



NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting

22 – 24 January, 2025
Boston, United States of America

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Brent Napier (Canada)

The meeting will be opened by the Chair, Brent Napier (Canada).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

A rapporteur will be nominated and appointed.

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. NAFO CEM Article 30 Implementation

At the 2024 Annual Meeting, STACTIC agreed to review the implementation of the NAFO Observer Program in 2025. To support this review, the mandate of the WG-OPR would be extended to allow for key matters, such as Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM), to be further discussed and actioned. Specific items to review include:

a. Observer coverage levels

In accordance with task 1 of the WG-OPR terms of reference (COM Doc. 23-25), discussions may continue on the minimum level of observer coverage required under derogation. Additionally, at the 2024 Annual Meeting, Canada presented a proposal for additional control measures relating to derogations from observer coverage in STACTIC WP 24-23. Contracting Parties agreed to defer the proposal to the WG-OPR for further discussion and action.

b. Observer application

The NAFO Secretariat will provide an update on the status of the observer reporting application.

c. Electric observation program

In accordance with task 3 of the WG-OPR terms of reference (COM Doc. 23-25), the working group will continue discussions on minimum standards and criteria needed to implement the use of an electronic observer program, and how those systems will be used as an alternative to Observers. Additionally, at the 2024 Annual Meeting, Contracting Parties agreed to continue discussions on STACTIC OPR-WP 24-01 (Revised) within the working group.

d. Data collection – Sharks

In accordance with task 5 of the WG-OPR terms of reference (COM Doc. 23-25), the WG-OPR will continue discussions on potential improvements on the data collection of sharks. As agreed at the July 2024 WG-OPR meeting, Contracting Parties will consider developing a proposal on data collection for sharks, regarding expected frequencies of activities and requirements for photographs.

e. Data collection – Quality control

As agreed at the July 2024 WG-OPR meeting, Contracting Parties will continue to exchange best practices related to data quality control for observer data.

5. Data collection – Data confidentiality

Discussions on the review of Annex II.B of the NAFO CEM will continue under this item. As agreed in STACTIC at the 2024 Annual Meeting, Contracting Parties will also continue to discuss STACTIC OPR-WP 24-02.

6. Other Business

7. Adoption of the Report

8. Adjournment