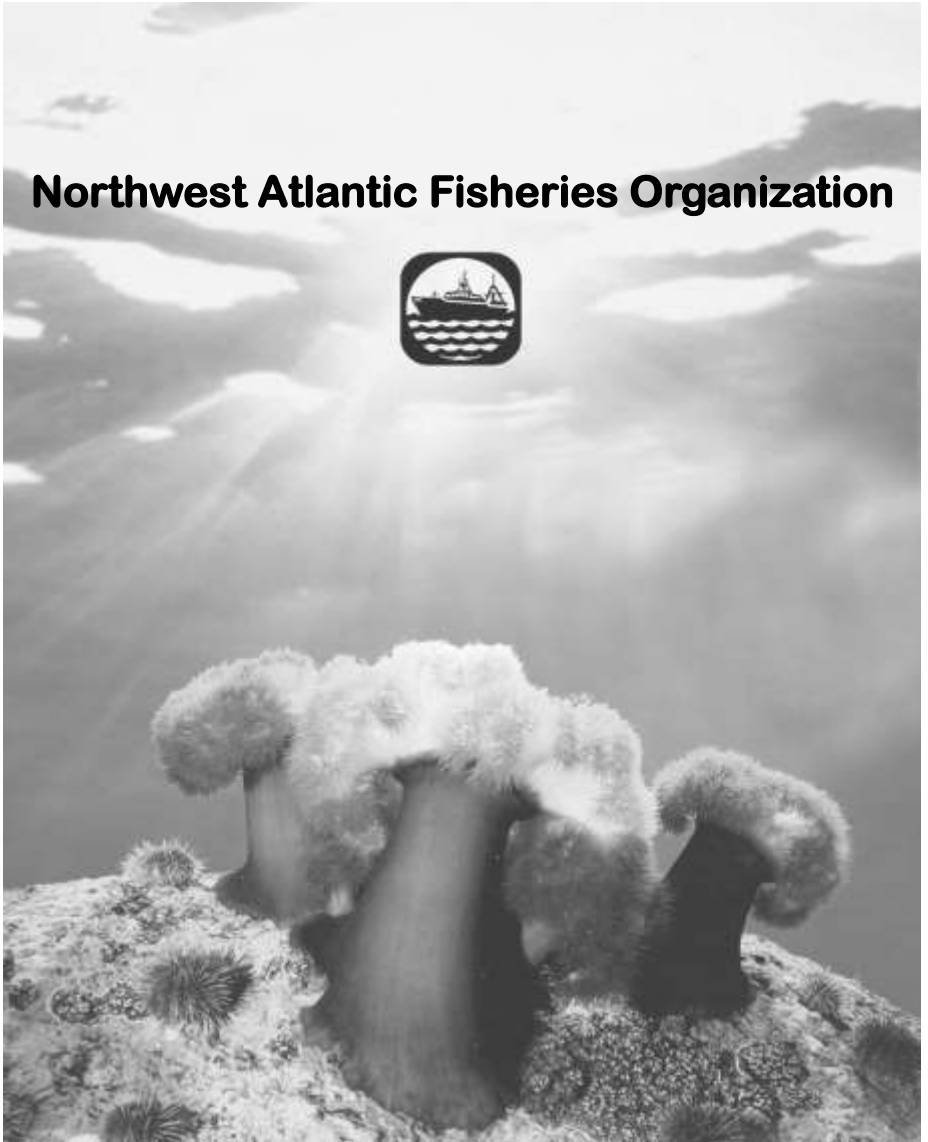


NAFO Annual Report 2006

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
(NAFO)**

**NAFO Annual Report
2006**



This Annual Report summarizes and highlights discussions, decisions and events of NAFO during 2006. It does not replace the detailed NAFO meeting reports (*Scientific Council Reports and Meeting Proceedings of the General Council and Fisheries Commission*) that are accessible on the website (www.nafo.int).

