

2019 Annual Report



Committed to **Conservation** and **Management** of **Fisheries** and **Ecosystems** in the Northwest Atlantic



41st ANNUAL MEETING

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization




23 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2019
BORDEAUX FRANCE



MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE
L'ALIMENTATION

CONTENTS

2p	A Year in Review
3p	Elected Officers
4p	Annual Meeting
7p	STACFAD
8p	Fisheries Management
10p	Joint Commission- Scientific Council
11p	Scientific Council
13p	NAFO Meetings
16p	Secretariat Activities

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Annual Report 2019

This Annual Report summarizes and highlights discussions, decisions and events of NAFO during 2019. It does not replace the detailed NAFO meeting reports, such as *Scientific Council Reports and Meeting Proceedings of the Commission*, which are accessible on the NAFO Website.

www.nafo.int



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June 2020

A YEAR IN REVIEW



Fred Kingston, Executive Secretary

One of the highlights of 2019 for NAFO was the decision to establish a process to address the 36 recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review. This decision was made at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Bordeaux, France. The process established to address the recommendations will be the focus of the work for the Organization in the coming years. To recall, the issues this process will address include: improving the reliability of catch data, ensuring sufficient resources to handle the increasing science workload, improving the decision-making framework for the provision of scientific advice, further developing the practical application of an ecosystem approach framework to fisheries management and responding to external challenges, such as changes to ecosystems, including the impacts of climate change, the cumulative impact of other human activities and overlapping governance regimes in the high seas. The process established to address the recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review also follows the process NAFO previously established for the Performance Review in 2011, which the 2018 Performance Review Panel found to be a “very comprehensive process”.

At the 2019 Annual Meeting, other significant decisions were made in addition to the traditional total allowable catch (TAC) and quota decisions, such as:

- The agreement to advance NAFO’s review of its precautionary approach framework to support the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the NAFO Regulatory Area;
 - Actions to increase transparency, including the posting of the NAFO vessel registry on the NAFO public website and the establishment of a process to increase public access to NAFO working documents;
 - Continued progress on NAFO’s development of an in-house Observer Reporting Application for the instantaneous reporting of scientific and catch data and;
 - The establishment of management measures in 2020 for the splendid alfonsino stock in one of the Corner Rise Seamounts in the southern part of the NAFO Regulatory Area (Sub-area 6).
- This year also marked a number of changes to NAFO’s Officers. Concerning the Scientific Council, Brian Healey (Canada) completed his term as Chair. He has been on the Scientific Council Executive for the past six years at a time when the workload of the Scientific Council has increased considerably. I want to express my appreciation for his dedication and service to NAFO over those years. Carmen Fernandez (EU) replaces him as the Chair of Scientific Council, Karen Dwyer (Canada) was elected vice-Chair and Chair of the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC), and Katherine Sosebee (USA) was elected Chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Science (STACFIS). Similarly Judy Dwyer (Canada) and Aronne Spezzani (EU) finished their terms as Chair and vice-Chair respectively of the NAFO Standing Committee on International Control. Kaire Martin (EU) replaces Judy as Chair of STACTIC and Patrick Moran (USA) is the new vice-Chair. Élise Lavigne (Canada) also finished her term as the vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on

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Finance and Administration (STACFAD). Robert Fagan (Canada) replaces her as the STACFAD vice-Chair. I want to thank the outgoing officers for their service to NAFO.

Finally, I want to thank France very much for hosting the 2019 Annual Meeting in the historic city of Bordeaux. It was the first time that France has hosted a NAFO Annual Meeting. It was extremely well organized and the hospitality was

wonderful, helping to ensure a very successful Meeting.

Fred Kingston
Executive Secretary

CONTRACTING PARTIES OF NAFO



ELECTED OFFICERS

Commission



President of NAFO &
Chair of the
Commission
Stéphane Artano
(France-SPM)
Sep. 2019–Sep. 2021



vice-Chair of the
Commission
Temur Tairov
(Russian Federation)
Sep. 2019–Sep. 2021



Chair of STACFAD
Deirdre Warner-Kramer
(United States of America)
Sep. 2012–Sep. 2020



STACFAD Vice-Chair
Élise Lavigne
(Canada)
Sep. 2013–Sep. 2019



STACTIC Chair
Judy Dwyer
(Canada)
Sep. 2015–Sep. 2019



STACTIC Vice-Chair
Aronne Spezzani
(European Union)
Jun 2012–Sep. 2019

Scientific Council



Chair of the
Scientific Council
Brian Healey
(Canada)
Sep. 2017–Sep. 2019



SC vice-Chair &
STACREC Chair
Carmen Fernandez
(European Union)
Jun. 2018–Sep. 2019



