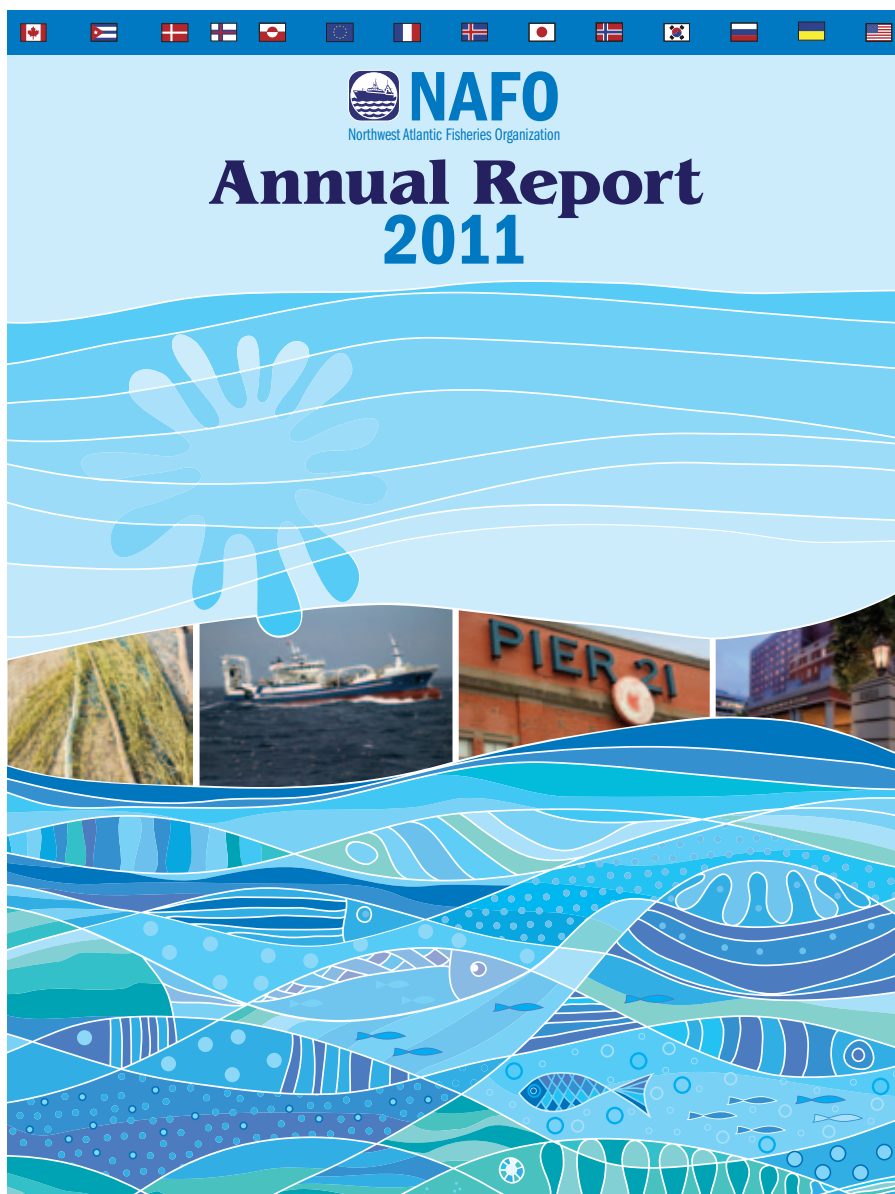




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NORTHWEST ATLANTIC
FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Annual Report 2011

This Annual Report summarizes and highlights discussions, decisions and events of NAFO during 2011. 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



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April 2012



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Vladimir Shibanov

The year 2011 and the 33rd NAFO Annual Meeting in Halifax, Canada, may be remembered

as the year and the Conference where NAFO successfully passed the examination performed by an independent International Performance Assessment Panel. The Panel representative, Dr. Denzil Miller (former CCAMLR Executive Secretary) presented to the NAFO General Council the results of the research on how NAFO complies with its own Convention and international legal instruments, and with best world practices of fisheries management and conservation of living marine resources. Most of the NAFO activities, such as Fisheries Science, Fisheries Management regime, control and enforcement, monitoring, surveillance, compliance, transparency, cooperation with other organizations, were highly marked by the Panel members – experts in the areas of the international Law of the Sea (Dr. M. Haughton, Belize), marine science (Dr. D. Miller, Australia) and fisheries management (Dr. Fabio Hazin, Brazil). The NAFO Secretariat was very pleased to support the Panel team with the documentation compiling the results of NAFO's work from the moment of its establishment in 1979 until 2010. By the way, as a result of the DIGITIZATION Project, all NAFO documentation (meeting proceedings, reports and publications) are accessible now on the well-developed NAFO website (www.nafo.int). The Panel addressed to NAFO a number of recommendations focusing on further improvement of the RFMO activities. To address these recommendations, NAFO has established a GC Working Group on the Future of NAFO to formulate a Plan-of-Action for the short-, medium- and long-term, and to build a scientifically based foundation for the conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in Northwest Atlantic Ocean.

NAFO continues to illustrate strong effort in improvement of the international fisheries management measures. The Management Strategy Evaluation, Conservation Plans

and Rebuilding Strategies, accompanied by the Precautionary Approach framework and Ecosystem Approach are the basis for the recovery and growth of most of NAFO's managed fish stocks.

The Fisheries Commission established a new form of dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists – special Working Groups of managers and scientists.

NAFO has taken further steps in protecting VMEs within the Regulatory Area by extending closure of existing closed areas until 2014 (six seamounts and 12 zones of coral and sponges distribution). NAFO continues the work of delineation of VMEs species-indicators, such critical elements as deep-sea canyons, spawning grounds and others as defined in the FAO International guidelines for the management of Deep Sea Fisheries in the High Seas. In addition to closed areas, NAFO is currently reducing encounter thresholds for sponges as species-indicator of VMEs.

NAFO approved a new format of the NCEM, a fully implemented former Chapter 1 bis on the list of regulation of international bottom trawl fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

NAFO Secretariat Staff members increased their active participation at the numerous international events under the umbrella of the UN, FAO, and developed cooperation with different intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutes and universities, with representatives of the fishing industry, students and the general public.

The New NAFO Internship Program was approved by the General Council in order to allow students and early-career scientists and managers from NAFO Contracting Parties to get work experience with an RFMO.