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INSIDE THE 2006 ANNUAL REPORT:

Note by the Executive Secretary	1
General Council	3
◆ NAFO Reform	
◆ Finance and Administration	
◆ IUU Matters	
◆ Future Meetings	
◆ Election of Officers	
Fisheries Commission	7
◆ Ecosystem Approach	
◆ Fisheries Regulation (Conservation and Enforcement Measures)	
◆ NAFO Reform	
◆ STATIC assumes function of STACFAC	
◆ Election of Officers	
Scientific Council	9
◆ Assessment Results	
◆ Ecosystem Approach	
◆ Fisheries Environment	
◆ New Omega Mesh Gauge	
◆ Publications	
◆ Symposia	
Secretariat Activities	13
◆ Publications and Other Services	
◆ External Relations	
◆ Staff Matters	
◆ Festive Celebrations	
◆ Symposia	
Chairs of NAFO Bodies and Committees (2007)	
NAFO Secretariat (2007)	

NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

In 2006 NAFO took a huge step towards its ground-breaking reform and reached consensus regarding several amendments to the NAFO Convention which included:

1. A commitment to an ecosystem approach;
2. A revised objection and new dispute settlement procedure that will strengthen the decision-making process of the organization; and
3. A new streamlined structure of NAFO with only a Commission and a Scientific Council.

It is foreseen that the reform process will be concluded in September 2007 after which the amended Convention will be ready for ratification by Contracting Parties.

NAFO did not wait for the renewed Convention to come into force to adopt a number of measures that will improve the protection of fishery resources and marine ecosystems. Among these were a ban on demersal fishing on seamounts and a resolution to reduce sea turtle mortality. Furthermore, NAFO now requires that a vessel stops fishing once an inspection indicates that it might have committed a serious infringement. In addition, NAFO strengthened the commitment of Flag States to ensure that sanctions against non-compliant vessels are of adequate severity. NAFO now also restricts port access for IUU vessels.

The introduction of ecosystem considerations is changing the work of NAFO's Scientific Council. In addition to the traditional stock assessment, NAFO scientists are now requested to take into account the effect of fishing on sensitive habitats and vulnerable species, and possibly also consider socio-economic questions. This represents a major challenge for scientists, requiring new expertise and the creation of new scientific tools, preferably in cooperation with other international fisheries organizations that face similar developments.

The substantial discussions and decisions of NAFO in 2006 add to the many milestones already achieved throughout the last decade. They are testimonies to NAFO's serious efforts in responding to the significant changes in the marine ecosystem as a result of overfishing, climate changes and in preventing future harm from human impact.

I wish you all a prosperous and happy year 2007.

Yours sincerely,
Johanne Fischer



GENERAL COUNCIL

The 28th NAFO Annual Meeting took place in Dartmouth (Nova Scotia, Canada) with 159 delegates from 12 Contracting Parties. Bulgaria announced its withdrawal from the Convention (effective 31 December 2006) which will leave NAFO with a membership of 12 Contracting Parties in 2007.

The Heads of Delegation from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland-DFG), France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), European Union, Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Ukraine, United States of America and Russia addressed their opening statements to the assembly. FAO and WWF were present as observers and gave statements at the opening and closing of the meeting. The proceedings of the General Council Meeting Report are published as GC Doc. 06/6.

The discussions of the General Council this year focused on the NAFO reform which made great progress (see below). It is anticipated that the amendments to the NAFO Convention can be finalized in 2007 for ratification by Contracting Parties.

This year, the main NAFO reception was hosted by France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon) in celebration of the 10th anniversary of their NAFO membership. The Préfet de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, Monsieur Yves Fauquer, addressed NAFO delegates. He highlighted the important role that fisheries plays in the economy of St. Pierre et Miquelon and the contribution of France to international fisheries management within NAFO.

It is noteworthy that 2006 is the first year in NAFO's history that a non-governmental organization, WWF, participated as an observer at the meetings of the General Council and Fisheries Commission. Delegates warmly welcomed WWF and look forward to a continued cooperation. To celebrate the WWF very generously hosted a beautiful reception for the Annual Meeting participants.

NAFO REFORM

For 2006, NAFO had tasked itself to embark on a reform process to strengthen the organization and incorporate new approaches to high seas fisheries management (GC Doc. 05/2). A Working Group on Reform, chaired by Mr. Staffan Ekwall (EU), was established and met on 25-28 April in Montreal (Quebec, Canada) and on 12-15 September in Lunenburg (Nova Scotia, Canada). Based on the work of this group Contracting Parties reached consensus on a number of significant amendments to the current Convention, with the following highlighted:

The amended NAFO Convention will include an expansion of NAFO's mandate to minimize harmful impact on living marine resources and marine ecosystems, and to preserve marine biological diversity. Thus NAFO endorses the widely proclaimed "ecosystem approach to fisheries management", a commitment that is already reflected

in important recent decisions such as a ban on demersal fishing on and around various seamounts, the banning of shark finning and improved sea turtle protection.

