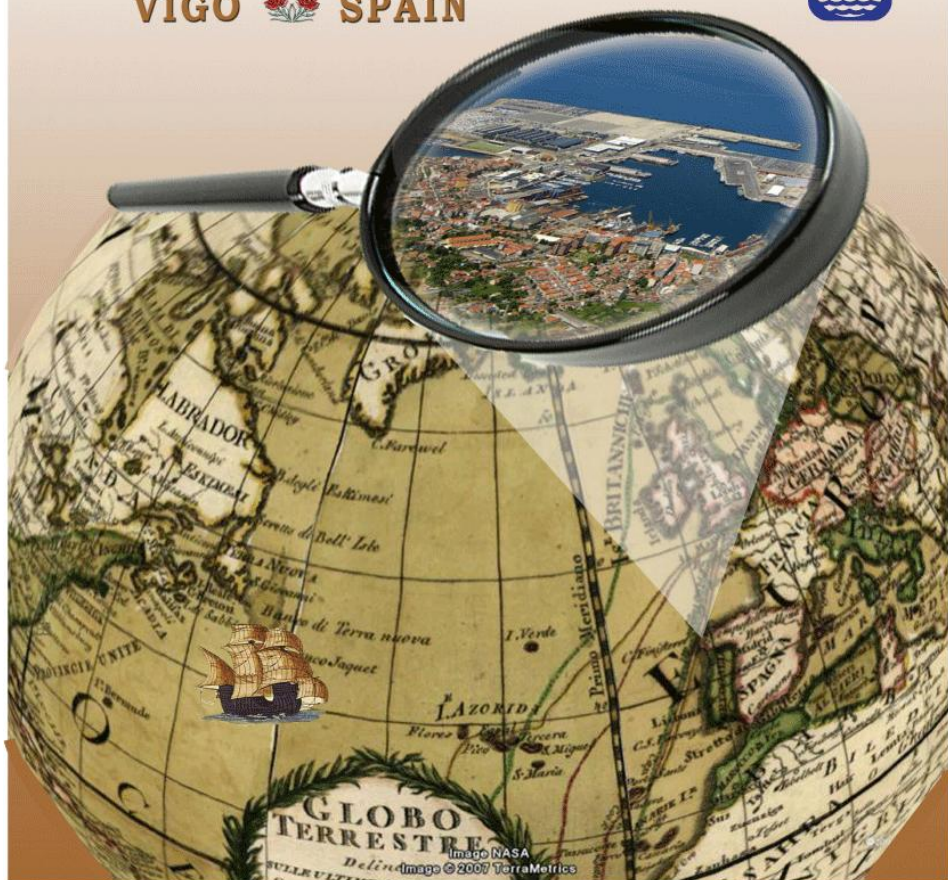


# NAFO ANNUAL REPORT 2008



## NAFO 30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING 22-26 September, 2008

VIGO 🌹 SPAIN



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**February 2009**



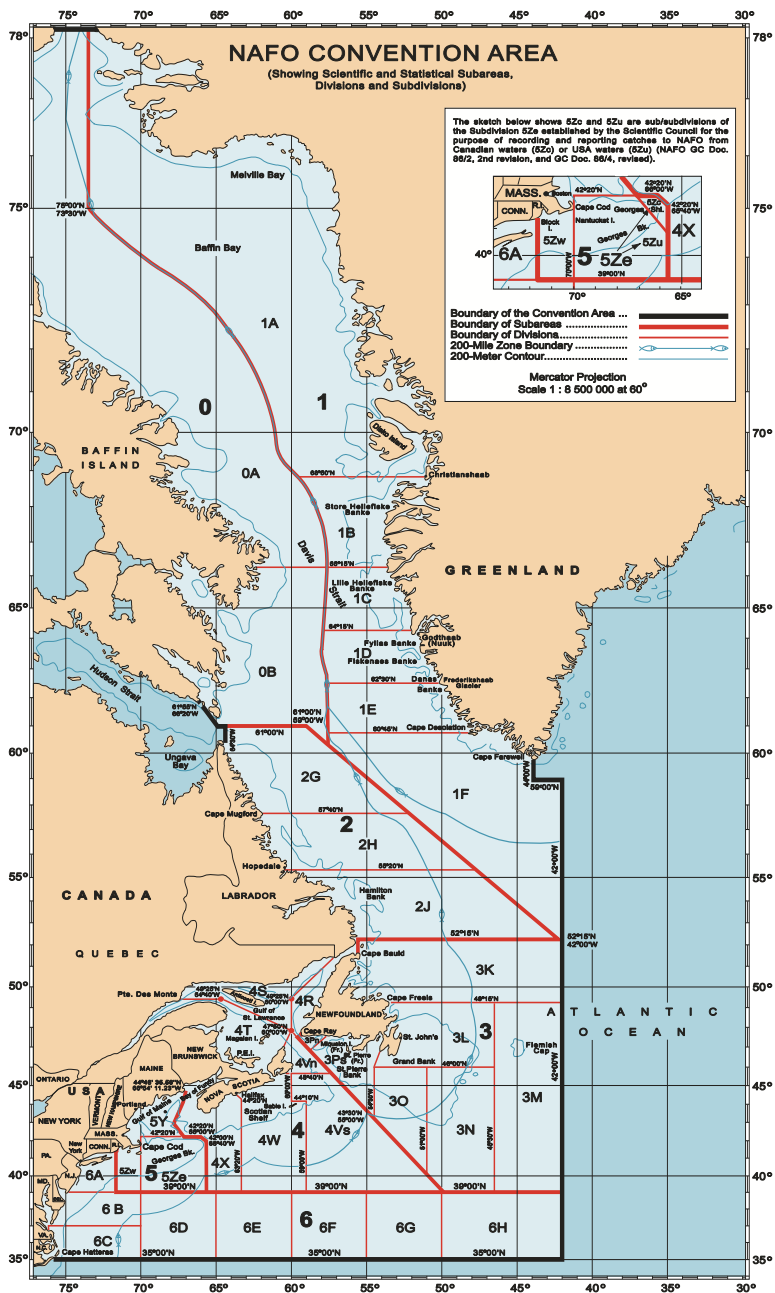
# **NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

**by NAFO Secretariat**

This Annual Report summarizes and highlights discussions, decisions and events of NAFO during 2008. 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 NAFO Website.