With my highest consideration,

NAFO Executive Secretary

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CONTRACTING PARTIES OF NAFO



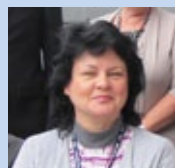
Newly elected NAFO officers



General Council Chair
President of NAFO
Veronika Veits
(EU)



STACFAD Chair
Deirdre Warner-Kramer
(USA)



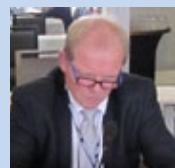
STACFAD Vice-Chair
Olga Sedykh
(Russian Federation)



Fisheries
Commission Chair
Sylvie Lapointe
(Canada)



STACTIC Chair
Gene Martin
(USA)



STACTIC Vice-Chair
Stein-Åage Johnsen
(Norway)



Scientific Council
Chair - Carsten Hvingel
(Norway)



STACFIS
Jean-Claude Mahé
(EU)



STACREC
Don Stansbury
(Canada)



STACFEN
Gary Maillet
(Canada)



STACPUB
Margaret Treble
(Canada)

General Council
Vice-Chair - vacant

Fisheries Commission
Vice-Chair - vacant

Special thanks are extended to the outgoing Chairs for their dedication and work with NAFO.



Former GC Chair &
President of NAFO
Terje Lobach
(Norway)



Former FC Chair
Kate Sanderson
(DFG)



Former SC Chair
Ricardo Alpoim
(EU)



Former STACFIS
Chair
Joanne Morgan
(Canada)

FINANCIAL STATUS UPDATE

The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) devotes many hours during each Annual Meeting examining the budget figures. Under the direction of Deirdre Warner-Kramer, the 2012 budget of \$1.875 million was reviewed and submitted to General Council where it was adopted. This budget allows the NAFO Secretariat (consisting of 10 staff members) to provide the necessary services and administrative support to the Organization. The 2012 budget also includes funds for a NAFO Internship Program which was formally established and set to begin in January.

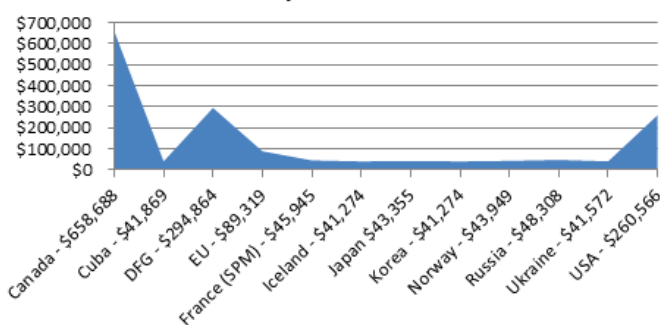
WBLI Chartered Accountants were appointed to audit NAFO's financial records for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 fiscal periods. Their first audit found that the Organization ended the 2011 fiscal year in a good financial position with operating cash at a high level and with all contributions having been received from Contracting Parties. In 2011 the operating budget was set at \$1.886 million of which \$1.65 million was financed through contributions received from its Contracting Parties. The NAFO Convention (Article XVI.3) establishes a three part cost sharing formula, including a proportion based on the nominal catches in the Convention Area.

3

2011 Budget - \$1,886,000



2011 Membership Contributions \$1,650,983



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Fisheries

FC deep sea bottom trawling (VMEs)

In 2011, about 93% of the fishing effort in the Regulatory Area involved bottom trawls, all confined within the fishing footprint and outside the closed areas to bottom fishing. Some fishing was done in Division 6G for seven days within the Corner Seamount. However, observer reports indicate that a midwater trawl was used in Division 6G.

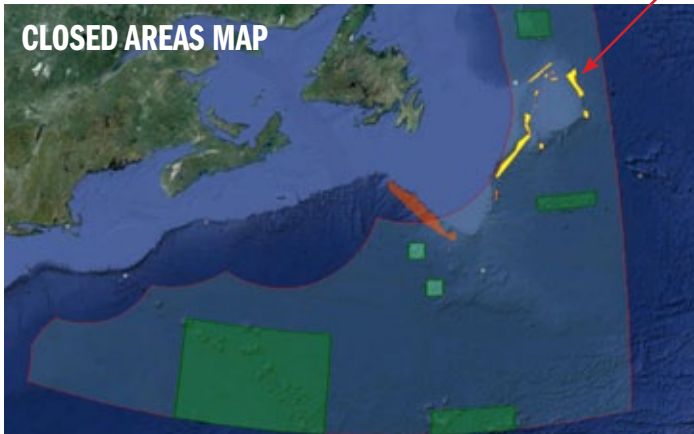
Based on the recommendation of the Fisheries Commission WG of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (WGFMS-VME), the FC extended the closures of the areas of significant concentrations of sponges and corals until December 31, 2014 to synchronize with the seamounts closure effectively.

Following scientific advice, which drew from the latest available information, the boundary of one of the closed areas, Area 5 – Northeast Flemish Cap, was extended to the deeper boundary up to the 2 500 meter-contour. The 800-kg live sponge threshold in conjunction with the encounter protocol was reduced to 400 kg and 600 kg in new and existing fishing areas, respectively. The coral threshold remains at 60kg.

(WGFMS-VME Chair: Bill Brodie, Canada)

4

CLOSED AREAS MAP



Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

In 2011, a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) approach to the determination of the Greenland halibut TAC was applied for the first time. The concept of MSE describes an approach in the understanding and evaluating the interactions among various management strategies against a background of uncertainty and trade-offs. This requires a multi-stakeholder approach and hence collaboration among the user groups.

A working group was established by the Fisheries Commission in 2009 – WG on Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE). In 2010, three meetings were held developing the Management Strategy.

Also in 2011, an Exceptional Circumstances Protocol (ECP) was developed in by the WG and was adopted by the Fisheries Commission. The ECP defines the circumstances at which the circumvention of the Management Strategy can be justified.

(WGMSE Co-chairs: Sylvie Lapointe, Canada and Antonio Vázquez, EU)

Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies (CPRS)

The Fisheries Commission WG of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies was established in 2010. In 2011, the WG met twice to conduct a comprehensive review of the interim 3LNO American plaice and the existing 3NO Cod Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies.

The updated CPRS are now embodied in Article 7 (3NO Cod CPRS) and in Article 8 for the Interim 3LNO American plaice CPRS of the 2012 NCEM.

(WGFMS-CPRS Chair Jean-Claude Mahé, EU; Vice-Chair Morley Knight, Canada.)

Compliance

Apparent Infringements (AI) detected by at-sea inspectors:

- Retaining fish (3M cod) onboard the vessels after the closure of the fishery (two incidents)
- Failing to provide daily reports (CAX) by Division when there is no observer onboard the vessel (one incident)
- Failure to provide Authorization to Fish (one incident)
- Failure to provide updated Vessel Capacity Plans (one incident)
- Mesh size violation (one incident)
- Failing to keep a stowage plan that shows accurate location and quantity of GHL in the hold (four incidents)
- Product labelling (one incident)
- Conducting directed fishery for which by-catch limits apply (one incident)



All detected AIs in 2011 were considered non-serious, except the last one concerning by-catches. Contracting Parties involved had reported on their respective follow-up actions concerning every AI, pursuant to Article 37.

