



Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

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In all correspondence,
please refer to:

NAFO/23-149

20 June 2023

TO: All Contracting Parties – Heads of Delegation
Representatives of STACTIC

Dear Colleagues,

Subject: Provisional Agenda – *NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting* taking place 11–13 July 2023 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Please find enclosed the provisional agenda and the tentative timetable for the *NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting*. The provisional agenda was prepared in consultation with the Chair, Brent Napier (Canada).

The *NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting* will take place 11–13 July 2023 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The meeting will be held at Fisheries and Oceans National Capital Region located in Centennial Towers at 200 Kent Street in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The meeting room (BCC1 boardroom) is located on the first floor. For those delegates that are unable to attend the meeting in-person, Webex capabilities will be provided.

All relevant meeting documentation will be accessible on the NAFO Meetings SharePoint at <https://meetings.nafo.int/stactic/opr> as it becomes available.

For logistical planning, we would appreciate receiving from Contracting Parties the names of delegates planning to participate in the meeting both in-person and virtually. We would appreciate receiving this information **as soon as possible**.

We kindly ask your assistance in providing this information to the members of your meeting delegation. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir
Executive Secretary

BB:ll

Enclosed: Provisional Agenda and Tentative Timetable (03 pgs.)

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

11–13 July 2023
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

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. Terms of Reference

The WG-OPR will review the Terms of Reference for the group (STACTIC WP 22-30) and make any appropriate changes since the last meeting, including adding “an equivalent sensor technologies” under item 2f. The updated Terms of Reference will be presented to STACTIC at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

5. NAFO CEM Article 30 Implementation

At the 2022 STACTIC Annual Meeting, the WG-OPR recommendations from STACTIC OPR-WP 22-03 (Rev.) were revised in STACTIC WP 22-48 (Rev. 2). The review of the Article, provision by provision, will continue under this item with the goal of having a formal proposal of Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) changes to present to STACTIC at the 2023 Annual Meeting. The discussion will also include discussions on:

a. Data Collection on Sharks

It was agreed at the 2022 WG-OPR Meeting that a proposal would be drafted to include in the observers’ reporting template (Annex II.M) information on maturity, disposition, pictures, and fork length of Greenland sharks, and to the extent necessary, location; as well as an indication that data collection is done minimizing damage to the sampled individuals. Further discussion will continue at this meeting.

b. Data Collection on Garbage Disposal At-Sea

At the 2022 STACTIC Annual Meeting and the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that the possibility of observers collecting data on garbage disposal at-sea would be discussed at this meeting.

6. Standardizing Reporting

It was agreed at the 2022 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting that the WG-OPR will develop and/or review standardized reporting templates for reports required under Article 30. Further discussion will take place at this meeting.

a. Contracting Party reporting requirements

Specifically, it was agreed in STACTIC WP 22-48 (Rev. 2) to draft templates for the reports required under Article 30.10(c), 30.9(c), and 30.6(e).

b. Observer reporting requirements

Including daily OBR reports and Annex II.M, including reporting requirements for the data collection for sharks (agenda item 5.a). Discussion may also take place relating to the transmission of the reporting requirements, including cancelling of OBR messages.

c. Tow Times

At the 2022 STACTIC Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the discussion on the proposal to standardise tow time recording (STACTIC WP 22-44) would continue at this meeting.

7. Observer Electronic Application

It was agreed at the 2023 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting that the NAFO Secretariat would provide an update on the observer application at this meeting. The NAFO Secretariat will give a demonstration of the application and allow time for participants to test it out on their own with the goal of receiving feedback on the application to date.

8. Remote Electronic Monitoring

The WG-OPR recommends considering the possibility of using REM and equivalent sensor technologies as justification to derogate from a 100% observers' coverage, including questions regarding data storage and retrieval, data standards, data protection and sharing, ownership and maintenance. In connection with this option, the working group recommends developing minimum standards for the system and to identify scientific data that the system could not provide, as well as appropriate alternatives to collect this data (e.g., by the operator). Further discussion will take place at this meeting.

9. NAFO CEM Article 38 Implications and Review

At the 2022 WG-OPR Meeting, the group agreed that when making changes to Article 30, it is important to review Article 38 as well, as changes to the observer program may impact the article. At the 2022 STACTIC Annual Meeting, STACTIC agreed to this review. Any required changes to Article 38 will be discussed under this agenda item.

10. Other Business

11. Adoption of the Report

12. Adjournment

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

11–13 July 2023
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Tentative Timetable*

Tuesday, 11 July 2023	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 12:30	Meeting
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – (as decided)	Meeting
Wednesday, 12 July 2023	
09:00 – 12:30	Meeting
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – (as decided)	Meeting
Thursday, 13 July 2023	
09:00 – 12:30	Meeting
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – (as decided)	Meeting

**times subject to change at decision of meeting*