

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Report of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies
(STACTIC and STACFAD)**

39th Annual Meeting of NAFO
18-22 September 2017
Montréal, Québec, Canada

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Report of the Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies STACTIC and STACFAD

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PART I.
Report of the Commission

39th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 18-22 September 2017
Montréal, Québec, Canada

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the interim Chairperson, Stéphane Artano (France-SPM)

The 39th Annual Meeting of NAFO was convened on Monday, 18 September 2017 at 10:10 hrs at the Marriott Château Champlain in Montréal, Québec, Canada with over 180 delegates present from 11 NAFO Contracting Parties (Annex 1). The NAFO interim President and interim Chairperson of the Commission, Stéphane Artano (France-SPM), welcomed all delegates to the Meeting (Annex 2).

The Chair invited Canada, as the host of the 39th NAFO Annual Meeting, to provide its opening statement verbally to Contracting Parties (Annex 3). Remaining opening statements from Contracting Parties were deferred at the opening session, but were provided in writing for inclusion in the report. Opening statements from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Japan, Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America (USA) are attached (Annexes 4-9).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat, Fred Kingston (Executive Secretary) and Jana Aker (Fisheries Information Administrator) were appointed as co-Rapporteurs. The summary of adopted working papers is available in Appendix I.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 10).

4. Admission of Observers

In accordance with the NAFO Rules for Observers and in advance of the meeting, the Executive Secretary formally invited the following States and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to attend:

- Government of Bermuda
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
- Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES)
- International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
- North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)
- North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)
- North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)
- North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)
- North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

- Sargasso Sea Commission
- South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO)
- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)
- South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
- United Nations - Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS)
- United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), and
- Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

The IGOs that attended were:

- Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Annex 11)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) – represented by the USA, and
- South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) – represented by the European Union.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with NAFO Observer Status that attended the 39th Annual Meeting were:

- Conseil de Bande de la Nation Innue de Nutashkuan,
- Dalhousie University - Environment Information: Use & Influence Research Initiative (EIUI) (Opening Statement – Annex 12),
- Ecology Action Centre (EAC) (Opening Statement – Annex 13), and
- Sierra Club of Canada (SCC).

5. Publicity

The meeting agreed that no public statements would be made until after the conclusion of the meeting when a press release would be prepared by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Chairs of the Commission and Scientific Council.

II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and Other Internal Affairs

6. Review of Membership of the Commission

The membership of the Commission has not changed since the 2016 Annual Meeting and is currently comprised of twelve (12) Contracting Parties: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union (EU), France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine, and United States of America (USA).

7. Implementation of the Amendments to the NAFO Convention

a. Update of the NAFO Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Rules

This item was addressed by STACFAD (Part III, agenda item 10.a).

b. Establishment of a list of experts to serve as panelists under the NAFO Dispute Settlement provisions

The Executive Secretary reminded Contracting Parties about the correspondence that was circulated in NAFO 17-135 requesting that they nominate a list of experts to serve as possible panelists in a NAFO dispute settlement panel established under the dispute settlement provisions of the NAFO Convention (Art. XV and

Annex II). Contracting Parties nominated candidates throughout the meeting, and the latest list of candidates is presented in COM WP 17-28 (Rev. 3). This list will be maintained and updated on the NAFO Members Pages.

8. Administrative and Activity Report

The Administrative Report and Financial Statements (COM Doc. 17-06) was referred to STACFAD.

9. NAFO Headquarters Agreement

Canada reported that since the Headquarters agreement was endorsed in 2009, it has established a new domestic approach to treaties that includes certain safeguards. Canada has since proposed revisions to the agreement that reflect both current domestic practices and are consistent with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. Canada will continue to work with NAFO, via the Secretariat, to conclude a Headquarters Agreement.

The European Union expressed its hope that the upcoming relocation of the NAFO Headquarters will not have a negative impact on the continuity of the activities of the Secretariat.

10. 2017 Performance Review

The interim Chair presented the Report of the NAFO Informal Working Group on Performance Review: Review of the Terms of Reference meeting, 20 June 2017 in COM WP 17-02. The interim Chair highlighted the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference agreed last year, indicated in Annex 3 of the working paper, and invited Contracting Parties to provide comments on the proposed revisions. Contracting Parties provided comments and suggestions and the final version of the revised Terms of Reference were presented in COM WP 17-02 (Revised) and adopted by Contracting Parties.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The report and recommendations of the NAFO Informal Working Group on Performance Review: Review of the Terms of Reference, including the revised Terms of Reference presented in COM WP 17-02 (Revised), be adopted.**

11. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process

The Executive Secretary presented the latest report from the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (COM-SC Doc. 17-05) and highlighted the recommendations from the working group. The recommendations included setting aside 3 two-week periods during the NAFO year for possible intersessional meetings. It was explained that NAFO was not obliged to hold meetings only during these two-week periods, but the setting aside of these periods may help in the scheduling of intersessional meetings. Also recommended, was a change to the Rules of Procedure to clarify that STACTIC can receive input from, or provide input to, the Scientific Council and other NAFO subsidiary bodies, which was referred to STACTIC and STACFAD. Contracting Parties reviewed and adopted the report and recommendations with the understanding that the proposed two-week periods for the 2018 meetings were flexible, and that working group meetings will be scheduled in consultation with the NAFO Secretariat.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The report and recommendations of the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (COM-SC Doc. 17-05) be adopted.**

12. Guidance to STACFAD necessary for them to complete their work

No additional issues were raised. The Chair of STACFAD, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), was invited to prepare a report for the closing session.

13. Guidance to STACTIC necessary for them to complete their work

The Chair of STACTIC, Judy Dwyer (Canada), presented the report of the STACTIC at its intersessional meeting in May 2017 (FC Doc. 17-02). The Chair also highlighted proposals from the Editorial Drafting Group for harmonization within the NAFO CEM of measures adopted in 2016, and reported that some of the proposals adopted in 2016 have resulted in more clarification in interpreting areas of the NAFO CEM. The STACTIC Chair reported that STACTIC would continue deliberations on vessels that demonstrate repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area, revisions to the compliance review process, and revisions to the Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme and the Port State Control chapters of the NAFO CEM.

No additional issues were raised. The Chair of STACTIC was invited to prepare a report for the closing session.

III. Coordination of External Affairs

14. Report of Executive Secretary on External Meetings

The Executive Secretary referred to pages 5 to 7 of the Administrative Report (COM Doc. 17-06) and highlighted a few of the external meetings he participated in since the last Annual Meeting, including:

- The Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras (CIP) in Havana, Cuba, 27 September 2016
- The offices of the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) in Halifax, 12 January 2017
- Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep Seas Project Steering Committee meeting, Rome, Italy, 7-9 Feb. 2017
- The Third and Fourth Sessions of the UN Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Preparatory Committee in New York, New York, United States of America, 3-5 April & 17-19 July 2017; and
- The FAO First Meeting of the Parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, Oslo, Norway, 29-31 May 2017.

Other members of the Secretariat also participated in:

- Convention on Biological Diversity Meeting, Seoul, Korea, 26-29 September 2016
- The FAO BlueBRIDGE Global Record of Stocks and Fisheries (GRSF) meeting, in Rome, Italy, 28 February- 2 March 2017
- The 26th Meeting of the CWP Fisheries Subject Group in Copenhagen, Denmark, 19-22 June 2017
- The 10th Session of the FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, 21-24 June 2017.

The Executive Secretary also presented COM WP 17-07 which highlighted the results of this year's meetings of the United Nations Preparatory Committee to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). Contracting Parties thanked the Executive Secretary for the report.

15. International Relations

a. Appointment of NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings

At the last Annual Meeting (September 2016), it was agreed that the following NAFO Contracting Parties would represent NAFO at meetings of the following organizations during 2016/2017:

- Canada at NPFC;
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) at NEAFC;
- EU at ICCAT and SIOFA;
- Norway at SEAFO and NAAMCO;
- USA at CCAMLR, NPAFC and NASCO.

The reports by these Observers were presented (COM WP 17-16 to 17-17, and COM WPs 17-21 to 17-27). The interim Chair reflected on the importance of external relations, since the work of relevant organizations in other areas can impact the work of NAFO. The same Contracting Parties agreed to represent NAFO at the same meetings for 2018, with the exception that Canada will represent NAFO at NASCO in place of the United States.

b. Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Seas Project

In 2013, NAFO was invited to be a partner in the FAO-Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project “*Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ Deep Seas Project)*”. NAFO’s participation will be guided by the activities table which was jointly prepared by FAO and the NAFO Secretariat and which may be modified as the project progresses. The NAFO support to the project would be an estimated in-kind contribution over the period of 2014-2018. This in-kind contribution represents staff time for activities and meeting expenses for work on deep sea fisheries, as well as administrative expenses for NAFO’s current core activities and operations which are of direct relevance to deep sea fisheries. Almost all the costs that are being implemented or planned are part of the regular work of NAFO.

The interim Chair invited Nicolas Gutierrez, a representative of the FAO, to present the latest project update from the ABNJ project (COM WP 17-18). Contracting Parties thanked Nicolas for the presentation of the work being done in the ABNJ Deep Seas Project.

c. Relations with other International Organizations

At the last Annual Meeting, it was agreed that the NAFO Secretariat would maintain a dialogue with relevant organizations and explore mechanisms to improve the exchange of information. The Executive Secretary presented a progress report in COM WP 17-06. Contracting Parties thanked the Executive Secretary for the report, and invited the Executive Secretary to report on further developments in this area at the next Annual Meeting. The European Union added that it would like to see the Executive Secretary, in his contacts, include issues related to impact assessment methodologies but there was no decision taken by Contracting Parties to expand the current mandate in this way.