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Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

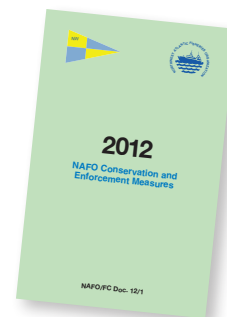
The VMS provider continues to provide reliable service. Changes have been made in the system to adapt to the new CEM requirements as recommended by STACTIC and adopted by the Fisheries Commission. The most significant change in 2011 was the new requirement for vessels to transmit daily catch reports by stock and by Division.

Inspection Website

In 2011, FC has approved the creation of a secured website for the inspectors. The purpose of the site is to provide updated information (e.g. Vessel list, chartering arrangements, etc) for the inspectors. In May 2012, a demonstration of Phase 1 will be presented to STACTIC during its Intersessional Meeting.

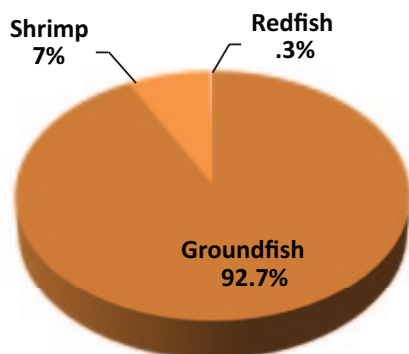
CEM Reorganization

The CEM Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) worked for two years to comprehensively revise the CEM to enhance organization and structure, eliminate redundancy and clarify existing NAFO measures. The EDG completed the draft which was subsequently approved by STACTIC and the Fisheries Commission. The 2012 NCEM represents the first NCEM publication with the “new look” based on the EDG work.

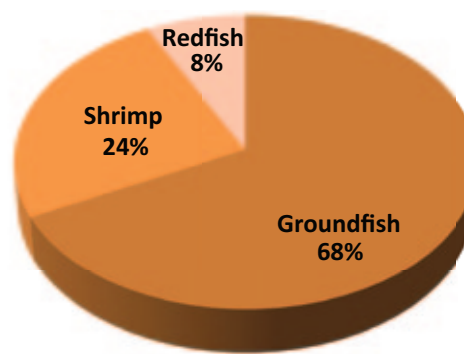


Fishery Trends AND PROFILES

Comparative fishing effort (vessel-days) in the NAFO Regulatory Area 2011



Comparative fishing effort (vessel-days) in the NAFO Regulatory Area 2004–2011



5



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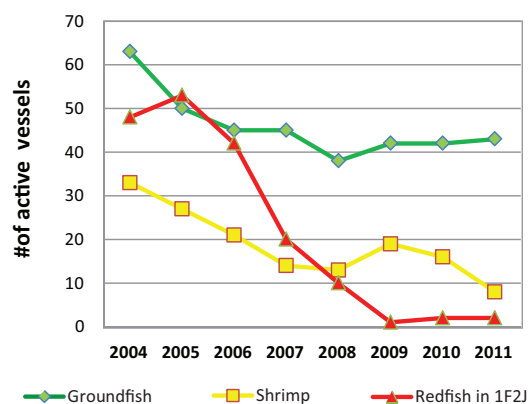
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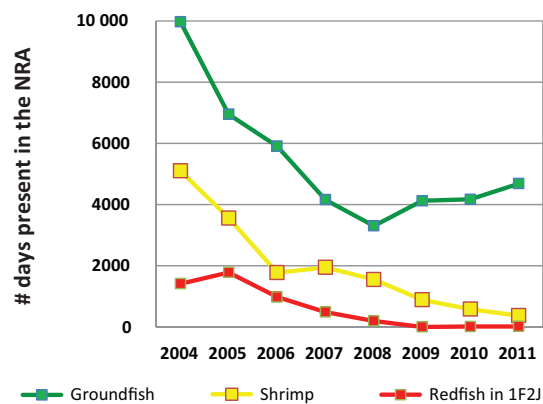
Active vessels



Number of active vessels

	Groundfish	Shrimp	Redfish in 1F2J
2004	63	33	48
2005	50	27	53
2006	45	21	42
2007	45	14	20
2008	38	13	10
2009	42	19	1
2010	42	16	2
2011	47	8	2

Days Present



Number of days present (effort)

	Groundfish	Shrimp	Redfish in 1F2J	TOTAL
2004	9 966	5 100	1 414	16 480
2005	6 948	3 558	1 784	12 290
2006	5 908	1 776	979	8 663
2007	4 158	1 948	488	6 594
2008	3 302	1 551	201	5 054
2009	4 122	889	5	5 016
2010	4 170	584	14	4 768
2011	4 920	372	18	5 310

NOTE: 1) The 2011 increase in groundfish effort can be attributed to the 3M cod and 3LN redfish re-opening.
 2) The 2011 decrease in shrimp effort can be attributed to the 3M shrimp moratorium. All shrimp effort was concentrated in 3L.
 3) The pelagic redfish fishing in 2011 was all conducted before 1 July 2011 when moratorium on this stock was declared.

TAC Table

Total allowable catches (TACs) for **2012** of particular stocks in Subareas 1–4 of the NAFO Convention Area. The values listed include quantities to be taken both inside and outside the 200-mile fishing zone, where applicable. Quota allocation schemes were based on the pre-moratoria percentage values.

Species	Cod			Redfish				American plaice		Yellowtail
Division	3L	3M	3NO	3LN	3M	3O	Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K	3LNO	3M	3LNO
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	9 280	*	6 000	6 500	20 000	0	*	*	17 000

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex)	Shrimp	
Division	3L	3NO	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	*	5 000	*	8 500	12 098	34 000	12 000	*

*Moratorium

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Science

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

June Meeting

The Scientific Council met at the Johann Heinrich von Thunen Institut (vTI), Braunschweig, Germany, between the 3–16 June 2011. This was the first time that Scientific Council has met outside the Halifax area. At this meeting Scientific Council fully assessed the status of eight stocks for Fisheries Commission. The Council also monitored the status of a further eight fish stocks, carried out assessments of two stocks at the request of Coastal States and monitored two more. The overall picture of cautious optimism seen in previous years for the finfish stocks seems to be continuing.

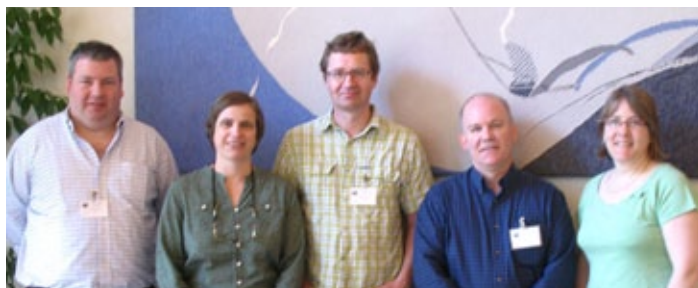
The meeting was attended by 32 scientists from 11 countries. There were also two external speakers, Anton Ellenbroek of the FAO who spoke on the D4Science initiative, and Christian Möllmann, from the University of Hamburg, who spoke on ecosystem assessment in the Baltic Sea.