NAFO is developing an improved decision making process. A new objection procedure has been agreed that makes it more difficult for individual parties to opt out of any adopted measures. The new provisions also foresee a mechanism for impartial review panels and dispute settlement procedures.

NAFO will merge General Council and Fisheries Commission into one "Commission" to streamline NAFO's structure and make it a more effective regional fisheries management organization. In this spirit delegates decided to amalgamate STACFAC and STACTIC leaving only one committee, i.e. STACTIC.

The development of a new key for calculating member contributions is one of the few outstanding issues in the NAFO reform. An intersessional meeting of the General Council in 2007 will hopefully reach agreement on this and other outstanding questions.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

It was a year of particular financial hardship for NAFO as outstanding payments by a few Contracting Parties had reached an unprecedented level that approached 20% of the annual budget. One consequence was that the Secretariat could not employ a much needed IT Manager. The situation also forced the Secretariat to cut services in other areas, for example, reduce travel allowances and hospitality services during meetings. STACFAD recommended that the Contracting Parties take immediate action to meet their financial obligations and bring financial stability to the Organization. NAFO decided that outstanding contributions for the year 2005 should be deemed uncollectible if payments are not received by 2006. In addition, STACFAD requested that the Secretariat provide background information regarding the possibility of collecting interest on outstanding contributions and that the feasibility of a contingency fund be explored.

The budget adopted for 2007 is \$1,459,000, \$60,000 below the adopted budget of 2006. This reduction is possible as the reform of the Secretariat, which started in 2003, has now been completed and the full costs savings associated with this reform have kicked in.

The report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting 2006, including its recommendations is published as Part 2 of GC Doc 06/4.

IUU MATTERS

For the first time in its history, NAFO now publishes a so-called IUU (black) list of vessels from non-Contracting Parties that are suspected to illegally fish in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Five fishing vessels flagged to Georgia were observed fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area during summer 2006. STACFAC (chaired by Gene Martin,

USA) decided to include these vessels on the NAFO IUU list after having given the flag state opportunity to comment on the incidents.

Another important decision taken by STACFAC in 2006 was to agree to its own dissolution and to the inclusion of its mandate into that of STACTIC (Standing Committee on International Control). The report of STACFAC at the 2006 Annual Meeting was adopted by General Council as Part 3 of GC Doc. 06/4 .

FUTURE MEETINGS

Future Annual Meeting dates have been set as follows:

24 September - 03 October 2007

22 September - 01 October 2008

21 - 25 September 2009

The next Annual Meeting will take place in Lisbon, Portugal. The other meetings will take place in the Halifax-Dartmouth area unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Gene Martin (USA) was elected Chair of the Standing Committee on Non-Member Fishing Activity. Jeff Macdonald (Canada) was elected as Vice-Chair.

FISHERIES COMMISSION

ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Fisheries Commission moved forward with an ecosystem approach to fisheries management by closing four seamounts in the Regulatory Area to demersal fishing until 2010:

- ◆ Orphan Knoll,
- ◆ Corner Seamounts,
- ◆ Newfoundland Seamounts,
- ◆ New England Seamounts.

Fisheries Commission requested Scientific Council to start assessment of these areas which will allow Fisheries Commission to base any future management measures for these areas on scientific advice.

In keeping with the broader responsibilities that NAFO now has for the safeguarding of marine ecosystems and recognizing FAO's endorsement of the Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality, the Fisheries Commission adopted a resolution to protect sea turtles in the NAFO Convention Area.