A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) highlighted its efforts to reach out to regional organizations, including bringing together regional fisheries bodies and regional seas organizations through the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue, of which the next is scheduled in April 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea (Annex 11).

d. NAFO expert to the NAMMCO Performance Review

It was agreed that at this Annual Meeting, NAFO would nominate an expert for NAMMCO’s proposed upcoming performance review, and the panel selection criteria are outlined in COM WP 17-08. The United States put

forward Mr. Russell Smith, United States of America, to serve as the NAFO expert. Contracting Parties were in full support of this nomination.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Mr. Russell Smith would serve as the NAFO expert to the NAMMCO Performance Review.**

16. Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area – Information Exchange Arrangement

The Executive Secretary presented COM WP 17-05 on oil and gas activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) and activities under the proposed information exchange arrangements, including an update on the use of the new provision to the CEM that were adopted at the 2016 Annual Meeting to allow a five-year monthly snapshot of fishing activity in the NRA on the basis of VMS data. The Executive Secretary also mentioned that, since the last Annual Meeting, Canada has sent four notifications to the NAFO Secretariat about petroleum-related activities on Canada's continental shelf in the NRA for onward transmission to Contracting Parties. The interim Chair thanked the Executive Secretary and opened the floor for comments. The European Union noted that it would be useful to have more information from Canada on how they ensure that oil and gas activities do not negatively impact marine ecosystems in the NRA. Canada agreed to provide additional information, noting its substantial review process and protocols in place for oil and gas exploration activities.

IV. Scientific Advice

17. Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council

The Chair of Scientific Council, Katherine Sosebee (USA), presented this year's advice of the Scientific Council. The scientific advice on fish stocks and on other topics were mainly formulated during the June 2017 Scientific Council meeting (SCS Doc. 17-16). The multi-year advice provided in the previous year was also reviewed or updated at that meeting. The specific advice is outlined below.

a. Scientific advice on fish stocks

- **Northern shrimp in Divisions 3LNO:** Preliminary information on this stock indicates no change in current levels. The stocks will be assessed at the NIPAG meeting taking place from 27 September to 04 October 2017. If there are any updates from this meeting, the Secretariat will inform the Commission.
- **Northern shrimp in Division 3M:** Preliminary information on this stock indicates no change in current levels. The stocks will be assessed at the NIPAG meeting taking place from 27 September to 04 October 2017. If there are any updates from this meeting, the Secretariat will inform the Commission.
- **Cod in Divisions 3NO:** Advice deferred until 2018. Recommendation is that there is nothing to indicate a change in the advice from 2015. A full assessment will be conducted in 2018.
- **Cod in Division 3M:** TAC be no more than the catch corresponding to $\frac{3}{4} F_{lim}$, i.e. 8182 tonnes in 2018.
- **Redfish in Division 3M:** TACs should be set at values closer to the lower end of the range 7 000 to 12 000 tonnes.
- **American plaice in Division 3M:** There should be no directed fishery on American plaice in Div. 3M in 2018, 2019, and 2020.
- **Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO:** the exploitation rate in 2018 and 2019 should not exceed 2016 levels and therefore catch should not exceed 1116 tonnes and 1175 tonnes in 2018 and 2019 respectively.
- **White hake in Divisions 3NO:** Given the absence of strong recruitment, catches of white hake in 3NO should not increase.

- **Greenland halibut in Divisions 2+3KLMNO:** The advice for Greenland halibut was presented under agenda item 19.
- **Golden Redfish in Division 3M:** deferred until 2018.

Monitoring of stocks for which multiyear advice was provided in 2015 or 2016

- **Cod in Divisions 3NO:** No directed fishing on cod in 2016 to 2018 to allow for continued stock rebuilding.
- **American plaice in Divisions 3LNO:** there should be no directed fishing on American plaice in Div. 3LNO in 2017 and 2018.
- **Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO:** Based on recent catch levels, fishing mortality up to 85% F_{msy} corresponding to a catch of 26300 tonnes in 2016, 23600 tonnes in 2017 and 22000 tonnes in 2018 has low risk (5%) of exceeding F_{lim} , and is projected to maintain the stock well above B_{msy}
- **Capelin in Divisions 3NO:** No directed fishery.
- **Redfish in Division 3O:** Scientific Council is unable to advise on an appropriate TAC for 2017, 2018 and 2019
- **Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO:** The stock has shown little improvement at recent catch levels (approximately 4 700 tonnes, 2011 - 2015), therefore Scientific Council advises no increase in catches.
- **Witch flounder in Divisions 2J+3KL:** No directed fishery to allow for stock rebuilding. By-catches of witch flounder in other fisheries should be kept at the lowest possible level.
- **Northern short-finned squid in Subareas 3+4:** TAC of no more than 34 000 tonnes/yr
- **Splendid alfonsino in Subarea 6:** Due to lack of abundance or exploitation data, no reliable stock assessment can be conducted. To prevent extirpation of entire subpopulations of alfonsino, fishing should not be allowed to expand above current levels on Kükenthal Peak (Div. 6G, part of the Corner Rise seamount chain) unless it can be demonstrated that such exploitation is sustainable, and fisheries on other seamounts should not be authorized.

In the absence of a stock assessment TAC recommendation is based on recent catch history (2009 – 2014). Scientific Council recommends exploitation should not exceed recent average levels of approximately 200 tonnes or 16 days-on-ground (by a single standard vessel) on Kükenthal Peak, and no alfonsino fishery on all other seamounts in the NRA. The sustainability of this level of removals is unknown.

Scientific Council also reiterates its advice provided in 2013 in the context of the Sargasso Sea and the protection of seamounts (SC Report 2013, p310-315).

b. Scientific advice on Risk-based Management Strategies, Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management, and other topics

- **Implement relevant steps in the workplan for Greenland halibut in SA2 + Divs. 3KLMNO:** SC has implemented the steps of the workplan and this work is described in the STACFIS report.
- **Continue risk assessments for impacts of trawl surveys on VMEs in closed areas:** SC recommends that scientific bottom trawl surveys in existing closed areas be avoided if possible and additional work be conducted as soon as possible to further evaluate the implications of excluding RV surveys in closed areas on stock assessment metrics.
- **Bycatch of cod, redfish and moratoria species from haul-by-haul data:** Scientific Council were not able to address this request during the June 2017 meeting due to lack of time. The Secretariat presented their analysis directly to WG-BDS in July.
- **Assessment of golden redfish in Div. 3M:** Due to lack of time, this request is deferred until 2018. A roadmap for a full assessment of this stock will be discussed in September. As in previous years, advice for this stock is given indirectly based on the 3M beaked redfish assessment.

- **Assessment of NAFO bottom fisheries:** In 2016 and 2017, Scientific Council made further progress on assessing the overlap of NAFO fisheries with VME, based on Daily Catch Reports. Continued work addressing the other parts of this request will be conducted in 2018, but given the current capacity of the Scientific Council, progress can only be achieved if Contracting Parties provide the necessary expertise.
SC Recommends that the request relating to the “development and compilation of identification guides for fishes (e.g. sharks and skates)” be removed, as it was addressed last year (SC03-16 June 2016).
- **Continue review of the Precautionary Approach (PA) framework:** As a result of considerable workloads, Scientific Council was unable to make significant progress on its assessment of the PA Framework although some progress was made in the assessment of the PA Framework in the context of an ecosystem approach to management in 2016. Scientific Council will continue with its work but notes that given the current capacity of the Scientific Council, progress can only be achieved if Contracting Parties provide the necessary expertise.
- **Review information on Greenland sharks:** Information on biology, distribution, survey catches, and commercial bycatches were presented. More data will be presented in 2018 and advice given at that time.
- **Start working on a Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis:** The Scientific Council completed a preliminary SWOT analysis, the results of which are detailed in SCS Doc. 17-16.
- **Seamount boundary change.** The Scientific Council Chair noted that the Scientific Council had been reviewing the seamount boundary during this meeting and proposals would be discussed under agenda Item 24.

c. Other issues as determined by the Chair of the Scientific Council

The Chair of the Scientific Council, Katherine Sosebee (USA), highlighted the issue of the workload within the Scientific Council, noting the number of meetings attended by Scientific Council members in the past year, the requests that had to be deferred as a result of workload, and the need for further participation from Contracting Party scientists on the various NAFO working groups. The Scientific Council Chair also noted that the Council remains in need of a Vice-Chair for the Scientific Council, Chairs of STACREC and STACFEN, as well as a co-Chair for WG-ESA. Contracting Parties thanked the Scientific Council Chair for highlighting the concerns of the Scientific Council, and the United States provided the following statement:

The United States heard the concerns of the Commission and the Scientific Council during our earlier discussion. We need to support the work and the people of the Scientific Council, as their efforts are the very foundation of our work here. We have all said how important valid and robust scientific advice is for the management of NAFO resources.

The Commission has recognized that there has been an increase in the number and complexity of the requests going to the Scientific Council. We are concerned that there is a very real possibility that the workload could jeopardize the ability of the Scientific Council to provide timely and effective advice.