Scientific Council convenes a number of subcommittees to address specific issues. These committees met during the June meeting to address their terms of reference and any other business.

Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN)

STACFEN is responsible for the assessment of environmental conditions in the NAFO Regulatory Area and how changes in the environment affect marine resources. The annual assessment of the environment within the NAFO Convention Area, based on atmospheric and oceanographic data compiled by Contracting Parties, from West Greenland to the Northeast USA Shelf, indicated that 2010 was an unusually warm year across the Northwest Atlantic, with reduced sea ice extent and duration and increased stratification of the water column in many areas.

STACFEN continues to provide an annual web-based ocean climate status summary report at: <http://www.nafo.int/science/frames/eco-ocs.html> to describe environmental conditions over the NAFO Convention Area. This summary includes a detailed overview of the general ocean climate conditions and highlights.



2011: SC Chair - Ricardo Alpoim, STACFIS Chair - Joanne Morgan, STACREC Chair - Carsten Hvingel, STACFEN Chair - Gary Maillet, STACPUB Chair - Margaret Treble.

Standing Committee on Fisheries Science (STACFIS)

At the June 2011 meeting, STACFIS reviewed the status of 21 stocks or stock complexes. Full assessments were undertaken for 12 of them, eight were under interim monitoring and there was one stock that was reviewed that is under an Harvest Control Rule tested under Management Strategy Evaluation. 11 of the 21 stocks are considered to be at a low stock size, with stock size unknown for a further six stocks. Biological limit reference points are available for seven stocks, of which four are below this level. Div. 3M Cod, which reopened to directed fishing in 2010, continued to show growth in stock size. Div. 3LNO American plaice has shown some recent improvement in stock size but is still considered to be below safe limits.

Eight fish stocks went through interim monitoring. STACFIS concluded that all continue in stable condition, with no changes in stock status that would motivate a revision of the assessment or a change in the advice.

Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC)

STACREC plans and coordinates data collection and presents results to support the scientific basis of the fish and shrimp stock assessments and management advice. Information on catch statistics, catch data, commercial sampling and surveys were reviewed during the course of the meeting. Eight countries presented their results from surveys and commercial sampling undertaken mainly during 2010. Following the ecosystem based management initiatives within NAFO the need for coherent analyses of scientific data collected by different Contracting Parties have emerged. STACREC noted that earlier problems regarding data sharing have now been solved.

Standing Committee on Publications (STACPUB)

The latest issue of the Journal of the Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science, Volume 43 is a regular issue, published in December 2011. Volume 44 is currently being compiled.

The success of the web as the primary publication medium continues to promote the Journal worldwide and gives articles the widest possible circulation and readership. NAFO Scientific Council Coordinator, Dr. Neil Campbell was appointed as General Editor of JNAFS and is supported by a strong editorial team that includes expertise in fisheries, economics and the





Back row (left to right): Ivan Tretiakov, Rasmus Nygaard, Barb Marshall, Neil Campbell, Ricardo Alpoim, Antonio Vázquez, Jean-Claude Mahé, Ole Jørgensen, Antonio Ávila de Milo, Dawn Maddock Parsons, Brian Healey, Bill Brodie, Rick Rideout, Mark Simpson, Carsten Hvingel, Ilya Skryabin.

Front row: Don Power, Alexis Pacey, Raphael Duarte, Fernando González-Costas, Diana González-Troncoso, Joanne Morgan, Gary Maillet, Margaret Treble, Mariano Koen-Alonso, Kathy Sosebee, Heino Fock, Vladimir Babyan, Romas Statkus. Not shown: Anna Akimova, Konstantin Fomin, Tom Nishida.

social sciences. JNAFS continues to adopt modern publication practices and articles now use the Digital Object Identifier system (DOIs) and are produced electronically in pdf and HTML formats; the latter allows for considerable dynamic-linking and cross-referencing which improves article usability.

JNAFS is incorporated in the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) database. The Secretariat is an "ASFA Input Centre" and submits metadata for its publications to be included in the ASFA database that is disseminated to libraries and institutions worldwide.

A guide to sponges was published as NAFO Studies Series Issue 43. This guide was published on waterproof paper, to be used onboard vessels by observers. An electronic version is also available on the website.

The NAFO Secretariat has completed the digitization of all NAFO meeting documents (SCR, SCS, FC and GC) from 1979 to present. The next phase of the project is to digitize ICNAF Publications including Scientific Council Reports, Meeting Proceedings of the General Council and Fisheries Commission and Annual Reports. The Secretariat has developed a search feature for the JNAFS site that in future will also be used to search the historical documents section.

September Meeting

Scientific Council met during the NAFO Annual Meeting at the Westin Hotel, Halifax, to present its advice to

Fisheries Commission and address any requests for clarification or additional advice necessary, as well as to address their own business. During this meeting Scientific Council had the opportunity to thank the outgoing chairs and presented Dr Vladimir Rikhter (AtlantNIRO) with a NAFO Scientific Merit Award in recognition of his contributions to Scientific Council and to fisheries science in general over many years.

October Meeting/NIPAG

In October, Scientific Council met at the NAFO Headquarters in Dartmouth, in conjunction with the joint NAFO-ICES Pandalus Assessment Group (NIPAG) to produce advice on shrimp stocks on the Grand Banks and Flemish Cap and at the request of Coastal States, in waters around Greenland. NIPAG also assessed shrimp stocks in the Barents Sea, North Sea and in the Skagerrak.

Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (WGEAFM)

The WGEAFM met at NAFO Headquarters in Dartmouth during December to address the requests for ecosystem advice received from the Fisheries Commission, and to address their own standing terms of reference – NAFO's "Roadmap to an Ecosystem Approach". The group presented work on spatial distribution of VME indicator species and the suitability of current conservation measures, integrated ecosystem assessments and multi-species

considerations in the management of fish stocks in the NAFO regulatory area. This work will be presented to Scientific Council at their meeting in June 2012.

STOCK STATUS

The biomass of Redfish in Div. 3M remains above precautionary levels in 2011, however the stock has declined, in spite of the very low fishing mortality it has been experiencing. This is believed to be linked to an increase in natural mortality, driven by increased predation from the growing cod stock in this area, which continues to recover well, even with fishing mortality higher than optimal. The slow recovery of Cod in Div. 3NO continues, and Scientific Council advised the maintenance of a moratorium on this stock.



Redfish 3LN was monitored this year and Scientific Council advised that catches for 2011–12 should equate to roughly one sixth of F_{msy} , resulting in a TAC of 6 000 t.

