

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Report of the NAFO Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies  
(STACTIC and STACFAD)**

45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO  
18-22 September 2023  
Vigo, Spain

NAFO  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
2023

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**PART I.**  
**Report of the NAFO Commission**

45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO, 18-22 September 2023  
Vigo, Spain

**I. Opening Procedure**

**1. Opening by the Acting Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America)**

The acting Chair of the Commission, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America), called the plenary session of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO to order on Monday, 18 September 2023.

The acting Chair welcomed the General Director of Fisheries Management and Aquaculture, Juan Ignacio Gandarias Serrano, who provided a welcome statement on behalf of the Government of Spain.

The opening statement from the acting Chair is included in Annex 1. The acting Chair welcomed delegates, both in person and virtually, from the 13 Contracting Parties of NAFO (Annex 2), and the following Contracting Parties provided opening statements: Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America (Annexes 3-11 respectively).

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

The provisional agenda was previously circulated to all Contracting Parties in NAFO/23-167 on 19 July 2023 (Annex 12).

The European Union requested to add one item under agenda item 21 for discussion on Cod in Divisions 2J3KL. The United States of America also tabled a proposal on labour standards in NAFO fisheries (COM WP 23-17) under agenda item 30 - Other business. With these additions, the agenda was adopted (Annex 12).

The acting Chair also noted that the discussions under agenda item 17.e would take place as the first item under agenda item 17, and the proposal from the United States of America on labour standards (agenda item 30) would take place on the first day of the meeting to allow Contracting Parties time to consider the proposal.

**4. Admission of Observers**

According to Rule 1(a) of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: *Observers to NAFO Meetings - The Executive Secretary shall invite, as observers, intergovernmental organizations that have regular contacts with NAFO.*

Upon the invitation of the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the NAFO Rules for Observers, the following intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) attended this meeting: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries Project. The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO) respectively were represented by a NAFO Contracting Party.

The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with NAFO Observer Status that attended this meeting were: the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), Fishermen and Hunters Association in Greenland (KNAPK), and Oceans North.

Opening statements from FAO, DSCC and Oceans North are available in Annex 13 to 15.

## 5. Publicity

In accordance with the NAFO Media Policy, the acting Chair reminded meeting participants that no public statements, including social media posts, would be made until after the conclusion of the meeting, when a press release would be prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the acting Chair of the Commission and the Chair of the Scientific Council. The acting Chair noted the *NAFO Media Policy: Conditions for Attendance by Media Representatives at NAFO Meetings* outlined in COM Doc. 22-21.

## II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and Other Internal Affairs

### 6. Review of Membership of the Commission

The membership of the Commission has not changed since the 2022 Annual Meeting and is currently comprised of thirteen (13) Contracting Parties: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union (EU), France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America (USA).

### 7. Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat

The acting Chair noted that the *Administrative Report and Financial Statements* (COM Doc. 23-05) has been prepared by the NAFO Secretariat, and Commission forwarded the report to STACFAD for review.

### 8. NAFO Headquarters Agreement

The acting Chair noted that the *NAFO Headquarters Agreement* entered into force on 28 March 2023 as circulated to Contracting Parties in NAFO/23-095. The acting Chair also noted the change to the NAFO Staff Rules taking effect as a result of the Headquarters agreement coming into force, outlined in COM WP 23-03.

### 9. Review of the list of experts to serve as panelists under the NAFO Dispute Settlement provisions

In accordance with Annex II, paragraph 1 of the NAFO Convention, the Executive Secretary has updated the list of experts who are willing and able to serve as panelists following the dispute settlement provisions of the NAFO Convention (Article XV). The acting Chair highlighted the current list of experts (as of 06 September 2023) outlined in COM WP 23-04 (Revised).

### 10. Guidance to STACFAD

The Commission forwarded the *Administrative and Activity Report* (COM Doc. 23-05) to STACFAD for their review under agenda item 7.

The acting Chair noted that there might be discussions under agenda item 17.e (report of the Informal Group to reflect on the workload of the Scientific Council) that could have budgetary implications and requested STACFAD keep their agenda open in case of any recommendations resulting from those discussions that require review by STACFAD.

## **11. Guidance to STACTIC**

The interim Chair of STACTIC, Patrick Moran (United States of America) presented a summary report of the STACTIC intersessional meeting held in May 2023 (COM Doc. 23-02). No further guidance, for discussion at this meeting, was provided to STACTIC under this agenda item.

## **III. Coordination of External Affairs**

### **12. Report of Executive Secretary on External Meetings**

The Executive Secretary reported on NAFO's participation in external activities since the 2022 Annual Meeting, as outlined in section 10 of the administrative report (COM Doc. 23-05).

### **13. International Relations**

#### **a. Relations with other International Organizations**

The Executive Secretary reported that the Secretariat maintains an open dialogue with other RFMOs and make every effort to attend the meetings most relevant to the organization.

#### **b. Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Sea Fisheries Project**

Eszter Hidas from the Food and Agriculture Organization presented an update on the work of the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Sea Fisheries Project, administered by the FAO in COM WP 23-26.

#### **c. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NAFO and the Sargasso Sea Commission**

The Executive Secretary provided an update on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sargasso Sea Commission, which has been finalized and awaits signature.

#### **d. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NAFO and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)**

The Executive Secretary highlighted the MOU with ICES, noting that the MOU was originally signed in 2003 and the NAFO Secretariat and the ICES Secretariat reviewed and updated the MOU to ensure that it still accurately reflects the roles and responsibilities of each organization.

- **The Commission reviewed the revised MOU with ICES in COM WP 23-07 and adopted the revisions. The Commission requested that the NAFO Secretariat proceed with finalizing the revised MOU.**

#### **e. NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings**

As agreed at the 2022 NAFO Annual Meeting, Contracting Parties were appointed to serve as observers of other relevant organizations during 2022/2023, and the relevant appointments were:

- Canada represented NAFO at the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) (COM WP 23-13) and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) (COM WP 23-14).
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) represented NAFO at the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) (COM WP 23-25).
- European Union represented NAFO at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) (COM WP 23-10), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic



Tunas (ICCAT) (COM WP 23-11) and South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) (COM WP 23-12).

- Japan represented NAFO at the South East Atlantic Fishery Organization (SEAFO) (COM WP 23-08).
- Norway represented NAFO at the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) (COM WP 23-09).
- The United States of America represented NAFO at the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) (COM WP 23-20) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) (COM WP 23-21).

The same Contracting Parties agreed to represent NAFO at the same meetings for 2023/2024.

The acting Chair also reflected on the process of Contracting Parties creating reports for presentation under this agenda item and weather delegates would prefer providing links to the reports from these meetings when available or to the press releases if no formal report is available at the time of the NAFO Annual Meeting. Contracting Parties welcomed the suggestion from the acting Chair, noting this would reduce the workload of the Contracting Parties appointed to serve as observers of other relevant organizations.

- **The Commission agreed that the Contracting Parties appointed to serve as observers of other relevant organizations can provide links to the relevant meeting reports, where available, or to the press releases from the meetings when reports are not available in time for the NAFO Annual Meeting.**

#### **14. Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area**

The acting Chair referred to COM WP 23-05 outlining the NAFO Secretariat's actions over the last year under the information exchange arrangement between NAFO and Canada related to oil and gas activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

The European Union thanked Canada for sharing the relevant information on oil and gas activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area and noted the importance of having the Scientific Council continue to look at the potential impacts of activities other than fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA). Canada reiterated that NAFO has no regulatory role on the oil and gas activities in the NRA, and in consideration of the Scientific Council workload, considers this a duplication of the work that is completed through the Canadian review processes. The European Union clarified it is not seeking a regulatory role for NAFO but noted that an ecosystem approach is not useful if no efforts are made to assess and integrate all impacts on fisheries. The acting Chair noted that these discussions would continue under agenda items 17.e and 18.

### **IV. Joint Session of Commission and Scientific Council**

#### **15. Implementation of 2018 Performance Review Panel recommendations**

The acting Chair highlighted COM-WP 23-01 which summarized the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review Panel, noting that NAFO has made excellent progress on addressing the recommendations, and that each recommendation has been addressed in some way. The acting Chair noted that, since it has been 5 years since the last performance review, the Commission may need to reflect on the timing of the next performance review.

#### **16. Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council**

##### **a. Response of the Scientific Council to the Commission's request for scientific advice**

The Chair of the Scientific Council, Karen Dwyer (Canada), provided a comprehensive presentation of the work of the Scientific Council, including the responses to the Commission requests for scientific advice on fish stocks

and on other topics, outlined in detail in SCS Doc. 23/18. Contracting Parties expressed their deepest appreciation for the work of the Scientific Council and thanked the Scientific Council Chair for the presentation and for her leadership of the Scientific Council for the past two years.

**b. Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding the advice and its work during this meeting**

Under this agenda item, the Commission provided written submissions for requests to the Scientific Council for additional information. One question related to a request for additional analyses for 3LNO yellowtail flounder in COM WP 23-27, and the Scientific Council provided its response to this question in COM WP 23-32. Two questions were received for additional analyses for 3M cod in COM WP 23-28 and COM WP 23-29, and the Scientific Council responded to those questions in COM WP 23-38 and COM WP 23-39 respectively. The Commission thanked the Scientific Council for their work on responding to the questions.

**c. Other issues as determined by the Chairs of the Commission and the Scientific Council**

The Chairs of the Commission and the Scientific Council noted that there would be further discussion relating to the Scientific Council workload under Agenda item 17.e.

**17. Meeting Reports and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Groups**

**a. Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG), 2023**

The acting Chair highlighted the meeting report from the E-WG in COM-SC Doc. 23-01, and the proposed meeting dates for consideration by the Commission. The E-WG proposed that for the 2024 NAFO year, the following two-week periods, be considered for NAFO intersessional meetings:

- 26 February – 08 March 2024;
- 15 – 26 April 2024; and
- 12 – 23 August 2024
- **The Commission adopted the proposed meeting dates of 26 February – 08 March 2024; 15 – 26 April 2024; and 12 – 23 August 2024 noting that Contracting Parties are not obliged to schedule meetings during these periods, but the dates may help in future planning of intersessional meetings.**

**b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and July 2023**

The co-Chairs, Fernando González-Costas, (European Union) and Ray Walsh (Canada) presented the reports and recommendations from the April and July 2023 WG-RBMS meetings in COM-SC Doc. 23-02 and COM-SC Doc. 23-03. The co-Chairs highlighted the work on the management strategy evaluation (MSE) processes for 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut and 3LN redfish, as well as the provisional draft Precautionary Approach (PA) framework, and noted the working group’s updated workplans for the MSE processes and the PA Framework revision. The co-Chairs thanked meeting participants for their collaboration through the year, as well as the invited experts that facilitated the work of the PA framework review.

The Commission and Scientific Council thanked the co-Chairs for the presentation and the working group for all the ongoing work that is being completed. Pending the progress with the other MSE processes, some Contracting Parties noted a preference that 3LNO yellowtail flounder and 3NO witch flounder should be the next stocks for MSE development.

- **The Commission and Scientific Council adopted the reports of the WG-RBMS meetings outlined in COM-SC Doc. 23-02 and COM-SC Doc. 23-03 and the recommendations outlined in section 11 of COM-SC Doc. 23-03.**

**c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2023**

The co-Chairs, Mar Sacau Cuadrado (European Union) and Elizabethann Mencher (United States of America) presented the report and recommendations from the July 2023 WG-EAFFM meeting in COM-SC Doc. 23-04. The co-Chairs highlighted the recommendation to maintain vulnerable marine ecosystem (VME) closed areas 7a, 11a, 14a, and 14b and resulting changes to the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) (COM-SC EAFFM-WP 23-15), the requests for the Scientific Council to continue their work on the Ecosystem Roadmap, the recommendation to put forward the seamount closure areas and the sponge VME fishery closures 1 to 6 for inclusion in the World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), and the recommendation for Contracting Parties to minimize the impacts of trawl surveys in NAFO VME areas.

The Commission and Scientific Council thanked the co-Chairs for the presentation and the working group for all the ongoing work being completed. The co-Chairs noted that the WG-EAFFM, recognizing the workload issues with the Scientific Council, did not reach consensus on including a request to the Scientific Council to provide advice on the potential impact of activities other than fishing in the Convention Area for next year. Some Contracting Parties wanted to maintain the ongoing request. This issue was discussed further under agenda item 18.

- **The Commission and Scientific Council adopted the report of the WG-EAFFM meeting outlined in COM-SC Doc. 23-04 and the recommendations outlined in section 14 of COM-SC Doc. 23-04, including the changes to the NAFO CEM outlined in COM-SC EAFFM-WP 23-15 now COM-SC Doc. 23-05 (Annex 16).**

**d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), April 2023**

The co-Chair of CESAG, Katherine Sosebee (United States of America) presented an update on the status of the work of CESAG in 2023. CESAG completed its work via correspondence for 2023, and the final estimates for the 2022 catch (COM-SC CESAG-WP 23-01 (Rev. 2)) were circulated to the Scientific Council by the 01 May deadline, following the procedure outlined in the Terms of Reference (COM-SC Doc. 17-09). In 2024, it is intended that the review of the 2023 catch estimates will be made by correspondence unless new issues (e.g., revision of the Catch Estimation Strategy) emerge that would warrant a virtual meeting.

**e. Informal Group to reflect on the workload of the Scientific Council, April 2023**

The Scientific Council Chair and acting Commission Chair presented the report from the NAFO Informal Group to Reflect on the Workload of the Scientific Council (COM-SC WP 23-01). The Chairs discussed some of the options that were tabled during that meeting as possible ways to alleviate the workload of the Scientific Council. The Commission agreed that some action is required and requested STACFAD to review financial implications of some of these options. STACFAD reviewed and discussed these options in detail under agenda item 15.d in Part III of this report.

**18. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management in 2025 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters**

In accordance with the procedure outlined in FC Doc. 12-26, a steering committee was formed to assist in the drafting of the Commission Request. The committee consisted of the Scientific Council Coordinator and representatives from Canada and European Union. The first draft of the requests was presented to the Commission in COM WP 23-41, which was updated and circulated to the Scientific Council for comments in COM WP 23-41 (Revised). The Commission reviewed the input from the Scientific Council, reflected on some of the discussions under other agenda items, and formulated the final requests in COM WP 23-41 (Rev. 3).

- **The Commission adopted the request to the Scientific Council for scientific advice in COM WP 23-41 (Rev. 3) now COM Doc. 23-09 (Annex 17).**

## V. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

### 19. Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and July 2023 (if more discussion is required)

The report and recommendations of the WG-RBMS were adopted under agenda item 17.b.

### 20. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2024

The acting Chair highlighted a new working paper for this year outlining the draft quota table as well as the scientific advice and Commission decisions for NAFO fish stocks in COM-WP 23-15. The acting Chair noted that the document would be updated throughout the meeting as decisions were taken by the Commission. The final version of the working paper is outlined in COM WP 23-15 (Rev. 5) now COM Doc. 23-10 (Annex 18).

The acting Chair recalled the recommendations given to the Commission by the Scientific Council for the 2024 full stock assessments, as outlined in [SCS Doc. 23/18](#).

#### a. Cod in Division 3M

The acting Chair noted the Scientific Council advice for cod in Division 3M outlined on pages 13-17 of [SCS Doc. 23/18](#). Canada and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), submitted requests for additional analyses to the Scientific Council during this meeting in COM WP 23-28 and COM WP 23-29, and the Scientific Council provided the responses in COM WP 23-38 and COM WP 23-39.

- **The Commission agreed to set the TAC at 2/3  $F_{lim}$  in 2024, corresponding to a TAC of 11 708 t.**

The Commission also reflected on the additional control measures currently in place for cod in Division 3M outlined in Article 7 of the NAFO CEM, as well as the seasonal closure outlined in Article 5.5(j) of the NAFO CEM.

- **The Commission agreed to maintain the additional measures for cod in Division 3M in the NAFO CEM, including the seasonal closure, and the required changes to the NAFO CEM to reflect this were adopted in COM WP 23-40, now COM Doc. 23-11 (Annex 19).**

#### b. Shrimp in Division 3M

The acting Chair noted the Scientific Council advice for shrimp in Division 3M outlined in SCS Doc. 23/20.

- **The Commission agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2024.**

The acting Chair also reflected on the proposals and discussions that were held during the intersessional meeting on 17 September 2023 relating to the management regime for shrimp in Division 3M (COM Doc. 23-08). The Commission and Scientific Council have agreed that the stock should change from an effort regulated to a catch regulate management system, however the catch allocation scheme has not been decided. Several proposals were discussed at the intersessional, however there was no consensus on a specific proposal. The proposals were:

- COM WP 23-24: Joint proposal from Norway and the European Union: New fishing regime for shrimp in division 3M
- COM WP 23-18: Canadian Perspective on 2022 Discussions on an Alternative Fishing Regime for 3M Shrimp
- COM WP 23-19 (Revised): A variant on fishing regime for shrimp in Division 3M (Proposal from the Russian Federation)
- COM WP 23-22 and COM WP 23-22 Addendum: Proposal from the United States of America. More information was provided during this meeting on this proposal in COM WP 23-34.

- COM WP 23-23 (Revised): Proposal from France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)

The Commission agreed that, absent new scientific information that the stock may have recovered enough to resume directed fishing, it would not convene an intersessional meeting on the allocation issues in 2024. Norway presented an additional proposal in COM WP 23-31 relating to a request to the Scientific Council to provide advice for this stock in terms of Total Allowable Days (TAD) as a supplement to the advice in Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Norway expressed that this would provide supplementary advice to the TAC advice using the same metric (fishing days) as currently applied in the management of this stock and therefore adequate guidance on sustainable management in the event of a reopening of the fishery before the Commission has agreed to a new TAC-based management regime. The Commission agreed to include the following text in the request to the Scientific Council for 2024: “For 3M shrimp, supplementary advice in terms of fishing-days could also be considered as appropriate.” Contracting Parties noted that the only way to sustainably manage this fishery in the future is through scientifically-based catch regulation with quota allocation. Canada noted that, should a quota share regime not be achieved, a TAC combined with a competitive fishing day regime could also ensure sustainable catch levels. Norway and the European Union, however, objected to a TAC management system combined with an Olympic Fishery.

- **The Commission agreed to continue the discussions on the allocation regime for shrimp in Division 3M at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

#### c. **Redfish in Division 3M**

The acting Chair noted the Scientific Council advice for redfish in Division 3M outlined on pages 18-21 of [SCS Doc. 23/18](#).

- **The Commission agreed to set the TAC at 17 503 t in 2024.**

#### d. **American plaice in Division 3M**

The acting Chair noted the Scientific Council advice for American plaice in Division 3M outlined on pages 22-24 of [SCS Doc. 23/18](#).

- **The Commission agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2024, 2025, and 2026.**

### 21. **Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2024**

#### a. **Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO**

The acting Chair noted the Scientific Council advice for Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO outlined on pages 33-40 of [SCS Doc. 23/18](#), which concluded that while exceptional circumstances were occurring, but that based on the results of a sensitivity analysis, the existing Management Procedure could still be used to calculate the TAC for this stock. The acting Chair also highlighted the recommendation from WG-RBMS that the agreed Management Procedure be applied to set the TAC for 2024 ([COM-SC Doc. 23-03](#)).

- **The Commission agreed to set the TAC at 15 153 t for 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, resulting in a TAC of 11 228 t for 3LMNO Greenland halibut.**

#### b. **Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in Subarea 2 + Divisions 1F and 3K**

The acting Chair highlighted that the Scientific Council determined at its meeting in June 2023 that discussion on this stock would be deferred to this meeting ([SCS Doc. 23/18](#)). The Scientific Council provided advice for this stock in COM WP 23-35.

- **The Commission agreed to maintain the ban on directed fishing for this stock in 2024.**

### c. Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO

The acting Chair noted the Scientific Council advice for yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO outlined on pages 25-18 of [SCS Doc. 23/18](#). Canada requested the Scientific Council to provide additional projection tables with assumed 2023 catch levels of 8,100t and 10,500t, reflecting the likelihood that actual catches will be well below the TAC for 2023, in COM WP 23-27 and the Scientific Council provided their response in COM WP 23-32. Some Contracting Parties expressed concern with basing projections on assumed catches rather than catch equal to the agreed TAC for that year. The Commission later agreed to update Annex A of COM WP 23-41 (Rev. 3) to allow the Scientific Council the flexibility to provide additional projections based on the best available catch estimation in instances where catches are expected to be significantly different from the agreed TAC.

- **The Commission agreed on a TAC of 15 560 t for 2024 and 15 810 t for 2025.**

Canada also presented a proposal to amend the measures related to bycatch of American plaice in the yellowtail fishery (Article 6) in COM WP 23-37, noting that seasonal changes in the distribution of both of these stocks have led Canadian harvesters to have difficulty consistently maintaining bycatch levels of American plaice below the threshold levels, despite total annual bycatch levels in the fishery remaining well below those levels. Contracting Parties provided additional comments and feedback to Canada on this proposal. The European Union noted that American plaice is under moratorium, and that bycatch of this stock should be kept as low as possible. The European Union noted it could accept the proposal for one year only with the clear intention that it will be reviewed by STACTIC. The United States of America noted that they could sympathize with the proposal as similar issues have occurred in its yellowtail flounder fisheries and urged the Commission to review the definition of bycatch and directed fishing in the NAFO CEM, noting that these are policy discussions.

- **The Commission agreed to adopt the proposal for the Establishment of New Measures in the Yellowtail Fishery outlined in COM WP 23-37 (Rev. 3) now COM Doc. 23-12 (Annex 20).**

### d. White hake in Divisions 3NO

The acting Chair noted the Scientific Council advice for white hake in Divisions 3NO outlined on pages 29-31 of [SCS Doc. 23/18](#).

- **The Commission agreed to roll over the TAC of 1000 t for 2024.**

Canada highlighted questions about the process for intersessional adjustment to the Division 3NO white hake quota outlined in Article 5.13 and 5.14 of the NAFO CEM and presented a proposal to amend this process in COM WP 23-36. Following discussions, Canada withdrew this proposal.

### e. Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO

The acting Chair noted the Scientific Council advice for shrimp in Divisions 3LNO outlined in [SCS Doc. 23/20](#).

- **The Commission agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2024 and 2025.**

### f. Cod in Divisions 2J3KL

The European Union requested to include discussions on cod in Divisions 2J3KL under this agenda item and sought clarification on the catches of this stock, noting that it is currently under a moratorium, and the provisions in Article 7 of the NAFO CEM allow for a limit of 5% of the TAC for this stock to apply to other Contracting Parties in the NAFO Regulatory Area. The European Union also noted that Canada has been reporting increasing catches for this stock in recent years. Canada highlighted that this is a Canadian-managed stock of critical importance to its coastal communities. Accordingly, Canada has applied a conservative management approach with a primary focus on long term sustainability and rebuilding of the stock. Its inshore cod stewardship program uses no mobile gear and is extensively regulated. The program enables small,

artisanal harvesters to gain insights on cod abundance in inshore areas and further inform their participation in the annual science and fishery advisory processes. Canada noted that it will continue to voluntarily provide the results of its stock assessment to the Scientific Council for information and agreed to provide additional information on the inshore stewardship program on request from Contracting Parties.

## **22. Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks**

No other matters pertaining to conservation of fish stocks were discussed under this agenda item.

## **VI. Ecosystem Considerations**

### **23. Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2023 (if more discussion is required)**

The report and recommendations of the WG-EAFFM were adopted under agenda item 17.c.

### **24. Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations**

The United States of America presented a proposal to address the impact of climate change on NAFO fisheries in COM WP 23-16. Contracting Parties welcomed the proposal, noting the importance of considering the impacts of climate change on NAFO fisheries in the context of the objective of the NAFO Convention to ensure the long term and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area. The delegations of Canada and the United Kingdom worked further with the United States of America and presented a joint proposal in COM WP 23-33 (Revised).

- **The Commission adopted the proposal on Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on NAFO Fisheries outlined in COM WP 23-33 (Revised) now COM Doc. 23-13 (Annex 21).**

Canada recalled that the measure to conserve Greenland Sharks that was adopted by the Commission at the 2022 Annual meeting (COM Doc. 22-15) included a request for the Scientific Council to advise the Commission, at its 2024 Annual Meeting (if possible given capacity limitations), on other appropriate management options for the bycatch of Greenland sharks in the NRA, to inform the Commission's consideration of additional measures for their conservation.

- **The Commission agreed to re-direct this request to the WG-EAFFM, which will be added to the agenda for its 2024 meeting.**

## **VII. Conservation and Enforcement Measures**

### **25. Update of the Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area**

The acting Chair noted that this working group has not met since 2021, and there have been no calls to reconvene the working group. The Russian Federation submitted a working paper updating on the work of the WG-BDS in COM WP 23-30. The Commission noted the importance of the work completed by the WG-BDS under the Action Plan that was adopted in 2017 (COM Doc. 17-26), and agreed that the elements of the Action Plan continue to be addressed in the other working groups and STACTIC. While not part of WG-BDS's Action Plan, Norway noted that work with respect to consideration of a landing obligation and discard ban in NAFO should also continue to be discussed in these fora.

- **The Commission requested that the Chair of STACTIC, and the co-Chairs of WG-RBMS and WG-EAFFM to review the WG-BDS Action Plan (COM Doc. 17-26) when formulating the agendas for the next meetings of each of these bodies to ensure that the work continues where required.**

## 26. Report of STACTIC from this Annual Meeting and Recommendations

The STACTIC interim Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America), presented the STACTIC Meeting Report (see Part II), and brought the following proposed amendments to the NAFO CEM to the Commission for consideration and adoption:

- STACTIC WP 23-12 (Revised) *Catch reporting (Article 28(6) NAFO CEM)* (now COM Doc. 23-14 (Annex 22))
- STACTIC EDG WP 23-01 *Proposed edits to the time format in the NAFO CEM* (now COM Doc. 23-15 (Annex 23))
- STACTIC EDG WP 23-02 *Proposed edits to Article 5.3(b) of the NAFO CEM* (now COM Doc. 23-16 (Annex 24))
- STACTIC EDG WP 23-03 *Proposed edits to Articles 6.2(c) and 6.3(e) of the NAFO CEM* (now COM Doc. 23-17 (Annex 25))
- STACTIC EDG WP 23-04 *Proposed edits to Article 5.11 and 9.4* (now COM Doc. 23-18 (Annex 26))
- STACTIC EDG WP 23-05 (Rev. 3) *Proposed edits to Article 12.1 (d bis) of the NAFO CEM* (now COM Doc. 23-19 (Annex 27))
- STACTIC WP 23-09 (Rev. 4) *Proposal for Squid Fishery* (now COM Doc. 23-20 (Annex 28))
- STACTIC WP 23-21 *NAF Field Character Limit Increase* (now COM Doc. 23-21 (Annex 29))
- STACTIC WP 23-26 *Proposed Modifications to Article 4.7 (Research Vessels)* (now COM Doc. 23-22 (Annex 30))
- STACTIC WP 23-19 (Rev 4) *Proposed revisions to the NAFO Observer Scheme* (now COM Doc. 23-23 (Annex 31))

Additionally, STACTIC endorsed the following working papers for Commission consideration and adoption:

- STACTIC WP 23-02 (Rev 6) *DRAFT Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review 2023 (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2022)* (now COM Doc. 23-24 (Annex 32))
- STACTIC WP 23-10 (Revised) *NAFO IUU List Update* (Annex 33)
- STACTIC WP 23-25 (Rev) *Terms of Reference (ToR) for a NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)* (now COM Doc. 23-25 (Annex 34))

The Commission thanked the interim STACTIC Chair for the report and STACTIC participants for their work throughout the year, noting the significant work that has gone into the review of the NAFO Observer Program.

- **The Commission adopted the reports and recommendations from STACTIC outlined in COM Doc. 23-02 and Part II of this report.**

Japan noted that it has been undertaking work for several years in STACTIC to address an issue on its squid fishery, and thanked Contracting Parties for their collaboration in working towards a solution.

The United States of America noted the continued discussion of the definition of bycatch and directed fisheries in the NAFO CEM and that the discussions should continue in the Commission as well as in STACTIC as they relate to policy considerations and are not limited to control and enforcement issues.

- **The Commission agreed that STACTIC will continue the discussions of directed fisheries and bycatch but ensure that there is coordination with other relevant NAFO bodies where appropriate.**

## 27. Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures

The European Union presented a joint proposal, on behalf of the European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Norway and the United Kingdom, for control measures for shallow and deep pelagic beaked redfish in COM WP 23-42, noting that there were extensive discussions on this proposal in STACTIC. It was noted that the proposal was intended to avoid supporting the unsustainable fisheries on this



stock regardless of where the fishery takes place. Contracting Parties were not able to reach consensus on this proposal but noted that it is an issue of ongoing concern.

The co-sponsors of the proposal provided the following statement:

*The European Union, France in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon, Iceland, Norway and the United Kingdom would like to express their profound concern in relation to the status of shallow and deep pelagic beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters for which ICES advised a zero catch for 2023 and 2024 and has been subject to a zero TAC in NAFO (REB 1F\_2\_3K) since 2012.*

*Despite the adoption of measures prohibiting directed fisheries, a Contracting Party had objected to the measures and continues to carry out unsustainable, targeted fisheries on these stocks. In order to prevent adverse effects on the sustainability of these stocks deriving from the continuation of high-level targeted fishing activities, NEAFC adopted Recommendation 01:2022 on management measures for the protection of the shallow pelagic redfish stock and the deep pelagic redfish stock in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters in 2022, 2023 and 2024. These measures ensure that other Contracting Parties do not contribute to unsustainable fishing activities by providing port, transshipment or support services. We consider it critical that NAFO also adopts similar measures and are committed to addressing this with a view to bringing proposals forward should the fishery continue in 2024.*

*The European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Norway and the United Kingdom call upon the Contracting Party carrying out unsustainable fishing to discontinue them. Furthermore, the European Union, France in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon, Iceland, Norway and the United Kingdom call upon all NAFO Contracting Parties to adopt measures applicable in their waters and ports and to their vessels to ensure that they do not contribute to unsustainable fishing activities on shallow and deep pelagic beaked redfish stocks.*

## VIII. Finance and Administration

### 28. Report of STACFAD from this Annual Meeting

The Chair of STACFAD, Robert Fagan (Canada), presented the STACFAD meeting report and recommendations (see Part III), including recommendations for the adoption of the 2022 Financial statements, the promotion of three Secretariat staff to the senior positions of their respective classifications, the hybrid meeting documentation policy, a new visual identity for NAFO, alternative approaches for Annual meeting funding, proposed options to alleviate the workload of the Scientific Council, and the budget for 2024.

The Commission thanked the STACFAD Chair for the report and STACFAD participants for their work during the meeting and encouraged Contracting Parties to continue discussions on alleviation of the Scientific Council workload throughout the year.

### 29. Adoption of the 2024 Budget and STACFAD recommendations

- **The Commission adopted the report and recommendations from STACFAD outlined in Part III of this report.**

## IX. Closing Procedure

### 30. Other Business

The United States of America presented a proposal for a Non-Binding Resolution on Core Principles on Labour Standards in NAFO Fisheries outlined in COM WP 23-17. Contracting Parties thanked the United States of America for the proposal and offered comments throughout the meeting; the final proposal was presented in COM WP 23-17 (Rev. 2).

- **The Commission adopted the proposal for a Non-Binding Resolution on Core Principles on Labour Standards in NAFO Fisheries outlined in COM WP 23-17 (Rev. 2) now COM Doc. 23-26 (Annex 35).**

### **31. Election of Chair and vice-Chair**

In accordance with Rule 3.1 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission *“The Commission shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson for a term of two years.”*

- **The acting Chair of the Commission, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America), was elected to serve as Commission Chairperson and NAFO President for a two-year term.**
- **Bernard Briand (France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)) was elected to serve as the vice-Chairperson of the Commission for a two-year term.**

### **32. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting**

The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO will be in Halifax, Canada, from 23-27 September 2024.

The acting Chair urged Contracting Parties to prepare offers to host future Annual Meetings as far in advance as possible to avoid having to make non-refundable deposits on meeting facilities in Halifax. The European Union announced its intention to offer to host the 2026 Annual Meeting in Lithuania.

### **33. Press Release**

The Press Release of the meeting was developed by the Scientific Information Administrator and Executive Secretary, through consultations with the Chairs of the Commission and Scientific Council. The agreed Press Release (Annex 36) was circulated and posted to the NAFO website at the conclusion of the meeting on Friday, 22 September 2023.

### **34. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned on Friday, 22 September 2023. The summary of decisions and actions taken by the NAFO Commission is presented in Annex 37.

### **Annex 1. Opening Statement by the Acting Chair of the NAFO Commission**

Dear General Director, distinguished colleagues, and friends, it is wonderful to see you all again. I am very pleased to welcome you to the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO and offer my warm thanks to the government of Spain and the European Union for hosting us once again in beautiful Vigo. We could hardly find a more fitting venue for our discussions this week than sitting just across the street from the busy waterfront of one of the largest fishing ports in Europe.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their as-always excellent preparations for this meeting and their strong support of our work throughout the year.

I was delighted to join all of you last year for our first hybrid annual meeting, after fully virtual meetings during the pandemic. We continue the hybrid format this year, but I remain confident that NAFO will have another fruitful meeting with full engagement from all members, whether attending virtually or in person.

Like the NAFO annual meeting, Scientific Council's June meetings have been held in hybrid format since the end of the pandemic, although we were happy to see that the majority of participants in 2023 were able to attend in person. The SC has continued to produce work of an exceptional quality, and quantity. For example, for the first time in 2023, the Scientific Council produced detailed Ecosystem Summary Sheets for the Grand Bank and Flemish Cap Ecosystem Production Units. I'm sure these will prove invaluable in furthering managers' understanding of the interaction between fisheries and their supporting ecosystems. But, as we noted last year, we have work to do to address the imbalance between the demands on our SC and the resources available to meet them. I urge us to develop a clear plan this week for tackling this longstanding challenge.

NAFO overall has continued to maintain an intense pace since our last annual meeting, with 22 meetings of various NAFO committees and working groups producing the recommendations and developments we will take up this week.

Beyond NAFO, the time since our last annual meeting brought a landmark number of oceans and fisheries-related developments at the global level:

The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022, setting ambitious goals and targets for protecting ecosystems and biodiversity.

The convening of the Resumed Review Conference of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the Fourth Meeting of the Parties of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, both in May of this year, continued international momentum on key actions such as strengthening the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

And of course, the adoption of a new agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, which will open for signature in New York this very week, on Wednesday.

Our hard work to build a world-class science and management framework has ensured that NAFO is well-positioned to respond to these new commitments and fully engage once the new BBNJ agreement enters into force. I look forward to working with all of you this week to keep that momentum going, whether in setting the science-based management measures for our NAFO fisheries, or in tackling the broader issues under NAFO's mandate.

I now declare the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO officially open.

**Annex 2. Participant List from the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO**

| <b>CHAIRS</b>                  |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Acting Chair of the Commission | Warner-Kramer, Deirdre (USA)  |
| Scientific Council             | Dwyer, Karen (Canada)   |
| <b>CANADA</b>                  |   |
| Head of Delegation             | Burns, Adam, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (in-person)<br>Email: Adam.Burns@dfo-mpo.gc.ca                     |
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| Head of Delegation (Alternate) | Dieppa Sanabria, Gilda Maria, Legal Director, Ministry of the Food Industry of Cuba (MINAL) (In-person)<br>Email: gilda.dieppa@minal.gob.cu |

| <b>DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)</b> |   |
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| Head of Delegation   | Døj, Iben Funch, Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting (In-person)<br>Email: iben@nanoq.gl                                  |
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| <b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>                                      |   |
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### **Annex 3. Opening Statement by the Delegation of the Canada**

Canada is pleased to join with our fellow Contracting Parties at this 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) as we continue to work co-operatively to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area. We extend sincere appreciation to the European Union, Spain and our host city of Vigo for their warm welcome and hospitality in this beautiful city.

Canada is pleased with the significant progress that has been made by the Scientific Council, STACTIC and the numerous working groups throughout the year.

In particular, we note the first meeting of the Informal Group to Reflect on the Workload of the Scientific Council. This was an important first step in seeking concrete ways to address the long-standing concerns regarding capacity and workload of the SC. The advice provided by the Scientific Council is the foundation of our stock management decisions and strategies which are at the core of the purpose of NAFO. Canada is committed to working to prioritize and focus requests to SC in order to align with its capacity and expertise. In view of enhancing the capacity of the Council, Canada encourages all Contracting Parties to consider the level of expert participation they are providing to it. We also encourage all Contracting Parties to continue to reflect on these points during our discussions this week and the Commission to exercise restraint in its requests to SC with a focus on NAFO's key priority areas.

We also acknowledge and appreciate the continuing exemplary work and dedication of the NAFO Secretariat. It was a year of change as several new staff members established themselves in senior positions, including Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir as the new Executive Secretary. The outstanding support to all NAFO bodies continued seamlessly through this transition period.

We look forward to listening to the input from others and continuing to advance on key priorities this week including Management Strategy Evaluations for 3LN redfish and Greenland halibut, a revised Precautionary Approach Framework, establishing responsible and sustainable management measures for key stocks, and continued protections for identified Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.

Our progress this week is of critical importance to the protection of our ocean resources for future generations while providing important economic opportunities to Canada, its coastal communities and to all Contracting Parties.



#### **Annex 4. Opening Statement by the Delegation of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)**

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Faroe Islands and Greenland (DFG) would like to begin by thanking our Spanish hosts for the opportunity to meet in beautiful Vigo, on the Galician coast. This delegation would also like to convey its appreciation to the Secretariat for its outstanding efforts in planning this annual meeting and for facilitating the work of the organization, always answering our questions, and keeping us well informed.

One of the key issues for this organization is to ensure the sustainable management of the shrimp stock in subarea 3M. Contracting parties have committed to discussing a transition to a new management scheme from fishing days to quotas, most recently during the 2023 intersessional meeting, where no consensus was reached. DFG is of the view that further work should consider primarily objective and quantifiable factors, particularly historical catches, and allocated fishing days – and that should other factors be introduced, they can be considered only secondary to these. The Scientific Council advice for shrimp in 3M recommends no directed fishery in 2024, but there is still a need to make progress towards a new scheme ahead of future fisheries, that otherwise will take place under the current effort allocation scheme.

Another important issue is the conservation and management of the cod stock in 3M. We are pleased to note that the Scientific Council anticipates growth and stability for the total biomass and the Spawning Stock Biomass in the short-term forecast for 2024 and 2025 in the projected scenarios, except when setting a TAC at Flim. DFG wishes to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable utilization of this fishery resource, and thereby also a secure and stable framework for our industry and its activities. In this regard DFG would like to recall Article III of the NAFO convention, where Contracting Parties have committed themselves to promote the optimum utilization and long-term sustainability of fishery resources. Thus, when setting a TAC for cod in 3M, the Commission must evaluate the risks associated with different approaches based on the best available scientific advice and take due account for social and economic factors as well.

Lastly DFG would like to raise our concern shared by other Contracting Parties about the continuous workload of the Scientific Council. Consistent with the objectives and principles of the Convention, the task of the Scientific Council is to provide advice as required by the Commission, however Commission requests have grown in scope beyond the primary task of assessing stocks and the ecosystems in which they occur. Therefore, DFG urges Contracting Parties to work together on finding solutions, that do not imply increasing the workload of the Council.

To conclude Madame Chair, the Faroe Islands and Greenland are looking forward to a productive week in these lovely surroundings and to work constructively with all other delegations to contribute to a successful outcome of this 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

Thank you.

### **Annex 5. Opening Statement by the Delegation of the European Union**

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, we would like to thank the Government of Spain for hosting the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO in the wonderful city of Vigo, a city inextricably linked to the sea. We hope the rich maritime history of this city will provide a positive and enabling spirit for our negotiations.

We also want to recognise the excellent preparatory work carried out ahead of this meeting. This should help us to reach decisions that will contribute to the effective and sustainable management of international fisheries that this organisation has been entrusted to manage. The Commission will again have to set TACs for fish stocks under the purview of NAFO that ensure their sustainable management and exploitation for the years to come while taking into account environmental, economic and social considerations. The EU will continue to seek and support solutions based on the best available scientific advice, aiming to ensure long-term sustainability for the stocks and predictability for the industry that depend on their exploitation for their livelihoods.

The EU has carefully studied the advice emanating from the Scientific Council and will continue to support sustainable approaches for the long-term management of key stocks, such as cod, Greenland halibut and redfish, which are of particular importance to the EU. In this regard, special consideration must also be given to technical and control measures that can help us better achieve the conservation objectives of NAFO. We are aware of the difficult situation of Northern shrimp in division 3M and have taken note of the most recent recommendation from the Scientific Council. The disappointing result of the scientific assessment of the status of this stock does however not deflect from the need for a new management regime based on a TAC and quota allocation, possibly together with other management measures. The EU remains committed to devising a new and better fisheries management plan for Shrimp 3M and will engage constructively in the discussions.

In the context of the review of VME closures, I reiterate the EU's continued support for a coherent and clear policy aimed at protecting VMEs, including through its support for the NEREIDA project. The EU would like to stress that the Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management and the NAFO Scientific Council should continue to work on the potential impact of activities other than fishing in the NAFO Convention Area.

Regarding control and enforcement, the EU will continue to promote compliance of the EU fleet with the NAFO rules in force, both at sea and in port. The EU also supports measures that increase the efficiency of NAFO's control and inspection systems.

The EU delegation looks forward to working with all Parties around the table in order to achieve the best possible result for fishers, fish stocks and ecosystems.

**Annex 6. Opening Statement by the  
Delegation of France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)**

First of all, France in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon would like to thank Spain for organising this annual session, in this symbolic venue for European fisheries management.

We would also like to thank you, Madam Chair, for all your efforts to ensure that this meeting ends with a collective success for the joint management and conservation of the species monitored by NAFO.

Finally, we would like to thank the NAFO secretariat for its daily work in the service of the organisation's members, and we particularly welcome the appointment of Ms. Benediktsdóttir.

