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In all correspondence,
please refer to:

NAFO/26-175

22 July 2026

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

48th Annual Meeting of NAFO
21-25 September 2026
Vilnius, Lithuania

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: (39 pgs.)

PART I.

48th Annual Meeting of NAFO

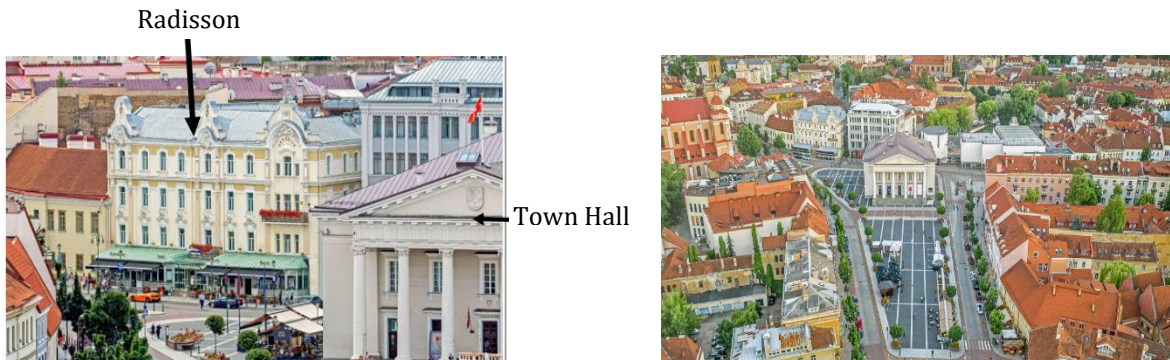
21-25 September 2026

Vilnius, Lithuania

General Organizational Matters

1. Meeting Venue

The **48th Annual Meeting of NAFO** will be held at **Vilnius Town Hall** and the **Radisson Collection Astorija Conference Centre**, which are located directly next to each other in the heart of **Vilnius Old Town**.



2. Hotel Accommodations

The following is a list of recommended hotels in walking distance of the meeting venue:

Radisson Collection Astorija – ★★★★★

An elegant five-star hotel located in the heart of Vilnius Old Town, combining historic architecture with modern comfort and offering beautiful rooftop views of the city.

Double room from ~176 EUR/night | Distance ~20 m | ~1 min walk

<https://www.radissonhotels.com/lt-lt/hotels/radisson-collection-vilnius-astorija>

St. Palace Hotel – ★★★★★

A stylish boutique hotel situated in a historic building in the Old Town, offering modern comfort and a convenient location close to major attractions.

Double room from ~135 EUR/night | Distance ~300 m | ~3 min walk

<https://stpallace.lt/en/>

Narutis Hotel – ★★★★★

A historic luxury hotel located on Pilies Street in the Old Town, known for its classic interior, elegant atmosphere, and long-standing hospitality tradition.

Double room from ~213 EUR/night | Distance ~350 m | ~5 min walk

<https://narutis.com/lt/>

Imperial Hotel – ★★★★★

A refined boutique hotel in the Old Town featuring elegant rooms, classic décor, and high-quality service in a quiet yet central location.

Double room from ~216 EUR/night | Distance ~120 m | ~2 min walk

<https://imperialvilnius.lt/>

Amberton Cathedral Square – ★★★★★

A centrally located hotel overlooking Cathedral Square, offering comfortable accommodation and easy access to the main historical landmarks of Vilnius.

Double room from ~75 EUR/night | Distance ~600 m | ~8 min walk

<https://ambertonhotels.com/vilnius/>

Stikliai Hotel – ★★★★★

A charming luxury hotel located in a historic building in the Old Town, known for its romantic atmosphere, individually designed rooms, and cozy courtyard.

Double room from ~290 EUR/night | Distance ~300 m | ~4 min walk

<https://www.stikliai.com/lt/>

Artis Centrum Hotel – ★★★★★

A comfortable hotel located in a renovated 19th-century building in the Old Town, offering spacious rooms and convenient access to the city's main sights.

Double room from ~106 EUR/night | Distance ~750 m | ~10 min walk

<https://artis.centrumhotels.com/>

Artagonist Art Hotel – ★★★★★

A unique boutique hotel combining contemporary art and historic architecture, located in a quiet street in the Old Town.

Double room from ~140 EUR/night | Distance ~300 m | ~4 min walk

<https://www.artagonist.lt/en/>

Pacai Hotel – ★★★★★

A luxurious boutique hotel located in a restored 17th-century mansion in the heart of the Old Town, known for its elegant design and top-tier service.