The move to multi-year management, and the Scientific Council's work to set up a schedule to plan assessments in the coming years have been important steps. But we agree with what Canada said earlier [at this meeting] – the Organization as a whole needs to find ways to rethink how we approach this work, especially to be able to prioritize and balance our work.

As at least a first step, we suggest that the Scientific Council chair, with assistance from the Secretariat, develop a work plan for its 2019 efforts and present it at the next annual meeting. The plan should include the activities of subsidiary and joint working groups of the SC. This work plan should also include, as far as practicable, forecasted activities for 2020.

The Commission and the Scientific Council should discuss the work plan, with a view to both support and prioritize the work of the SC, at the 2018 Annual Meeting. This discussion should also take into account all

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relevant recommendations from the Performance Review Panel, as well as the SWOT analysis from the Scientific Council.

We hope to have this suggestion reflected in the meeting report and to have a dedicated agenda item for it at the next annual meeting.

The European Union said that the timing of the NIPAG meeting should be reconsidered. Currently the NIPAG meeting has been scheduled the week after the NAFO Annual Meeting, consequently there is no up-to-date scientific advice for NAFO's shrimp stocks for this meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The Scientific Council Chair, with the assistance from the NAFO Secretariat, will develop a work plan for the work to be completed in 2019 for presentation to the Commission at the next Annual Meeting.**
- **The Scientific Council work plan for 2019 be added as a Commission agenda item for the 2018 Annual Meeting.**

d. Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding the advice and its work during this meeting

Questions relating to the scientific advice from the Scientific Council were submitted in writing from the Commission in COM WP 17-20, COM WP 17-31, and COM WP 17-32. The Scientific Council responded to these questions in COM WP 17-33.

18. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stocks in 2019 and on other matters

The steering committee for the formulation of requests from the Commission to the Scientific Council during the 2018 Annual Meeting was comprised of Sandra Courchesne (Canada), Martha Krohn (Canada), and Sebastian Rodriguez-Alfaro (EU). The draft requests were presented in COM WP 17-42, and the Scientific Council requested that the Commission prioritize the list of requests to facilitate the work planning of the Scientific Council. The Commission agreed that the priority items for 2018 should be the advice for fish stocks, a full assessment of 3LN redfish, the development of the Exceptional Circumstances protocol for 2+3KLMNO GHL, the 3M cod benchmark, and further research into Greenland sharks. Norway requested that splendid alfonsino be added the requests, and that advice be provided on a three-year basis, with initial advice being completed in 2018 for 2019-2021. The European Union requested a full assessment for 3M shrimp in 2018 rather than in 2019 as planned. The reasoning being that the recent survey showed female spawning stock biomass values close to B_{lim} , and there is a need for close monitoring of this stock. The final version of the requests for 2019, including the items prioritized by the Commission, was presented in COM WP 17-42 (Revised).

V. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

19. Meeting Reports and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), 2017

The presentation of the report and the recommendations was done in a joint plenary session with the Scientific Council. The joint session was in an open-discussion format.

Carsten Hvingel (Norway) and Jacqueline Perry (Canada), co-Chairs of the joint working group, presented the meeting reports from the various meetings of this working group from 2017 (FC-SC Doc. 17-02, FC-SC Doc. 17-03, COM-SC Doc. 17-06) and forwarded the recommendations addressed to the Commission and the Scientific Council for consideration and adoption in COM-SC WP 17-03 and COM-SC WP 17-06, which included the 3M Cod benchmark and the Greenland halibut MSE. The advice for Greenland halibut coming out of the work of the

WG-RBMS meeting was to set a TAC of 16 500 tonnes for 2018, with a change of no more than +/- 10% per year for six years. In addition, the working group intends to meet in August 2018 to finalize the Exceptional Circumstances protocol for adoption at the 2018 Annual Meeting. Contracting Parties thanked the co-Chairs and the working group for their efforts.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The reports and recommendations of the Working Group on Risk Based Management Strategies (FC-SC Doc. 17-02, FC-SC Doc. 17-03, COM-SC Doc. 17-06, COM-SC WP 17-06) be adopted by the Commission.**

20. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2018

The Quota Table and the Effort Allocation Scheme for the shrimp fishery in Division 3M for 2018, presented in Annex 13, incorporates the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) decisions and update of the relevant footnotes.

a. Cod in Division 3M

The scientific advice for cod in Division 3M for 2018 was a reduction in the Total Allowable Catch from 13 931 tonnes to 8182 tonnes. Some Contracting Parties highlighted the uncertainty with the assessment, noting that the benchmark exercise was going to be completed in 2018, while other Contracting Parties felt it was necessary to set the TAC in accordance with the scientific advice.

Considering the divergence of views expressed by the Contracting Parties, the European Union made a compromise proposal that the TAC be set at 11 145 tonnes for 2018, and a footnote be inserted into the Quota Table with the following text:

For 2019, the TAC will be reduced to 8182 tonnes. This TAC will be reviewed based on the available scientific advice for this stock.

No consensus could be reached among Contracting Parties on this proposal, so the interim Vice-Chair called for a vote in accordance with Article XIII Paragraph 2 of the Convention. Of the 11 Contracting Parties present, eight voted in favour of the proposal by the European Union, and three were not in favour (Iceland, Norway, and the United States of America). Consequently, the proposal was adopted with the requisite two-thirds majority.

The TAC for cod in 3M was set as 11 145 tonnes for 2018 and the new footnote was inserted in the Quota Table.

b. Redfish in Division 3M

Contracting Parties **agreed** on a TAC of 10 500 tonnes for 2018 and 2019.

c. American plaice in Division 3M

Contracting Parties **agreed** to continue the moratorium for 2018, 2019 and 2020.

d. Shrimp in Division 3M

Based on the absence of updated scientific advice, Contracting Parties **agreed** to maintain the moratorium for 2018 and review the updated advice when it becomes available.

Iceland expressed that, notwithstanding the moratorium, it maintains its objection against an effort allocation scheme applied to this stock.

e. Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area

Contracting Parties **agreed** to maintain the current level of the TAC, i.e. zero, and update as necessary, pending the decision of NEAFC as per footnote 3 of the Quota Table. The Russian Federation noted that their position on this stock is unchanged and provided the following statement (COM WP 17-37):

*The Russian Federation adheres to its position that there is a single stock of pelagic *Sebastes mentella* in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, including the NAFO Convention Area. Russia reiterates its standpoint that studies into the redfish stock structure should be continued using all available scientific and fisheries data as a basis. Until new data on the stock structure are available, Russia will continue to regulate the pelagic fishery for *Sebastes mentella* based on the concept of the single stock structure of this stock.*

f. Splendid alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*)

Discussions were held as to whether a Total Allowable Catch or effort -based management measures should be set for splendid alfonsino in the NAFO Regulatory Area. It was noted that current fishing levels are within the parameters outlined by the Scientific Council. There was no consensus reached among Contracting Parties and this discussion was deferred until the next Annual Meeting.

21. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2018

a. Cod in Divisions 3NO

Contracting Parties **agreed** to maintain the moratorium for 2018.

b. Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO

Contracting Parties **agreed** to rollover the TAC of 17 000 tonnes for 2018.

c. Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO

Contracting Parties **agreed** on a TAC of 1116 tonnes for 2018 and 1175 tonnes for 2019.

d. White hake in Divisions 3NO

Contracting Parties **agreed** to rollover the TAC of 1000 tonnes for 2018 and 2019, but remain mindful of the adjustment mechanism outlined in Article 5.13 and 5.14 of the NAFO CEM.

e. Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO

Contracting Parties **agreed** to a TAC of 16 500 tonnes for 2018, of which, 12 227 tonnes is allocated to the fishery in Divisions 3LMNO, consistent with the MSE as recommended by COM-SC WG-RBMS (see agenda item 19).

f. Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO

Based on the absence of updated scientific advice, Contracting Parties **agreed** to maintain the moratorium for 2018 and review the updated advice when it becomes available.

22. Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks

Norway and Iceland presented a joint proposal for STACTIC to review the feasibility of introducing policies to minimize or eliminate discards in NAFO (COM WP 17-41). Following discussions, several Contracting Party

representatives worked together on revising the proposal, and dividing some tasks between the WG-BDS and STACTIC, and the final proposal was agreed to in COM WP 17-41 (Rev. 2).

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC and the WG-BDS would prepare plans for evaluating the feasibility of introducing policies to minimize or eliminate discards in NAFO as outlined in COM WP 17-41 (Rev. 2).**

VI. Ecosystem Considerations

23. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2017

The presentation of the report and the recommendations was done in a joint plenary session with the Scientific Council. The joint session was in an open-discussion format.

The co-Chair of the Working Group, Andy Kenney (European Union), presented the report of the Working Group (COM-SC Doc. 17-07). Highlights from the Working Group included discussions around the extension of existing seamount closures, the risks associated with scientific surveys occurring in VME areas, as well as ongoing discussions on the reassessment of NAFO bottom fisheries, the identification and mapping of VMEs, the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Framework, and splendid alfonsino. Contracting Parties thanked the co-Chair for his report.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The report and recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) (COM-SC Doc. 17-07) be adopted by the Commission.**

24. Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations

The United States presented a joint proposal from the United States and Canada, with input from the Scientific Council, to revise the boundary of the New England Seamounts. The revision allowed for the protection of all seamounts in the New England Seamounts chain from the USA's 200-mile limit to the southern limit of the NRA that are 2000m or less in depth to be protected from bottom fishing activities. This proposal, as outlined in COM WP 17-19 (Revised), was adopted.

