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In all correspondence,  
please refer to:

NAFO/25-164

16 July 2025

TO: All Contracting Parties – Heads of Delegations; and  
Chair of NAFO Commission and its subsidiary bodies

**47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO**  
15–19 September 2025  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

This document is presented to the Contracting Parties in accordance with the provisions of the *NAFO Rules of Procedure*.

**Provisional Agendas**

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Yours sincerely,

Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir  
Executive Secretary

BB:ll  
Enclosed: (40 pgs.)

## PART I.

### 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO

15-19 September 2025

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

### General Organizational Matters

#### 1. Meeting Venue

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO will be held at:

Halifax Convention Centre

1650 Argyle Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 0E6

#### 2. Hotel Accommodations

##### Hotel Accommodations

A block booking of a limited number of rooms have been secured at the following hotels:

<b>Cambridge Suites Halifax</b> 1583 Brunswick Street Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3P5  \$239.00 CAD/night (plus taxes)	Reservations are to be made by participants directly with the hotel using the following booking link:  <u><a href="#">Book your group rate at Cambridge Suites Halifax</a></u>	To receive the special rate, rooms must be booked by <b><u>Thursday, 14 August 2025.</u></b>
<b>Courtyard Halifax Downtown</b> 5120 Salter Street Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 0A1  \$259.00 CAD/night (plus taxes)	Reservations are to be made by participants directly with the hotel using the following booking link:  <u><a href="#">Book your group rate at Courtyard Halifax Downtown</a></u>	To receive the special rate, rooms must be booked by <b><u>Thursday, 14 August 2025.</u></b>
<b>Hampton Inn by Hilton</b> 1960 Brunswick Street Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2G7  \$219.00 CAD/night (plus taxes)	Reservations are to be made by participants directly with the hotel.  To book online: • <u><a href="http://www.Halifax.HamptonInn.com">www.Halifax.HamptonInn.com</a></u> Please select " <i>Special Rate Codes</i> " by the date at top and enter AFO in the " <i>Group Code</i> " field.  To book by telephone: • Call the hotel directly at +1 (902) 429-6620 or toll-free at +1-855-331-0337 and mention block name " <i>Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization</i> " or group code AFO"	To receive the special rate, rooms must be booked by <b><u>Friday, 01 August 2025.</u></b>

## Virtual Participation

For those Contracting Parties that are unable to attend the meeting in-person, virtual capabilities will be provided.

### 3. Meetings of the NAFO constituent bodies are scheduled as follows (please see floor plan and timetable in Annex 1 and Annex 2):

Commission: 15-19 September – The Commission will open at 09:30 hours on 15 September and its Standing Committees (STACFAD and STACTIC) are expected to start at 14:00 hours on Monday, 15 September.

Scientific Council: 15-19 September – Scientific Council will open at 09:30 hours on 15 September. This will be preceded by a meeting of the SC Executive Committee at 09:00 hours on Monday, 15 September.

Please note, Provisional Timetables may be adjusted for each NAFO Body and Standing Committee, in consultation with the respective Chair(s), for the upcoming *47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO*.

### 4. Registration of Delegates

In accordance with the *NAFO Rules of Procedure*, Contracting Parties are requested to notify the Executive Secretary, as far as possible in advance of the meeting, the names of their representatives, alternates, experts and advisers who will attend.

As the meeting will be divided into four (4) meetings running concurrently, Contracting Parties are further requested to notify the Executive Secretary which delegates are designated to participate in each meeting either in-person or virtually, specifically:

- Commission
- Scientific Council
- STACTIC
- STACFAD

To allow adequate time to create personalized SharePoint accounts and circulate virtual meeting invitations, we kindly request completed registration forms be returned to the NAFO Secretariat by **Friday, 05 September 2025** (Annex 3).

### 5. Delegation Rooms

A limited number of delegation rooms are available for rent. Any Contracting Parties wishing to book a delegation room, please contact the NAFO Secretariat by telephone: +1 (902) 468-5590 Ext. 201 or by e-mail: [info@nafo.int](mailto:info@nafo.int).

### 6. Submission of Meeting Documentation

NAFO Delegations are encouraged to submit proposals in advance of the Annual Meeting, but **not later than a week prior to the Annual Meeting**. This reflects Rule 4.3 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission “*No order of business shall be the subject of a decision unless the subject matter has been included in the provisional agenda*”.

To allow flexibility, new proposals will not be excluded at the Annual Meeting, but delegates are requested to table any new proposals on new topics no later than the opening of the Commission's morning session on **Thursday, 18 September 2025**.

As adopted at the 2023 Annual Meeting of NAFO, the guidelines for the 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 before the meeting.*

## **7. NAFO Meetings SharePoint**

As adopted at the 2023 Annual Meeting, NAFO utilizes a paperless approach to meeting documentation. All meeting documentation is distributed exclusively by electronic means, unless requested otherwise.

Meeting documentation, prior to and during the meeting, will be available for registered participants on the NAFO Meetings SharePoint at <https://meetings.nafo.int>.

A personalized username and password are required to access the NAFO Meetings SharePoint. We ask any Contracting Party requiring log-in details to please contact the NAFO Secretariat by telephone: +1 (902) 468-5590 Ext. 201 or by e-mail: [info@nafo.int](mailto:info@nafo.int).

## **8. Digital Media**

### **Photos**

The NAFO Secretariat regularly takes photographs during NAFO meetings. Photographs may be used by the NAFO Secretariat on the NAFO websites and publications, intended to showcase NAFO activities.

### **Recordings**

The NAFO Secretariat regularly records NAFO meetings. All recordings are used for documentation purposes.

## **9. Travel Information**

### **Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)**

An Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) is an entry requirement for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air. The eTA can be completed online and costs CAD \$7.00. You can find more information about applying for an eTA [here](#).

**Tips on travelling to and from the airport:**

- It takes 30-40 minutes to get from the airport to downtown Halifax.
- There are five (5) primary ways to get to and from the Halifax Stanfield International Airport from public transportation to car rentals, specifically:
  - Take the Metro Regional Express Bus (route #320) for just \$4.75 CAD (exact change or download the [HFXGO](#) app).
  - [Maritime Bus](#) service offers daily transportation to and from the Halifax Stanfield International Airport and costs \$17.97 to the Halifax Bus Terminal.
  - Car rentals are available at the Halifax Stanfield airport and are conveniently located in the Lower Level of the Airport Parkade.
  - Taxis and limos are available on site. For a fixed rate, we recommend the grab-and-go option by asking for a taxi from the Ground Transportation booth in arrivals. Rates will depend on the drop-off location starting at \$64 for downtown Halifax (most taxi companies take credit, debit, and cash).
  - Uber is available in Halifax. The designated rideshare pick-up location is located on Silver Dart Drive (the lower road), slightly south of the Halifax Transit bus stop.