Chair of STACFEN
Miguel Caetano,
(European Union),
Jun. 2019–Sep. 2020



Chair of STACFIS
Karen Dwyer
(Canada)
Sep. 2017–Sep. 2019



Chair of STACPUB
Margaret Treble
(Canada)
Sep. 2013–Sep. 2020

ANNUAL MEETING

BORDEAUX, FRANCE

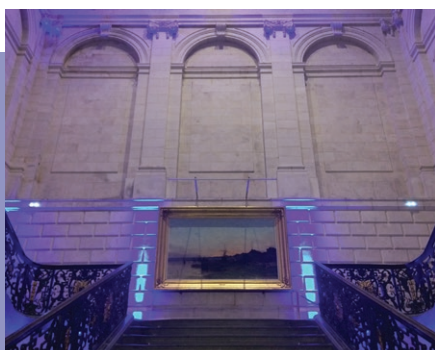


NAFO's 41st Annual Meeting was held in Bordeaux, France during 23–27 September 2019.

At the meeting, NAFO agreed to advance its review of the Precautionary Approach Framework to support the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources in the NAFO Regulatory Area. The comprehensive management strategy for Divisions 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, adopted in 2017, will continue to inform sustainable management decisions for this NAFO stock. NAFO agreed to reopen the Flemish Cap shrimp fishery (Division 3M) after an increase of the stock to levels above Blim. The fishery for this shrimp stock has been closed since 2011.

In addition, to the traditional total allowable catch (TAC) and quota decisions, significant decisions were made regarding the following:

- NAFO agreed to a process to address the recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review, along with an annual progress reporting procedure.
- NAFO continued its commitment to transparency and agreed to post its vessel registry on the NAFO website.
- NAFO increased its Monitoring, Control and Surveillance data availability to at sea and in port inspectors.
- NAFO continued to make progress on the NAFO Observer Application for the instantaneous reporting of scientific and catch data to the NAFO Secretariat.
- NAFO re-elected, Stéphane Artano (France in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), as NAFO President, and Temur Tairov (Russian Federation) as vice-Chair of the NAFO Commission, for an additional two-year term.





Heads of Delegation

Back row - left to right: Fred Kingston (Executive Secretary), Laurent Bouvier (France-SPM), Anders Jessen (European Union), Kenro Iino (Japan), Kate Sanderson (Faroe Islands-DFG), Michael Pentony (USA), Temur Tairov (Russian Federation).

Front row - left to right: Sylvie Lapointe (Canada), Ingrid Vikanes (Norway), Nora Yong Mena (Cuba), Stéphane Artano (NAFO President and Chair of the Commission), Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir (Iceland), Katrine Kaergaard (Greenland-DFG), Haena Lee (Republic of Korea).



Stéphane Artano, (NAFO President and Chair of the Commission) speaks at the NAFO Annual Meeting Reception in Bordeaux, France.



Left to right: Frederic Guedar Delahaye, the Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture of France; Stéphane Artano (France, in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), NAFO President and Chair of the Commission; Fred Kingston, Executive Secretary.



The 41st Annual Meeting of NAFO was opened on Monday, 23 September 2019 at 09:30 hrs at the Hôtel Pullman Bordeaux Lac in Bordeaux, France, with delegates present from 12 NAFO Contracting Parties.



STACFAD

Financial Status Update

The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) oversees the budget and administrative matters of the Organization. At the 2019 Annual Meeting, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) led the committee throughout its deliberations.

STACFAD was pleased to report that the overall financial affairs of the Organization continue to be in a stable position. Operating cash at year end was at a consistent level with all membership contributions being fully paid for 2019.

The 2019 operating budget was set at \$2.274 million (Table 1) of which \$1.966 million was financed through contributions received from its Contracting Parties (Table 2). The NAFO Convention (Article IX.2) establishes a four-part cost sharing formula, including a proportion based on the nominal catches in the Convention Area.

Grant Thornton, audited the 2019 financial statements in accordance with their appointment to audit NAFO'S financial records for the 2016–2020 fiscal periods.

In 2018, the Organization approved the establishment of a Recruitment and Relocation Fund to cover the costs of incoming and outgoing internationally recruited staff. The fund balance was authorized to be kept at a maximum of \$100,000. The current balance in the fund is \$60,000 and approximately \$12,000 shall be recommended to be transferred into the fund each year, until it reaches the maximum level.