FISHERIES REGULATIONS (CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES)

Quotas and Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

The following measures were adopted for fish stocks under NAFO regulation, based on the scientific advice provided by the Scientific Council

Continuation of fishing ban within the Regulatory Area

- ◆ Cod in Divisions 3L, 3M, and 3NO
- ◆ Redfish in Divisions 3LN
- ◆ American plaice in Divisions 3LNO and 3M
- ◆ Witch flounder in Divisions 3L and 3NO
- ◆ Capelin in Divisions 3NO
- ◆ Shrimp in Division 3NO

Quotas and Total Allowable Catch in place

- ◆ Redfish in Division 3M
- ◆ Redfish in Division 3O*
- ◆ Redfish in Subarea 2 + Divisions 1F + 3K
- ◆ Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO**
- ◆ White hake in Divisions 3NO*
- ◆ Skates in Divisions 3LNO*
- ◆ Greenland halibut in Divisions 3LMNO*
- ◆ Squid in Subareas 3+4*

- ◆ Shrimp in Division 3L

Effort Allocation Scheme

- ◆ Shrimp in Division 3M**

Allocation and TAC of regulated species for Contracting Parties are presented in the 2007 Quota Table (Annex 1 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures).

* *Long-term Protection Plan* and ** *Precautionary Approach*

Other regulations and measures

- ◆ Closed season for Shrimp in Division 3L
- ◆ Minimum mesh size requirement of 100 mm for Redfish in Subarea 2 and Divisions 1F + 3K
- ◆ Product labeling and stowage plans requirements for Shrimp at Divisions 3L and 3M.

Alternative Observer Scheme

An alternative observer scheme was adopted after the two-year implementation of the pilot project. For the time being, Contracting Parties and their vessels will now have an option as to which observer scheme to implement. The existing scheme requires catch reports when entering and exiting the NAFO area, 2 hourly VMS position reports and the obligation to carry an independent observer on board. Under the alternative scheme, a much enhanced, near real-time catch and effort reporting and hourly VMS position reports is required combined with a reduction of observers on board to 25% of a Contracting Parties vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

NAFO REFORM

The General Council at its 2005 Annual Meeting, committed to reforming NAFO following the St. John's Declaration on the Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Stock Agreement. As a result, in 2006 the Fisheries Commission adopted a number of measures to strengthen the monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) regime of NAFO. The new measures cover the following areas:

- ◆ Bycatch provisions (Article 9)
- ◆ Infringement and Serious Infringement (Article 32 and 33)
- ◆ Follow-up actions under Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme (Chapter IV)
- ◆ Enforcement Measures (new article).

STACTIC ASSUMES THE FUNCTION OF STACFAC

In the spirit of reform, the subsidiary committee of the General Council STACFAC was dissolved and its functions are absorbed by STACTIC (see General Council section).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- ◆ For the Fisheries Commission, Kate Sanderson (DFG) was elected Vice Chair replacing Kolbeinn Arnason (Iceland).
- ◆ For STACTIC, the Vice Chair position remains vacant and it is reserved for a member of the defunct STACFAC.

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

In 2006, Scientific Council met twice in Dartmouth and once in Copenhagen. The work on stock assessments, environmental monitoring, research and publications was discussed at these meetings and the conclusions presented in the 2006 Report of the NAFO Scientific Council. A brief summary is given below.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

STACFIS evaluated the state of 21 stocks for NAFO and the Coastal States and concluded that there was little change in the status of the nine stocks that are currently under a moratorium for directed fishing. Some changes were noted for those stocks currently under TAC regulation. Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO increased from 1994-2002, and has since been stable. Redfish in Div. 3M increased in 2005 mainly due to the above average 1998 and 2000 year-classes. A review of the stock structure of thorny skate on the Grand Banks resulted in a revised assessment which considered Div. 3LNO and Subdivision 3Ps as a stock unit.

The Council reviewed cod in Div. 3M, American plaice in Div. 3M, and witch flounder in Div. 3NO and continues to advise that there be no directed fishing on these three stocks. The Council did not find reasons to change last years advice for the remaining six stocks under moratorium: cod in Div. 3NO, American plaice in Div. 3LNO, redfish in Div. 3LN, witch flounder in Div. 2J+3KL, capelin in Div. 3NO, and roundnose grenadier in Subareas 0+1.

Greenland halibut in SA 0 and Div. 1A (offshore) and Div. 1B-1F continue to remain at the level compared to the late-1980s and early 1990s. Greenland halibut in SA 2 and Div. 3KLMNO was given special attention. Catches in 2004 (25 000 t) and 2005 (23 000 t) exceeded the rebuilding plan TACs by 27% and 22%, respectively. Recruitment has recently been below average and fishing mortality from bycatches has increased substantially in recent years to a very high level. The Council noted that, given the results of short term projections, fishing mortality should be reduced to no higher than $F_{0.1}$ in order to provide a consistent increase in the biomass of fish of 5 years and older.

Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO was reviewed and it was recommended that total catches not exceed 15 500 tons in 2007 and 2008. Since the moratorium (1994-97), the catches have been low enough each year to allow the stock to grow. Catches in 2005 were 13 900 t.

Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO and 3Ps is considered a single stock. The Council recommended it be handled as a single management unit, and Div. 3LNOPs catches not exceed 11 000 t in 2007 and 2008. Estimates suggest that the biomass has been

relatively stable from 1996 to 2005, but at a lower level than in the mid-1980s.

Northern Shrimp stocks are at historically high levels, though below-average recruitment is likely to result in reduced catches for some stocks. High fuels costs are making the distant water stocks in Div. 3M less profitable. Misreporting of catches between Div. 3L and Div. 3M has prompted Fisheries Commission to implement tighter reporting controls.

ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

The implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) that moves beyond single-species assessments is now generally accepted and has been incorporated into the amended NAFO Convention.

The EAF is not new to the Scientific Council, as many of its basic principles have long been considered in their advice. For example, bycatch reduction has been a primary focus for almost two decades. However, the formal acceptance of the principals of the EAF by NAFO has added strength to their determination to conserve fish stocks and marine habitats for future generations. Fish stocks used to be managed on the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) principle, i.e. catching the highest possible yield without destroying the stock. This strategy causes a two-thirds reduction in virgin spawning stock biomass and is management on a knife edge. A little illegal fishing, some catch under-reporting, or a few years of poor recruitment, and there is a high risk of stock collapse. Scientific Council now provides advice using the Precautionary Approach framework, that includes a stock buffer zone and strict limit reference points which will lead to healthier stocks and more stable catches for the fishers. Single species assessments are still necessary for the management of the commercial targeted fish and this continues to form the backbone of the work of the Scientific Council.

Scientific Council has responded to the above challenges by broadening its expertise and strengthening partnerships with other Regional Fisheries Bodies and with ICES in particular. This allows for a cost effective way of sharing knowledge and experience to provide the best advice to the Fisheries Commission and to Coastal States.

Deepwater habitats were discussed at length. The Council was pleased to receive Dr. Evan Edinger, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, who presented results of the most recent studies on coral distributions and conservation strategies in the Newfoundland and Labrador region.

In order to increase the efficiency of Scientific Council and timeliness of scientific advice, a new assessment frequency timetable has been proposed. Many of the commercially exploited species in the NRA/NCA have shown little change in both exploitation pattern and stock status over the past several years. Advice for such stocks will now be provided on a two or three year period, with annual interim monitoring to detect changes from the status quo.

FISHERIES ENVIRONMENT

Dr Philip C. Reid, from the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science, Plymouth, UK, gave this year's invited presentation on "Climate impacts on North Atlantic ecosystems: the relevance of plankton monitoring to NAFO". The impact of global warming was clearly seen in the recent changes in plankton abundance and links were made to concurrent changes in commercial fish distributions.

The annual assessment of the environment within the NAFO Convention Area, based on more than a dozen contributions from West Greenland to the Northeast USA Shelf, indicated a continuation of the recent warming trend in the Northwest Atlantic. Sea-ice conditions were lighter-than-normal in all areas on the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelf for the 11th consecutive year. Ocean temperatures in West Greenland Waters, the Labrador Sea, the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelf and the central and eastern Scotian Shelf remained well above normal in 2005, continuing the warm trend established since the mid-to-late 1990s.

NEW OMEGA MESH GAUGE

STACREC recommended that the new OMEGA mesh gauge be adopted as the standard for scientific purposes.

PUBLICATIONS

This year saw the formal acceptance of the web as the primary means of publishing the Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science and the final publication of Michael Fahay's two volume monograph on Northwest Atlantic Fish Larvae.

SYMPOSIA

The NAFO SC symposium on "Environmental and Ecosystem Histories in the Northwest Atlantic – What Influences Living Marine Resources?" was held in Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia during 13–15 September 2006. The purpose of this Symposium was to better understand the interactions between environments, ecosystems and fish stocks in the Northwest Atlantic. Three theme sessions were held:

- 1) Climatic, Physical and Biological Factors Affecting NW Atlantic Ecosystems;
- 2) Dynamics of NW Atlantic Ecosystems (including a mini-session on capelin); and
- 3) Comparison of Ecosystems, and Social and Economic Consequences of Changes in the NW Atlantic. A total of 62 people from 9 countries attended, and 26 papers were presented orally, and 6 as posters.