The European Union proposed a revision to Articles 22 and 23 of the CEM to clarify the process of deciding on measures for VME protection. Contracting Parties provided comments and the final proposal was adopted in COM WP 17-39 (Rev. 2).

The European Union also proposed a draft Resolution of Contracting Parties on the communication of measures taken to protect VMEs in the NRA to other national authorities regulating industries other than fishing. Contracting Parties adopted this Resolution (COM WP 17-40).

It was **agreed** that:

- **The proposal to modify the boundaries of the New England Seamount VME Closure outlined in COM WP 17-19 (Revised) be adopted.**
- **The proposed revision to Articles 22 and 23 of the NAFO CEM presented in COM WP 17-39 (Rev. 2) be adopted.**
- **A Resolution on communicating measures taken to protect VMEs in the NRA to other national authorities regulating industries other than fishing (COM WP 17-40) be adopted.**

Canada also made the following statement:

Canada remains strongly committed to the protection of the marine environment. Annex 1 of COM Working Paper 17-05 circulated at this meeting is a copy of the information exchange arrangement regarding oil and gas activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area that Canada provided to Contracting Parties in 2015. In an effort to reduce overlapping activities and avoid conflict between fishery activities in the NAFO regulatory area and resource exploration and extraction activities on Canada's continental shelf, Canada has, since 2014, been providing NAFO and its Contracting Parties with information and data regarding these exploration and extraction activities on a voluntary basis. Canada intends to continue to share this information with NAFO and its Contracting Parties on a voluntary basis. This arrangement also emphasizes the importance of the reciprocal exchange of information. Under Section 3.2 of the arrangement, Contracting Parties were encouraged to share fishing plans, including the number of vessels, planned fishing area and anticipated period of operation. To date, however, no fishing plans have been provided and we strongly encourage Contracting Parties to provide this information to continue to improve the exchange of information.

VII. Conservation and Enforcement Measures

25. Review of Chartering Arrangements

The NAFO Secretariat presented COM WP 17-04 outlining the details of the two chartering arrangements from 2016 and the one chartering arrangement to date in 2017.

26. Meeting Reports and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR) and of the Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG), 2017

The presentation of the report and the recommendations was done in a joint plenary session with the Scientific Council. The joint session was in an open-discussion format.

The Chair of the Scientific Council reported on the meeting report and recommendations from the Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR) and the Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG). The reports were presented in FC-SC Doc. 17-01 and COM-SC Doc. 17-08. Canada noted that they had been working on addressing the first recommendation from COM-SC Doc. 17-08 and presented COM-SC WP 17-07 (Revised), which outlined the proposed Terms of Reference for the merged group entitled the Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG). Contracting Parties agreed with the proposal for the creation of this new group to replace WG-CR and CDAG to continue to support the application and refinement of the Catch Estimation Strategy.

The European Union presented COM WP 17-36 outlining the Terms of Reference for a Catch Estimates Methodology Study proposed by the European Union. Contracting Parties agreed that the study could be initiated.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR) and the Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG) would merge to form one group, the Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), as outlined in the proposed Terms of Reference in COM-SC WP 17-07 (Revised).**
- **The Catch Estimates Methodology Study outlined in COM WP 17-36 be initiated.**
- **The reports and recommendations of the WG-CR and CDAG (FC-SC Doc. 17-01 and COM-SC Doc. 17-08) be adopted by the Commission.**

27. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS), July 2017

The interim Commission Vice-Chair and the Chair of the Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) presented the report of the working group (COM Doc. 17-05) and noted that the Draft Action plan for the Working Group had been referred to the Commission for further discussion and possible adoption. The European Union presented COM WP 17-35 in response to the recommendation from the Working Group report, and Contracting Parties agreed to adopt the Action Plan.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The report and recommendation of the Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in COM Doc. 17-05 be adopted.**
- **The Draft Action Plan for the Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) outlined in COM WP 17-35 be adopted.**

28. Report of STACTIC at this Annual Meeting

The Chair of STACTIC presented the report from this meeting (Part II), and highlighted the following amendments to the NAFO CEM that were forwarded to the Commission for adoption:

- **STACTIC WP 17-09: Reformatting Article 12 for consistency with the NAFO CEM**
- **STACTIC WP 17-10: Reformatting Article 29.10 for consistency with the NAFO CEM**
- **STACTIC WP 17-15 (Revised): Amendment of Article 45 – Obligations of the Master of a Fishing Vessel**
- **STACTIC WP 17-19 (Rev. 3): Proposed amendment to the NAFO CEM Chapter VI Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme**
- **STACTIC WP 17-20 (Rev. 2): Proposed amendment to the NAFO CEM Chapter VIII – Port State Control**
- **STACTIC WP 17-30: Changes to the NAFO CEM for 2018 following the entry into force of the Amended NAFO Convention**
- **STACTIC WP 17-36 (Revised): Clarifying Access to Information in the NAFO CEM**
- **STACTIC WP 17-41 (Revised): Reinstatement of footnote 21 of the 2015 NAFO CEM quota table**

The Chair of STACTIC also highlighted the recommendations where STACTIC agreed that:

- **The Annual Compliance Review outlined in STACTIC WP 17-27 (Rev. 2) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The revised Terms of Reference for the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) as outlined in STACTIC WP 17-40 (Rev. 2) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The changes in the NAFO Rules of Procedure presented in STACTIC WP 17-35 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

The Contracting Parties expressed thanks to the STACTIC Chair and STACTIC members for their work intersessionally and at this meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The reports and recommendations of STACTIC (FC Doc. 17-02 and Part II of this report) be adopted by the Commission.**

29. Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures

Following the adoption of the recommendation for Greenland halibut from the WG-RBMS (COM-SC WP 17-06), it was noted that there would be required changes to the NAFO CEM as a result. The co-Chairs of the WG-RBMS drafted the proposed changes in COM WP 17-38.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The changes to the NAFO CEM presented in COM WP 17-38 be adopted.**

VIII. Finance

30. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting

The report of STACFAD (Part III) was presented by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA). The report contained recommendations for the adoption of the budget for 2019, the Auditor's Report for 2017, financial matters, personnel matters, and an update on the NAFO Secretariat classification scheme review.

31. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2018

STACFAD recommends that the Secretariat work with the auditors intersessionally to achieve the following:

- **Use Not-for-Profit accounting standards from the current International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) accounting framework;**
- **Develop language, to be adopted by the Commission via an e-mail vote prior to 31 December 2017, to modify the NAFO Financial Regulations to state that the Organization will follow Not-for-Profit accounting standards and to describe the specific departures from the generally accepted accounting practices**
- **Complete the current year's audit on the basis of the modified financial regulations, once approved.**

STACFAD recommends that:

- **NAFO Contracting Parties strongly encourage additional participation in the Ad hoc virtual Working Group, in particular individuals from a broader range of Contracting Parties, and especially those with familiarity in either the technical and administrative aspects of NAFO.**
- **The Ad hoc virtual Working Group continue to work intersessionally, in consultation with the STACFAD and STACTIC Chairs, to further develop standards and guidelines of access to documentation contained in the NAFO forums for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting of NAFO.**
- **The Ad hoc virtual Working Group is empowered to make decisions on moving information that is clearly of a non-sensitive nature that can be migrated immediately from the restricted section of the NAFO website to the public pages, or from a more limited to a broader access within the restricted section, with the view to be as transparent as possible.**
- **The amount maintained in the accumulated surplus account be set at \$285,000 of which \$200,000 would be sufficient to finance operations during the first three months of 2018, and**

of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

- The internship period be maintained for six (6) months during 2018.
- The NAFO Secretariat is encouraged to utilize the entire allocation for the internship program annually to fully achieve the benefits of the program.
- The NAFO Rules of Procedure (COM Working Paper 17-09 Revised); NAFO Financial Regulations (COM Working Paper 17-10) and NAFO Staff Rules (COM Working Paper 17-11) be adopted by the Commission.
- The NAFO Secretariat was requested, as per Rule 5 of the NAFO Financial Regulations, to report on the condition of the Scientific Research Fund, including the contributions received and their dispositions, beginning at the next Annual Meeting.
- Any difference in 2017 annual contributions either owing from or payable to Contracting Parties, resulting from the revised calculation versus the 2017 billing previously issued, will be applied against 2018 annual contributions. Any Contracting Party with a balance owing to the Organization may instead request an invoice from the Secretariat to remit payment prior to the end of the 2017.
- PRP Recommendation 7.2.3 be recognized as a stand-alone item, as this is the final PRP Recommendation to be completed from the first Performance Review of NAFO, and any resulting proposed changes to the Staff Rules be considered at the next Annual Meeting.
- The budget for 2018 of \$2,297,000 (Annex 3) be adopted.
- The Commission appoint the three Staff Committee nominees, Justine Jury (EU); Joanne Morgan (Canada) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), for September 2017–September 2018.
- The 2020 Annual Meeting to be held (to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) to be as follows:

21-25 September 2020

All of STACFAD's report and recommendations were adopted by the Commission and the work and report by STACFAD and the Secretariat were commended.