In 2019, the Organization approved the establishment of a Performance Review Fund to cover costs associated with having an external performance review. The fund balance was authorized to be kept at a maximum of \$100,000. The current balance in the fund is \$15,000 and approximately \$15,000 shall be recommended to be transferred into the fund each year, until it reaches the maximum level.

The Committee put forward a budget proposal for the 2020 fiscal year of \$2.369 million, representing an increase of 4.2% over the 2019 budget. The increase in the 2020 budget can be attributed to routine economic and salary step increases for personnel as well as increased costs associated with the hosting the 2020 Annual Meeting in Halifax.

Robert Fagan (Canada) was nominated and elected as vice-Chair for a two-year term.

The next meeting of STACFAD will be held during the 2020 Annual Meeting of NAFO in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Table 1. 2019 Operating budget

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual Expenditures
Salaries and Benefits	\$1 756 000	\$1 771 995
Meeting and Travel	261 000	194 481
Computer Services	51 000	49 669
Professional Services	45 000	30 983
Fishery Monitoring	41 000	40 600
Other	120 000	120 821
Total	\$2 274 000	\$2 208 549

Table 2. Contracting Party Contributions

	2019 Member Contributions
Canada	\$710 757
Cuba	64 792
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)	235 899
European Union	226 844
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	69,172
Iceland	60 417
Japan	70 383
Norway	73 777
Republic of Korea	60 417
Russian Federation	104 086
Ukraine	60 417
United States of America	228 897
Total	\$1 965 858

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

2019 Fishing Effort

The fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) is generally groundfish in Divisions 3LMNO.

In 2019, there were 47 fishing vessels spending approximately 4 600 days in the NRA. Smaller vessels tend to fish for yellowtail flounder and Atlantic halibut in the Tail of the Grand Banks, and cod in the Flemish Cap using longline gears; and larger vessels go on much longer fishing trips using bottom trawls in the Nose and Tail of the Grand Banks and in the Flemish Cap directing for cod, Greenland halibut, redfish, and skates.



TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) TABLE 2019 AND 2020

TAC Table 2019 and 2020 (metric tons)

Stock/Year	2019	2020
3L Cod	0	0
3M Cod	17 500	8 531
3NO Cod	0	0
3LN Redfish	18 100	18 100
3M Redfish	10 500	8 590
3O Redfish	20 000	20 000
Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K Redfish	0	0
3LNO American plaice	0	0
3M American plaice	0	0
3LNO Yellowtail flounder	17 000	17 000
3L Witch flounder	0	0
3NO Witch flounder	1 175	1 175
3NO White hake	1 000	1 000
3NO Capelin	0	0
3LNO Skates	7 000	7 000
3LMNO Greenland halibut	12 242	12 542
Sub-areas 3+4 Squid (<i>Illex</i>)	34 000	34 000
3L Shrimp	0	0
3NO Shrimp	0	0
SA6 Alfonsino	N/A	0
3M Shrimp	0	*2 640 fishing days

The annual TACs are agreed by the Commission.

TAC decisions are based on scientific advice of the Scientific Council which conducts regular assessment of the fishery stocks. Existing moratoria (TAC = 0) were extended to allow rebuilding of depleted stocks and quotas for other stocks were set by the Commission.

At the 2019 NAFO Annual Meeting, the Commission re-opened the fishery for shrimp (PRA) in Division 3M. This stock is regulated by effort (fishing days) with a total of 2 640* fishing days available in 2020; the effort allocation scheme is outlined in Annex I.B of the NAFO CEM.

Compliance

The Inspection and Surveillance Scheme is implemented to ensure compliance of NAFO-registered fishing vessels in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Inspectors are appointed by Contracting Parties and assigned to fishery patrol vessels tasked to carry out inspection duties at sea. In 2019, Canada and the European Union continued to deploy inspection vessels in the NRA and conducted over 100 at-sea inspections. The NAFO Inspectors workshop has been opened for participation by all Contracting Parties and continues to facilitate information sharing between NAFO Inspectors.



STACTIC Interseasonal meeting in progress at the Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA) in Lisbon, Portugal.

TOOLS AND APPLICATIONS

At the 2019 NAFO Annual Meeting, STACTIC agreed that the information contained on the NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website be available to designated authorities from all Contracting Parties in order to better facilitate information sharing and transparency in inspections activities. The NAFO Secretariat has also been working closely with NAFO inspectors on further developments and enhancements to the NAFO MCS Website in order to facilitate inspections at-sea and in port. The NAFO Secretariat is also continuing work of the NAFO Observer Reporting Application. The app has gone through field testing by observers at-sea and improvements are being made to the application based on the feedback received.