***[www.nafo.int](http://www.nafo.int)***



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## NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

In 2008, the NAFO buzz-word of the year was “ecosystem approach” and several NAFO meetings were dedicated to developing a concept for new assessment and management measures that will help protect valuable marine habitats and sensitive non-target species from the effects of bottom fisheries.



NAFO's considerable efforts to this regard in recent years have enabled the Organization to implement in a timely manner the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 61/105 from December 2006 in which regional fisheries management organizations were asked to adopt and implement measures in accordance with the ecosystem approach by the end of 2008.

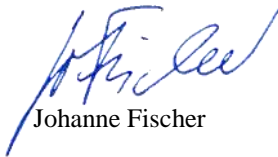
Specifically, the UNGA requested that RFMOs conduct impact assessments of bottom fishing, identify vulnerable marine ecosystems, close these areas to bottom fishing and develop protocols for the encounter of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and for exploratory fisheries. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was tasked with developing modern standards and criteria with respect to the assessment and management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas. Accordingly, the FAO “International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas” were finalized in 2008, just in time for NAFO to incorporate important definitions and principles described in this document into its own management scheme.

The result is a new chapter in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures on “Bottom Fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area”, a first map of “candidate” VMEs identified by NAFO scientists, a first version of the NAFO bottom fishing footprint (map of existing bottom fishing areas) along with protocols for exploratory fishing and for the encounter with vulnerable marine ecosystems. Also, in 2008, two areas (Fogo Seamounts) were added to the five areas already closed to bottom fishing in previous years.

So, in 2008 NAFO again made important steps towards a new management era and established the basis for its ecosystem approach to fisheries man-

agement. Over the next years, the measures and definitions will have to be perfected and filled with substance. Additional scientific data are required to properly define the NAFO VMEs, tools for the identification of vulnerable species to be used by fishing crews and observers have to be developed and the bottom fishing footprint has to be refined. To ensure the continuous progress, the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists, set up by Fisheries Commission in 2007, will carry on working in the foreseeable future and help define NAFO's future requirements with regard to science and assist Fisheries Commission in developing adequate measures to ensure the long-term protection of our marine environments.

With my best wishes to all for 2009!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Johanne Fischer', is written over the printed name.

Johanne Fischer



## GENERAL COUNCIL

In 2008, the General Council convened during the Annual Meeting in Vigo, Spain, from 22 to 26 September. It was attended by 200 Delegates from all 12 Contracting Parties and by a number of observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, *i.e.* Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Ecology Action Centre.

The meeting participants were all welcomed by the Spanish Minister for Environment, Rural and Marine Resources, Ms. Elena Espinosa Mangana, and by local Galician government representatives. After Delegates rose for a moment of silence to commemorate the most recent victims of the Spanish terrorist organization ETA, the NAFO President and Chair of the General Council, Terje Lobach (Norway), opened the meeting, followed by official statements from Contracting Parties and from the observers present at the meeting.



*Mr. Abel Caballero Álvarez (Alcalde Concello de Vigo), Ms. Elena Espinosa Mangana (Ministra de Medio Ambiente, Medio Rural y Marino), Mr. Terje Lobach (NAFO President, Norway), Ms. Carmen Gallego Calvar (Conseilleira de Pesca e Asuntos Marítimos), and Dr. Johanne Fischer (Executive Secretary).*

The Spanish host invited all Delegates to the Museo do Mar de Galicia where a beautiful meal was served in stunning surroundings. The WWF also generously hosted a much appreciated reception.

## NAFO Reform

After NAFO had adopted important amendments to its Convention in 2007, these amendments needed to be translated into French as the NAFO Convention exists in two language versions, each being equally authentic. So, during the 2008 Annual Meeting the French version of the reformed Convention was adopted thus freeing the way for the Depositary of the NAFO Convention (Canada) to initiate the process of ratification.

General Council recognized that the amendments to the NAFO Convention can only be implemented once they are ratified. However, to enforce the commitment of NAFO to modern fishery management approaches as reflected in the amended Convention, Contracting Parties adopted the following “*Resolution on the Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention on the Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries*”:

### **Resolution on the Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention on the Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries:**

“The Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Future Multilateral Cooperation in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (hereinafter referred to as the Convention),

Recognizing the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982; the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, 1995; the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, 1993, and

Taking into account the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in October 1995,

Desiring to promote the long-term conservation and optimum utilization of the fishery resources of the Northwest Atlantic Area,

Noting the amendments to the Convention adopted at the 29<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO),

Declare that in giving effect to the objective of the Convention, Contracting Parties individually and collectively, intend to:

1. adopt measures based on the best scientific evidence available to ensure that fishery resources are maintained at or restored to levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield;
2. apply the precautionary approach in accordance with Article 6 of the 1995 Agreement;
3. take due account of the impact of fisheries on other species and marine ecosystems, and in doing so adopt measures to minimize harmful impacts on living marine resources and marine ecosystems;
4. take due account of the need to preserve marine biological diversity;
5. prevent or eliminate overfishing and excess fishing capacity, and ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of the fishery resources;
6. ensure that complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities within the Regulatory Area are collected and shared among them in a timely manner;
7. ensure effective compliance with management measures and that sanctions for any infringements are adequate in severity; and
8. adopt measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing activities.”

## **External Affairs**

At the Annual Meeting in 2007 NAFO responded to the 2006 UN General Assembly Resolution 61/105 and listed a number of recent measures and initiatives that satisfied the requirements of the above Resolution including the adoption of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, closures of sensitive habitats, transparency etc. During the past two years, FAO has developed “International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas” to assist States and RFMOs in implementing Chapter 10 of the 2006 UNGA Resolution concerning responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem. These guidelines contain standards and criteria for identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems in areas beyond national jurisdiction and for identifying the potential impacts of fishing activities on such ecosystems. Many NAFO Contracting Parties and the NAFO Secretariat have been involved in the drafting

process of these FAO guidelines on which NAFO has based its measures to address vulnerable marine ecosystems, such as developing exploratory fishing protocols for new fishing areas, determining existing bottom fishing areas (footprint) and establishing protocols for encounters with vulnerable marine ecosystems.