Double room from ~282 EUR/night | Distance ~450 m | ~6 min walk

<https://www.hotelpacai.com/lt>

Hotel Congress – ★★★★★

A modern hotel located near the Neris River and Gediminas Avenue, within walking distance of the Old Town and many cultural attractions.

Double room from ~140 EUR/night | Distance ~1.1 km | ~15 min walk

<https://www.congress.lt/>

Hotel Novotel Vilnius Centre – ★★★★★

A contemporary hotel situated on Gediminas Avenue, offering comfortable accommodation and convenient access to shops, restaurants, and the Old Town.

Double room from ~130 EUR/night | Distance ~900 m | ~12 min walk

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/5209/index.en.shtml>

3. Virtual Participation

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

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

Commission: 21-25 September – The Commission will open at 09:30 hours on 21 September and its Standing Committees (STACFAD and STACTIC) are expected to start at 14:00 hours on Monday, 21 September.

Scientific Council: 21-25 September – Scientific Council, and its Standing Committees (STACFIS and STACREC), will open at 9:30 hours on 21 September. This will be preceded by a meeting of the SC Executive Committee at 09:00 hours on Monday, 21 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 *48th Annual Meeting of NAFO*.

5. 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, 11 September 2026** (Annex 3).

6. 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.

7. 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 afternoon session on **Wednesday, 23 September 2026**.

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.

8. 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.

The NAFO Meetings SharePoint was updated in December 2025, and new log-in credentials are required. As each Contracting Party registers its delegates, participants will receive a system-generated email containing their personalized access link and instructions to log-in to the new platform.

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.

9. 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. The recordings are used for documentation purposes by the Secretariat.

10. Travel Information

Visa Information

Lithuania is part of the **Schengen Area**, which applies a common visa policy for short-term travel. Participants from some countries may need a **Schengen short-stay visa (Type C)** to enter Lithuania.

A Schengen visa allows stays of **up to 90 days within a 180-day period** within the Schengen Area.

Participants who require a visa are advised to apply well in advance through the **Lithuanian embassy or consulate** in their country of residence.

Further information on visa requirements and application procedures is available on the European Commission website:

- https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/visa-policy_en
- <https://in.mfa.lt/en/coming-to-lithuania/visas/documents-to-be-submitted-by-all-applicants-for-short-stay-visa-c-schengen-visa/116>

Getting to the City Centre from Vilnius Airport

Vilnius International Airport (VNO) is located approximately **6 km from the city centre**. The journey to the Old Town typically takes **15–25 minutes**.

- **Taxi, Ride-hailing services**

Taxis and ride-hailing services such as **Bolt** or **Uber** are available outside the airport terminal. The trip to the Old Town usually takes about **15 minutes**, depending on traffic, and typically costs around **15 EUR**.

- **Public bus**

Several public bus routes connect the airport with the city centre. **Bus routes 1, 2, and 88** run regularly and stop near the Old Town. The journey usually takes **20–25 minutes**.

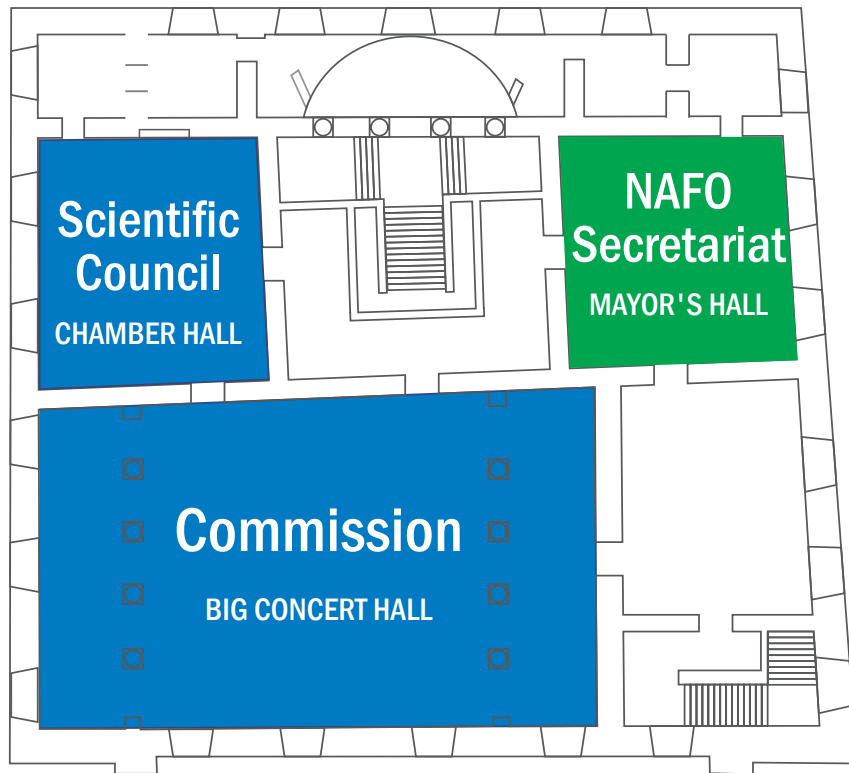
As the **event venue and most recommended hotels are located in the very centre of the Old Town**, it is generally more convenient to stay **without a car**, as most locations can easily be reached **on foot within a few minutes**.

