annex V obligations within the NRA. Contracting Parties agreed to continue discussions on this issue in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting to facilitate further discussions on this proposal at the meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will continue discussions on the marine pollution provisions in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting to facilitate discussions at the 2021 Annual Meeting.**

22. Discussion on labour conditions onboard vessels

This item was deferred.

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

Canada provided an update on behalf of the group that is working to develop a single methodology for the collection of information in Greenland sharks by Observers in NAFO. Canada noted that the group has developed a document based on the contributions from Contracting Parties comparing the methodologies currently in use and will continue to work toward the development of a proposal for the methodology and provide an update at the Annual Meeting.

24. Implementation of the Performance Review Recommendations

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 21-10 outlined the recommendations from the Performance Review that are relevant to STACTIC. Contracting Parties reviewed each of the proposed actions and provided updates outlined in STACTIC WP 21-10 (Revised).

It was agreed that Contracting Parties will submit comments on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance by 01 September 2021.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will submit comments on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance by 01 September 2021.**
- **Contracting Parties will provide feedback on STACTIC WP 21-10 (Revised) by 14 June 2021.**

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25. Issues relating to the impacts of COVID-19

Contracting Parties shared their current experiences with the impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic under this agenda item. The Chair highlighted that the Contracting Parties of NAFO are making efforts to cope in 2021 with complying with the provisions of the NAFO CEM during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the situation with the pandemic changes rapidly, and some Contracting Parties have not started their fishing activity yet, therefore it is too early to assess the impact of COVID-19 to the implementation of the NAFO rules.

26. Other business

No other business was discussed.

27. Time and place of next meeting

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held virtually from 20-24 September 2021.

The working group to discuss the issue of bycatch, directed fisheries, discards and the elements necessary to adopt a landing obligation policy will take place prior to the 2021 Annual Meeting as outlined under agenda item 17.

STACTIC also agreed to hold the working group meeting on STACTIC Participation prior to the Annual Meeting, and a poll will be circulated to Contracting Parties to select a date.

28. Adoption of Report

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

29. Adjournment

The Chair noted that her term as chair will be up after the 2021 Annual Meeting and offered to put herself forward for another term, noting the official decision will be taken at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:25UTC on 13 May 2021. The Chair thanked meeting participants for their cooperation and input. The participants likewise expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for her leadership.

Annex 1. Participant List

CHAIR

Märtin, Kaire. Republic of Estonia, Ministry of the Environment, Narva mnt 7a, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia
Tel: +372 6260 711 – Email: kaire.martin@envir.ee

CANADA

McCready, Heather. Director General, Conservation and Protection, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6.
Tel: +1 (343) 573-0624 – Email: Heather.Mccready@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Browne, Dion. Senior Compliance Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
Email: Dion.Browne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Barbour, Natasha. FMC Manager, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
Tel: +1 709 772-5788 – Email: Natasha.barbour@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Fagan, Robert. Senior Resource Manager. Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills Road, St. John's, NL, A1C 5X1
Tel: +1 709 772-2920 – Email: Robert.Fagan@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Hurley, Mike. Offshore Detachment Supervisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
Tel: +1 709 227-9344 – Email: mike.hurley@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Hickey, Jenelle. FMC Administrator, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
Tel: +1 709 772-5743 – Email: Jenelle.Hickey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Napier, Brent. Director, Enforcement Policy and Programs, Conservation and Protection, Fisheries and Ocean Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613-790-4760 – Email: Brent.Napier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Warren, Genevieve. FMC Regional Staff Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
Tel: +1 709 772-6519 – Email: Genevieve.Warren@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Johnson, Kate. Senior Policy Advisor, International Fisheries Policy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 343-551-5295 – Email: Kate.Johnson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)

Bork Hansen, Signe. Head of Section, The Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority, Indaleeqqap Aqqutaa 3, Postbox 501, DK-3900, Nuuk, Greenland
Tel: +299 34 53 07 – Email: sibh@nanoq.gl

Pedersen, Michael Dennis. Head of Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority, Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority, Indaleeqqap Aqqutaa 3, Postbox 501, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland
Tel: +299 345377 – Email: mdpe@nanoq.gl

Trolle Nedergaard, Mads. Senior Advisor, Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority, Indaleeqqap Aqqutaa 3, Postbox 501, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland
Tel: +299 345523 – Email: mads@nanoq.gl

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Gaardlykke, Meinhard. Adviser, The Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Yviri við Strond 3, P. O. Box 1238,
FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Tel: +298 31 1065 – Mobile: +298 29 1006 – Email: meinhardg@vorn.fo

Jacobsen, Petur Meinhard. Advisor, The Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Yviri við Strond 3, P. O. Box 1238,
FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands.
Tel: +29 831 1065 – Mobile: +29 829 1001 – Email: peturmj@vorn.fo

EUROPEAN UNION

Tubio Rodriguez, Xosé. Control and Inspection Unit, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries,
European Commission, J-99 01/074, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 299 77 55 – Email: xose.tubio@ec.europa.eu