Fishing is a fundamental pillar in the socio-economic balance of a coastal territory such as Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, and therefore these negotiations are of particular importance to us.

With its profoundly European history, its North American geographical position and the ties of friendship that bind us to the nations of Europe and America, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon is a natural link between both sides of the Atlantic.

We hope that the Commission will be able to find a constructive compromise for each of the species concerned that will enable us to meet the achievement of objectives as important as the conservation of the resource, the preservation of the activity of our operators and the food security of our populations.

### **Annex 7. Opening Statement by the Delegation of Japan**

First of all, Japan would like to express its deepest gratitude to Spain, the NAFO Chairs and Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangements to hold the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

This year is one of the year when remarkable events occurred in the international fora of fishery.

It has been more than 20 years since the entry into force of *the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks*, which established minimum international standards for the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, including precautionary approach. The resumed review conference was held from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May this year and appreciated the effective performance by Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), indicating that some areas need to be further improved as well.

In June this year, *the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction* was adopted after discussions in several intergovernmental conferences. This established the general principles and approaches, including ecosystem approach, and introduced area-based management tools for conservation of marine biodiversity in high seas and calls for cooperation with RFMOs in the areas.

In parallel with these global discussions, NAFO has recently been intensively discussing precautionary approach framework, ecosystem roadmap and other effective area-based conservation measures with careful consideration. Addressing these important issues can contribute to further improvement of management of fishery stocks and the whole ecosystem. Japan would like to be constructively engaged in these discussions in NAFO which has taken the lead in actively addressing them.

It may require closer cooperation with other international bodies to effectively address these issues, although NAFO has been actively cooperating with them. Japan expects that the mutual close communication with such bodies will give shape to strengthened cooperation.

In conclusion, Japanese delegation is ready to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations for better management of marine living resources in accordance with the objective of the Convention on Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

### **Annex 8. Opening Statement by the Delegation of the Russian Federation**

Madame Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

NAFO Annual Meeting is an important forum for Russia to address key issues related to management of fish stocks, protection of marine ecosystems and implementation of conservation measures in the North West Atlantic.

We appreciate the effort by the Contracting Parties aimed at achieving the goals of the NAFO Convention, “to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found”. As fisheries managers, we ought to keep in mind that it is our aim to ensure the most effective management regime, applying the possibilities and expertise provided by NAFO to our common benefit. NAFO has both the capacity and responsibility to ensure sustainable fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic stocks and safeguard their environment.

We would like to take this opportunity to commend the important work undertaken by the Scientific Council, the subsidiary bodies and working groups of NAFO. We are pleased to see the advice to increase total allowable catch for certain stocks and we hope that the Commission will follow these. However, the spectrum of potential regulatory measures presented at the working group meetings this year raises a concern. We suggest that, if numerous proposals on the management of the same stock arise during this meeting, they should be addressed as a whole, taking possible interactions between them and the risk of redundancy into account.

We also recognize the need to continue discussing the ways of a better integration of the ecosystem approach in fisheries management to increase the sustainability of fisheries.

Russia is committed to pursue its cooperation within NAFO on the meeting agenda in the spirit of openness and mutual respect.

Thank you!

### **Annex 9. Opening Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**

Thank you Chair for the floor and Good morning to everyone!

First of all, I would like to thank the host country, Spain, and the NAFO Secretariat for the work done to organize this participation, as well as the opportunity to join the work of NAFO in a remote format.

Undoubtedly, NAFO's activities are important for all of us, as the cooperation of Member States ensures the achievement of the Convention's key objectives - ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in this Convention area.

It is worth mentioning that Ukraine has made a significant contribution to the discovery and research of fish stocks in the world's oceans, including the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Our vessels have traditionally fished in these areas since the mid-60s. Together with some other former Soviet states, they discovered and developed certain types of fishing in these waters.

However, the current reality is that during the period of NAFO membership, Ukraine has harvested only about 1.8 thousand tons of fish. One of the reasons for this situation is the limited fishing opportunities of Ukraine in the NAFO area. This state of affairs does not allow us to benefit fully from our status in the Organization, as it does not provide an opportunity to organize an economically feasible voyage even for 1 fishing vessel.

We should note that the harvesting of marine living resources is a very important component of our country's food security.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the situation with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. These actions of Russia are undoubtedly an unjustified and unprovoked act of aggression against the independent and sovereign state of Ukraine, as well as a violation of all existing norms of international law, as well as basic norms of morality and principles of human coexistence.

In addition, since Russia's illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in 2014 and Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the aggressor state has completely blocked Ukraine's access to the Sea of Azov and a significant part of Ukraine's exclusive maritime economic zone in the Black Sea. Marine fishing for aquatic bioresources in the part of the Black Sea waters controlled by Ukraine also cannot be properly implemented due to security risks in connection with Russia's militarization of these waters.

Therefore, we call on all parties to take into account the current situation of Ukraine in addition to such criteria as traditional fishing, discovery and study of fish stocks, and development of new types of fishing when allocating national quotas and determining fishing rights of nations.

We sincerely wish this session of NAFO a successful and productive work and hope that it will contribute to Ukraine's return to this fishing area as a full-fledged user of marine living resources,

Thank you!

### **Annex 10. Opening Statement by the Delegation of the United Kingdom**

The UK is pleased to be a part of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Secretariat for its tireless efforts in organising this meeting, and to the EU (and member state Spain) for hosting us this year. We would also like to thank members of Standing Committees and Working Groups for their valuable work throughout the year.

NAFO plays an essential role in sustainable fisheries management and in establishing best practice. We urge the Commission to keep at the forefront of its mind the need for long-term sustainability and stock health when taking decisions, and to put proper weight to the Scientific Council's advice. It is crucial that NAFO demonstrates global leadership through its commitment to considering the current and future benefits of stable and resilient stocks and oceans.

The UK strongly supports the recommendations from recent Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management and is proud of our scientific contribution to this group. The work identifying which NAFO fishery measures meet the criteria for Other effective area-based conservation measures, as defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity, is valuable in demonstrating NAFO's contribution to the long-term protection of biodiversity, alongside NAFO's wider work on sustainable fisheries management. We were also pleased to participate in the recent working group on Risk Based Management Strategies and support the progress of the Precautionary Approach Framework review.

The UK looks forward to working with all Parties around the table in order to achieve the best possible result for NAFO stocks and ecosystems, and to make this Annual Meeting a success.

### **Annex 11. Opening Statement by the Delegation of the United States of America**

Madam Chair, Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen, the United States is pleased to participate in this 45<sup>th</sup> NAFO Annual Meeting. We are very happy to once again be back in Vigo and are looking forward to reacquainting ourselves with this beautiful city. We thank the Government of Spain for hosting this year's meeting, and we would also like to extend our thanks to the NAFO Secretariat for their skill and dedication, without which these meetings could not take place.

As we have emphasized in previous years, the United States remains committed to maintaining the highest possible standards relative to decisions taken on the conservation and management of NAFO stocks, and their associated species and ecosystems. Success in this area relies on three elements.

First, there must be consistency between the management decisions of the Commission and the advice of the Scientific Council. It is our hope that NAFO Parties will support this basic principle and act accordingly – even when the decisions are difficult.

Second, we must do everything in our power to ensure that the scientific advice that managers are considering is of the highest possible quality. Effective management is reliant on advice based on the “best available” scientific information. Thus, the United States urges Contracting Parties to engage in a focused, proactive discussion at this Annual Meeting to identify and prioritize concrete steps to ensure that the Scientific Council has the tools and resources necessary to meet all of the current demands faced by modern Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

The third element necessary for effective decision making is transparency. This element has both external and internal components. Internally, we must ensure that all Contracting Parties are provided the opportunity to fully participate in all NAFO deliberations and decisions as they deem necessary. Externally, we must take all reasonable steps to provide for a decision making process that allows for the participation (as appropriate) of our constituents.

We have no comments at this time regarding specific NAFO stocks under consideration for management action this year. However, as noted above, we urge that Commission members adhere to scientific advice and use precaution when considering decisions relative to these stocks. Additionally, the United States is hopeful that discussions on Division 3M shrimp stock will continue as necessary to ensure that an effective regime is in place to sustainably manage the stock in the event it reopens. We must not lose the momentum gained in the intersessional meeting that preceded the Annual Meeting.

Finally, the United States looks forward to engaging in productive discussions during this meeting relative to our proposal addressing the impacts of climate change on NAFO fisheries, and our proposed Resolution on core principles on labor standards in NAFO fisheries. These are vital issues impacting both NAFO stocks and constituents, and they deserve serious consideration by Contracting Parties.

Thank you very much and we look forward to a productive week.



**Annex 12. Agenda**

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| <b>I. Opening Procedure</b>  |   |
| 1.   | Opening by the Acting Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America)   |
| 2.   | Appointment of Rapporteur   |
| 3.   | Adoption of Agenda  |
| 4.   | Admission of Observers  |
| 5.   | Publicity   |
| <b>II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and Other Internal Affairs</b> |   |
| 6.   | Review of Membership of the Commission  |
| 7.   | Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat  |
| 8.   | NAFO Headquarters Agreement   |
| 9.   | Review of the list of experts to serve as panelists under the NAFO Dispute Settlement provisions  |
| 10.  | Guidance to STACFAD   |
| 11.  | Guidance to STACTIC   |
| <b>III. Coordination of External Affairs</b>   |   |
| 12.  | Report of Executive Secretary on External Meetings  |
| 13.  | International Relations   |
|  | a. Relations with other International Organizations   |
|  | b. Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Sea Fisheries Project   |
|  | c. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NAFO and the Sargasso Sea Commission   |
|  | d. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NAFO and the International Council for the Exploration for the Sea (ICES)  |
|  | e. NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings   |
| 14.  | Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area  |
| <b>IV. Joint Session of Commission and Scientific Council</b>  |   |
| 15.  | Implementation of 2018 Performance Review Panel recommendations   |
| 16.  | Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council  |
|  | a. Response of the Scientific Council to the Commission's request for scientific advice   |
|  | b. Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding the advice and its work during this meeting   |
|  | c. Other issues as determined by the Chairs of the Commission and the Scientific Council  |
| 17.  | Meeting Reports and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Groups   |
|  | a. Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG), 2023   |
|  | b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and July 2023   |
|  | c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2023                                 |
|  | d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), April 2023   |
|  | e. Informal Group to reflect on the workload of the Scientific Council, April 2023  |
| 18.  | Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management in 2025 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3, 4 and Other Matters |

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| V. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area |  |
| 19.   | Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and July 2023 (if more discussion is required)             |
| 20.   | Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2024   |
|   | a. Cod in Division 3M  |
|   | b. Shrimp in Division 3M   |
|   | c. Redfish in Division 3M  |
|   | d. American plaice in Division 3M  |
| 21.   | Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2024  |
|   | a. Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO   |
|   | b. Pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (oceanic redfish) in Subarea 2 + Divisions 1F and 3K   |
|   | c. Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO   |
|   | d. White hake in Divisions 3NO   |
|   | e. Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO  |
|   | f. Cod in Divisions 2J3KL  |
| 22.   | Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks  |
| VI. Ecosystem Considerations                          |  |
| 23.   | Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2023 (if more discussion is required) |
| 24.   | Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations   |
| VII. Conservation and Enforcement Measures            |  |
| 25.   | Update of the Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area  |
| 26.   | Report of STACTIC from this Annual Meeting and Recommendations   |
| 27.   | Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures  |
| VIII. Finance and Administration                      |  |
| 28.   | Report of STACFAD from this Annual Meeting   |
| 29.   | Adoption of the 2024 Budget and STACFAD recommendations  |
| IX. Closing Procedure                                 |  |
| 30.   | Other Business   |
| 31.   | Election of Chair and vice-Chair   |
| 32.   | Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting  |
| 33.   | Press Release  |
| 34.   | Adjournment  |

### **Annex 13. Opening Statement by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Chair, Contracting Parties, Observers, and members of the Secretariat, it is with great pleasure that FAO makes a statement at NAFO's 45<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, a leading Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) with whom FAO enjoys a close working relationship.

Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) are increasingly aware of the challenges posed by climate change, and some have initiated actions ranging from public awareness-raising initiatives, policies, management plans, projects and other initiatives. However, there is a consensus that most organizations have difficulty in engaging in the topic of climate change despite the existence of good science, according to relevant discussions during the 9th Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) in September 2022. In this context, COFI-35 requested FAO to develop guidance on climate resilient fisheries management, and as part of the solution, convene a workshop with RFBs. As a follow-up to this request, FAO will be organizing a workshop entitled "Mainstreaming climate change into international fisheries governance – the case of Regional Fisheries Bodies" in two regions, the Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific. These workshops will aim to facilitate the exchanges among RFBs about how they are integrating climate change in fisheries management advice, discuss responses and opportunities to address the impacts of climate change on relevant fish stocks and ecosystems, and propose actionable recommendations for future efforts. FAO looks forward to NAFO's active participation in the workshop focused on the Atlantic, currently foreseen to take place in the first quarter of 2024.

FAO recognizes the important role that RFB's have in helping countries achieve the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The GBF aims to reduce 'threats' to biodiversity and ensure 'people's needs are met' from sustainable use of renewable resources. As such, fisheries have an important role to play in conserving ocean biodiversity and contributing to human well-being. The sustainability of natural resources is becoming extremely important and involves many actors working across different sectors. Within this context, improved actions and synergies at the global and regional levels are essential. The GBF includes a number of crucial targets that aim to conserve biodiversity globally, including Target 3, which calls for 30% of the planet to be conserved in protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures or OECMs, by 2030. FAO applauds NAFO's work to determine how it can contribute to this target in a meaningful way through the recognition of OECMs under the jurisdiction of NAFO. We encourage NAFO to continue this work and to document their decision-making process and final determination on which area-based fisheries management measures meet the OECM criteria. FAO believes that other RFBs can learn from NAFO's valuable experience as they move forward with discussions on how they too can contribute to the CBD's global biodiversity targets. In particular, we note that FAO is organizing a workshop on OECMs during the days prior to the annual Regional Seas Network meeting in January 2024, which will include an opportunity for NAFO to share its OECM experience with other RFMOs and RFBs.

Finally, NAFO was a valuable partner of the first phase of the Global Environment Facility funded and FAO-led ABNJ Deep Sea Project, which ran from 2014 to 2019. NAFO's support contributed greatly to the success of the project. NAFO is also a partner of the second phase of the project, entitled Deep-Sea Fisheries Under the Ecosystem Approach (DSF Project), which runs from 2022 through to 2027. FAO looks forward to the ongoing constructive partnership with NAFO and in particular, leveraging NAFO's specialized expertise in fisheries research and management, the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems to advance the work of the project. We are especially excited about the prospect of co-sponsoring a symposium on EAF with NAFO in 2025.

#### **Annex 14. Opening Statement by the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC)**

Chair, Heads of Delegation, Delegates and fellow Observers, we are pleased once again, to be back in Vigo for the NAFO Annual Meeting and extend our appreciation to Spain and the city of Vigo for hosting. We also express our appreciation for the return of in person meetings as well as the flexibility for virtual participation.

The 100+ member organizations of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition remain steadfast in our work to protect the deep sea from significant adverse impacts of human activities, and ensure responsible and sustainable management of deep sea fisheries. This year, we welcome the commitment made by NAFO Contracting Parties, where you are signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to the unprecedented adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the CBD in December 2022. In addition, this week, as many of you are likely aware, we expect a significant number of countries to sign on to the recently adopted text of the Biodiversity beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty during the United Nations General Assembly meetings in New York.

This year, we continue our call for NAFO Contracting Parties to fully implement the UNGA resolutions related to bottom fishing as well as heed the August 2022 review of bottom fishing measures. Despite NAFO's good work, not all VMEs that are known or likely to occur are protected from bottom fishing. NAFO's protection of all seamounts in the NAFO Regulatory Area continues to be a precedent setting and we urge Contracting Parties to take the same actions in other RFMOs including as a priority, NEAFC and SPRFMO.

We acknowledge that there is a continued need for additional scientific expertise and capacity to address the increasingly complex nature of fisheries management beyond single stock decisions, including the impacts of climate change. We urge NAFO Contracting Parties to ensure that this expertise is provided so that NAFO can continue to lead the way on modern fisheries management, in accordance with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement standards and obligations, including by strengthened biodiversity protection and assessment of the impacts of human activities on the NAFO regulatory area ecosystems. NAFO should also effectively communicate this work and its progress in other fora.

For the 2023 Annual meeting we provide the following recommendations, that can also be found in our annual checklist for NAFO, available in hard copy to all Contracting Parties and online at [www.savethehighseas.org](http://www.savethehighseas.org). At this 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO, we expect NAFO to:

- Adopt all recommendations of the WG -EAFFM, including on:
  - Maintaining the closures of VME areas 7a, 11a and 14b until at least 31 December 2026 (considering the review cycle) and adopt the proposed changes to the NAFO CEM.
  - Minimizing impacts of research surveys within VME closures, with a strong preference to avoid these areas.
- Contracting Parties undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gear more selective for the protection of sharks.
- Direct the SC to conduct research on key biological and ecological parameters, life-history, behavioural traits and migration patterns, as well as on the identification of potential mapping, pupping and nursing grounds of key shark species.
- Adopt precautionary quota decisions for all managed stocks in line with science advice for all NAFO managed species.
- Request the Scientific Council to annually provide information on ecosystem overfishing in relation to the TCI.
- Include recent cumulative catch levels and a scoping of expected cumulative catch levels.
- Request the Scientific Council to develop stock summary sheets for all NAFO managed stocks.

- Advance NAFO commitment to addressing climate change in all of its activities, including reducing emissions from fishing activity.
- Include climate vulnerability in all stock summary sheets, and integrate into the decision making of the WG-EAFFM.
- Endorse the Provisional Draft Precautionary Approach (PA) framework and the updated PA workplan.
- Contribute the additional scientific expertise needed to on ecosystem approach, impacts of activities other than fishing, and ensure that Scientific Council is supported to successfully deliver on the requests approved by the Commission.

We look forward to participating in the discussions this week and to working with all of you to advance biodiversity protection and sustainable management of deep sea fisheries so that future generations may continue to benefit. The increasing loss of biodiversity coupled with unprecedented ocean warming in the North Atlantic during the summer of 2023, place further responsibility on NAFO's Contracting Parties to act proactively to the increasing complexities required of intergovernmental governance agencies.

DSCC Contacts at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO:  
Daniela Diz (dizdani@gmail.com)  
Matt Gianni

### **Annex 15. Opening Statement by Oceans North**

Chair, Heads of Delegation, Delegates, and fellow Observers.

From Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat (ONKN) we wish to thank Spain for hosting the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization in the beautiful city of Vigo.

As this is Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat's first attendance to NAFO, we are looking forward to experiencing the work and decisions of NAFO and meeting many of you on the margins of the meeting. We are grateful for the opportunity to attend.

We are a new non-governmental organization, and we work in Greenland, in the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans. With the goal of achieving healthy ocean ecosystems, we support sustainable fisheries together with sustainable use of other marine living resources, clean oceans, and marine protection in close partnership with Greenlandic stakeholders such as local communities and researchers.

Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat calls for quota setting to be aligned with scientific advice. The setting of quotas above scientific advice has historically led to collapse of fisheries in ecosystems, thus radically reducing the economy of fisheries and coastal communities. This should be avoided.

To improve the status of the biodiversity, the health of the ecosystems and thereby productive and sustainable fisheries we support NAFO following science advice, advancing the ecosystem approach and support NAFO's consideration of climate change in its decisions. We support extending all 2-year vulnerable marine ecosystem closures for another five years.

We note that this week countries will be signing the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction / High Seas Biodiversity Treaty, which is the next step towards ratification. ONKN emphasises the continued need for NAFO to collaborate with other intergovernmental organizations with jurisdiction on the high seas and seafloor to ensure collective initiatives on biodiversity protection.

We are looking forward to working with NAFO partners in the future on these important issues and are looking forward to a productive week.

Jenseeraq Poulsen, Executive director  
Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat  
September 2023

**Annex 16. Changes to Article 17.3 of the NAFO CEM**  
(COM-SC EAFFM-WP 23-15 now COM-SC Doc. 23-05)

The objective of the following edits to the NAFO CEM is to maintain VME closures 7a, 11a, 14a, and 14b to 31 December 2026 and incorporate these closures with the other VME Area closures outlined in article 17.3. and Table 7 of the NAFO CEM.

**Article 17 – Area Restrictions for Bottom Fishing Activities**

***Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem Area Closures***

3. Until 31 December 2026, no vessel shall engage in bottom fishing activities in areas 1-14b<sup>3</sup> illustrated in Figure 5 and defined by connecting the coordinates specified in Table 7a in numerical order and back to coordinate 1.

Table 7a. Boundary Points Delineating the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem Area Closures in the NAFO Regulatory Area Referenced in Article 17.3.

|      | Description                        | Coordinate No.   | Latitude         | Longitude        |
|------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1    | Tail of the Bank                   | 1.1              | 44° 02' 53.88" N | 48° 49' 09.48" W |
|      |                                    | 1.2              | 44° 21' 31.32" N | 48° 46' 48.00" W |
|      |                                    | 1.3              | 44° 21' 34.56" N | 48° 50' 32.64" W |
|      |                                    | 1.4              | 44° 11' 48.12" N | 48° 50' 32.64" W |
|      |                                    | 1.5              | 44° 02' 54.60" N | 48° 52' 52.32" W |
|      |                                    | 1.6              | 44° 00' 01.12" N | 48° 53' 28.75" W |
|      |                                    | 1.7              | 43° 59' 57.52" N | 48° 49' 26.47" W |
| 2    | Flemish Pass/<br>Eastern<br>Canyon | 2.1              | 44° 50' 56.40" N | 48° 43' 45.48" W |
|      |                                    | 2.2              | 46° 18' 54.72" N | 46° 47' 51.72" W |
|      |                                    | 2.3              | 46° 25' 28.56" N | 46° 47' 51.72" W |
|      |                                    | 2.4              | 46° 46' 32.16" N | 46° 55' 14.52" W |
|      |                                    | 2.5              | 47° 03' 29.16" N | 46° 40' 04.44" W |
|      |                                    | 2.6              | 47° 11' 47.04" N | 46° 57' 38.16" W |
|      |                                    | 2.7              | 46° 40' 40.80" N | 47° 03' 04.68" W |
|      |                                    | 2.8              | 46° 30' 22.20" N | 47° 11' 02.93" W |
|      |                                    | 2.9              | 46° 17' 13.30" N | 47° 15' 46.64" W |
|      |                                    | 2.10             | 46° 07' 01.56" N | 47° 30' 36.36" W |
|      |                                    | 2.11             | 45° 49' 06.24" N | 47° 41' 17.88" W |
|      |                                    | 2.12             | 45° 19' 43.32" N | 48° 29' 14.28" W |
| 2.13 | 44° 53' 47.40" N                   | 48° 49' 32.52" W |                  |                  |
| 3    | Beothuk Knoll                      | 3.1              | 45° 49' 10.20" N | 46° 06' 02.52" W |
|      |                                    | 3.2              | 45° 59' 47.40" N | 46° 06' 02.52" W |
|      |                                    | 3.3              | 45° 59' 47.40" N | 46° 18' 08.28" W |
|      |                                    | 3.4              | 45° 49' 10.20" N | 46° 18' 08.28" W |
| 4    | Eastern<br>Flemish Cap             | 4.1              | 46° 44' 34.80" N | 44° 03' 14.40" W |
|      |                                    | 4.2              | 46° 58' 19.20" N | 43° 34' 16.32" W |
|      |                                    | 4.3              | 47° 10' 30.00" N | 43° 34' 16.32" W |
|      |                                    | 4.4              | 47° 10' 30.00" N | 43° 20' 51.72" W |
|      |                                    | 4.5              | 46° 48' 35.28" N | 43° 20' 51.72" W |
|      |                                    | 4.6              | 46° 39' 36.00" N | 43° 58' 08.40" W |
| 5    | Northeast<br>Flemish Cap           | 5.1              | 47° 47' 46.00" N | 43° 29' 07.00" W |
|      |                                    | 5.2              | 47° 40' 54.47" N | 43° 27' 06.71" W |
|      |                                    | 5.3              | 47° 35' 57.48" N | 43° 43' 09.12" W |

|    | Description                          | Coordinate No.        | Latitude                         | Longitude                        |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|    |                                      | 5.4                   | 47° 51' 14.40" N                 | 43° 48' 35.64" W                 |
|    |                                      | 5.5                   | 48° 27' 19.44" N                 | 44° 21' 07.92" W                 |
|    |                                      | 5.6                   | 48° 41' 37.32" N                 | 43° 45' 08.08" W                 |
|    |                                      | 5.7                   | 48° 37' 13.00" N                 | 43° 41' 24.00" W                 |
|    |                                      | 5.8                   | 48° 30' 15.00" N                 | 43° 41' 32.00" W                 |
|    |                                      | 5.9                   | 48° 25' 08.00" N                 | 43° 45' 20.00" W                 |
|    |                                      | 5.10                  | 48° 24' 29.00" N                 | 43° 50' 50.00" W                 |
|    |                                      | 5.11                  | 48° 14' 20.00" N                 | 43° 48' 19.00" W                 |
|    |                                      | 5.12                  | 48° 09' 53.00" N                 | 43° 49' 24.00" W                 |
| 6  | Sackville Spur                       | 6.1                   | 48° 18' 51.12" N                 | 46° 37' 13.44" W                 |
|    |                                      | 6.2                   | 48° 28' 51.24" N                 | 46° 08' 33.72" W                 |
|    |                                      | 6.3                   | 48° 49' 37.20" N                 | 45° 27' 20.52" W                 |
|    |                                      | 6.4                   | 48° 56' 30.12" N                 | 45° 08' 59.99" W                 |
|    |                                      | 6.5                   | 49° 00' 09.72" N                 | 45° 12' 44.64" W                 |
|    |                                      | 6.6                   | 48° 21' 12.24" N                 | 46° 39' 11.16" W                 |
| 7  | Northern Flemish Cap                 | 7.1                   | 48° 25' 02.28" N                 | 45° 17' 16.44" W                 |
|    |                                      | 7.2                   | 48° 25' 02.28" N                 | 44° 54' 38.16" W                 |
|    |                                      | 7.3                   | 48° 19' 08.76" N                 | 44° 54' 38.16" W                 |
|    |                                      | 7.4                   | 48° 19' 08.76" N                 | 45° 01' 58.56" W                 |
|    |                                      | 7.5                   | 48° 20' 29.76" N                 | 45° 01' 58.56" W                 |
|    |                                      | 7.6                   | 48° 20' 29.76" N                 | 45° 17' 16.44" W                 |
| 7a | <a href="#">Northern Flemish Cap</a> | <a href="#">7a.1</a>  | <a href="#">48° 25' 02.28" N</a> | <a href="#">45° 17' 16.44" W</a> |
|    |                                      | <a href="#">7a.2</a>  | <a href="#">48° 25' 02.28" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 54' 38.16" W</a> |
|    |                                      | <a href="#">7a.3</a>  | <a href="#">48° 19' 08.76" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 54' 38.16" W</a> |
|    |                                      | <a href="#">7a.4</a>  | <a href="#">48° 18' 06.84" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 44' 22.81" W</a> |
|    |                                      | <a href="#">7a.5</a>  | <a href="#">48° 08' 18.42" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 23' 10.57" W</a> |
|    |                                      | <a href="#">7a.6</a>  | <a href="#">48° 10' 08.98" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 15' 54.97" W</a> |
|    |                                      | <a href="#">7a.7</a>  | <a href="#">48° 19' 30.47" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 26' 38.40" W</a> |
|    |                                      | <a href="#">7a.8</a>  | <a href="#">48° 24' 57.13" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 37' 58.40" W</a> |
|    |                                      | <a href="#">7a.9</a>  | <a href="#">48° 26' 21.37" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 54' 34.60" W</a> |
|    |                                      | <a href="#">7a.10</a> | <a href="#">48° 27' 52.20" N</a> | <a href="#">45° 17' 19.25" W</a> |
| 8  | Northern Flemish Cap                 | 8.1                   | 48° 38' 07.95" N                 | 45° 19' 31.92" W                 |
|    |                                      | 8.2                   | 48° 38' 07.95" N                 | 45° 11' 44.36" W                 |
|    |                                      | 8.3                   | 48° 40' 09.84" N                 | 45° 11' 44.88" W                 |
|    |                                      | 8.4                   | 48° 40' 09.84" N                 | 45° 05' 35.52" W                 |
|    |                                      | 8.5                   | 48° 35' 56.40" N                 | 45° 05' 35.52" W                 |
|    |                                      | 8.6                   | 48° 35' 56.40" N                 | 45° 19' 31.92" W                 |
|    |                                      | 8.7                   | 48° 34' 23.52" N                 | 45° 26' 18.96" W                 |
|    |                                      | 8.8                   | 48° 36' 55.08" N                 | 45° 31' 15.96" W                 |
| 9  | Northern Flemish Cap                 | 9.1                   | 48° 34' 23.52" N                 | 45° 26' 18.96" W                 |
|    |                                      | 9.2                   | 48° 36' 55.08" N                 | 45° 31' 15.96" W                 |
|    |                                      | 9.3                   | 48° 30' 18.36" N                 | 45° 39' 42.48" W                 |
|    |                                      | 9.4                   | 48° 12' 06.60" N                 | 45° 54' 12.94" W                 |
|    |                                      | 9.5                   | 48° 17' 11.82" N                 | 45° 47' 25.36" W                 |
|    |                                      | 9.6                   | 48° 16' 07.06" N                 | 45° 45' 48.19" W                 |
|    |                                      | 9.7                   | 48° 27' 30.60" N                 | 45° 34' 40.44" W                 |
| 10 | Northwest Flemish Cap                | 10.1                  | 47° 49' 41.51" N                 | 46° 22' 48.18" W                 |
|    |                                      | 10.2                  | 47° 47' 17.14" N                 | 46° 17' 27.91" W                 |
|    |                                      | 10.3                  | 47° 58' 42.28" N                 | 46° 06' 43.74" W                 |
|    |                                      | 10.4                  | 47° 59' 15.77" N                 | 46° 07' 57.76" W                 |



|     | Description                           | Coordinate No.        | Latitude                         | Longitude                        |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|     |                                       | 10.5                  | 48° 07' 48.97" N                 | 45° 59' 58.46" W                 |
|     |                                       | 10.6                  | 48° 09' 34.66" N                 | 46° 04' 08.54" W                 |
|     |                                       | 10.7                  | 48° 07' 59.70" N                 | 46° 05' 38.22" W                 |
|     |                                       | 10.8                  | 48° 09' 13.46" N                 | 46° 09' 31.03" W                 |
|     |                                       | 10.9                  | 47° 51' 30.13" N                 | 46° 26' 15.61" W                 |
| 11  | Northwest Flemish Cap                 | 11.1                  | 47° 25' 48.00" N                 | 46° 21' 23.76" W                 |
|     |                                       | 11.2                  | 47° 30' 01.44" N                 | 46° 21' 23.76" W                 |
|     |                                       | 11.3                  | 47° 30' 01.44" N                 | 46° 27' 33.12" W                 |
|     |                                       | 11.4                  | 47° 25' 48.00" N                 | 46° 27' 33.12" W                 |
| 11a | <a href="#">Northwest Flemish Cap</a> | <a href="#">11a.1</a> | <a href="#">47° 27' 36.29" N</a> | <a href="#">46° 21' 23.69" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">11a.2</a> | <a href="#">47° 30' 01.44" N</a> | <a href="#">46° 21' 23.76" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">11a.3</a> | <a href="#">47° 30' 01.44" N</a> | <a href="#">46° 27' 33.12" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">11a.4</a> | <a href="#">47° 37' 38.86" N</a> | <a href="#">46° 16' 31.12" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">11a.5</a> | <a href="#">47° 34' 39.61" N</a> | <a href="#">46° 12' 03.92" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">11a.6</a> | <a href="#">47° 32' 28.90" N</a> | <a href="#">46° 16' 26.58" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">11a.7</a> | <a href="#">47° 32' 10.00" N</a> | <a href="#">46° 14' 29.87" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">11a.8</a> | <a href="#">47° 28' 27.80" N</a> | <a href="#">46° 16' 05.74" W</a> |
| 12  | Northwest Flemish Cap                 | 12.1                  | 48° 12' 06.60" N                 | 45° 54' 12.94" W                 |
|     |                                       | 12.2                  | 48° 17' 11.82" N                 | 45° 47' 25.36" W                 |
|     |                                       | 12.3                  | 48° 16' 07.06" N                 | 45° 45' 48.19" W                 |
|     |                                       | 12.4                  | 48° 11' 03.32" N                 | 45° 52' 40.63" W                 |
| 13  | Beothuk Knoll                         | 13.1                  | 46° 13' 58.80" N                 | 45° 41' 13.20" W                 |
|     |                                       | 13.2                  | 46° 13' 58.80" N                 | 46° 02' 24.00" W                 |
|     |                                       | 13.3                  | 46° 21' 50.40" N                 | 46° 02' 24.00" W                 |
|     |                                       | 13.4                  | 46° 21' 50.40" N                 | 45° 56' 48.12" W                 |
|     |                                       | 13.5                  | 46° 20' 14.32" N                 | 45° 55' 43.93" W                 |
|     |                                       | 13.6                  | 46° 20' 14.32" N                 | 45° 41' 13.20" W                 |
| 14a | <a href="#">Eastern Flemish Cap</a>   | <a href="#">14a.1</a> | <a href="#">47° 45' 24.44" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 03' 06.44" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">14a.2</a> | <a href="#">47° 47' 54.35" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 03' 06.44" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">14a.3</a> | <a href="#">47° 50' 11.33" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 03' 34.49" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">14a.4</a> | <a href="#">47° 50' 10.86" N</a> | <a href="#">43° 58' 28.99" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">14a.5</a> | <a href="#">47° 47' 54.35" N</a> | <a href="#">43° 59' 23.39" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">14a.6</a> | <a href="#">47° 45' 55.19" N</a> | <a href="#">43° 58' 08.94" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">14a.7</a> | <a href="#">47° 44' 44.59" N</a> | <a href="#">44° 02' 41.50" W</a> |
| 14b | <a href="#">Eastern Flemish Cap</a>   | <a href="#">14b.1</a> | <a href="#">47° 35' 21.77" N</a> | <a href="#">43° 56' 50.10" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">14b.2</a> | <a href="#">47° 37' 33.53" N</a> | <a href="#">43° 52' 56.50" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">14b.3</a> | <a href="#">47° 30' 04.79" N</a> | <a href="#">43° 48' 18.54" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">14b.4</a> | <a href="#">47° 27' 34.88" N</a> | <a href="#">43° 48' 18.54" W</a> |
|     |                                       | <a href="#">14b.5</a> | <a href="#">47° 27' 34.88" N</a> | <a href="#">43° 52' 00.34" W</a> |

~~3 bis. Until 31 December 2023, no vessel shall engage in bottom fishing activities in the areas illustrated in Figure 5 and defined by connecting the coordinates specified in Table 7b in numerical order and back to coordinate 1.~~

~~Table 7b. Boundary Points Delineating the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem Area Closures in the NAFO Regulatory Area Referenced in Article in Article 17.3 bis.~~

|     | <b>Description</b>    | <b>Coordinate No.</b> | <b>Latitude</b>  | <b>Longitude</b> |
|-----|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 7a  | Northern Flemish Cap  | 7a.1                  | 48° 25' 02.28" N | 45° 17' 16.44" W |
|     |                       | 7a.2                  | 48° 25' 02.28" N | 44° 54' 38.16" W |
|     |                       | 7a.3                  | 48° 19' 08.76" N | 44° 54' 38.16" W |
|     |                       | 7a.4                  | 48° 18' 06.84" N | 44° 44' 22.81" W |
|     |                       | 7a.5                  | 48° 08' 18.42" N | 44° 23' 10.57" W |
|     |                       | 7a.6                  | 48° 10' 08.98" N | 44° 15' 54.97" W |
|     |                       | 7a.7                  | 48° 19' 30.47" N | 44° 26' 38.40" W |
|     |                       | 7a.8                  | 48° 24' 57.13" N | 44° 37' 58.40" W |
|     |                       | 7a.9                  | 48° 26' 21.37" N | 44° 54' 34.60" W |
|     |                       | 7a.10                 | 48° 27' 52.20" N | 45° 17' 19.25" W |
| 11a | Northwest Flemish Cap | 11a.1                 | 47° 27' 36.29" N | 46° 21' 23.69" W |
|     |                       | 11a.2                 | 47° 30' 01.44" N | 46° 21' 23.76" W |
|     |                       | 11a.3                 | 47° 30' 01.44" N | 46° 27' 33.12" W |
|     |                       | 11a.4                 | 47° 37' 38.86" N | 46° 16' 31.12" W |
|     |                       | 11a.5                 | 47° 34' 39.61" N | 46° 12' 03.92" W |
|     |                       | 11a.6                 | 47° 32' 28.90" N | 46° 16' 26.58" W |
|     |                       | 11a.7                 | 47° 32' 10.00" N | 46° 14' 29.87" W |
|     |                       | 11a.8                 | 47° 28' 27.80" N | 46° 16' 05.74" W |
| 14a | Eastern Flemish Cap   | 14a.1                 | 47° 45' 24.44" N | 44° 03' 06.44" W |
|     |                       | 14a.2                 | 47° 47' 54.35" N | 44° 03' 06.44" W |
|     |                       | 14a.3                 | 47° 50' 11.33" N | 44° 03' 34.49" W |
|     |                       | 14a.4                 | 47° 50' 10.86" N | 43° 58' 28.99" W |
|     |                       | 14a.5                 | 47° 47' 54.35" N | 43° 59' 23.39" W |
|     |                       | 14a.6                 | 47° 45' 55.19" N | 43° 58' 08.94" W |
|     |                       | 14a.7                 | 47° 44' 44.59" N | 44° 02' 41.50" W |
| 14b | Eastern Flemish Cap   | 14b.1                 | 47° 35' 21.77" N | 43° 56' 50.10" W |
|     |                       | 14b.2                 | 47° 37' 33.53" N | 43° 52' 56.50" W |
|     |                       | 14b.3                 | 47° 30' 04.79" N | 43° 48' 18.54" W |
|     |                       | 14b.4                 | 47° 27' 34.88" N | 43° 48' 18.54" W |
|     |                       | 14b.5                 | 47° 27' 34.88" N | 43° 52' 00.34" W |

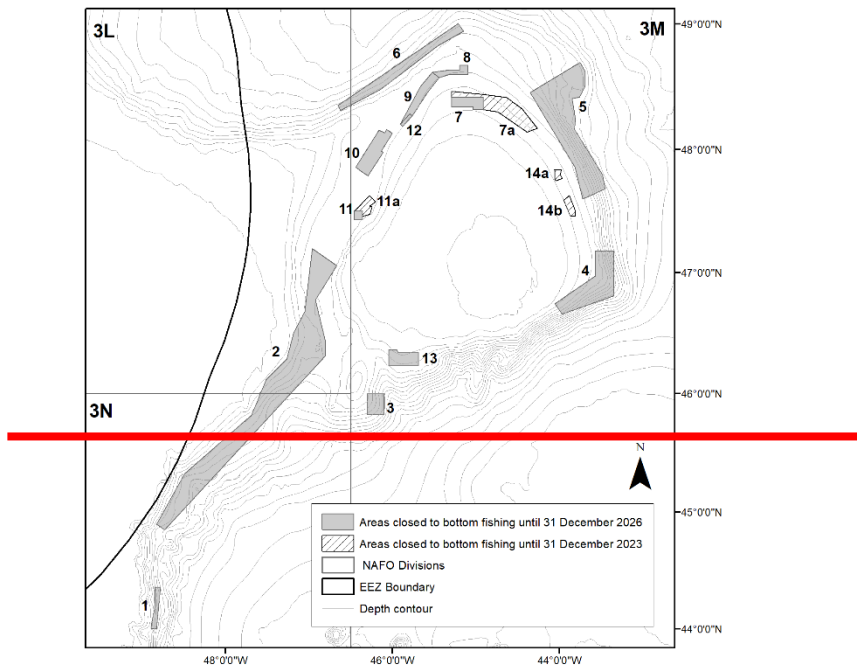
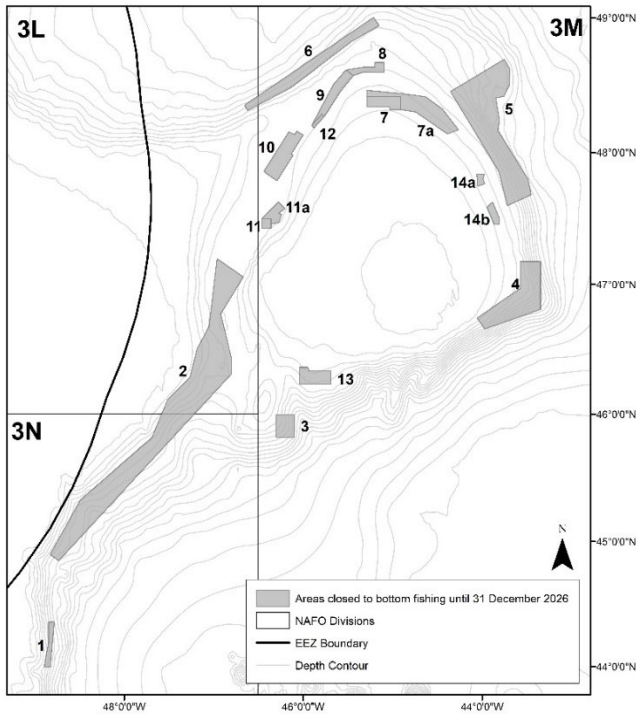


Figure 5. Polygons Delineating Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem Area Closures Referenced in Article 17.3 and Article 17.3 bis.

**Annex 17. The Commission's Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2025 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters**  
(COM WP 23-41 Rev. 3 now COM Doc. 23-09)

Following a request from the Scientific Council, the Commission agreed that items 1, 2, 3 and 7 should be the priority for the June 2024 Scientific Council meeting subject to resources.

1. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council provide advice for the management of the fish stocks below according to the assessment frequency presented below. In keeping with the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (FC Doc. 04/18), the advice should be provided as a range of management options and a risk analysis for each option without a single TAC recommendation. The Commission will decide upon the acceptable risk level in the context of the entirety of the SC advice for each stock guided and as foreseen by the Precautionary Approach.

| Yearly basis   | Two-year basis   | Three-year basis  | Interim Monitoring Only  |
|----------------|--|---|--|
| Cod in Div. 3M | Redfish in Div. 3M<br>Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO<br>Witch flounder in Div. 3NO<br>Redfish in Div. 3LN<br>White hake in Div. 3NO<br>Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO<br>Northern shrimp 3LNO<br>Northern shrimp in Div. 3M | American plaice in Div. 3LNO<br>American plaice in Div. 3M<br>Northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4<br>Redfish in Div. 3O<br>Cod in Div 3NO | SA 6 Alfonsino<br>SA 2-3 Roughhead Grenadier<br>Capelin in 3NO |

Advice should be provided using the guidance provided in **Annexes A or B as appropriate**, or using the predetermined Harvest Control Rules in the cases where they exist (currently Greenland halibut 2+3KLMNO). For 3M shrimp supplementary advice in terms of fishing-days could also be considered as appropriate.

To implement this schedule of assessments, the Scientific Council is requested to conduct a full assessment of these stocks as follows:

- In 2024, advice should be provided for 2025 for: Cod in Div. 3M and Redfish in Div. 3LN.
- In 2024, advice should be provided for 2025 and 2026 for: Redfish in Div. 3M, Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO, Witch flounder in Div. 3NO, and Northern shrimp in 3M.
  - With respect to Northern shrimp in Div. 3M, Scientific Council is requested to provide its advice to the Commission prior to the 2024 Annual Meeting based on the survey data up to and including 2024.
- In 2024, advice should be provided for 2025, 2026 and 2027 for: American plaice in Div. 3LNO.

The Commission also requests the Scientific Council to continue to monitor the status of all other stocks annually and, should a significant change be observed in stock status (e.g. from surveys) or in bycatch in other fisheries, provide updated advice as appropriate.

2. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to monitor the status of Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 + Div 3KLMNO annually to compute the TAC using the most recently agreed HCR and determine whether exceptional circumstances are occurring. If exceptional circumstances are occurring, the exceptional circumstances protocol will provide guidance on what steps should be taken.

3. The Commission requests that Scientific Council continue to advance work on the 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut and 3LN redfish MSE processes during 2023-2024, as per the approved 2024 workplan [COM-SC RBMS-WP 23-06 (Rev. 3)]:
  - a. For the Greenland Halibut MSE: test Candidate Management Procedures (CMP) performance against established management objectives and initial discussions on exceptional circumstances protocol.
  - b. For the 3LN Redfish MSE: (1) review and finalize Operating Models, (2) review any further work on performance statistics; (3) select the CMP(s) for RBMS consideration and potential testing against established management objectives.
4. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council continue to work on tiers 1 and 2 of the Roadmap, specifically to:
  - a. Annually provide catch information in relation to 2TCI, including recent cumulative catch levels and a scoping of expected cumulative catch levels;
  - b. As practicable and taking into account Scientific Council capacity constraints, develop stock summary sheets for NAFO managed stocks that are evaluated using HCR or MSE processes.
5. In relation to the habitat impact assessment component of the Roadmap (VME and SAI analyses), the Commission requests that Scientific Council:
  - a. Support the Secretariat in developing a centralized data repository using ArcGIS online to host the data and data-products for scientific advice;
  - b. Continue working with WG-EAFFM towards developing operational objectives for the protection of VMEs and biodiversity in the NRA; and
  - c. Work towards the reassessment of VMEs and impact of bottom fisheries on VMEs for 2026.
6. The Commission requests Scientific Council to continue progression on the review of the NAFO PA Framework in accordance to the PAF review work plan approved in 2020 and revised in 2023 (NAFO COM-SC RBMS-WP 23-19 (Revised)), specifically to undertake testing of the Provisional Draft PA Framework (COM-SC RBMS-WP 23-20 (Revised)).
7. The Commission requests Scientific Council to update the 3-5 year work plan, which reflects requests arising from the 2023 Annual Meeting, other multi-year stock assessments and other scientific inquiries already planned for the near future. The work plan should identify what resources are necessary to successfully address these issues, gaps in current resources to meet those needs and proposed prioritization by the Scientific Council of upcoming work based on those gaps.
8. The Commission requests that any new Canadian stock assessments for Cod 2J3KL and Witch flounder 2J3KL, and any new ICES stock assessments for Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (ICES Divisions V, XII and XIV; NAFO 1) be included as an annex to the Scientific Council's annual report.
9. The Commission requests the SC to monitor and provide regular updates on relevant research related to the potential impacts of activities other than fishing in the Convention Area, subject to the capacity of the Scientific Council.
10. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council at its 2024 meeting: summarize the information it currently has available regarding the current and future impacts of climate change on NAFO-managed stocks, non-target species, and associated ecosystems; and identify any consequential data gaps, research needs and opportunities for productive research.

**ANNEX A: Guidance for providing advice on Stocks Assessed with an Analytical Model**

The Commission request the Scientific Council to consider the following in assessing and projecting future stock levels for those stocks listed above. These evaluations should provide the information necessary for the Fisheries Commission to consider the balance between risks and yield levels, in determining its management of these stocks:

1. For stocks assessed with a production model, the advice should include updated time series of:
  - Catch and TAC of recent years
  - Catch to relative biomass
  - Relative Biomass
  - Relative Fishing mortality
  - Stock trajectory against reference points
  - And any information the Scientific Council deems appropriate.

Stochastic short-term projections (3 years) should be performed with the following constant fishing mortality levels as appropriate:

- For stocks opened to direct fishing:  $2/3 F_{msy}$ ,  $3/4 F_{msy}$ ,  $85\% F_{msy}$ ,  $90\% F_{msy}$ ,  $95\% F_{msy}$ ,  $F_{msy} 0.75 \times F_{status\ quo}$ ,  $F_{status\ quo}$ ,  $1.25 \times F_{status\ quo}$ ,  $F=0$ ; TAC Status quo,  $85\% TAC\ Status\ quo$ ,  $90\% TAC\ Status\ quo$ ,  $95\% TAC\ Status\ quo$
- For stocks under a moratorium to direct fishing:  $F_{status\ quo}$ ,  $F = 0$ .

The first year of the projection should assume a catch equal to the agreed TAC for that year. In instances where Scientific Council expects catches to be significantly different from the agreed TAC, an additional projection could be provided based on the best available catch estimation.

Results from stochastic short-term projection should include:

- The 10%, 50% and 90% percentiles of the yield, total biomass, spawning stock biomass and exploitable biomass for each year of the projections
- The risks of stock population parameters increasing above or falling below available biomass and fishing mortality reference points. The table indicated below should guide the Scientific Council in presenting the short-term projections.

| F in 2025 and following years  | Yield 2024 (50%) | Yield 2025 (50%) | Yield 2026 (50%) | Limit reference points |      |      |                        |      |      | P(F>F <sub>msy</sub> ) |      |      | P(B<B <sub>msy</sub> ) |      |      | P(B2026 > B2024) |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|------|------|------------------------|------|------|------------------------|------|------|------------------------|------|------|------------------|
|                                |                  |                  |                  | P(F>F <sub>lim</sub> ) |      |      | P(B<B <sub>lim</sub> ) |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                  |
|                                |                  |                  |                  | 2024                   | 2025 | 2026 | 2024                   | 2025 | 2026 | 2024                   | 2025 | 2026 | 2024                   | 2025 | 2026 |                  |
| 2/3 F <sub>msy</sub>           | t                | t                | t                | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                |
| 3/4 F <sub>msy</sub>           | t                | t                | t                | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                |
| 85% F <sub>msy</sub>           | t                | t                | t                | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                |
| 90% F <sub>msy</sub>           | t                | t                | t                |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                  |
| 95% F <sub>msy</sub>           | t                | t                | t                |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                  |
| F <sub>msy</sub>               | t                | t                | t                | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                |
| 0.75 X F <sub>status quo</sub> | t                | t                | t                | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                |
| F <sub>status quo</sub>        | t                | t                | t                | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                |
| 1.25 X Status quo              | t                | t                | t                | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                |
| F=0                            | t                | t                | t                | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                      | %    | %    | %                |
| TAC Status quo                 |                  |                  |                  |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                  |
| 85% TAC Status quo             |                  |                  |                  |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                  |
| 90% TAC Status quo             |                  |                  |                  |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                  |
| 95% TAC Status quo             |                  |                  |                  |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                        |      |      |                  |



2. For stock assessed with an age-structured model, information should be provided on stock size, spawning stock sizes, recruitment prospects, historical fishing mortality. Graphs and/or tables should be provided for all of the following for the longest time-period possible:

- historical yield and fishing mortality;
- spawning stock biomass and recruitment levels;
- Stock trajectory against reference points

And any information the Scientific Council deems appropriate

Stochastic short-term projections (3 years) should be performed with the following constant fishing mortality levels as appropriate:

- For stocks opened to direct fishing:  $F_{0.1}$ ,  $F_{max}$ ,  $2/3 F_{max}$ ,  $3/4 F_{max}$ ,  $85\% F_{max}$ ,  $75\% F_{status\ quo}$ ,  $F_{status\ quo}$ ,  $125\% F_{status\ quo}$ ,
  - For stocks under a moratorium to direct fishing:  $F_{status\ quo}$ ,  $F = 0$ .

The first year of the projection should assume a catch equal to the agreed TAC for that year.

Results from stochastic short-term projection should include:

- The 10%, 50% and 90% percentiles of the yield, total biomass, spawning stock biomass and exploitable biomass for each year of the projections
- The risks of stock population parameters increasing above or falling below available biomass and fishing mortality reference points. The table indicated below should guide the Scientific Council in presenting the short-term projections.

| F in 2025 and following years* | Yield 2024 | Yield 2025 | Yield 2026 | Limit reference points   |      |      |                          |      |      | P(B2026 > B2024) |                          |      |      |                          |      |      |   |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|------|------|--------------------------|------|------|------------------|--------------------------|------|------|--------------------------|------|------|---|
|                                |            |            |            | P(F > F <sub>lim</sub> ) |      |      | P(B < B <sub>lim</sub> ) |      |      |                  | P(F > F <sub>0.1</sub> ) |      |      | P(F > F <sub>max</sub> ) |      |      |   |
|                                |            |            |            | 2024                     | 2025 | 2026 | 2024                     | 2025 | 2026 |                  | 2024                     | 2025 | 2026 | 2024                     | 2025 | 2026 |   |
| F <sub>0.1</sub>               | t          | t          | t          | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | %                | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | % |
| F <sub>max</sub>               | t          | t          | t          | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | %                | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | % |
| 66% F <sub>max</sub>           | t          | t          | t          | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | %                | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | % |
| 75% F <sub>max</sub>           | t          | t          | t          | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | %                | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | % |
| 85% F <sub>max</sub>           | t          | t          | t          | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | %                | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | % |
| 0.75 X F <sub>2018</sub>       | t          | t          | t          | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | %                | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | % |
| F <sub>2018</sub>              | t          | t          | t          | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | %                | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | % |
| 1.25 X F <sub>2018</sub>       | t          | t          | t          | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | %                | %                        | %    | %    | %                        | %    | %    | % |



## **ANNEX B. Guidance for providing advice on Stocks Assessed without a Population Model**

For those resources for which only general biological and/or catch data are available, few standard criteria exist on which to base advice. The stock status should be evaluated in the context of management requirements for long-term sustainability and the advice provided should be consistent with the precautionary approach.

The following graphs should be presented, for one or several surveys, for the longest time-period possible:

- a. time trends of survey abundance estimates
- b. an age or size range chosen to represent the spawning population
- c. an age or size-range chosen to represent the exploited population
- d. recruitment proxy or index for an age or size-range chosen to represent the recruiting population.
- e. fishing mortality proxy, such as the ratio of reported commercial catches to a measure of the exploited population.
- f. Stock trajectory against reference points

And any information the Scientific Council deems appropriate.



**Annex 18. NAFO Quota Table 2024 – NAFO CEM Annex I.A and I.B**  
**including a comparison of the Scientific Councils advice on NAFO fish stocks and the**  
**management measures decided by the Commission**  
(COM WP 23-15 (Rev. 5) now COM Doc. 23-10)

This document outlines the quota and effort allocation decisions made by the Commission for 2024. The document is broken down into two parts:

Part 1: Annex I of the NAFO CEM for 2024 including the total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2024 of particular stocks in Subareas 1-4 and 6 of the NAFO Convention Area and Effort Allocation for Shrimp Fishery in the NAFO regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2024.

Part 2: A comparison of the Scientific Councils advice on NAFO fish stocks and the management measures decided by the Commission.

Part 1.

**(2024)**  
**ANNEX I – FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**  
**Annex I.A – Annual Quota Table**

**CATCH LIMITATIONS 2024**–Article 5. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons in live weight) for 2024 of particular stocks in Subareas 1–4 and 6 of the NAFO Convention Area.

| Species<br>Stock Specification      | Cod    |                      |                     |                | Redfish            |                      |                    |                     | American plaice                               |          | Yellowtail     |          |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|----------|----------------|----------|
|                                     | COD 3L | COD 3M               |                     | COD 3NO        | RED 3LN            |                      | RED 3M             | RED 3O              | REB 1F_2_3K (i.e. Sub-Area 2 and Divs. 1F+3K) | PLA 3LNO | PLA 3M         | YEL 3LNO |
| % of TAC                            |        |                      | % of 3M Cod TAC     |                |                    | % of 3LN Redfish TAC |                    |                     |   |          |                |          |
| Contracting Party                   |        |                      |                     |                |                    |                      |                    |                     |   |          |                |          |
| Canada                              |        | 93.7                 | 0.80                | 0              | 7 710              | 42.60                | 500                | 6 000               | 0 <sup>1</sup>                                | 0        | 0              | 15 171   |
| Cuba                                |        | 433.2                | 3.70                | -              | 1 774              | 9.80                 | 1 750              | -                   | 0 <sup>1</sup>                                | -        | -              | -        |
| Denmark (Faroe Islands & Greenland) |        | 2 616.7              | 22.35               | -              | -                  |                      | 69 <sup>10</sup>   | -                   | 0   | -        | -              | -        |
| European Union                      |        | 5 585.9 <sup>5</sup> | 47.71               | 0 <sup>4</sup> | 3 300 <sup>4</sup> | 18.23                | 7 813 <sup>4</sup> | 7 000               | 0 <sup>7</sup>                                | 0        | 0 <sup>4</sup> | -        |
| France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)     |        | -                    | -                   | -              | -                  |                      | 69 <sup>10</sup>   | -                   | 0 <sup>1</sup>                                | -        | -              | 311      |
| Iceland                             |        | -                    | -                   | -              | -                  |                      | -                  | -                   | 0   | -        | -              | -        |
| Japan                               |        | -                    | -                   | -              | -                  |                      | 400                | 150                 | 0 <sup>1</sup>                                | -        | -              | -        |
| Korea                               |        | -                    | -                   | -              | -                  |                      | 69 <sup>10</sup>   | 100                 | 0 <sup>1</sup>                                | -        | -              | -        |
| Norway                              |        | 1 083.0              | 9.25                | -              | -                  |                      | -                  | -                   |   | -        | -              | -        |
| Russian Federation                  |        | 757.5                | 6.47                | 0              | 5 207              | 28.77                | 9 137              | 6 500               | 0   | -        | 0              | -        |
| Ukraine                             |        | -                    | -                   | -              | -                  |                      | -                  | 150                 | 0 <sup>1</sup>                                | -        | -              | -        |
| United Kingdom                      |        | 1 091.2              | 9.32                | -              | -                  |                      | -                  | -                   | -   | -        | -              | -        |
| United States of America            |        | -                    | -                   | -              | -                  |                      | 69 <sup>10</sup>   | -                   | 0 <sup>1</sup>                                | -        | -              | -        |
| Others                              |        | 46.8                 | 0.40                | 0              | 109                | 0.60                 | 124                | 100                 | -   | 0        | 0              | 78       |
| <b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH</b>        | *      | 11 708               | 100.0 <sup>13</sup> | *              | 18 100             | 100.0 <sup>14</sup>  | 17 503             | 20 000 <sup>8</sup> | 0 <sup>3,9</sup>                              | *        | *              | 15 560   |



## Annex I.A (2024)

| Species                             | Witch  |                  |                      | White hake | Capelin        | Skates              | Greenland halibut  | Squid ( <i>Illex</i> )                       | Shrimp         |                | Alfonsino               |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------------------|----------------------|------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Stock Specification                 | WIT 3L | WIT 3NO          |                      | HKW 3NO    | CAP 3NO        | SKA 3LNO            | GHL 3LMNO          | SQI 3_4 (i.e. Sub-areas 3+4)                 | PRA 3L         | PRA 3NO        | ALF 6 (i.e. Sub-area 6) |
| % of TAC                            |        |                  | % of 3NO Witch TAC   |            |                |                     |                    |  |                |                |                         |
| Contracting Party                   |        |                  |                      |            |                |                     |                    |  |                |                |                         |
| Canada                              |        | 820              | 60.00                | 294        | 0              | 1 167               | 1 684              | N.S. <sup>2</sup>                            | 0              |                |                         |
| Cuba                                |        | -                |                      | -          | 0              | -                   | -                  | 510  | 0              |                |                         |
| Denmark (Faroe Islands & Greenland) |        | -                |                      | -          | -              | -                   | 193                | -  | 0              |                |                         |
| European Union                      |        | 181 <sup>4</sup> | 13.27                | 588        | 0 <sup>5</sup> | 4 408               | 6 583 <sup>6</sup> | <u>N.S.</u> <sup>2</sup><br>611 <sup>5</sup> | 0 <sup>6</sup> |                |                         |
| France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)     |        | -                |                      | -          | -              | -                   | 184                | 453  | 0              |                |                         |
| Iceland                             |        | -                |                      | -          | -              | -                   | -                  | -  | 0              |                |                         |
| Japan                               |        | -                |                      | -          | 0              | -                   | 1 151              | 510  | 0              |                |                         |
| Korea                               |        | -                |                      | -          | -              | -                   | -                  | 453  | 0              |                |                         |
| Norway                              |        | -                |                      | -          | 0              | -                   | -                  | -  | 0              |                |                         |
| Russian Federation                  |        | 352              | 25.73                | 59         | 0              | 1 167               | 1 433              | 749  | 0              |                |                         |
| Ukraine                             |        | -                |                      | -          | -              | -                   | -                  | -  | 0              |                |                         |
| United Kingdom                      |        | -                |                      | -          | -              | -                   | -                  | -  | -              |                |                         |
| United States of America            |        | -                |                      | -          | -              | -                   | -                  | 453  | 0              |                |                         |
| Others                              |        | 14               | 1.00                 | 59         | -              | 258                 |                    | 794  | 0              |                |                         |
| <b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH</b>        | *      | 1 367            | 100.00 <sup>15</sup> | 1 000      | *              | 7 000 <sup>12</sup> | 11 228             | 34 000 <sup>8</sup>                          | 0 <sup>8</sup> | * <sup>8</sup> | *                       |

## Annex I.A (2024)

| Symbol | Definition   |
|--------|--|
| -      | Contracting Party does not have a quota allocation |
| *      | Ban on fishing in force                            |
| 0      | Contracting Party has quota, but the TAC is zero   |
| Blank  | No quota allocation defined                        |

- <sup>1</sup> Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
- <sup>2</sup> The allocations to these Contracting Parties are as yet undetermined, although their sum shall not exceed the difference between the total of allocations to other Contracting Parties and the TAC (= 29.467 tonnes).
- <sup>3</sup> Should NEAFC modify its level of TAC, these figures shall be adjusted accordingly by NAFO through a mail vote.
- <sup>4</sup> Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in accordance with the sharing arrangement of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission in 2003 (FC WP 03-7), as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the European Union.
- <sup>5</sup> Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in accordance with the sharing arrangement of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission in 2003 (FC WP 03-7), and to Poland, as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the European Union.
- <sup>6</sup> Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the EU.
- <sup>7</sup> Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
- <sup>8</sup> Applicable to 2024 and 2025.
- <sup>9</sup> If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 3 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share referred to in footnote 1.
- <sup>10</sup> Notwithstanding the provision of Article 5.3(b) and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
- <sup>11</sup> Applicable to 2024, 2025, and 2026.
- <sup>12</sup> Should catches exceed 4 500 tonnes, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2023 and in 2024.

**Historical statements**

- <sup>13</sup> The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.
- <sup>14</sup> The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
- <sup>15</sup> The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1994 Quota Table. In 1995, a moratorium on witch flounder in Division 3NO was declared.

**Annex I.B – Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the  
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2024**

| <b>CONTRACTING PARTY</b>                             | <b>NUMBER OF FISHING DAYS<sup>1</sup></b> |
|--|---|
| <b>Canada</b>  | 0   |
| <b>Cuba</b>  | 0   |
| <b>Denmark</b>                                       |   |
| – Faroe Islands                                      | 0   |
| – Greenland  | 0   |
| <b>European Union</b>                                | 0   |
| <b>France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)</b> | 0   |
| <b>Iceland</b>                                       | N/A                                       |
| <b>Japan</b>   | 0   |
| <b>Korea</b>   | 0   |
| <b>Norway</b>  | 0   |
| <b>Russia</b>  | 0   |
| <b>Ukraine</b>                                       | 0   |
| <b>United Kingdom</b>                                | 0   |
| <b>USA</b>   | 0   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>0</b>                                  |

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<sup>1</sup> When the scientific advice estimates that the stock shows signs of recovery, the fishery shall be re-opened in accordance with the effort allocation key in place for this fishery at the time of the closure.

Part 2. A comparison of the Scientific Councils advice on NAFO fish stocks and the management measures decided by the Commission.

| Fish Stock(s)            | Scientific Advice  | Year of decision | Management measures  |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Cod in Division 3M       | <p>Catches up to <math>3/4 F_{lim}</math> are projected to result in a very low probability (<math>\leq 10\%</math>) of the stock going below <math>B_{lim}</math> and of fishing mortality exceeding <math>F_{lim}</math> in 2024. All fishing scenarios with fishing mortality less than <math>2/3 F_{lim}</math> are projected to promote growth in SSB.</p> <p>SC therefore advises that exploitation should not exceed <math>2/3 F_{lim}</math> in 2024 (<a href="#">SCS Doc. 23/18</a>).</p>   | 2023             | The Commission agreed to set the TAC at $2/3 F_{lim}$ in 2024, corresponding to a TAC of 11 708 t.                     |
| Cod in Division 3NO      | <p>No directed fishing in 2022 to 2024 to allow for stock rebuilding. Bycatch of cod in fisheries targeting other species should be kept at the lowest possible level. Projections of the stock were not performed but given the poor strength of all year-classes subsequent to 2006, the stock will not reach <math>B_{lim}</math> in the next three years (<a href="#">SCS Doc. 21/14(Rev.)</a>).</p>   | 2021             | It was agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2022, 2023, and 2024 ( <a href="#">COM Doc. 21-21 (Rev.)</a> ). |
| Redfish in Divisions 3LN | <p>Available data indicate that biomass is at or below the long-term mean. The stock appears to be above the interim limit reference point (<math>B_{lim}</math>). In the absence of Canadian spring surveys in 2020 and 2021 proxy fishing mortality cannot be determined for those years. However, it is unlikely that levels of fishing mortality have changed substantially. Recruitment has been below the long-term average since the mid-2010s.</p> <p>Scientific Council advises that catches should not exceed their current level of 11 500 t (the mean of the last 5 years) (<a href="#">SCS Doc. 22/18</a>).</p> | 2022             | It was agreed to set the TAC at 18 100 tonnes, applicable to 2023 and 2024 ( <a href="#">COM Doc. 22-27</a> ).         |
| Redfish in Division 3M   | <p>Some instability in the assessment results compared to previous assessments was evident. SC was not able to resolve the reason for this retrospective pattern and this adds uncertainty to the projection results.</p>  | 2023             | The Commission agreed to set the TAC to 17 503 t in 2024.  |

| Fish Stock(s)   | Scientific Advice   | Year of decision | Management measures   |
|---|---|------------------|---|
|   | <p>Given the uncertainty in the projections, this stock will be reassessed in 2024, and therefore SC is providing advice for only one year. The TAC corresponding to a fishing mortality of F0.1 would be 21 888 t in 2024.</p> <p>However, SC advises that fishing mortality be kept at the current level, corresponding to a TAC of 17 503 t in 2024 (<a href="#">SCS Doc. 23/18</a>).</p>  |                  |   |
| Redfish in Division 30  | <p>The stock is below an interim survey-based proxy for <math>B_{MSY}</math> but above the limit reference point (<math>B_{lim} = 0.3_{MSY}</math>-proxy) with a probability &gt;99%. There is insufficient information on which to base predictions of annual yield potential. Catches have averaged about 9 000 t over the period used for the MSY proxy calculation (1991 -2021). Scientific Council is unable to advise on an appropriate TAC for 2023, 2024 and 2025 (<a href="#">SCS Doc. 22/18</a>).</p> | 2022             | It was agreed to rollover the TAC of 20 000 tonnes applicable to 2023, 2024, and 2025 ( <a href="#">COM Doc. 22-27</a> ). |
| Pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (oceanic redfish) in Subarea 2 + Divisions 1F and 3K | <p>ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be zero catch in each of the years 2022, 2023, and 2024.</p> <p>Scientific Council <b>endorsed</b> the conclusions of both the ICES assessment results and its advice (<a href="#">SCS Doc. 22/18</a>).</p> <p>No new stock assessment for Pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> was done in 2023. Current advice from ICES is valid until 2024 (COM WP 23-35).</p>  | 2023             | The Commission agreed to maintain the ban on directed fishing for this stock in 2024.                                     |
| American plaice in Divisions 3LNO   | <p>Scientific Council recommends that, in accordance with the rebuilding plan, there should be no directed fishing on American plaice in Div. 3LNO in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Bycatch of American plaice should be kept to the lowest possible level and restricted to unavoidable bycatch in fisheries directing for other species (<a href="#">SCS Doc. 21/14 (Rev.)</a>).</p>   | 2021             | It was agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2022, 2023, and 2024 ( <a href="#">COM Doc. 21-21 (Rev.)</a> ).    |

| Fish Stock(s)                         | Scientific Advice  | Year of decision | Management measures   |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|---|
| American Plaice in Division 3M        | The stock has recovered to the levels of the mid 1990s, however, recruitment has been poor since 2018. SC considers that there is not sufficient supporting evidence that the stock would be able to sustain a fishery at this time and recommends that there be no directed fishing in 2024, 2025 and 2026. Bycatch should be kept at the lowest possible level ( <a href="#">SCS Doc. 23/18</a> ). | 2023             | The Commission agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2024, 2025, and 2026.  |
| Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO | Scientific Council advises that fishing mortality up to 75% $F_{msy}$ , corresponding to catches of 15 560 t and 15 810 t in 2024 and 2025, respectively, have risk of no more than 30% of exceeding $F_{lim}$ , and are projected to maintain the stock around $B_{msy}$ with a low risk of being below $B_{lim}$ ( <a href="#">SCS Doc. 23/18</a> ).   | 2023             | The Commission agreed on a TAC of 15 560 t for 2024 and 15 810 t for 2025.  |
| Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO       | In the projection period there is less than a 10% probability of being below $B_{lim}$ , however the probability of exceeding $F_{lim}$ is estimated to be above 30% in 2024 for $F$ greater than $2/3 F_{MSY}$ . Scientific Council therefore recommends that $F$ should be no higher than $2/3 F_{MSY}$ ( <a href="#">SCS Doc. 22/18</a> ).  | 2022             | The Commission agreed on a TAC of 1 295 applicable to 2023, and 1 367 tonnes applicable to 2024 ( <a href="#">COM Doc. 22-27</a> ).   |
| White hake in Divisions 3NO           | Stock status is unknown. Catches of white hake in 3NO should not increase above recent levels (the average of the most recent five years is around 400 tonnes) ( <a href="#">SCS Doc. 23/18</a> ).   | 2023             | The Commission agreed to roll over the TAC of 1000 t for 2024.  |
| Capelin in Divisions 3NO              | For 2022-2024, no directed fishery ( <a href="#">SCS Doc. 21/14 (Rev.)</a> ).  | 2021             | It was agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2022, 2023, and 2024 ( <a href="#">COM Doc. 21-21 (Rev.)</a> ).  |
| Skates in Division 3LNO               | The stock has been stable at recent catch levels in Div. 3LNO (approximately 3 710 t, 2017 - 2021) however, given the low resilience to fishing mortality and higher historic stock levels, Scientific Council advises no increase in catches (SCS Doc. 22/18).  | 2022             | It was agreed to rollover the TAC of 7 000 tonnes applicable 2023 and 2024 ( <a href="#">COM Doc. 22-27</a> ).<br><br>Footnote 12 of the Quota Table revised to read: Should catches exceed 4 500 tonnes, additional measures would |



| Fish Stock(s)  | Scientific Advice   | Year of decision | Management measures  |
|--|---|------------------|--|
|  |   |                  | be adopted to further restrain catches in 2023 and in 2024.  |
| Greenland halibut in Sub-area 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO | <p>Exceptional Circumstances are occurring due to recent gaps in Canadian survey time series. However, sensitivity analyses indicate that the application of the HCR will still be appropriate. The TAC for 2024 derived from the HCR is 15 153 t (<a href="#">SCS Doc. 23/18</a>).</p> <p>The NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) agreed to recommend to the Commission that the agreed Management Procedure be applied to set the TAC for 2024 (<a href="#">COM-SC Doc. 23-03</a>).</p>                              | 2023             | The Commission agreed to set the TAC at 15 153 t for 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, resulting in a TAC of 11 228 t for 3LMNO Greenland halibut. |
| Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4 <sup>3</sup> | <p>Although the primary stock indices for Div. 4VWX were not available during 2021 and 2022, the 2022 biomass indices for both Divs. 3NO and Div. 3M EU summer surveys were near the lowest levels of their respective time series, suggesting that the stock has returned to a low productivity state.</p> <p>Scientific Council advises catches between 19 000 and 34 000 tonnes per year (two proxies for <math>F_{lim}</math>, the potential yield which the northern stock component may be able to sustain under a low productivity regime) (<a href="#">SCS Doc. 22/22</a>).</p> | 2022             | It was <b>agreed</b> to rollover the TAC of 34 000 tonnes applicable to 2023, 2024, and 2025 ( <a href="#">COM Doc. 22-27</a> ).             |
| Northern Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO                    | No directed fishery in 2024 and 2025 as the stock is below $B_{lim}$ with no indication of short-term recovery (NAFO/23-230).   | 2023             | The Commission agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2024 and 2025.  |
| Splendid alfonsino in Subarea 6 <sup>7</sup>         | <p>The substantial decline in CPUE and catches on the Kükenthal peak in the past year indicates that the stock may be depleted.</p> <p>Scientific Council advises to close the fishery until biomass increases to exploitable levels.</p>   | 2019             | Ban on fishing ( <a href="#">COM Doc. 19-34 (Rev.)</a> ).  |

| Fish Stock(s)         | Scientific Advice  | Year of decision | Management measures  |
|-----------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Shrimp in Division 3M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stock continues to be below <math>B_{lim}</math>.</li> </ul> <p>To be consistent with the Precautionary Approach, Scientific Council advises that no directed fishery should occur in 2024 (NAFO/23-230).</p> | 2023             | The Commission agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2024. |

**Annex 19. Review of NAFO CEM Article 5.5(j)**  
(COM WP 23-40 now COM Doc. 23-11)

The Commission reviewed Article 5.5(j) of the NAFO CEM, which is time sensitive, and agreed to the following updates:

**Article 5 – Catch and Effort Limitations**

**Closure of Fisheries for Stocks Listed in Annex I.A and I.B Subject to Quota or Fishing Effort**

....

5. Each Contracting Party shall:

- (j) close its directed fishery for cod in Division 3M between 00:01 UTC 1 January ~~2023~~2024 and 24:00 UTC 31 March ~~2023~~2024. During this period, all Contracting Parties shall ensure that its vessels limit the catches retained on board and in any one haul of this stock in line with Article 6.3(a) and observe the move-on provisions in Article 6.6(b).

**Annex 20. Establishment of New Measures in the Yellowtail Fishery (Article 6)**  
(COM WP 23-37 (Rev. 3) now COM Doc. 23-12)

**Background**

3LNO yellowtail flounder was historically a mixed flatfish fishery with 3LNO American plaice, which has been under moratorium since 1995. As the primary quota holder for both stocks, Canada is strongly committed to the conservation of both and specifically the rebuilding of 3LNO American plaice.

Noting that American plaice 3LNO is currently under moratorium and noting the advice of the Scientific Council that bycatches should be kept to the lowest possible level and restricted to unavoidable bycatch in fisheries for other species.

Canada has been successful over the years in consistently maintaining a bycatch rate well below the 15 per cent threshold including in the most recent years when catch of yellowtail flounder has increased. However, this proved particularly challenging in fall of 2022 when Canadian operators encountered levels of bycatch that, while low in tonnage, triggered the move-away protocols under Article 6.6 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM). These challenges have continued in 2023.

The fluctuation in distribution of these stocks may be the results of climate change as it appears to coincide with general warming of the core fishing areas in the southern Grand Banks during the fall period as determined by temperature recorded during fishing events. This warming trend has also been noted by NAFO Scientific Council (NAFO SCS Doc. 22/18 p.87) as well as peer-reviewed Fisheries and Oceans Canada research (Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) Report 2023-019<sup>1</sup> p.6).

In light of these circumstances, Canada has been exploring adaptive management approaches that respond to the changing fishery dynamics to allow operators to conduct economically viable fisheries while minimizing the potential impact on moratoria species. As such, at the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional meeting, Canada proposed two amendments to the NAFO CEMs in STACTIC WP 23-14.

Recognizing that the annual by-catch of American Plaice in the directed Canadian yellowtail flounder fishery has been maintained at levels well below the current threshold of 15%, and have generally been in the range of 3-5%.

Highlighting that the obligation remains to ensure that annual 3LNO American plaice catches do not exceed the 15% threshold.

Noting that the measure has a very narrow application, impacting only Canadian fishers, and the need to address a challenge in this fishery that to date has been seasonal in nature, Canada also proposes an expedited implementation period, as provided for in the Convention.

Following discussions at the 2023 STACTIC Annual meeting, Canada now presents a number of additions to Article 6.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2023/2023\\_019-eng.html](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2023/2023_019-eng.html)

**Proposed Amendments****Article 6 – Bycatch Retention on Board of Stocks Identified in Annex I.A as Bycatch when No Directed Fishery is Permitted*****Limits for Species Listed in Annex I.A Retained on Board as Bycatch***

3. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that its vessels, including vessels chartered in accordance with Article 26, shall limit the retention of on board species classified as bycatch to the maxima specified below:
- (a) for cod in Division 3M, redfish in 3LN and witch flounder in 3NO: 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is the greater;
  - (b) for cod in Divisions 3NO: 1 000 kg or 4%, whichever is the greater;
  - (c) for all other stocks listed in Annex I.A where no specific quota has been allocated to the flag State Contracting Party: 2 500 kg or 10%, whichever is the greater;
  - (d) where a ban on fishing applies (moratorium): 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is the greater;
  - (e) when the "Others" quota opened for that stock has been fully utilized: 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is the greater, for those Contracting Parties that notified the use of the "Others" quota in accordance with Article 5;
  - (f) once the directed fishery for redfish in Division 3M is closed in accordance with Article 5.5(d): 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is the greater; and
  - (g) while conducting a directed fishery for yellowtail in Divisions 3LNO: 15% of American plaice; otherwise bycatch provisions in Article 6.3(d) apply. Until December 31, 2024, if a vessel is carrying an observer:
    - (i) this maxima shall be 2 900 kg or 15% of American plaice, whichever the greater;
    - (ii) a vessel may exceed the maxima referred to in Article 6.3(g)(i) for bycatches of American plaice retained on board during the first 9 fishing days in the Regulatory Area provided that American plaice bycatches represents 15% or less by the end of that period or when the vessel leaves the Regulatory Area, whichever occurs first.
    - (iii) each Contracting Party shall inspect 100% of landings of fishing vessels that have conducted directed fishery for yellowtail in Divisions 3LNO.
4. The limits and percentages in paragraph 3 of this Article are calculated by Division as the percentage, by weight, for each stock of the total catch of stocks listed in Annex I.A retained on board for that Division at the time of inspection, on the basis of the fishing logbook figures.

***Exceeding Bycatch Limits in Any One Haul***

8. When a vessel is conducting a directed fishery for skate with a legal mesh size appropriate for that fishery, the first time that catches of stocks for which bycatch limits apply, as specified in paragraph 2,

- comprise the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a haul, they shall be considered as incidental catch, but the vessel shall immediately move as specified in paragraph 6.
9. Until December 31, 2024, where a vessel is carrying an observer and is conducting a directed fishery for yellowtail with a legal mesh size appropriate for that fishery, the first two times on a fishing trip that catches of American plaice comprise the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a haul, they shall be considered as incidental catch, but the vessel shall immediately move as specified in paragraph 6.
  - 9bis. Until December 31, 2024, by way of derogation from Article 6.6.b(ii), if the American plaice bycatch limits are exceeded again, instead of leaving the Division for at least 60 hours, the vessel may move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tow in up to three consecutive hauls in which the American plaice bycatch limit is exceeded. If the bycatch limits are exceeded again, the vessel shall leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours, in accordance with Article 6.6.b(ii).
  10. The percentage of bycatch in any one haul is calculated as the percentage, by weight, for each stock listed in Annex I.A of the total catch from that haul.
  11. Upon its first entrance into a Division on a fishing trip, a vessel may undertake one trial tow for up to a maximum duration of 3 hours. If the stocks subjected to bycatch limits form the largest percentage, by weight, of the total resultant catch in the haul, this shall not be considered as a directed fishery for those stocks, and the vessel must immediately change position in accordance with provisions of paragraph 6(b). Vessels must identify any trial tow conducted in accordance with this paragraph and record in the fishing logbook the coordinates pertaining to the start and end locations of any trial tow conducted.

### **Implementation**

12. In 2024, STACTIC shall:
  - (a) assess if the provisions in paragraphs 6.3(g) and 9 led to an increase on American plaice bycatches or directed fishery on American plaice; and
  - (b) review paragraphs 6.3(g) and 9.
13. This measure shall become binding on each Contracting Party seven days following the date of transmittal by the Executive Secretary, with no bearing on the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article XIV.

**Annex 21. Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on NAFO Fisheries**  
(COM WP 23-33 (Revised) now COM Doc. 23-13)

***Explanatory Memorandum***

There are pressures that are increasingly impacting fisheries and the health of our ecosystems. Climate change in particular is unequivocally altering marine ecosystems with consequences for fish stocks around the globe, including their contributions to food security and nutrition. Warming oceans, rising seas, melting sea ice, deoxygenation and increasing acidification are altering ecosystem structure and the distribution and abundance of marine species. Changing ocean conditions affect the distribution, seasonality, and productivity of fish stocks, as well as fishery interactions with bycatch, protected species, and other ocean users.

At the 35th meeting of FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI), COFI encouraged the FAO to increase the knowledge and awareness on climate change impacts in fisheries and aquaculture and to provide guidance on adaptation and mitigation, highlighting the need for guidance on climate resilient fisheries management, including by convening a workshop with regional fisheries bodies. Additionally, the 2021 UN General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolution A/RES/76/71 calls on RFMOs to consider climate change in carrying out their work. Subsequently, RFMOs globally are taking notice of the serious implications that climate change poses to fisheries and of the science and adaptive management actions that likely are needed in response.

In light of this, the co-sponsors are proposing that NAFO strengthen how the organization addresses the impacts of climate change on target stocks, non-target species, and associated ecosystems, including supporting scientific efforts, building upon the SC's existing climate related work. The objective of this proposal is to identify climate change-related information and information gaps relevant to NAFO stocks, non-target species, and associated ecosystems to empower the Commission to incorporate climate science into its future decision-making.

The first step to that end is for the Scientific Council to identify what information it currently has regarding climate change impacts on NAFO resources, as well as gaps in that information that could otherwise inform possible future action for the Commission. The Scientific Council is already engaged in a number of climate change related efforts. For example, the Standing Committee of Fisheries Environment (STACFEN) provides climate related analysis to the Scientific Council to inform stock assessments and the Ecosystem Roadmap includes climate related efforts in tiers 1 and 2. This proposal is not requesting any new scientific research or advice, but rather for Scientific Council to collate the information it has available to it, and to determine if there are any gaps in that information, as well as any gaps in the expertise in the SC, to be able to advise the Commission on the impacts of climate change on NAFO resources, and how the Commission can address those impacts.

### **Proposal**

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that climate change poses both short- and long-term significant challenges for NAFO, and given the widespread and lasting effects of climate change on the ocean environment and ecosystems, it also affects the individuals and communities that depend upon the fisheries and other resources within the Convention Area;

**HIGHLIGHTING** NAFO's commitment to implementing the ecosystem and precautionary approaches to fisheries management, as reflected in its Convention;

**UNDERSCORING** NAFO's commitment to addressing climate change in NAFO fisheries, as reflected in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Roadmap;

*Underscoring* that the Scientific Council has already begun to address climate change effects at the ecosystem level within the Convention Area as part of NAFO's Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Roadmap;

**RECOGNISING** the need to fully utilize existing data sources, and to identify additional information sources to gain a more complete understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on NAFO managed stocks, non-target species, and associated ecosystems in the Convention Area;

**COMMITTING** to developing effective management strategies and approaches in NAFO to adapt to ongoing broad-scale changes in environmental conditions that have been documented in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean, including supporting the resilience of NAFO stocks and related ecosystems, as well as of fishing communities, in the face of climate change.