**Dining Options**

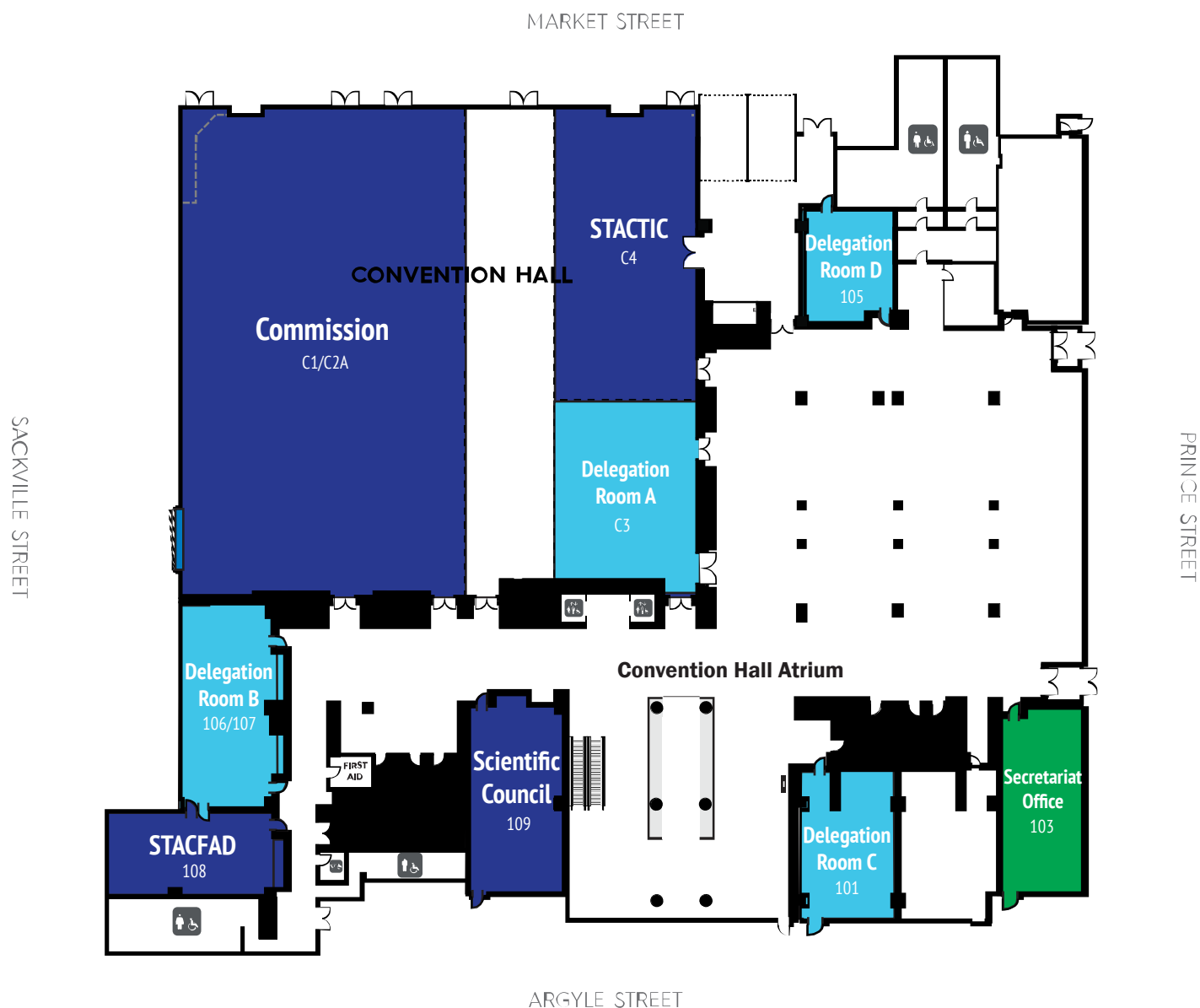
Downtown Halifax is the urban core of the region, complete with hundreds of food options within walking distance. Check out the [Official Halifax Visitor Guide](#) for ideas and more information.

**Tourist Information**

For additional tourist information, visit [www.discoverhalifaxns.com](http://www.discoverhalifaxns.com) and <https://novascotia.com/>



# NAFO 47th Annual Meeting Halifax Convention Centre



## Convention Level

**Annex 2.****Provisional Timetable 2025**

Please note, the start times provided below are approximations and may be adjusted, in consultation with the respective Chair(s), for the upcoming *47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO*. Delegates are strongly encouraged to reference the daily timetable for updates.

HOURS	EVENT	NAFO BODIES	Room
<b>Sunday, 14 September</b>			
TBA	Coordination Meeting	All Chairs	TBA
15:00–17:00	Registration	All Bodies	Convention Hall Atrium
<b>Monday, 15 September</b>			
08:30–	Registration	All Bodies	Convention Hall Atrium
09:00–09:30	Session	SC Executive Committee	TBA
09:30–12:30	Opening Session	Scientific Council	109
09:30–12:30	Opening Session	Commission	Convention Hall C1/C2A
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00–18:00	Sessions	Scientific Council	109
	Opening Sessions	STACTIC	Convention Hall C4
		STACFAD	108
<b>Tuesday, 16 September</b>			
09:00–12:30	Joint Session	Commission – Scientific Council	Convention Hall C1/C2A
	Sessions	STACTIC	Convention Hall C4
		STACFAD	108
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00–18:00	Sessions	Commission	Convention Hall C1/C2A
		Scientific Council	109
		STACTIC	Convention Hall C4
		STACFAD	108
<i>NAFO 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Reception</i>			
<b>Wednesday, 17 September</b>			
09:00–12:30	Sessions	Commission	Convention Hall C1/C2A
		Scientific Council	109
		STACTIC	Convention Hall C4
		STACFAD	108
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00–18:00	Sessions	Commission	Convention Hall C1/C2A
		Scientific Council	109
	Closing Sessions*	STACTIC	Convention Hall C4

HOURS	EVENT	NAFO BODIES	Room
		STACFAD	108
<i>* Standing Committee reports (STACTIC and STACFAD) should be finalized and submitted to the Secretariat for distribution on Thursday.</i>			
<b>Thursday, 18 September</b>			
09:00–12:30	Sessions	Commission	Convention Hall C1/C2A
		Scientific Council	109
<i>**if required</i>	Sessions	STACTIC	Convention Hall C4
		STACFAD	108
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00–18:00	Sessions	Commission	Convention Hall C1/C2A
		Scientific Council	109
<i>**If additional requests from the Commission are received, a new session(s) would be required to convene.</i>			
<b>Friday, 19 September</b>			
09:00–	Closing Sessions	Commission	Convention Hall C1/C2A
		Scientific Council	109
Closing of the Annual Meeting			



### Annex 3.

15-19 September 2025

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

## REGISTRATION FORM

Contracting Party: \_\_\_\_\_

The **HEAD OF DELEGATION** who are those authorized to cast a vote on behalf of the Contracting Party.