## **Finance and Administration**

The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) elected a new Chair, Bob Steinbock (Canada). STACFAD once again strongly urged that Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions take immediate action to meet their financial obligations and bring financial stability to the Organization. A number of measures were adopted to this regard including (a) a provision that the NAFO President writes a formal letter to Contracting Parties in arrears, (b) the obligation to present finance plans by such Contracting Parties and (c) establishment of a contingency fund in 2009. Furthermore, the Committee noted a frequent delay in the submission of catch statistics and appealed to NAFO member states to submit catch reports in a timely, complete and accurate manner. NAFO adopted a budget of \$1,618,000 for 2009.



*Bob Steinbock  
(STACFAD Chair, Canada)*

STACFAD also discussed the intersessional development of a headquarters agreement between NAFO and Canada to host the NAFO Secretariat. Such an agreement will become necessary upon ratification of the amendments to the NAFO Convention.

## **Future Meetings**

The next Annual Meeting is scheduled for 21 to 25 September 2009 and will be kindly hosted by Norway in the city of Bergen.



*Back row: Jan Pieter Groenhof (Norway), Kate Sanderson (Denmark in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Kenro Iino (Japan), David Bevan (Canada), Johanne Fischer (Executive Secretary), Alexander Okhanov (Russia), Dean Swanson (USA)*

*Front row: Vasyl Chernik (Ukraine), John Spencer (EU), Hrefna Karlsdóttir (Iceland), Terje Lobach (President), Mads Nedergaard (Denmark in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Martha Torres Soroa (Cuba), Ho-Seop Yang (Republic of Korea)*

*Missing from Picture: Stéphane Artano (France in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)*





*José Caballero and  
Martha Torres (Cuba)*



*Dean Swanson (USA)*



*Terje Lobach (NAFO President, Norway),  
Johanne Fischer (Executive Secretary)*



*Takeru Iida and Noriaki Takagi  
(Japan)*



*Robert Rangeley (WWF)*



*Vladimir Shibanov, Temur Tairov  
and Alexander Okhonov (Russia)*

# FISHERIES COMMISSION

## Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

In 2008 NAFO dedicated a number of meetings to the development of new measures in the context of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

This series of consultations started in May 2008 with an intersessional meeting of the Fisheries Commission in Montreal where significant progress was achieved. NAFO adopted an entire new supplementary chapter to the Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) on Bottom Fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area. The new chapter, currently referred to as Chapter 1bis, sets the time lines for meeting the requirements of UNGA Resolution 61/105 on habitat protection in line with the “International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas” and addresses identification of existing bottom fishing areas (footprint), bottom fishing activities in new fishing areas, the assessment of bottom fishing, and interim encounter provisions with vulnerable species or habitats and a review process. Very importantly, NAFO also defined the following terms: bottom fishing activities, existing bottom fishing areas, new bottom fishing areas, vulnerable marine ecosystems and significant adverse impacts.

Fisheries Commission also established an ad hoc Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists to develop the protocols and procedures for fisheries in the context of the new approach.

A few weeks later the scientific Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management met in Dartmouth to identify vulnerable habitats and species in the NAFO Regulatory Area under the chairmanship of Antonio Vazquez (EU-Spain) (see Scientific Council report).

Finally, the first meeting of the ad hoc Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists took place in Montreal in early September 2008. It was chaired by Bill Brodie (Canada) and produced an Exploratory Fishery Protocol for New Fishing Areas which was included as Article 5bis and Annex XXV to the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures.

At the Annual Meeting 2008 Fisheries Commission also looked at the first draft of the NAFO bottom fishing footprint elaborated from submissions received so far



*Bill Brodie (Chair FC  
WG Fishery Managers  
and Scientists, Canada)*

and concluded that the map would benefit from a better resolution. Contracting Parties have been asked to re-submit their data to assist with improving the NAFO fishing footprint.

The working groups dedicated to the ecosystem approach established by Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council will continue to meet in the foreseeable future to further advance NAFO's measures to address the new approach.

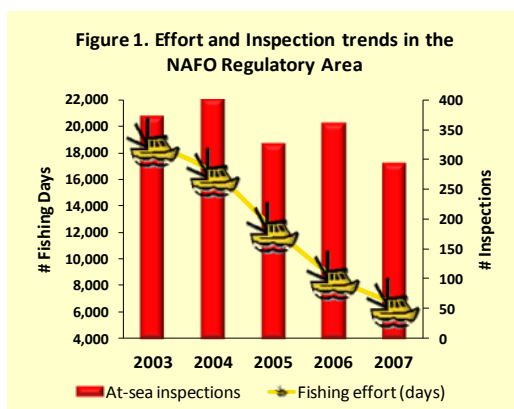
## Port State Measures

After a number of years of discussion, port state measures (CEM Chapter V) underwent a major revamp. This will contribute to a tighter control and more effective monitoring of NAFO Fisheries.

The measures adopted by the Fisheries Commission at the 30th Annual Meeting in Vigo, Spain, September 2008 apply to landings or transshipments in ports of Contracting Parties by fishing vessels flying the flag of another Contracting Party and for fish caught in the Regulatory Area. These measures foresee prior notification to the port authorities of the intention to land, confirmation of the flag State and authorization to land or transship by port State.

## Compliance Review

The format of the annual compliance review (FC Doc. 08/20) has continued to change in 2008 with the result that it is more user friendly and transparent.



From 2004 to 2007 the number of vessels fishing in the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic almost halved (down by 43%). The overall fishing effort (number of days fished by all vessels) diminished even more dramatically by sixty percent

Compliance of the fisheries with the NAFO measures is enforced by NAFO inspectors. Traditionally, Canada and the EU are the main or sole contributors to the joint NAFO at-sea inspection scheme. It is noteworthy that in 2008 USA and



Russia also participated in this service. In 2007 NAFO conducted 296 at-sea inspections of which roughly five percent resulted in a citation. This number of inspections and rate of citations remained fairly constant since 2003.