Redfish 3O were monitored by Scientific Council, but they were unable to advise on a TAC due to uncertainties in stock dynamics and recruitment patterns, however it was concluded that the long term average catch of 13 000 t appears to be sustainable.

As a result of a management strategy evaluation (MSE) process, fishing opportunities for Greenland halibut in SA2 and Div. 3KLMNO



are now determined using a survey based harvest control rule. Survey abundance slopes for the past five years were calculated, applied to the rule and a lower TAC of 16 326 t was proposed.



American plaice in Div. 3M continues to be in a poor condition, although the large 2006 year class first seen in the previous assessment has now recruited to the stock, and year class strength since 2007 has been roughly ten times greater than in the 1995–2005 period. Fishing mortality is low and

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advice is to maintain this through no directed fishery to allow continued recovery. The biomass of American Plaice in Div. 3LNO remains below its precautionary level, however is on an upward trajectory. SC advised that there should be no directed fishing on American plaice in Div. 3LNO in 2012 and 2013.



Despite fishing mortality higher than optimal, Cod 3M has seen a large increase in spawning stock biomass, in part due to changes in maturity at age in this stock, and is now well above B_{lim} . This is not reflected in the size of the population in terms of numbers of individuals, which remains below levels seen in the 1980s. This disparity is driven by the fact that maturity at age has increased in recent years and fish contribute to the SSB* at a much younger age. Scientific Council advised catches should be below $F_{0.1}$ in 2011, and a TAC of 9 280 t was set, in accordance with this advice.

Cod 3NO was monitored and Scientific Council advised the maintenance of a moratorium on this stock. Biomass remains relatively low but has improved slightly in recent years. Nevertheless, SSB remains well below B_{lim} . In 2007 a conservation plan and rebuilding strategy was adopted for cod in Div. 3NO. This plan was revised in 2011.

Witch flounder 3NO shows signs of improvement in stock status, notably the increases in Canadian autumn survey indices in 2008–2010, however the stock remains at a very low level and the moratorium remains in place. Witch flounder 2J3KL was monitored by Scientific Council in 2011 and the this stock also remains under moratorium.



Yellowtail flounder 3LNO remains in good health, with a stock size of 1.7 times B_{msy} . Fishing mortality is less than 0.33 F_{msy} . Scientific Council noted that catch in recent years has been much lower than the TAC, primarily due to economic factors. A TAC of 17 000 t was set.

NAFO manages one stock of capelin in Div. 3NO and there is a moratorium for this species. NAFO recognizes the role that capelin play in the Northwest Atlantic ecosystem as a very important prey species for fish, marine mammals and seabirds. Since 1994, capelin biomass has remained at a low level compared to late 1980s. Considering the importance of capelin as a food source and consistent with the ecosystem approach, the moratorium on Div. 3NO capelin will continue until at least December 31, 2012.



In 2005, NAFO started to manage White hake in Div. 3NO. Stock size has continued to decline from the levels seen in 2000, which was driven by the strong 1999 year class. There has been little recruitment in recent years and a TAC of 5 000 t was set.

Thorny skate 3LNO was monitored by Scientific Council in 2011, and despite a number of years of reduced fishing mortality the biomass remains at a low level. Whilst the Canadian survey

indices appear stable at low levels, the EU-Spain Div. 3NO index, which samples skate in the NAFO Regulatory Area of NAFO Div. 3NO, has been declining since 2006, coinciding with a period of reduced skate landings and reduced fishing effort. A TAC of 8 500 t was set.



Northern shortfinned squid SA3-4 continues to be in its low-productivity state and Scientific Council advises that the TAC for 2011 to 2013 be set between 19 000 t and 34 000 t.

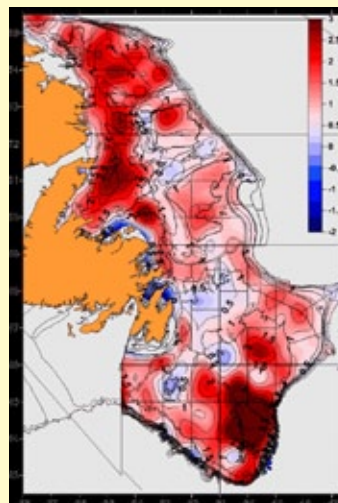
Catches of Shrimp 3M peaked at 60 000 t in 2003, but have decreased sharply in recent years and a moratorium on this stock was declared in 2011 when biomass fell below precautionary levels. Recruitment has been low since 2002 and despite the ongoing absence of fishing there are no signs of stock recovery. A moratorium was also applied for 2012.



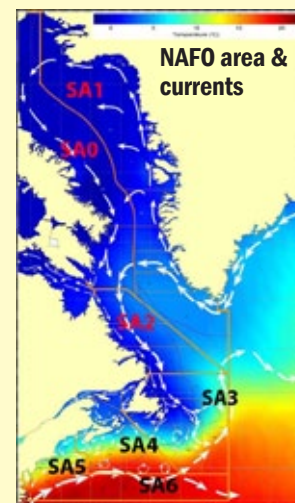
The biomass of Shrimp in Div. 3LNO peaked in 2007 and has decreased since then. A TAC of 12 000 t has been set for 2012, which must be taken in Div. 3L. Scientific Council has noted that if the declining trend continues in this stock, biomass at the end of 2012 will be close to the precautionary threshold.

Highlights of Environmental Conditions in the NAFO Convention Area for 2010

The 2010 NAFO Annual Ocean Climate Status Summary for the Northwest Atlantic reports on meteorological and ice conditions, temperature and salinity, and biological and chemical conditions in the various sectors of the convention area. For a detailed report, visit <http://www.nafo.int/science/frames/eco-ocs.html>



During the autumn of 2010 bottom temperatures remained above normal in most areas of Div. 2J continuing the recent warm trend over the past several years.



*Spawning stock biomass



NAFO Performance Review Panel Report

During the NAFO 32nd Annual Meeting in September 2010, the NAFO General Council approved the framework for the Performance Review. The preparatory work for the review process was initiated by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution, which encouraged RFMOs to undergo performance assessments to ensure that they are acting as stewards of the marine ecosystem.

The independent review panel was formed by the NAFO Secretariat in accordance with the mandate given by the General Council. The panel was chaired by Dr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil), and composed of Dr. Denzil Miller (Australia), Dr. Milton Haughton (Belize) and NAFO experts – James W. Baird (Canada), Einar Lemche (Denmark), John Spencer (EU) and Olga Sedykh (Russia). STACTIC Chair Gene Martin (USA) and the NAFO Secretariat served as information resources.

The Panel had two meetings in March and June 2011, and prepared an extensive

report with the assessment of NAFO work against the objectives set out in the NAFO Convention and other relevant international instruments. It addressed the conservation and management of marine living resources for the period 1979 – 2010 with the special emphasis on the period since 1995.