**The HEAD OF DELEGATION (ALTERNATE):**

The **REPRESENTATIVES** who are designated to speak on behalf of the Contracting Party:

[illegible]

The **ADVISERS/EXPERTS** who are designated to observe on behalf of the Contracting Party:

DELEGATE NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL	MEETING ATTENDING (COM, SC, STACTIC, STACFAD)	PARTICIPATION FORMAT (IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY)

**Completed registration forms may be returned to:**

Lisa LeFort, Senior Executive Assistant to the Executive Secretary  
 Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Secretariat  
 Tel.: +1 (902) 468-5590 Ext. 207 or Email: [info@nafo.int](mailto:info@nafo.int)

**PART II.****47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO**

15–19 September 2025

Halifax, Canada

**Commission****Draft Provisional Agenda**

<b>Agenda item:</b>	
I. Opening Procedure	
1.	Opening by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America)
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur
3.	Adoption of Agenda
4.	Admission of Observers
5.	Publicity
II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and Other Internal Affairs	
6.	Review of Membership of the Commission
7.	Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat
8.	Consideration of the Renewal of the Executive Secretary's contract
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
III. Coordination of External Affairs	
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. NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings
14.	Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area
IV. Joint Session of Commission and Scientific Council	
15.	NAFO Performance Review
	a. Implementation of the 2018 Performance Review recommendations
	b. Update on the establishment of <i>ad hoc</i> virtual working group to consider the initiation of a third Performance Review of NAFO
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), December 2024

	b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), February and April 2025
	c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and July 2025
	d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2025
18.	Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management in 2027 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters
	V. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area
19.	Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2026
	a. Cod in Division 3M
20.	Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2026
	a. Cod in Divisions 3NO
	b. Redfish in Divisions 3LN
	c. Redfish in Division 3O
	d. Beaked redfish ( <i>Sebastes mentella</i> ) in Subarea 2 + Divisions 1F and 3K
	e. Yellowtail in Divisions 3LNO
	f. White hake in Divisions 3NO
	g. Capelin in Divisions 3NO
	h. Skates in Divisions 3LNO
	i. Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO
	j. Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4
	k. Northern shrimp in Divisions 3LNO
21.	Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks
	a. Cod in Divisions 2J3KL
	VI. Ecosystem Considerations
22.	Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations
	VII. Conservation and Enforcement Measures
23.	Update from the NAFO Commission <i>ad hoc</i> Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting, 2025
24.	Report of STACTIC from this Annual Meeting and Recommendations
25.	Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures
	VIII. Finance and Administration
26.	Report of STACFAD from this Annual Meeting
27.	Adoption of the 2026 Budget and STACFAD Recommendations
	IX. Closing Procedure
28.	Other Business
29.	Election of Chair and vice-Chair
30.	Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting
31.	Press Release
32.	Adjournment

Notes to  
the Draft Provisional Agenda of the Commission  
47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO, 15–19 September 2025

## I. Opening Procedure

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

*The Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America), will call the plenary session of the Commission to order on Monday, 15 September 2025.*

*Following the procedure established at the 2015 Annual Meeting, delegates are invited to submit opening statements in writing for circulation and inclusion in the meeting report.*

*NAFO Delegations are encouraged to submit any proposals in advance of the Annual Meeting, preferably early enough to be considered for the provisional agenda that is finalized 60 days before the Annual Meeting, but not later than a week prior to the Annual Meeting. This reflects Rule 4.3 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission “No order of business shall be the subject of a decision unless the subject matter has been included in the provisional agenda”.*

*To allow flexibility, new proposals will not be excluded at the Annual Meeting, but delegates are requested to table any new proposals on new topics not later than the opening of the Commission’s morning session on Thursday, 18 September 2025.*

### 2. Appointment of Rapporteur

*Participants will appoint a rapporteur whose duties include maintaining a record of decisions agreed upon by the Commission at the meeting. Traditionally, this function has been carried out by the NAFO Secretariat.*

### 3. Adoption of Agenda

*The agenda will be presented to the meeting for review and adoption based on the provisional agenda circulated to all Contracting Parties in NAFO/25-164 of 16 July 2025.*

### 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”.*

*On that basis, the Executive Secretary will invite the following intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to attend the meeting in an observer capacity: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), North Pacific Marine Science*

*Organization (PICES), Sargasso Sea Commission, Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), United Nations – Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS) and Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).*

*Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) currently accredited with NAFO Observer Status are: Atlantic Groundfish Council, Dalhousie University – Environment Information: Use & Influence Research Initiative (EIUI), Dalhousie University – Marine & Environmental Law Institute (MELAW), Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), Ecology Action Centre (EAC), Fishermen and Hunters Association in Greenland (KNAPK), International Coalition of Fisheries Association (ICFA), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Oceans North Canada, Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat, Shark Trust and Sustainable Fisheries Greenland.*

## **5. Publicity**

*Conditions for attendance by media representatives at NAFO meetings are stipulated in the NAFO Media Policy (COM Doc. 22-21).*

*In accordance with paragraph 11 “No media posts or content, including social media, shall be permitted by the media or meeting attendees, regarding the meeting proceedings (i.e., meeting discussions and decisions) during the closed sessions of the meeting.”*

*The Executive Secretary will prepare the press release in collaboration with the Chairs of the Commission and Scientific Council. At the discretion of the President and Executive Secretary, a press conference may be held following the close of the Annual Meeting.*

## **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 2024 Annual Meeting and is currently comprised of thirteen (13) Contracting Parties: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America.*

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

*A detailed administrative and activity report will be circulated to the meeting and discussed in depth by STACFAD (COM Doc. 25-04).*

### **8. Consideration of the Renewal of the Executive Secretary’s contract**

*The current term of the Executive Secretary’s contract expires in December 2026. Heads of Delegations shall discuss the issue (contract renewal or recruitment process) of the 2027–2030 term.*

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

*The NAFO Convention, paragraph 1 of Annex II states that the “Executive Secretary shall establish and maintain a list of experts who are willing and able to serve as panelists” in any ad hoc panel established under Article XV of the NAFO Convention to settle a dispute.*

*Further to NAFO/25-133 of 02 June 2025, which was circulated requesting Contracting Parties to review their list of up to five (5) nominees to serve as possible panelists in any ad hoc panel established under the settlement of disputes provisions of the NAFO Convention (Article XV), the Secretariat will provide the updated list of all the nominated experts to Contracting Parties at this Annual Meeting.*