## **Fisheries Regulations (Conservation and Enforcement Measures)**

All NAFO measures are compiled in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) which are updated every year. These measures are very comprehensive and contain conservation measures such as TACs, closed areas, minimum fish and mesh sizes, etc., as well as control, monitoring and surveillance measures such as licenses, product labeling, recording and reporting of catches, Vessel Monitoring System, observers, inspections etc.. In the following, only important changes to existing measure and new measures are mentioned. Please refer to the NAFO CEM for the complete NAFO regulations.

### **Catch Regulations**

#### **Total Allowable Catches (TACs) (in tons) 2009**

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| • Redfish Div. 3M       | 8,500 t  |
| • Redfish Div.3O        | 20,000 t |
| • Redfish Div. 1F+2J+3K | 12,516 t |
| • Yellowtail Div. 3LNO  | 17,000 t |
| • White hake Div. 3NO   | 8,500 t  |
| • Skates Div. 3LNO      | 13,500 t |
| • G. halibut Div. 3LMNO | 11,856 t |
| • Squid SA 3+ 4         | 34,000 t |
| • Shrimp Div.3L         | 30,000 t |



#### **Fishing Bans Continue**

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



## New Measures Related to the Ecosystem Approach

The new ecosystem measures are compiled in a dedicated chapter of the NAFO CEM titled “Bottom Fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area”. It contains the following six articles.

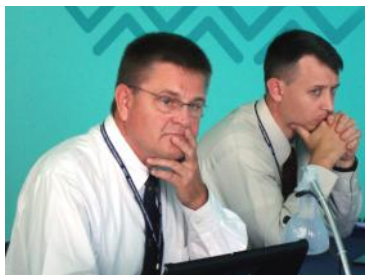
- Purpose and definitions (CEM Chapter 1bis, Article 1bis)
- Identification of existing bottom fishing areas (footprint)(CEM Chapter 1bis, Article 2bis)
- Bottom fishing activities in new fishing areas (CEM Chapter 1bis, Article 3bis)
- Assessment of bottom fishing (CEM Chapter 1bis, Article 4bis)
- Interim encounter provision (CEM Chapter 1bis, Article 5bis)
- Review (CEM Chapter 1bis, Article 6bis)

In 2008 NAFO also closed two relevant areas of the Fogo Seamounts to bottom fishing with the result that there are now seven closed areas in the NAFO Regulatory Area (CEM Article 15, paragraph 5; see also Article 16)

## New By-catch Provisions

In addition to the by-catch provisions stipulated in the NAFO CEM Article 12 in 2008 NAFO devised new provisions for species under moratorium. These are:

- Contracting Parties fishing for other species in Division 3M will be restricted to a cod by-catch limit of 10% by haul and an 8% limit on landings (CEM Annex IA - footnote 22).
- In lieu of Article 12.1 (a) and (b) of the CEM, the following by-catch provisions for American plaice only in the Div. 3LNO yellowtail fishery shall apply: Contracting Parties fishing for yellowtail flounder allocated under the NAFO allocation table will be restricted to an overall American plaice by-catch harvest limit equal to 13% of their total yellowtail fishery as calculated in accordance with Article 12.1 (c). For 2010, the by-catch percentage will increase to 15% unless a Scientific Council projection indicates that this rate is likely to undermine stock recovery or cause an unreasonable delay in reaching  $B_{lim}$ , in which case the increase may be subject to a reassessment by the Fisheries Commission (CEM Annex IA - footnote 23).



*Mads Nedergaard (DFG, STACTIC Chair) and Gregg Casad (USA)*

- By-catch of Redfish 3LN in other fisheries is limited to 10% (CEM Annex IA - footnote 25).

### **Other Regulations and Measures**

- Prohibition of large-mesh (modified Polish-type) topside chafer on trawl gears (deleted from CEM Annex XV).
- Masters now have to record the start and end geographic coordinates of trial tows conducted with regard to the by-catch provisions under Article 12.3.c (CEM Article 34.1.e)
- Lifting (a) seasonal fishing closure for shrimp in Division 3L and (b) the requirement that only one vessel per flag state fishes for this shrimp stock at any one time (CEM Article 15, paragraphs 1 and 2).

## **Shrimp Management**

NAFO has two different management regimes in place for shrimp stocks in its Regulatory Area (Divisions 3LNO and Division 3M):

1. A quota allocation scheme for shrimp in Division 3L and fishing ban for shrimp in Divisions 3NO;
2. An effort allocation scheme (fishing days allocations) for shrimp in Division 3M.

The current quota allocations for shrimp in Division 3L have been disputed for many years by Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) with the argument that the Danish historic catches were not sufficiently considered when the quotas were allocated. With regard to shrimp in Division 3M the soundness of an effort allocation scheme has been questioned for many years by some Contracting Parties. In view of these differences Fisheries Commission decided to meet intersessionally and reassess the current measures which it did in April 2008 in Montreal, Canada. Unfortunately the dispute over the current quota allocations for shrimp in Div. 3L could not be solved during that meeting. However, the scientific assessment indicated that the NAFO shrimp stocks are healthy and in good shape and that the current management regimes do not appear to have had a negative impact. Therefore Fisheries Commission decided to maintain the current management measures for the NAFO shrimp stocks.

## Elections



*Vladimir Shibanov (Russia, FC Chair)*

In 2008, Vladimir Shibanov was re-elected Chair of the Fisheries Commission until 2010. Kate Sanderson (Denmark in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) was re-elected Vice-Chair of Fisheries Commission for the same term.



*Kate Sanderson (DFG, FC Vice-Chair)*

.....



**Scientific Council:** Left to right, front to back: Margaret Treble, Susan Fudge, Michael Kingsley, Bjarne Lyberth, Romas Statkus. Joanne Morgan, Fernando Gonzalez, Don Power, Dawn Maddock Parsons, Diana Gonzalez Troncoso, Karen Dwyer, Antonio Avila de Melo, Manfred Stein, Jean Claude Mahé, Antonio Vazquez, Maris Vitins, Rasmus Nygaard, Tony Thompson, Brian Healey, Tomas Saat, Carmen Fernandez, Vladimir Babayan, Taro Ichii, Fred Serchuk, Jan Helga Fosså, David Miller, Phil Large, Ole Jorgensen, Ricardo Alpoim, Bill Brodie, Mark Simpson, Ilya Skryabin, Alexander Vaskov.

## SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

This was a big year for scientists within NAFO. There were several reasons for this. The introduction of the ecosystem approach and the implementation of UNGA Resolution 61/105 to meet some rather pressing deadlines regarding benthic-habitat protection was the largest and most pressing task. There was also, of course, the routine stock assessments and the realization that guidelines for re-opening fisheries after years of moratoria needed to be developed. Then there was a very successful marine mammal symposium that was held immediately after the annual meeting in Vigo, Spain, but broke from tradition and was held on the other side of the Atlantic in Dartmouth, NS, Canada. Finally, Scientific Council has held discussions on how to adapt its current structure to meet the demands of new and varied workloads.

### Greenland Halibut Study Group

The year started with an invitation from the Instituto Español de Oceanografía / Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo, Vigo, Spain, to host the NAFO Scientific Council Study Group meeting on “Rebuilding Strategies for Greenland halibut”. Scientists, managers and industry representatives, Doug Butterworth (South Africa), James Ianelli (USA) and Rob Scott (EU-UK) as invited experts all participated. New computational methods and programs allowed for management strategy evaluations (MSE) with a view to assessing the effectiveness of various options. The mixed stakeholder forum was successful though it was realized that the specific expertise necessary for the subsequent development of this tool may be lacking within the NAFO arena.

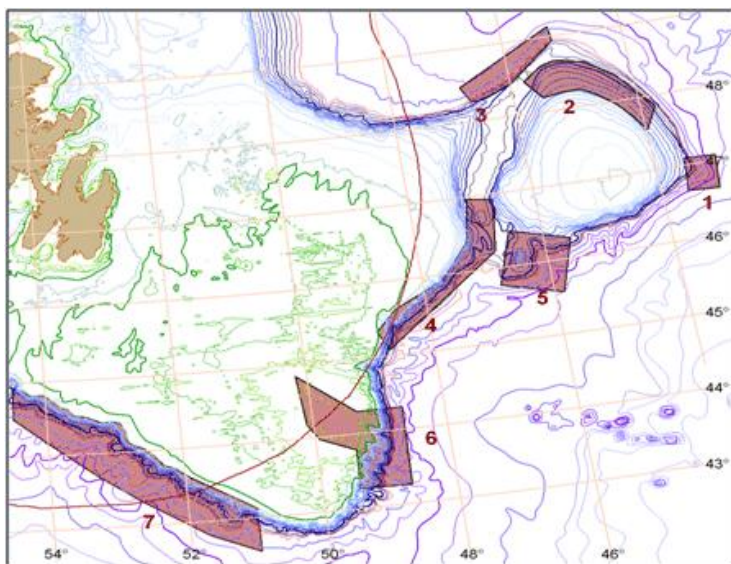
### Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

In recent years NAFO decided to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management which means that the Organization requires scientific advice regarding marine habitats and vulnerable species in addition to the traditional stock assessment of commercial fish species. For this purpose the Scientific Council established a new WG on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (WGEAFM) which met twice in 2008 to identify and delineate marine benthic habitats



*Antonio Vazquez (EU,  
WGEAFM Chair)*

subject to significant adverse impacts and in need of protection. Their work built on the findings of the ICES/NAFO deepwater ecology (WGDEC) group and took into consideration the definitions for vulnerable species and habitats contained in the new FAO guidelines for deepsea fisheries. This was a challenging task and resulted in considerable debate. Questions arose and were answered only by new questions. One point that did arise from the extensive analyses of some 7,259 benthic sample locations, was that species vulnerable to trawling, mainly the structure forming corals and sponges, can and often do occur within the general vicinity of fishing grounds. Many of the benthic samples come from information collected aboard commercial fishing vessels, and on occasions, their gear will venture in to some rocky depression and land this unwanted and invariably gear-damaging catch. It was also clear that certain fish species are tied, through their life-history characteristics, to various area-specific physical or biological bottom features, and a list of 21 fish species was short listed for consideration as Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) indicator species (see report).



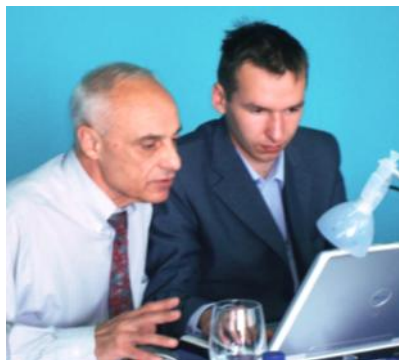
The candidate VME areas delineated by Scientific Council (see above) were chosen for their assemblage of several indicator groups or species, to be consistent with the E (=Ecosystem) of VME (see report). The delineated candidate VME areas were partially coincident with some of the heavily fished fishing grounds which is an important reason why Fisheries Commission requested additional finer-scale information on the location of VMEs before devising management measures for these areas. However, based on Scientific Council



advice Fisheries Commission did close the Fogo Seamounts to bottom fisheries thus adding to the list of closed seamounts (Orphan Knoll, Corner, Newfoundland, and New England) and coral protection zone.

At a further meeting, by correspondence and in response to a Fisheries Commission request made in September, WGEAFM addressed the distribution of structure forming Antipatharia, Gorgonia and Pennatulacea corals and delineated key locations where these vulnerable species are relatively abundant. In the future this information will be supplemented by detailed sponge distributions.