Therefore, NAFO resolves to

1. Consider the current and future impacts of climate change on NAFO managed stocks, non-target species, and associated ecosystems in the Convention Area, including, *inter alia*, as appropriate, in its decision making, and through its work in the Ecosystem Roadmap.
2. To that end, take into account the best scientific advice available on the current and future impacts of climate change on NAFO-managed stocks, non-target species, and associated ecosystems, when developing conservation and management measures, with a view to address the effects of such impacts.
3. Further, evaluate how the management of target and non-target NAFO-managed stocks and associated ecosystems, as well as fishing activities, may be affected by climate change and examine if there are actions that could be taken to reduce or mitigate such impacts, including, as appropriate, consideration of adapting NAFO management approaches.
4. To inform the work in paragraphs one through three, and while recognizing the capacity challenges of the Scientific Council, request that the Scientific Council at its 2024 meeting summarize the information it currently has available regarding the current and future impacts of climate change on NAFO-managed stocks, non-target species, and associated ecosystems. The Scientific Council should further identify any consequential data gaps, research needs and opportunities for productive research.
5. Based on that information, the Commission should at the 2024 Annual Meeting consider appropriate next steps to advance NAFO's work on this important issue.



**Annex 22. Catch reporting (Article 28.6 NAFO CEM)**  
(STACTIC WP 23-12 (Revised) now COM Doc. 23-14)

**Background**

At the 2021 Annual Meeting, the NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC Working Paper 21-36, noting that the use of COX messages to report the last catches before the vessel leaves the RA may lead to a lack of proper reporting of the catching area in the COX message when exit area and the catching area are not the same. STACTIC referred the issue to JADGM and, at its 2022 Intersessional Meeting, further requested JADGM to consider the possibility of using a CAT message instead of the COX if the catching and exit area differ.

JADGM noted no technical concerns with using a CAT message instead of the COX if the catching and exit area differ, provided that the CAT is sent prior to the COX. JADGM also noted that NAFO CEM Annexes II.D and II.F were inconsistent in the naming of the data element with field code “OB”.

It is proposed to amend Article 28.6 provisions on catch reporting to require the use CAT messages to report daily catches, including for the day in which the vessel exits the RA, instead of COX reports; and to adjust the naming of the data element with field code “OB” in Annex II.F.6 such that it is aligned with the naming in Annex II.D.

**Proposal**

Article 28.6 NAFO CEM and Annex II.F.6 are amended as follows:

**Article 28.6:**

*Catch Reporting*

6. *Every fishing vessel shall transmit electronically to its FMC the following reports in accordance with the format and the content prescribed for each type of report in Annex II.D and Annex II.F:*
- (a) *catch on entry (COE): quantity of catch on board by species upon entry into the Regulatory Area, transmitted at least six (6) hours in advance of the vessel's entry;*
- (b) *catch on exit (COX): quantity of catch onboard by species upon exit from the Regulatory Area transmitted at least six (6) hours in advance of the vessel's exit;*
- (c) *catch report (CAT):*
- (i) *quantity of catch retained and quantity discarded by species for the day preceding the report, by Division, including nil catch returns, sent daily before 12:00 UTC ~~unless otherwise submitted in a COX report.~~*
- (ii) quantity of catch retained and quantity discarded by species for the day in which the fishing vessel exits the Regulatory Area, by Division, including nil catch returns, sent before the COX report.**

*Nil catch retained and nil discards of all species shall be reported using the 3 alpha code MZZ (marine species not specified) and quantity as “0” as the following examples demonstrate (//CA/MZZ 0// and //RJ/MZZ 0//);*

**Annex II.F.6:**

## 6) "Catch on EXIT" report

Format specifications when sending reports from FMC to NAFO (XNW) see also Annex II.D.A, II.D.B, II.D.C and II.D.D.1

| <b>Data Element</b>                                | <b>Field Code</b> | <b>Mandatory/ Optional</b> | <b>Requirements for the field</b>   |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Start record                                       | SR                | M                          | System detail; indicates start of record  |
| Address  | AD                | M                          | Message detail; destination, "XNW" for NAFO   |
| From   | FR                | M                          | Message detail; Address of the transmitting party (ISO-3)   |
| Record Number                                      | RN                | M                          | Message detail; Unique serial number starting at 1 each year for records sent from the FMC to (XNW) (See also Annex II.D.C)   |
| Record Date  | RD                | M                          | Message detail; Year, month and day in UTC of the record transmission from the FMC  |
| Record Time  | RT                | M                          | Message detail; Hours and minutes in UTC of the record transmission from the FMC  |
| Type of Message                                    | TM                | M                          | Message detail; "COX" as Catch on Exit report   |
| Sequence Number                                    | SQ                | M                          | Message detail; Unique serial number starting at 1 each year for messages sent from a vessel to final destination (XNW) (See also Annex II.D.C)   |
| Radio call sign                                    | RC                | M                          | Vessel registration detail; international radio call sign of the vessel   |
| Trip Number  | TN                | O                          | Activity detail; fishing trip serial number in current year   |
| Vessel Name  | NA                | O                          | Vessel registration detail; name of the vessel  |
| Master Name  | MA                | O                          | Name of master of vessel  |
| External Registration Number                       | XR                | O                          | Vessel registration detail; the side number of the vessel   |
| Latitude   | LA                | O <sup>1</sup>             | Activity detail; Latitude at time of transmission from the vessel   |
| Longitude  | LO                | O <sup>1</sup>             | Activity detail; Longitude at time of transmission from the vessel  |
| Relevant Area                                      | RA                | M                          | NAFO area from which the vessel is about to exit  |
| <b>Catch</b><br><br>species<br>live weight         | <b>CA</b>         | <b>M</b>                   | <b>Activity detail; Catch retained onboard by species and by Division since last CAT report in kilograms rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms. Allow for several pairs of fields, consisting of species (FAO 3 alpha codes) + live weight in kilograms (until 9 digits), with each field separated by a space, e.g.<br/>//CA/speciesspaceweightsspacespeciesspaceweightsspacespeciesspaceweightspac<br/>e//</b> |
| <b>Discarding</b><br><br>species<br>live<br>weight | <b>RJ</b>         | <b>M</b>                   | <b>Activity detail; Catch discarded by species and by Division since last CAT report, in kg rounded to the nearest 100 kg. Allow for several pairs of fields, consisting of species (FAO 3 alpha codes) + live weight in kilograms (until 9 digits), with each field separated by a space, e.g.//RJ/<br/>speciesspaceweightsspacespeciesspacewe<br/>ightspace-speciesspaceweight//</b>                          |

| <b>Data Element</b>  | <b>Field Code</b> | <b>Mandatory/Optional</b> | <b>Requirements for the field</b>  |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Catch</b><br><br><b>species<br/>live-weight<br/>Quantity on<br/>board <u>in live<br/>weight</u></b> | OB                | M                         | Activity detail; Total quantity by species on board rounded to the nearest 100 kg, upon exit from the RA. Allow for several pairs of fields, consisting of species (FAO 3 alpha codes) + live weight in kilograms (until 9 digits), with each field separated by a space, e.g.<br>//OB/speciesspaceweightspacspeciespace weightspacspeciespaceweight// |
| Days Fished  | DF                | O                         | Activity detail; number of fishing days in the Regulatory Area   |
| Date   | DA                | M                         | Message detail; UTC date of transmission of this report from the vessel  |
| Time   | TI                | M                         | Message detail; UTC time of transmission of this report from the vessel  |
| End of record  | ER                | M                         | System detail; indicates end of the record   |

<sup>1</sup> Optional if the vessel is subject to satellite tracking in accordance with Article 29.1.

**Annex 23. Edits to the time format in the NAFO CEM**  
(STACTIC-EDG WP 23-01 now COM Doc. 23-15)

**Article 5 – Catch and Effort Limitations**

***Closure of Fisheries for Stocks Listed in Annex I.A and I.B Subject to Quota or Fishing Effort***

5. Each Contracting Party shall:

[...]

(d) close its directed fishery for 3M redfish between ~~23:5924:00~~ UTC of the day the accumulated reported catch is estimated to reach 50% of the 3M redfish TAC, as notified in accordance with paragraph 15 (d)(i) of this Article, and 1 July;

(e) close its redfish fishery in Division 3M at ~~23:5924:00~~ UTC of the day the accumulated reported catch is estimated to reach 100% of the 3M redfish TAC, as notified in accordance with paragraph 15 (e) of this Article;

[...]

(j) close its directed fishery for cod in Division 3M between 00:01 UTC 1 January 2023 and ~~23:5924:00~~ UTC 31 March 2023. During this period, all Contracting Parties shall ensure that its vessels limit the catches retained on board and in any one haul of this stock in line with Article 6.3(a) and observe the move-on provisions in Article 6.6(b).

**Article 9 – Shrimp**

***Shrimp in Division 3M***

[...]

5. No vessel shall fish for shrimp in Division 3M between 00:01 UTC on 1 June and ~~23:5924:00~~ UTC on 31 December in the following area as described in Table 2 and depicted in Figure 1(2):

[...]

**Article 11 – Squid**

***Squid Closure***

1. No vessel may fish for squid between 00:01 UTC on 1 January to ~~23:5924:00~~ UTC on 30 June in Sub-areas 3 and 4.

[...]

**Article 28 – Monitoring of Catch**

***Production Logbook***

3. Each fishing vessel shall:

(a) maintain a production logbook that:

(i) accurately records the daily cumulative production for each species and product type in kg for the preceding day from 00:01 UTC until ~~23:5924:00~~ UTC;

[...]

***Stowage of Catch***

[...]

5. Each fishing vessel shall:

(a) maintain a stowage plan that:

[...]

(ii) is updated daily for the preceding day from 00:01 to ~~23:5924:00~~ UTC; and

[...]

**Annex 24. Edits to Article 5.3(b) of the NAFO CEM**  
(STACTIC-EDG WP 23-02 now COM Doc. 23-16)

**Article 5 – Catch and Effort Limitations**

***Quotas and Effort***

3. For stocks identified in Annex I.A or I.B caught within the Regulatory Area by vessels entitled to fly its flag, each Contracting Party shall:
  - (b) ensure that all [species-catch](#) from stocks listed in Annex I.A caught by its vessels are counted against the quota allocated to that Contracting Party, including the bycatch of 3M redfish taken between the estimated date when 50% of the 3M redfish TAC is taken, as notified in accordance with paragraph 15 of this Article, and 1 July;

**Annex 25. Edits to Articles 6.2(c) and 6.3(e) of the NAFO CEM**  
(STACTIC-EDG WP 23-03 now COM Doc. 23-17)

**Article 6 – Bycatch Retention on Board of Stocks Identified in Annex I.A as Bycatch  
When No Directed Fishery is Permitted**

2. A species listed in Annex I.A shall be classified as bycatch when it is taken in a Division where any of the following situations exist:
  - (c) the "Others" quota for a particular stock has been ~~fully utilized~~closed, following notification by the Executive Secretary in accordance with Article 5.
3. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that its vessels, including vessels chartered in accordance with Article 26, shall limit the retention of on board species classified as bycatch to the maxima specified below:
  - (e) when the "Others" quota opened for that stock has been ~~fully utilized~~closed: 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is the greater, for those Contracting Parties that notified the use of the "Others" quota in accordance with Article 5;

**Annex 26. Edits to Article 5.11 and 9.4 of the NAFO CEM**  
(STACTIC-EDG WP 23-04 now COM Doc. 23-18)

**Article 5 – Catch and Effort Limitations**

***Transfer of Quotas***

[...]

11. Fishing days allocated under Annex I.B for shrimps in Division 3M are not transferable between Contracting Parties. ~~However, chartering arrangements related to fishing days are permitted, subject to the provisions of Article 26.~~

**Article 9 – Shrimp**

***Shrimp in Division 3M***

[...]

4. ~~Fishing days referred to in this Article are not transferable between Contracting Parties.~~ Fishing days ~~allocated under Annex I.B to one of one~~ Contracting Party may be utilized by a vessel entitled to fly the flag of another Contracting Party only in accordance with Article 26.

**Annex 27. Edits to Article 12.1 (d bis) of the NAFO CEM**  
(STACTIC-EDG WP 23-05 (Rev. 3) now COM Doc. 23-19)

**Article 12 – Conservation and Management of Sharks**

***Duties of the Contracting Party***

1. Each Contracting Party shall:

...

(d bis) Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph (d), a flag State Contracting Parties may allow the retention on board and landing of dead, incidental catches of Greenland sharks provided that this is consistent with its with applicable domestic law that mandating requires a general discard ban or that dead fish be landed, may, in accordance with their national law and provided that the fish is dead, retain on board and land incidental bycatch of Greenland sharks. Contracting Parties shall ensure that fishing vessels ~~Fishermen~~ are prohibited from drawing any commercial value from such fish. Contracting Parties with Domestic law mandating a general discard ban or that dead fish be landed shall provide the Secretariat with its Domestic legislation within 30 days prior to any fishing activity. Contracting Parties that fall under the criteria of this derogation shall inform the Secretariat that the derogation is in accordance with its domestic law.

***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

7. The Executive Secretary posts without delay the information provided by Contracting Parties in accordance with Article 12.1(d bis) to the NAFO MCS Website and the secure part of the NAFO Website. The Executive Secretary posts the above information provided by the Contracting Parties to the NAFO MCS Website and the public part of the NAFO Website.



**Annex 28. Squid Fishery**  
(STACTIC WP 23-09 (Rev. 4) now COM Doc. 23-20)

**Background**

- (1) A serious infringement could be identified with respect to paragraph 1 of Article 38 of NECM, if the non-targeted stock unintentionally comprises the largest percentage in weight in a situation where the mesh size required for the targeted stock under paragraph 2 of Article 13 is not complied with. It is understood that the targeted stock is the stock for which a vessel conducts “directed fishery” defined in paragraph 2 of Article 5 of NECM.
- (2) For example, when fishing for squid with the legal mesh size (60 mm), however, in reality, there might be a possibility that redfish can be by-caught accidentally and it comprises the largest percentage in weight. Since the mesh size requirement for the redfish fishery is no smaller than 90 mm or 130 mm, this fishery operation could be identified with infringement against the mesh size requirement.
- (3) As Japanese vessels have not fished for squid since many years ago, they could not have confidence that they can avoid the above situation. The uncertainty unreasonably deprives them of their fishing opportunity to fish for squid.
- (4) In order to address the concern and provide a vessel with strong incentives to minimize the catch of by-catch or non-target species, Japan would like to propose the revision to the relevant part of NCEM. This may contribute to reducing by-catch species in the squid fishery.

**Proposed Modifications**

**Article 11 – Squid**

**Squid Closure**

1. No vessel may fish for squid between 00:01 UTC on 1 January to 24:00 UTC on 30 June in Sub-areas 3 and 4.

**Temporal exemption on catch composition rules in squid fisheries**

2. A vessel may notify their intent to engage in the squid fishery in Sub-areas 3 and 4 under paragraph 3 when carrying an observer on board and using a mesh size no smaller than 60mm.

**Duties of the Master**

3. The master shall notify the flag state Contracting Party no later than 3 days before the start of the specified period. The following information shall be included in the notification:
  - (a) the name and call sign of the vessel;
  - (b) the period between 1 July and 31 December when it will conduct hauls targeting squid, including the start and end dates and times in UTC;
  - (c) the Division in which hauls targeting squid will be conducted; and
  - (d) the minimum mesh size to be used.
4. The period specified in 3(b) shall be limited to ~~two~~ weeks at maximum.

5. During the period notified in paragraph 3(b), if any Annex I.A species other than squid comprises the largest percentage, by weight, of the total catch in the haul, it shall not be considered as being taken in a directed fishery for the stock concerned per Article 5.2, or as fishing with a mesh size smaller than prescribed by Article 13.2 and 13.4.

In such scenario, the vessel shall immediately move a minimum 10 nautical miles from any position of that tow/set and not return to any such position for targeting squid for the remainder of the calendar year, and the master of the vessel and the observer onboard shall immediately report the following information to the flag State Contracting Party:

(a) the date and time (UTC) of the start and end of the haul;

(b) the depth at the start and end of the haul;

(c) the position at the start and end of the haul; and

(d) the catch composition of the haul by weight.

6. If a directed fisheries haul described in paragraph 5 occurs three times during the notified period, the vessel shall cease fishing for squid for the remainder of the calendar year.

***Duties of the flag State Contracting Party***

7. The flag State Contracting Party shall:

(a) transmit without delay the notification and the information referred to in paragraphs 3 and 5 to the Executive Secretary; and

(b) ensure that no exemption is granted to its vessels before the notification referred to in paragraph (a) is submitted to the Executive Secretary.

***Duty of the Executive Secretary***

8. The Executive Secretary posts without delay the notification and information provided in accordance with paragraph 7 to the NAFO MCS website.

***Implementation***

9. The exemption referred to in paragraphs 2 to 8 shall apply during 2024 and be reviewed by STACTIC in 2024.

**Annex 29. NAF Field Character Limit Increase**  
(STACTIC WP 23-21 now COM Doc. 23-21)

Part C of Annex II.D (Format for electronic exchange of fisheries monitoring information (The North Atlantic Format)) of the NAFO CEM sets down the technical specifications (data format, data type, etc.) of the data to be transmitted in the NAF messages.

While adapting its internal system, the EU performed some tests on data exchanges of vessel notifications and authorizations with NAFO. These tests showed that some current limitations do not allow communication of the required information correctly and completely. For example, the vessel owner or operator addresses cannot fit within the limits of 60 characters. It means that in some cases, data available at NAFO is incomplete.

At the March 2023 meeting (COM Doc. 23-03), JAGDM proposed to make the following changes be made to part C of Annex II.D of the NAFO CEM by increasing the limitation of the maximum allowed characters for some data elements. JAGDM agreed that the proposals should proceed to PECMAC and STACTIC respectively to make the necessary changes to the Scheme and CEM.

| Category                 | Data Element        | Field Type | Type                    | Contents             | Definitions  |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Registration             | Vessel Name         | NA         | Char* <del>30</del> 45  |                      | Name of the vessel   |
| Details                  | Port Name           | PO         | Char* <del>20</del> 45  |                      | Port of registration of the vessel/homeport                  |
|                          | Vessel Owner        | VO         | Char* <del>60</del> 250 |                      | Name and address of the vessel owner                         |
|                          | Vessel Charterer    | VC         | Char* <del>60</del> 250 |                      | Name and address of the vessel charterer                     |
| Vessel Character Details | Vessel Tonnage Unit | VT         | Char*2<br>Num*4 5       | "OC"/"LC"<br>Tonnage | According to: "OC" OSLO 1947 Convention /"LC" LONDON ICTM-69 |
| Activity Details         | Port Name           | PO         | Char* <del>20</del> 45  |                      | Name of the actual port of landing                           |

**Annex 30. Modifications to Article 4.7 (Research Vessels) of the NAFO CEM**  
(STACTIC WP 23-26 now COM Doc. 23-22)

***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

[...]

7. NAFO will review these measures in ~~2023~~2024.

**Annex 31. Revisions to the NAFO Observer Scheme**  
(STACTIC WP 23-19 (Rev. 4) now COM Doc. 23-23)

This paper outlines a possible revision of Articles 30 and 38 and Annexes II.M of the NAFO CEM, in accordance with the recommendations established in STACTIC Working Paper 22-48 (Rev. 2). The working paper was under discussion by the WG-OPR as STACTIC OPR-WP 23-09 (Rev. 6).

**CHAPTER V OBSERVER SCHEME**

**Article 30 – Observer Program**

***General provisions***

1. The purpose of this observer program is to collect reliable, independent information and data on activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area. The information and data collected through the observer program shall be made available to any NAFO body requesting it.
2. This program shall apply to all Contracting Parties' fishing vessels operating in the Regulatory Area.

***Duties of the flag State Contracting Party***

3. Each flag State Contracting Party shall:
  - (a) adopt appropriate measures and set up all administrative, legal, and technical structures necessary to:
    - (i) effectively and fully implement the NAFO observer program;
    - (ii) utilize the data originating from the observer program for control, inspection, enforcement, and as appropriate scientific purposes;
    - (iii) take appropriate action with respect to its vessels to ensure safe working conditions, and the protection, security, and welfare of observers in the performance of their duties, consistent with international standards and guidelines; and
    - (iv) establish corrective measures regarding observers, observer providers, vessel masters and owners, where necessary, in order to ensure that the program meets the requirements specified in this Article.
  - (b) take all necessary steps to ensure that an observer is removed from a fishing vessel flying its flag if, during deployment, it is determined that a serious risk to the observer exists, unless and until the risk is addressed;
  - (c) ensure that its observers:
    - (i) have no financial or beneficial interest in, and are paid in a manner that demonstrates financial independence from the fishing vessel being monitored;
    - (ii) execute their duties and functions in an unbiased manner regardless of nationality and of which flag the vessel is flying;
    - (iii) are free from undue influence or benefit linked to the fishing activity of the vessel;
    - (iv) are independent and impartial;

- (v) treat all data and information related to the fishing operations collected during their deployment, including images and videos taken, in a confidential manner;
- (vi) have the training, knowledge, skills and abilities to perform all of the duties, functions and requirements as specified in this Article;
- (vii) can always establish direct and confidential communication with the flag State FMC when deployed by:
  - (1) ensuring the observer is provided with an independent satellite two-way communication device at sea, and/or
  - (2) ensuring the observer is provided with a communication device and ensuring that the observer is provided by the vessel master with unhindered independent data and voice internet access on board at all times; and
  - (3) ensuring that protocols are put in place for the observer to safely and directly contact the flag State FMC to report safety concerns.
- (d) establish ongoing list of observers that it intends to deploy to vessels entitled to fly its flag operating in the Regulatory Area;
- (e) require its vessels to carry an observer from the list it submitted to the Executive Secretary;
- (f) to the extent practicable, ensure that individual observers are not deployed on consecutive fishing trips on the same vessel;
- (g) ensure that the masters of its vessel cannot refuse an observer deployment nor be involved in the process to select the observer to be deployed;
- (h) upon receipt of a report from its observers on discrepancies with the CEM or an incident, including any instances of obstruction, intimidation, interference with, or otherwise prevention of the observer from performing their duties:
  - (i) treat the report with the utmost sensitivity and discretion, in a confidential manner;
  - (ii) assess the reported discrepancies and conduct any follow-up action deemed appropriate;
  - (iii) use the information for risk assessment for inspection, control and surveillance at sea and in port; and
  - (iv) create a report on follow-up actions;
- (i) unless otherwise agreed with another Contracting Party, bear the costs of remunerating every observer it has deployed;
- (j) submit to the Executive Secretary:
  - (i) the list of observers referred to in paragraph 3(d) and any changes thereof without delay and before the deployment of an observer on its vessels;
  - (ii) without delay and in advance of the fishing trip, a notification including the details of the circumstances preventing a 100% observer coverage referred to in paragraph 4(a);

- (iii) without delay, all documents and data relating to its vessels subject to electronic observation program in accordance with paragraph 4(b);
- (iv) without delay, the PSC-3 report referred to in paragraph 5;
- (v) without delay following its receipt, the daily OBR report referred to in paragraph 7(a);
- (vi) without delay following its receipt, the observer trip report information referred to in paragraph 7(b);
- (vii) by 1 March each year for the previous calendar year, a report on its compliance with the obligations outlined in this Article, including:
  - (1) the follow-up actions referred to in paragraph 3(h)(iv); and
  - (2) a report containing a comparison of all relevant catch and fishing activities showing the difference between the fishing trips where the vessel had an observer on board and those where the observer was withdrawn;
- (k) subject to the exception in paragraph 4, ensure that every fishing vessel flying its flag:
  - (i) carries at all times at least one observer in accordance with the provisions of this program while conducting fishing activities in the Regulatory Area; and
  - (ii) does not carry out fishing activities until an observer is deployed on the vessel.

#### ***Partial withdrawal of observers***

4. By way of derogation from paragraph 3(k), a flag State Contracting Party may allow its vessels to carry an observer for less than 100%, but not less than 25% of the fishing trips conducted by its fleet or of the days the vessels are present in the Regulatory Area calculated for a prior period of one calendar year in the following cases:
  - (a) for vessels targeting species in areas where negligible bycatch of other species is expected to occur; or where the flag State Contracting Party has provided information on why a 100% coverage is not applied; or extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances duly documented and justified by the flag State Contracting Party preventing 100% observer coverage; or
  - (b) where a vessel deploys an electronic observation program approved by the flag State Contracting Party and;
    - (i) the Contracting Party provides the NAFO Secretariat with a copy of their electronic observation standards and guidelines; and
    - (ii) the Contracting Party submits a completed copy of the Annex II.M Observer Report within 3 months of the electronically observed trip.
5. For each fishing trip of its vessels without an observer on board pursuant to paragraph 4, the flag State Contracting Party shall physically inspect the landing of the vessel in its ports or otherwise evaluate as appropriate each landing in its ports, following risk assessment. Inspections shall be documented in the format prescribed in Annex IV.C (PSC 3).
6. Where an inspector issues a notice of an infringement to a fishing vessel that is not carrying an observer, in accordance with this derogation, at the time of the notice, the infringement shall be deemed a serious

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infringement for the purpose of Article 38.1 and, where the flag State Contracting Party does not require the fishing vessel to proceed immediately to port in accordance with Article 38.3, it shall deploy an observer to the fishing vessel without delay.

### ***Duties of the Observers***

7. Each flag State Contracting Party shall ensure that its observers perform, at a minimum, the duties listed below:
  - (a) transmit the OBR report as set out in Annex II.G to the flag State FMC daily before 12:00 UTC for the day preceding the report, by division, whether the vessel was fishing or not;
    - (i) report without delay to the flag State FMC any discrepancy with the CEM and any instances of obstruction, intimidation, interference with or otherwise prevention of the observer from performing their duties;
  - (b) complete the observer trip report as set out in Annex II.M, noting that data collection on Greenland sharks shall be carried out minimizing the damage to the sampled individuals;
  - (c) monitor the vessel's product labelling, production logbook, and stowage plan against requirements in Articles 27 and 28, and record in the observer trip report any discrepancies identified;
  - (d) record any observed interruption or interference with VMS;
  - (e) submit the information in Annex II.M by electronic means to the flag State FMC and to the port State FMC as soon as possible after leaving the Regulatory Area and at the latest at the arrival of the vessel in port for landing;
  - (f) make themselves available to inspectors at sea, or in port upon arrival of the vessel, for the purposes of providing information related to the fishing activities of the vessel;
  - (g) maintain detailed records, including relevant images and video footage, of any circumstances and information related to any instances of discrepancies with the CEM, for transmission to the flag State FMC at the earliest opportunity, and at the latest upon the arrival of the vessel in port for landing.
8. A flag State Contracting Party may make use of the software developed by the Executive Secretary to transmit the information referred to in Annexes II.G and II.M in accordance with paragraphs 7(a) and (e).

### ***Obligations of the Master***

9. Each flag State Contracting Party shall ensure that masters of vessels entitled to fly their flag:
  - (a) extend such co-operation and assistance as may be required to enable the observer to carry out his or her duties, including providing the observer with such access as may be required to the catch retained on board and discards and catch registration documents (e.g. fishing logbook, production logbook, stowage plan);
  - (b) provide food and accommodations to the observer of a standard no less than that provided to the vessel's officers. If officers' accommodations are not available, the observer shall be provided accommodations of a standard as close to an officer as practicable but no less than that provided to the crew;



- (c) provide access to all operational areas of the vessel and equipment necessary to complete their duties, including the vessel's hold(s), production area(s), bridge, and navigation, communication, and garbage processing equipment;
- (d) do not, personally or through their agents, employees, or crewmembers, obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe or compromise the safety of an observer in the performance of his/her duties;
- (e) include the observer in all emergency drills conducted on board;
- (f) notify the observer when an inspection party has signaled their intent to board the vessel; and
- (g) provide the observer with unhindered independent internet access on board at all times, unless the observer has available a fully operational two-way satellite communication device.

### ***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

#### 10. The Executive Secretary:

- (a) posts without delay the information received in accordance with paragraphs 3(j)(i)-(vi) to the NAFO MCS Website and ensures it is made available without delay to all Contracting Parties, solely for control and enforcement purposes;
- (b) makes available upon request the observer data, including the daily OBR report, to other NAFO bodies;
- (c) makes available to flag State Contracting Parties software (NAFO Observer App) enabling the transmission of the information referred to in Annexes II.G and II.M in accordance with paragraphs 7(a) and (e);
- (d) where the information referred to in Annex II.G has not been received for 2 consecutive days, notifies the flag State Contracting Party and any Contracting Party participating in the at-sea Inspection and Surveillance Scheme that an OBR has not been received;
- (e) submits to STACTIC a synthesis of the Contracting Parties reports referred to in paragraph 3(j)(vii); and
- (f) where a Contracting Party has not provided the report required in paragraph 3(j)(vii) by the Executive Secretary by close of business on the specified deadline, submits a request for the report to the Contracting Party.

### ***Implementation***

11. STACTIC will review the implementation of this observer program in 2024.

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### Annex II.M Standardized Observer Trip Report information

#### Part 1. A - Fishing Vessel – Fishing Trip and Observer Information

| Fishing Vessel information                   |  |
|--|--|
| Vessel Name                                  |  |
| Vessel Radio Call Sign                       |  |
| Flag State                                   |  |
| Vessel IMO number                            |  |
| Total Frozen Hold Capacity (m <sup>3</sup> ) |  |
| Fish Meal Hold Capacity (m <sup>3</sup> )    |  |
| Other Hold Capacity (m <sup>3</sup> )        |  |

| Trip information             |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Master's Name                |  |
| Directed Species             |  |
| Date of Entry into NRA (ENT) |  |
| Date of Exit from NRA (EXI)  |  |
| NAFO Division/s visited      |  |
| Other Area/s visited         |  |
| Transshipment                |  |
| Port of Landing              |  |

| Observer information     |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Observer's Name          |  |
| Observation Date Started |  |
| Observation Date Ended   |  |
| Date of Report           |  |

| Comments |
|----------|
|          |



**Part 1.B - Fishing Gear Information**

| Trawl Gear  |           |           |                |     |         |      |     |         |                   |     |         |        |     |         |                                       |               |             |               |                   |          |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----|---------|------|-----|---------|-------------------|-----|---------|--------|-----|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| Gear Number | Gear Type | Gear Make | Mesh Size (mm) |     |         |      |     |         |                   |     |         |        |     |         | Measured by observer/inspector/master | Date measured | Attachments | Grate Spacing | Straps (Describe) | Comments |
|             |           |           | Wings          |     |         | Body |     |         | Lengthening Piece |     |         | Codend |     |         |                                       |               |             |               |                   |          |
|             |           |           | High           | Low | Average | High | Low | Average | High              | Low | Average | High   | Low | Average |                                       |               |             |               |                   |          |
| 1           |           |           |                |     |         |      |     |         |                   |     |         |        |     |         |                                       |               |             |               |                   |          |
| 2           |           |           |                |     |         |      |     |         |                   |     |         |        |     |         |                                       |               |             |               |                   |          |
| 3           |           |           |                |     |         |      |     |         |                   |     |         |        |     |         |                                       |               |             |               |                   |          |

| Longline    |           |              |        |                     |           |           |               |         |                    |                    |          |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Gear Number | Gear Type | Total Length | Hooks  |                     |           | Hook size | Buoys         | Anchors | Main line material | Bait line material | Comments |
|             |           |              | Number | Average spacing (m) | Hook type |           | Marked yes/no | Number  |                    |                    |          |
| 1           |           |              |        |                     |           |           |               |         |                    |                    |          |
| 2           |           |              |        |                     |           |           |               |         |                    |                    |          |
| 3           |           |              |        |                     |           |           |               |         |                    |                    |          |
| ...         |           |              |        |                     |           |           |               |         |                    |                    |          |



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**Part 2. Catch and effort information by fishing operation**

| To w /S et | Gear Number | Start of Gear Setting <sup>1</sup> |                    |                     |           |                   |                 | End of Gear Setting <sup>2</sup> |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |
|------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
|            |             | NAFO Division                      | Latitude (decimal) | Longitude (decimal) | Depth (m) | Time (UTC) (HHMM) | Date (YYYYMMDD) | NAFO Division                    | Latitude (decimal) | Longitude (decimal) | Depth (m) | Time (UTC) (HHMM) | Date (YYYYMMDD) |
| 1          |             |                                    |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                                  |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |
| 2          |             |                                    |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                                  |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |
| 3          |             |                                    |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                                  |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |
| ...        |             |                                    |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                                  |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |

| Gear Retrieval Start <sup>3</sup> |                    |                     |           |                   |                 | Gear Retrieval End <sup>4</sup> |                    |                     |           |                   |                 | Duration <sup>5</sup> | Species (FAO 3-alpha Species Code <sup>6</sup> ) | Directed Species (yes or no) | Product Form | Observers Estimates             |                           |                            |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| NAFO Division                     | Latitude (decimal) | Longitude (decimal) | Depth (m) | Time (UTC) (HHMM) | Date (YYYYMMDD) | NAFO Division                   | Latitude (decimal) | Longitude (decimal) | Depth (m) | Time (UTC) (HHMM) | Date (YYYYMMDD) |                       |  |                              |              | Observer Conversion Factor Used | Retained (kg live weight) | Discarded (kg live weight) | Undersized (kg live weight) | Observed Fishing Operation (Y/N) |
|                                   |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                                 |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                       |  |                              |              |                                 |                           |                            |                             |                                  |
|                                   |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                                 |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                       |  |                              |              |                                 |                           |                            |                             |                                  |
|                                   |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                                 |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                       |  |                              |              |                                 |                           |                            |                             |                                  |
|                                   |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                                 |                    |                     |           |                   |                 |                       |  |                              |              |                                 |                           |                            |                             |                                  |

| Fishing Logbook               |                           |                            | Vessel Production Logbook |  | Potential non Compliance with the CEM (yes/no) | Potential non Compliance Details | Comments |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|----------|
| Vessel Conversion Factor Used | Retained (kg live weight) | Discarded (kg live weight) | Retained (kg)             |  |  |                                  |          |
|                               |                           |                            |                           |  |  |                                  |          |
|                               |                           |                            |                           |  |  |                                  |          |
|                               |                           |                            |                           |  |  |                                  |          |
|                               |                           |                            |                           |  |  |                                  |          |

- 1 Data at the time when gear first enters the water.
- 2 Data at the time gear is fully set.
- 3 Data at the time the start of gear retrieval.
- 4 Data at the time gear is fully retrieved and onboard vessel.
- 5 Decimal hours. In the case of trawl fisheries, the time from the end of setting to the start of gear retrieval. In any other case, the time from the start of gear setting to the end of retrieval.
- 6 Including VMEs indicators.



**Part 3. Trip Observations**

| Observations   | Y/N | Details |
|--|-----|---------|
| Any instance of obstruction, intimidation, interference with or otherwise prevention of the observer from performing his/her duties. |     |         |
| Summary of potential non-compliance with the CEM (please include references)   |     |         |
| Functioning of the satellite tracking device (report all interruptions, interference and malfunctions)                               |     |         |
| Transshipments (report all)  |     |         |
| At-Sea Inspections (report dates, times and any other observation)   |     |         |
| Any other observation  |     |         |

**Part 4. Effort and Catch Summary<sup>1</sup>****4A. Effort Summary**

| Effort Summary Table |           |                   |       |        |                    |           |         |               |                 |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------|--------|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| NAFO Division        | Gear Type | Directed Species* | Date  |        | Number of Tow/sets | Depth (m) |         | Hours fished* | Fishing Days*** |
|                      |           |                   | Start | Finish |                    | Minimum   | Maximum |               |                 |
|                      |           |                   |       |        |                    |           |         |               |                 |
|                      |           |                   |       |        |                    |           |         |               |                 |
|                      |           |                   |       |        |                    |           |         |               |                 |
|                      |           |                   |       |        |                    |           |         |               |                 |
|                      |           |                   |       |        |                    |           |         |               |                 |
|                      |           |                   |       |        |                    |           |         |               |                 |

\* As per CEM Article 5.2

\*\* In the case of trawl fisheries, fishing time is the time from the end of setting to the start of gear retrieval. In any other case, fishing time is the time from the start of gear setting to the end of retrieval. Summed haul duration for all hauls in the listed division, by gear type and directed species

\*\*\* As per CEM Article 1.6

| Comments |                                 |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| 1        | On Fishing activity by Division |
| 2        | On Data Communication           |
| 3        | On Mesh sizes                   |
| 4        | Other issues                    |

**4B. Catch Summary**

| Trip Catch Summary (catch by Division and Species) |          |                           |                            |                        |                                 |                            |                        |
|--|----------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Species (FAO 3-alpha Species Code)                 | Division | Observer Estimates        |                            |                        | Recorded in the Fishing Logbook |                            |                        |
|  |          | Retained (kg live weight) | Discarded (kg live weight) | Total (kg live weight) | Retained (kg live weight)       | Discarded (kg live weight) | Total (kg live weight) |
|  |          |                           |                            |                        |                                 |                            |                        |
|  |          |                           |                            |                        |                                 |                            |                        |
|  |          |                           |                            |                        |                                 |                            |                        |
| <b>Total</b>                                       |          |                           |                            |                        |                                 |                            |                        |

| Comments |   |
|----------|---|
| 1        | On composition of catch and sizes                 |
| 2        | On discrepancies with the fishing logbook entries |
| 3        | On discards                                       |
| 4        | Other issues                                      |

<sup>1</sup> Based on the information provided in Part 2

**4C. Average unit weight verifications**

| Date | Number of units sampled | Species | Product Form | Average unit weight (Kg) | Average product weight per unit (Kg) | Labelled unit weight in label (Kg) |
|------|-------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|      |                         |         |              |                          |                                      |                                    |
|      |                         |         |              |                          |                                      |                                    |
|      |                         |         |              |                          |                                      |                                    |
|      |                         |         |              |                          |                                      |                                    |
|      |                         |         |              |                          |                                      |                                    |

**4D. Verification of labelling**

| Date | Number of units verified | Number of units with potential non-compliant labelling | Description of the potential non-compliant labelling |
|------|--------------------------|--|--|
|      |                          |  |  |
|      |                          |  |  |
|      |                          |  |  |
|      |                          |  |  |
|      |                          |  |  |







**Part 6. Length Frequency Form<sup>1</sup>**

|   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Year</b>                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Month</b>                                |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Day</b>                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Gear number</b>                          |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Tow/Set Number</b>                       |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Species 3 alpha code</b>                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Catch weight (kg live weight)</b>        |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Sample Type (discard, retained, mix)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Sample Weight in kg live weight</b>     |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Min Size</b>                            |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Max Size</b>                            |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Sex</b>                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Total Number of Samples (n=)</b>        |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Meas. Convention (TL, SL, FL, etc.)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Measure Type</b>                        |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Unit (mm or cm)</b>                     |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Comments</b>                            |  |  |  |  |  |

| <b>Size between</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Number</b> |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 9.5-9.99            |               |               |               |               |               |
| 10.0-10.49          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 10.5-10.99          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 11.0-11.49          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 11.5-11.99          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 12.0-12.49          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 12.5-12.99          |               |               |               |               |               |
| ...                 |               |               |               |               |               |
| ...                 |               |               |               |               |               |
| ...                 |               |               |               |               |               |
| 97.0-97.49          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 97.5-97.99          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 98.0-98.49          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 98.5-98.99          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 99.0-99.49          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 99.5-99.99          |               |               |               |               |               |
| 100.0-100.49        |               |               |               |               |               |
| ...                 |               |               |               |               |               |

<sup>1</sup> To be filled in based on scientific data collection instructions



**Annex II.D**  
**Data Exchange Format and Protocols**

| Category         | Data Element                      | Field code | Type   | Content | Definitions                                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|---------|---|
| Activity Details | [...]                             | [...]      | [...]  | [...]   | [...]   |
|                  | Potential non-Compliance with CEM | AF         | Char*1 | Y or N  | For onboard observer to report their observations |
|                  | [...]                             | [...]      | [...]  | [...]   | [...]   |

**Annex II.G**  
**Observer Report**

| Data Element                               | Code  | Mandatory / Optional | Requirements for the field                  |
|--|-------|----------------------|---|
| [...]                                      | [...] | [...]                | [...]                                       |
| Potential non-compliance with the NAFO CEM | AF    | M                    | Activity detail; "Yes" or "No" <sup>4</sup> |
| [...]                                      | [...] | [...]                | [...]                                       |

[...]

<sup>4</sup> "Yes" if the observer detects any potential non-compliance with the CEMs

[...]

**(h) Article 38 – Additional Procedures for Serious Infringements**

**1. List of Serious Infringements**

1. Each of the following violations constitutes a serious infringement:

[...]

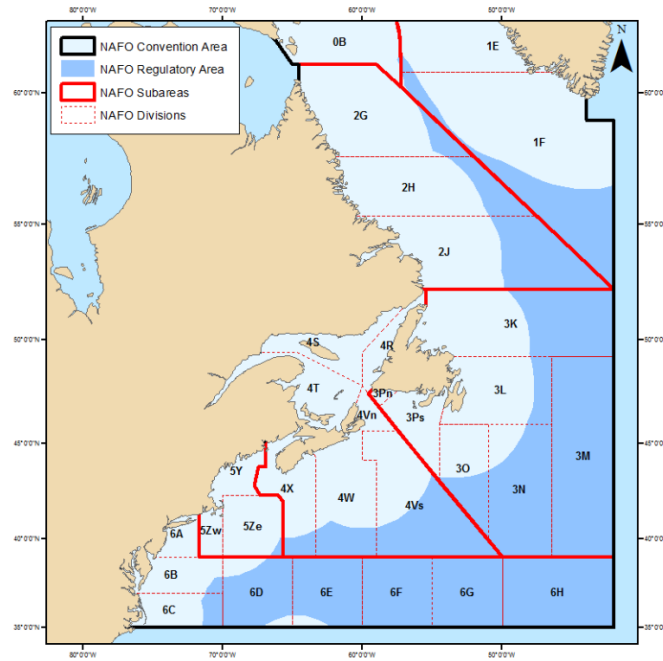
- (l) obstructing, intimidating, interfering with, bribing or attempting to bribe, compromising the safety of or otherwise preventing inspectors or observers from performing their duties, including prior, during or after the relevant observed or inspected fishing trip;

[...]