## **10. Guidance to STACFAD**

*In order for the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) to complete its work, the Commission will identify any additional items that it wishes STACFAD to discuss at this Annual Meeting and instruct the Chair of STACFAD accordingly.*

## **11. Guidance to STACTIC**

*The Chair of Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) will present a summary report of the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting held in May 2025 (COM Doc. 25-03).*

*In order for STACTIC to complete its work, the Commission will identify any additional items that it wishes STACTIC to discuss at this Annual Meeting and instruct the Chair of STACTIC accordingly.*

# **III. Coordination of External Affairs**

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

*The Executive Secretary will provide a report on NAFO’s participation in external activities since the last Annual Meeting.*

## **13. International Relations**

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

*At the 2017 Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the Secretariat maintains dialogue with relevant organizations and explore mechanisms to improve the exchange of information.*

*The Executive Secretary will provide a report on the matter.*

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

*Under this agenda item, an update will be provided on the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Sea Fisheries Project, administered by the FAO. At the 2021 Annual Meeting, NAFO agreed to be a collaborating partner of this project, similar to the role NAFO played in its predecessor ABNJ Deep-Seas Project.*

**c. NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings**

*This agenda item is to allow for appointment of NAFO members to serve as observers to meetings of other relevant organizations and presentation of their reports, as well as a general discussion of NAFO's cooperation with other organizations.*

*At the last Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the following NAFO Contracting Parties would observe at meetings of the following organizations during 2024/2025:*

- *Canada would represent NAFO at the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC).*
- *Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) would represent NAFO at the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).*
- *European Union would represent NAFO at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).*
- *Japan would represent NAFO at the South East Atlantic Fishery Organization (SEAFO).*
- *Norway would represent NAFO at the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO).*
- *The United Kingdom would represent NAFO at International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)*
- *The United States of America would represent NAFO at the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO).*

*It is expected that those Contracting Parties which attended meetings as NAFO observers will provide links to the relevant meeting reports, where available, and to the press releases from the meetings when reports are not available in time for the NAFO Annual Meeting for information under this agenda item.*

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

*The Secretariat will provide an update on Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area.*

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

**15. NAFO Performance Review**

**a. Implementation of the 2018 Performance Review Recommendations**

*As agreed at the 2019 Annual Meeting, the Secretariat will provide an update on the progress in addressing the "Action Plan for the Implementation of the recommendations from the 2018 Report of the NAFO Performance Review Panel" (COM Doc. 19-32).*

**b. Update on the establishment of *ad hoc* virtual working group to consider the initiation of a third Performance Review of NAFO**

*At the 2024 Annual Meeting, the Commission agreed to establish an ad hoc virtual working group that will meet intersessionally to develop recommendations on the initiation of a third Performance Review of NAFO (COM Doc. 24-20). The initial work is scheduled to be presented to the Commission at the 2026 Annual Meeting, and any updates can be discussed under this agenda item.*

**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, Diana González-Troncoso (European Union), will present the response of the Scientific Council to the Commission requests for scientific advice on fish stocks (formulated in June 2025) and on other topics (formulated in June 2025 and in September 2025).*

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

*Follow-up questions to the scientific advice should be submitted in writing, and whenever possible in advance. Responses to the follow-up questions are expected to be formulated by the Scientific Council 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**

*The meeting reports and recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Groups will be presented by the respective Chairs and co-Chairs for consideration.*

**a. Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG), December 2024**

**b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), February and April 2025**

**c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and July 2025**

**d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2025**

**18. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management in 2027 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 will prepare the draft requests, to be reviewed by the Scientific Council during the meeting and adopted by the Commission.*

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

### **19. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2026**

#### **a. Cod in Division 3M**

### **20. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2026**

#### **a. Cod in Divisions 3NO**

#### **b. Redfish in Divisions 3LN**

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

#### **d. Beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in Subarea 2 + Divisions 1F and 3K**

#### **e. Yellowtail in Divisions 3LNO**

#### **f. White hake in Divisions 3NO**

#### **g. Capelin in Divisions 3NO**

#### **h. Skates in Divisions 3LNO**

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

#### **j. Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4**

#### **k. Northern shrimp in Divisions 3LNO**

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

*Relevant topics concerning the conservation of fish stocks not covered by the agenda items above may be discussed under this agenda item.*

#### **a. Cod in Divisions 2J3KL**

## **VI. Ecosystem Considerations**

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

*Relevant topics concerning ecosystem considerations not covered by the agenda items above may be discussed under this agenda item.*

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

### **23. Update from 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, 2025**

*The Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America), will present the meeting report and recommendations for consideration.*

### **24. Report of STACTIC from this Annual Meeting and Recommendations**

*The Chair of STACTIC, Patrick Moran (United States of America), will present the Committee report to the Commission before the end of the Annual Meeting and the recommendations will be considered.*

### **25. Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures**

*Relevant topics concerning conservation and enforcement measures not covered by the agenda items above may be discussed under this agenda item.*

## **VIII. Finance and Administration**

### **26. Report of STACFAD from this Annual Meeting**

### **27. Adoption of the 2026 Budget and STACFAD Recommendations**

*The Chair of STACFAD, Robert Fagan (Canada), will present the Committee report to the Commission before the end of the Annual Meeting and the recommendations will be considered.*

## **IX. Closing Procedure**

### **28. Other Business**

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

*According to 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. Each shall be eligible for re-election but shall not serve for more than four years in succession in the same capacity. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall not be representatives of the same Contracting Party.”*

*The current Chair and NAFO President, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America), was elected in September 2023 for a two-year term.*

*The current vice-Chair, Bernard Briand (France in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), was elected in September 2023 for a two-year term.*

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

*As previously agreed, the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will take place 21–25 September 2026 in Lithuania.*

**31. Press Release**

*The press release of the meeting will be prepared by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Chairs of the Commission and Scientific Council.*

**32. Adjournment**

*The meeting will adjourn on Friday, 19 September 2025.*

**47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO**  
 15–19 September 2025  
 Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

**NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)  
 of the Commission**

**Provisional Agenda**

<b>Agenda item:</b>	
1.	Opening by the Chair, Patrick Moran, (United States of America)
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur
3.	Adoption of Agenda
4.	Annual compliance review 2024
5.	Annual compliance review format
6.	NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website
7.	Report and Recommendations of the Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)
8.	Report and Recommendations of the Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX)
9.	New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
10.	Discussion on the review of Article 4 of the NAFO CEM
11.	Review of specific measures in Article 6 of the NAFO CEM
	a. Measures relating to the cod fishery in Division 3M
	b. Measures relating to the yellowtail flounder fishery
	c. Numbering of Article 6.8 of the NAFO CEM
12.	Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches
13.	Closure of Others quota - Article 5.5(h) of the NAFO CEM
14.	Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO
15.	Review of current IUU list pursuant to Article 53 of the NAFO CEM
16.	Outdated reporting terminology in the NAFO CEM
17.	Other Business
18.	Election of Chair and vice-Chair
19.	Time and Place of Next Meeting
20.	Adoption of report
21.	Adjournment