## Stock Assessments



*Vladimir Babayan, Ilya Skryabian (Russia)*

Scientific Council undertook full assessments of seven finfish stocks and two shrimp stocks, and interim monitoring of a further seven finfish stocks, in response to requests for advice from Fisheries Commission (see report). Scientific Council is concerned about the longer term consequences of poor recruitment to some stocks, and to Greenland halibut in particular which is subject to a rebuilding plan. Similarly, recruitment to the apparently healthy Div. 3M shrimp stock have been low for

the past few years, and the effects of this on the fishable stock are being watched carefully. Two moratorium stocks, Div. 3M cod and Div. 3LN redfish, have shown signs of recovery. Owing to bycatch concerns in the cod fishery, Scientific Council recommended the continued closure of the targeted Div. 3M cod fishery, but introduced the possibility of an adaptive management plan to allow for a small catch in the Div. 3LN redfish fishery. However, Fisheries Commission were also concerned by the bycatch of moratorium species and decided to not to re-open this redfish fishery at the present time.

## Sad News

In the summer we received the sad news that the Russian scientist Alexander A. Vaskov had passed away unexpectedly. Mr. Vaskov had been affiliated with NAFO for over 20 years and had recently served as designated expert for capelin. Alexander Vaskov died on 17 July 2008. He will be remembered.



## Symposia

The NAFO Scientific Council special session was a symposium co-sponsored by NAFO/ICES/NAMMCO and entitled “The Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” held on 29 September – 1 October 2008 in Dartmouth, Canada. The symposium was attended by about 70 scientists from 10 countries. There were four sessions:

- Biological and environmental factors affecting life history traits,
- Foraging strategies and energetic requirements,
- Theoretical considerations on apex predators and multispecies models,
- Marine mammal – fisheries interactions.

The symposium ended with a general discussion that identified the progress made since the 1995 NAFO marine mammal symposium and discussed future research that will advance our understanding of the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem.



*Tore Haug, Garry Stenson and Mike Hammill*



*Toomas Saat, Silver Sirp, Vladimir Babayan, Ilya Skryabin, Antonio Avila de Melo, Jean-Claude Mahé, Bill Brodie, Fred Serchuk, Michael Kingsley, Fernando Gonzalez, Ricardo Alpoim, Don Power, Enrique deCardenas, Anthony Thompson, Antonio Vázquez*



*Ricardo Alpoim (EU, STACREC Chair), Don Power (Canada, SC Chair), Michael Kingsley (DFG, STACFIS Chair ( and Anthony Thompson (SC Coordinator))*





*Bill Brodie and Peter Shelton  
(Canada) and Jean-Claude  
Mahé (SPM)*

*David Kulka (Canada),  
Lisa Pelzmann (Secretariat),  
Bill Brodie and Don Power  
(Canada)*



*Adam Fancy (student intern from Newfoundland)*



*Johanne Fischer (Executive Secretary, Don Power (Canada, SC Chair)  
and Anthony Thompson (SC Coordinator)*



*Back: Masatoshi Kusaka, Odd Gunnar Skagestad, Temur Tairov,  
Bob Steinbock, Stan Goodick, Johanne Fischer, Toke Hansen  
Front: Christiane Laurent-Monpetit, Rhonda Hash, Bev McLoon*



*Bev McLoon  
(Secretariat)*



*Cindy Kerr (Secretariat) and  
Florence Paillard (SPM)*



*Ricardo Federizon (Secretariat)*



*Harry Koster (EU-CFC)  
and Bev McLoon (Secretariat)*

## SECRETARIAT

In 2008, the Secretariat placed an emphasis on consolidating its team work approach and on further advancing its external relations and co-operation with other organizations. As always, coordinating NAFO meetings, producing publications, monitoring the fisheries and supporting the NAFO bodies and their activities kept the Secretariat team hard at work. We welcomed new student internships who brought fresh views and new expertise. Keeping a close watch on the cash flow situation was critical as significant outstanding contributions continue to burden the Organization.

*Standing: Cindy Kerr, Bev McLoon, Barb Marshall, Barry Crawford, Anthony Thompson, Ricardo Federizon, Lisa Pelzmann.*

*Front: Stan Goodick, Johanne Fischer, George Campanis*



Currently the teams of the Secretariat are:

- **Logistics:** Lisa Pelzmann
- **Fisheries Monitoring:** Cindy Kerr
- **Documentation:** Bev McLoon
- **Information:** Barb Marshall
- **Fisheries:** Ricardo Federizon
- **Publications:** Barry Crawford
- **Info.Tech:** George Campanis
- **Finance and HR:** Stan Goodick
- **Science:** Anthony Thompson
- **Coordination:** Johanne Fischer

## Staff and Administration



*Stan Goodick*

In 2004, NAFO adopted a teamwork approach for the NAFO Secretariat to allow for the expansion of services without outsourcing specialized tasks. 2008 was a good time to focus on fine tuning the team-work approach. For this purpose, the Finance and HR team invited two human resources consultants to conduct targeted training sessions on interpersonal and other relevant skills for all employees. The sessions provided us with valuable insights and com-

munication tools that will enhance our overall efficiency and ability to work within diverse teams.

The Staff Representative Barry Crawford (at right) (and George Campanis as his deputy) did a very good job in liaising with management on staff-related matters, in serving as main contact for work-related concerns and in representing the NAFO employees at STACFAD meetings. A new slate of elections will take place in 2009.



We are happy to welcome the newest addition to our extended NAFO family, Alexander Campanis, born in June 2008, son of George Campanis.

## Internships

Under the Professional Development Internship (PDI) program, George Campanis (IT Manager) visited the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, Italy for two weeks (1<sup>st</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April 2008). During his internship, George achieved a greater understanding of FAO's core competencies, and how they relate to an RFMO. NAFO's IT Manager provided FAO with a fresh perspective on NAFO's requirements and operating procedures, particularly in relation to differences in semantics *e.g.* regarding the NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance scheme in relation to the FIRMS data structure, and regarding differences in the catch statistics of the two organizations. The internship strengthened the professional relations between FAO and NAFO and fostered new collaboration opportunities between the two organizations.



For the first time, the NAFO Secretariat could welcome a professional intern from another fisheries organization, Natasha Slicer (pictured), Compliance Officer of CCAMLR (Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources). Natasha visited the Secretariat in August and was able to achieve useful insights into our operations and to educate us on CCAMLR procedures. Her visit certainly contributed to increase the contact and cooperation among the Secretariats of NAFO and CCAMLR.