IX. Closing Procedure

32. Other Business

The interim Vice-Chair gave the floor to the Executive Secretary who expressed his appreciation for the service of John Bullard, Head of Delegation for the United States of America, to NAFO in light of his impending retirement. Contracting Parties expressed thanks to John for his collaboration and leadership throughout the years. John was presented with a NAFO pennant.

The Chair of the Scientific Council announced the upcoming retirement of Don Power, a Canadian representative who was attending his final Scientific Council meeting this year. Don has been an integral part of the Scientific Council for over 30 years and his expertise and valued contribution to the Council will be deeply missed. During the September Scientific Council meeting, Don was presented with a Scientific Merit Award for his achievements.

33. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

At the last Annual Meeting, it was agreed that, should the amended NAFO Convention come into force before the next Annual Meeting, in the interim, the Chair of the former General Council would become the Chairperson of the new Commission with the Chair of the former Fisheries Commission becoming the Vice-Chairperson. The Amended Convention came into force on 18 May 2017, and as agreed Stéphane Artano (France-SPM) and

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Temur Tairov (Russian Federation) served as Interim Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission for this meeting.

Following the entry into force of the Amended Convention, an election was required for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the Commission. Stéphane Artano (France-SPM) was elected as the Commission Chairperson, and NAFO President for a two-year term and Temur Tairov (Russian Federation) was elected as Vice-Chairperson for the Commission for a two-year term.

34. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting

An invitation to host the next Annual Meeting was extended by the European Union and accepted by the Organization. The 40th Annual Meeting will be held in Tallinn, Estonia during the dates of 17-21 September 2017.

35. Press Release

The Press Release of the meeting was developed by the Executive Secretary and Scientific Information Administrator through consultations with the Chairs of the Commission and Scientific Council. The agreed Press Release (Annex 15) was circulated and posted to the NAFO website at the conclusion of the meeting on Friday, 22 September 2017.

36. Adjournment

The interim Vice-Chair thanked Contracting Parties for their collaboration and contributions through the course of the meeting. He also expressed his thanks to Canada for hosting the meeting and to the NAFO Secretariat for their support throughout the week.

The meeting adjourned 10:30 hrs on 22 September 2017.

Appendix I. Summary of Adopted Working Papers from the 39th Annual Meeting of NAFO

Working Paper	Title	Document
COM WP 17-02 Revised	Second Performance Review of NAFO: Revised Terms of Reference	COM Doc. 17-21
COM WP 17-09 Revised; STACTIC WP 17-35 and SC WP 17-045 Revised	NAFO Rules of Procedure	COM Doc. 17-18
COM WP 17-10	NAFO Financial Regulations	COM Doc. 17-19
COM WP 17-11	NAFO Staff Rules	COM Doc. 17-20
COM WP 17-19 Revised	Revision of New England Seamounts Closure (Amendment to NAFO CEM Article 17.1)	COM Doc. 17-16
COM WP 17-35	Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards	COM Doc. 17-26
COM WP 17-36	Catch Estimates Methodology Study	COM Doc. 17-25
COM WP 17-38	Changes to the NAFO CEM for 2018 following the adoption of the WG-RBMS Recommendations (Amendments to NAFO CEM Article 10, Annex I.F and I.G)	COM Doc. 17-17
COM WP 17-39 Rev. 2	Revisions to NAFO CEM Article 22 and 23 – Reinforcement of the provisions in case of encounter and bottom fishing assessment	COM Doc. 17-15
COM WP 17-40	Draft Resolution on communicating measures taken to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the NAFO area to other national authorities regulating industries other than fishing	COM Doc. 17-28
COM WP 17-41 Rev. 2	To examine the feasibility of introducing policies to minimize or eliminate discards in NAFO	COM Doc. 17-23
COM WP 17-42 Revised	The Commission's Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2019 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters	COM Doc. 17-22
STACTIC WP 17-09	Reformatting NAFO CEM Article 12 for consistency	COM Doc. 17-07
STACTIC WP 17-10	Reformatting NAFO CEM Article 29.10 for consistency	COM Doc. 17-08
STACTIC WP 17-15 Revised	Amendment to NAFO CEM Article 45 – Obligations of the Master of a Fishing Vessel	COM Doc. 17-09
STACTIC WP 17-19 Rev. 3	Amendment to the NAFO CEM Chapter VI – Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme	COM Doc. 17-10
STACTIC WP 17-20 Rev. 2	Amendment to the NAFO CEM Chapter VIII – Port State Control	COM Doc. 17-11
STACTIC WP 17-27 Rev. 2	Annual Compliance Review 2017	COM Doc. 17-27
STACTIC WP 17-30	Changes to the NAFO CEM for 2018 following the entry into force of the Amended NAFO Convention	COM Doc. 17-12
STACTIC WP 17-36 Revised	Clarifying Access to Information in the NAFO CEM (Amendment to NAFO CEM Article 30.A.7)	COM Doc. 17-13
STACTIC WP 17-40 Rev. 2	NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR): Revised Terms of Reference	COM Doc. 17-24
STACTIC WP 17-41 Revised	Reinstatement of footnote 21 of the 2015 NAFO CEM quota table	COM Doc. 17-14
COM-SC WP 17-06	Recommendations from 2017 WG-RBMS meetings relating to the Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation	COM-SC Doc. 17-10
COM-SC WP 17-07 Revised	Terms of Reference Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG)	COM-SC Doc. 17-09

Annex 1. Participant List

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Annex 2. Opening Statement by the Interim President

I am very pleased to welcome all of you to Montreal and to the opening the 39th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. First and foremost, I want to express my great appreciation to our Canadian hosts for the excellent preparations for this meeting.

This meeting is a significant milestone for NAFO. It is the first Annual Meeting after major amendments to modernize the NAFO Convention came into force on 18 May. It has taken almost 10 years to do this and I understand we will have some time to celebrate this achievement on Tuesday night.

The coming-into-force of these amendments, which confirms our commitment to ensuring the “long term and sustainable use of the fishery resources” and the safeguarding of “the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found”, are particularly timely given the recent developments related to international oceans governance. In this context, I should mention the results of the June Oceans Conference at the UN, the upcoming Our Ocean Conference in Malta and the completion of the work of the Preparatory Committee to establish an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction – the so-called BBNJ process. In this respect, I would submit that NAFO is a model for best practices in international regional fisheries governance and we can all be proud of what NAFO has already accomplished.

The coming-into-force of these amendments to the Convention also entail some extra housekeeping for us this week, such as adjusting the rules of procedure, establishing a list of experts to serve as panelists in a dispute settlement process and electing a new President and vice-President. For the most part, however, the transition from the old regime to the new seems to have been smooth.

Again, we have been very busy since our last Annual Meeting. We have met intersessionally about 24 times in various formats. That is over 2 meetings per month and all the results of all this activity will be put before us in the coming 5 days. Some of the less routine issues that we must address this week include:

- The relaunching of NAFO’s second Performance Review. As I stated last year, this Review is important to ensure that the Organization continues to live up to the objectives of the NAFO Convention and the other relevant international instruments addressing the conservation and management of living marine resources;
- The establishment of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut. As you are aware, this issue has kept many our officials and scientists extremely busy over the last year; and
- A revised work plan for a benchmark review of 3M Cod.

Finally, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Secretariat for all their work throughout the year and their preparations for this meeting.

We will be very busy this week. However, as always, I am confident that, with your good will and cooperation, we can finish all our business in an efficient and timely manner.

Thank you very much for your attention. I now declare the 39th Annual Meeting of NAFO officially open!

Annex 3. Opening Statement by Canada

Canada welcomes Contracting Parties to Montreal for the 39th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). Canada last hosted the Annual Meeting in 1997 and is thrilled to be hosting this year on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. This year also marks Montreal's 375th anniversary.

NAFO has accomplished ground-breaking work to protect and conserve the Northwest Atlantic Ocean fish populations and habitats by taking an ecosystem approach to risk-based fisheries management. NAFO has also made important progress on the development and application of the Precautionary Approach Framework and the reassessment of bottom fishing impacts in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Canada commends Contracting Parties for their ongoing commitment to safeguarding the marine ecosystem within the vast NAFO Convention Area.

While the Convention amendments were agreed to 10 years ago (at the 29th Annual Meeting in Lisbon), this marks the first Annual Meeting since its coming into force on May 18, 2017. The amendments serve to update the 1978 NAFO Convention and reflect recent developments in international law, including the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, as well as incorporate precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches as a means of conserving biodiversity and minimizing the long-term impacts of fishing on the marine ecosystem. The reforms provide NAFO with a modern decision-making model and will contribute to its ongoing evolution as a regional fisheries management organization.

NAFO can be credited with a number of recent successes, including the recovery of 3LN Redfish and fisheries closures to enhance protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. These successes can be attributed to principled, science-based and precautionary approach to fisheries management. Canada acknowledges challenges on the horizon, including ecosystem changes and its impact on key fish stocks. Continuous improvement of conservation and enforcement measures is also essential to the good functioning of NAFO. Canada urges Contracting Parties to be mindful of history and continue to be driven by science when making management decisions.

The joint-dialogue between scientists and managers is instrumental and will contribute to the goal of sustainable fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Despite challenges, the days ahead afford the opportunity to build on NAFO's accomplishments to date and continue moving the organization forward.