- **Tourist Information**

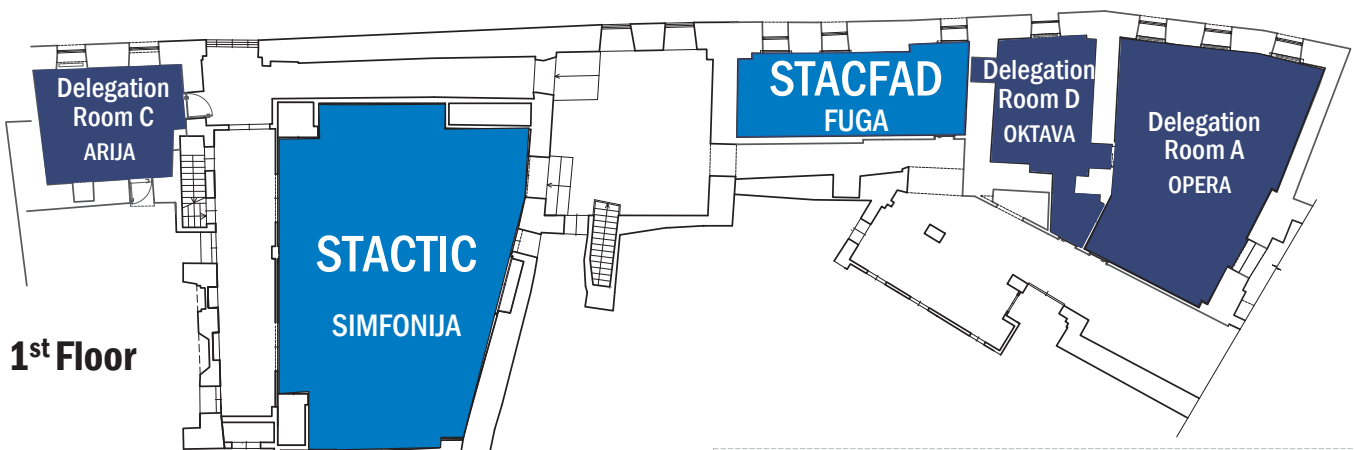
Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, is a vibrant European city known for its charming Old Town – one of the largest and best-preserved medieval old towns in Northern Europe and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The historic centre is characterized by picturesque streets, baroque architecture, and a welcoming atmosphere. The Old Town is compact and highly walkable, making it easy to reach most important locations within a short distance.

Annex 1. Floor Plan

VILNIUS TOWN HALL

2nd Floor

RADISSON COLLECTION ASTORIJA HOTEL, VILNIUS

1st Floor2nd Floor

Annex 2.**Provisional Timetable 2026**

Please note, the start times provided below are approximations and may be adjusted, in consultation with the respective Chair(s), for the upcoming *48th Annual Meeting of NAFO*. Delegates are strongly encouraged to reference the daily timetable for updates.

HOURS	EVENT	NAFO BODIES	LOCATION	ROOM
Sunday, 20 September				
TBA	Coordination Meeting	All Chairs		TBA
15:00–17:00	Registration	All Bodies	Vilnius Town Hall	
Monday, 21 September				
08:30–	Registration	All Bodies		
09:00–09:30	Session	SC Executive Committee		TBA
09:30–12:30	Opening Session	Scientific Council	Vilnius Town Hall	Chamber hall
09:30–12:30	Opening Session	Commission	Vilnius Town Hall	Big concert hall
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break			
14:00–18:00	Sessions	Scientific Council	Vilnius Town Hall	Chamber hall
	Opening Sessions	STACTIC	Radisson Collection	Simfonija
		STACFAD	Radisson Collection	Fuga
Tuesday, 22 September				
09:00–12:30	Joint Session	Commission – Scientific Council	Vilnius Town Hall	Big concert hall
	Sessions	STACTIC	Radisson Collection	Simfonija
		STACFAD	Radisson Collection	Fuga
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break			
14:00–18:00	Sessions	Commission	Vilnius Town Hall	Big concert hall
		Scientific Council	Vilnius Town Hall	Chamber hall
		STACTIC	Radisson Collection	Simfonija
		STACFAD	Radisson Collection	Fuga
<i>NAFO 48th Annual Meeting Reception</i>				