The Secretariat also accepts students and young professionals with interests in high seas fisheries science and management as interns. In 2008 two stu-





dents joined us, Adam Fancy (Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada) and Bethan O'Leary (pictured) (University of York, Heslington, United Kingdom). Both these interns were interested in the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Adam focused on political aspects and finalized a paper entitled "The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management: An Evolutionary Look to an Ongoing Commitment". Beth, on the other hand reviewed the strategies available to Scientific Council to implement the wider aspects of the Ecosystem Approach. Beth's findings are published in our document series (The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management: High Seas Fisheries Management and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, SCS Doc. 08/22) and makes for interesting reading.

## Staff Committee

The NAFO Staff Committee 2009 is composed of Bill Brodie (Canada), Deirdre Warner-Kramer (pictured) (USA) and Bob Steinbock (Canada), who were nominated by NAFO staff and appointed by General Council. The Committee provides advice and mediation in the event that a conflict within the Secretariat cannot be solved internally.



## Meetings

The Secretariat has modernized and improved its main conference room with new furniture and equipment. The meeting room now accommodates up to 40 meeting participants and was used in 2008 for the meetings of the Scien-



*SC WGEAFM meeting in the NAFO Secretariat, Dartmouth, NS, Canada*



*Lisa Pelzmann*

tific Council Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, Coordinating Working Party (CWP - FAO) and Fishery Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS-FAO) as well as for internal meetings. The Secretariat now also has a second small meeting room which doubles as the library.

For the annual meeting, the cooperation between the Secretariat's Logistics Team and the local host in Vigo, Spain, went well and the meeting proceeded smoothly. The first members of the NAFO Secretariat to arrive at the venue were amazed to witness how before their eyes in a few days a barren looking warehouse could be transformed to a beautiful venue fit to accommodate the NAFO Annual Meeting.



| <b>Date</b>    | <b>NAFO Meetings 2008</b>   | <b>Venue</b>        |
|----------------|---|---------------------|
| 21 - 23 Feb    | SC Study Group on Rebuilding Strategies for Greenland Halibut                           | Vigo, Spain         |
| 10-14 March    | ICES/NAFO Working Group on Deep-water Ecology (WGDEC)                                   | Copenhagen, Denmark |
| 30 Apr - 7 May | Fisheries Commission Intersessional   | Montreal, Canada    |
| 26 - 30 May    | SC Working Group on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management                          | Dartmouth, Canada   |
| 5 - 19 Jun     | Scientific Council  | Dartmouth, Canada   |
| 1 - 3 Jul      | Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)                                   | Nuuk, Greenland     |
| 8 - 12 Sep     | Ad Hoc Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems | Montreal, Canada    |
| 22 - 26 Sep    | Annual Meeting  | Vigo, Spain         |
| 29 Sep - 1 Oct | SC Symposium - Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem in the 21st Century              | Dartmouth, Canada   |
| 22 - 30 Oct    | Scientific Council/NIPAG  | Copenhagen, Denmark |

## **Publications**

In 2008 the Secretariat's teams on Science and Publications took concerted efforts to update the ASFA (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts) database. Before 2007 this data entry was done by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans.



The Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science is web-based (a limited print version is still available) and viewers are able to read entire articles on-line and have the option to download print versions (free of charge) if they wish to. Anthony Thompson (pictured) Scientific Council Coordinator, is the General Editor of the NAFO Journal and his team provides technical editorial support to this scientific NAFO publication. An important and ongoing project related to the NAFO Journal is the assignment of a Cross-Ref Data

Object Identifier (DOI) to each article. The DOI ensures that a web-based document can be found even if its web address changes and thus ensures continuous access to the NAFO articles. Until now, we were able to assign DOIs to Journal articles back to 1994.

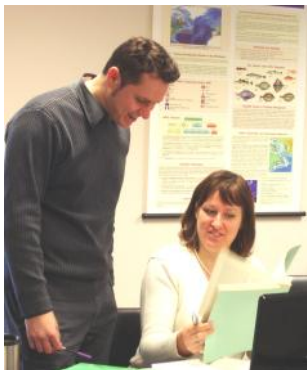
Since 2003, not only the NAFO Journal but all NAFO publications are available on the NAFO web pages to increase NAFO's transparency as well as visibility and accessibility of its publications. In addition, this helped reduce the number of printed publications thus diminishing costs and helping the environment.

In 2008 the Secretariat switched to a larger web server. This allowed us to place more documents on the web than was possible before. For example, there is now direct access to all the back issues of the NAFO Scientific Council Studies. The Documentation Team was also busy with managing all NAFO documents and deadlines as well as reorganizing the NAFO Library.

The NAFO Secretariat prepared, posted to the web and/or printed the following publications:

- NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (150 pages)
- Annual Report for 2007 (booklet – 25 pages)
- NAFO Meeting Proceedings for 2007/2008 (262 pages)
- Scientific Council Reports for 2007 (279 pages)
- Scientific Council Studies Volume 40 (4 pages)
- Scientific Council Studies Volume 41 (90 pages)
- NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 38 (81 pages)
- NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 39 (154 pages)
- NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 41 (partial – 3 Articles uploaded)

## Information and PR



*George Campanis and  
Barb Marshall*

The NAFO websites, managed by the Information Team, continue to attract many interested viewers, in particular to the IUU-list, the Conservation and Enforcement Measures, as well as the media kit and science pages.

In 2008 NAFO hosted the website for the NAFO-ICES Marine Mammals symposium. Also, since 2008 the NAFO Secretariat is hosting and managing the North Atlantic Format (NAF) website as it became more actively involved in the discussions and development of the NAF.

Another achievement in 2008 was the introduction of a PGP encryption ability to facilitate secure email communication between Contracting Parties and the Secretariat.

In 2008, NAFO acquired new software for the Vessel Monitoring System and we are glad to report that the switch-over was smooth and without problems thanks to the support of national Fisheries Monitoring Centres and the hard work of the Secretariat's IT-Team.

In addition, the Secretariat was again able to attend the annual AGDC (Advisory Group for Data Communication) meeting held at the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) headquarters. George Campanis gave a presentation on advances made in VMS data analysis which was well received. This presentation was also given to the CWP intersessional meeting in July 2008.