Canada wishes to all a productive meeting and a pleasant stay in Montreal.

Annex 4. Opening Statement by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Faroe Islands and Greenland (DFG) would first of all like to thank Canada for their hospitality to host this Annual Meeting in Montréal, Québec. We appreciate the hard work you have put in the practical preparations of this meeting – the first under the amended convention.

For DFG it is a great pleasure to note that the amendments to the convention have now been implemented. The DFG would therefore like to express our satisfaction that the amended convention has been ratified and has come into force. We are confident that this will assist NAFO in performing even better than today in fulfilling the objectives of this organisation.

To undertake the second performance review is of significant importance in order to assist NAFO in achieving its long-term objectives. We will at this meeting review the Terms of Reference for the performance review and ensure the best composition of the review panel. The DFG will continue to work constructively with our NAFO partners in order to facilitate the election of candidates to carry out the Second Performance Review of NAFO.

The biological advice on NAFO stocks for the next year and beyond is, as usual, a mixed advice of stocks to be maintained under moratoria, of stocks in decline and of stocks that are healthy and growing. However, what has foremost come to our attention is the advice for the cod stock of 3M which is of high importance to the DFG. Therefore, we look forward to the full benchmark evaluation which will be performed in 2018 as well as the Management Strategy Evaluation for cod in 3M in the near future.

Working groups take important tasks on their shoulders. However, it is increasingly a challenge to find time to participate in the various numbers of working groups, especially for Contracting Parties with limited resources in terms of staff.

Our delegation would like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation and warm thanks to the Secretariat for once again having prepared this annual meeting so well

The Faroe Islands and Greenland (DFG) can assure you that we are looking forward to working constructively with all delegations in the week ahead of us to bring the many points on our agenda to successful conclusion.

Annex 5. Opening Statement by the European Union

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would on behalf of the EU delegation like to thank the Government of Canada for hosting the 39th Annual Meeting of NAFO in this beautiful city, at a historical moment, for this wonderful country as it celebrates a very respectable age.

Second, I would like to take a moment to recognise the important achievement we have all have contributed to by finalising the ratification process, which in turn has allowed us to have this meeting under the new, more modern NAFO Convention.

As you all know, the last year has been extremely busy for the NAFO community and the high number of inter-sessional meetings and videoconferences proves once again our common commitment towards a sustainable management of NAFO fisheries and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.

I would like to highlight, in particular, the great efforts invested in the Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation process and we strongly hope we can finalise this work at this session. This work has showed once again that better science is the key for better management and the need to continue the ongoing dialogue between the fisheries managers and scientists. In this context, I would like to highlight our strong hope that we can build on this precedent and pave the way for a more sustainable and predictable management of the stock of cod in the Flemish Cap next year.

In the meantime, the EU remains fully committed in setting TACs that follow scientific advice, while hoping that NAFO will promote responsible decisions that also balance environmental, economic and social considerations.

The EU will continue supporting the protection of VMEs and will strive to ensure that NAFO's VMEs protection policy is based on the latest and best science available. To this end, the EU has, for example, substantially contributed to the NEREIDA seabed mapping project, which aims at improving knowledge about the sea bottom, and it will continue funding this project. We strongly believe that this policy should be based on a coherent process that ensures that decisions are clear, consistent and fit-for-purpose. In addition, we also believe that NAFO should lead the way and engage with the other relevant operators in the area in order to ensure a consistent approach and that conservation efforts are supported by all stakeholders, not only by the fisheries community.

The EU is would also like to thank all the parties around the table for the efforts made in getting closer to the finalisation of the by-catch, discards and selectivity Action Plan. We hope we can all agree to it and then start implementing it in order to better understand the reasons behind discarding in the NRA.

Regarding control and enforcement, the EU will continue to promote compliance of its fleet with the NAFO rules in force, both at sea and in port, and measures that increase the efficiency of NAFO's control and inspection systems just as we will work closely with other Parties in this area.

Last and not the least, the EU believes that at the end of this meeting we should also be in a position to launch a new Performance Review exercise for the organisation. Regular performance reviews are an important element to ensure that the organisation follows best practices and is well managed.

Finally, the EU delegation looks forward to working with all Parties around the table in order to achieve the best possible result for NAFO stocks and ecosystems and to make this Annual Meeting a joint success.

Annex 6. Opening Statement by Japan

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Canada for hosting the 39th Annual meeting of NAFO in this beautiful city, Montreal. We also thank the NAFO Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangements, and wish all the best to our Chair, Mr. Artano.

As the Japanese delegation expressed in the past meetings, NAFO has played an important role for fisheries management. NAFO, as the historic and leading RFMO, should develop conservation and management measures for sustainable use of fishery resources and the measures should be based on scientific advice. We should bear in mind that NAFO measures would be taken into account by other RFMOs.

Mr. Chairman, on this occasion, I would like to address two concrete issues and explain our thought for this NAFO annual meeting, namely Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for Greenland Halibut and measures to address non-compliance of serious infringements in the Regulated Area.

At the last Annual meeting, the revised timeline for 2+3 KLMNO Greenland halibut MSE review was agreed to adopt a new MSE at the 2017 Annual meeting. In accordance with the timeline, the Scientific Council and the working group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) have devoted their resources on developing candidate management procedures for the stock, which are to be on the table of the Commission. I would like to express our gratitude for their hard work on this issue, and hope that the management procedures will be adopted at this Annual meeting based on the recommendation by WG-RBMS.

I would now like to express our concern about serious infringements to conservation measures of NAFO. At the intersessional meeting of Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC), it is reported that apparent infringements were detected for last 5 years. Among them are several serious infringements including mis-recording of catches contrary to Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) Article 28, that is defined as serious infringement in CEM Article 38. These activities can reduce the effectiveness of NAFO conservation and management measures. As Article X.1. (c) of the amended NAFO Convention stipulates, each Contracting Party shall take necessary actions to ensure the effectiveness of CEM. Contracting parties expressed their keenness to develop effective enforcement measures to address serious infringements at the last annual meeting and intersessional meeting of STACTIC. I would like to cooperate closely with those contracting parties as much as possible so that non-compliance, especially serious infringements, will be tackled more effectively in NAFO Regulated Area.

Mr. Chairman, the Japanese Delegation is ready to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations to find good solutions and sincerely hopes that this Annual meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded.

Thank you.

Annex 7. Opening Statement by the Russian Federation

I am honored to represent the Russian Federation at the 39th Annual Meeting of NAFO. On behalf of the Russian Delegation I would like to thank the Government of Canada for hosting this meeting in the beautiful city of Montreal. I would also like to thank the NAFO Secretariat for all their preparatory work they have done to set up this meeting.

We respect the ever-increasing NAFO effort in conservation of stocks and management of fisheries, with all the NAFO bodies working in accord and the ongoing trend towards systematizing methods of data processing and developing management measures. Implementation of the amended Convention will become a definite achievement in the working process between the Organization and the Contracting Parties.

We do highlight the NAFO approach to collecting, processing and presenting of fisheries data, both for scientific and management purposes. Despite the limited fishing effort, we put our best into acquiring and submitting as much data from fishing vessels and observers as possible. We highly commend the work by the NAFO Secretariat at developing the new user-friendly website design and search engine.

We have reached an important milestone in developing the management strategy for the Greenland halibut stock in Divisions 3LMNO, despite all the uncertainties as to its assessment. We respect the sheer amount of work already done and hope for a sustainable and productive solution to be found during this meeting.

We also would like to keep the spirit of efficiency in deliberations on the issue of cod fishery in Division 3M. In view of high variability between the current and advised TAC levels, we would rather avoid a sharp decline in the TAC and mitigate the immediate impact on fisheries.

In line with our position on making well-justified decisions, especially those entailing long-term consequences, the protection of vulnerable bottom areas requires complete clarification in all cases. Currently, the areas covered by closures are near-optimal, although, in our opinion, still somewhat excessive. Establishing any new closures or expanding the existing ones, though effective, becomes progressively less necessary, given the lack of fishing effort in the areas in question. Thus, such drastic measures cannot, in our opinion, be implemented without additional justification and fulfilling any requests that may surface.

In conclusion, we are assured that the work during this meeting will be efficient, despite the workload increasing from year to year and the same five days given.

We hope for a fruitful cooperation between all the Contracting Parties based on joint efforts by managers, scientists and observers.

Annex 8. Opening Statement by Ukraine

Dear Mr. Kingston,

This year due to a number of reasons the State Agency of Fisheries of Ukraine could not participate at the regular 39th session of the NAFO.

However, this does not mean that Ukraine is not interested in its participation in the NAFO. Ukraine, as a responsible fishing country and a member of several international fisheries organizations and bilateral international agreements, is trying to coordinate its efforts with other countries in accordance with the maritime law.

Amid the traditional Ukrainian fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, including its northern waters, and the participation of Ukrainian fishermen in the discovering and development of certain types of fishing in the ocean, I address to you with the request to keep our fishing opportunities in the NAFO regulation area. In case of restoration of some stocks of these waters - please take into account our interest in its usage.

We expect that this will provide an opportunity to carry at least one industrial voyage under the Ukrainian flag in 2018. We take measures to use Ukraine's industrial opportunities provided in 2017.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration and would highly appreciate your consideration of the issue above.