STACTIC INTERSESSIONAL - MAY 2019



VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (VMEs)

AREAS CLOSED TO BOTTOM FISHING

In total, there are 20 areas closed to bottom fishing, constituting 6 seamounts, 1 coral zone and 13 VME areas (Fig. 1). The areas closed represent about 10.34% of the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA). Protocols for exploratory fishing in new fishing areas and for encountering VME species are elaborated in Chapter II of the NAFO Convention and Enforcement Measures (NAFO CEM). These measures are reviewed by the Scientific Council and the Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) upon availability of new scientific information and will be undergoing a complete review in 2020.

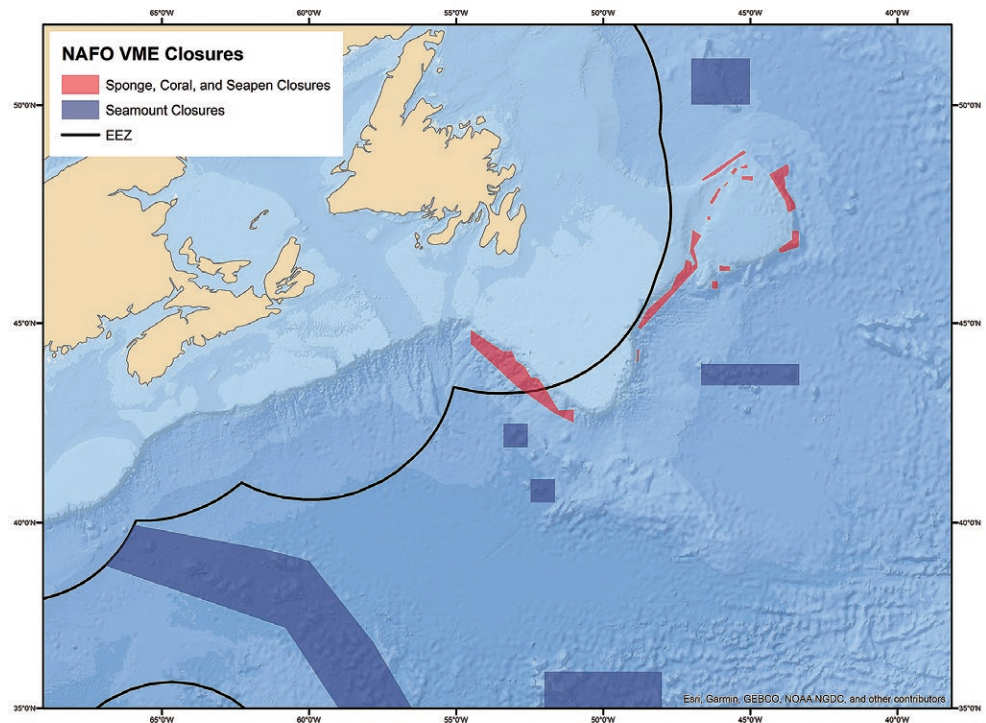


Fig. 1. The current NAFO VME closures.

JOINT COMMISSION-SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

In 2019, the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), the Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), and the Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) met throughout the year. These Working Groups provide a forum for an improved dialogue between fishery managers and scientists

while addressing major issues concerning catch reporting, risk-based management strategies and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, respectively in a more holistic manner.

Documents and reports from the joint Working Groups can be found on the [NAFO website](http://www.nafo.int).

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Stock Status

In January 2019, the Scientific Council (SC) held an additional meeting to conduct scientific work on the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) of 3M Cod.

This work was further developed intersessionally and during the June SC meeting. However, as a result of the strong variability observed in the stock dynamics and biological parameters and the low recruitment observed in recent years, the September meeting of WG-RBMS concluded that developing an HCR is not feasible at this stage and recommended that the 3M cod MSE should be suspended for the time being. An incredible volume of work was completed to support both the 2018 benchmark assessment and the MSE explorations of Div. 3M cod, and in recognition of their innovation, dedication and perseverance, SC presented the scientific merit award to the MSE technical team comprised of Fernando Gonzalez-Costas, Carmen Fernandez, Diana Gonzalez-Troncoso, Agurtzane Urtizberea (all of EU, Spain).

Scientific merit awards were also presented to Brian Healey (Canada) in

recognition of his six years of service as chair of SC, STACFIS and STACREC, and to Joanne Morgan (Canada) to acknowledge and celebrate her extensive contributions to SC over her career as a research scientist.