**Annex 32. Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review 2023**  
**(Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2022)**  
 (STACTIC WP 23-02 (Rev. 6) now COM Doc. 23-24)

## 1.0 Introduction

The scope of this review covers the fishing activities of NAFO-registered vessels (Article 25 of NAFO CEM) which operated in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) in 2022<sup>1</sup> (see Figure 1.0).



**Figure 1.0.** Divisions of the NAFO Convention Area and the Regulatory Area (dark blue).

This review was conducted in accordance with rules 5.1 and 5.2 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure. As part of the review process, the NAFO Secretariat compiled the 2022 information from a variety of data sources including vessel monitoring system (VMS), hail messages delivered by the vessels (Vessel Transmitted Information – VTI), electronic logbook (haul by haul) reports, port inspection reports (PSC3), at-sea inspection reports, reports on dispositions of infringements, and observer trip reports.

### Villa de Pitanzo

On 15 February 2022, the Spanish fishing vessel, Villa de Pitanzo, sank during a fishing trip in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Deepest condolences are extended to all of those affected by this devastating tragedy.

<sup>1</sup> According to Article 1.7 of the 2022 NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NAFO CEM), a fishing trip includes “the time from its entry into until its departure from the Regulatory Area and continues until all catch on board from the Regulatory Area is unloaded or transhipped”. All article and annex numbers in this report reference the 2022 NAFO CEM. Quantitative information presented in this report are summarized according to 2022 calendar year, unless otherwise indicated.

## 2.0 Fisheries in the NRA

### 2.1 Fishing effort by gear type

There are three main fisheries that take place within the NAFO Regulatory Area: groundfish (GRO - primarily in Divisions 3LMNO), shrimp (PRA in Division 3M), and pelagic redfish fisheries (REB - primarily in Divisions 1F and 2J). There was no directed fishing for shrimp in Division 3M in 2022. Table 2.2.1 summarizes the main fishing gears and fishing effort for trips in the NAFO Regulatory area that ended in 2022.

Bottom trawlers accounted for 95.18% of fishing effort in terms of fishing days, catching Atlantic cod, Greenland halibut, yellowtail flounder, redfish, thorny skate and silver hake in Divisions 3LMNO. Longline vessels accounted for 4.64% of the fishing effort catching Atlantic cod, Atlantic halibut and white hake. There was one midwater trawler in the NRA in 2022, accounting for 0.18% of the fishing effort that targeted pelagic redfish.

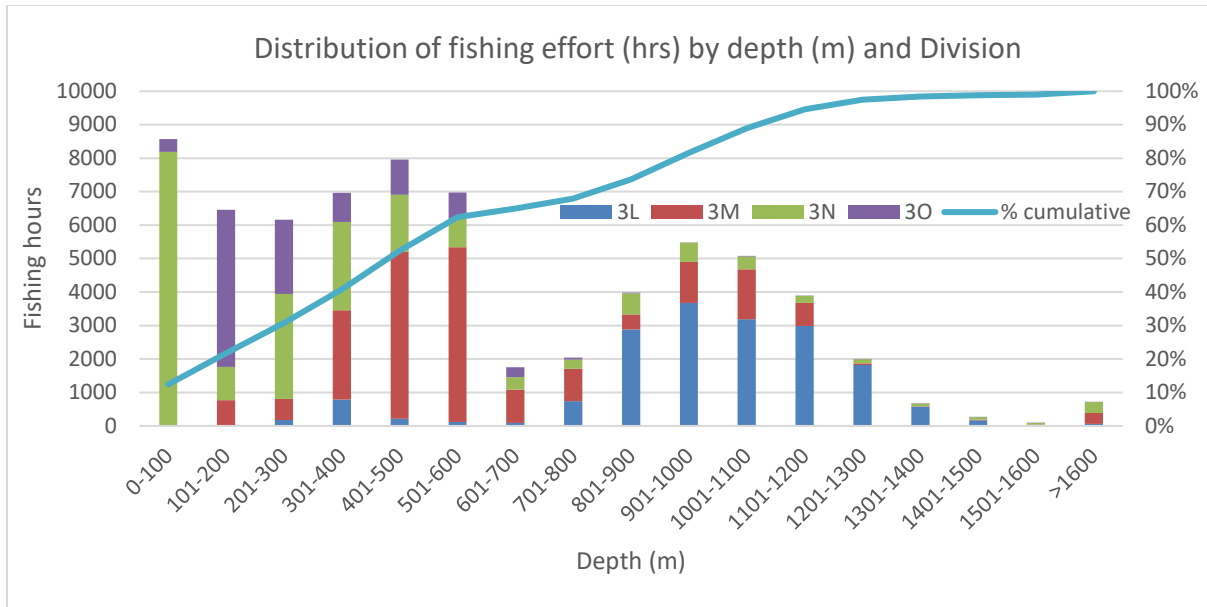
**Table 2.1.1.** *Main fishing gears and fishing effort in the NAFO Regulatory Area for fishing trips that ended 2022.*

| Fishing Gear   | # Fishing vessels | # Fishing trips | Fishing days in NAFO RA | Main Species (FAO 3-alpha code)   | NAFO Divisions |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Longline       | 8                 | 15              | 180                     | COD, HAL, HKW                     | 3M, 3N, 3O     |
| Bottom Trawl   | 29                | 82              | 3709                    | GHL, RED, HKS, YEL, SKA, COD, HAL | 3L, 3M, 3N, 3O |
| Midwater Trawl | 1                 | 1               | 7                       | REB*                              | 1F             |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>38</b>         | <b>98</b>       | <b>3896</b>             |                                   |                |

\*The pelagic redfish fishery in 1F+2+3K is subject to zero TAC and was fished by the Russian Federation under a unilateral quota.

### 2.2 Effort distribution by depth in demersal fisheries other than shrimp

Hourly positions of fishing vessels are required to be transmitted through the VMS in accordance with Article 29.1 of the NAFO CEM. Figure 2.2.1 shows the distribution of fishing effort, in hours, for vessels fishing (assumed fishing speeds for the purpose of this analysis were between 0.5-5 knots) in Divisions 3LMNO. Most of the fishing effort in Divisions 3LMNO is at depths 500 meters and shallower, with an additional concentration of fishing effort around 1000 meters, which can be attributed to the Greenland halibut fishery.



**Figure 2.2.1.** *Distribution of fishing effort (in hours) by depth (m) in the NRA in 2022. Vessels are assumed to be fishing at speed in the range of 0.5-5.0 knots.*

**2.3 Catches in the NAFO Regulatory Area**

A total of 54 306.2 t of fish (53 146.6 t retained + 1 159.6 t discarded) were caught by vessels authorized to fish in the Regulatory Area in 2022 (Tables 2.3.1 and 2.3.2). In terms of quantities caught, the stocks 3M Cod, 3LMNO Greenland halibut, 3M Redfish, 3LN Redfish, 3O Redfish, 3LNO Yellowtail flounder and 3NO Skates constitute the major groundfish fishery in the NRA.



**Table 2.3.1** Total reported retained catches (in tonnes) of species (in FAO 3-alpha code) by Division in calendar 2022 (Source: CA field of CAT Reports).

| Species  | Common name                    | 3L            | 3M             | 3N             | 3O             | 1F           | TOTAL          |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Species subject to catch limitations (as listed in Annex I of the NAFO CEM)</i> |                                |               |                |                |                |              |                |
| COD  | Atlantic cod                   | 69.7          | 3941.8         | 239.7          | 48.1           |              | 4299.3         |
| GHL  | Greenland halibut              | 7532.0        | 1847.7         | 557.0          | 6.6            |              | 9943.3         |
| HKW  | White hake                     |               |                | 55.9           | 295.0          |              | 350.9          |
| PLA  | Amer. plaice(=Long rough dab)  | 12.4          | 130.3          | 424.6          | 86.9           |              | 654.1          |
| REB  | Beaked redfish                 |               |                |                |                | 63.6*        | 63.6           |
| RED  | Atlantic redfishes nei         | 1386.9        | 10277.6        | 6280.1         | 3346.0         |              | 21290.5        |
| SKA  | Raja rays nei                  | 60.3          | 33.1           | 2698.8         | 307.5          |              | 3099.6         |
| SQI  | Northern shortfin squid        |               |                | 0.0            | 0.0            |              | 0.1            |
| WIT  | Witch flounder                 | 17.8          | 35.3           | 95.1           | 161.6          |              | 309.8          |
| YEL  | Yellowtail flounder            |               |                | 5150.6         | 3.0            |              | 5153.6         |
| <i>Selected species not listed in Annex I</i>                                      |                                |               |                |                |                |              |                |
| ANG  | American angler                |               |                | 8.4            | 31.3           |              | 39.8           |
| ANT  | Blue antimora                  |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| ARG  | Argentines                     |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| BET  | Bigeye tuna                    |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| CAA  | Atlantic wolffish              |               | 17.8           |                |                |              | 17.8           |
| CAB  | Northern wolffish              |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| CAP  | Capelin                        |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| CAS  | Spotted wolffish               |               | 2.6            |                |                |              | 2.6            |
| CAT  | Wolffishes(=Catfishes) nei     |               | 5.4            | 0.0            |                |              | 5.4            |
| CRA  | Marine crabs nei               |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| CRB  | Blue crab                      |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| CRQ  | Queen crab                     |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| CUX  | Sea cucumbers nei              |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| GDE  | Threadfin rockling             |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| GKS  | Broad cockle                   |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| HAD  | Haddock                        |               | 0.1            | 8.8            | 1.9            |              | 10.8           |
| HAL  | Atlantic halibut               | 34.1          | 95.0           | 366.8          | 58.7           |              | 554.6          |
| HKR  | Red hake                       |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| HKS  | Silver hake                    |               |                | 501.9          | 6707.3         |              | 7209.2         |
| HKX  | Hakes nei                      |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| MLL  | Softhead grenadier             |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| POK  | Saithe(=Pollock)               |               |                | 0.0            |                |              | 0.0            |
| RHG  | Roughhead grenadier            | 45.5          | 33.6           | 22.6           |                |              | 101.8          |
| RNG  | Roundnose grenadier            | 25.8          | 2.8            | 8.3            |                |              | 36.9           |
| SAN  | Sandeels(=Sandlances) nei      |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| SCU  | Sculpins                       |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| SWO  | Swordfish                      |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| TUN  | Tunas nei                      |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| USK  | Tusk(=Cusk)                    |               | 0.5            | 1.8            | 0.0            |              | 2.4            |
| <i>Sharks</i>  |                                |               |                |                |                |              |                |
| BSK  | Basking shark                  |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| CFB  | Black dogfish                  |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| DGS  | Picked dogfish                 |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| DGX  | Dogfish sharks nei             |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| GSK  | Greenland shark                |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| POR  | Porbeagle                      |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| SKX  | Sharks, rays, skates, etc. nei |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| SMA  | Shortfin mako                  |               |                |                |                |              | 0.0            |
| SRX  | Rays, stingrays, mantas nei    |               | 0.6            |                |                |              | 0.6            |
| <b>Total</b>   |                                | <b>9184.6</b> | <b>16424.1</b> | <b>16420.4</b> | <b>11053.9</b> | <b>63.6*</b> | <b>53146.6</b> |

\*The pelagic redfish fishery in 1F+2+3K is subject to zero TAC and was fished by the Russian Federation under a unilateral quota.

**Table 2.3.2** Total reported rejected catches (in tonnes) of species (in FAO 3-alpha code) by Division in calendar year 2022 (Source: RJ field of CAT Reports).

| Species  | Common name                    | 3L           | 3M           | 3N           | 3O           | 1F         | TOTAL         |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| <i>Species subject to catch limitations (as listed in Annex I of the NAFO CEM)</i> |                                |              |              |              |              |            |               |
| COD  | Atlantic cod                   |              | 5.4          | 1.4          | 0.0          |            | 6.7           |
| GHL  | Greenland halibut              | 2.3          | 0.4          | 0.1          |              |            | 2.7           |
| HKW  | White hake                     | 0.2          |              | 0.9          | 4.9          |            | 6.0           |
| PLA  | Amer. plaice(=Long rough dab)  | 0.3          | 2.5          | 7.8          | 0.6          |            | 11.3          |
| REB  | Beaked redfish                 |              |              |              |              |            | 0.0           |
| RED  | Atlantic redfishes nei         | 0.0          | 2.2          | 0.3          | 1.3          |            | 3.8           |
| SKA  | Raja rays nei                  | 1.9          | 5.1          | 198.4        | 0.3          |            | 205.7         |
| SQI  | Northern shortfin squid        |              |              |              | 0.0          |            | 0.0           |
| WIT  | Witch flounder                 | 0.2          | 0.4          | 1.8          | 4.0          |            | 6.4           |
| YEL  | Yellowtail flounder            |              |              | 21.8         | 0.0          |            | 21.8          |
| <i>Selected species not listed in Annex I</i>                                      |                                |              |              |              |              |            |               |
| ANG  | American angler                | 0.1          |              | 0.0          | 1.6          |            | 1.7           |
| ANT  | Blue antimora                  | 11.2         | 11.2         | 7.5          |              |            | 29.9          |
| ARG  | Argentines                     |              | 0.6          |              |              |            | 0.6           |
| BET  | Bigeye tuna                    |              |              |              | 0.2          |            | 0.2           |
| CAA  | Atlantic wolffish              | 0.1          | 0.1          | 7.4          |              |            | 7.6           |
| CAB  | Northern wolffish              | 0.1          |              |              |              |            | 0.1           |
| CAP  | Capelin                        |              |              | 6.5          | 0.1          |            | 6.6           |
| CAS  | Spotted wolffish               | 0.1          |              |              |              |            | 0.1           |
| CAT  | Wolffishes(=Catfishes) nei     | 21.8         | 25.9         | 12.3         | 5.0          |            | 64.9          |
| CRA  | Marine crabs nei               |              |              | 0.0          | 0.0          |            | 0.0           |
| CRB  | Blue crab                      |              |              | 0.0          |              |            | 0.0           |
| CRQ  | Queen crab                     |              |              | 2.1          | 0.3          |            | 2.4           |
| CUX  | Sea cucumbers nei              |              |              | 114.8        | 0.2          |            | 115.0         |
| GDE  | Threadfin rockling             | 17.7         | 3.3          | 1.2          |              |            | 22.1          |
| GKS  | Broad cockle                   | 0.8          |              |              |              |            | 0.8           |
| HAD  | Haddock                        |              |              | 0.0          |              |            | 0.0           |
| HAL  | Atlantic halibut               |              |              | 0.1          |              |            | 0.1           |
| HKR  | Red hake                       | 1.0          | 0.1          | 0.1          | 0.2          |            | 1.5           |
| HKS  | Silver hake                    |              |              | 10.3         | 108.9        |            | 119.3         |
| HKX  | Hakes nei                      |              |              |              | 0.0          |            | 0.0           |
| MLL  | Softhead grenadier             | 0.8          | 0.5          |              |              |            | 1.2           |
| POK  | Saithe(=Pollock)               |              |              |              |              |            | 0.0           |
| RHG  | Roughhead grenadier            | 134.2        | 85.5         | 17.5         | 1.9          |            | 239.1         |
| RNG  | Roundnose grenadier            | 50.3         | 57.6         | 13.2         | 0.3          |            | 121.5         |
| SAN  | Sandeels(=Sandlances) nei      |              |              | 0.0          |              |            | 0.0           |
| SCU  | Sculpins                       |              |              | 8.4          |              |            | 8.4           |
| SWO  | Swordfish                      |              | 0.1          | 0.2          | 9.8          |            | 10.1          |
| TUN  | Tunas nei                      |              |              | 0.2          | 0.1          |            | 0.3           |
| USK  | Tusk(=Cusk)                    |              |              |              |              |            | 0.0           |
| <i>Sharks</i>  |                                |              |              |              |              |            |               |
| BSK  | Basking shark                  |              |              | 2.0          | 20.0         |            | 22.0          |
| CFB  | Black dogfish                  | 0.0          | 0.8          | 0.0          |              |            | 0.9           |
| DGS  | Picked dogfish                 |              | 0.7          | 0.1          | 2.2          |            | 2.9           |
| DGX  | Dogfish sharks nei             | 0.9          | 0.2          | 0.5          |              |            | 1.7           |
| GSK  | Greenland shark                | 38.2         | 29.8         | 13.7         | 7.9          |            | 89.6          |
| POR  | Porbeagle                      | 0.2          | 0.2          | 2.8          | 9.9          |            | 13.0          |
| SKX  | Sharks, rays, skates, etc. nei |              |              | 0.1          |              |            | 0.1           |
| SMA  | Shortfin mako                  |              | 0.1          | 3.0          | 4.5          |            | 7.6           |
| SRX  | Rays, stingrays, mantas nei    |              | 3.8          |              |              |            | 3.8           |
| <b>Total</b>   |                                | <b>282.3</b> | <b>236.6</b> | <b>456.4</b> | <b>184.3</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>1159.6</b> |

### 3.0 Inspection and Surveillance

Chapter VI of the NAFO CEM outlines the general provisions and protocols for the at-sea inspection and surveillance scheme in the NRA. Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America deployed patrol vessels and their inspectors in the NRA in 2022.

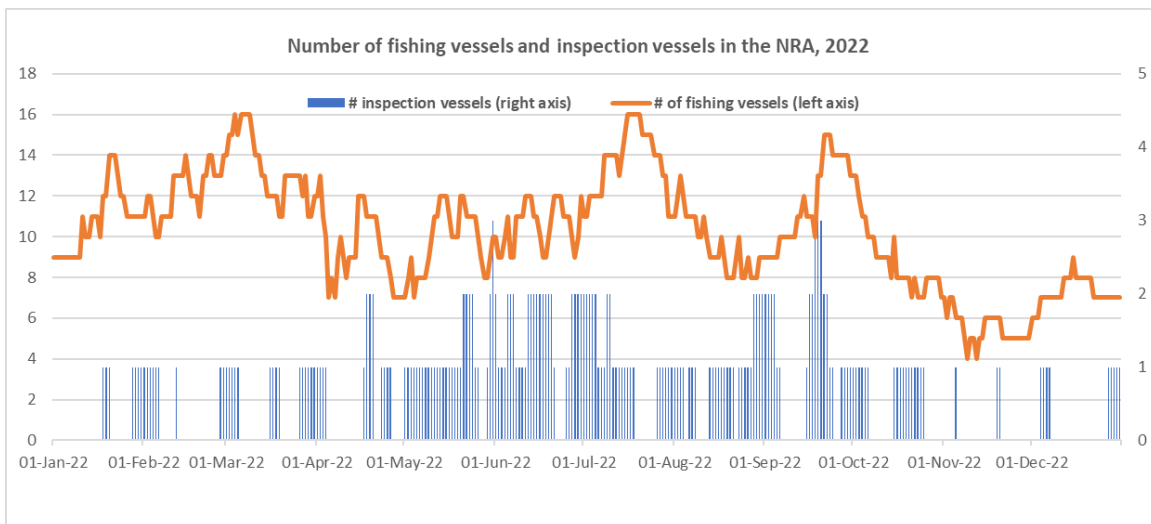
#### 3.1 Patrol Activity

In 2022, seven (7) patrol vessels were deployed in the NAFO Regulatory Area by Contracting Parties with an inspection presence, accounting for 249 patrol-days (Table 3.1). There were 168 days with no patrol vessel, 149 days when there was one patrol vessel, and 48 days when there was more than one patrol vessel present in the NRA. Figure 3.1 shows the time of the year the patrol vessels were present in the NRA in relation to the number of fishing vessels present.

In addition, Canada deployed surveillance aircraft, collectively flying 1221 hours, with 826 vessel sightings in the NRA. No non-Contracting Party vessel suspected of conducting IUU fishing activities was detected.

**Table 3.1** *The total number of patrol vessels, patrol vessel deployments, and patrol days in the NAFO Regulatory area in 2022 by Contracting Party with Inspection Presence.*

| Contracting Party with Inspection Presence | Number of Patrol Vessels | Number of Deployments | Number of Patrol Days |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Canada                                     | 3                        | 28                    | 169                   |
| European Union                             | 3                        | 7                     | 66                    |
| United States of America                   | 1                        | 1                     | 15                    |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>7</b>                 | <b>36</b>             | <b>249</b>            |



**Figure 3.1** *Fishing vessel and inspection vessel presence in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2022.*



### 3.2 At-sea inspections

A total of 77 at-sea inspections were conducted in 2022, and five (5) inspections resulted in the issuance of serious infringements. Two (2) of the vessels issued a serious infringement in 2022 had inspections in the 2021 fishing year with serious infringements. In total, there were twelve infringements issued in 2022 during at-sea inspections. A summary of the infringements and their disposition can be found in Section 4.2.

### 3.3 Port inspections

Under Article 10.4(e) of the NAFO CEM, landings of Greenland halibut from Divisions 2+3KLMNO are subject to port inspections if the quantity of this stock on board represents either more than 5% of the total catch or more than 2 500kg. In evaluating compliance with the port inspection measures outlined in Article 10 of the NAFO CEM, a total of 52 trips met the criteria of having more than 5% of the total catch or more than 2 500kg of Greenland halibut on board. Port inspection reports (PSC3s) were received for all 52 of these trips, therefore there is a 100% port inspection coverage, as shown in Table 3.3.1.1.

**Table 3.3.1.1** *Fishing trips in Divisions 3LMNO with Greenland halibut (GHL) catch (based on Daily Catch Reports for the trip) and percent coverage of port inspections for the identified trips, by flag State.*

| Flag State CP  | Number of identified trips by vessels larger than 24 m: trip with GHL catch > 2.5t | Total amount of GHL from trips identified (t) | Port inspection CP | Number of identified trips with Port Inspection (PSC3) | Port Inspection Coverage (% based on identified trips with GHL catch) |
|----------------|--|---|--------------------|--|---|
| CAN            | 2  | 11.3  | CAN                | 2  | 100%  |
| EU             | 40   | 7 633.3                                       | EU                 | 40   | 100%  |
| JPN            | 4  | 1 202.3                                       | CAN                | 4  | 100%  |
| RUS            | 6  | 1 502.3                                       | DFG (3)<br>EU (3)  | 6  | 100%  |
| <b>Overall</b> | <b>52</b>  | <b>10 349.2</b>                               |                    | <b>52</b>  | <b>100%</b>   |

Pursuant to Article 7.6(c) of the NAFO CEM, landings or transshipments of cod from Division 3M were subject to a 50% inspection benchmark for vessels with more than 1 250kg onboard in 2022. In evaluating compliance for 2022 with the port inspection measures outlined in Article 7.6(c) of the NAFO CEM, 32 trips with more than 1 250kg of 3M Cod on board were identified. Port inspection reports (PSC3s) from 30 trips were received, resulting in a 93.75% coverage rate, as shown in Table 3.3.1.2. The trips without a PSC3 had a total of 508.5 t onboard according to the CAT reports.

**Table 3.3.1.2** *Fishing trips with 3M cod catch (based on Daily Catch (CAT) Reports for the trip) and percent coverage of port inspections for the identified trips, by flag State.*

| Flag State CP  | Number of identified trips by vessels 3M Cod catch > 1250 kg | Total amount of 3M COD from trips identified (t) | Port inspection CP | Number of identified trips with Port Inspection (PSC3) | Port Inspection Coverage (% based on identified trips with 3M Cod catch) |
|----------------|--|--|--------------------|--|--|
| DFG            | 3  | 1 086  | DFG                | 2  | 66.67%   |
| EU             | 25   | 1 758.5  | EU                 | 25   | 100%   |
| NOR            | 2  | 555.4  | NOR                | 1  | 50%  |
| RUS            | 2  | 243.1  | EU                 | 2  | 100%   |
| <b>Overall</b> | <b>32</b>  | <b>3 643</b>                                     |                    | <b>30</b>  | <b>93.75%</b>  |

According to Article 43.10 of the NAFO CEM, the port State Contracting Party shall carry out inspections of at least 15% of all such landings or transshipments by vessels flagged to other Contracting Parties during each reporting year. In evaluating compliance with port State Control measures outlined in Chapter VII of the NAFO CEM, a review of the submission of port State Control Prior Request (PSC1) forms and port inspection reports (PSC3) is presented in Table 3.3.2. The minimum coverage of 15% (Article 43.10) was met by all port State Contracting Parties.

**Table 3.3.2** *The number of PSC1s and corresponding PSC3s received by the NAFO Secretariat relating to the inspection of landings or transshipments by vessels flagged to other Contracting Party.*

| Port State Contracting Party | PSC1 (prior request) | Number of PSC1's with intention to land/tranship catch | PSC3 (port inspection report) | % Coverage (#PSC3 received /#PSC1) |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Canada                       | 14                   | 12   | 12                            | 100%                               |
| EU                           | 6                    | 6  | 6                             | 100.0%                             |
| DFG                          | 5                    | 4  | 3                             | 75.0%                              |
| FRA(SPM)                     | 1                    | 0  | 0                             | -                                  |

## 4.0 Compliance

In this section, reporting obligations, including follow-up actions to infringements are examined.

### 4.1 Reporting obligations

The NAFO CEM requires fishing vessels and flag State Contracting Parties (through the Fisheries Monitoring Centre - FMC) to provide reports on the fishing activity within a determined time frame.

#### 4.1.1 Vessel Activity Reporting

##### 4.1.1.1 Vessel Transmitted Information (VTI) – Catch-on-Entry (COE), Daily Catch Reports (CAT), and Catch-on-Exit (COX)

The FMCs are responsible for transmitting the VTI reports to the NAFO Secretariat. The COE and COX messages are transmitted at least 6 hours in advance of entry and exit to and from the NRA and identify the amount of catch on board. The CATs contain a record of the daily catch (retained and rejected) reported by species and Division while on a fishing trip. The daily catch reports are used to monitor the quota uptake of the Contracting Parties.

Table 4.1.1.1 outlines the number of COE, COX, and CAT reports received by the NAFO Secretariat, as well as of fishing trips and fishing effort-days in the NRA. All identified 2022 fishing trips had corresponding COE and COX messages. No major technical issues were encountered in transmission and receipt of the VTI reports.

**Table 4.1.1.1** *Fishing effort and VTI statistics in the NRA 2022.*

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Number of fishing trips identified                 | 98    |
| Fishing Days <sup>1</sup>                          | 3 896 |
| Number of Daily Catch Reports (CATs) <sup>2</sup>  | 4 103 |
| Number of Trips with Catch on Entry Reports (COEs) | 98    |
| Number of Trips with Catch on Exit Reports (COXs)  | 98    |

<sup>1</sup> Estimate based on EXI-ENT date of 2022 fishing year

<sup>2</sup> CATs of 2022 fishing year

#### **4.1.1.2. Catch reporting on sharks**

Article 28.6.g requires that all shark catches be reported at the species level, to the extent possible. When species specific reporting is not possible shark species shall be recorded as either large sharks (SHX) or dogfishes (DGX). Greenland shark and basking shark constitutes most of the total shark catches by weight (see table 2.3.2). The vast majority of shark catches were reported to be discarded according to the daily catch reports (CATs).

#### **4.1.1.3 Fishing logbook (haul by haul) reports**

The submission of logbook data to the NAFO Secretariat became mandatory in NAFO in 2015 (Article 28.8.c of the NAFO CEM). The fishing logbook information submitted to the NAFO Secretariat must contain, at a minimum, the information outlines in Annex II.N of the NAFO CEM. Out of the 98 fishing trips identified, logbook reports from 97 trips were received, resulting in a 98.98% coverage for 2022.

#### **4.1.1.4 Position reporting – VMS**

According to Article 29, every fishing vessel operating in the NRA shall be equipped with a satellite monitoring device capable of continuous automatic transmission of position to its land-based FMC of the flag States, which in turn is transmitted to the Secretariat in real time. The transmission of position reports (POS) shall be no less frequently than once an hour.

The Secretariat can confirm that the requirement is fully complied with. Occasionally, technical problems were encountered by the fishing vessels or FMCs. During these events, the position reports were transmitted manually or queued and transmitted once the technical issues were resolved. Technical issues were usually resolved within a few days through the coordination between the Secretariat and the FMC.

#### **4.1.1.5 Closed areas and exploratory fisheries**

As of 2022, NAFO has restricted bottom fishing activities in 27 areas within the NRA, including 15 areas to protect sponge, sea pen, and corals, and 12 seamount areas. The measures concerning the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) from bottom fishing are stipulated in Chapter II of the NAFO CEM. No reports of vessels fishing within the VME closure boundaries were received.

#### **4.1.1.6 Chartering arrangements**

Article 26 of the NAFO CEM outlines the provisions for chartering arrangements between two Contracting Parties: the chartering Contracting Party and the flag State Contracting Party of the fishing vessel. Catches by the chartered fishing vessel are counted against the quota of the chartering Contracting Party.

In 2022, there was one (1) chartering arrangement in place pertaining to yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO. Monitoring of the implementation of the chartering arrangements are made possible through the notifications of commencement, suspension, resumption, and termination, and the daily catch reports of the chartered fishing vessel. All reported catches were within the fishing possibilities stipulated in the chartering arrangement. The submission of the required documentation (Article 26.7 and 26.8) and reporting of implementation dates (Article 26.9) were complied with by both parties of the chartering arrangement.

#### **4.1.1.7 Notifications on the use of Others Quota**

There were 36 notifications on the use of Others Quota in 2022 relating to vessels from three (3) Contracting Parties. In 2022, the Others Quota for 3LNO Yellowtail flounder was the only Others Quota to be fully utilized. The NAFO Secretariat circulated a notification on 18 February 2022 with a projection that 100% of the quota could be reached by 20 February 2022.

#### 4.1.1.8 Research activities

In 2022, three Contracting Parties, Canada, the European Union, and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) submitted notifications for research activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) notified that the scientific procedures for the 3M Cod survey would be conducted in connection with the commercial fishery.

#### 4.1.2 Observer Reports

Contracting Parties are required to ensure that their vessels have 100% observer coverage while conducting fishing activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area in accordance with Article 30.5 of the NAFO CEM. By way of derogation, Article 30.6 of the NAFO CEM allows for Contracting Parties to allow their vessels to carry an observer for less than 100%, but not less than 25% of the fishing trips conducted by its fleet in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

In evaluating the compliance to observer trip report submission (Article 30.14.a of the NAFO CEM), fishing trips were grouped according to the implementation of Article 30.5 or 30.6. Table 4.1.2 shows the observer coverage percentage, by Contracting Parties, based on the percentage of the submission of the observer trip reports.

**Table 4.1.2** *Observer coverage based on the submission of observer trip reports, 2022. Two Contracting Parties issued notifications on the intention to invoke Article 30.6 of the NAFO CEM, which requires coverage no less than 25% during 2022.*

| Contracting Party | Number of Identified Trips | Number of Trips with Trip Observer Reports | % Coverage under Art 30.5 (100% required) |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| CAN               | 22                         | 22   | 100%                                      |
| DFG <sup>1</sup>  | 11                         | 1  | 9%  |
| EU                | 48                         | 48   | 100%                                      |
| JPN               | 4                          | 4  | 100%                                      |
| NOR <sup>2</sup>  | 2                          | 2  | 100%                                      |
| RUS               | 10                         | 10   | 100%                                      |

<sup>1</sup> Invoked Article 30.6 of the NAFO CEM. Required coverage is no less than 25%.

<sup>2</sup> Submitted a notification in accordance with Article 30.6 of the NAFO CEM, however both trips had an observer onboard.

DFG invoked Article 30.6 NAFO CEM derogation allowing a coverage of no less than 25% but only deployed observers on 9% of the trips. That Contracting Party submitted a report Article 30.6(e) on the difficulties of completing a data comparison on observed and non-observed trips.

Review of Contracting Party compliance with Article 30 more broadly indicates that further improvements within the application of the program are possible, including in relation to ensuring the independence, safety, and appropriate training of observers; the use of observer program data; and the submission of Contracting Parties' reporting requirements.

#### 4.2 Infringements detected at-sea and at-port

In 2022, a total of ten (10) vessels were cited with an infringement by inspectors at sea and port authorities. Details on the nature of the infringements and their disposition are provided in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2** *Summary of infringements detected by inspectors at-sea and by port authorities in 2022 and their disposition. Infringements presented in bold were considered serious by the inspectors as per the NAFO CEM Article 38 definition.*

| CP  | Infringements detected at-sea. <b>Serious Infringements in bold</b>   | Infringements detected in port (PSC3: Section E.1.B.c). <b>Serious Infringements in bold</b>  | Follow-up to Infringements, as reported by the Contracting Party  |
|-----|---|---|---|
| EU  |   | Failure to meet labelling requirements (Article 27.1, Article 27.2); <b>Obstructing inspectors (Article 38.1(l)). Gaining access to sealed areas (Article 38.1(n)).</b>   | Case pending. Case led by Portugal. Precautionary order - seizure of relevant catches   |
| EU  |   | Exceeding bycatch limits (Article 6.3(a), Article 6.3(b), Article 6.3(d))   | Case Pending. Case led by Portugal.   |
| EU  |   | Underreporting certain catches (Article 28.1); Failed to maintain accurate stowage plan (Article 28.5(a)(i)(1)).  | Case Pending. Case led by Portugal.   |
| EU  | <b>Failed to maintain accurate fishing logbook (Article 28.2(a)); Failed to maintain accurate production logbook (Article 28.3(a)); Failed to maintain accurate stowage plan (Article 28.5(a)); Infringements considered serious (Article 38.1(i)).</b> | Failure to meet labelling requirements (Article 27.1, Article 27.2); Exceeding bycatch limits (Article 6.2(b), Article 6.3(a))  | Case Pending. Case led by Portugal.   |
| DFG |   | <b>Failed to maintain accurate fishing logbook (Article 28.2(a)); Infringement considered serious (Article 38.1(i)).</b>  | Case closed.<br>Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection (Vørn) have collected all Infringements against the vessel together and have made a legal proceeding against the vessel.<br>But in the meantime, forced auction was made against the vessel 20th January 2023, and the owner and company were judge bankrupt.  |
| DFG | <b>Failed to maintain accurate fishing logbook (Article 28.2(a)); Infringement considered serious (Article 38.1(i)).</b>  | <b>Failed to maintain accurate fishing logbook (Article 28.2(a)); Infringement considered serious (Article 38.1(i)). Failed to label products (Article 27.1(b), (d), (e)); Infringement where there is no observer onboard (Article 38.1(m)).</b> | Case closed.<br>Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection (Vørn) have collected all Infringements against the vessel together and have made a legal proceeding against the vessel.<br>But in the meantime, forced auction was made against the vessel 20th January 2023, and the owner and company were judge bankrupt.  |
| CAN | <b>Failed to maintain accurate fishing logbook (Article 28.2(a)); Failed to maintain accurate production logbook (Article 28.3(a)); Infringements considered serious (Article 38.1(i)). Article 25.9; Article 27.1 (a), (b), (d), and (e).</b>          |   | Actions taken concerning infringement / surveillance.<br>A complete Investigation was undertaken by CAN authorities in port, including a fully monitored offload of the vessel. The investigation undertaken confirmed the infringements issued. CAN authorities have laid charges related to these infringements against both the master and licence holder. The case is presently before the courts. Judicial / administrative actions or sanctions. CAN authorities have laid charges related to these infringements against both the master and licence holder.<br>The case is presently before the courts. |
| DFG |   | <b>Failed to maintain accurate fishing logbook (Article 28.2(a)); Infringement considered serious (Article 38.1(i)).</b>  | Case closed.<br>Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection (Vørn) have collected all Infringements against the vessel together and have   |

| CP  | Infringements detected at-sea. <b>Serious Infringements in bold</b>  | Infringements detected in port (PSC3: Section E.1.B.c). <b>Serious Infringements in bold</b>  | Follow-up to Infringements, as reported by the Contracting Party  |
|-----|--|---|---|
|     |  |   | made a legal proceeding against the vessel.<br>But in the meantime, forced auction was made against the vessel 20th January 2023, and the owner and company were judge bankrupt.  |
| CAN |  | Exceeding bycatch limits (Article 6.3(b), Article 6.3(g)); <b>Conducted directed fishery contrary to Article 6.6(a); Infringement considered serious (Article 38.1(c)).</b> | Case Closed.<br><br>Actions taken concerning infringement / surveillance<br>A complete Investigation was undertaken by CAN authorities in port, including a fully monitored offload of the vessel. The investigation undertaken confirmed the infringements issued. Consultation with the prosecution service determined that these infringements did not meet the threshold to proceed to prosecution. As result of this finding, the case has now been closed by CAN authorities. |
| EU  | <b>Failure to produce documents on request of inspectors (Article 35.1 (g)); Obstructing inspectors (Article 38.1(l)).</b> |   | Case Pending.<br>Case led by Portugal.  |
| CAN |  | Exceeding bycatch limits (Article 6.3(b), Article 6.3(g)).  | Case Closed.<br><br>Actions taken concerning infringement / surveillance<br>A complete Investigation was undertaken by CAN authorities in port, including a fully monitored offload of the vessel. The investigation undertaken confirmed the infringements issued. Consultation with the prosecution service determined that these infringements did not meet the threshold to proceed to prosecution. As result of this finding, the case has now been closed by CAN authorities. |
| CAN |  | Exceeding bycatch limits (Article 6.3(b), Article 6.3(g)); <b>Conducted directed fishery contrary to Article 6.6(a); Infringement considered serious (Article 38.1(c)).</b> | Case Closed.<br><br>Actions taken concerning infringement / surveillance<br>A complete Investigation was undertaken by CAN authorities in port, including a fully monitored offload of the vessel. The investigation undertaken confirmed the infringements issued. Consultation with the prosecution service determined that these infringements did not meet the threshold to proceed to prosecution. As result of this finding, the case has now been closed by CAN authorities. |
| CAN |  | Exceeding bycatch limits (Article 6.3(g)).  | Case Closed.<br><br>Actions taken concerning infringement / surveillance<br>A complete Investigation was undertaken by CAN authorities in port, including a fully monitored offload of  |

| CP | Infringements detected at-sea. <b>Serious Infringements in bold</b>   | Infringements detected in port (PSC3: Section E.1.B.c). <b>Serious Infringements in bold</b> | Follow-up to Infringements, as reported by the Contracting Party   |
|----|---|--|--|
|    |   |  | the vessel. The investigation undertaken confirmed the infringements issued. Consultation with the prosecution service determined that these infringements did not meet the threshold to proceed to prosecution. As result of this finding, the case has now been closed by CAN authorities. |
| EU | <b>Failed to maintain accurate fishing logbook (Article 28.2(a)); Failure to submit CAT report (Article 28.6(c)); Infringements considered serious (Article 38.1(i)).</b> |  | Case pending.<br>Case led by Portugal. Precautionary order: sealing of the hold.   |

### 4.3 Follow-up to infringements

Article 39 of the NAFO CEM outlines the obligations of a flag State Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement. It includes taking immediate judicial or administrative action in conformity with the national legislation of the flag State Contracting Party and ensuring that sanctions applicable in respect of infringements are proportional to severity.

Article 40 requires Contracting Parties to report on the disposition of the infringements. The legal resolution of infringements may take more than a year. Contracting Parties shall continue to list such infringements on each subsequent report until it reports the final disposition of the infringement. Table 4.3 summarizes the status of infringement cases in the last five years (2018-2022) and their resolution.

**Table 4.3** *Resolution of citations (by at-sea inspectors and port authorities) against vessels fishing in the NRA by year in which the citations were issued (as of March 2022). A citation is an inspection report that lists one or more infringement. Inspections carried out for confirming a previous citation are not included.*

| Year | Number of Inspection Reports with an infringement citation | Number of Resolved Cases | Number of Pending Cases* | % Resolved |
|------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 2018 | 7  | 6                        | 1                        | 86%        |
| 2019 | 5  | 4                        | 1                        | 80%        |
| 2020 | 12   | 5                        | 7                        | 42%        |
| 2021 | 16   | 7                        | 9                        | 43.8%      |
| 2022 | 16   | 8                        | 8                        | 50%        |

\*still under investigation, litigation or appeal

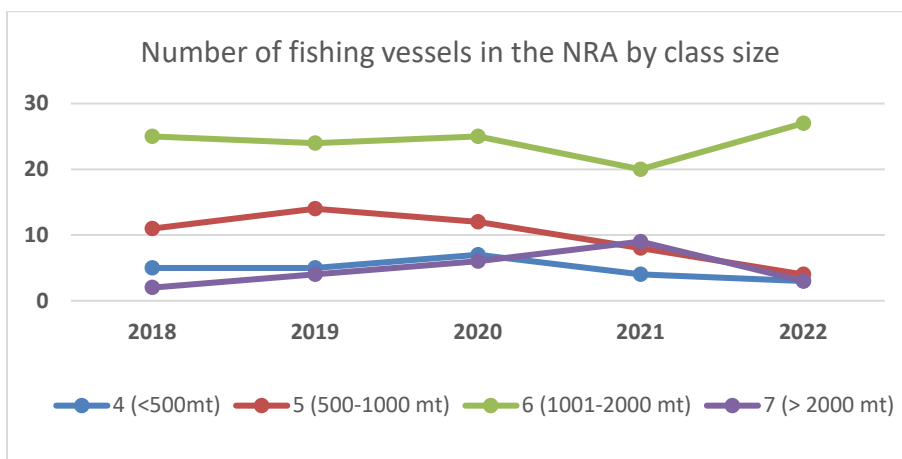
### 5.0 Trends and Analysis

Five-year trends (2018-2022) on effort and catch, reporting obligations of Contracting Parties and observers, compliance by fishing vessels, and at-sea inspections, and infringements are presented in this section.