The Panel Report was presented at the NAFO 33rd Annual Meeting in September 2011 and addressed a number of the recommendations to NAFO General Council. As a result of the discussion, all Panel recommendations were sorted with regards to the NAFO constituent bodies they addressed, and forwarded by the General Council to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council for their review.

The General Council established the GC Working Group on the future of NAFO on the development of plans-of-action necessary for the implementation of



Back row - left to right: Jim Baird (Canada), Einar Lemche (Denmark), Dr. Denzil Miller (Australia), Dr. Milton Haughton (Belize), STACTIC Chair Gene Martin (USA), NAFO Executive Secretary Dr. Vladimir Shibarov.

Front row - left to right: Olga Sedykh (Russia), Dr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil), John Spencer (EU).

Panel recommendations that involve NAFO policy issues and more than one constituent body. The Working Group should be chaired by NAFO President and GC Chair, Veronika Veits (EU). The GC WG Terms of Reference, composition, timing and venue were adopted.

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NAFO MEETINGS 2011

DATE	TITLE	VENUE
28 Feb–04 Mar	Joint NAFO/ICES WG on Deep-water Ecology (WGDEC)	Copenhagen, Denmark
28 Feb–04 Mar	NAFO Performance Review Panel (First Meeting)	Dartmouth, NS, Canada (NAFO Headquarters)
7 Apr	FC Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies (WGFMS-CPRS)	by WebEx
12–14 Apr	SC WG on Reproductive Potential	Aberdeen, Scotland
9–10 May	STACTIC Intersessional	London, UK
10–12 May	ICES/NAFO Symposium “Variability of the North Atlantic and its Marine Ecosystems during 2000–2009”	Santander, Spain
31 May–3 Jun	NAFO Performance Review Panel (Second Meeting)	Dartmouth, NS, Canada (NAFO Headquarters)
3–16 Jun	Scientific Council and its Standing Committees meeting	Braunschweig, Germany
26–28 Jun	FC Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies (WGFMS-CPRS)	Halifax, N.S., Canada
29–30 Jun	FC Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (WGFMS-VME)	Halifax, N.S., Canada
August	Joint NAFO/ICES WG on Harp and Hooded Seals (WGHARP)	St. Andrews, Scotland, UK
7 Sep	FC Working Group on Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE)	by WebEx
19–23 Sep	NAFO 33 rd Annual Meeting Fisheries Commission, General Council, Scientific Council	Halifax, NS, Canada
19–26 Oct	Joint NAFO/ICES Pandalus Assessment WG	Dartmouth, NS, Canada
30 Nov–9 Dec	SC Working Group on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (WGEAFM)	Dartmouth, NS, Canada

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External Meetings

NEAFC Permanent Committee Control & Enforcement (PECCOE) (May 2011)

In conjunction with the STACTIC meeting in London, UK in May 2011, Dr. Ricardo Federizon, Cindy Kerr and George Campanis attended PECCOE meeting as observers.

NEAFC Advisory Group (AGDC May 2011)

Dr. Ricardo Federizon, Cindy Kerr, and George Campanis attended the AGDC Meeting in London, UK in May 2011 (which was held back-to-back with the PECCOE and STACTIC Intersessional Meetings). Among the technical issues relevant to NAFO, particularly STACTIC, discussed were VMS Security and digital certificates and VMS message types harmonization with NEAFC. George Campanis also presented a SharePoint site that can be used by AGDC participants for collaboration.

The AGDC also discussed the need to give NAFO a more formal role and status in the AGDC. Currently, the legal status of AGDC is only defined by a NEAFC document.

FAO Committee Fisheries (COFI) (January–February 2011)

During 31 January–4 February the Executive Secretary, Dr. Vladimir Shibanov, attended COFI at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. NAFO Secretariat was represented at COFI in the capacity as an observer.

Regional Secretariats Network (RSN) (February 2011)

Following COFI, the Regional Secretariats Network met at FAO Headquarters during 7–9 February. 27 Executive Secretaries of RFMOs attended, including the NAFO Executive Secretary, Dr. Vladimir Shibanov, and each had an opportunity to make a short presentation of recent activities.

International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) (April 2011)

The Annual Meeting of the IFCPS was held at the Courtyard by Marriot Halifax Downtown Hotel, Halifax, Canada, on 14–15 April 2011. The meeting was hosted by NAFO Secretariat and was attended by representatives of the seven International Fisheries Commissions with headquarters located in Canada and the United States of America. Also attending the meeting were the IFCPS directors appointed by the Governments of Canada and the United States. NAFO was represented by Dr. Vladimir Shibanov, Executive Secretary and Stan Goodick, Deputy



IFCPS members

Executive Secretary/Senior Finance and Staff Administrator. The 2012 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the US State Department during 19–20 April 2012 in Washington, DC, USA.

vTrack User Group Meeting (May 2011)

The vTrack user group is comprised of all national FMCs and management bodies that use vTrack as a VMS application. As part of the vTrack Maintenance Agreement, the NAFO Secretariat is entitled to suggest software enhancements to the vTrack User Group on an annual basis. All proposed software suggestions are voted upon by the group and are implemented by Visma (formerly SiriusIT) in the subsequent annual vTrack release.

George Campanis (IT Manager) attended the vTrack User Group meeting (17 May, 2011) and the vCatch User Group meeting (18 May, 2011) on behalf of the Secretariat. Visma requested the NAFO Secretariat to present to the vTrack User Group how VMS is being used in NAFO to aid managers and scientists in their work. Several software improvements were also presented to the group of which two were agreed upon and will be made available in the next vTrack software release.

5th International Symposium on GIS/Spatial Analyses in Fishery and Aquatic Sciences (August 2011)

George Campanis (IT Manager) presented the Secretariat's work on delineating NAFO's fishing footprint and other relevant spatial analysis at the 5th GIS Symposium (Aug 22–25, 2011), which was held in Wellington, New Zealand and attended by GIS experts from 10 countries and two RFMOs (NAFO, IATTC). The symposium, which was convened by Dr. Tom Nishida, allowed NAFO to showcase some accomplishments achieved by utilizing GIS and VMS data to aid fisheries managers and scientists in their work. Although the symposium was attended by a somewhat broad group of individuals e.g. mariculture specialists, statisticians, biologists, GIS software developers etc., it allowed the Secretariat to build capacity by comparing spatial analysis methods and techniques amongst participants and by forging contacts with like minded GIS experts. Some useful knowledge gained during the symposium includes: online presentation of spatial and temporal data using free and open sourced tools; integrating R and ESRI ArcGIS; and using software that allows for 4D presentation of data.