Notes to  
the Provisional Agenda of STACTIC

47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO, 15–19 September 2025

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

*The meeting will be opened by the Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America).*

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

*A rapporteur will be nominated and appointed.*

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

**4. Annual compliance review 2024**

*In accordance with Rule 5.1(e) of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission, STACTIC shall produce the Annual Compliance Report based on the compilation of 2024 fisheries reports.*

**5. Annual compliance review format**

*At the 2025 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, Canada committed to working with Contracting Parties to evolve the proposal and will present a revised version of STACTIC WP 25-10 at the 2025 STACTIC Annual Meeting.*

**6. NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website**

*The Secretariat has continued work on the MCS Website, the Observer application, and the ePSC application since the 2025 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting and will provide an update.*

**7. Report and Recommendations of the Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)**

*At the 2025 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) to meet prior to the 2025 STACTIC Annual Meeting to finalize the outstanding items identified in STACTIC WP 25-11. An update from this working group will be provided under this agenda item.*

**8. Report and Recommendations of the Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX)**

*At the 2025 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed to move forward with the Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX) as outlined in the Terms of Reference in STACTIC WP 25-01 (Rev. 2). An update from this working group will be provided under this agenda item.*

**9. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM**

*This is a regular agenda item where new and pending proposals concerning the NAFO CEM are deliberated.*

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

*In accordance with Article 4.7 of the NAFO CEM, NAFO will review the Article 4 measures in 2025.*

## **11. Review of specific measures in Article 6 of the NAFO CEM**

### **a. Measures relating to the cod fishery in Division 3M**

*In accordance with Article 6.11 of the NAFO CEM, STACTIC shall review the measures referred to in paragraphs 8(i) and 8(ii). At the 2025 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that the Secretariat will conduct an analysis of the available data to facilitate the review of these measures.*

### **b. Measures relating to the yellowtail flounder fishery**

*In accordance with Article 6.12 of the NAFO CEM, STACTIC shall assess if the provisions in paragraphs 6.3(g) and 8 bis led to an increase on American plaice bycatches or directed fishery on American plaice; and review paragraphs 6.3(g) and 8 bis. At the 2025 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that the Secretariat will update the analysis outlined in STACTIC WP 24-26 to facilitate the review of these measures.*

### **c. Numbering of Article 6.8 of the NAFO CEM**

*At the 2025 STACTIC Intersessional meeting, it was agreed that Article 6.8 of the NAFO CEM requires re-numbering, and that discussions on the re-numbering will continue at the 2025 Annual Meeting.*

## **12. Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches**

*At the 2024 Annual Meeting, the Commission agreed to re-convene the Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatch, Discards and Selectivity to consider NAFO's current measures relating to directed fisheries and mitigating bycatch of moratoria species as outlined in [COM Doc. 24-19](#). Any updates or actions requested from the September 2025 WG-BDS meeting to STACTIC will be discussed under this agenda item.*

## **13. Closure of Others quota - Article 5.5(h) of the NAFO CEM**

*At the 2024 STACTIC Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the Secretariat will present an updated summary of the Others quota closures at the 2025 STACTIC Annual Meeting.*

## **14. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO**

*At the 2025 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that the Secretariat, with assistance from interested Contracting Parties, will conduct an analysis of the port inspection data to facilitate the review of declared catches versus inspected landed catches and the impacts of using two different denominators.*

## **15. Review of current IUU list pursuant to Article 53 of the NAFO CEM**

*The IUU list will be reviewed in accordance with Article 53 of the NAFO CEM.*

## **16. Outdated reporting terminology in the NAFO CEM**

*There is some outdated reporting language in the NAFO CEM which the Secretariat would like to highlight to STACTIC for discussion.*

## **17. Other Business**

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

## **18. Election of Chair and 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, Patrick Moran (United States of America), was elected in September 2023 for a two-year term.*

*The current vice-Chair, Brent Napier (Canada), was elected in September 2023 for a two-year term.*

## **19. Time and Place of Next Meeting**

*Under this agenda item, the time and place of the next STACTIC meeting will be discussed.*

## **20. Adoption of report**

*The STACTIC report will be adopted by STACTIC and then presented to the Commission. The recommendations and proposals will be forwarded to the Commission during the meeting for consideration and adoption.*

## **21. Adjournment**

*The Committee shall endeavour to formally close its proceedings on Thursday, 18 September 2025 and provide its report to the Commission. The Commission will then decide on the time for the report to be presented by the STACTIC Chair to the Commission.*

**47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO**  
 15–19 September 2025  
 Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

**Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)  
 of the Commission**

**Draft Provisional Agenda**

<b>Agenda item:</b>	
1.	Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan, (Canada)
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur
3.	Adoption of Agenda
4.	Audited Financial Statements for 2024
5.	Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat
6.	Projected Financial Statements for 2025
7.	Review of Accumulated Surplus and Funds
8.	Personnel Matters
9.	Internship Program
10.	Report on the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), 2025
11.	NAFO Resolutions
12.	Budget Estimate for 2026
13.	Budget Forecast for 2027 and 2028
14.	Adoption of 2025/2026 Staff Committee Appointees
15.	Other Business
16.	Election of vice-Chair
17.	Time and Place of 2026–2028 Annual Meetings
18.	Adjournment

Notes to  
the Draft Provisional Agenda of STACFAD

47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO, 15–19 September 2025

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

*The meeting will be opened by the Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada).*

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

*A rapporteur will be appointed by the participants. The NAFO Secretariat is prepared to assume this duty as in previous years.*

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

*The agenda will be presented to the meeting for review and adoption based on the provisional agenda circulated to all Contracting Parties in NAFO/25-164 of 16 July 2025.*

**4. Audited Financial Statements for 2024**

*Baker Tilly Nova Scotia Inc. performed the audit for the 2024 fiscal year. In accordance with NAFO Financial Regulations, the draft audited financial statements were circulated to the Heads of Delegations. Copies will also be circulated to STACFAD delegates.*

*NAFO Financial Regulations (Rule 9.10) state that the Auditors shall serve for a maximum of five years. The audit of the 2025 financial records will mark the fifth year for Baker Tilly Nova Scotia Inc. as auditors of the organization. Proposals from auditing firms for the 2026–2030 fiscal periods will be requested and presented to STACAFD at the 2026 Annual Meeting.*

*The Secretariat will provide a proposal to amend the NAFO Financial Regulations to allow auditing firms to submit a proposal for a second term.*

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

*The Administrative and Activity Report (COM Doc. 25-04) will be provided by the Secretariat.*