The 2007 October Symposium "Reproductive and Recruitment Processes in Exploited Marine Fish Stocks", will be jointly organized by NAFO, PICES and ICES and held in Lisbon.

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER SERVICES

NAFO Journal: In 2006, NAFO published 10 papers in Volume 36 of the Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science in electronic, hard-copy and CD-Rom formats. For Volume 37 of the Journal, 10 articles from the 2004 Flemish Cap Symposium are available to-date in electronic form at <http://journal.nafo.int>.

NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures 2007 (CEM): As every year, the NAFO CEM was updated to incorporate all management decisions made at the Annual Meeting 2006. The revised pages for the CEM 2007 were printed and circulated to Contracting Parties in December 2006 to be exchanged with outdated pages in the CEM ring binder.

NAFO Meeting Reports: As every year, two compilations of NAFO reports were published. Scientific Council Reports 2006 ("Redbook") and the Meeting Proceedings of General Council and Fisheries Commission Sep 2005 - Aug 2006, are published both as hard copies and as electronic (html) versions (web and CD).

NAFO Annual Report: In addition to publishing this printed brochure of the Annual Report, an electronic copy is available on the website for NAFO members and the interested public.

NAFO Poster: The NAFO Poster was redesigned and updated. The poster is used to promote NAFO's aims and goals and to give information to the general public. A web version of the poster can be downloaded as a PowerPoint file or a print quality version is available from the Secretariat (info@nafo.int).

NAFO Information Brochure: General information about NAFO was compiled by the Secretariat as a brochure to use as a print resource for the public.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Executive Secretary represented NAFO at various international meetings. The full meeting reports are accessible through the NAFO Web Pages.

Report of the Intersessional Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), Madrid, Spain, 15-16 February 2006

The CWP briefly met intersessionally for 2 days in February in Madrid, Spain. Among other items participants discussed issues related to vessels and ports, specifically the North Atlantic Format (NAF) and its use for scientific purposes. FAO announced during the meeting that the update by FAO/CWP of the 2003 publication "Fishery Data Quality Indicators: Review of progress and possible approaches to addressing data quality and

cost effectiveness" was almost concluded and will be accessible on the FAO website. The report of the meeting is available at the CWP website (ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/DOCUMENT/cwp/Cwp-int_2006/report.pdf). The next meeting of the CWP will take place in Rome, Italy, in conjunction with the COFI meeting late February/early March 2007 (no definite date yet).

Report of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) Steering Committee (FSC) Meeting, Madrid, Spain 13-15 February 2006

The FIRMS Steering Committee meeting was hosted by ICCAT and chaired by Hans Lassen (ICES). A new chair (Victor Restrepo, ICCAT) and vice chair (Johanne Fischer, NAFO) were elected. Much time was dedicated to a discussion of the FIRMS website (<http://firms.fao.org>; launched in May 2006). An issue of particular interest concerned the organization of the information contributed by members on the website and the development of appropriate search terms that will allow access to the information. The next FIRMS Steering Committee meeting will be held in Rome the week before COFI and in connection with the CWP meeting end of February/early March.

Annual Meeting of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), NEAFC Headquarters, London, United Kingdom, 13-17 November 2006

Among the highlights of the NEAFC Annual Meeting was the adoption of new port state control measures that require prior notification and verification of information by the flag state when foreign fishing vessels intend to land frozen fish. Also, NEAFC agreed to further reduce fishing effort on deep water fish and to continue with a fishing ban for basking shark and a ban on finning of all shark species. NEAFC has as the first Regional Fisheries Management Organisation undertaken an independent performance review headed by experts by the Fisheries Department of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, (FAO), the United Nations Division for Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Canada. The report is now in the public domain.

ASFA

In 2006 the Secretariat was introduced to ASFA by Maurice Jorgens from the United Nations. Maurice very kindly agreed to provide training to three Secretariat members. Tony, Barry and Barb will take over responsibility for inputting the NAFO information. NAFO thanks DFO, St. Andrews who have been doing this task for many years on behalf of NAFO.