Wednesday, 23 September				
09:00–12:30	Sessions	Commission	Vilnius Town Hall	Big concert hall
		Scientific Council	Vilnius Town Hall	Chamber hall
		STACTIC	Radisson Collection	Simfonija
		STACFAD	Radisson Collection	Fuga
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break			
14:00–18:00	Sessions	Commission	Vilnius Town Hall	Big concert hall
		Scientific Council	Vilnius Town Hall	Chamber hall
	Closing Sessions*	STACTIC	Radisson Collection	Simfonija
		STACFAD	Radisson Collection	Fuga
<i>* Standing Committee reports (STACTIC and STACFAD) should be finalized and submitted to the Secretariat for distribution on Thursday.</i>				
Thursday, 24 September				
09:00–12:30	Sessions	Commission	Vilnius Town Hall	Big concert hall
		Scientific Council	Vilnius Town Hall	Chamber hall
<i>**if required</i>	Sessions	STACTIC	Radisson Collection	Simfonija
		STACFAD	Radisson Collection	Fuga
12:30–14:00	Lunch Break			
14:00–18:00	Sessions	Commission	Vilnius Town Hall	Big concert hall
		Scientific Council	Vilnius Town Hall	Chamber hall
<i>**If additional requests from the Commission are received, a new session(s) would be required to convene.</i>				
Friday, 25 September				
09:00–	Closing Sessions	Commission	Vilnius Town Hall	Big concert hall
		Scientific Council	Vilnius Town Hall	Chamber hall
Closing of the Annual Meeting				



Annex 3.

21-25 September 2026

Vilnius, Lithuania

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 VIRTUAL)

Completed registration forms may be returned to:

NAFO Secretariat
Email: info@nafo.int

PART II.**48th Annual Meeting of NAFO**

21–25 September 2026

Vilnius, Lithuania

Commission**Provisional Agenda**

Agenda item:	
I. Opening Procedure	
1.	Opening by the Chair, Joost Paardekooper (European Union)
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.	Review of the list of experts to serve as panelists under the NAFO Dispute Settlement provisions
9.	Review of NAFO Resolutions
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
	d. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NAFO and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
14.	Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area
IV. Joint Session of Commission and Scientific Council	
15.	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
16.	Update on progress for the potential initiation of a third Performance Review of NAFO
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 2025

	b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), April 2026
	c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and August 2026
	d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), August 2026
18.	Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management in 2028 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, 2027
	a. Cod in Division 3M
	b. Redfish in Division 3M
	c. American plaice in Division 3M
	d. Northern shrimp in Division 3M
20.	Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2027
	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. American plaice in Divisions 3LNO
	f. Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO
	g. White hake in Divisions 3NO
	h. Capelin in Divisions 3NO
	i. Skates in Divisions 3LNO
	j. Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO
	k. Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4
	l. 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.	Report of STACTIC from this Annual Meeting and Recommendations
24.	Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures
	VIII. Finance and Administration
25.	Report of STACFAD from this Annual Meeting
26.	Adoption of the 2027 Budget and STACFAD Recommendations
	IX. Closing Procedure
27.	Other Business
28.	Time and Place of Next Annual Meetings
29.	Press Release
30.	Adjournment

Notes to
the Provisional Agenda of the Commission

48th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21–25 September 2026

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair, Joost Paardekooper (European Union)

The Chair, Joost Paardekooper (European Union), will call the plenary session of the Commission to order on Monday, 21 September 2026.

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.

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 afternoon session on Wednesday, 23 September 2026.

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/26-175 of 22 July 2026.

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". The lists of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that received invitations will be available on the NAFO Meetings SharePoint in advance of the meeting.

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 2025 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.

8. 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 panellists” in any ad hoc panel established under Article XV of the NAFO Convention to settle a dispute.

Further to NAFO/26-158 of 22 June 2026, 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.

9. Review of NAFO Resolutions

At the 2025 STACFAD Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the Secretariat will present a working paper to the Commission every three (3) years, starting in 2026, for consideration and review of the NAFO Resolutions.

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 2026 (COM Doc. 26-04).

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 2025/2026:

- *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 Annual Meeting of NAFO for information under this agenda item.

d. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NAFO and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

At the 2025 Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the NAFO Secretariat would initiate informal consultations with the ICCAT Secretariat to assess mutual interest and feasibility of developing such a Memorandum of Understanding, and report back to the Commission ahead of its 2026 Annual Meeting.

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. 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 2026) and on other topics (formulated in June 2026 and in September 2026).