FAO Workshop for the development of a database for vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) (December 2011)

The workshop, which took place in Rome, Italy, was attended by several RFMOs, the fishing industry and various national agencies. The Fisheries Commission Coordinator (Dr. Ricardo Federizon) and the Information Officer (Barbara Marshall) represented the NAFO Secretariat. The workshop discussed the requirements for a global database information system on VMEs and associated areas in the high seas deepwater areas. This information system is specified in the UNGA resolution 61/105.

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The VME database will capture information on VMEs and associated areas which have been identified by RFMOs and VME-related data from areas which are not presently covered under the jurisdiction of a RFMO/A. The VME database would assist in outreach, transparency and global awareness, as well as provide comparative regional information on VMEs and management approaches.

NAFO will contribute to the database by developing a case study in conjunction Canada and perhaps others.



Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) (September 2011)

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) meeting took place from 5–9 September 2011 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INP) hosted the ASFA meeting with Pilar Solis, Director of INP, Mr. Nikita Gaibor (INP) chair of the ASFA meeting, and Dr. Richard Grainger, and Chief of the FAO service responsible for ASFA. The meeting was attended by Alexis Pacey, Publications Manager at the NAFO Secretariat.

A tour of the facilities at INP began the week long meeting. The meeting covered many topics ranging from software and technical information,

ASFA partnership status, ASFA's publishing partner PROQuest, the ASFA trust fund, training activities and demos, new products, and discussion around the future direction of ASFA. The next meeting will be held in Galway, Ireland, 25–29 June, 2012.

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Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) Inter-sessional Fishery Group Meeting, (December 2011)

The CWP Inter-sessional Fishery Group Meeting took place in Rome Italy, with the Fisheries Commission Coordinator (Ricardo Federizon) and the Information Officer (Barbara Marshall) representing the NAFO Secretariat. The meeting focused on the review of the progress of the update and revision of the CWP Handbook of Fishery Statistical Standards which was first published in 1990. A draft outline of the Handbook was presented at the meeting including a new section on ecosystem monitoring. It is envisioned that the final version of the Handbook will be adopted at CWP-24 Meeting in February 2013.

The Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) Steering Committee (December 2011)

The meeting of the Steering Committee was held 12–13, 16 Dec. in Rome. The meeting was attended by the Information Officer (Barbara Marshall) and the Fisheries Commission Coordinator (Dr. Ricardo Federizon). NAFO is well established in FIRMS and in addition to stock information, have recently begun to submit fisheries information. FIRMS hopes to expand its remit with the establishment of NatFIRMS which will allow for countries to join and contribute to the world-wide coverage envisaged for reporting status and trends of resources and fisheries. The next

meeting will be held in conjunction with the CWP in Feb. 2012. Barbara Marshall was elected as Vice-Chair.

EXTERNAL SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

The NAFO Secretariat is the administrative body of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. Requests for information, questionnaires and surveys are routinely sent to the Contracting Parties via the Secretariat by various international organizations (UN, FAO and their bodies), agencies, other RFMOs, IGOs and NGOs. The Secretariat drafts appropriate answers and coordinates the response with the Contracting Parties when necessary.

In 2011, in order to support international initiatives, NAFO (through the NAFO Secretariat) responded to UN questionnaires on:

- Marine Biodiversity and actions taken by RFMOs (UNGA Resolution 65/38),
- Conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (UNGA Resolution 65/37),
- Conservation and management of sharks (FAO),
- Monitoring the implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct (FAO),

As well replies were sent to other international bodies regarding:

- OECD Rebuilding Fisheries project,
- Conservation of Migratory Sharks (UNEP/CMS),
- Action taken by RFMOs regarding VMEs (FAO)

NAFO also:

- Participated in a Partnership Development Grant application with Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada to understand the use and influence of various “grey literature” publications produced by groups,
- Reviewed a NEAFC proposal to the CBD,
- Completed an interview with International Innovation magazine,
- Supplied information on Observers to a Stockholm University project,
- Responded to enquiries from CCAMLR (VMS and Financial Regulations), IWC, IUCN and Marine Stewardship Council,
- Provided various types of information throughout the year to other organizations, the public, fishing industry and interested individuals.

The Scientific Council also participated in the EU funded project TXOTX. Various members of the Secretariat participated at meetings of COFI, RSN, NEAFC (PECCOE and AGDC), IFCPS, Vtrack users group (VMS provider), FAO VME Database workshop, FIRMS and CWP meetings, a GIS Symposium and, IOI Training Programme. NAFO continues to support the D4-Science project by submitting data. Various Contracting Party Representatives also attended other RFMO meetings as Observers on behalf of NAFO.

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Publications

NAFO publications continued to keep the Secretariat busy in 2011 and a complete list of all publications and documentation is available on the web.

The NAFO *Conservation and Enforcement Measures* book was revised significantly for editorial and technical content under the direction of the STACTIC editorial group. As a result, it was also reformatted significantly for 2012. It was also decided that a new laminated cover would replace the plastic binders that once held the inside text. The new cover was implemented for the 2011 CEM.

The NAFO Secretariat revived the NAFO Newsletter. Series No. 17 was published after the 33rd Annual Meeting, which explored meeting highlights and any significant news within the last six months. This will continue to be published after every Annual Meeting.

The 2010 *Annual Report* had a revised format, which was enlarged to a 8.5"x11" booklet. All the activities from NAFO's constituent bodies were reported.

The *Journal of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries* will be published on a yearly basis, starting in 2012 for Volume 44.



NAFO Website

In 2011 work continued on the facelift to the NAFO website. A new look and feel was created, and the organization and content were updated with a goal to present it to the public in 2012. Links include new pages such as a DATA area. In addition, a site-wide SEARCH button is being developed.



LIST OF NAFO PUBLICATIONS

NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (176 pages)

NAFO Annual Report 2010 (16 page booklet)

NAFO Meeting Proceedings of GC/FC for 2010/2011 (315 pages)

NAFO Scientific Council Reports 2010 (371 pages)

NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 43, 2010–2011 (163 pages – printed and distributed in December 2011)

NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 44, 2012 (partial - 1 Article uploaded)

Meeting Documentation CD (GC/FC Proceedings 10–11, SC Reports 2010, NAFO Convention, NCEM 2011, Rules of Procedures, Annual Report 2010)

Rules of Procedure (booklet – 36 pages)

Coral Identification Guide NAFO Area – a booklet featuring the various corals and seamounts in the NAFO area. (waterproof and tear-proof coilbound booklet - 37 pages)

Sponge Identification Guide NAFO Area – a booklet featuring the various sponges and seamounts in the NAFO area. It is based on the same style as the *Coral Guide*. (52 pages)

Report of the NAFO Performance Review Panel–2011 (327 pages)

NAFO Newsletter 2011 No. 17 (8 pages)

Early Stages of Fishes in the Western North Atlantic Ocean by Michael P. Fahay - Two volume monograph.

