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Recommendations from the WG-BDS

The NAFO Commission Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area met via WebEx from 12–13 July 2021 (COM Doc. 21-04) and agreed on the following recommendations:

In relation to the development of management options in support of Tasks 4 of the Action Plan, the WG-BDS recommends that:

1. **The Working Group creates a smaller group which will coordinate with STACTIC and SC in furthering Task 4 of the Action Plan and may consider a pilot case to examine bycatch of 3LNO American plaice and others in the development of potential fisheries-specific management options for further discussion by the full Working Group.**

In relation to bycatch and discard information, the WG-BDS recommends that:

2. **The Commission request STACTIC to provide a single interpretation of the application of the term bycatch for the purpose of the spatial temporal analysis undertaken by the Secretariat according to the agreed methodology.**
3. **The Secretariat monitor the discard data in the Haul by Haul reports and in observers reports, continue working with Contracting Parties to ensure that the discard information are reported in the Haul by Haul reports in accordance with Annex II.N and in the observer reports in accordance with Annex II.M, and report to this WG on the progress in resolving this discard data issue.**

In relation to discards in NAFO, the WG-BDS recommends that:

4. **The Secretariat gather the updated domestic policies of Contracting Parties on discards and share them to STACTIC in support of STACTIC's mandate in discussing landing obligations of a discard ban policy.**