## 5.1 Effort and Catch

**Table 5.1** Fishing days, as defined by Article 1.6, by fishing gear.

|      | Longline | Mid-water Trawl | Bottom trawl | Shrimp trawl | TOTAL       |
|------|----------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 2018 | 304      | 82              | 3719         | 0            | <b>4105</b> |
| 2019 | 321      | 56              | 4297         | 0            | <b>4674</b> |
| 2020 | 250      | 127             | 4224         | 21           | <b>4622</b> |
| 2021 | 169      | 0               | 4247         | 479          | <b>4895</b> |
| 2022 | 180      | 7               | 3709         | 0            | <b>3896</b> |

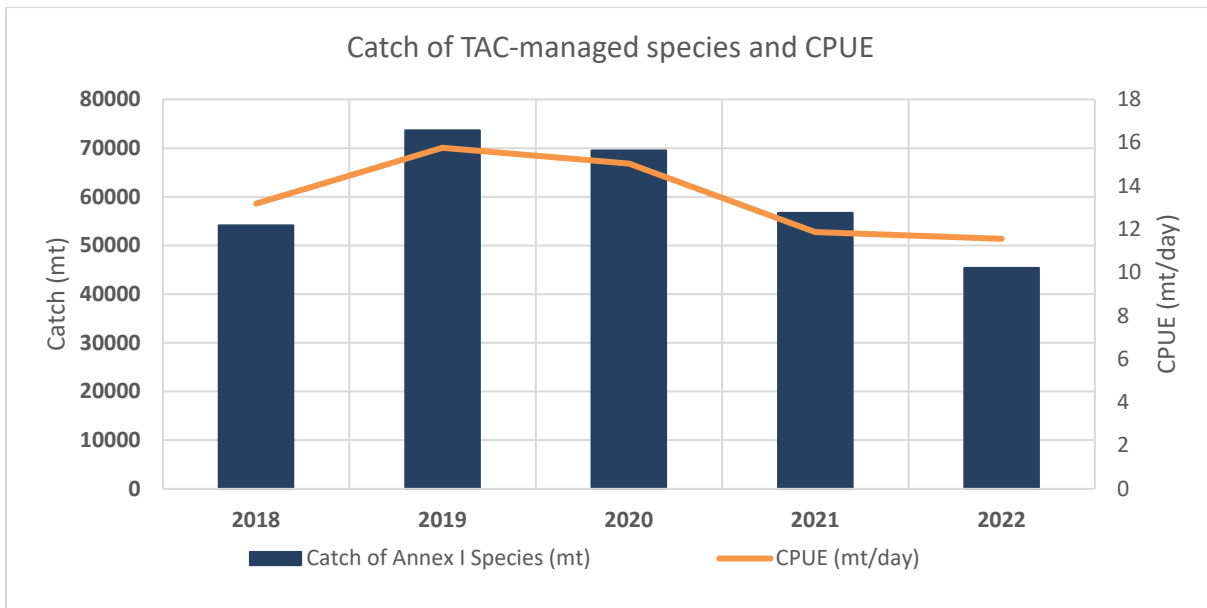


**Figure 5.1.1** Number of fishing vessels that completed trips in the NRA in Divisions 3LMNO by class size, 2018-2022. The class sizes are based on the STATLANT classification.

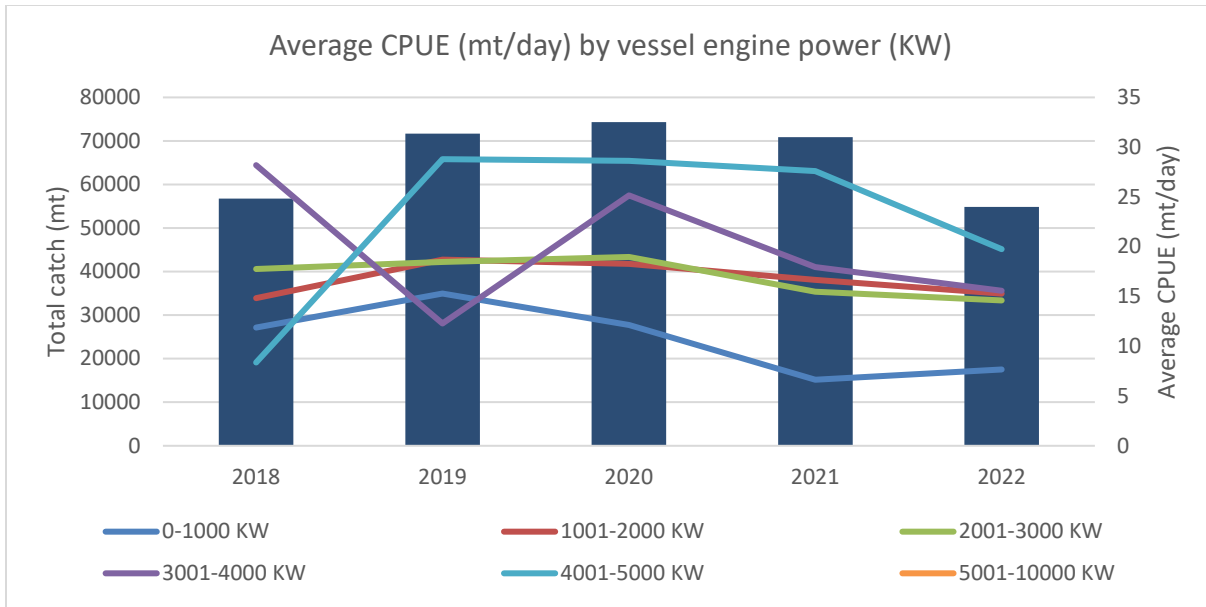




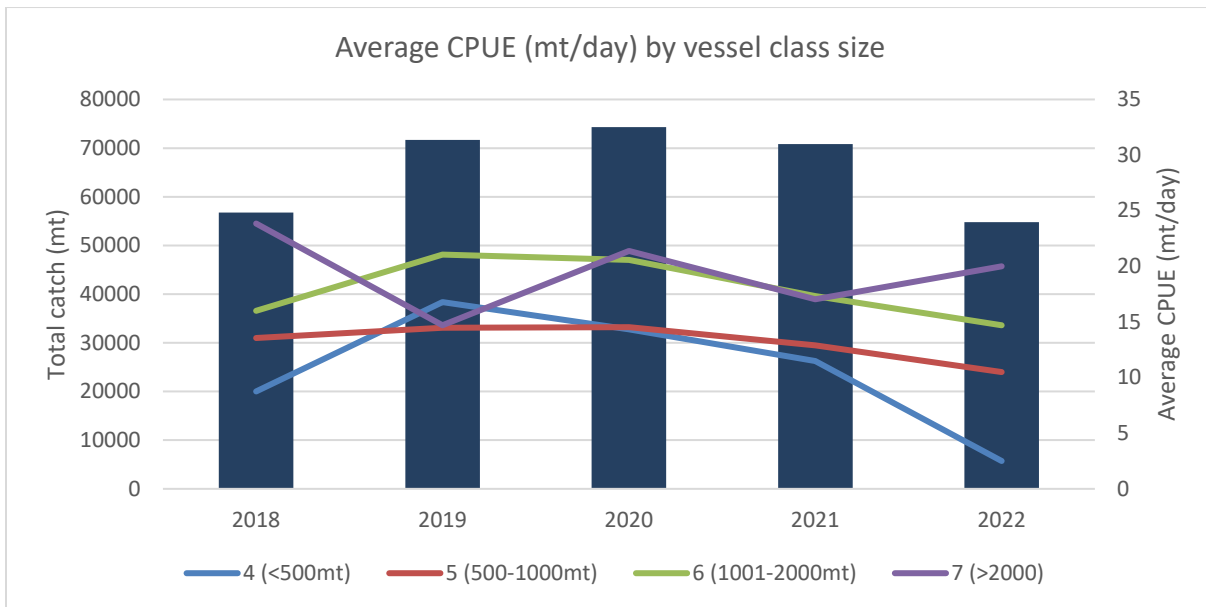
**Figure 5.1.2** Catches (in tonnes) by Division of selected species managed by TAC, 2018-2022 (Source: CATs).



**Figure 5.1.3** Catch of TAC-managed species and CPUE in 2018 -2022, expressed in total catch of TAC-managed species per fishing day. Data Source: CATs and VMS reports.



**Figure 5.1.4** Total catch for trips from 2018-2022 and the average CPUE (mt/day) by vessel engine power (kw) per year.



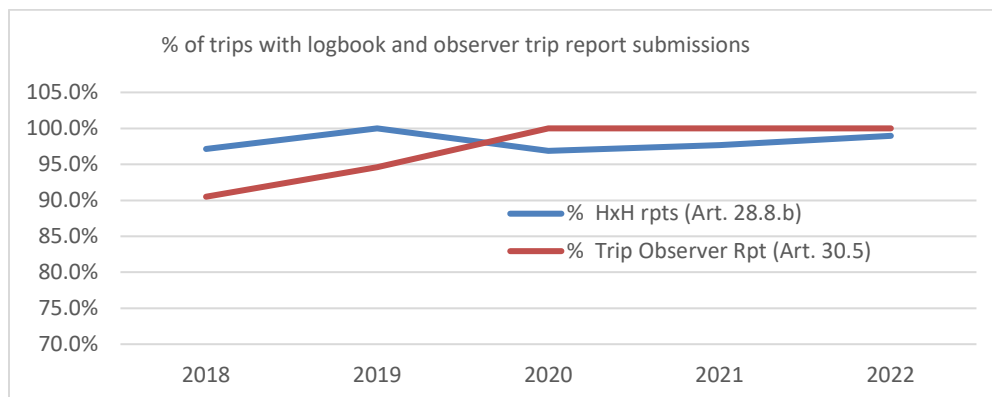
**Figure 5.1.5** Total catch for trips from 2018-2022 and the average CPUE (mt/day) by vessel class size per year. The class sizes are based on the STATLANT classification.

**5.2 Reporting Obligations by Contracting Parties**

Compliance relating to reporting obligations is quantified as a percentage coverage – the ratio of the fishing trips accounted for by the reports and of the total number of relevant fishing trips. A 100% coverage would mean that all expected reports were transmitted to the Secretariat. Figure 5.2 shows the submission rates in



the period of 2018-2022. In 2022, the submission rates of electronic logbook reports (Article 28.8(c) of the NAFO CEM) and observer trip reports (Article 30.5 of the NAFO CEM) are 98.9% and 100% respectively.



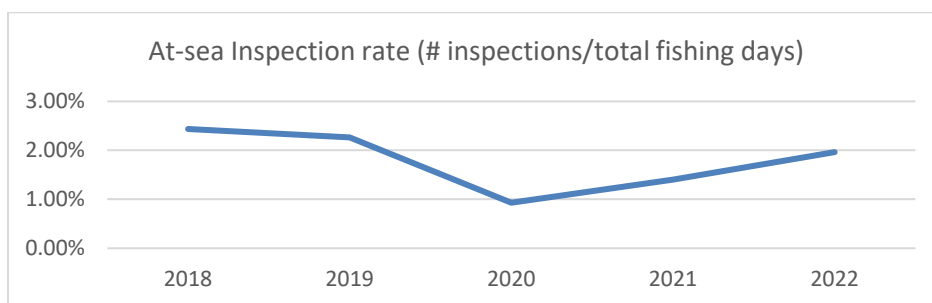
**Figure 5.2** *Percent coverage of observer trip reports for fishing vessels (operating under Article 30.5), and logbook (haul by haul) reports (Article 28.8(c)), 2018-2022.*

### 5.3 Compliance by Fishing vessels

In the 5-year review period of 2018-2022, VMS and VTI requirements (Article 28 and 29) have been fully complied with. Hourly position reports (POS), as well as the daily catch reports by Division (CATs), were transmitted to the Secretariat while the vessels were in the NRA. The Catch-on-Entry (COE) and Catch-on-Exit (COX) reports for each fishing trip were also transmitted.

### 5.4 Inspections and Infringements

At-sea inspection rates, computed as a ratio of the number of at-sea inspections and the total fishing effort (fishing days), in the period 2018-2022 are presented in Figure 5.4.1. The inspection rate continues to increase from its lowest level in 2020, from 0.9% to 1.96% in 2022, though it is still below the pre-COVID inspection rate.



**Figure 5.4.1** *Inspection rates (number of at-sea inspections/fishing days) in the NAFO Regulatory Area, 2018-2022.*

With regards to the infringements detected at sea and in port, mis-reporting of catches remains the most common infringement (Figure 5.4.2).

|                                      | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022     |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| By-catch requirements                |      |      | •    | •••  | •••••••• |
| Catch communication violations       |      |      |      | •    | •        |
| Directed fishing of moratorium stock |      |      |      |      | ••       |



|  |      |        |      |       |          |
|--|------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| Directed fishing of stock without quota allocation | •    |        |      |       |          |
| Evidence tampering                                 |      |        | •    | ••    | •        |
| Fishing after date of closure                      |      |        |      |       |          |
| Gear requirements - mesh size, illegal attachments |      |        | •    | •     |          |
| Greenland halibut control measures (Art. 10.4.d)   |      |        | •    |       |          |
| Inspection protocol (interference)                 |      |        | ••   |       | ••       |
| Observer protocol                                  |      |        | •    | ••    |          |
| Production logbook requirements                    |      |        |      | ••    | •••      |
| Mis-recording of catches - inaccurate recording    | •••• | ••     | •••  | ••••• | •••••••• |
| Mis-recording of catches -stowage                  | •    | •••••• |      | ••    | ••       |
| Product labelling                                  | ••   | ••     | •••• | ••••• | ••••     |
| Vessel requirements - capacity plans               | ••   | •      |      | •     | •        |

**Figure 5.4.2** *Frequency of infringement cases detected by at-sea inspectors and port authorities in 2018-2022. Black and blue dots represent infringement issued at-sea and at port, respectively.*

## 6.0 Conclusions

During 2022, the main NAFO fisheries were demersal trawls and longlines for groundfish. The total catches decreased to approximately 54,000 tonnes in 2022 compared to approximately 70,000 tonnes in 2021. The 2022 CPUE for managed stocks was consistent with what was seen in the 2021 fishery, though total catch decreased.

The at-sea inspection rate continues to increase following a decrease in inspections resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, however they are still below pre-pandemic levels. In 2022, in addition to Canada and the European Union, the United States of America also participated in the At-Sea Inspection and Surveillance Scheme, deploying an inspection vessel in the NRA for the first time since 2011. There was an approximately 40% increase in the number of infringements issued in port in relation to bycatch requirements of the NAFO CEM compared to previous years.

In 2022, a Contracting Party conducted directed fishery in the pelagic redfish REB (1F\_2\_3K) subject to a zero TAC based on an objection to the TAC and a unilateral quota.

A Contracting Party invoked Article 30.6 NAFO CEM derogation allowing a coverage of no less than 25% but only deployed observers on 9% of the trips. That Contracting Party submitted a report Article 30.6(e) on the difficulties of completing a data comparison on observed and non-observed trips.

Timely receipt of CATs has allowed effective monitoring of quota uptakes. The timely submissions have also assisted inspection services in carrying out risk assessments and conducting monitoring, control and surveillance activities, providing an accurate reporting of catches taken in the NRA along with compliance of other obligations under the NAFO CEM.

The 2022 data on enforcement indicates a different practice in place by Contracting Parties with regard to the application of NAFO CEM bycatch rules.

## 7.0 Recommendations

- STACTIC recommends that all Contracting Parties continue to explore and report back on the use of remote electronic monitoring and equivalent sensor technologies, with a view to incorporate these tools into the NAFO CEM.
- STACTIC highlights that all Contracting Parties need to comply with the NAFO Observer Program requirements, including ensuring the independence, safety, and appropriate training of the observers; the analysis and follow-up of the observer program data for risk assessment and inspection; the submission of the Contracting Party's reports required by the NAFO CEM, and that the level of observer coverage specified in the NAFO CEM is maintained on an annual basis.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties participate and engage in the Inspectors' Workshop, for the purpose of sharing best practices and procedures and to promote international cooperation on control amongst Contracting Parties.
- STACTIC recommends that the annual review of Contracting Parties' compliance with Article 30 be reflected in this review, and that analysis of observer data in this document be increased.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties continue to support the NAFO Secretariat on the development and implementation of the NAFO Observer Application.
- STACTIC encourages Contracting Parties to continue to maintain inspection presence in the NAFO Regulatory Area and promote inspector exchanges on at-sea deployments, as well as the use of novel technologies for control such as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties consider including, in this Compliance Review, a review of any infringement trends that have been observed within a 3-year time period.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties consider including in this review a review of CP compliance with the submission of required notifications, including but not limited to vessel authorizations, Others quota notifications, and submission of research plans. STACTIC recommends that to prevent the possibility of backdating those notifications in the MCS website.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties continue to review the work of other RFMOs' Compliance Committees to identify best practices that can be incorporated to the NAFO compliance review.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties find consensus and apply consistent methodologies for the verification of compliance with NAFO CEM provisions on catch recording and reporting.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties commit to follow up on all infringements in a timely and consistent manner and, depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with domestic law, adopt sufficiently deterrent judicial or administrative actions.
- STACTIC recommends that the understanding of the NAFO CEM on bycatch rules is harmonized, and that, to the extent necessary, the NAFO CEM provisions are revised to provide consistent outcomes that provide appropriate deterrents.

**Annex 33. NAFO IUU List Update**  
(STACTIC WP 23-10 (Revised))

This is the regular update on the NAFO IUU list in accordance with Article 53 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures since the last STACTIC meeting:

**The NAFO Provisional IUU list**

The Secretariat has not received any record of new IUU vessels in the Northwest Atlantic from Contracting Parties since the 2006 Annual Meeting, however at the 2022 Annual Meeting STACTIC agreed to add all IUU listed vessels from other RFMOs be added to NAFO's Provisional IUU List ([COM Doc. 22-09](#)).

The following vessels are contained on NAFO's provisional IUU List for review by STACTIC:

- **Table 1A** NAFO Provisional IUU List – All IUU listed vessels listed from other RFMOs since the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO, or that were inadvertently not included in the list outlined in STACTIC WP 22-10. (As agreed at the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO, these IUU vessels were placed on NAFO's Provisional IUU List for review by NAFO.)
- **Table 1B** NAFO Provisional IUU List – All IUU listed IUU vessels de-listed by other RFMOs since the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO, or that were inadvertently not included in the list outlined in STACTIC WP 22-10. (In accordance with Article 53.5(d), the Secretariat removed these vessels from NAFO's IUU list and placed them on NAFO's Provisional List for review by NAFO.)
- **Table 2** NAFO Provisional IUU List – All IUU listed vessels amended from other RFMOs since the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO, or that were inadvertently not included in the list outlined in STACTIC WP 22-10.

The NAFO provisional IUU List can be accessed on the Members' pages of the NAFO website at: <https://members.nafo.int/Compliance/IUU>.

**The NAFO IUU list**

The NAFO IUU list was last reviewed by STACTIC at the Annual Meeting, September 2022 (STACTIC WP 22-10). The NAFO IUU List was updated allowing for the migration from the NAFO IUU List to the NAFO Provisional IUU List of all IUU listed vessels either de-listed and/or amended by other RFMOs since the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO (see Table 3).

The NAFO IUU list can be accessed on the public pages of the NAFO website at: <https://www.nafo.int/Fisheries/IUU>.

**Table1A. NAFO Provisional IUU List** – All IUU listed vessels listed from other RFMOs since the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO, or that were inadvertently not included in the list outlined in STACTIC WP 22-10. (As agreed at the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO, these IUU vessels were placed on NAFO's Provisional IUU List for review by NAFO.)

| IMO Number | Name                                       | Previous Name(s) | Flag         | Previous Flag(s)    | IRCS    | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed | Originating RFMO           | Additional Information                                   |
|------------|--|------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 417000878  | ABISHAK PUTHA 3                            |                  | Unknown      |                     | 4SFXXXX |               | 2020-08-14           | SIOFA                      | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| Unknown    | AKASH                                      |                  | India        |                     | Unknown |               | May-23               | IOTC                       | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| Unknown    | ANNAI VELAMKANNI                           |                  | India        |                     | Unknown |               | May-23               | IOTC                       | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| Unknown    | ARPUTHA MATHA                              |                  | India        |                     | Unknown |               | May-23               | IOTC                       | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| Unknown    | AVEMARIYA                                  |                  | India        |                     | Unknown |               | /05/2022             | IOTC                       | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| Unknown    | BENEDICTA                                  |                  | India        |                     | Unknown |               | May-23               | IOTC                       | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| Unknown    | EASRON                                     |                  | India        |                     | Unknown |               | May-23               | IOTC                       | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| 8025082    | El Shaddai                                 | Banzare          | South Africa |                     | ZR6358  |               | 08-Jul-20            | SIOFA/<br>CCAMLR<br>(2021) | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| Unknown    | EMMANUEL                                   |                  | India        |                     | Unknown |               | May-23               | IOTC                       | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| Unknown    | GIFT OF GOD                                |                  | India        |                     | Unknown |               | May-23               | IOTC                       | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| 9017666    | GLORIWAVE                                  |                  | Togo         | Palau, Sierra Leone | T8A4017 |               | 26-Jul-23            | NPFC                       | Added by NPFC March 2023, came into effect 26 July 2023. |
| 4000354    | HALELUYA                                   |                  | Unknown      |                     | 5IM615  |               | 2021-02-17           | ICCAT                      | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 8529533    | HALIFAX                                    |                  | Namibia      | Senegal             | 6WMR    |               | 2021-02-17           | ICCAT                      | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 8524492    | HE LI 1 HAO                                | Sinar Abadi 69   | Unknown      | Panaman, Indonesia  | Unknown | HP7651        | May-23               | IOTC                       | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| Unknown    | IMULA 0730<br>KLT/LAKPRIYA 14              |                  | Sri Lanka    |                     | 4SF4482 |               | /06/2021             | IOTC                       | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| Unknown    | IMULA 0846 KLT/GOD<br>BLESS                |                  | Sri Lanka    |                     | Unknown |               | /06/2021             | IOTC                       | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| Unknown    | IMUL-A-1028-TLE/DEWLI<br>FISHING KUDAWELLA |                  | Sri Lanka    |                     | Unknown |               | /06/2021             | IOTC                       | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |

| IMO Number | Name   | Previous Name(s) | Flag                           | Previous Flag(s) | IRCS    | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed | Originating RFMO | Additional Information                                   |
|------------|--|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|--|
| Unknown    | IND-TN-15-MM8297/ARARAT/RESH MITHA   |                  | India                          |                  | Unknown |               | /06/2021             | IOTC             | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 8004076    | ISRAR 1  |                  | Oman                           |                  | A4BB5   |               | 2021-11-23           | ICCAT            | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 8568694    | ISRAR 2  |                  | Oman                           |                  | A4BA3   |               | 2021-11-23           | ICCAT            | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 8568682    | ISRAR 3  |                  | Oman                           |                  | A4BA5   |               | 2021-11-23           | ICCAT            | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 7929176    | KIKI   |                  | Gambia                         |                  | C5J130  |               | 2022-09-05           | ICCAT            | Added by ICCAT in 2022                                   |
| Unknown    | LITTLESHA  |                  | India                          |                  | Unknown |               | /05/2022             | IOTC             | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 9038402    | Lucas  |                  | Unknown                        |                  | C5J128  |               | 2022-05-28           | ICCAT            | Vessel listed by ICCAT in 2022                           |
| Unknown    | MANGALA  |                  | Sri Lanka                      |                  | Unknown |               | /05/2022             | IOTC             | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 8808654    | Nika   |                  | Unknown                        | Panama           | HP6686  |               | 2020                 | CCAMLR           | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| Unknown    | NOVA   |                  | India                          |                  | Unknown |               | /05/2022             | IOTC             | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 8665193    | OCEAN STAR No2   |                  | Unknown                        |                  | YJRU6   |               | 2021-02-17           | ICCAT            | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 8819691    | QIAN YUAN  |                  | Panama                         |                  | H3YK    | 5VEZ8         | 26-Jul-23            | NPFC             | Added by NPFC March 2023, came into effect 26 July 2023. |
| Unknown    | SHARJI AMMA  |                  | India                          |                  | Unknown |               | May-23               | IOTC             | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| 8214645    | SHUN HANG  | VILA MOOSUN      | Unknown                        | Panama, Tuvalu   | H3DE    |               | 26-Jul-23            | NPFC             | Added by NPFC March 2023, came into effect 26 July 2023. |
| Unknown    | STAR OF THE SEA  |                  | India                          |                  | Unknown |               | May-23               | IOTC             | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| Unknown    | Unknown (This vessel indicated its name as "ZHOU YU 809 (舟漁809)" when sighted) |                  | Unknown - raised flag of China |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2018                 | NPFC             | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |



| IMO Number | Name  | Previous Name(s) | Flag    | Previous Flag(s) | IRCS    | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed | Originating RFMO | Additional Information                                   |
|------------|---|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|--|
| Unknown    | Unknown (vessel displaying the name LU RONG YUAN YU 197 鲁荣远渔 197) |                  | Unknown |                  | Unknown |               | 2020                 | NPFC             | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| Unknown    | Unknown (vessel displaying the name LU RONG YUAN YU 582 鲁荣远渔 582) |                  | Unknown |                  | Unknown |               | 2020                 | NPFC             | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| Unknown    | Unknown (vessel displaying the name LU RONGYUAN YU 581 鲁荣远渔 581)  |                  | Unknown |                  | Unknown |               | 2020                 | NPFC             | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| Unknown    | YAHOVA NICY   |                  | India   |                  | Unknown |               | May-23               | IOTC             | Added by IOTC May 2023                                   |
| Unknown    | YONA  |                  | India   |                  | Unknown |               | /05/2022             | IOTC             | Inadvertently not included on the 2022 NAFO IUU list.    |
| 8907888    | ZHONG FU HAO 111  | HUMBOLDY BAY     | Unknown | Panama, Liberia  | HO4706  |               | 26-Jul-23            | NPFC             | Added by NPFC March 2023, came into effect 26 July 2023. |

**Table1B. NAFO Provisional IUU List** – All IUU listed IUU vessels de-listed by other RFMOs since the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO, or that were inadvertently not included in the list outlined in STACTIC WP 22-10. (In accordance with Article 53.5(d), the Secretariat removed these vessels from NAFO’s IUU list and placed them on NAFO’s Provisional List for review by NAFO.)

| IMO Number | Name           | Previous Name(s)  | Flag    | Previous Flag(s)  | IRCS    | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed | Originating RFMO | Additional Information   |
|------------|----------------|---|---------|-------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|--|
| 9179359    | Bellator       | Tavrida/<br>Aurora,<br>Pacific<br>Conqueror/<br>Neptune 1 | Angola  |                   | D3P5442 | UBR16         | 2015-02-06           | SPRFMO           | No longer on the SPRFMO IUU list   |
| Unknown    | Melilla No 101 |   | Unknown | Panama            | Unknown |               |                      |                  | Inadvertently included twice on the 2022 NAFO IUU list, this is the deletion of the duplicate. |
| Unknown    | Melilla No 103 |   | Unknown | Panama            | Unknown |               |                      |                  | Inadvertently included twice on the 2022 NAFO IUU list, this is the deletion of the duplicate. |
| Unknown    | No 101 Gloria  | Golden Lake   | Unknown | Panama            | Unknown |               |                      |                  | Inadvertently included twice on the 2022 NAFO IUU list, this is the deletion of the duplicate. |
| Unknown    | Ocean Lion     |   | Unknown | Equatorial Guinea | Unknown |               |                      |                  | Inadvertently included twice on the 2022 NAFO IUU list, this is the deletion of the duplicate. |
| 7816472    | Summer Refer   | Okapi Marta   | Unknown |                   | Unknown |               |                      |                  | Inadvertently included twice on the 2022 NAFO IUU list, this is the deletion of the duplicate. |
| Unknown    | XIN SHI JI 16  |   | FIJI    |                   | 3DTN    |               | 01.12.2019           | IOTC             | No longer on the IOTC IUU list   |

**Table 2. NAFO Provisional IUU List** – All IUU listed vessels amended from other RFMOs since the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO, or that were inadvertently not included in the list outlined in STACTIC WP 22-10.

| IMO Number | Name    | Previous Name(s) | Flag                           | Previous Flag(s) | IRCS      | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed | Originating RFMO | Additional Information   |
|------------|---------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|--|
| Unknown    | Unknown |                  | Unknown - raised flag of China |                  | Not Known | Not Known     | 2018                 | NPFC             | NPFC notes that unknown vessel #29 on their IUU list indicated its name as “Zhou Yu 808 (舟漁 808)” when sighted. Should the name be changed to “Unknown (This vessel indicated its name as “ Zhou Yu 808 (舟漁 808)” when sighted)” |

**Table 3. NAFO IUU List** – The NAFO IUU List was updated allowing for the migration from the NAFO IUU List to the NAFO Provisional IUU List of all IUU listed vessels either de-listed and/or amended by other RFMOs since the 2022 Annual Meeting of NAFO (see Table 1A, Table 1B and Table 2 above).

| IMO Number | Name             | Previous Name(s)   | Flag    | Previous Flag(s)                               | IRCS    | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed      | Originating RFMO   | Additional Information |
|------------|------------------|--|---------|--|---------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Unknown    | ABUNDANT 1       | YI HONG 06   | Unknown |  | CPA 226 |               | 2015-05                   | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | ABUNDANT 12      | YI HONG 106  | Unknown |  | CPA 202 |               | 2015-05                   | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | ABUNDANT 3       | YI HONG 16   | Unknown |  | CPA 201 |               | 2015-05                   | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | ABUNDANT 6       | YI HONG 86   | Unknown |  | CPA 221 |               | 2015-05                   | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | ABUNDANT 9       | YI HONG 116  | Unknown |  | CPA 222 |               | 2015-05                   | IOTC               |                        |
| 20060010   | ACROS NO. 2      |  | Unknown | Honduras                                       | Unknown |               | 2006-10-16                | ICCAT              |                        |
| 20060009   | ACROS NO. 3      |  | Unknown | Honduras                                       | Unknown |               | 2006-10-16                | ICCAT              |                        |
| Unknown    | Al'Amir Muhammad |  | Egypt   |  | Unknown |               | 2018-07                   | GFCM               |                        |
| 7306570    | Alboran II       | White Enterprise   | Unknown | Panama, St. Kitts & Nevis                      | Unknown |               | Gibraltar (31 March 2009) | NEAFC/NAFO         |                        |
| 7036345    | Amorinn          | Iceberg II/ Lome/ Noemi  | Unknown |  | 5VAN9   |               | 2003                      | CCAMLR             |                        |
| Unknown    | ANEKA 228        |  | Unknown |  | Unknown |               | 2015-05                   | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | ANEKA 228; KM.   |  | Unknown |  | Unknown |               | 2015-05                   | IOTC               |                        |
| 7236634    | Antony           | Urgora/Atlantic Oji Maru No.33/ Oji Maru No. 33  | Unknown | Venezuela/ Honduras/ Panama/ Belize/ Indonesia | PQMG    |               | 2016                      | CCAMLR             |                        |
| 7322897    | Asian Warrior    | Kunlun/ Taishan/ Chang Bai/ Hongshui/ Huang He 22/ Sima Qian Baru 22/ Corvus/ Galaxy/ Ina Maka/ Black Moon/ Red Moon/ Eolo/ Thule/ Magnus/Dorita | Unknown |  | J8B5336 |               | 2003                      | CCAMLR/IOTC (2015) |                        |

| IMO Number | Name                   | Previous Name(s)   | Flag     | Previous Flag(s)                               | IRCS      | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed | Originating RFMO       | Additional Information |
|------------|------------------------|--|----------|--|-----------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 9042001    | Atlantic Wind          | Zemour 2/<br>Luampa/<br>Yongding/<br>Jiangfeng/<br>Chengdu/ Shaanxi<br>Henan 33/ Xiong<br>Nu Baru 33/ Draco<br>I/ Liberty/ Chilbo<br>San 33/ Hammer/<br>Seo Yang No. 88/<br>Carran | Unknown  |  | 5IM813    |               | 2004-11-05           | CCAMLR/IOTC<br>(2015)  |                        |
| 9037537    | Baroon                 | Lana/ Zeus/ Triton<br>I  | Unknown  | Nigeria/<br>Mongolia/<br>Togo/ Sierra<br>Leone | 5IM376    |               | 2007-11-02           | CCAMLR                 |                        |
| Unknown    | Bhaskara No. 10        |  | Unknown  | Indonesia                                      | Unknown   |               | 2005-12-26           | IATTC                  |                        |
| Unknown    | Bhaskara No. 9         |  | Unknown  | Indonesia                                      | Unknown   |               | 2005-12-26           | IATTC                  |                        |
| Unknown    | BIGEYE                 |  | Unknown  |  | FN 003883 |               | 2006-10-23           | ICCAT                  |                        |
| Unknown    | BRAVO                  |  | Unknown  |  | T8AN3     |               | 2004-08-24           | ICCAT                  |                        |
| Unknown    | Camelot                |  | Unknown  | Belize   | Unknown   |               | 2005-12-26           | IATTC                  |                        |
| 6622642    | Challenge              | Perseverance/ Mila   | Unknown  |  | H05381    |               | 2006                 | CCAMLR                 |                        |
| Unknown    | CHI TONG               |  | Unknown  |  | Unknown   |               | 2015-05-01           | IOTC                   |                        |
| Unknown    | Chia Hao No. 66 / Sage | Chi Fuw No. 6  | Unknown  | Gambia, Belize                                 | C5J82     | V3IN2         |                      | IATTC                  |                        |
| Unknown    | CHOTCHAINAVEE 35       |  | Unknown  |  | Unknown   |               | 2019-06-01           | IOTC                   |                        |
| 7330399    | Cobija                 | Cape Flower/Cape<br>Wrath II   | Unknown  | Bolivia, Sao<br>Tome, South<br>Africa, Canada  | CPB3000   |               | 2017                 | SEAFO / IOTC<br>(2020) |                        |
| Unknown    | DANIAA                 |  | Unknown  |  | 3X07QMC   |               | 2008-11-14           | ICCAT                  |                        |
| Unknown    | Dragon III             |  | Unknown  | Cambodia                                       | Unknown   |               |                      | IATTC                  |                        |
| 7302548    | Freedom 7              | ZHI MING, No 101<br>Gloria   | Cameroon |  | JVAW7     |               | 2006-10-16           | ICCAT                  |                        |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA 18        |  | Unknown  |  | Unknown   |               | 2015-05-01           | IOTC                   |                        |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 01    |  | Unknown  |  | Unknown   |               | 2014-06-05           | IOTC                   |                        |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 02    |  | Unknown  |  | Unknown   |               | 2014-06-05           | IOTC                   |                        |

| IMO Number | Name                | Previous Name(s)                   | Flag    | Previous Flag(s)        | IRCS                  | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed                       | Originating RFMO | Additional Information  |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--|------------------|---|
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 06 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 08 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 09 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 11 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 13 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 17 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 20 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 |                                    | Unknown |                         | OTS 024 or<br>OTS 089 |               | 2013-05-31                                 | IOTC             | IOTC indicates that there is no information on whether the two vessels FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 are the same vessels |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             | IOTC indicates that there is no information on whether the two vessels FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 are the same vessels |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 23 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 26 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | FU HSIANG FA NO. 30 |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| 7355662    | FU LIEN NO 1        |                                    | Unknown | Georgia                 | Unknown               | 4LIN2         | 2010-12-10                                 | WCPFC            |   |
| Unknown    | Full Rich           |                                    | Unknown | Belize                  | HMEK3                 |               | 2013-05-31                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | GALA I              | Manara II/ Roagan                  | Unknown | Libya                   | Unknown               |               | 2008-06-27                                 | ICCAT            |   |
| Unknown    | Goidau Ruey No. 1   | Goidau Ruey 1                      | Unknown | Panama                  | HO-2508               |               | 2009-06-06                                 | IATTC            |   |
| 7020126    | GOOD HOPE           | Toto                               | Nigeria |                         | 5NMU                  |               | 2007                                       | CCAMLR           |   |
| 6719419    | Gorilero            | Gran Sol                           | Unknown | Sierra Leone,<br>Panama | Unknown               |               | La Coruna,<br>Spain<br>(September<br>2007) | NEAFC/NAFO       |   |
| Unknown    | GUNUAR MELYAN 21    |                                    | Unknown |                         | Unknown               |               | 2008-06-11                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | Hai Da 705          |                                    | Unknown |                         | Not Known             | Not Known     | 2017-08-29                                 | NPFC             |   |
| 7322926    | Heavy Sea           | Duero/ Julius/<br>Keta/ Sherpa Uno | Unknown |                         | 3ENF8                 |               | 2004                                       | CCAMLR           |   |
| Unknown    | HOOM XIANG 101      |                                    | Unknown | Malaysia                | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | HOOM XIANG 103      |                                    | Unknown | Malaysia                | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-05                                 | IOTC             |   |
| Unknown    | HOOM XIANG 105      |                                    | Unknown | Malaysia                | Unknown               |               | 2014-06-12                                 | IOTC             |   |

| IMO Number | Name                      | Previous Name(s)                                      | Flag                      | Previous Flag(s)                                      | IRCS    | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed                | Originating RFMO     | Additional Information |
|------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Unknown    | Hoom Xiang II             |   | Unknown                   | Malaysia  | Unknown |               | 2010-03-05                          | IOTC                 |                        |
| 7332218    | Iannis 1                  |   | Unknown                   | Panama  | H03374  |               | Indian Ocean (2007)                 | NEAFC/NAFO           |                        |
| 6607666    | Jinzhang                  | Hai Lung /Ray/ Killy/ Tropic/ Isla Craciosa/ Constant | Unknown                   | Sierra Leone, Belize, Equatorial Guinea, South Africa | PQBT    |               | 2006                                | CCAMLR/ SEAFO (2012) |                        |
| Unknown    | JYI Lih 88                |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown |               | 2005-12-26                          | IATTC                |                        |
| Unknown    | KIM SENG DENG 3           |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown |               | 2015-05-01                          | IOTC                 |                        |
| 7905443    | Koosha 4                  |   | Iran, Islamic Republic of |   | 9BQK    |               | 2011                                | CCAMLR               |                        |
| Unknown    | KUANG HSING 127           |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown |               | 2015-05-01                          | IOTC                 |                        |
| Unknown    | KUANG HSING 196           |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown |               | 2015-05-01                          | IOTC                 |                        |
| 7325746    | Labiko                    | Maine   | Unknown                   | Guinea Conakry  | 3XL2    |               | NEAFC Regulatory Area (29 Oct 2007) | NEAFC/NAFO           |                        |
| Unknown    | Liao Yuan Yu 071          |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29                          | NPFC                 |                        |
| Unknown    | Liao Yuan Yu 072          |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29                          | NPFC                 |                        |
| Unknown    | Liao Yuan Yu 9            |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29                          | NPFC                 |                        |
| Unknown    | LILA NO. 10               |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown |               | 2006-10-16                          | ICCAT                |                        |
| 7388267    | Limpopo                   | Ross/ Alos/ Lena/ Cap George                          | Unknown                   |   | Unknown |               | 2003                                | CCAMLR               |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Shui 158 (鲁荣水158) |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown | Not Known     | 2018                                | NPFC                 |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yu 1189           |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29                          | NPFC                 |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yu 612            |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown | Not Known     | 2018-08-19                          | NPFC                 |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yuan YU 101       |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-11-13                          | NPFC                 |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yuan Yu 102       |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-11-13                          | NPFC                 |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yuan Yu 103       |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-11-13                          | NPFC                 |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yuan Yu 105       |   | Unknown                   |   | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-11-13                          | NPFC                 |                        |

| IMO Number | Name                    | Previous Name(s)                                | Flag    | Previous Flag(s)      | IRCS      | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed                | Originating RFMO | Additional Information |
|------------|-------------------------|---|---------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yuan Yu 106     |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   | Not Known     | 2017-11-13                          | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yuan Yu 108     |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   | Not Known     | 2017-11-13                          | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yuan Yu 109     |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   | Not Known     | 2017-11-13                          | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yuan Yu 787     |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   | Not Known     | 2018-08-19                          | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yuan Yu 797     |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   | Not Known     | 2018-08-19                          | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Lu Rong Yuan Yu Yun 958 |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   | Not Known     | 2018-08-19                          | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | MAAN YIH HSING          |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   |               | 2015-05-01                          | IOTC             |                        |
| Unknown    | MADURA 2                |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   |               | 2004-11-16                          | ICCAT            |                        |
| Unknown    | MADURA 3                |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   |               | 2004-11-16                          | ICCAT            |                        |
| Unknown    | MARIA                   |   | Unknown |                       | FN 003882 |               | 2006-10-23                          | ICCAT            |                        |
| Unknown    | Marwan 1                | AL WESAM 4,<br>CHAICHANACHOKE<br>8              | Somalia | DJIBOUTI,<br>THAILAND | Unknown   | HSN5721       | 01.05.2018                          | IOTC             |                        |
| Unknown    | MELILLA NO. 101         |   | Unknown | Panama                | Unknown   |               | 2006-10-16                          | ICCAT            |                        |
| Unknown    | MELILLA NO. 103         |   | Unknown | Panama                | Unknown   |               | 2006-10-16                          | ICCAT            |                        |
| 7385174    | Murtosa                 |   | Unknown | Togo                  | Unknown   |               | Aveiro,<br>Portugal<br>(since 2005) | NEAFC/NAFO       |                        |
| Unknown    | Neptune                 |   | Unknown | Georgia               | Unknown   | 4LOG          | 2010-12-10                          | WCPFC/ IATTC     |                        |
| Unknown    | NEW BAI I NO. 168       |   | Unknown |                       | YGMV      |               | 2016-11-19                          | ICCAT            |                        |
| Unknown    | NO 2 CHOYU              |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   |               | 2006-10-16                          | ICCAT            |                        |
| Unknown    | NO. 3 CHOYU             |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   |               | 2006-10-16                          | ICCAT            |                        |
| 8808903    | NORTHERN WARRIOR        | Millennium/ Ship 3                              | Angola  |                       | PJSA      |               | 2016                                | CCAMLR           |                        |
| Unknown    | OCEAN DIAMOND           |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   |               | 2004-11-16                          | ICCAT            |                        |
| 7816472    | Okapi Marta             |   | Belize  |                       | Unknown   |               | 2021-02-17                          | ICCAT            |                        |
| Unknown    | Orca                    |   | Unknown | Belize                | Unknown   |               |                                     | IATTC            |                        |
| Unknown    | ORIENTE NO.7            |   | Unknown |                       | Unknown   |               | 2006-10-16                          |                  |                        |
| 5062479    | Perlon                  | Cherne/ Bigaro/<br>Hoking/ Sargo/<br>Lugalpesca | Unknown |                       | 5NTV21    |               | 2003                                | CCAMLR           |                        |