Since many years, the Secretariat has been actively involved in the development of and data input to the FIRMS database. This year the Information Manager, Barb Marshall, was joined by the IT Manager, George Campanis, when attending the FIRMS Technical Working Group meeting at FAO in Rome, Italy. One important item discussed during this meeting was the data structure of the new fisheries management module.

The Secretariat's Information Team has continued with its efforts to ensure transparency of NAFO to the general public. The NAFO website not only gives access to NAFO publications and databases but also provides overviews of NAFO activities and highlights. The Secretariat produced several informa-



tion materials (such as brochures and posters) and the Executive Secretary remained accessible to journalists and other media representatives.

## Fishery Management and Science Support

Within the last six years the Secretariat has expanded its services to Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council. The teams on Fisheries, Science and IT are leading the Secretariat's efforts in this regard with strong input from other teams, *e.g.* Fisheries Monitoring and Information. One example is the development of the Secretariat's capacity of visualizing, summarizing and analyzing geo-referenced VMS information.

This year, for the second time, the Secretariat's IT Team in cooperation with the Coordinators and the Executive Secretary provided the Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission with visual GIS based analysis of fishing effort in the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic (SCR Doc. 08/50). Similar maps of fishing effort were produced by the IT Team for the determination of the NAFO fishery footprint from Contracting Party submissions.

The VMS information is an important data source for NAFO. It is not only used for the purpose of monitoring, control and surveillance but is also becoming increasingly relevant for scientific assessment. The VMS enables us to track vessels in the Regulatory Area and also provides us with catch reports in addition to those from observers and port inspectors. The information transmitted via VMS follows a defined format (protocol). In the North Atlantic, NAFO and NEAFC have adopted such a transmission protocol called the North Atlantic Format.

The Secretariat Fisheries Monitoring team continuously monitors and manages fishery information from the NAFO Regulatory Area, *e.g.* inspection and observer reports, VMS information, catch statistics *etc.* The fishery information received by the Secretariat is analyzed and compiled by the Fisheries Team for the determination of compliance by STACTIC.



The Secretariat continues to employ Natalia Alonso (pictured) as part-time data input clerk to digitize fishery reports that still arrive in paper format to the Secretariat. Hopefully in the future more NAFO Contracting Parties will switch to electronic reporting and thus diminish the work-load of the Secretariat in handling their information.

## Co-operation with Other Organizations

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Executive Secretary (Johanne Fischer) was involved in the following external activities: She served as chair of several meetings, i.e. the FAO Workshop on Knowledge and Data on Deep-Sea Fisheries, the Intersessional Meeting of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP),



*FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy*

and the Steering Committee of the Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS). She also attended the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, the international seminar “Towards a new governance of high seas biodiversity” by the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) in Monaco, and a FAO Meeting on “Integrated Capture Information System (ICIS) Requirements Gathering”. In addition, she served as a panel member in round table discussions of the IOI (International Ocean Institute) Ocean Governance Training Program at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

Other members of the Secretariat attended the following: The Information Manager (Barbara Marshall) and the Office Manager (Lisa Pelzmann) presented a poster at the FSRS (Fishermen and Scientists Research Society) Annual Meeting in 2008. Barb Marshall and the IT Manager (George Campanis) participated in the FIRMS Technical Working Group in Rome, Italy in April.



*UN Headquarters, New York, NY, USA*

The Scientific Council Coordinator (Anthony Thompson), attended a meeting of the UN Biodiversity WG in New York and, in his capacity as General Editor of the NAFO Journal, the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) Annual Meeting in Norway. The Senior Finance and Staff Administrator (Stan Goodick) took part in the International Fisheries Commis-

sions Pension Society Meeting which manages the pensions for the NAFO Secretariat employees. George Campanis attended the 2008 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Data Communications (AGDC of NEAFC).

The Secretariat also has good working relations with the Russian Fishery Representative, Temur Tairov, and the representative of the Japanese Fishing Association, Takahisa Tanabe (who throws the best Christmas party in Halifax).

## Contracting Parties of NAFO –2008

|   |   |                                |   |
|---|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Canada  |    | Iceland                        |    |
| Cuba  |    | Japan                          |    |
| Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG) | <br><br> | Republic of Korea              |    |
| European Union (EU)   |    | Norway                         |    |
| France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)                 |   | Russian Federation             |    |
|   |   | Ukraine                        |    |
|   |   | United States of America (USA) |  |

## **Chairs of NAFO Bodies and Committees — 2008**

### **General Council**

Terje Lobach (Norway) - Chair and NAFO President  
John Spencer (EU) - Vice-Chair

### **Fisheries Commission**

Vladimir Shibanov (Russia) - Chair  
Kate Sanderson (DFG) - Vice-Chair

### **Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)**

Mads Nedergaard (DFG) - Chair  
Gene Martin (USA) - Vice-Chair

### **Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)**

Bob Steinbock (Canada) - Chair  
Deidre Warner-Kramer (USA) - Vice-Chair

### **Scientific Council**

Don Power (Canada) - Chair  
Ricardo Alpoim (EU-Portugal) - Vice-Chair

### **Standing Committee on Fisheries Science (STACFIS)**

Michael Kingsley (DFG)

### **Chair of the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC)**

Ricardo Alpoim (EU-Portugal)

### **Chair of the Standing Committee on Publications (STACPUB)**

Manfred Stein (EU-Germany)

### **Chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN)**

Vacant

## **NAFO Secretariat — 2008**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Johanne Fischer   | Executive Secretary                                  |
| Ricardo Federizon | Fisheries Commission Coordinator                     |
| Anthony Thompson  | Scientific Council Coordinator                       |
| Stan Goodick      | Senior Finance and Staff Administrator               |
| Beverly McLoon    | Senior Personal Assistant to the Executive Secretary |
| Barry Crawford    | Senior Publications Manager                          |
| Barbara Marshall  | Information Manager                                  |
| Cindy Kerr        | Fisheries Information Manager                        |
| George Campanis   | IT Manager   |
| Lisa Pelzmann     | Office Manager                                       |
| Natalia Alonso    | Data Input Clerk (temporary part-time)               |





