



Serial No. N6757

NAFO/COM Doc. 17-24
[Adopted]

39th ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2017

**Revised Terms of Reference for the
NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)**

1.0 Preamble:

This proposal calls for a revision to the terms of reference of the NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) to expand its membership into a joint STACTIC-Scientific Council work group and to expand its scope of work to include the incorporation of electronic monitoring.

2.0 Background:

At the 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO in Vigo, Spain, the Fisheries Commission adopted FC Doc. 14-23, establishing a working group of interested Contracting Parties to review the NAFO observer program and make recommendations to “enhance the observer scheme to maximize the benefit it provides to NAFO”. The WG was established amidst concern about the quality of data being submitted from the various programs and was an attempt to restore the credibility of observer data and to explore options to maximize the benefit from the program.

The WG began its work in April 2015 and held four (4) meetings since that time, where it has so far:

1. Completed a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, opportunities, threats),
2. Developed a draft Code of Conduct for observers,
3. Drafted proposed revisions to Article 30 of the NAFO CEMs to enhance the program,
4. Determined that the data collected by observers should not be strictly for monitoring compliance but that properly trained and equipped observers should be collecting data for any NAFO body that has use of the data
5. Explored options for the establishment of criteria for the assignment of observer coverage levels less than 100%.

In its deliberations on the establishment of criteria for setting observer coverage levels, the WG determined that it should take into consideration the emergence of electronic monitoring and its potential role as a compliance monitoring and data collection tool.

At the same time, the WG identified a need for the input of scientific experts to frame up the training and equipment requirements to create a credible observer program, capable of providing reliable data for all NAFO bodies that might have a need for it.

This necessitated an expansion of the terms of reference to include the participation of members of other NAFO bodies and that the WG expand its scope to include the consideration of electronic monitoring. The following is proposed revised Terms of Reference for the NAFO Observer Program Review Working Group:

3.0 Membership:

All Contracting Parties are welcome and encouraged to participate in the Working Group. Representation from all NAFO bodies (STACTIC, Scientific Council, Commission) is encouraged.



Scientific Council will be asked to nominate an expert to participate as a liaison between the Working Group and the Council. This liaison shall attend all meetings of Working Group.

4.0 Objective:

The objective of the Working Group is to make recommendations to the Commission on the revision of Article 30 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures, and associated annexes, to enhance the quality of data being received from the observer program to maximize the benefit to NAFO from this program.

5.0 Duties:

The Working Group shall focus its efforts in 4 key areas:

1. Completion of the Code of Conduct and determination of how it is incorporated into the NAFO scheme.
2. Finalization of a standard for training and equipment to be provided to all observers in the NRA.
3. Determination of criteria for the establishment of coverage levels for a “best mix” of scientific and compliance monitoring tools -incorporating observer coverage and electronic monitoring.
4. Completion of a revised Article 30 reflecting a new Observer/electronic monitoring scheme.
5. Clarify duties of the observers.

6.0 Meetings:

The Working Group shall meet as required to perform the duties prescribed and will communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically.

Face to face meetings will be held, to the extent possible, during the same week as other working group or committee meetings, to improve efficiency of the WG process.

The next meeting of the Working Group shall be held via WebEx in October 2017, following receipt of the results of the Scientific Council survey conducted in September.

7.0 Reporting

The WG shall prepare a report of the proceedings of each of its meetings, to be presented at STACTIC.

The Working Group shall report at the 2018 Annual Meeting with a revised Article 30 of the NAFO CEM reflecting the incorporation of the elements in Section 5.