**6. Projected Financial Statements for 2025**

*Financial Statement estimates for 2025 (projected to 31 December) will be provided by the Secretariat.*

**7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Funds**

*The accumulated surplus account, contingency fund, relocation fund and performance review fund will be presented to the meeting by the Secretariat.*

**8. Personnel Matters**

*Any issues related to personnel (e.g., promotions, job descriptions, new staff members hired intersessionally, etc.) will be discussed under this agenda item.*

## **9. Internship Program**

*At the 2024 Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the Secretariat undertake a review of the internship program, including the monthly stipend and work projects available to interns, to ensure it remains be mutually beneficial for the Secretariat and the intern.*

*The Secretariat will present results of the review under this agenda item for consideration and review by STACFAD.*

## **10. Report on the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), 2025**

*The Secretariat will report on the highlights of the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commission Pension Society which was held from 29 April to 01 May in Washington, DC, USA.*

## **11. NAFO Resolutions**

*At the 2024 Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the Secretariat would work intersessionally to identify NAFO Resolutions that may no longer be relevant or have been overtaken by events, as well as develop a formalized procedure for their adoption and archiving.*

*The Secretariat will present its findings under this agenda item for consideration and review by STACFAD.*

## **12. Budget Estimate for 2026**

*All budgetary items will be considered by STACFAD based on the working paper provided by the Secretariat.*

## **13. Budget Forecast for 2027 and 2028**

*For information purposes, the budget forecasts for 2027 and 2028 will be presented under this agenda item.*

## **14. Adoption of 2025/2026 Staff Committee Appointees**

*Secretariat members will present the Staff Committee nominations. The Secretariat will request STACFAD to recommend to the Commission the nominees' appointment to the Staff Committee.*

## **15. Other Business**

*This agenda item would include any matters referred to STACFAD by the Commission during the current Annual Meeting.*

## **16. Election of vice-Chair**

*According to Rule 5.4 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission "The Committee shall elect, to serve for two years, their own Chairperson and vice-Chairperson, who shall be allowed a vote."*

*The current vice-Chair, Imogen Gibbins (United Kingdom), was elected in September 2023 for a two-year term.*

*The current Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada), was re-elected in September 2024 for a two-year term.*

## **17. Time and Place of 2026–2028 Annual Meetings**

*At the 2024 Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the dates for the 2026–2027 Annual Meetings be as follows:*

- 2026 - 21–25 September in Lithuania*
- 2027 - 20–24 September in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada*

*STACFAD will review these dates and recommend dates for the 2028 Annual Meeting.*

- 2028 - 18– 22 September (3<sup>rd</sup> full week of September to be reviewed by the Committee)*

*Contracting Parties are encouraged, whenever possible, to provide more than 12 months notice of the intention to extend an invitation to host a NAFO Annual Meeting to avoid unnecessary fiscal implications of the organization having to make a non-refundable deposit to secure conference space.*

## **18. Adjournment**

*The Committee shall endeavour to close its proceedings/session at a time that allows the STACFAD report to be circulated to the Commission in advance of the presentation of the Chair of STACFAD.*

**PART III.**

**47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO**

15-19 September 2025

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

**NAFO Scientific Council**

**Provisional Agenda**

**I. Plenary Session (Scientific Council Chair: Diana González-Troncoso)**

1. Opening
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Plan of Work

**II. Review of Scientific Council Recommendations**

**III. Joint Session of Commission and Scientific Council**

1. NAFO Performance Review
  - a. Implementation of the 2018 Performance Review recommendations
  - b. Update on the establishment of ad hoc virtual working group to consider the initiation of a third Performance Review of NAFO
2. 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 Chair of the Commission and of the Scientific Council
3. 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), 2024
  - b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), 2025
  - c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and July 2025
  - d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2025
4. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on Management in 2027 and beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters

**IV. Research Coordination (STACREC Chair: Mark Simpson)**

1. Opening
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Fisheries Statistics
  - a. Progress Reports on Secretariat Activities
  - b. Review of STATLANT21 Research Activities
4. Research Activities
  - a. Surveys Planned for 2026 and 2027
5. Other Matters
  - a. Review of SCR and SCS Documents
  - b. Other Business
    - i. Reviewers for June 2026: topics
6. Adjournment

**V. Fisheries Science (STACFIS Chair: Martha Krohn)**

1. Opening
2. Nomination of Designated Experts
3. Other Matters
  - a. Review of SCR and SCS Documents
  - b. Assessments deferred from the June meeting
    - i. Northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4 (full assessment)
  - c. Review of FIRMS classification of NAFO stocks
  - d. Other Business
4. Adjournment

**VI. Requests from the Commission**

1. Requests/advice deferred from the June Meeting
2. *Ad hoc* Requests from Current Meeting
3. Requests arising from Working Groups in 2025
4. Further progress on items related to COM requests (in SCS Doc. 25/01)
  - a. Request #7: The Commission requests the Scientific Council to develop reference points to facilitate the implementation of the Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework, for stocks that currently do not have them: Northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4.

**VII. Review of Future Meeting Arrangements**

**VIII. Future Special Sessions**

1. Discussion of proposed topics
  - a. Workshop on Div. 3M cod age readers
  - b. Climate Change meeting
  - c. Other proposed topics

**IX. Other Matters**

1. Meeting reports
2. Results of the Scientific Council and STACFIS Shrimp Assessment Meeting, 9-11 September 2025
3. Chair and Designated Experts: election of vacant positions
4. SOFIA State of the stocks
5. Any other business

**X. Adoption of Reports**

1. Committee Reports of STACFIS and STACREC
2. Report of Scientific Council

**XI. Adjournment**

**Annex 1. The Commission's Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2026 and Beyond  
of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters**  
(SCS Doc. 25/01)

Following a request from the Scientific Council, the Commission agreed that items 1, 2, and 3 should be the priority for the June 2025 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 line with the Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (Annex 4 of COM-SC Doc. 24-03) the Commission should be informed by the range of options and associated risks provided by the Scientific Council. The Commission will decide upon the acceptable risk level in the context of the entirety of the Scientific Council advice for each stock guided and as foreseen by the NAFO Precautionary Approach.

