



Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

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In all correspondence,
please refer to:

NAFO/24-054

15 February 2024

TO: All Contracting Parties;
Chairs of the Commission;
Chairs of the Scientific Council; and
WG-RBMS Participants

Dear Colleagues,

Subject: Provisional Agenda – *NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting, 16–18 April 2024*

Further to NAFO/24-004 (Revised) of 18 January 2024, and pursuant to Rule 4.2 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission, please find enclosed the provisional agenda for the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting taking place virtually 16–18 April 2024. The meeting will be held virtually from 09:00 to 13:00 hours (UTC-03:00, Halifax Time) and login details will be circulated closer to the meeting.

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

As adopted at the 2023 Annual Meeting of NAFO, the guidelines for classification of working documents reads “*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.*”

For logistical purposes, we would appreciate receiving from Contracting Parties the names of delegates planning to participate in the meeting. We kindly ask your assistance in providing this information to the members of your meeting delegation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir
Executive Secretary

BB:ll

Enclosed: Provisional Agenda and Tentative Timetable (02 pgs.)

*NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies
(WG-RBMS) Meeting*

16–18 April 2024
Virtually

Provisional Agenda

- 1. Opening by co-Chairs, Fernando Gonzáles-Costas (European Union) and Ray Walsh (Canada)**
- 2. Appointment of Rapporteurs**
- 3. Adoption of Agenda**
- 4. Progress on the MSE process for 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut**

As per the MSE workplan outlined in COM-SC RBMS-WP 23-06 (Rev. 3), progress on the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process for 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, including discussions on the results of Candidate Management Procedures (CMPs) testing and exceptional circumstances protocol, and possible recommendation to Commission for the adoption of Management Strategy.

- 5. Progress on the MSE process for 3LN Redfish**

As per the MSE workplan outlined in COM-SC RBMS-WP 23-06 (Rev. 3), progress on the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process for 3LN Redfish, including input to the Scientific Council on further progress on Operating Models (OMs), Candidate Management Procedures (CMPs), and finalization of the performance statistics.

- 6. Next steps in the MSE processes**

The WG-RBMS will review the MSE workplan outlined in COM-SC RBMS-WP 23-06 (Rev. 3) and discuss the next steps of the MSE processes under this agenda item.

- 7. Exceptional circumstances for 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut in 2023**

At its January 2024 meeting, Scientific Council determined that Exceptional Circumstance are occurring as a result of missed surveys. Consideration of Commission request #2 of COM Doc. 23-09 "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." given the ongoing development of a new Management Strategy and recognizing that Scientific Council have identified exceptional circumstances are occurring in relation to the current management strategy.

8. Precautionary Approach Review progress

The WG-RBMS, in accordance with the workplan outlined in COM-SC RBMS-WP 23-19 (Revised), will review the progress of testing the Provisional Draft Precautionary Approach Framework (COM-SC RBMS-WP 23-20 Revised) being undertaken by the Scientific Council in accordance with Commission request #6 of COM Doc. 23-09.

9. Other matters

Any topics not covered by the agenda items above may be discussed under this agenda item.

10. Recommendations

11. Adoption of report

12. Adjournment

Tentative Timetable*

Tuesday, 16 April	
09:00 – 13:00 hours	Meeting
Wednesday, 17 April	
09:00 – 13:00 hours	Meeting
Thursday, 18 April	
09:00 – 13:00 hours	Meeting

**times are subject to change at decision of meeting*