During the June SC meeting, SC carried out full assessments for cod in Division 3M, redfish (*Sebastes mentella* and *Sebastes fasciatus*) in Division 3M, redfish in Division 3O, white hake in Divisions 3NO and Subdiv. 3Ps, witch flounder in Divs. 3NO and golden redfish in Division 3M. Owing to data availability issues, the assessment of northern shortfin squid (*Illex illecebrosus*) in Subareas 3+4 was deferred to the September Scientific Council meeting. Interim monitoring was carried out for all other stocks for which multi annual advice was provided in previous years.

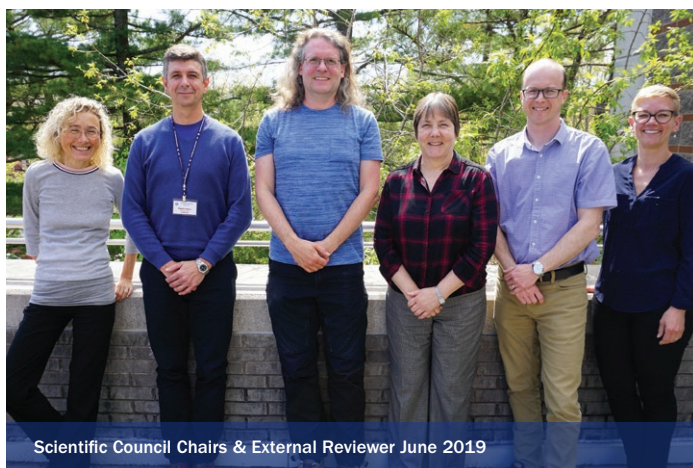
At the request of the Commission, SC in conjunction with the NAFO/ICES *Pandalus* Assessment Group (NIPAG) drafted advice for northern shrimp in Div. 3M and northern shrimp in Divs.

was maintained. SC and NIPAG also met in Tromsø, Norway during November 2019 where advice was produced for northern shrimp in Subarea 1 and Div. 0A and northern shrimp in the Denmark Strait and off East Greenland in response to requests from coastal States.

In November 2019, the Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA) conducted a major assessment of the protection afforded to vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) in the NAFO Regulatory Area and the effectiveness of current closures. This important work will be presented to SC in June 2020 and will form the basis of SC's advice to the Commission in 2020. WG-ESA also made further progress in the development of ecosystem summary sheets (ESS), including the preparation of a completed ESS for Divisions 3LNO for presentation to the Commission at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

The 2018 performance review recommended that *NAFO strengthens and enhances cooperation with RFMOs and other relevant international organizations* and to help address this recommendation, Dr. Mark Dickey-Collas, Chair of ICES Advisory Committee, attended the September SC meeting as an observer at the invitation of the NAFO Executive Secretary and SC chair. A number of avenues for increased cooperation were identified and SC and ICES will continue to work together to develop these opportunities in the coming years.

At the 2019 Annual Meeting, Scientific Council was very pleased to welcome Carmen Fernandez (EU) to the role of SC Chair. The new Chairs of STACREC and STACFIS will be Karen Dwyer (Canada) and Katherine Sosebee (USA) respectively.



Scientific Council Chairs & External Reviewer June 2019

Left to right: Carmen Fernandez (European Union) - vice-Chair Scientific Council & Chair of STACREC; Miguel Caetano (European Union) - Chair of STACFEN; External Reviewer, Daniel Howell - Institute of Marine Research (IMR); Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO); Margaret Treble (Canada) - Chair of STACPUB; Brian Healey (Canada) - Chair of Scientific Council; Karen Dwyer (Canada) - Chair of STACFIS.

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL - JUNE 2019



Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Achievement & Merit Awards



Chair of Scientific Council, Brian Healey, presenting a Merit Award to Joanne Morgan (Canada) to acknowledge and celebrate her extensive contributions to SC over her career as a Research Scientist.



Scientific Merit Awards presented by Scientific Council Chair, Brian Healey, to the 3M Cod MSE Technical Team. Left to right: Fernando Gonzalez-Costas (IEO-Vigo), Carmen Fernandez (IEO- Gijon) and Diana Gonzalez-Troncoso (IEO Vigo), Brian Healey (SC Chair). Missing from photo Agurtzane Urtizberea (AZTI Pasaia Gipuzkoa, Spain).



Vice-Chair of Scientific Council, Carmen Fernandez, presented Scientific Council Chair, Brian Healey (Canada), a Scientific Merit Award for his six years of service on Scientific Council Executive.