<b>Yearly basis</b>	<b>Two-year basis</b>	<b>Three-year basis</b>	<b>Interim Monitoring Only</b>
Cod in Division 3M	Redfish in Division 3M Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO Redfish in Divisions 3LN Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO Northern shrimp in Divisions 3LNO Northern shrimp in Division 3M White hake in Divisions 3NO	American plaice in Division 3M Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4 Redfish in Division 3O Cod in Divisions 3NO American plaice in Divisions 3LNO	Subarea 6 Alfonsino Subareas 2-3 Roughhead Grenadier Capelin in Divisions 3NO

Advice should be provided using the guidance provided in **Annex A**, or using the predetermined Management Procedure in the cases where they exist (currently Greenland halibut 2+3KLMNO). For Division 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 2025, advice should be provided for 2026 for: Cod in Division 3M
- In 2025, advice should be provided for 2026 and 2027 for: Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO, White hake in Divisions 3NO, Northern shrimp in Divisions 3LNO
  - With respect to Northern shrimp in Divisions 3LNO, Scientific Council is requested to provide its advice to the Commission prior to the 2025 Annual Meeting based on the survey data up to and including 2025.
- In 2025, advice should be provided for 2026, 2027 and 2028 for: Redfish in Division 3O, Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4.

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 + Divisions 3KLMNO annually to compute the TAC using the agreed Management Procedure 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 3LN redfish MSE processes during 2024-2025.
4. As practicable and taking into account Scientific Council capacity constraints, develop stock summary sheets for NAFO managed stocks that are evaluated using MSE processes.
5. In relation to the Ecosystem Roadmap as a whole, the Commission requests that the Scientific Council develop a reference document detailing the ecosystem roadmap, for completion in the next 1-3 years.
6. In relation to the habitat impact assessment component of the Roadmap (VME and SAI analyses), the Commission requests that Scientific Council:
  - a. Continue the development of a centralized data repository using ArcGIS online to host the data and data-products for scientific advice, in conjunction with the NAFO Secretariat
  - b. Work towards the reassessment of VMEs and impact of bottom fisheries on VMEs for 2027; including potential management options in the reassessment of bottom fisheries.
  - c. Develop materials on the potential of submitting NAFO coral bottom fishing closed areas as OECMs for discussion at the 2025 WG-EAFFM meeting.
7. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to develop reference points to facilitate the implementation of the Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework, for stocks that currently do not have them.
8. In relation to its workload, the Commission requests the Scientific Council to:
  - a. Continue to update the 3-5 year work plan, which reflects requests arising from the 2024 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.
  - b. Consider undertaking internal, or support external, assessments to inform the ongoing effort to address the Scientific Council workload. Such assessments could include how to optimize:
    - i. the organization / structure and function of the Scientific Council, its standing committees and working groups,
    - ii. further development and implementation of the Scientific Council's workplan.
9. The Commission requests Scientific Council to conduct ongoing analysis of the Division 3M cod fishery data by 2025 in order to:
  - a. monitor the consequences of the management decisions (including the analysis of the redistribution of the fishing effort along the year and its potential effects on ecosystems,

- the variation of the cod catch composition in lengths/ages, and the bycatch levels of other fish species, benthos in general, and VME taxa in particular); and
- b. carry out any additional monitoring that would be required, including Division 3M cod caught as bycatch in other fisheries during the closed period.
10. Noting the voluntary contribution of the United States to support a consultant to provide feedback on NAFO's processes to address climate change impacts, requests the SC to conduct an analysis of progress and/or outcomes of that work.

## **ANNEX A: Guidance for providing advice on Stocks Assessed**

The Commission requests 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 Commission to consider the balance between risks and yield levels, in determining its management of these stocks:

Stochastic short-term projections (3 years) should be performed with the F levels that are included in the risk table from the Revised PA Framework (Table 1 below), based on the point estimate of biomass. 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.

In relation to Tier 1 of the Roadmap Scientific Council should provide annually catch information in relation to 2TCI, including recent cumulative catch levels and a scoping of expected cumulative catch levels.

For stocks assessed with a production model, the advice should include updated time series or plots of:

- Catch and TAC of recent years
- Catch to relative biomass
- Relative Biomass
- Relative Fishing mortality
- Stock trajectory against precautionary approach reference points

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 precautionary approach reference points

For stocks 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 the longest time-period possible:

- catch and TAC of recent years
- length distributions
- time trends of survey abundance estimates
- an age or size range chosen to represent the spawning population
- an age or size-range chosen to represent the exploited population
- recruitment proxy or index for an age or size-range chosen to represent the recruiting population.
- fishing mortality proxy, such as the ratio of reported commercial catches to a measure of the exploited population.
- stock trajectory against precautionary approach reference points

In all cases any additional information the Scientific Council deems appropriate should be provided

**Table 1.** The Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework risk table

$y$  current year (year in which the assessment is made, data until year  $y-1$ )

	Yield			P( $F > F_{lim}$ )			P( $B < B_{lim}$ )				P( $F > F_{target}$ )			P( $B < B_{trigger}$ )				P( $B_{y+3} > B_y$ )	( $B_{y+3} - B_y$ )/ $B_y$
F in $y+1$ and following years	Yield $y$ (50%)	Yield $y+1$ (50%)	Yield $y+2$ (50%)	$y$	$y+1$	$y+2$	$y$	$y+1$	$y+2$	$y+3$	$y$	$y+1$	$y+2$	$y$	$y+1$	$y+2$	$y+3$		
<b>Critical Zone</b>																			
F=0	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F=X% current*	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F current	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Cautious Zone</b>																			
F lower edge leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F midrib leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F upper edge leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Healthy Zone</b>																			
F=0.75F <sub>msy</sub>	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F <sub>target</sub> =0.85F <sub>msy</sub>	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F <sub>lim</sub> =F <sub>msy</sub>	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

\*X% may vary stock by stock. In the future, this framework may be modified to include F bycatch.  
The number of years in the risk projections table will be the same as the years of advice.

## Annex 2. Designated Experts in 2025

### From the Science Branch, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada

Cod in Div. 3NO	Rick Rideout	rick.rideout@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Redfish Div. 3O	Danny Ings	danny.ings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
American Plaice in Div. 3LNO	Laura Wheeland	laura.wheeland@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Witch flounder in Div. 3NO	Katherine Skanes	Katherine.skane@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO	Laura Wheeland	Laura.wheeland@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Greenland halibut in SA 2+3KLMNO	Paul Regular	paul.regular@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Northern shrimp in Div. 3LNO	Nicolas Le Corre	nicolas.lecorre@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Ecosystem Designated Expert 3LNO	VACANT	

### From the Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Vigo (Pontevedra), Spain

Roughhead grenadier in SA 2+3	Fernando Gonzalez-Costas	fernando.gonzalez@ieo.csic.es
Splendid alfonso in Subarea 6	Fernando Gonzalez-Costas	fernando.gonzalez@ieo.csic.es
Cod in Div. 3M	Irene Garrido Fernández	irene.garrido@ieo.csic.es
Northern Shrimp in Div. 3M	Jose Miguel Casas Sanchez	mikel.casas@ieo.csic.es
Ecosystem Designated Expert 3M	Diana Gonzalez-Troncoso	diana.gonzalez@ieo.csic.es