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

16. Update on progress for the potential initiation of a third Performance Review of NAFO

At the 2025 Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the ad hoc virtual working group, chaired by the STACFAD Chair, should convene as agreed in COM Doc. 24-20, but that the Terms of Reference and criteria to conduct the third NAFO Performance Review should be focused on the assessment of the scientific process within NAFO. The working group Chair will present the draft Terms of Reference, and the Commission will decide on the initiation of the Performance Review under this agenda item.

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 2025

- b. **Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), April 2026**
- c. **Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and August 2026**
- d. **Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), August 2026**
- 18. **Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management in 2028 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters**

As agreed at the 2025 Annual Meeting, the formulation of the requests to the Scientific Council will be developed following the procedures outlined in COM Doc. 25-15.

V. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

- 19. **Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2027**
 - a. **Cod in Division 3M**
 - b. **Redfish in Division 3M**
 - c. **American plaice in Division 3M**
 - d. **Northern shrimp in Division 3M**
- 20. **Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2027**
 - 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. **American plaice in Divisions 3LNO**
 - f. **Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO**
 - g. **White hake in Divisions 3NO**
 - h. **Capelin in Divisions 3NO**
 - i. **Skates in Divisions 3LNO**
 - j. **Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO**
 - k. **Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4**

I. 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. 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.

24. 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

25. Report of STACFAD from this Annual Meeting

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.

26. Adoption of the 2027 Budget and STACFAD Recommendations

IX. Closing Procedure

27. Other Business

28. Time and Place of Next Annual Meetings

As previously agreed, the 49th Annual Meeting will take place 20–24 September 2027 in the United Kingdom, and the 50th Annual Meeting will take place from 18–22 September 2028 in Canada.

29. 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.

30. Adjournment

The meeting will adjourn on Friday, 25 September 2026.

48th Annual Meeting of NAFO
21-25 September 2026
Vilnius, Lithuania

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

Provisional Agenda

Agenda item:	
1.	Opening by the Chair, Patrick Moran, (United States of America)
2.	Appointment of rapporteur
3.	Adoption of agenda
4.	Annual compliance review 2025
5.	Annual compliance review format
6.	NAFO MCS website and application development
7.	New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
8.	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. Measures relating to the squid fishery
9.	Review of the Electronic observation program
10.	Discussion on the review of Article 4 of the NAFO CEM
11.	Review of Annex II.B of the NAFO CEM
12.	Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches
13.	Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)
14.	Report and recommendations of the Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX)
15.	Outcomes from the NAFO Inspectors' workshop
16.	Flag State Performance Review
17.	Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO
18.	Review of current IUU list pursuant to Article 53 of the NAFO CEM
19.	Other Business
20.	Time and place of next meeting
21.	Adoption of report
22.	Adjournment

Notes to
the Provisional Agenda of STACTIC

48th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21-25 September 2026

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 2025

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 2025 fisheries reports.

5. Annual compliance review format

At the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that Contracting Parties would provide comments to Canada on STACTIC WP 25-10 (Revised) and STACTIC WP 26-13 ahead of the Annual Meeting to support further discussion.

6. NAFO MCS website and application development

The Secretariat will provide an update on work related to the MCS Website, the Observer application, and the ePSC application.

7. 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.

8. 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 6.13 of the NAFO CEM, referred to in Article 6.10 shall apply during 2026 and be reviewed by STACTIC in 2026, to assess whether the provisions led to an increase in 3M redfish bycatches or directed fishery. At the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that the NAFO Secretariat will update the analysis of available data to facilitate the review of these measures.

b. Measures relating to the yellowtail flounder fishery

In accordance with Article 6.14 of the NAFO CEM, in 2026 STACTIC shall assess if the provisions in Articles 6.3(g) and 6.9(a) led to an increase on American plaice bycatches or directed fishery on American plaice; and review Articles 6.3(g) and 6.9(a). At the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that the

NAFO Secretariat will update the analysis outlined in STACTIC WP 26-12 to facilitate the review of these measures.

c. Measures relating to the squid fishery

In accordance with Article 11.9 of the NAFO CEM, the exemption referred to in Articles 11.2 to 11.8 shall apply during 2025 and 2026 and be reviewed by STACTIC.

9. Review of the Electronic observation program

In accordance with Article 30.13 of the 2026 NAFO CEM, STACTIC will review the implementation of the Electronic Observation Program in 2026.

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 2026.

11. Review of Annex II.B of the NAFO CEM

At the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, the United States of America tabled a discussion paper on amendments to the Rules on Confidentiality within Annex II.B of the NAFO CEM in STACTIC WP 26-11, and it was agreed that discussions on the review of Annex II.B will continue at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

12. Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches

At the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that discussions on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches continue at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting. It was also agreed that The NAFO Secretariat will update previous work (e.g. STACTIC EDG-WP 24-01 and STACTIC EDG-WP 24-02) to facilitate further discussion at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.

13. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)

Relevant items can be forwarded to the EDG under this agenda item, including discussions on planning the next meeting.

14. 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 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that a meeting of WG-FLUX will take place in advance of the 2026 Annual Meeting. An update from this working group will be provided under this agenda item.

15. Outcomes from the NAFO Inspectors' Workshop

The NAFO Inspectors' Workshop was hosted by the European Union from 26-28 May 2026. Relevant outcomes from the workshop can be discussed under this agenda item.

16. Flag State Performance Review

At the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting it was agreed that Contracting Parties will complete the self-assessment of flag State performance in accordance with the criteria set out in the FAO Voluntary

Guidelines for flag State performance for initial presentation at the 2027 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting. It was also agreed that Contracting Parties will continue discussions on the self-assessment of flag State performance at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.

17. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO

At the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, it was agreed that discussions on the practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO will continue at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.

18. 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.

19. Other Business

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

20. Time and place of next meeting

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

21. 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.

22. Adjournment

The Committee shall endeavour to formally close its proceedings on Thursday, 24 September 2026 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.

48th Annual Meeting of NAFO
 21–25 September 2026
 Vilnius, Lithuania

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

Provisional Agenda

Agenda item:	
1.	Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan, (Canada)
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur
3.	Adoption of Agenda
4.	Audited Financial Statements for 2025
5.	Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat
6.	Projected Financial Statements for 2026
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), 2026
11.	Budget Estimate for 2027
12.	Budget Forecast for 2028 and 2029
13.	Adoption of 2026/2027 Staff Committee Appointees
14.	Other Business
15.	Election of Chair and vice-Chair
16.	Time and Place of 2027–2029 Annual Meetings
17.	Adjournment

Notes to
the Provisional Agenda of STACFAD

48th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21-25 September 2026

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/26-175 of 22 July 2026.

4. Audited Financial Statements for 2025

Baker Tilly Nova Scotia Inc. performed the audit for the 2025 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 an initial term of five (5) years and may be reappointed for one additional term of five (5) years. No audit firm shall serve for more than ten (10) consecutive years.”

The audit of the 2025 financial records was the fifth year for Baker Tilly Nova Scotia Inc. having served as auditors of the Organization. The Secretariat will present a proposal received from Baker Tilly Nova Scotia Inc. to perform the audit of NAFO's records for the 2026–2030 fiscal periods.

5. Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat

The Administrative and Activity Report will be provided by the Secretariat.

6. Projected Financial Statements for 2026

Financial Statement estimates for 2026 (projected to 31 December) will be provided by the Secretariat.

7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Funds

The 31 December 2026 estimated balances of the accumulated surplus account, contingency fund, recruitment and 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 2025 Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the NAFO Secretariat utilize a targeted recruitment model to enhance the efficiency and relevance of the internship program. While the internship program will have an annual budget allocation, recruitment could occur when a specific intern project is developed by either a Contracting Party or the Secretariat.

The NAFO Secretariat will provide an update on the internship program under this agenda item.

10. Report on the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), 2026

The Secretariat will report on the highlights of the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commission Pension Society which was held from 21–23 April 2026 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

11. Budget Estimate for 2027

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

12. Budget Forecast for 2028 and 2029

For information purposes, the budget forecasts for 2028 and 2029 will be presented under this agenda item.

13. Adoption of 2026/2027 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.

14. Other Business

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

15. Election of Chair and 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 Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada), was re-elected in September 2024 for a two-year term.

The vice-Chair, Imogen Gibbins (United Kingdom), was elected in September 2025 for a two-year term; however, she stepped down in December 2025. The vice-Chair position is currently vacant.

16. Time and Place of 2027–2029 Annual Meetings

At the 2025 Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the dates for the 2027–2028 Annual Meetings be as follows:

2027 - 20–24 September in the United Kingdom

2028 - 18– 22 September in Canada

STACFAD will review these dates and recommend dates for the 2029 Annual Meeting.

2029 - 17– 21 September (3rd full week of September to be reviewed by the Committee)

As agreed at the 2025 Annual Meeting, Contracting Parties intending to host a NAFO Annual Meeting should extend a formal invitation no later than 31 December of the year two years prior. This advance notice allows NAFO to avoid unnecessary fiscal implications relating to non-refundable deposits for conference space.

17. 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.