All historical documents and publications of NAFO were digitized and uploaded to the website in 2011. <http://www.nafo.int/publications/frames/general.html>. A similar process for the ICNAF documentation has started. With the completion of the updated public website all historical documentation will be easily accessible with a newly developed search tool in the near future.

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Secretariat Activities

NEW STAFF



In 2011, Lesley Torbacioglu joined the team as Interim Office Manager while Lisa Pelzmann was on maternity leave. She has a diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management with a focus on business operations. She joined the NAFO family to assist with meeting logistics and the booking of travel arrangements.

She was the first point of contact here at the Secretariat and has many years of customer service experience.

In March, Dr. Neil Campbell was welcomed as Scientific Council Coordinator. Neil comes to NAFO from Aberdeen, Scotland where he completed his Masters and PhD studies and worked at the Marine Laboratory. Neil is a biologist with experience in government and academic research. His background is in stock identification, assessment of crustacean and deep-water fishery resources, ecological modelling and the analysis of VMS data.



Neil has also been involved with several ICES working Groups and EU projects. He will take over the support for the Scientific Council as well as technical editing of the Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science. His duties focus on the NAFO fishery science by assisting the work of the SC and by contributing to a better understanding of NAFO-related scientific topics and research results within and beyond NAFO. He will also contribute positively to the overall day-to-day work of the Secretariat. Neil looks forward to meeting new people who share a passion for fisheries.

We are happy to announce the newest addition to our extended NAFO family, Isabella Maëlle LeFort, who was born in January 2011 and is the daughter of our Office Manager, Lisa Pelzmann. Since Isabella was born Lisa has been on maternity leave and is scheduled to return to work in early 2012.



VISITORS TO THE SECRETARIAT

On 13 April 2011, during technical discussions of the IFCPS, the NAFO Secretariat was visited by several Executive Secretaries from other RFMOs. Among those to the NAFO Headquarters were Vladimir Fedorenko (NPAFC), Bruce Leaman (IPHC), Alexander Bychkov (PICES) and Don Kowal (PSC). Informal discussions were held about current issues facing RFMOs. The

Executive Secretaries were introduced to NAFO Secretariat staff members and then a presentation and a practical demonstration about the NAFO VMS system was given.

INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (IOI)

In June, 2011, Dr. Vladimir Shibanov presented a lecture to participants of the International Ocean Institute (IOI) Training Programme at Dalhousie University. The topic was "NAFO as an example of RFMO". The legal status, responsibilities and current practice of NAFO were described. These courses were attended by representatives from twelve developing countries.

STAFF COMMITTEE

The Secretariat would like to thank Bill Brodie, Deirdre Warner-Kramer and Bob Steinbock for serving on the Staff Committee for the 2010–2011 term. This year the Secretariat nominated Bill Brodie, Deirdre Warner-Kramer and Estelle Couture to sit on this Committee for the 2011–2012 term and all have graciously accepted.

INTERNSHIPS



Under the Professional Development Internship (PDI) program, the Secretariat accepts students and young professionals with interests in high seas fisheries science and management. The Secretariat was pleased to host Anaïs Mélar from April until September. Anaïs is from France and is studying International and European environmental law at Université Paul Cézanne, Aix-Marseille III. Her project was the analysis of the NAFO Port State Measures and their consistency with the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Anaïs was under the supervision of Ricardo Federizon, Fisheries Commission Coordinator

The successful work performed by various interns for NAFO confirms the usefulness of the internship program. The NAFO GC approved the new Internship Program during the 33rd Annual Meeting. For more details view online at: <http://www.nafo.int/contact/frames/jobs.html%0D>

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STAFF MEMBERS 2011

Executive Secretary	Dr. Vladimir Shibarov
Deputy Executive Secretary and Senior Finance and Staff Administrator	Stan Goodick
Fisheries Commission Coordinator	Dr. Ricardo Federizon
Scientific Council Coordinator	Dr. Anthony Thompson (Interim Jan-Mar 2011) Dr. Neil Campbell (from Mar 21 2011)
Senior Personal Assistant to the Executive Secretary	Beverly McLoon
Information Officer	Barbara Marshall
IT Manager	George Campanis
Fisheries Information Manager	Cindy Kerr
Publications Manager	Alexis Pacey
Office Manager	Lisa Pelzmann (on leave)
Interim Office Manager	Lesley Torbacioglu (from Jan-Dec 2011)

STAFF CELEBRATIONS

In August, Secretariat staff enjoyed a warm summer day at Oakfield Provincial Park for the annual staff picnic. The park is a popular local swimming and boating area. A good time was had by all.

Vladimir (and his wife) welcomed staff to their new home to celebrate the Christmas season. The gathering was complete with traditional dishes from around the world, and festive cheer. Thank you Vladimir for the hospitality!



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Halifax, NS Canada - September, 19-23, 2011

The 2011 Annual Meeting concluded successfully with a range of conservation and fisheries management measures adopted for twenty commercial fish stocks managed by NAFO. Moratoria were continued for eight stocks and TACS established for all others. TACS were reduced for five NAFO stocks. Closures of 18 areas to bottom fishing including seamounts and coral and sponge protected areas have been extended to 2014. The work continues to improve knowledge on marine ecosystems in the Northwest Atlantic.

Conservation Plans and Stock Rebuilding Strategies (CPRS) for protected and recovering fish stocks, Cod Div. 3NO and American plaice Div. 3LNO, were refined based on collaborative work between fishery managers and scientists. An agreed management strategy for fishing on Greenland halibut stocks was implemented, based on abundance trends in surveys carried out by several Contracting Parties and aims to promote the sustainable exploitation of the resource while removing the year-to-year uncertainty from the fishery.



Left to right: Terje Lobach-GC Chair, Dr. Vladimir Shibarov-Executive Secretary



Heads of Delegation - Back (left to right): Dr. Vladimir Shibarov (Executive Secretary), Michael Pearson (Canada), Jong Hwa Bahng (Republic of Korea), Stéphane Artano (FR-SPM), Sonja Feldthaus (DFG), Dean Swanson (USA), Viktor Dronyk (Ukraine), Kristján Freyr Helgason (Iceland).

Seated (left to right): Kenro Iino (Japan), Veronika Veits (EU), Nora Yong Mena (Cuba), Terje Lobach (NAFO President), Ulla Sværre-Wang (DFG), Sigrun Holst (Norway), Valentin Balashov (Russian Federation)



Left to right: Ricardo Federizon-FC Coordinator, Kate Sanderson-FC Chair, Ricardo Alpoim-SC Chair, Neil Campbell-SC Coordinator



STACFAD - Back (left to right): Odd Gunnar Skagestad, Rasmus Fuglholt, Bev McLoon, Fred Kingston, Doug Twining,

Front (left to right) Dr. Vladimir Shibarov, Akiko Onodera, Olga Sedykh, Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Stan Goodick

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