### From the Instituto Nacional de Recursos Biológicos (INRB/IPMA), Lisbon, Portugal

American plaice in Div. 3M	Ricardo Alpoim	ralpoim@ipma.pt
Golden redfish in Div. 3M	Ricardo Alpoim	ralpoim@ipma.pt
Redfish in Div. 3M	Ricardo Alpoim	ralpoim@ipma.pt
Redfish Div. 3LN	Patrícia Gonçalves	patricia@ipma.pt

### From the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Nuuk, Greenland

Greenland halibut in SA 0+1 (offshore)	Kevin Hedges	kevin.hedges@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Demersal Redfish in SA1	Rasmus Nygaard	rany@natur.gl
Wolfish in SA1	Rasmus Nygaard	rany@natur.gl
Greenland halibut in Div. 1 inshore	Rasmus Nygaard	rany@natur.gl
Northern shrimp in SA 0+1	AnnDorte Burmeister	anndorte@natur.gl
Northern shrimp in Denmark Strait	Tanja B. Buch	TaBb@natur.gl

### From Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), Russian Federation

Capelin in Div. 3NO	Konstantin Fomin	fomin@pinro.ru
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### From National Marine Fisheries Service, NEFSC, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, United States of America

Northern Shortfin Squid in SA 3 & 4	VACANT
Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO	VACANT
White hake in Div. 3NO	VACANT

**Annex 3. Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) Coastal State Request  
for Scientific Advice – 2026  
(SCS Doc. 25/03)**

Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) hereby request scientific advice on management in 2026 of certain stocks in NAFO Subareas 0 and 1. Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) requests the Scientific Council for advice on the following species:

**1. Golden Redfish and Demersal Deep-Sea Redfish**

Advice on Golden redfish (*Sebastes marinus*) and demersal deep-sea redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in Subarea 1 was in June 2023 given for 2024-2026. The Scientific Council is requested to continue its monitoring of the above stocks and provide updated advice as appropriate in the event of significant changes in stock levels.

**2. Atlantic Wolffish and Spotted Wolffish**

Advice on Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*) in Subarea 1 was in June 2023 given for 2024-2026. The Scientific Council is requested to continue its monitoring of the above stocks and provide updated advice as appropriate in the event of significant changes in stock levels.

**3. Greenland Halibut, Offshore**

Advice on Greenland Halibut, Offshore in Subareas 0 and 1 was given in 2024 for 2025 and 2026. Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) request the Scientific Council to provide catch advice according to the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF). The advice should also include a range of risk-based catch options for 2026-2027. Specifically, Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) recommends that for each option a clear technical basis is provided and that a table with defined reference points is provided in the advice. Catch options that are in accordance with the NAFO PAF should be highlighted.

The advice shall remain a two-year advice, but Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) recommends the advice cycle to start at even years (starting with the 2026-2027 advice) to follow a request by the Scientific Council with the purpose of better distributing the workload of the Scientific Council.

**4. Greenland Halibut, Inshore, West Greenland**

Advice on the inshore stocks of Greenland Halibut in Subarea 1 was given in 2024 for 2025-2026. Denmark (on Behalf of Greenland) requests the Scientific Council to continue its monitoring of the above stocks and provide updated advice in the event of significant changes in stock levels.

**5. Northern Shrimp, West Greenland**

Subject to the concurrence of Canada as regards to Subareas 0 and 1, Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) requests the Scientific Council before December 2025 to provide advice on the scientific basis for management of Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Subareas 0 and 1 in 2026 in line with Greenland's stated management objective of maintaining a mortality risk of no more than 35% in the first year prediction and to provide a catch option table ranging with 5,000 t increments. Future catch options should be provided for as many years as data allows for.

## **6. Northern Shrimp, East Greenland**

Furthermore, the Scientific Council is in cooperation with ICES requested to provide advice on the scientific basis for management of Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Denmark Strait and adjacent waters east of southern Greenland in 2026 and for as many years ahead as data allows for.

**Annex 4. Canada's Coastal State Request to NAFO Scientific Council  
for Scientific Advice – 2026  
(SCS Doc. 25/04)**

Canada would like to submit its request to the Scientific Council for advice on the following species:

**1. Greenland halibut (Subarea 0 + 1 (offshore))**

The Scientific Council is requested to provide an overall assessment of status and trends in the total stock area throughout its range and to specifically provide risk-based advice on a range of TAC options for 2026 and 2027. The stock status should be evaluated in the context of management requirements for long-term sustainability and the advice provided should be consistent with NAFO's Revised (2024) Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF).

Specifically, Canada requests that, in addition to the risk table inputs provided in Table 2 of NAFO Revised PAF, the following options also be included:

- $F_{\text{status quo}}$
- Current TAC
- the 2019-2022 TAC level (36,370 t)

For each of the projections, please include the probabilities that biomass will increase or remain the same ( $P(B_{2027} \geq B_{2025})$ ); and the probability that biomass will decrease ( $P(B_{2027} < B_{2025})$ ).

Canada also requests that the NAFO Scientific Council define, in a table within the assessment document, stock reference points/indicators such as maximum sustainable yield (MSY), biomass at MSY ( $B_{\text{MSY}}$ ), limit reference point ( $B_{\text{lim}}$ ), and  $B_{\text{trigger}}$ .

Canada encourages the Scientific Council to continue to advance a model-based approach to bridge survey time series (i.e. data from the RV Paamiut and RV Tarajoq).

**2. Northern shrimp (Subarea 1 and Division 0A)**

Canada requests that the Scientific Council consider the following options in assessing and projecting future stock levels for Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Subarea 1 and Division 0A:

The status of the stock should be determined and risk-based advice provided for catch options corresponding to  $Z_{\text{msy}}$  in 5,000t increments with forecasts for 2026 to 2028 (inclusive). These options should be evaluated in relation to Canada's Harvest Strategy (2022 revised version attached) and NAFO's Revised Precautionary Approach Framework.

Presentation of the results should include graphs and/or tables related to the following:

- Historical and current yield, biomass relative to  $B_{\text{msy}}$ , total mortality relative to  $Z_{\text{msy}}$ , and recruitment (or proxy) levels for the longest time period possible;

- Total mortality ( $Z$ ) and fishable biomass for a range of projected catch options (as noted above) for the years 2026 to 2028. Projections should include both catch options and a range of effective cod predation biomass levels considered appropriate by the Scientific Council. Results should include risk analyses of falling below:  $B_{msy}$ , 80%  $B_{msy}$  and  $B_{lim}$  (30%  $B_{msy}$ ), and of being above  $Z_{msy}$  based on the 3-year projections, consistent with the Harvest Decision Rules in Canada's Harvest Strategy; and
- Total area fished for the longest time period possible.

Please provide the advice relative to Canada's Harvest Strategy as part of the formal advice (i.e., grey box in the advice summary sheet).