| IMO Number | Name                       | Previous Name(s)  | Flag       | Previous Flag(s)             | IRCS    | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed | Originating RFMO   | Additional Information |
|------------|----------------------------|---|------------|------------------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 9319856    | Pescacisne 1, Pescacisne 2 | Zemour 1/ Kadei/ Songhua/ Yunnan/ Nihewan/ Huiquan/ Wutaishan Anhui 44/ Yangzi Hua 44/ Trosky/ Paloma V | Mauritania | Equatorial Guinea            | 3CAF    |               | 2008                 | CCAMLR/IOTC (2015) |                        |
| Unknown    | PROGRESO                   | AI WESAM 5, CHAINAVEE 54  | Unknown    | Cameroon, DJIBOUTI, THAILAND | Unknown | HSN5447       | 2018-05              | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | Reymar 6                   |   | Unknown    | Belize                       | Unknown |               |                      | IATTC              |                        |
| Unknown    | SAMUDERA PASIFIK NO. 18    |   | IDN        |                              | YGGY    |               | 2013-11-25           | ICCAT              |                        |
| Unknown    | SAMUDERA PERKASA 11        |   | Unknown    |                              | Unknown |               | 2015-05-01           | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | SAMUDERA PERKASA 12        |   | Unknown    |                              | Unknown |               | 2015-05-01           | IOTC               |                        |
| 7424891    | Sea Urchin                 | Aldabra/ Omoa I   | Unknown    |                              | 5VAA2   |               | 2007-01-01           | ICCAT/CCAMLR       |                        |
| 8692342    | Sea View                   | AL WESAM 2, CHAINAVEE 55  | Unknown    | Cameroon, DJIBOUTI, THAILAND | Unknown | HSB3852       | 01.05.2018           | IOTC               |                        |
| 8692354    | Sea Wind                   | AL WESAM 1, SUPPHERMNAVEE 21  | Unknown    | Cameroon, DJIBOUTI, THAILAND | Unknown | HSN5282       | 01.05.2018           | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | SHARON 1                   |   | Unknown    |                              | Unknown |               | 2008-06-27           |                    |                        |
| Unknown    | SHENG JI QUN 3             |   | Unknown    |                              | CPA 311 |               | 2017-07-15           | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | SHUEN SIANG                |   | Unknown    |                              | Unknown |               | 2014-06-05           | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | SHUN LAI                   | HSIN JYI WANG NO. 6   | Unknown    |                              | CPA 514 |               | 2017-05-01           | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | SIN SHUN FA 6              |   | Unknown    |                              | Unknown |               | 2015-05-01           | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | SIN SHUN FA 67             |   | Unknown    |                              | Unknown |               | 2015-05-01           | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | SIN SHUN FA 8              |   | Unknown    |                              | Unknown |               | 2015-05-01           | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | SIN SHUN FA 9              |   | Unknown    |                              | Unknown |               | 2015-05-01           | IOTC               |                        |
| Unknown    | SOUTHERN STAR 136          |   | Unknown    |                              | Unknown |               | 2005-03-08           |                    |                        |

| IMO Number | Name             | Previous Name(s)  | Flag                                    | Previous Flag(s)                | IRCS      | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed      | Originating RFMO       | Additional Information  |
|------------|------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Unknown    | SRI FU FA 168    |   | Unknown                                 |                                 | Unknown   |               | 2014-06-05                | IOTC                   |   |
| Unknown    | SRI FU FA 18     |   | Unknown                                 |                                 | Unknown   |               | 2014-06-05                | IOTC                   |   |
| Unknown    | SRI FU FA 188    |   | Unknown                                 |                                 | Unknown   |               | 2014-06-05                | IOTC                   |   |
| Unknown    | SRI FU FA 189    |   | Unknown                                 |                                 | Unknown   |               | 2014-06-05                | IOTC                   |   |
| Unknown    | SRI FU FA 286    |   | Unknown                                 |                                 | Unknown   |               | 2014-06-05                | IOTC                   |   |
| Unknown    | SRI FU FA 67     |   | Unknown                                 |                                 | Unknown   |               | 2014-06-05                | IOTC                   |   |
| Unknown    | SRI FU FA 888    |   | Unknown                                 |                                 | Unknown   |               | 2014-06-05                | IOTC                   |   |
| 8514772    | STS-50           | Ayda/ Sea Breeze/<br>Andrey Dolgov/ Std<br>No. 2/ Sun Tai No.<br>2/ Shinsei Maru No.<br>2 | Togo                                    |                                 | 5VDR2     |               | 2016                      | CCAMLR                 |   |
| 9259070    | Ta Fu 1          |   | Unknown                                 | Belize                          | Unknown   |               | 2005-12-26                | IATTC                  |   |
| Unknown    | Tching Ye No 6   |   | Unknown                                 | Belize                          | V3GN      |               | 2009-06-06                | IATTC                  |   |
| Unknown    | TIAN LUNG NO. 12 |   | Unknown                                 |                                 | Unknown   |               | 2015-05-01                | IOTC                   |   |
| 7321374    | Trinity          | Enxembre, Yucutan<br>Basin, Fontenova,<br>Jawhara   | Unknown                                 | Ghana, Panama                   | Unknown   |               | Tema, Ghana<br>(Sep 2011) | NEAFC/NAFO             |   |
| Unknown    | Unknown          |   | Unknown<br>- raised<br>flag of<br>China |                                 | Not Known | Not Known     | 2018                      | NPFC                   | NPFC notes that unknown vessel #29 on their IUU list indicated its name as “Zhou Yu 808 (舟漁 808)” when sighted. Should the name be changed to “Unknown (This vessel indicated its name as “Zhou Yu 808 (舟漁 808)” when sighted)” |
| 8994295    | Wen Teng No. 688 |   | Unknown                                 | Belize                          | V3TK4     |               | 2005-12-26                | IATTC                  |   |
| 7826233    | XING HAI FENG    | OCEAN LION  | Unknown                                 | Panama,<br>Equatorial<br>Guinea | 3FHW5     |               | 2005-06-03                | IOTC                   |   |
| Unknown    | YI HONG 3        |   | Unknown                                 |                                 | Unknown   |               | 2015-05-01                | IOTC                   |   |
| Unknown    | YU FONG 168      |   | Unknown                                 | Chinese Taipei                  | BJ4786    |               | 2009-12-11                | WCPFC / IOTC<br>(2015) |   |
| Unknown    | YU MAAN WON      |   | Unknown                                 | Georgia                         | Unknown   |               | 2007-05-18                | IOTC                   |   |

| IMO Number | Name                                | Previous Name(s)   | Flag                           | Previous Flag(s) | IRCS    | Previous IRCS | Original Date listed | Originating RFMO | Additional Information |
|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Unknown    | Yuanda 6 (Assumed from MMSI number) |                    | Unknown - raised flag of China |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2019                 | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Yuanda 8 (Assumed from MMSI number) |                    | Unknown - raised flag of China |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2019                 | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | YUTUNA 3                            | HUNG SHENG NO. 166 | Unknown                        |                  | CPA 212 |               | 2017-05-01           | IOTC             |                        |
| Unknown    | YUTUNA NO. 1                        |                    | Unknown                        |                  | CPA 302 |               | 2017-05-01           | IOTC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhe Ling Yu Leng 90055              |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhe Ling Yu Leng 905                |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhexiang Yu 23029                   |                    | Unknown - raised flag of China |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2019                 | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhou Yu 651                         |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhou Yu 652                         |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhou Yu 653                         |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhou Yu 656                         |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhou Yu 657                         |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhou Yu 658                         |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhou Yu 659                         |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhou Yu 660                         |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |
| Unknown    | Zhou Yu 661                         |                    | Unknown                        |                  | Unknown | Not Known     | 2017-08-29           | NPFC             |                        |

**Annex 34. Terms of Reference (ToR) for a  
NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)**  
(STACTIC WP 23-25 (Revised) now COM Doc. 23-25)

## Background

Pursuant to its original mandate, the Working Group provided a proposal for improvements to the NAFO Observer Program at the 2023 NAFO Annual Meeting. STACTIC reviewed and adopted the proposed revisions to the NAFO Observer Program, however, it was noted that there could be continued improvements to the Observer Program. STACTIC requested the Working Group to focus its efforts on making recommendations to STACTIC to revise the provisions in Article 30 NAFO CEM. The Working Group mandate was extended to continue discussion on improvements to the implementation of the Observer Program and report to STACTIC on its progress at the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

This document proposes updates to the Terms of Reference for the **Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)** which reflect its extended mandate and additional taskings from STACTIC at its 2023 Annual meeting.

## Membership

All Contracting Parties are welcome and encouraged to participate in the Working Group (WG). The WG should be comprised of representatives from Contracting Parties with a working knowledge of NAFO observer practices and procedures, Article 30 requirements and understanding of the changes made to the program.

Scientific Council has nominated an expert to participate as a liaison between the WG and the Council. This liaison shall attend all meetings of the WG.

The WG should elect its chair.

## Objective

Pursuant to Article 30.19 NAFO CEM, a mandatory review was conducted of Article 30 NAFO CEM as adopted in 2019. The WG should continue to identify implementation challenges of the Observer Scheme and provide recommendations to STACTIC to address those issues, to enhance the quality and types of data captured and to improve the overall consistency and efficiency of the observer program.

## Tasks

The Working Group should focus its efforts on making recommendations to STACTIC to revise the provisions in Article 30 NAFO CEM with a view to improve the program, including:

1. The minimum level of observer coverage required under derogation
2. Use of the observer electronic application and its implementation
3. Use of electronic observation program and to recommend minimum requirements for those systems to be used as an alternative to Observers.
4. Standardized reporting templates and reporting
  - a. Observer reporting requirements
    - i. The possible inclusion of the collection of vessel's garbage disposal practices

5. Potential improvements on Data Collection on Sharks
  - a. Review findings presented in STACTIC WP 21-49 Rev3 “Review of Greenland shark Data Collection and Methodologies”
    - i. Pursue development of standardized handling and release guidelines
    - ii. Pursue development of for a species identification guide/observer handbook for Sharks
6. Consider revisions of infringements relating to the Observer Program
7. To discuss mechanisms to promote quality control for Observer and electronic observation data

The WG should take into account documents compiled by the Secretariat and any additional information provided by Contracting Parties and NAFO bodies (i.e., STACTIC, Scientific Council) for identification of areas requiring improvement.

### **Meetings**

The WG should meet as required to perform the duties prescribed and will communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically.

A face-to-face meeting with hybrid capacity will be hosted by Canada, the dates to be determined in consultation with participating Contracting Parties.

### **Reporting**

The WG should prepare a report of the proceedings of each of its meetings to be presented to STACTIC.

The WG reported to STACTIC at the 2023 NAFO Annual Meeting with its findings. The WG requested and was granted an extension into 2024 for its review.

The WG will report to STACTIC at the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting with an update, and present its findings and recommendations to the 2024 NAFO Annual Meeting.

**Annex 35. Non-Binding Resolution on Core Principles on Labour Standards in NAFO Fisheries**  
(COM WP 23-17 (Rev. 2) now COM Doc. 23-26)

***Explanatory memorandum***

Illegal and inhumane working conditions, such as forced labour, occur within the global fishing sector, and are devastating for victims and their families. They also contribute to destabilization of maritime security and supply chains, and create circumstances that lead to the depletion of fish stocks and degradation of marine ecosystems. Combating illegal labour practices when they occur is particularly challenging within the fishing sector, especially for vessels that are out to sea for long periods of time. It is known that some captains subject victims to physical, mental, and sexual abuse; deception about working conditions and wages; debt bondage; withholding of wages; excessive overtime; abusive working and living conditions; and isolation for extended periods of time.

The FAO, ILO, and other international fora have noted the importance of RFMOs in comprehensively and holistically addressing these labour related concerns in the fishing sector. A number of RFMOs are taking action. For example, in 2018 the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission adopted Resolution 2018-01 “Resolution On Labour Standards For Crew On Fishing Vessels” and in 2021 the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas established an ad hoc Working Group on Labour Standards.

The United States is submitting this nonbinding resolution on labour and safety standards in NAFO fisheries to underscore the importance of standards for fair and decent working conditions for all crew onboard fishing vessels. The resolution encourages Contracting Parties to adopt international labour standards within their domestic regulatory programs, if they have not already done so. The resolution further calls for NAFO to review this resolution in three years.

***Non-Binding Resolution on Core Principles on Labour Standards in NAFO Fisheries***

*The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization*

*Recalling* that Contracting Parties, under NAFO’s Convention, have committed themselves to conducting responsible fishing activities;

*Further recalling* that the Convention takes into account the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

*Recognizing that* Articles 6 and 8 of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries sets out international standards, including for the responsible conduct of fishing operations to ensure safe, healthy and fair work and living conditions as well as calling upon States to ensure that fishing is conducted with due regard to the safety of human life;

*Recalling* that Article 94 of United Nations Law of the Sea Convention requires States to take measures to ensure safety at sea, including in regards to labour conditions and the training of crews, taking into account the applicable international instruments,

*Further recalling* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the right not to be subjected to any discriminatory conditions of labour;

*Reaffirming* the importance of flag State responsibilities under international law regarding fishing vessels flying their flag, including with respect to safety at sea and labour conditions on fishing vessels;

*Noting* the increasing global attention to instances of poor labour conditions and mistreatment of crews including forced labour and child labour on board some fishing vessels;

*Emphasizing* that the resumed review Conference of the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement encouraged regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, as appropriate, to adopt standards for decent working conditions for crew, inspectors, and observers within the fisheries within their competence, in accordance with international instruments;

*Underscoring* NAFO's requirement for flag State Contracting Parties to take appropriate action with respect to their vessels to ensure safe working conditions, the protection, security and welfare of observers; and

*Acknowledging* the important role played by crew members in assisting the conduct of fishing vessel operations in compliance with NAFO Conservation and Management Measures, and the central role that crew members play in contributing to effective fishing operations;

*Resolves that*

1. Contracting Parties are encouraged to ratify, as appropriate, international conventions or instruments concerning labour standards on board fishing vessels and to adopt and implement, or maintain measures that establish minimum standards regulating crew labour conditions. These measures should be consistent with generally applicable international minimum standards to ensure fair and decent working conditions on board for all crew working on vessels flying their flag and operating in fisheries managed under NAFO, including, *inter alia*:
  - a. The absence of forced, trafficked, or any other form of involuntary or compulsory labour;
  - b. A safe and secure working environment with minimum risk to health and well-being;
  - c. Fair terms of employment, that are enshrined in a written contract, or other equivalent or comparable arrangement, and made available to the employee, in a form and language that facilitates the employee's understanding of the terms, and is agreed by the employee;
  - d. Decent working and living conditions on board vessels, including access to potable water and food, vessel and operational safety protections, medical care, adequate periods of rest, and acceptable standards of sanitary hygiene;
  - e. Access to appropriate safety equipment onboard vessels and adequate safety training before first deployment on a vessel and at appropriate intervals thereafter; such training should be in line with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) safety training standards, as applicable;
  - f. Access to a communication device and a designated point of contact in case of concerns related to safety or labour abuses;
  - g. Decent and regular remuneration as well as appropriate insurance for the crew; and
  - h. The opportunity for crew to disembark, to access their identity documents, to terminate the contract of employment, to communicate with an organization that can render assistance to crew, to submit complaints regarding vessel working conditions, and to seek repatriation.

2. Contracting Parties are encouraged to make every effort to ensure that these measures extend to all crew, including migrant workers, working on vessels flying their flag and operating in fisheries managed under NAFO.
3. Contracting Parties are further encouraged to, as appropriate, work with any entities involved in recruitment of crew to implement the provisions of this Resolution, including promoting the prohibition of recruitment fees and related costs being charged to crew.
4. Contracting Parties are encouraged to apply and, where appropriate, strengthen effective jurisdiction and control over vessels flying their flag and to exercise due diligence to improve and enforce all relevant laws and policies regarding labour conditions and crew safety on board vessels.
5. Contracting Parties are further encouraged to ensure the adequate enforcement of all relevant laws relating to the treatment of crew for those vessels that land fish in their ports or operate in their waters.
6. The Commission may consider progress on these issues, three years after the Resolution's adoption.




**Annex 36. Press Release**
**NAFO HOLDS 45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING IN VIGO AND CONTINUES TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND ECOSYSTEMS IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VIGO, SPAIN, 22 September 2023**-At its 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, the collaborative efforts between the Contracting Parties of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) continued to advance the Organization's ecosystem and fisheries objectives, focusing on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and climate change, while also reinforcing the protection of fishery observers, and labour standards in NAFO fisheries. The NAFO delegates were welcomed to Vigo at the start of the meeting, 18 September, by the acting Chair of the Commission, Deirdre Warner-Kramer, and General Director of Fisheries Management and Aquaculture, Juan Ignacio Gandarias Serrano.

During the meeting, NAFO furthered its progress on the ecosystem approach framework to fisheries management by adopting the recommendation that its bottom fishing closures on seamounts and six of its sponge VME closures be submitted to the CBD Secretariat and to the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC) for inclusion in the World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). NAFO also agreed to maintain all of its VME bottom fishing closures until 31 December 2026.

Additionally, NAFO agreed to consider the current and future impacts of climate change on NAFO managed stocks, non-target species, and associated ecosystems in the Convention Area, including, *inter alia*, as appropriate, in its decision making, and through its work in the Ecosystem Roadmap.

NAFO reviewed and revised the NAFO Observer Program to include key provisions to reinforce the protection and independence of fishery observers. NAFO also adopted a Non-Binding Resolution on Core Principles on Labour Standards in NAFO Fisheries.

NAFO selected Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) as the new NAFO President and Chair of the Commission, for a two-year term, as well as Bernard Briand (France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)) as the vice-Chair of the Commission. Diana González Troncoso (EU) was selected as the new Chair of the Scientific Council, and Mark Simpson (Canada) as the vice-Chair of the Scientific Council and Chair of STACREC.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will take place 23-27 September 2024, in Halifax, Canada. This will mark the first meeting that NAFO will go entirely paperless to reduce the Organization's carbon footprint.

The total allowable catches and quotas for 2024 can be found [here](#). Meeting reports for the NAFO Commission and the Scientific Council will be made available on the NAFO website at a later date.

For further inquiries, please contact:

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Scientific Information Administrator

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**Annex 37. Summary of Decisions and Actions of the Commission from the  
45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO**

| <b>ANNEX #</b> | <b>NAFO WORKING PAPER #</b>                   | <b>DOCUMENT TITLE</b>   | <b>NAFO DOCUMENT #</b> |
|----------------|---|---|------------------------|
| 16             | COM-SC EAFFM-WP 23-15                         | Changes to Article 17.3 of the NAFO CEM   | COM-SC Doc. 23-05      |
| 17             | COM WP 23-41 (Rev. 3)                         | The Commission's Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2025 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters  | COM Doc. 23-09         |
| 18             | COM WP 23-15 (Rev. 5)                         | NAFO Quota Table 2024 – NAFO CEM Annex I.A and I.B including a comparison of the Scientific Councils advice on NAFO fish stocks and the management measures decided by the Commission | COM Doc. 23-10         |
| 19             | COM WP 23-40                                  | Review of NAFO CEM Article 5.5(j)   | COM Doc. 23-11         |
| 20             | COM WP 23-37 (Rev. 3)                         | Establishment of New Measures in the Yellowtail Fishery (Article 6)   | COM Doc. 23-12         |
| 21             | COM WP 23-33 (Rev.)                           | Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on NAFO Fisheries   | COM Doc. 23-13         |
| 22             | STACTIC WP 23-12 (Revised)                    | Catch reporting (Article 28(6) NAFO CEM)  | COM Doc. 23-14         |
| 23             | STACTIC EDG WP 23-01                          | Edits to the time format in the NAFO CEM  | COM Doc. 23-15         |
| 24             | STACTIC EDG WP 23-02                          | Edits to Article 5.3(b) of the NAFO CEM   | COM Doc. 23-16         |
| 25             | STACTIC EDG WP 23-03                          | Edits to Articles 6.2(c) and 6.3(e) of the NAFO CEM   | COM Doc. 23-17         |
| 26             | STACTIC EDG WP 23-04                          | Edits to Article 5.11 and 9.4   | COM Doc. 23-18         |
| 27             | STACTIC EDG WP 23-05 (Rev. 3)                 | Edits to Article 12.1 (d bis) of the NAFO CEM   | COM Doc. 23-19         |
| 28             | STACTIC WP 23-09 (Rev. 4)                     | Squid Fishery   | COM Doc. 23-20         |
| 29             | STACTIC WP 23-21                              | NAF Field Character Limit Increase  | COM Doc. 23-21         |
| 30             | STACTIC WP 23-26                              | Modifications to Article 4.7 (Research Vessels)   | COM Doc. 23-22         |
| 31             | STACTIC WP 23-19 (Rev. 4)                     | Revisions to the NAFO Observer Scheme   | COM Doc. 23-23         |
| 32             | STACTIC WP 23-02 (Rev 6)                      | Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review 2023 (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2022)   | COM Doc. 23-24         |
| 33             | STACTIC WP 23-10 (Revised)                    | NAFO IUU List Update  |                        |
| 34             | STACTIC WP 23-25 (Rev.)                       | Terms of Reference (ToR) for a NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)  | COM Doc. 23-25         |
| 35             | COM WP 23-17 (Rev. 2)                         | Non-Binding Resolution on Core Principles on Labour Standards in NAFO Fisheries   | COM Doc. 23-26         |
|                | STACFAD WP 23-03 (Revised) to 23-16 (Revised) | STACFAD Recommendations including the 2024 Budget   | see PART III. (below)  |

**PART II.**  
**Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)**

45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO, 18-22 September 2023  
Vigo, Spain

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

45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO, 18-22 September 2023  
Vigo, Spain

### **1. Opening by the Interim Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America)**

The Interim Chair (Chair), Patrick Moran from the United States, opened the meeting at 2:03pm (GMT+2) on Monday, 18 September 2023 at the Palacio de Congresos Mar de Vigo in Vigo, Spain and via WebEx. The Chair welcomed representatives from the following Contracting Parties (CPs) – Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, 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. The European Union requested to add a discussion item “STATLANT data” under “other business”. The Secretariat requested to add an update for PSMA Alignment Review Report under “other business”. The agenda was adopted, as amended (Annex 2).

Following the rules outlined in the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Rules of Procedure regarding data confidentiality and participation in meetings (COM Doc. 22-19), the Chair highlighted a nomination for in-camera sessions for agenda items 4, 5, and 6. The Chair noted that the Secretariat would not be presenting information that may be subject to confidentiality measures under agenda item 6, and it was agreed that the item would be held in an open session. The Chair confirmed with Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) that no confidential information would be presented under agenda item 5 regarding observer derogations in STACTIC WP 23-04 (Rev.4). It was agreed that agenda item 5 would be held in an open session in its entirety. Contracting Parties acquiesced that for this meeting, agenda item 4 be discussed under an in-camera session.

### **4. 2022 Annual Compliance Review including review of apparent infringement reports and of chartering arrangements**

The NAFO Secretariat highlighted the Draft 2022 Compilation of Fisheries Reports table in STACTIC WP 23-01 (Rev. 3) and noted that comments and corrections received since the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting have been incorporated. One additional comment was incorporated into STACTIC WP 23-01 (Rev.3).

The Secretariat presented the Draft 2022 Compliance report (STACTIC WP 23-02 (Rev.2)) and reminded the group that the table of inspection information is now presented as a summary in the compliance report, as agreed to at the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting. During the discussion of the draft report, Contracting Parties agreed that there is a need to review the template of the compliance report and discuss the possibility of removing certain sections that are not relevant to the conclusions and recommendations on compliance. STACTIC agreed to have Contracting Parties conduct a review in advance to the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, with the aim to discuss this matter at that meeting. Under this agenda item, Denmark (in respect to Faroe Islands and Greenland) explained the difficulties they had in fulfilling a comparison between trips with and without observers aboard in accordance with Article 30.6(e) (shown in STACTIC WP 23-04 (Rev.4)). STACTIC noted that there is currently no template for the comparison, however, this was addressed in STACTIC WP 23-20, which was endorsed under agenda item 5.

Discussion also took place regarding the recent use of backdating an authorization notification and possible complications if this becomes a regular practice. STACTIC agreed to instruct the NAFO Executive Secretariat to not backdate authorisations or “Others” quota notifications from now on.

On the second day of the meeting, Canada updated the information on the follow-up to four reported infringements on bycatch rules for American plaice and cod in yellowtail fisheries, where the decision of the Canadian prosecutor service was not to pursue prosecution given the circumstance of the cases. The European Union regretted this outcome as it disregards the agreed NAFO CEM and the level playing field between the Contracting Parties when applying the same provisions to different vessels. STACTIC concluded that this data on enforcement indicates a different practice in place by Contracting Parties with regard to the application of NAFO CEM bycatch rules, and recommended that the understanding of the NAFO CEM on bycatch rules is harmonized, and that, to the extent necessary, the NAFO CEM provisions are revised to provide consistent outcomes and appropriate deterrents.

STACTIC agreed that Contracting Parties should consider including in the compliance review a review of Contracting Parties’ compliance with the submission of required notifications, including but not limited to vessel authorizations, “Others” quota notifications, and submission of research plans. The final version of the draft Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review for 2022 is outlined in STACTIC WP 23-02 (Rev. 6), and STACTIC agreed to forward this to the Commission for adoption.

The Secretariat presented the summary of inspections for 2022 STACTIC WP 23-03 (Rev.3) and noted that comments and corrections received since the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting have been incorporated. One comment was incorporated into STACTIC WP 23-03 (Rev.4).

The NAFO Secretariat highlighted the overview of 2022 chartering arrangements and compliance document outlined in STACTIC WP 23-16 (Revised) for information. There were no further comments on the working paper.

At the 2021 STACTIC Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the Secretariat would provide an updated version of the tables of at-sea inspection information presented in STACTIC WP 21-52 for the 2023 STACTIC Annual Meeting. As agreed, the Secretariat presented the update in STACTIC WP 23-17 (Rev.). Contracting Parties agreed that this was a valuable exercise and agreed to conduct the same updates every two years going forward, and to update the first table of the document to be included in the annual compliance review.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will review the format of the annual compliance review and discuss the inclusion of other compliance elements, as well as the possible deletion of certain sections that are not relevant to the conclusions and recommendations section pertaining to compliance at the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**
- **The draft Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review outlined in STACTIC WP 23-02 (Rev. 6) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **In that it is a Contracting Party responsibility the NAFO Secretariat will not backdate authorisations or “Others” quota notifications from now on.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat will provide an updated version of the information presented in STACTIC WP 23-17 (Rev.) for the 2025 STACTIC Annual Meeting and will repeat this update every other year.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat will include the information provided in table 1 of STACTIC WP 23-17 (Rev.) in the annual compliance reviews.**

## 5. Review of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM

The Secretariat presented the summary of observer information STACTIC WP 23-04 (Rev.3) and highlighted the revisions made since the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting. STACTIC requested that the Contracting Party who used the partial withdrawal of observers (Article 30.6) in 2022 provide their comparison required in accordance with Article 30.6(e) prior to the conclusion of this meeting. The Contracting Party submitted a report highlighting their difficulties in performing this comparison in STACTIC WP 23-04 (Rev.4).

The Secretariat updated STACTIC on the status of the observer application development; a trial of the application will occur in the coming weeks. Following the trial, the Secretariat will call upon the individuals who volunteered to take part in the development of the application to further the development.

The Chair of the Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) (Brent Napier, Canada) provided a summary of the meetings that took place in July (COM Doc. 23-06) and September 2023 (COM Doc. 23-07). The WG-OPR Chair presented items from the report intended to be reviewed by STACTIC. STACTIC reviewed the documents one by one:

STACTIC WP 23-20 was presented to STACTIC, proposing a standardised reporting template. During the discussion of the proposal, STACTIC agreed that these templates did not need to be included in the NAFO CEM, instead, it can be made available to Contracting Parties and posted on the NAFO public website. The Secretariat was requested to provide a reminder to Contracting Parties of the template in the event a derogation is used. The United States requested that Contracting Parties, to the extent possible, provide anonymized data for the derogation report to ensure these discussions can be held in open session. Contracting Parties agreed that it would be left to the Contracting Party to decide if the information is presented in an anonymized way or not.

The WG-OPR Chair presented the group's proposed revision to the current Article 30 in STACTIC WP 23-19. Extensive discussions, clarifications and revisions occurred for this proposal, and it was endorsed by STACTIC as STACTIC WP 23-19 (Rev.4). The European Union noted that the revision of the program proposed in the paper includes key provisions to reinforce the observer program, the protection and independence of the observers, and to limit the use of derogations on a 100% observer coverage, which should be based on deploying an electronic observation program. Given the issues identified by the WG-OPR on the implementation of the program during the past four years, the European Union urged STACTIC to find a compromise to revise the program at this STACTIC Annual Meeting, even if the minimum standards for the electronic observation program could be decided during 2024. During the discussion of the proposal, STACTIC agreed that the WG-OPR would be tasked with drafting the minimum standards and criteria needed to implement the use of an electronic observation program. STACTIC also agreed to review the derogation measure in 2024. To ensure that electronic observation meets the objectives of the organization and can serve as an adequate replacement to human observers for scientific purposes and monitoring and control, the United States of America requested that NAFO conduct independent verification of the electronic observation data. The United States also recommended holding an exclusive meeting to discuss electronic observation minimum standards, inviting other relevant experts and advisors to promote a comprehensive electronic observation scheme. Contracting Parties wanted to keep the discussions within WG-OPR. Contracting Parties also suggested that the verification of electronic observation data as well as the verification of observer data be discussed in the WG-OPR.

The WG-OPR Chair presented the current Terms of Reference for the group as outlined in STACTIC OPR-WP 23-01 (rev.2). The WG-OPR Chair indicated that there would need to be revisions made to the Terms of Reference based on the conversations that took place at the meeting. STACTIC reviewed the Terms of Reference and updated them to include the mandated items from this meeting. The updated terms of reference as outlined in STACTIC WP 23-25 (Rev.) will be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will use the templates outlined in STACTIC WP 23-20 to report on observer program compliance and to complete a comparison of trips with and without observers onboard.**
- **The mandate of the WG-OPR will continue and the Terms of Reference (STACTIC WP 23-25 (Rev.) will be forwarded to the Commission for endorsement.**
- **STACTIC WP 23-19 (Rev.4) on the revision of the NAFO observer program will be forwarded to the Commission for endorsement.**
- **In 2024, STACTIC will review the implementation of the newly endorsed observer program, including the derogation for the 100% observer coverage, reporting requirements and templates, minimum standards in order to implement the use of the electronic observation program and the infringements related to the observer program.**

## **6. NAFO MCS website and application development**

The Secretariat informed STACTIC that there have been no updates to the NAFO MCS website since the last meeting. The European Union requested that the column allowing for backdating of a notification be removed from the “Notification of Others Quota” page on the MCS website in line with the STACTIC guidance provided to the NAFO Secretariat at this meeting regarding the no-backdating policy for authorisations and notifications of “Others” quota.

The Secretariat updated STACTIC that the ePSC is in the initial stages of development.

## **7. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM**

Japan presented a proposal for the squid fishery in STACTIC WP 23-09 (Rev.2). After the group reviewed the revisions made since 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, further comments were received during this meeting and with the revisions STACTIC WP 23-09 (Rev.4) was endorsed by STACTIC and will be sent to the Commission for adoption. This proposed measure is subject to review at the 2024 STACTIC Annual Meeting.

The European Union presented a proposal on control measures for shallow and deep pelagic beaked redfish in STACTIC WP 23-13 (Rev.2). STACTIC discussed the proposal and one Contracting Party objected to the proposal and another felt the proposal fell outside the scope of STACTIC and should be discussed in the Commission. The European Union thanked the group for their comments and for the assistance in getting the proposal to a point where most Contracting Parties are in agreement with the text, and decided to reflect internally on their next steps for the proposal and may bring it forth to the Commission.

Canada presented a proposal on labelling requirements in STACTIC WP 22-25 (Rev.). Denmark (in respect to Faroe Islands and Greenland) expressed concerns since their new fleets are using electronic labeling which dates the product with the date it is processed, and not necessarily the date it was caught. There were also concerns with the proposal raised, since the date of capture is already listed in the logbook, if this measure would be negligible. Canada emphasized that since RED 3M is an Olympic fishery and 3M shrimp is managed by effort in fishing days, there is considerable importance on knowing the date of capture for Inspectors to ensure compliance with such matters as fishery closures, catch by Division and cross-referencing of logbook data with catch in the fish hold. Contracting Parties agreed to continue the discussion on this proposal at the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

Canada presented a proposal on a new measure for the yellowtail fishery in STACTIC WP 23-24. Canada explained their vessels has been successful over the years in consistently maintaining a bycatch rate well below the 15% threshold. However, this proved particularly challenging in fall of 2022 when Canadian operators encountered levels of bycatch that, while low in tonnage, triggered protocols under Article 6 of the NCEMs. These challenges have continued in 2023, mainly due to fluctuation in distribution of shallow water stocks,

possibly the results of climate change as it appears to coincide with general warming of the core fishing areas in the southern Grand Banks. There were reservations from Contracting Parties regarding the proposed change from a 15% American plaice bycatch threshold, to 25%.

The European Union noted that a similar proposal was tabled at the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting and that in both cases, the group would benefit to having more time to analyse the proposals. The European Union informed the group that they had completed an analysis in between STACTIC meetings relating to the bycatches of American plaice in yellowtail fisheries, noting that it would be necessary to have more time to analyse the new proposal. The analysis indicates that for a sample of 845 fishing operations from 2021, 2022 and 2023 of randomly selected yellowtail fishing trips, only one haul exceeded the threshold of 3750 kg and two hauls exceeded a 25%. The current rules led on average to a 2% likelihood regarding the need to apply move-on provisions for the vessels, which is low and could be seen as working as intended for the protection of the moratorium stock. Based on the data analysis, the proposal presented by Canada implies that move-on provisions would never be triggered. The European Union also noted a very low likelihood of directed fisheries (two cases), but it could compromise to the inclusion in the NAFO CEM of a provision allowing a 1-strike derogation in a fishing trip, which was suggested already to Canada and is part of the proposal. The European Union asked for more time to analyse the rest of the proposal. Given the reservations, and the view that many of the proposed changes were more appropriately discussed at the commission level, at the next revisit of this agenda item, Canada decided to withdraw the proposal from STACTIC, and will present it directly to the Commission. The European Union noted that the proposal contains numerous technical elements on control that should be discussed first by STACTIC in accordance with its remit. The European Union noted the need for the Contracting Parties to avoid circumventing STACTIC's role by submitting directly their control-related proposals to the NAFO Commission before discussing them in STACTIC and allowing Parties to analyse them and to find a compromise. Canada noted the comments by the European Union.

The United States suggested to have a more general conversation on definitions of directed fishing and bycatch and the resulting impacts these definitions have within specific fisheries. STACTIC agreed to initiate the discussion on these matters and to consult with other NAFO subsidiary bodies as necessary.

From this discussion, the United States noted that over the last several years, Contracting Parties have been raising concerns related to the definitions of directed fishing and bycatch and the resulting impacts these definitions have within specific fisheries. In an effort to develop a comprehensive view toward the implications of these definitions on all fisheries, the United States recommended convening a joint working group between STACTIC members, RBMS members, and potentially others within NAFO to discuss the current framework of directed fishing and the bycatch allowances, limitations, and enforcement concerns related to these definitions, and potential modifications to the CEMs. The European Union could not support this language as it transmitted a negative impression on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatch which is the NAFO selectivity standards.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The proposal on the squid fishery outlined in STACTIC WP 23-09 (Rev.4) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **STACTIC will continue its discussion on Canada's proposal on labeling requirements (STACTIC WP 23-25 (Rev.)) at the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**
- **STACTIC will start the discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches at their 2024 Intersessional Meeting.**

## **8. Discussion on the review of Article 4 of the NAFO CEM**

In accordance with Article 4.7, STACTIC agreed to review Article 4. In preparation for the discussion, the Secretariat was asked to prepare a working paper that summarised the research activities that took place in 2023 and how they complied with the new measures found in Article 4 since the last Annual Meeting (STACTIC



WP 23-23). Contracting Parties noted an issue with compliance pertaining to the new measures of Article 4. The group agreed that there needed to be more careful application of the new measures and agreed to discuss it further under the conclusions section of the Compliance Report (STACTIC WP 23-02 (Rev. 6)) and continue its review of the article in 2024 (STACTIC WP 23-26). The group also agreed that if there is better compliance with the article at next year's review, then there will be no need to have another annual review in 2025.

The Secretariat flagged that in Article 4.3(e), Contracting Parties are required to notify the Secretariat when their research activity is going to commence, however, there are no provisions for the Secretariat to do anything with this notification.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC would continue the review of Article 4 in 2024 as outlined in STACTIC WP 23-26, which will be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The compliance with the Article 4 measures will be included in the Compliance report for 2023.**

## 9. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO

The Secretariat updated STACTIC that the ePSC is in the initial stages of development under agenda item 6. The Secretariat will continue its work on the system.

The PECMAC Chair, Thord Monsen (Norway), was invited to provide an update on NEAFC's understanding of the issue of calculating percent difference in PSC3 reports. The PECMAC Chair informed the group that there are also differing definitions in NEAFC, and they are having similar discussions. The group agreed it was best to wait for PECMAC's decision before concluding in STACTIC to avoid confusion in vessels that fish under both RFMOs. The group also agreed to add the discussion to the next Inspectors' Workshop to canvas information on how it is currently being practised.

At the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional meeting, STACTIC requested that the NAFO Secretariat engage with the FAO Secretariat on the GIES system to determine the data exchange opportunities between NAFO and the GIES. Following the Intersessional meeting, the Secretariat contacted the FAO Secretariat to gain access to the GIES system. The NAFO Secretariat was able to log into an internal test environment, however, there were no port inspections to derive its functionality or data exchange possibilities. The NAFO Secretariat has reached out to FAO on the matter, but as of September has not received further instructions or information. In the latest Meeting of the Parties, the Terms of Reference for the Technical Working Group on Information Exchange were adopted, and the NAFO Secretariat requested approval from STACTIC for participation in this working group to further progress on data exchange opportunities. STACTIC agreed it would be beneficial for the Secretariat to participate in this working group.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The Secretariat will continue its work on its ePSC system and will provide an update at the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**
- **The calculation on percent difference in the PSC3 be added to the next Inspectors' Workshop agenda.**
- **STACTIC will wait to continue the discussion on calculating the percent difference in PSC3 reports until PECMAC has reached a decision.**
- **The Secretariat will participate in the FAO Technical Working Group on Information Exchange.**

## 10. Marking of gears

The Chair opened this item and asked if there was any desire to continue discussion here at this time. Denmark (in respect to Faroe Islands and Greenland) informed STACTIC that they are undertaking some domestic research on the marking of gears, and that they are mostly using AIS now. Denmark (in respect to Faroe Islands and Greenland) mentioned that they may create a proposal in the future regarding the use of electronic marking.

The group agreed that the addition of gear and vessel marking standards to the NAFO CEM would be beneficial. To initiate this process, and as agreed to at the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, the Secretariat will research and compile other RFMO's vessel and gear marking requirements, and report back to STACTIC at their 2024 Intersessional Meeting. The discussion on gear marking requirements will continue at the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat will research the vessel and gear marking requirements of other RFMOs and report back at the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**

## 11. 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 (STACTIC WP 23-15) from the EDG meeting that took place on 18 July 2023. The EDG had endorsed and forwarded several working papers to STACTIC for consideration:

Time formatting (STACTIC EDG-WP 23-01), Article 5.3(b) (STACTIC EDG-WP 23-02), Articles 6.2(c) and 6.3(e) (STACTIC EDG-WP 23-03), and Article 12.1(d bis) (STACTIC EDG-WP 23-05).

The EDG had one working paper they decided to bring to STACTIC for revision or endorsement without having endorsed the document itself for Article 5.11 and 9.4 (STACTIC EDG-WP 23-04).

STACTIC endorsed STACTIC EDG-WP 23-01, STACTIC EDG-WP 23-02, STACTIC EDG-WP 23-03, and STACTIC EDG-WP 23-04 as presented by the EDG Chair. The group provided further comments to STACTIC EDG-WP 23-05 and endorsed the amendments in STACTIC EDG-WP 23-05 (Rev.3).

It was **agreed** that:

- **The EDG proposed edits to the time format in the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 23-01 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The EDG proposed edits to Article 5.3(b) of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 23-02 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The EDG proposed edits to Articles 6.2(c) and 6.3(e) of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 23-03 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The EDG proposed edits to Article 5.11 and 9.4 of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 23-04 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The EDG proposed edits Article 12.1 (d bis) of the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC EDG-WP 23-05 (Rev.3) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

## 12. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures

The NAFO Secretariat noted that there have been no additions to the Practices and Procedures webpages since the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, as outlined in STACTIC WP 23-06, and reminded Contracting Parties to submit at anytime to the Secretariat and it will be presented at the next meeting.