NAFO MEETINGS

- January – December 2019 14 January 2019, Chairs Meeting (STACTIC, WG-BDS and SC), WebEx.
- 28–31 January 2019, NAFO Scientific Council Flemish Cap (Div. 3M) Cod Stock Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), London, United Kingdom.
- 05 February 2019, NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG), WebEx.
- 05–07 March 2019, NAFO STACTIC Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG), Montréal, Québec.
- 14 March 2019, NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), WebEx.
- 19–20 March 2019, Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM), London, United Kingdom.
- 03–04 April 2019, NAFO Working Group to Address the Recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review Panel Meeting, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- 10–12 April 2019, NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting, Brussels, Belgium.
- 30 April 2019, NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), WebEx.
- 07–09 May 2019, NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 31 May–13 June 2019, NAFO Scientific Council and its Standing Committees, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- 15 July 2019, NAFO Commission *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) Meeting, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- 16–18 July 2019, Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries (WG-EAFFM), Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- 23–27 September 2019, NAFO 41st Annual Meeting, Bordeaux, France.
- 07 November 2019, NAFO STACTIC Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG), WebEx.
- 08–13 November 2019, Scientific Council and NAFO/ICES *Pandalus* Assessment Group Meeting, Tromsø, Norway
- 19–28 November 2019, Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA) Meeting, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.



28–31 January 2019, NAFO Scientific Council Flemish Cap (Div. 3M) Cod Stock Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), London, United Kingdom.



03–04 April 2019, NAFO Working Group to Address the Recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review Panel Meeting, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Reports of all NAFO meetings can be found on the NAFO website.



15 Jul. 2019, NAFO Commission *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting, Dartmouth, NS, Canada.



16–18 Jul. 2019, NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) Meeting, Dartmouth, NS, Canada.



21 Sep. 2019, NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting, Bordeaux, France.



19–28 Nov. 2019, NAFO Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA), Dartmouth, NS, Canada.

EXTERNAL MEETINGS

ABNJ Deep Seas Project Fourth Steering Committee Meeting, La Réunion, France, 23–25 January 2019

Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, attended. Participants included officials from the FAO, UNEP, RFMOs and other Project partners.

Workshop and Fourth Joint Meeting of the Sargasso Sea Commission and Hamilton Declaration Signatories, St. George's, Bermuda, 13–14 March 2019

Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, attended and gave a presentation on NAFO to a workshop entitled “Next Steps: to Strengthen Stewardship of the Sargasso Sea”.

1st Preparatory Meeting of the WECAFC Reorientation, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25–26 March 2019

Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, attended and gave a presentation about the structure and competencies of NAFO to the member States of WECAFC.



25–26 March, Bridgetown, Barbados.

FAO Deep Sea Fisheries Rights Based Management Workshop, Rome, Italy, 10–12 April 2019

Senior Fisheries Management Coordinator, Ricardo Federizon, gave a presentation entitled “NAFO Practices on Quota Allocations and Quota Trading”

International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), Annual Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 15–17 April

NAFO hosted the meeting this year. Participants included officials from the US and Canadian administrations, as well as the Executive Secretaries and the Administration officers of all the RFMOs based in the USA and Canada. Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, and Deputy Executive Secretary & Senior Finance & Staff Administrator, Stan Goodick, participated at the meeting.

Fourteenth round of Informal Consultations on “Performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, New York, New York, United States of America, 02–03 May 2019

Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on NAFO's recent performance review.

Global Deep-Sea Symposium – ABNJ Deep Seas Project, Rome, Italy, 07–09 May 2019

Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, attended and was a moderator of a panel entitled “Setting the Scene”.

11th FIRMS Steering Committee meeting (FSC-11), Rome, Italy, 13–14 May 2019

Senior Fisheries Management Coordinator, Ricardo Federizon, and Scientific Council Coordinator, Tom Blasdale (via WebEx), attended.

CWP 26th Session, Rome, Italy, 15–18 May 2019

Senior Fisheries Management Coordinator, Ricardo Federizon, attended.



07–09 May 2019, ABNJ, Rome, Italy.

Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), Flic en Flac, Mauritius, 01–05 July 2019

Fisheries Information Administrator, Jana Aker, attended and provided meeting support.

Third session of the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference, New York, New York, United States of America, 19–30 August 2019

Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, attended the meeting and gave a presentation about NAFO focusing on NAFO's development of its ecosystem approach at a side event entitled, “Regional Fisheries Management Organizations: Continuing Progress in the 21st Century”.

NAFO Inspectors Workshop, Faial/Horta, Azores Islands, Portugal, 29–31 October 2019

Database Developer/Programmer Analyst, DJ Laycock attended the meeting and gave an update on the development of the NAFO Observer Reporting Application.

The 2nd High Seas International Conference, Boulogne-sur-mer, France, 18–19 November 2019

Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, attended the conference and gave a presentation on NAFO and the BBNJ process.

SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

Secretariat Staff

In 2019, the Secretariat was comprised of the following employees:

Executive Secretary	Fred Kingston
Deputy Executive Secretary and Senior Finance and Staff Administrator	Stan Goodick
Fisheries Information Administrator	Jana Aker
Scientific Information Administrator	Dayna Bell MacCallum
Scientific Council Coordinator	Tom Blasdale
Senior Fisheries Management Coordinator	Ricardo Federizon
Office Administrator	Sarah Guile
IT Manager	Matthew Kendall
Database Developer/ Programmer Analyst	DJ Laycock
Senior Executive Assistant to the Executive Secretary	Lisa LeFort
Senior Publications/Web Manager	Alexis Pacey



Back row - left to right: Jana Aker, Fred Kingston, Ricardo Federizon, Tom Blasdale, Matthew Kendall, Alexis Pacey, Lisa Lefort.

Front row - left to right: Dayna Bell MacCallum, Stan Goodick, DJ Laycock, Sarah Guile.

Internships

The NAFO Intern Program allows students, post graduates or early career individuals from NAFO member countries to work in the NAFO Secretariat as an intern for periods of up to six (6) months. Interns can gain experience and knowledge in operations of NAFO as an intergovernmental organization

while the NAFO Secretariat can benefit through the presence of an additional professional and his/her capacity and knowledge.

Since its inception in 2011, 12 interns have taken part in the NAFO Internship Program, with one intern being selected to participate in 2019.



Javier Guijarro Sabaniel

Javier, a citizen of Canada and Spain, was invited to complete a three-month internship at the NAFO Secretariat. Javier holds a Master of Science in Environmental Management Degree at Barcelona University, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science at Granada University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine Science at Cadiz University. He recently worked as Aquatic Science Biologist for Fisheries and Oceans Canada at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

During his internship, Javier helped complete the bycatch and discards analyses of haul by haul data available for 2018 at the NAFO Secretariat to facilitate the work of the WG-BDS. Javier worked on creating maps of individual vessels' fishing tracks using VMS (vessel monitoring system) and logbook data. Also, he helped to improve the precision of fishing effort mapping, which will contribute to the work of WG-ESA and the NEREIDA project on evaluating the impacts of bottom fishing on VMEs.

OUTREACH

MEDIA

The Secretariat continued to circulate its annual press releases to a dedicated NAFO media contact list. This year, a press release was circulated following the closing of the Annual Meeting. The Secretariat continues to try to increase its outreach including outreach initiatives with various groups and universities and by updating its various social media platforms.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

During the past year, the NAFO Secretariat has participated in meetings to discuss NAFO-related issues, including the following:

- 21–22 January 2019, Jana Aker, Fisheries Information Administrator, and DJ Laycock, Database Developer/Programmer Analyst, visited the Canadian Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) for an exchange of information between NAFO Secretariat and the FMC on current and future NAFO monitoring and operational requirements in St. John's, NL, Canada.
- 29–31 January 2019, DJ Laycock, Database Developer/Programmer Analyst, provided training for NAFO Inspectors on the NAFO MCS website, as well as received input on the new MCS website enhancements, and presented the new NAFO application in Vigo, Spain.
- 05 June 2019, Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, gave a presentation to the Canadian International Council in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada concerning NAFO at an event entitled *North Atlantic Fisheries - Biodiversity in the High Seas - What's at risk? What's Underway? What's Possible?*.
- 13–14 June 2019, Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, met with NAFO President, Stéphane Artano, for the signing of the of NAFO Headquarters Agreement in St. Pierre et Miquelon.

- Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, attended the monthly meetings of the Nova Scotia Consular Corps.

The NAFO Secretariat also continues to strengthen its relationship with the academic community.

- 28 February 2019, Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, gave a guest lecture to the Dalhousie University Law of the Sea class in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- 26 June 2019, Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, gave a lecture to the International Ocean's Institute (IOI) class at the NAFO Secretariat in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- 31 October 2019, Jana Aker, Fisheries Information Administrator, and Dayna Bell MacCallum, Scientific Information Administrator, gave a brief presentation about NAFO to the Dalhousie University Marine Affairs Program class in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.



13–14 June 2019, Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, met with NAFO President, Stéphane Artano, for the signing of the of NAFO Headquarters Agreement in St. Pierre et Miquelon.



Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, with the 2019 International Ocean's Institute (IOI) class

Guests to the Secretariat

The Secretariat had several visitors over the past year, including:

- On 15 April 2019, the International Fisheries Commissions (IFC) Directors and Executive Secretaries: Bob Lambe, Executive Secretary – Great Lakes Fisheries Commission; David Wilson, Executive Director – International Pacific Halibut Commission; John Field, Executive Secretary – Pacific Salmon Commission; Robin Brown, Executive Secretary – North Pacific Marine Science Organization; and Vladimir Radchenko, Executive Director, North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission visited and met at the NAFO Secretariat.
- On 19 June 2019, Doug Wentzell, Associate Regional Director General for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region, paid a visit to the NAFO Secretariat.
- On 25 June 2019, former NAFO Executive Secretary (2003-2009), Dr. Johanne Fischer, paid a visit to the NAFO Secretariat and her former colleagues.



Left to right: Bob Lambe, Executive Secretary - Great Lakes Fisheries Commission; David T. Wilson, Executive Director - International Pacific Halibut Commission; Fred Kingston, Executive Secretary - Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization; John Field, Executive Secretary - Pacific Salmon Commission; Robin Brown, Executive Secretary - North Pacific Marine Science Organization; and Vladimir Radchenko, Executive Director - North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission.

The NAFO Secretariat continues to hold smaller working group meetings in its boardroom whenever possible as well as offer the use of the space to affiliated groups for a nominal fee. In the past,

universities and Fisheries and Oceans Canada have used the space for meetings, as well as the ICES Working Group on the Northwest Atlantic Regional Sea (WG-NARS).



Fred meets with Doug Wentzell, Associate Regional Director General for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).



Left to right: Ricardo Federizon, Stan Goodick, Johanne Fischer - former Executive Secretary (2003-2009), Fred Kingston.

Information Requests

The NAFO Secretariat regularly responds to requests from various international sources. During the last year the Secretariat has responded specifically request for input on:

- A review of the application of the FAO Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) management by the regional fisheries bodies responsible for Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).
- UN Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea, pursuant to UNGA resolution 73/124 of 11 December 2018, entitled "*Oceans and the law of the sea*".
- FAO questionnaire on global transshipment.
- UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS) submission to provide input on the topic of "*Performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements*" pursuant to paragraph 63

of resolution 73/125 entitled, "*Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 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, and related instruments*".

- Contribution to the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) Newsletter.

Throughout the year various informal requests are made to the Secretariat regarding specific information, procedures of NAFO, etc. by students, educational institutes, RFMOs, Contracting Parties representatives or other organizations. These are answered to the best of the ability and as time permits by various members of the NAFO Secretariat.

Network and IT

INTERNET & SECURITY

In 2019, NAFO upgraded its Internet architecture. The Internet upload and download speeds were increased. In addition, a modern router was installed to handle this new speed as well as provide added security.

SHAREPOINT

The NAFO Meetings SharePoint continues to be a valuable resource allowing access to the meeting documentation before, during and after meetings.

NAFO WEBPAGES/DATA CLASSIFICATION

In response to NAFO's continued effort to further increase transparency and recommendations of the 2018 NAFO Performance Review Panel, NAFO continues to identify information on each of its online forums that can be migrated to the public website.

The following documentation is now available on the NAFO public website:

- [General Council \(GC\)](#) Documents spanning from 1990–2017
- [Commission \(COM\)](#) Documents from 2017
- [A vessel registry](#), as agreed at the 2019 NAFO Annual Meeting (COM Doc. 19-34).
- [STACFAD Working Papers](#) from 2018 with the exception of Working Papers of a confidential nature (e.g. personnel matters)

The *Ad Hoc* Virtual NAFO Website Re-Design Working Group will convene in 2020 to address this ongoing task.

Publications

During 2019, in addition to the many meeting documents and working papers for NAFO meetings, the NAFO Secretariat prepared, posted to the web and/or printed the following publications:

- *Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science*, Volume 50, 2019 (64 pages)
- *NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures 2020* (191 pages)
- *NAFO Annual Report 2018* (20-page booklet)
- *Meeting Proceedings of the Commission* September 2018-August 2019 (336 pages).
- *NAFO Scientific Council Reports 2018* (490 pages)

They are available on the [NAFO website](#).

JOURNAL OF NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERY SCIENCE

The *Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science*, Volume 50, 2019 was published. To submit articles, or view past publications, please visit the [JNAFS website](#).

ASFA (AQUATIC SCIENCES AND FISHERIES ABSTRACTS)

ASFA inputting and indexing is completed for 2019.

The Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) database is the premier reference in the field of fisheries, aquatic and marine sciences. Input to the ASFA database is provided by a growing international network of information centers monitoring over 3,000 serial publications, in addition to books, reports, conference proceedings, translations and grey literature covering the science, technology and management of marine, brackish water, and freshwater environments. For more information about ASFA, [view its newsletter and webpage](#).

