

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting**

11 September 2023  
Webex

NAFO  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
2023

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**Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting**11 September 2023  
Webex**1. Opening of the Meeting**

The meeting opened at 09:10 (UTC/GMT -3 hours) on Monday, 11 September 2023 virtually via Webex and the Chair welcomed representatives from Canada, Denmark (In Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Japan, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The NAFO Secretariat (Mikaela Soroka) was appointed as rapporteur.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

The Chair introduced the provisional agenda and asked representatives if there were any comments or additions. There were no comments, and the agenda was adopted (Annex 2).

**4. NAFO CEM Article 30 Implementation****a. Use of derogation**

The Secretariat presented STACTIC OPR-WP 23-13 which summarises the use of derogation since 2019 (when the observer program was last revised). It was noted that one Contracting Party is using the derogation consistently and the working group suggested the working paper be forwarded to STACTIC for information during the 2023 STACTIC Annual Meeting.

**b. Article 30 reporting template**

Canada presented the proposed Article 30 reporting template in STACTIC OPR-WP 23-05 (Revised). The working group thanked Canada for their work on this proposal and agreed to allow a short timeline for Contracting Parties to submit any additional comments/revisions to the Secretariat for incorporation into a proposal from the WG-OPR prior to the 2023 STACTIC Annual Meeting, with the goal of reaching endorsement in STACTIC.

**c. Article 30 revisions**

The European Union presented the draft Article 30 revisions in STACTIC OPR-WP 23-09 (Rev. 5) emphasising the changes made since the last WG-OPR meeting. The first change was to include a 2-year timeline (until 30 September 2026) for the new derogation measures to be fully implemented to allow Contracting Parties time to prepare for the change. This would also allow time for an initial trial of how the observer application and implementation will work and allow any adjustments to be made on the measures.

The European Union also added a section for "Implementation" which proposes timelines for another review of Article 30 to take place in 2027, and for a review of the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REMs) during observer derogations to take place in 2024.

The European Union also proposed that explicit language be added to Article 38, regarding observer intimidation/bribery, to include prior, during and after the deployment, noting it may be beneficial to add explicit language regarding the matter.

Lastly, the European Union added a draft on minimum requirements for REM measures. The European Union noted the previous discussion on the three possible ways forward with the implementation of REM; either the flag state determines their REM system requirements entirely, there are some minimum standards created, or full-fledged requirements outlined in the NAFO CEM. The European Union noted that the proposal would be the in between approach and a good starting place, and would allow for Contracting Parties to try the measures and come forward with any changes necessary at the proposed 2024 review of the requirements.

The working group thanked the European Union for their efforts on the revised proposal. The working group agreed on a comment period for the document to allow Contracting Parties to further review the changes in advance of the Annual Meeting. Working group participants agreed to send their comments to the Secretariat for incorporation, with the goal of forwarding the working paper as a WG-OPR proposal to STACTIC for discussion at the 2023 Annual Meeting. The working group agreed to also submit a clean version of the working paper to STACTIC. The Chair proposed a deadline of 14 September 2023 for Contracting Parties to send their comments to the Secretariat, for the Secretariat to finalise and make the working papers into WG-OPR proposals to then be forwarded to STACTIC for endorsement at their 2023 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The Article 30 derogation summary outlined in STACTIC OPR-WP 23-13 be forwarded to STACTIC for information.**
- **The WG-OPR agreed to provide comments on STACTIC OPR-WP 23-05 (Revised) and STACTIC OPR-WP 23-09 (Rev. 5) to the Secretariat by 14 September 2023.**
- **The Secretariat will incorporate comments to STACTIC OPR-WP 23-05 (Revised) and STACTIC OPR-WP 23-09 (Rev. 5) and post the working papers as WG-OPR proposals to STACTIC for the 2023 Annual Meeting.**

## 5. Other Business

Nothing was presented under this item.

## 6. Adoption of the Report

The report was adopted via correspondence.

## 7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 (UTC/GMT -3 hours).

**Annex 1. List of Participants**

<b>CHAIR</b>	Napier, Brent (Canada)
<b>CANADA</b>	Barbour, Natasha Browne, Dion
<b>DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROES ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)</b>	Holm, Jannik
<b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>	Arevalillo, Gabriel Babcionis, Genadijus Belmonte, Luis Grossmann, Meit Quintans, Miguel Tubio, Xose
<b>JAPAN</b>	AKIYAMA, Masahiro ONODERA, Ryo TAKEHARA, Toya
<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	Jaburek, Shannah Pohl, Katie
<b>NAFO SECRETARIAT</b>	Soroka, Mikaela Aker, Jana Kendall, Matt Laycock, DJ

## **Annex 2. Agenda**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. NAFO CEM Article 30 Implementation
  - a. Use of derogation
  - b. Article 30 reporting template
  - c. Article 30 review
5. Other Business
6. Adoption of the Report
7. Adjournment