STAFF MATTERS

New NAFO Staff Member



The Secretariat has an additional member since March 2006, Dr. Anthony Thompson, NAFO's new Scientific Council Coordinator and as such is responsible for the Secretariat's services to Scientific Council. Tony is a biologist from the UK with many years work experience in western Canada, Europe, Africa and Asia. Before joining NAFO he served as a consultant with FAO to develop a project in the eastern Mediterranean promoting regional integration and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in support of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean .

Retiring Staff Members

In December 2006, Ferne Perry, the Secretariat's Senior Publications Manager, retired after 32 years of services. Ferne's contribution to the publications of NAFO over the years has been invaluable. In addition, Ferne was always ready to lend a helping hand whenever needed. Within the Secretariat, her great flare for story-telling will also be greatly missed. Ferne is looking forward in the new year to spending quality time with her new grandson Dawson. Ferne and her husband, Serge, will also be spending time on their other passion - hiking. As members of the Chebucto Hiking Club, they can often be found on various trails throughout Atlantic Canada.



Dorothy Auby, Office Manager, also said her good-bye after 25 years of service with the Organization. Dorothy was a constant presence at Scientific Council meetings over the years and her support of these meetings was always appreciated. Dorothy's familiar face will be missed by the scientists from NAFO. Dorothy always wanted to hear about everyone's family back home and the number of baby and wedding pictures she has accumulated over the years attests to her interest. Dorothy hopes to keep in touch with her international friends when

she gets connected to the internet at home. Best wishes for the future Dorothy as you enjoy some well deserved time with your family.

Internships

This year, the Secretariat welcomed two interns. During the spring Anna Espina, from the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University, Halifax spent some time studying the NAFO management system. In the fall we were joined by Sonja Mills who is completing her MBA/LLB at Dalhousie University and hopes to gain some experience and knowledge of international organizations.

Staff Committee

The NAFO Staff Committee 2007 is composed of Jim Baird (Canada), Bill Brodie (Canada) and Fred Kingston (EU), who were nominated by NAFO staff and appointed by General Council.

FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS

Summer picnic at Gordie's cottage. Although Gordie Moulton retired in 2005, he and his wife, Margie, still welcome staff members and their families to their beautiful summer cottage at Blystone Lake for the annual staff picnic. A good time was had by all!

The 25 Year Club: 2006 marked the 25th anniversary of two NAFO staff members: Bev McLoon and Dorothy Auby. A celebratory luncheon was held for both jubilees and each was presented with a lovely gift.

Japanese Christmas Dinner: As every year, the Japanese Fishery Representative in Halifax, Takahisa Tanabe, invited Secretariat members to a truly delicious Christmas dinner. This gesture is very much appreciated.

Retirement/Christmas Party: Staff celebrated the festive season with a tour and dinner at Alexander Keith's Brewery in Halifax. Miraculously, no one fell in a beer vat!

CHAIRS OF NAFO BODIES AND COMMITTEES—2007

President of the Organization and Chair of the General Council

- ◆ David Bevan (Canada)

Chair of the Fisheries Commission

- ◆ Vladimir Shibanov (Russia)

Chair of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

- ◆ Mads Nedergaard (DFG)

Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration

- ◆ Fred Kingston (EU)

Chair of the Scientific Council

- ◆ Antonio Vazquez (EU—Spain)

Chair of the Standing Committee on Publications (STAC PUB)

- ◆ Manfred Stein (EU—Germany)

Chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Science (STACFIS)

- ◆ Don Power (Canada)

Chair of the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC)

- ◆ Konstantin Gorchinsky (Russia)

Chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN)

- ◆ Eugene Colbourne (Canada)

NAFO SECRETARIAT—2007

George Campanis	Information Technology Manager
Barry Crawford	Senior Publication Manager
Ricardo Federizon	Fisheries Commission Coordinator
Johanne Fischer	Executive Secretary
Stan Goodick	Senior finance and Staff Administrator
Cindy Kerr	Fisheries Information Manager
Barbara Marshall	Information Manager
Bev McLoon	Personal Assistant to the Executive Secretary
Lisa Pelzmann	Office Manager
Anthony Thompson	Scientific Council Coordinator

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