Yours sincerely,
Andriy Shevchenko

Annex 9. Opening Statement by the United States of America

The United States is pleased to be meeting in beautiful Montreal, and we extend our warm gratitude to the government of Canada for hosting the 39th NAFO Annual Meeting. We would also like to thank the NAFO Secretariat for their efforts in ensuring that our meetings are efficient and successful.

I am sad to report that this will be my final year as the U.S. Commissioner to NAFO. Over the past few years, I've been pleased to see this organization move towards more transparent processes, and increasing reliance on science and ecosystem-based decision making. The United States hopes that we can build upon that momentum at this meeting, in particular as we move into a new era under our revised convention.

We must hold ourselves accountable to this new mandate, and with that in mind, the United States participated in the virtual working group meetings in preparation for a second NAFO performance review. It is imperative that we come to a resolution at this meeting on the terms of reference for that process, and I believe that we are close to final agreement. This review will highlight the great progress we've made in implementing the recommendations of the first review panel, and those areas NAFO still needs to address. We look forward to discussing the findings of this second panel at next year's annual meeting.

The panel will be able to note the impressive body of work arising from the Scientific Council. Last year, we acknowledged the increasingly complex and numerous issues the Commission has requested the Council to address. NAFO needs to ensure that the SC has the necessary resources and personnel. This challenge remains, and we call upon the Commission to consider the necessary actions to guarantee our Council, and its subsidiary bodies, are enabled to continue its groundbreaking work.

As we look towards our agenda for this week, it is imperative that we base our actions here in the Commission on Scientific Council advice, even when—and perhaps especially when—we are dealing with difficult decisions. The United States underscores our commitment to a precautionary, ecosystem-based, and scientific approach to decision making. We are concerned about some of the findings, and potential trends, arising from the Scientific Council report regarding the health of a number of stocks. We hope to learn more this week about any possible causes and what the Commission might need to consider to address these cross-cutting issues.

In addition to the Scientific Council, the United States is pleased with robust intersessional efforts of several bodies, including STATIC, the Working Group on Risk Based Management Strategies, and the Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management. The efforts of the EAFFM Working Group is reflected in NAFO's continued progress to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, and was recognized in discussions at the United Nations General Assembly last year. The United States, in partnership with Canada, is pleased to offer a proposal strengthening NAFO's measures to protect seamounts in the Convention Area, while balancing the need to allow fishing in areas that are currently closed, where there is no or limited potential harm to VMEs.

I am pleased that I have had the opportunity to be a part of this body, and to work side-by-side with such dedicated scientists and managers. As I stated above, NAFO has made progress, but significant challenges remain. We have an opportunity under our new Convention to move away from outdated decision-making paradigms, and to ensure more equitable and transparent access to NAFO fisheries resources. In my time as Commissioner, I am pleased to see the U.S. fishing presence double in NAFO.

But we remain frustrated that, in spite of our clear commitment as a coastal State to NAFO as a vital mechanism for sustaining fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic, our legitimate interests in NAFO fisheries have been virtually ignored when it comes to National allocations of fishing opportunities.

We will continue to insist that Contracting Parties, and particularly coastal States, should have appropriate access to relevant NAFO stocks that reflects the realities and interests of today, not just a static slice of history that happens to favor some contracting parties, and disadvantages others.

I look forward to our work this week in our first meeting to begin the new era of NAFO. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve alongside my fellow Commissioners during these last few years. I've been enormously impressed by your dedication and appreciative of your camaraderie. Certainly, the friendships that are formed among the NAFO delegations continue well beyond retirement dates.

Annex 10. Provisional Agenda

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the interim Chairperson, Stéphane Artano (France-SPM)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Admission of Observers
5. Publicity

II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and Other Internal Affairs

6. Review of Membership of the Commission
7. Implementation of the Amendments to the NAFO Convention
 - a. Update of the NAFO Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Rules
 - b. Establishment of a list of experts to serve as panelists under the NAFO Dispute Settlement provisions
8. Administrative and Activity Report
9. NAFO Headquarters Agreement
10. 2017 Performance Review
11. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process
12. Guidance to STACFAD necessary for them to complete their work
13. Guidance to STACTIC necessary for them to complete their work

III. Coordination of External Affairs

14. Report of Executive Secretary on External Meetings
15. International Relations
 - a. Appointment of NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings
 - b. Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Seas Project
 - c. Relations with other International Organizations
 - d. NAFO expert to the NAMMCO performance review
16. Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area – Information Exchange Arrangement

IV. Scientific Advice

17. Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council
 - a. Scientific advice on fish stocks
 - b. Scientific advice on Risk-based Management Strategies and Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management, and other topics
 - c. Other issues as determined by the Chair of the Scientific Council
 - d. Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding the advice and its work during this meeting

18. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stocks in 2019 and on other matters

V. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

19. Meeting Reports and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), 2017
20. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2018
 - a. Cod in Division 3M
 - b. Redfish in Division 3M
 - c. American plaice in Division 3M
 - d. Shrimp in Division 3M
 - e. Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area
 - f. Splendid alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*)
21. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2018
 - a. Cod in Divisions 3NO
 - b. Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO
 - c. Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO
 - d. White hake in Divisions 3NO
 - e. Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO
 - f. Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO
22. Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks

VI. Ecosystem Considerations

23. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2017
24. Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations

VII. Conservation and Enforcement Measures

25. Review of Chartering Arrangements
26. Meeting Reports and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR) and of the Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG), 2017
27. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS), July 2017
28. Report of STACTIC at this Annual Meeting
29. Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures

VIII. Finance

30. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting
31. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2018

IX. Closing Procedure

- 32. Other Business
- 33. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- 34. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting
- 35. Press Release
- 36. Adjournment



Annex 11. Opening Statement by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

*Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,*

I am pleased to have this opportunity to address the 39th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). As you may know, this is the first time the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has participated in this forum and we very much look forward to continuing our engagement in this process.

The Convention on Biological Diversity has 196 Parties and three objectives: (i) the conservation of biodiversity, (ii) the sustainable use of its components and (iii) the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. Sustainable fisheries is a critical aspect of achieving the objectives of the Convention.

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have recognized the central role of fisheries in implementing the Convention, including in the context of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted in 2010, and in particular, Aichi Biodiversity Target 6. Target 6 calls for, by 2020, having all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants being managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

The adoption of Aichi Target 6 has increased awareness of the link between fisheries and biodiversity. It has also provided a strong basis for increased dialogue and collaboration between the fisheries and biodiversity communities. The work of organizations like the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization is essential to ensuring that increased awareness and dialogue leads to tangible on-the-ground action.

The critical need to enhance collaboration and coordination between the fisheries and biodiversity communities was a central topic of the UN Biodiversity Conference in December 2016, which focused on the theme of mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being. At the high-level segment of the Conference, ministers of environment and fisheries, among others, expressed their commitment, through the adoption of the *Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable use of Biodiversity for Well-being*, to work at all levels within governments and across sectors to mainstream biodiversity in fisheries. In doing so, they committed to support mainstreaming through actions such as incorporating biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting systems, and ensuring that sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes integrate the conservation, sustainable use, management, and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. Furthermore, the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (also held during the UN Biodiversity Conference) adopted decision XIII/3, which outlined specific strategic actions to enhance the mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across the fisheries, forestry, agriculture and tourism sectors.

In this vein, the CBD Secretariat has worked closely over the years with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional fishery bodies and other entities to support enhanced implementation by Parties to better address biodiversity considerations in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. For example, FAO and the fisheries community have played a key role in the work under the CBD on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). FAO and the CBD Secretariat have also worked together to provide guidance to governments on the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 6. Recently, the CBD Secretariat initiated a process, together with FAO, UN Environment and various regional organizations, to enhance regional-scale dialogue and coordination for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. The first meeting of this process, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Target and the Sustainable Development Goals, was held last year in Seoul. This meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, and attracted more than 80 representatives of various regional and global organizations from around the world.

Report of the Commission, 18-22 Sept 2017

I am delighted to report that, with the kind support of the Republic of Korea, together with Government of Japan, the European Union and the Government of Sweden, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue will become a biennial forum, and the second meeting will be held in April 2018, in which we encourage strong participation of NAFO.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Objectives related to sustainable fisheries and biodiversity are closely intertwined. Biodiversity objectives can only be met if fishing is effectively managed, and objectives for productive fisheries can only be met if the ecosystems that support the fish stocks are healthy and resilient.

In closing, allow me to emphasize that the CBD Secretariat is ready to work closely with you to support your work and identify opportunities to achieve our common goals.

Annex 12. Opening Statement by Environmental Information: Use and Influence research program

Chairman, Delegates, Fellow Observers:

The Environmental Information: Use and Influence research program (EIUI) thanks the Secretariat and Contracting Parties for approving our attendance as an Observer at this 39th NAFO annual meeting.

Our interdisciplinary research program is based in the Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Since 2002 we have been studying the production and use of marine environmental and fisheries information. The aim of our research is to advance understanding of the complexities of information use at the science-policy interface. Our research leads to recommendations to strengthen use and influence of this information in policy and decision-making processes.

More recently, we have been working with the NAFO Secretariat and other fisheries governmental and intergovernmental organizations. Our research has focused on Canada as a Contracting Party to NAFO represented by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). We are also partnering in research with local and international environmental NGOs about information use in marine conservation and fisheries management.