Spezzani, Aronne. Control and Inspection Unit, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European
Commission.
Email: aronne.spezzani@ext.ec.europa.eu

Quintans, Miguel. Control and Inspection Unit, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European
Commission, J-99 01, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Email: miguel.quintans@ec.europa.eu

Villar Cora. Control and Inspections Unit, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European
Commission, J-99 01, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Email: Cora.VILLAR-ARRIBI@ext.ec.europa.eu

Babcionis, Genadijus. Administrator, European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), Avenida Garcia Barbon 4,
E-36201, Vigo, Spain
Tel: +34 986 12 06 40 – Email: genadijus.babcionis@efca.europa.eu

Grossmann, Meit. Coordinator, European Fisheries Control Agency, Avenida Garcia Barbon 4, E-36201, Vigo,
Spain
Tel: +34986120610 – Email: Meit.GROSSMANN@efca.europa.eu

Saenz, Idoia. Coordinator, European Fisheries Control Agency, Avenida Garcia Barbon 4, E-36201, Vigo, Spain
Tel: +34986120692 – Email: Idoia.SAENZ@efca.europa.eu

Eliassen, Jørgen. Senior Consultant, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, The Department,
Sustainable Fisheries, Slotholmsgade 12, 1216 København K, Denmark
Tel: +45 22 61 59 37 – Email: pejoel@fvm.dk

Kruse Nielsen, Henrik. Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark. Danish Fisheries Agency,
Nyropsgade 30 | 1780 Copenhagen V
Tel: +45 72 18 56 72 - Email: hkn@fiskeristyrelsen.dk

Meremaa, Epp. Chief Specialist, Fishery Organisation and Data Analysis Bureau, Ministry of Rural Affairs of the
Republic of Estonia, Lai tn 39 // Lai tn 41, 15056 Tallinn, Estonia
Tel: +37 2 6256204 – Email: epp.meremaa@agri.ee

Okas, Reemet. Estonian Environmental Board. Roheline 64, Pärnu, 80010, Estonia.
Email: Reemet.Okas@keskkonnaamet.ee

Chamizo Catalán, Carlos. Head of Fisheries Inspection Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
General Secretary of Fisheries, Deputy Direction of Control and Inspection, Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid,
Spain
Tel: +34 347 1949 – Email: cchamizo@mapama.es

De Frutos Romo, Gema. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Paseo Infanta Isabel, 1, 28014 Madrid
Email: gdefrutos@mapa.es

Mancebo Robledo, C. Margarita. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 347 61 29 – Email: cmancebo@mapa.es

Wolff, Gunnar. The Federal Office of Agriculture and Food (BLE), Haubachstr. 86, 22765 Hamburg, Germany

Email: Gunnar.Wolff@ble.de

Radaitytė, Eglė. Head of Fisheries Monitoring and Control Division, Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Klaipėda, Lithuania

Tel: +370 700 14920 – Email: egle.radaityte@zuv.lt

Ferreira, Carlos. Director, Direção de Serviços de Inspeção, Monitorização e Controlo das Atividades Marítimas, 1449-030 Av^a Brasília Lisboa, Portugal.

Tel: +351213025192 – Email: csferreira@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Silva, Carlos. Head of the Division of Inspection and control, Direção de Serviços de Inspeção, Monitorização e Controlo das Atividades Marítimas, 1449-030 Av^a Brasília Lisboa, Portugal.

Tel: +35121 302 5142 – Email: csilva@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Serrao, Miguel. Inspector, Direção de Serviços de Inspeção, Monitorização e Controlo das Atividades Marítimas, 1449-030 Av^a Brasília Lisboa, Portugal.

Tel: +351213025161 – E mail: mserrao@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Head, François. General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175, B-1048 Brussel, Belgium

Tel: +3222816083 – Email: francois.head@consilium.europa.eu

ICELAND

Ásmundsson, Jóhann. Directorate of Fisheries, Surveillance Department. Directorate of Fisheries. Fiskistofa, Dalshrauni 1, 220 Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

Email: johann@fiskistofa.is

Benediktssdóttir, Brynhildur. Senior Expert, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Industries and Innovation, Skúlagötu 4, 150 Reykjavík, Iceland

Tel: +354 545 9700 – Email: bb@anr.is

Greil, Snorre. Icelandic Coast Guard, Skógarhlíð 14, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland

Email: Snorre@LHG.IS

JAPAN

Iino, Kenro. Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on International Affairs (Fisheries) Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, 100-8950 Tokyo, Japan

Tel: +81 3 3502 8460 – Email: keniino@hotmail.com

Hosokawa, Natsuki. Technical Official, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency, Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, 100-8950 Tokyo, Japan

Tel: +81 3-3502-8111 – Email: nastuki_hosokawa730@maff.go.jp

Kinoshita, Yuki. Technical Official, Fisheries and Resources Management Division, Fisheries Agency, Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, 100-8950 Tokyo, Japan

Tel: +81 3-3502-8111 – Email: yuki_kinoshita590@maff.go.jp

Matsumura, Shungo. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Agency, Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku. 100-8907 Toyko, Japan