## 13. Review of Current IUU list Pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 53

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 23-10 (Rev.) and highlighted the changes made since the intersessional meeting. There were no additional comments from the group, and therefore it will be sent to Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The changes proposed to the IUU List (STACTIC WP 23-10 (Rev.)) will be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

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

The JAGDM Vice-Chair (Natasha Barbour, Canada) presented the report for their most recent meeting (COM Doc. 23-04). The Chair of JAGDM also presented the proposal to increase the number of allowed characters in some of the NAF fields in Part C of Annex II.D of the NAFO CEM (STACTIC WP 23-21) which was agreed to at their meeting to forward to STACTIC. STACTIC endorsed the proposal from JAGDM, and it will be sent to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The changes proposed to the Part C of Annex II.D of the NAFO CEM (STACTIC WP 23-21) will be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

## 15. Discussions on garbage disposal onboard vessels

The WG-OPR Chair asked on behalf of the group for more guidance on how to advance their work on the issue of garbage disposal. All Contracting Parties agreed that since there is no data available from the Scientific Council on garbage disposal, that they are not able to advance their discussion on possible measures to be added to the NAFO CEM regarding proper garbage disposal protocol at sea. STACTIC agreed that it would be of great use to have the WG-OPR discuss and propose observers collect data on garbage disposal to then be reviewed by STACTIC to advance their discussion on possible measures.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) will discuss observer data collection on garbage disposal at sea.**

## 16. Implementation of the 2018 Performance Review recommendations

The NAFO Secretariat presented an update on the implementation of the 2018 Performance Review Recommendations 17, 18, 20 and 21 found in STACTIC WP 23-08 (Rev. 2). Updates to the recommendations since the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting and updates that occurred during this meeting were as follows:

- **Recommendation 17** – status was updated to Complete at the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting. During this meeting the recommendation was updated as Closed.

- **Recommendation 18** – status update that at the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting STACTIC agreed to mandate the WG-OPR to investigate the possibility of having a garbage disposal data collection requirement as part of the tasks of NAFO Observers. During this meeting, it was agreed to have the WG-OPR continue its work on this matter.
- **Recommendation 20** – status update that at the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting Contracting Parties agreed to continue to submit their comments on the FAO voluntary guidelines by the 2023 STACTIC Annual Meeting. During this meeting, STACTIC reviewed the comments received by four Contracting Parties in STACTIC WP 23-18 (Rev.). It was agreed at this meeting that STACTIC would update the Commission on the status of this recommendation and inform it that NEAFC is undertaking a similar review. It was noted during the discussion that if the review is required, then Contracting Parties should be mandated to carry out the review within a specified timeline.
- **Recommendation 21** – status updated to Complete during the EDG July 2023 meeting where it was decided that no further clarifications to the NAFO CEM were required for this recommendation.

The updates from this meeting were included in STACTIC WP 23-08 (Rev.5).

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC will update the Commission on the status of recommendation 20 from STACTIC WP 23-08 (Rev.5) and inform it that NEAFC is undertaking a similar review.**
- **STACTIC will continue its discussion on the recommendations outlined in STACTIC WP 23-08 (Rev.5).**

## 17. Other business

### STATLANT data

The European Union summarized the Secretariat's working paper on the history and relevant bodies that use STATLANT 21 data (STACTIC WP 23-22). The European Union informed the group that since 1960, when STATLANT 21 was first introduced, there have been many different forms of data submissions developed for the Contracting Parties to comply. The European Union proposed whether it could be possible to remove the STATLANT 21 submissions for fishing activities in the NRA as a requirement if all the same data can be found in alternative data sources (i.e., NAF data, monthly aggregated catch data, haul by haul, etc.). The United States noted that as a coastal Contracting Party there is data sent in the STATLANT data that is not captured through other data streams. It was also noted that the STATLANT data is also used by the FAO. STACTIC agreed that the best way forward would be to send a letter to the Chair of the Scientific Council to request how they are currently using and what data they are using from the data found in STATLANT 21 and if they could get that data from an alternative source. Once a reply is received from the Scientific Council, STACTIC will continue its discussion on this item at their next meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **A letter be sent from the STACTIC Chair to the Scientific Council Chair requesting information on how STATLANT 21 data is being used, what data is being used and if other sources of data could be used in its place.**
- **STACTIC will continue the discussion on STATLANT 21 at their meeting following the reply from the Scientific Council Chair.**

## PSMA Alignment Review Report

The Secretariat informed STACTIC that they were asked to review a draft document assessing how RFMOs are fulfilling the provisions of the PSMA. There were some issues with the interpretation of the NAFO CEM provisions and the implementation of the PSMA being drafted for Parties and not RFMOs, so the Secretariat did provide the author with additional information on this. The Secretariat just wanted to flag to STACTIC so that they are aware that the document will be published soon.

### 18. Election of Chair and vice-Chair

At the 2022 Annual Meeting, Patrick Moran (United States of America) was elected as the Interim Chair of STACTIC for 2023, and the position of vice-Chair remained vacant. In accordance with Rule 5.4 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure for the Commission, the Interim Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America) opened the floor for nominations for the positions of STACTIC Chair and vice-Chair to serve for two years.

Contracting Parties nominated Patrick Moran (United States of America) to serve as the next Chair of STACTIC. Contracting Parties expressed their unanimous support for the election of Patrick Moran to serve as STACTIC Chair for two years.

Contracting Parties nominated Brent Napier (Canada) to serve as the next vice-Chair of STACTIC. Contracting Parties expressed their unanimous support for the election of Brent Napier to serve as STACTIC vice-Chair for a period of two years.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Patrick Moran (United States of America) will serve as the next Chair of STACTIC for a period of two years.**
- **Brent Napier (Canada) will serve as the next vice-Chair of STACTIC for a period of two years.**

### 19. Time and Place of next meeting

The next STACTIC Intersessional meeting will be hosted by Denmark (in respect to Faroe Islands and Greenland) in Copenhagen and will take place in May 2024.

### 20. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted on 21 September 2023, prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

### 21. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59am (GMT+2) on 21 September 2023. 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. List of Participants

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## **Annex 2. Agenda**

1. Opening by the Interim Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Compliance review 2022 including review of apparent infringement reports and of chartering arrangements
5. Review of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM
6. NAFO MCS website and application development
7. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
8. Discussion on the review of Article 4 of the NAFO CEM
9. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO
10. Marking of gears
11. Report and recommendations of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)
12. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures
13. Review of Current IUU list Pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 53
14. Report and advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
15. Discussions on garbage disposal onboard vessels
16. Implementation of the 2018 Performance Review recommendations
17. Other business
  - STATLANT data
  - PSMA Alignment Review Report
18. Election of Chair and vice-Chair
19. Time and Place of next meeting
20. Adoption of Report
21. Adjournment

**PART III.**  
**Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)**

45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO, 18-22 September 2023  
Vigo, Spain

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**Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on  
Finance and Administration (STACFAD) Meeting**

45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO, 18-22 September 2023  
Vigo, Spain

**1. Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan, (Canada)**

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada) at 14:00 hours on Monday, 18 September 2023. Representatives were welcomed from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and the NAFO Secretariat (Annex 1).

The prioritization of the agenda allowed Contracting Parties to efficiently reach agreement on routine matters in advance by correspondence. The Chair thanked delegates for their continued flexibility and cooperation to facilitate this process.

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

The provisional agenda as circulated in NAFO/23-167 of 19 July 2023 was modified to include “*Alternative Funding Approaches for Annual Meetings*” under agenda item 15 “*Other Business*”:

The revised agenda was adopted as presented in Annex 2.

**4. Audited Financial Statements for 2022**

Baker Tilly Nova Scotia Inc. was appointed to perform the audit for the 2022 fiscal year, in accordance with the NAFO Financial Regulations. The draft audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 were circulated to the Heads of Delegations and STACFAD delegates in advance of the meeting. The financial statements are presented as drafts until they are reviewed by STACFAD and approved by the Organization.

The deficiency of revenues over expenditures for 2022 was \$20,641 while the previous year had an excess of revenues over expenditures (2021 - \$203,566).

Total expenditures incurred for the fiscal period ending 2022, as shown in the draft financial statements, amounted to \$2,351,231, which was \$235,769 under the approved budget of \$2,587,000. Overall savings for the year can mainly be attributed to the post COVID-19 era and the resulting reduction in travel and meeting costs with meetings being held virtually.

The operating fund had a balance of \$517,343 at year end which was used to reduce contributions from Contracting Parties in 2023. As approved at the September 2022 Annual Meeting, the contingency fund remained at \$285,000; the relocation fund was replenished to its maximum level of \$100,000 and the performance review fund was increased by \$15,000 to \$60,000.

**STACFAD recommends that:**

- **The 2022 Financial Statements be adopted.**

## 5. Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat

The Administrative and Activity Report was reviewed by the Committee. All Contracting Parties are encouraged to share it among their delegation as it provides a comprehensive summation of Secretariat activities for the period September 2022 to August 2023 (COM Doc. 23-05).

## 6. Financial Statements for 2023

Financial Statement estimates for 2023 (projected to 31 December) have been provided by the Secretariat in COM Doc. 23-05.

### Operating Expenses for 2023

The operating budget for 2023 was approved at \$2,650,000 while expenditures for the year are projected to be at \$2,588,000, or \$62,000 under the approved budget. The Secretariat continues to adapt to the scheduling of meetings and their locations as in-person participation at meetings returns to previous levels. Although an increasing number of meetings are now being held virtually or in a hybrid format, the cost of travel and venue rental for in-person meetings is increasing significantly. The primary savings for 2023 can be attributed to the Annual Meeting being hosted by the European Union (Spain).

All remaining 2023 operating expenses are anticipated to be on or near budget for the year. The above noted cost savings of \$62,000 will be returned to the accumulated surplus and will be available in part to reduce Contracting Parties contributions in 2024.

### Assessed Contributions

At the beginning of 2023, the accumulated surplus was \$517,343, which was deemed to be in excess of the needs of the Organization and was allocated towards the 2023 operating budget. As the 2023 budget included an \$85,000 provision for Executive Secretary recruitment and relocation costs, funds will be transferred from the recruitment and relocation fund to offset these expenses. Therefore, in order to meet the 2023 operations budget of \$2,650,000, Contracting Parties were assessed contributions in the amount of \$2,047,657.

### Balance Sheet

The Organization's cash position on 31 December 2023 is estimated to be \$681,971 while assessed contributions totalling \$257,348 for 2023 are currently outstanding from two Contracting Parties. Although the estimated cash balance should be sufficient to finance appropriations in early 2024 pending the receipt of annual payments, concerns were raised by the Secretariat over being able to meet its future financial obligations if outstanding contributions continue to rise.

## 7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Funds

According to the NAFO Financial Regulations, STACFAD and the Commission shall review the amount available in the accumulated surplus account during each Annual Meeting. The accumulated surplus account shall be set at a level sufficient to temporarily finance operations during the first three months of the year, plus an amount up to a maximum of 10% of the annual budget for the current financial year to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. In addition, the Organization shall also maintain a recruitment and relocation fund, up to a maximum of \$100,000, for relocation costs of internationally recruited staff. In addition, the Organization shall also maintain a performance review fund to pay costs associated with having an external performance review. The performance review fund balance shall be kept at a maximum of \$100,000.

The accumulated surplus account on 31 December 2023 is estimated to be \$810,000 as shown in STACFAD WP 23-03 (Revised).

**STACFAD recommends that:**

- **The amount maintained in the accumulated surplus account be set at \$285,000 of which \$200,000 would be sufficient to finance operations during the first three months of 2024, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.**
- **The recruitment and relocation fund be increased by \$12,000 to \$46,000 for future recruitment and relocation costs of internationally recruited staff.**
- **The performance review fund be increased by \$15,000 to \$75,000 for future costs associated with having an external performance review.**
- **The estimated balance remaining of \$404,000 shall be maintained in the Operating Fund and applied to reduce annual contributions due from each Contracting Party for the following year.**

## **8. Personnel Matters**

The Secretariat presented a proposal to promote Dayna Bell MacCallum, Sarah Guile and Matthew Kendall to the senior position of their respective classifications at their annual employment anniversary in 2024 (STACFAD WP 23-04).

Secretariat staff can be promoted to the Senior category based on a minimum of 10 years' work experience, with at least five years at the NAFO Secretariat, through excellent overall work performance, advanced familiarity with NAFO matters, expertise of qualifications described in their job classification, excellent team working capabilities, taking on advanced responsibilities, and other factors.

The three staff members being considered for promotion have demonstrated that they have achieved a high level of specialized knowledge and program management abilities at the NAFO Secretariat. The Committee agreed with the Secretariat's proposal to promote the staff members.

**STACFAD recommends that:**

- **Dayna Bell MacCallum, Sarah Guile and Matthew Kendall be promoted to the senior position of their respective classifications at their annual employment anniversary in 2024.**

## **9. Internship Program**

Previous activities and tasks of the NAFO internship program were presented in STACFAD WP 23-05. The NAFO internship program has been suspended since the Spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NAFO internship program continued to be paused for 2023 to allow for the transition of NAFO Secretariat staff (incoming Executive Secretary, Fisheries Management Coordinator and the Fisheries Information Administrator).

The internship program offers considerable benefits to the Organization and to the interns themselves. It is anticipated that the program will resume in 2024.

**STACFAD recommends that:**

- **The internship period be maintained for six (6) months during 2024.**

## **10. Report on the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), 25–27 April 2023**

The annual meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) was hosted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) during 25–27 April 2023 in San Diego, USA, with an option to join by video-conference. The meeting was attended by the Executive Directors and Finance Officers of the seven International Fisheries Commissions with headquarters located in Canada and the United States of

America. NAFO was represented by Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir, Executive Secretary, and Stan Goodick, Deputy Executive Secretary/Senior Finance and Staff Administrator. The IFPCS Directors appointed by the Governments of Canada and the United States of America also attended the meeting.

Background information on the pension plan, investment returns, actuarial valuation and administration was presented within the information paper (STACFAD WP 23-06).

The next annual meeting of the IFPCS will be hosted by the Government of Canada during the week of 15 April 2024 in Ottawa, Canada. It was agreed that the meeting would provide a virtual/hybrid option for those not able to attend in-person.

## 11. Implementation of 2018 Performance Review Panel recommendations

As agreed at the 2019 Annual Meeting, an update was provided regarding the recommendations tasked to STACFAD in the “*Action Plan for the Implementation of the Recommendations from the 2018 Report of the NAFO Performance Review Panel*” (COM Doc. 19-32) and any other recommendations, as assigned by the Commission.

### a. Design a potential new visual identity for NAFO

An update was provided on the work completed since the 2022 Annual Meeting to initiate a process to design a potential new visual identity for NAFO to better reflect the role and responsibilities of the Organization (STACFAD WP 23-11).

The visual identity focus group and STACFAD members continued to work intersessionally to develop and refine potential logo options. The results of this work were presented to STACFAD and next steps were discussed (STACFAD WP 23-12). After additional feedback from STACFAD members, it was agreed to recommend adoption of the new visual identity depicted in STACFAD WP 23-15 (Revised). The Secretariat will develop an implementation plan and include as part of its annual operational plan.

The Committee extended its appreciation to the NAFO Secretariat (Alexis Pacey, Senior Publications/Web Manager, and Lisa LeFort, Senior Executive Assistant) for the commitment and efforts on this project.

#### STACFAD recommends:

- The Commission adopt the new visual identity depicted in STACFAD WP 23-15 (Revised).



### b. Data classification and access rights of the NAFO websites

As agreed at the last Annual Meeting, the hybrid documentation policy regarding posting and distribution of meeting documentation as well as the guidelines for classification of routine meeting documentation was reviewed by STACFAD at this Annual Meeting (STACFAD WP 23-13 Revised).

There were no concerns and/or questions raised from Contracting Parties to the hybrid documentation policy regarding posting and distribution of meeting documentation.

**STACFAD recommends a hybrid meeting documentation policy including:**

- Prior to the start of any NAFO meeting, NAFO meeting documentation that is received and deemed “open access”, such as a working paper, is made available to the general public on the NAFO website and to the meeting participants on the NAFO Meetings SharePoint.
- Prior to the start of any NAFO meeting, NAFO meeting documentation that is received and deemed “restricted”, such as a working paper, is made available only to the meeting participants on the NAFO Meetings SharePoint.
- During the meeting, NAFO meeting documentation, such as working papers and subsequent revisions, is posted on the NAFO Meetings SharePoint, but not made publicly available on the NAFO website.
- Following the Annual Meeting of NAFO in September, meeting documentation that is adopted, such as a working paper, is converted into a NAFO document and made available to the general public on the NAFO website with the exception of Working Papers deemed “restricted”.

It was further noted that since the implementation of the hybrid meeting documentation policy there were no instances in which a Contracting Party, when submitting a working paper, designated it as “open access” and to be made available to the general public on the NAFO website.

It was noted Contracting Parties may not be aware of this requirement in the hybrid meeting documentation policy. The Committee suggested a reminder be included in the circulation of pre-meeting correspondence that Contracting Parties are responsible, to designate a working paper as “open access” when submitting if they want it to be publicly available on the NAFO website. This will assist in the implementation of the policy.

**STACFAD recommends the following guidelines for classification of working documents:**

- The Contracting Party submitting a Working Paper is responsible to designate that Working Paper as “open access” and made available to the general public on the NAFO website prior to the meeting. If the Contracting Party does not make such a designation, then it will not be made available to the general public on the NAFO website prior to the meeting.
- The Secretariat will include a reminder in the circulation of pre-meeting correspondence that Contracting Parties are responsible, when appropriate, to designate a working paper as “open access” when submitting so it may be made available to the general public on the NAFO website.

**12. Budget Estimate for 2024**

All budgetary items will be considered by STACFAD based on the Secretariat's presentation.

The 2024 budget estimate, as prepared by the Secretariat, was provided in COM WP 23-02. Additional details and highlights on the 2024 budget estimate were provided in STACFAD WP 23-07.

| <b>Budget Estimate<br/>2024</b> | <b>Approved Budget<br/>2023</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| \$2,636,000                     | \$2,650,000                     |

The 2024 budget estimate of \$2,636,000 represents a decrease of \$14,000 or 0.5% over the prior year's approved budget.

It should be noted that the budget for both 2023 and 2024 include recruitment and relocation costs for the Executive Secretary changeover which are nonrecurring items. If the recruitment and relocation costs were removed from the budget analysis, the increase for 2024 would be \$45,000 or 1.75%.



The Secretariat is not immune to price increases caused by current inflation. The Secretariat has attempted to hold costs steady whenever possible when preparing the budget estimate. However, increases have been budgeted for the hosting of the Annual Meeting in Halifax as well as travel costs.

The personnel services budget estimate is down \$13,000 from the prior year. NAFO follows the salary scales of similar positions held in the Public Service of Canada which provide for routine economic and salary step increases. Public Service of Canada contracts which have been negotiated in 2023 have included economic increases higher than what was previously anticipated. This has resulted in an increase to the salaries budget estimate. Offsetting the salaries budget increase, the latest actuarial valuation of the NAFO pension plan indicated a reduction in the unfunded liability, therefore the required annual payments to reduce the unfunded liability have also decreased. This resulted in a decrease to the superannuation and annuities budget estimate from the prior year.

The sessional meetings budget includes all costs associated with the hosting of the September Annual Meeting in Halifax, Canada. There is a limited availability of venues to host an annual meeting in Halifax and costs have increased dramatically since NAFO last hosted in Halifax in 2015. The sessional meetings budget estimate provides for a \$48,000 increase.

The recruitment process for the next NAFO Executive Secretary (ES) was launched in 2022 with an appointment for the 2023–2026 term. The 2023 budget included \$85,000 of relocation costs for both the incoming and outgoing Executive Secretaries. Certain relocation costs have been deferred until 2024. The relocation fund established in 2017 is anticipated to have \$46,000 available in the fund to offset the 2024 and future recruitment and relocation expenses.

**STACFAD recommends that:**

- **The budget for 2024 of \$2,636,000 (Annex 3) be adopted.**

A preliminary calculation of billing for the 2024 financial year is included in Annex 5.

### **13. Budget Forecast for 2025 and 2026**

The preliminary budget forecast for 2025 (\$2,690,000) and 2026 (\$2,765,000) (Annex 4) was provided in COM WP 23-02. The forecasts were approved in principle, and it was noted that the budget for 2025 will be reviewed in detail at the next Annual Meeting.

### **14. Adoption of 2023/2024 Staff Committee Appointees**

The NAFO Staff Committee was established to address the rare occurrence when a staff conflict cannot be resolved internally. In such an instance, the Staff Committee may be asked to intervene and to assist in achieving a solution through mediation. The Staff Committee has not been called on since its inception in 2005.

The Secretariat members nominated the following people to serve as members of the Staff Committee for September 2023–September 2024: Brian Healey (Canada), Ignacio Granell (European Union) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America).

**STACFAD recommends that:**

- **The Commission appoint the three Staff Committee nominees for September 2023–September 2024: Brian Healey (Canada), Ignacio Granell (European Union) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA).**

### **15. Other Business**

The following other matters were discussed under this agenda item, namely:

### a. Alternative Funding Approaches for Annual Meetings

Canada suggested an initial discussion on possible alternative funding approaches for Annual Meetings be explored.

In the past, STACFAD has strongly urged Contracting Parties to strive, whenever possible, to provide more than 12 months notice of the intention to extend an invitation to host a NAFO Annual Meeting. This would help avoid potential negative financial of implications NAFO having to make a non-refundable deposit to secure conference space.

There are a variety of factors such as internal domestic policies of individual Contracting Parties that make it challenging to make budgetary commitments more than one year in advance.

The establishment of an annual meeting fund may better allow Contracting Parties to provide further advance notice of the intention to extend an invitation to host a NAFO Annual Meeting. The further in advance that notice can be provided would result in greater availability of meeting venue options. An annual meeting fund would provide opportunity for smaller Contracting Parties to extend an invitation to host that it may not have been able to otherwise. To illustrate the cost comparison between Annual Meetings hosted by NAFO or by a Contracting Party, the Secretariat provided a summary of recent NAFO Annual Meeting expenses (STACFAD WP 23-16 (Revised)).

The members of STACFAD supported the establishment of exploring alternate funding approaches. It was encouraged that the Secretariat work intersessionally, in consultation with STACFAD members, to identify options and ultimately develop a proposal of alternative funding approaches for Annual Meetings for consideration at the 2024 Annual Meeting. This could include, as appropriate, a review of current practices employed by other RFMOs when funding an Annual Meeting.

**STACFAD recommends that:**

- **The Secretariat work intersessionally, in consultation with STACFAD members, to identify options and develop a proposal for Alternative Funding Approaches for Annual Meetings for presentation at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**

### b. Paperless Meeting Documentation Policy

As agreed at the 2018 Annual Meeting, the distribution of meeting documentation was reduced from one paper copy per meeting delegate to three (3) paper copies per Contracting Parties, unless requested otherwise. This shift significantly reduced the amount of paper generated at NAFO Meetings as well as reduced the costs and resources dedicated to printing and distribution of meeting documentation.

The use of NAFO Meetings SharePoint has increased and the electronic distribution of meeting documentation before, during and after meeting hours is now the primary means of distributing documents. In support of sustainability, and as a natural evolution of the current meeting documentation policy, STACFAD agreed to recommend that a paperless approach to meeting documentation be implemented for 2024 with an individual Contracting Party retaining the option to request a paper copy.

**STACFAD recommends that:**

- **Meeting documentation be distributed exclusively by electronic means unless requested otherwise.**

It was suggested that the Secretariat explore a notification capability to allow meeting delegates to receive an alert when a file or folder changes on the SharePoint. The activation of this feature would allow delegates to be updated as new documentation becomes available.

### c. Update from the Russian Federation on the status of its contribution payment

The Russian Federation provided an update on the continued efforts to make its contribution payment.

Canada confirmed that it has provided to Russian officials the information required to transfer funds to the NAFO Secretariat to pay its assessed contributions.

### d. Proposed Options to alleviate SC Workload

During the Annual Meeting, the joint session of Commission–Scientific Council requested STACFAD to provide estimated budgetary implications for the proposed options to alleviate SC Workload in response to the report and recommendations of the *NAFO Informal Group to reflect on the workload of the Scientific Council Meeting*, 25 April. In its role, STACFAD considered budgetary implications of the potential options that were proposed and not the merit of these options.

STACFAD was tasked to provide budgetary estimates of two (2) potential options. The first was the expansion of the current internship program to include the creation of a second internship focused on scientific work and the second option was to provide funding to support 2–3 contracted experts.

It was discussed that there are potential additional costs, such as travel, beyond salary and other personnel benefits. In addition to budgetary implications, it was noted there are other factors to be considered. If the expectation is for the additional personnel to work on-site at the NAFO Secretariat then consideration needs to be given to if the current office is capable of accommodating these additional personnel.

Based on additional feedback from the Commission and Scientific Council, STACFAD was further asked to determine the cost to support one (1) contracted expert for a four-month term with included estimated travel costs to the June Scientific Council meeting in-person, and if such funding could be made available. The estimated cost for such a request would be approximately \$85,000 as presented in (STACFAD WP 23-14 Rev. 3).

It was noted that while STACFAD fully supports the objective of alleviating the workload of SC, some Contracting Parties had limited flexibility for unforeseen additional expense of this amount. It was noted that if Contracting Parties had been made aware earlier in the process of preparing the 2024 budget forecast, further options could have been considered. For those reasons, the funding to support one (1) contracted expert for a four-month term with included estimated travel costs to the June Scientific Council meeting in-person could not be available in 2024.

It was agreed to continue to consider costing options and potentially incorporate them in the 2025 budget forecast pending direction from the Commission relating to financial costs in the broader context of discussions about how to manage the SC's workload. It was also noted that that some Contracting Parties do not see increased budgetary expenses as the only solution to alleviate the workload of SC and other options should be considered outside the scope of STACFAD.

#### **STACFAD recommends:**

- **The postponement of the existing internship in 2024 and reallocation of these funds in the budget forecast to scientific purposes, if required.**

## 16. Election of vice-Chair

According to Rule 5.4 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission "*The Committees shall elect, to serve for two years, their own Chairperson and vice-Chairperson, who shall be allowed a vote.*"

The current Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada), was re-elected in September 2022.

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The vice-Chair position is currently vacant as Jake Round (United Kingdom) stepped down in June 2023.

Imogen Gibbons (United Kingdom) was nominated and elected as vice-Chair for a two-year term.

### **17. Time and Place of 2024–2026 Annual Meetings**

It was previously agreed that the dates for the 2024–2025 Annual Meetings be as follows:

2024 - 23 – 27 September in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

2025 - 15 – 19 September will be held in Halifax, unless an invitation to host is extended

STACFAD reviewed and recommended the dates for the 2026 Annual Meeting as follows:

2026 - 21 – 25 September

#### **STACFAD recommends that:**

- **The 2026 Annual Meeting be held 21–25 September 2026 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization.**

### **18. Adjournment**

The final session of the STACFAD meeting adjourned at 18:45 hours on 20 September 2023. The meeting report was adopted by correspondence.

Gratitude was expressed to the Committee members for their effective cooperation this week, and to the NAFO Secretariat for its excellent support.

**Annex 1. List of Participants**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>CHAIR</b>   | Fagan, Robert (Canada)   |
| <b>CANADA</b>  | Her, Natalie (virtual)<br>Johnson, Kate<br>Marsden, Dale             |
| <b>DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)</b> | Nygård Jensen, Rebekka   |
| <b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>  | Błażkiewicz, Bernard   |
| <b>FRANCE (IN RESPECT OF ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON)</b>           | Lintanf, Philippe  |
| <b>JAPAN</b>   | Nomura, Ichiro<br>Onodera, Ryo (virtual)<br>Takehara, Toya (virtual) |
| <b>NORWAY</b>  | Fagerbakke, Sara Lier  |
| <b>RUSSIAN FEDERATION</b>                                      | Tairov, Temur (virtual)  |
| <b>UKRAINE</b>   | Ohorodnik, Artem (virtual)   |
| <b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>  | Gibbins, Imogen  |
| <b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>                                | Mencher, Elizabethann<br>Yanoff, Callan<br>Warner-Kramer, Deirdre    |
| <b>NAFO SECRETARIAT</b>  | Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur<br>Goodick, Stan<br>LeFort, Lisa         |

**Annex 2. Agenda**

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada)   |
| 2.  | Appointment of Rapporteur   |
| 3.  | Adoption of Agenda  |
| 4.  | Audited Financial Statements for 2022   |
| 5.  | Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat  |
| 6.  | Financial Statements for 2023   |
| 7.  | Review of Accumulated Surplus and Funds   |
| 8.  | Personnel Matters   |
| 9.  | Internship Program  |
| 10. | Report of the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), 25–27 April 2023 |
| 11. | Implementation of 2018 Performance Review Panel recommendations   |
|     | a. Design a potential new visual identity for NAFO  |
|     | b. Data classification and access rights of the NAFO websites   |
| 12. | Budget Estimate for 2024  |
| 13. | Budget Forecast for 2025 and 2026   |
| 14. | Adoption of 2023/2024 Staff Committee Appointees  |
| 15. | Other Business  |
|     | a. Alternative Funding Approaches for Annual Meetings   |
|     | b. Paperless Meeting Documentation Policy   |
|     | c. Update from the Russian Federation on the status of its contribution payment                                   |
|     | d. Proposed options to alleviate SC Workload  |
| 16. | Election of vice-Chair  |
| 17. | Time and Place of 2024–2026 Annual Meetings   |
| 18. | Adjournment   |

**Annex 3. Budget Estimate for 2024**NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION  
Budget Estimate for 2024  
(Canadian Dollars)

|  | Approved<br>Budget<br>2023 | Projected<br>Expenditures<br>2023 | Preliminary<br>Budget<br>Forecast 2024 | Budget<br>Estimate<br>2024 |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 1 Personnel Services                   |                            |                                   |  |                            |
| a) Salaries                            | \$1,269,000                | \$1,280,000                       | \$1,311,000                            | \$1,302,000                |
| b) Superannuation and Annuities        | 495,000                    | 495,000                           | 500,000                                | 450,000                    |
| c) Medical and Insurance Plans         | 113,000                    | 110,000                           | 116,000                                | 112,000                    |
| d) Employee Benefits                   | 99,000                     | 114,000                           | 79,000                                 | 99,000                     |
| Subtotal Personnel Services            | <u>1,976,000</u>           | <u>1,999,000</u>                  | <u>2,006,000</u>                       | <u>1,963,000</u>           |
| 2 Additional Help                      | 2,000                      | 8,000                             | 2,000                                  | 2,000                      |
| 3 Communications                       | 27,000                     | 27,000                            | 28,000                                 | 28,000                     |
| 4 Computer Services                    | 71,000                     | 71,000                            | 67,000                                 | 71,000                     |
| 5 Equipment                            | 27,000                     | 27,000                            | 27,000                                 | 27,000                     |
| 6 Fishery Monitoring                   | 45,000                     | 45,000                            | 46,000                                 | 46,000                     |
| 7 Hospitality Allowance                | 3,000                      | 3,000                             | 3,000                                  | 3,000                      |
| 8 Internship                           | 14,000                     | 0                                 | 14,000                                 | 14,000                     |
| 9 Materials and Supplies               | 31,000                     | 31,000                            | 32,000                                 | 32,000                     |
| 10 NAFO Meetings                       |                            |                                   |  |                            |
| a) Sessional                           | 192,000                    | 140,000                           | 195,000                                | 240,000                    |
| b) Inter-sessional Scientific          | 30,000                     | 24,000                            | 30,000                                 | 30,000                     |
| c) Inter-sessional Other               | 48,000                     | 48,000                            | 48,000                                 | 50,000                     |
| Subtotal NAFO Meetings                 | <u>270,000</u>             | <u>212,000</u>                    | <u>273,000</u>                         | <u>320,000</u>             |
| 11 Other Meetings and Travel           | 40,000                     | 40,000                            | 40,000                                 | 45,000                     |
| 12 Professional Services               | 45,000                     | 45,000                            | 45,000                                 | 45,000                     |
| 13 Publications                        | 14,000                     | 14,000                            | 14,000                                 | 14,000                     |
| 14 Recruitment and Relocation (Note 1) | 85,000                     | 66,000                            | 0                                      | 26,000                     |
|  | <u>\$2,650,000</u>         | <u>\$2,588,000</u>                | <u>\$2,597,000</u>                     | <u>\$2,636,000</u>         |

Note 1: Recruitment and relocation expenses will be paid from the available funds in the Recruitment and Relocation Fund. Balance in the fund as of 01 January 2023 was \$100,000.



Notes on Budget Estimate 2024  
(Canadian Dollars)

|            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| Item 1(a)  | <b>Salaries</b><br>Salaries budget estimate for 2024.   | \$1,302,000                             |
| Item 1(b)  | <b>Superannuation and Annuities</b><br>Employer's pension plan which includes employer's contributions, administration costs, actuarial fees and the required annual payment towards previous pension plan deficits.                  | \$450,000                               |
| Item 1(c)  | <b>Group Medical and Insurance Plans</b><br>Employer's portion of Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Group Life Insurance, Long Term Disability Insurance and Medical Coverage.   | \$112,000                               |
| Item 1(d)  | <b>Employee Benefits</b><br>Employee benefits as per the NAFO Staff Rules including overtime, repatriation grant, termination benefits, vacation pay, and home leave travel for internationally recruited members of the Secretariat. | \$99,000                                |
| Item 2     | <b>Additional Support</b><br>Other assistance as required.  | \$2,000                                 |
| Item 3     | <b>Communications</b><br>Phone and internet services<br>Postage and Courier   | \$28,000<br>\$21,000<br>7,000           |
| Item 4     | <b>Computer Services</b><br>Computer hardware, software, supplies, support and website hosting.   | \$71,000                                |
| Item 5     | <b>Equipment</b><br>Leases (print department printer, photocopier and postage meter)<br>Purchases<br>Maintenance  | \$27,000<br>\$14,000<br>10,000<br>3,000 |
| Item 6     | <b>Fishery Monitoring</b><br>Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) annual maintenance fee including programming changes as required due to changes to CEM<br>Oracle database annual maintenance  | \$46,000<br>\$43,000<br>3,000           |
| Item 10(a) | <b>NAFO Sessional Meetings</b><br>Annual Meeting, September 2024<br>SC Meeting, June and October 2024   | \$240,000                               |



|            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| Item 10(b) | <b>NAFO Inter-sessional Scientific Meetings</b><br>Provision for inter-sessional meetings, symposia and a general provision for unforeseen expenses necessarily incurred by SC required for the provision of answering requests for advice from the Commission.   | \$30,000                                |
| Item 10(c) | <b>NAFO Inter-sessional Other</b><br>General provision for Commission inter-sessional meetings.   | \$50,000                                |
| Item 11    | <b>Other Meetings and Travel</b><br>International Meetings regularly attended by the NAFO Secretariat which may include the following: Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA), Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Co-ordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), Fisheries Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS), International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), Inspector Workshops, Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN), United Nations, etc. | \$45,000                                |
| Item 12    | <b>Professional Services</b><br>Professional Services (audit, consulting, legal fees, and insurance)<br>Professional Development and Training<br>Public Relations   | \$45,000<br>\$29,000<br>11,000<br>5,000 |
| Item 13    | <b>Publications</b><br>Production costs of NAFO publications, booklets, brochures, posters, etc.  | \$14,000                                |
| Item 14    | <b>Recruitment and Relocation</b><br>Relocation costs for the NAFO Executive Secretary (2023-2026 term) deferred from 2023.   | \$26,000                                |

**Annex 4. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2025 and 2026**NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION  
Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2025 and 2026  
(Canadian Dollars)

|                                 | Preliminary<br>Budget Forecast<br>2025 | Preliminary<br>Budget Forecast<br>2026 |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Personnel Services            |  |  |
| a) Salaries                     | \$1,357,000                            | \$1,417,000                            |
| b) Superannuation and Annuities | 456,000                                | 462,000                                |
| c) Medical and Insurance Plans  | 115,500                                | 119,000                                |
| d) Employee Benefits            | 109,500                                | 108,000                                |
| Subtotal Personnel Services     | 2,038,000                              | 2,106,000                              |
| 2 Additional Help               | 2,000                                  | 2,000                                  |
| 3 Communications                | 28,000                                 | 29,000                                 |
| 4 Computer Services             | 71,000                                 | 72,000                                 |
| 5 Equipment                     | 27,000                                 | 27,000                                 |
| 6 Fishery Monitoring            | 48,000                                 | 49,000                                 |
| 7 Hospitality Allowance         | 3,000                                  | 3,000                                  |
| 8 Internship                    | 14,000                                 | 14,000                                 |
| 9 Materials and Supplies        | 32,000                                 | 33,000                                 |
| 10 NAFO Meetings                |  |  |
| a) Sessional                    | 243,000                                | 246,000                                |
| b) Inter-sessional Scientific   | 30,000                                 | 30,000                                 |
| c) Inter-sessional Other        | 50,000                                 | 50,000                                 |
| Subtotal NAFO Meetings          | 323,000                                | 326,000                                |
| 11 Other Meetings and Travel    | 45,000                                 | 45,000                                 |
| 12 Professional Services        | 45,000                                 | 45,000                                 |
| 13 Publications                 | 14,000                                 | 14,000                                 |
| 14 Recruitment and Relocation   | -                                      | -                                      |
|                                 | \$2,690,000                            | \$2,765,000                            |

**Annex 5. Preliminary Calculation of Billing for Contracting Parties for 2024****Preliminary calculation of billing  
for the 2024 financial year  
(Canadian Dollars)**

|  |   |                    |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Budget Estimate  |   | \$2,636,000        |
| Deduct:  | Amount Allocated from Accumulated Surplus | -\$404,000         |
|  | Amount Allocated from Relocation Fund     | -\$26,000          |
| <b>Funds required to meet 2024 Administrative Budget</b> |   | <b>\$2,206,000</b> |

**Part A**

| Contracting Parties  | 2021 nominal catches (metric tons) | Catch %        | NAFO Convention Article IX.2.a,b,c |                  |                    |                    |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|  |                                    |                | 10%                                | 30%              | 60%                | Subtotal           |
| Canada   | 156,090                            | 36.24%         | \$91,713                           | \$50,908         | \$479,673          | \$622,294          |
| Cuba   | -                                  | 0.00%          | -                                  | \$50,908         | -                  | \$50,908           |
| Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (Note 2) | 166,507                            | 38.67%         | \$97,834                           | \$50,908         | \$511,836          | \$660,578          |
| European Union   | 42,501                             | 9.87%          | -                                  | \$50,908         | \$130,638          | \$181,546          |
| France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)                | 276                                | 0.06%          | \$162                              | \$50,908         | \$794              | \$51,864           |
| Iceland  | -                                  | 0.00%          | -                                  | \$50,908         | -                  | \$50,908           |
| Japan  | 1,677                              | 0.39%          | -                                  | \$50,908         | \$5,161            | \$56,069           |
| Norway   | 1,576                              | 0.37%          | -                                  | \$50,908         | \$4,897            | \$55,805           |
| Republic of Korea  | -                                  | 0.00%          | -                                  | \$50,908         | -                  | \$50,908           |
| Russian Federation   | 9,437                              | 2.19%          | -                                  | \$50,908         | \$28,986           | \$79,894           |
| Ukraine  | -                                  | 0.00%          | -                                  | \$50,908         | -                  | \$50,908           |
| United Kingdom   | -                                  | 0.00%          | -                                  | \$50,908         | -                  | \$50,908           |
| United States of America                                     | 52,574                             | 12.21%         | \$30,891                           | \$50,908         | \$161,611          | \$243,410          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>430,638</b>                     | <b>100.00%</b> | <b>\$220,600</b>                   | <b>\$661,804</b> | <b>\$1,323,596</b> | <b>\$2,206,000</b> |

**Part B**

| Contracting Parties  | Subtotal from Part A | NAFO Convention Article IX.2.d (Note 1) |                   |            |            |            | Subtotal   | Total contribution |
|--|----------------------|---|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
|  |                      | % Contribution                          | Catch % minus DFG | 10%        | 30%        | 60%        |            |                    |
| Canada   | \$622,294            | 28.21%                                  | 59.11%            | \$29,573   | \$9,896    | \$140,396  | \$179,865  | \$802,159          |
| Cuba   | \$50,908             | 2.31%                                   | -                 | -          | \$9,896    | -          | \$9,896    | \$60,804           |
| Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (Note 2) | \$660,578            | 29.94%                                  | -                 | -\$39,586  | -\$118,752 | -\$237,520 | -\$395,858 | \$264,720          |
| European Union   | \$181,546            | 8.23%                                   | 16.09%            | -          | \$9,896    | \$38,217   | \$48,113   | \$229,659          |
| France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)                | \$51,864             | 2.35%                                   | 0.10%             | \$52       | \$9,896    | \$238      | \$10,186   | \$62,050           |
| Iceland  | \$50,908             | 2.31%                                   | -                 | -          | \$9,896    | -          | \$9,896    | \$60,804           |
| Japan  | \$56,069             | 2.54%                                   | 0.63%             | -          | \$9,896    | \$1,497    | \$11,393   | \$67,462           |
| Norway   | \$55,805             | 2.53%                                   | 0.60%             | -          | \$9,896    | \$1,426    | \$11,322   | \$67,127           |
| Republic of Korea  | \$50,908             | 2.31%                                   | -                 | -          | \$9,896    | -          | \$9,896    | \$60,804           |
| Russian Federation   | \$79,894             | 3.62%                                   | 3.57%             | -          | \$9,896    | \$8,480    | \$18,376   | \$98,270           |
| Ukraine  | \$50,908             | 2.31%                                   | -                 | -          | \$9,896    | -          | \$9,896    | \$60,804           |
| United Kingdom   | \$50,908             | 2.31%                                   | -                 | -          | \$9,896    | -          | \$9,896    | \$60,804           |
| United States of America                                     | \$243,410            | 11.03%                                  | 19.90%            | \$9,961    | \$9,896    | \$47,266   | \$67,123   | \$310,533          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$2,206,000</b>   | <b>100.00%</b>                          | <b>100.00%</b>    | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$2,206,000</b> |

## Note 1

The annual contribution of any Contracting Party which has a population of less than 300,000 inhabitants shall be limited to a maximum of 12% of the total budget. When this contribution is so limited, the remaining part of the budget shall be divided among the other Contracting Parties in accordance with Article IX.2.a,b and c of the NAFO Convention.

## Note 2

Faroe Islands 2,631 metric tons  
Greenland 163,876 metric tons