48th Annual Meeting of NAFO

21-25 September 2026

Vilnius, Lithuania

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. 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
2. NAFO Performance Review
 - a. Update on progress for the potential initiation of a third Performance Review of NAFO
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), December 2025
 - b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), April 2026
 - c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and August 2026
 - d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), August 2026
4. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on Management in 2028 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 2027 and 2028
- 5. Other Matters
 - a. Review of SCR and SCS Documents
 - b. Other Business
 - i. Reviewers for June 2027: topics
 - ii. Silver hake
- 6. Adjournment

V. Fisheries Science (STACFIS Chair: José De Oliveira)

- 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. 3M redfish (full assessment)
 - ii. Northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4 (Interim Monitoring Report; only if a Designated Expert is appointed prior to the meeting)
 - 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 2026
- 4. Further progress on items related to COM requests (in [SCS Doc. 26/01](#))
 - a. Request #7: The Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue to develop reference points to facilitate the implementation of the Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework, for stocks that currently do not have them: 3M redfish.

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, 15-17 September 2026
3. Chair and Designated Experts: election of vacant positions
4. SOFIA State of the stocks
5. WG-DEC
6. Rules of Procedure
7. WG-ESA meeting 2026 venue
8. Benchmark process for 3LNO American plaice and 3NO cod
9. Any other business

X. Adoption of Reports

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

XI. Adjournment

Annex 1. COMMISSION'S REQUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE ON MANAGEMENT IN 2027 AND BEYOND OF CERTAIN STOCKS IN SUBAREAS 2, 3 AND 4 AND OTHER MATTERS
(SCS Doc. 26/01)

Following a request from the Scientific Council, the Commission agreed that items 1 and 2 should be the priority for the June 2026 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 ([COM Doc. 25-16](#)) 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. The Commission acknowledges that full assessment cannot be run when a DE is not nominated for a stock.

Yearly basis	Two-year basis	Three-year basis	Interim Monitoring Only
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 Division 3M White hake in Divisions 3NO American plaice in Divisions 3LNO	American plaice in Division 3M Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4 Redfish in Division 3O Cod in Divisions 3NO	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 2026, advice should be provided for 2027 for: Cod in Division 3M
- In 2026, advice should be provided for 2027 and 2028 for: Redfish in Division 3M, Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO, Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO, Redfish in Divisions 3LN, Northern shrimp in Division 3M, American plaice in 3LNO.
 - With respect to Northern shrimp in Division 3M, Scientific Council is requested to provide its advice to the Commission prior to the 2026 Annual Meeting based on the survey data up to and including 2026.
- In 2026, advice should be provided for 2027, 2028 and 2029 for: American plaice in Division 3M

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, in addition to the 2026 3LN redfish stock assessment, continue to advance work on the 3LN redfish MSE processes during 2025-2026.
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 the Scientific Council, with input from the WG-EAFFM, to continue work on the development of a reference document detailing the ecosystem roadmap, for completion by the 2026 Annual Meeting.
6. In relation to the habitat impact assessment component of the Roadmap (VME and SAI analyses), the Commission requests that Scientific Council to:
 - a. Continue to progress work on the 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 2026 WG-EAFFM meeting.
7. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue 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 continue to update the 3-5 year work plan, which reflects requests arising from the 2025 Annual Meeting, other multi-year stock assessments and other scientific inquiries already planned for the near future and, as much as possible, monitor and estimate future workload.
9. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to explore the development of a sampling plan to conduct selectivity trials in the cod fishery in 3M. The objective is to collect data to test the effectiveness and impact of using sorting grids to improve the selectivity of cod and other species.
10. The Commission requests the Scientific Council, as workload allows, in consultation with the NAFO Secretariat, to draft a scoping document for a potential in-person meeting to explore approaches for further integrating information related to climate change throughout Scientific Council operations. This scoping document should identify the scientific expertise needed both within and outside Scientific Council and potential financial and workload implications.
11. Considering a new science and management framework for Northern shrimp in Divisions 2J3KLNO (SSAR) developed and peer-reviewed by Canada, which includes NAFO divisions 3LNO, the Commission tasks the Scientific Council to assess and consider the operational model underlining the MSE developed for the SSAR stock of shrimp by Canada. This assessment will be presented to the Commission at the 2026 Annual Meeting to inform management decisions.
12. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to consider a plan for carrying out benchmark assessments and include this in the 3-5 year work plan.

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. Ecosystem summary sheets should be monitored annually and updated on a five-year cycle.