Email: shungo_matsumura880@maff.go.jp

Morita, Hiroyuki. Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency, Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, 100-8950 Tokyo, Japan

Email: hiroyuki_morita970@maff.go.jp

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Nakasu, Maiko. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Agency, Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku. 100-8907 Toyko, Japan
Email: maiko_nakasu100@maff.go.jp

Nomura, Ichiro. Special Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Agency, Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku. 100-8907 Toyko, Japan
Tel: +81-3-3591-1086 – Email: inomura75@gmail.com

Okamoto, Junichiro. Executive Managing Director, Japan Overseas Fishing Association, Tovei Ogawamachi-Bldg., 5F, 2-6-3 Kanda Ogawa-Machi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 101-0052, Japan
Tel: +81 3 3291 8508 – Email: jokamoto@jdsta.or.jp

NORWAY

Ognedal, Hilde. Senior Legal Adviser, Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, P. O. Box 185, Sentrum, 5804 Bergen, Norway
Tel: +47 92 08 95 16 – Email: Hilde.Ognedal@fiskeridir.no

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Tairov, Temur. Representative of the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation in Canada, 47 Windstone Close, Bedford, Nova Scotia, B4A 4L4
Tel: +1 902 405 0655 – Email: temurtairov@mail.ru

Mikhailov, Alexandr. Acting Head of the Center for the Fisheries Monitoring and Communications (CFMC), Rozhdestvensky Boulevard, 12/8, Building 1, Moscow, Russian Federation, 107996
Email: amikhailov@cfmc.ru

Romashevskaya, Anastasya. Head of the International cooperation service, Center for the Fisheries Monitoring and Communications (CFMC), Rozhdestvensky Boulevard, 12/8, Building 1, Moscow, Russian Federation, 107996
Email: aromashevskaya@cfmc.ru

Bakhtov, Alexey. Deputy Head of the International cooperation service, Center for the Fisheries Monitoring and Communications (CFMC), Rozhdestvensky Boulevard, 12/8, Building 1, Moscow, Russian Federation, 107996
Email: abakhtov@cfmc.ru

Lizogub, Alexander. Senior Adviser to the Director of the Severomorskoye Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, 7 Kominterna St., Murmansk 183038
Tel: +7 815 279 8111 – Email: lizogub@sevtu.ru

Skryabin, Ilya. Principal Specialist, Severomorskoye Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, 7 Kominterna St., Murmansk 183038
Tel: +7 815 279 8116 – Email: skryabin@sevtu.ru

UNITED KINGDOM

Windebank, James. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR
Email: james.windebank@defra.gov.uk

Muir, Sandie-Gene. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR
Email: Sandie-Gene.Muir@defra.gov.uk



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Henry, Michael. Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Office of Law Enforcement, District 1- New England, Boston Field Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) USA

Tel: +1 978 490-4774 – Email: Michael.henry@noaa.gov

Lynch, Charles. Section Chief, Office of General Counsel, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

Tel: +1 978-281-9211 – Email: charles.lynch@noaa.gov

Mencher, Elizabethann. International Policy Advisor, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA), 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA

Tel: +1 301 427 8362 – Email: elizabethann.mencher@noaa.gov

Moran, Patrick. Foreign Affairs Analyst, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of International Affairs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA), 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910 USA

Tel: +1 301 427 8370 – Email: Pat.Moran@noaa.gov

Pohl, Katherine. Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation, Greater Atlantic Regional Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 USA

Tel: +1 978 281 9107 – Email: katherine.pohl@noaa.gov

NAFO SECRETARIAT

Summit Place, 1601 Lower Water Street, Suite 401, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada – Tel: +1 902 468-5590

Aker, Jana. Senior Fisheries Information Administrator.

Email: jaker@nafo.int

Federizon, Ricardo. Senior Fisheries Management Coordinator

Email: rfederizon@nafo.int

Kendall, Matthew. IT Manager.

Email: mkendall@nafo.int

Kingston, Fred. Executive Secretary.

Email: fkingston@nafo.int

Laycock, DJ. Database Developer/Programmer Analyst.

Email: dlaycock@nafo.int

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Kaire Märtin (European Union)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Annual Compliance Review, 2020
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. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO
10. Marking of gears
11. NAFO MCS 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. NAFO Inspectors workshop
16. Review of current IUU list Pursuant to NAFO CEM, Article 53
17. Bycatch, discards, and selectivity
 - a. STACTIC input in the development of management options as outlined in sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards (NAFO/COM Doc. 17-26)
 - b. Measures on discards
 - c. Bycatch and discard analysis
18. Discussion of data classification and access rights
19. Report and advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
20. Recommendations from NAFO working groups
21. Discussion on garbage disposal onboard vessels
22. Discussion on labour conditions onboard vessels
23. Discussion of the reporting of shark catches in the NAFO Regulatory Area
24. Implementation of the Performance Review Recommendations
25. Issues relating to the impacts of COVID-19
26. Other business
27. Time and place of next meeting
28. Adoption of Report
29. Adjournment