



Serial No. N7681

NAFO/COM Doc. 25-08

Report of the NAFO Commission *Ad hoc* Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting

14 September 2025
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

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

The Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America), opened the meeting at 13:07 hours (UTC -3 hours) on Sunday, 14 September 2025, and welcomed representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted, as outlined in Annex 2.

4. Continued discussions on measures relating to directed fisheries and mitigating bycatch of moratoria species

The Chair summarized the discussions that took place during the WG-BDS meeting in July (COM Doc. 25-05) and noted that Contracting Parties expressed interest in convening another meeting of the WG-BDS in advance of the upcoming NAFO Annual Meeting. The Chair highlighted two questions to frame the discussions, whether there were any recommendations that the working group wanted to put forward to the Commission at its upcoming meeting, and what the work of the WG-BDS should look like in the coming year. The United States of America presented a working paper (COM WP 25-03) outlining additional questions to facilitate discussions.

Contracting Parties discussed the potential of asking the Commission to task the NAFO Secretariat with re-doing the analysis that was completed in 2021 with the latest available data. Contracting Parties noted that there have been no indications of specific concerns that the working group would be able to request the Secretariat to explore, and that a broad scale and granular analysis would create a significant workload for the Secretariat. Those Contracting Parties questioned whether the results of such a broad analysis would highlight or address any specific concerns. Contracting Parties reflected on the recent adoption of measures relating to bycatch for specific fisheries. Some Contracting Parties expressed that the need for these multiple specific measures reflects an underlying issue with the way the overall bycatch measures are written, while other Contracting Parties noted that the fishery specific measures reflect the dynamic nature of NAFO fisheries and its flexibility to adapt. It was also noted that STACTIC will be reviewing the specific measures adopted for bycatch of American plaice in the 3LNO yellowtail flounder fishery and for bycatch of redfish in the 3M cod fishery as part of their work at the upcoming Annual Meeting, and the results of those discussions could better inform next steps for the WG-BDS.

The working group agreed that there were no specific recommendations to forward to the Commission and that any future work for the working group should be discussed at the Commission following the results of the discussions in STACTIC during the upcoming Annual Meeting.

5. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

6. Time and place of next meeting

The working group will not be scheduled to meet again unless clear tasking is assigned by the Commission.

7. Adoption of Report

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

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 14:01 hours (UTC -3 hours).

Annex 1. List of Participants

CHAIR	Warner-Kramer, Deirdre (USA)
SC CHAIR	González-Troncoso, Diana (European Union)
CANADA	In-person Browne, Dion Burns, Adam Fagan, Robert Lambertucci, Peter Marsden, Dale Napier, Brent Schleit, Katie Walsh, Ray Williams, Todd Zegarmistrz, Justyna
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	In-person Døj, Iben Funch Gaardlykke, Meinhard Grønadal. Símun Holm, Jannik Katzke Simonsen, Julie Lamhauge, Majbritt Oksen, Alvilde Wang, Ulla S.
EUROPEAN UNION	In-person Babcionis, Genadijus Billiet, Stijn Blazkiewicz, Bernard Demblon, Jessica Galetti, Fabio Märtin, Kaire Quintans, Miguel Shrives, Jonathan Vielmini, Ilaria Wysocka, Malgorzata Virtual Belmonte, Luis Mancebo, C. Margarita
ICELAND	In-person Bragason, Agnar Bragi Ingibergsson, Jón Gunnar Ragnarsson, Njáll
JAPAN	In-person Iwano, Taisuke Mitome, Haruki Morishita, Joji Moronuki, Hideki

NORWAY	In-person Bjørklund, Kristoffer Krogh Hinchliffe, Kristi Veierød Østebø, Kjetil Øvregeard Vaskinn, Tor Are
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	In-person Fomin, Konstanin Virtual Skryabin, Ilya Tairov, Temur
UNITED KINGDOM	In-person Smith-Devey, Imogen
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	In-person Jaburek, Shannah Kelly, Moira Mencher, Elizabethann Moran, Pat Morgan, Clark Pentony, Mike Pohl, Katie Reid, Eric Smith, Geoff
NAFO SECRETARIAT	Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur Aker, Jana LeFort, Lisa Thompson, Catherine

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Continued discussions on measures relating to directed fisheries and mitigating bycatch of moratoria species
5. Other Business
6. Time and Place of Next Meeting
7. Adoption of Report
8. Adjournment