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(By+3 > By)	(By+3-By)/By
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		
Critical Zone																			
F=0	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F=X% current*	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F current	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cautious Zone																			
F lower edge leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F midrib leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F upper edge leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Healthy Zone																			
F=0.75F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F _{target} =0.85F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F _{lim} =F _{msy}	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 2026

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

Cod in Divs. 3NO	Rick Rideout	rick.rideout@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
American Plaice in Divs. 3LNO	Laura Wheeland	laura.wheeland@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Witch flounder in Divs. 3NO	Katherine Skanes	katherine.skane@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Yellowtail flounder in Divs. 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 Divs. 3LNO	Nicolas Le Corre	nicolas.lecorre@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

From the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Greenland halibut in SA 0+1 (offshore)	Kevin Hedges	kevin.hedges@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
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From the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Redfish Div. 30	Danny Ings	danny.ings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
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From the Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Vigo (Pontevedra), Spain

Roughhead grenadier in SA 2+3	Fernando González-Costas	fernando.gonzalez@ieo.csic.es
Splendid alfonsino in Subarea 6	Fernando González-Costas	fernando.gonzalez@ieo.csic.es
Cod in Div. 3M	Irene Garrido Fernández	irene.garrido@ieo.csic.es
Northern Shrimp in Div. 3M	José Miguel Casas Sánchez	mikel.casas@ieo.csic.es
Ecosystem Designated Expert 3M	Diana González-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 Divs. 3LN	Patrícia Gonçalves	patricia@ipma.pt

From the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Nuuk, Greenland

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 Divs. 3NO	Konstantin Fomin	fomin@pinro.ru
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Designated Expert Vacancies

Northern Shortfin Squid in SA 3 & 4	VACANT
Thorny skate in Divs. 3LNO	VACANT
White hake in Divs. 3NO	VACANT
Ecosystem Designated Expert 3LNO	VACANT

**Annex 3. DENMARK (ON BEHALF OF GREENLAND) COASTAL STATE REQUESTS
FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE – 2027**
(from SCS Doc. 26/03)

Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) (hereafter Greenland) hereby request scientific advice on management in 2027 of certain stocks in NAFO Subareas 0 and 1. Greenland requests the Scientific Council for advice on the following species:

1. Golden Redfish and Demersal Deep-Sea Redfish

Advice on Golden redfish (*Sebastes norvegicus*) and demersal deep-sea redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in Subarea 1 was given in June 2023 for 2024 and beyond. The Scientific Council is requested to provide catch advice for 2027 to 2029.

2. Atlantic Wolffish and Spotted Wolffish

Advice on Atlantic Wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus*) and Spotted Wolffish (*Anarhichas minor*) in Subarea 1 was given in June 2023 for 2024-2026. The Scientific Council is requested to provide catch advice for 2027 to 2029.

3. Greenland Halibut, Offshore

Advice on Greenland halibut, Offshore in Subareas 0 and 1 was given in 2025 for 2026 and 2027. The Scientific Council is requested to continue its monitoring of the stock and provide updated advice in the event of significant changes in stock levels.

In addition, Greenland specifically requests the catch scenarios for 35.328 tonnes (F_{MSY} 2026) and F_{target} be updated for 2027-2029, with associated probability that biomass in the end of 2027-2029 is lower than 1) $B_{trigger}$ and 2) B_{lim} , i.e. $p(B < B_{trigger})$ and $p(B < B_{lim})$.

4. Greenland Halibut, Inshore, West Greenland

Advice on the inshore stocks of Greenland halibut in Subarea 1 was given in 2024 for 2025-2026. The Scientific Council is requested to provide advice on catch levels for Subarea 1 in division 1A, inshore (Disko Bay, Uummannaq and Upernavik) for 2027 and 2028

5. Northern Shrimp, West Greenland

Greenland requests the Scientific Council to provide, before November 2026, advice on the scientific basis for management of Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Subareas 0 and 1 in 2027. The advice should be in line with Greenland's stated management objective of maintaining a mortality risk of no more than 35% of exceeding Z_{msy} 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. Results should include risk analysis of biomass falling below B_{msy} , $B_{trigger}$ and B_{lim} .

6. Northern Shrimp, East Greenland

Scientific Council is, 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 2027 for as many years ahead as data allows. Scientific Council is requested to give a catch advice at a level corresponding to F_{target} . Results should include a catch option table ranging with 500 t increments, including risk analysis of fishing mortality falling below F_{msy} , F_{target} and biomass below B_{msy} , $B_{trigger}$ and B_{lim} .

**Annex 4. CANADA'S COASTAL STATE REQUEST TO NAFO SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE – 2027**
(from SCS Doc. 26/02)

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

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

Canada requests that the Scientific Council monitor the status of Greenland halibut (Subarea 0 + 1 (offshore)), and, should a significant change be observed (e.g., based on results from surveys or commercial catch data), provide updated advice as appropriate, in the same format that was done in 2025 (i.e., updating the risk table in the new NAFO PA framework). A significant change would be considered the realized catch data far exceeding the set TAC level despite normal fishing effort or if the survey index is far below the projected index

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_{msy} in 5,000t increments with forecasts for 2027 to 2029 (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_{msy} , total mortality relative to Z_{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 2027 to 2029. 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).