At the Scientific Council Meeting in June 2016 meeting we had the opportunity to present doctoral research results on the main drivers, enablers, and barriers to communication of information in NAFO. An important finding was the key role that the NAFO Fisheries Commission's Request for Advice plays in ensuring the production of credible, relevant, and legitimate information for decision-making. Structural changes within NAFO, such as the formation of joint Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council working groups, and overlapping membership of DFO and NAFO working groups, facilitate increased and ongoing communication between managers and scientists. Such changes also ensure that the organizations keep pace with the growing complexity of fisheries management recognizing the need to adopt ecosystem approaches to management. The Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC) recommended that these research findings are presented at other NAFO meetings.

The interface in fisheries management is dynamic as it involves continuous interactions between scientific and decision-making groups and external stakeholders to enable efficient flow of information. Multiple interfaces exist within and among the many fisheries management organizations participating in NAFO.

Members of the EIUI team, including faculty and graduate students, continue to observe how scientific advice is communicated and how management advice is developed in NAFO and at this meeting. We look forward to continued collaboration with NAFO in promoting the use of the best available scientific information to inform decision-making related to management and conservation of the resources of the NAFO Convention Area.

Thank you.

Suzette Soomai, PhD, EIUI Team Member for Bertrum MacDonald (EIUI Team Lead)
Environmental Information: Use and Influence research program (www.eiui.ca)
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Annex 13. Opening Statement by the Ecology Action Centre

Chair, Heads of Delegation, Delegates and fellow Observers, on behalf of the Ecology Action Centre and the two coalitions of which we are active members – the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and the Shark League for the Atlantic and Mediterranean – we are pleased to be here this year, the tenth year we have engaged as observers to NAFO.

While every year, NAFO makes progress on further measures to better understand and protect the ecosystem upon which its fisheries depend – we note that it has also been over a decade since States agreed to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems or not allow bottom fishing to occur – as per UNGA Resolution 61/105. It is time to finish the job so that NAFO, its Contracting Parties and their hard-working scientists can focus on other urgent matters relating to the conservation and sustainable use of fish populations in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

We welcome the entrance of the amended NAFO Convention into force and note the additional responsibilities it places on Contracting Parties to sustainably manage NAFO fisheries.

We have provided a simple checklist this year to outline our recommendations to NAFO, and key actions include:

- Protect the remaining New England and Corner Rise Seamounts, as per science advice in 2014.
- Restrict bottom trawl surveys in closed areas, given that over 120,000 kgs of sponges has been recorded, placing science as the greatest threat to the closed areas.
- Prioritize analysis of haul-by-haul data for all bycatch species.
- Assess and regulate deep-sea fisheries, including Splendid Alphonso.
- Follow science advice in all quota decisions for NAFO regulated fisheries.
- Request scientific council for advice on the next steps in implementing multispecies assessments and an ecosystem approach to TAC advice.
- Request that climate change and climate vulnerability are incorporated into stock assessments and science advice.
- Improve cross-sectoral collaboration and information sharing, with a view towards greater protection of biodiversity and minimizing impacts on NAFO VME closures.
- To further transparency within NAFO, ensure that the NAFO performance review process is open to submissions by observers to NAFO.

We look forward to this week's discussions and deliberations and urge Contracting Parties to take into account the results of the UN Fish Stocks Review Conference and findings of included in the Secretary Generals' report as well as the 2016 World Ocean Assessment. Thank you.

Annex 14. Quota Table 2018

CATCH LIMITATIONS – Article 5. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons in live weight) for 2018 of particular stocks in Subareas 1-4 of the NAFO Convention Area.

Species	Cod				Redfish					American plaice		Yellowtail
	COD 3L	COD 3M		COD 3NO	RED 3LN		RED 3M	RED 3O	REB 1F_2_3K (i.e. Sub-Area 2 and Divs. 1F+3K)	PLA 3LNO	PLA 3M	YEL 3LNO
% of TAC			% of 3M Cod TAC			% of 3LN Redfish TAC						
Contracting Party												
Canada		89	0.80	0	6 049	42.60	500	6 000	0 ¹	0	0	16 575
Cuba		412	3.70	-	1 392	9.80	1 750		0 ¹	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		2491	22.35	-	-		69 ¹⁰		0	-	-	-
European Union		6356 ⁵	57.03	0 ⁴	2 589 ⁴	18.23	7 813 ⁴	7 000	0 0 ⁷	0	0 ⁴	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-	-	-	-		69 ¹⁰		0 ¹	-	-	340
Iceland		-	-	-	-		-		0	-	-	-
Japan		-	-	-	-		400	150	0 ¹	-	-	-
Korea		-	-	-	-		69 ¹⁰	100	0 ¹	-	-	-
Norway		1031	9.25	-	-		-		0	-	-	-
Russian Federation		721	6.47	0	4 085	28.77	9 137	6 500	0	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	0 ¹			
United States of America		-	-	-	-		69 ¹⁰		0 ¹	-	-	-
Others		45	0.40	0	85	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	11 145 ^{15,16}	100.0	*	14 200 ¹⁷	100.0	10 500 ⁸	20 000 ⁸	0 ^{3,9}	* ¹⁴	* ¹¹	17 000 ^{12,14}

Species	Witch			White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (<i>Illex</i>)	Shrimp	
Stock Specification	WIT 3L	WIT 3NO		HKW 3NO	CAP 3NO	SKA 3LNO	GHL 3LMNO	SQL 3_4 (i.e. Sub-areas 3+4)	PRA 3L	PRA 3NO
% of TAC			% of 3NO Witch TAC							
Contracting Party										
Canada		670	60.00	294	0	1 167	1833	N.S. ²	0	
Cuba		-			0		-	510	0	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-			-		211	-	0	
European Union		148 ⁴	13.27	588	0 ⁵	4 408	7169 ⁶	<u>N.S.</u> ² 611 ⁵	0 ⁶	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-			-		201	453	0	
Iceland		-			-		-	-	0	
Japan		-			0		1253	510	0	
Korea		-			-		-	453	0	
Norway		-			0		-	-	0	
Russian Federation		287	25.73	59	0	1 167	1560	749	0	
Ukraine							-		0	
United States of America		-			-		-	453	0	
Others		11	1.00	59	-	258		794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*8}	1 116 ¹⁸	100.00	1 000 ⁸	*	7 000 ¹³	12 227	34 000 ⁸	0	*

- * Ban on fishing in force.
- 1 Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
- 2 The allocations to these Contracting Parties are as yet undetermined, although their sum shall not exceed the difference between the total of allocations to other Contracting Parties and the TAC (= 29.467 tonnes).
- 3 Should NEAFC modify its level of TAC, these figures shall be adjusted accordingly by NAFO through a mail vote.
- 4 Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in accordance with the sharing arrangement of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission in 2003 (FC WP 03/7), as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the European Union.
- 5 Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in accordance with the sharing arrangement of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission in 2003 (FC WP 03/7), and to Poland, as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the European Union.
- 6 Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the EU.
- 7 Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
- 8 Applicable to 2018 and 2019.
- 9 If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 3 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share referred to in footnote 1.
- 10 Notwithstanding the provision of Article 5.3 (b) and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
- 11 Applicable to 2018, 2019 and 2020.
- 12 Following the NAFO Annual Meeting and prior to 1 January of the succeeding year, at the request of the USA, Canada will transfer 1,000 tonnes of its 3LNO yellowtail quota to the USA.
- 13 Should catches exceed 5 000 tonnes, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2018.
- 14 In lieu of Article 6.3 of the NCEM, the following by-catch provisions for American plaice only in the 3LNO yellowtail fishery shall apply: Contracting Parties fishing for yellowtail flounder allocated under the NAFO allocation table will be restricted to an overall Am. plaice by-catch harvest limit equal to 15% of their total yellowtail fishery as calculated in accordance with Article 6.4. If a Scientific Council projection indicates that this rate is likely to undermine stock recovery or cause an unreasonable delay in reaching B_{lim} , this rate may be subject to a reassessment by the Commission.
- 15 For 2019, the TAC will be reduced to 8 182 tonnes. This TAC will be reviewed based on the available Scientific Advice on this stock.

Historical statements

- 16 The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.
- 17 The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
- 18 The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1994 Quota Table. In 1995, a moratorium on witch flounder in Division 3NO was declared.

**Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2018**

Contracting Party	Number of Fishing Days ¹	Number of Vessels ¹
Canada	0	0
Cuba	0	0
Denmark – Faroe Islands – Greenland	0	0 0
European Union	0	0
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	0	0
Iceland	N/A	N/A
Japan	0	0
Korea	0	0
Norway	0	0
Russia	0	N/A
Ukraine	0	0
USA	0	0

¹ When the scientific advice estimates that the stock shows signs of recovery, the fishery shall be re-opened in accordance with the effort allocation key in place for this fishery at the time of the closure.



Annex 15. Press Release

NAFO MEETS FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDER MODERNIZED CONVENTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTRÉAL, QC, 22 SEPTEMBER 2017- The 39th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) took place from 18 to 22 September in Montréal, Canada. Over 180 delegates from 11 NAFO Contracting Parties were welcomed to Montréal by NAFO President, Stéphane Artano, and the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. The meeting marked a NAFO milestone, being the first Annual Meeting held under the amended NAFO Convention, which came into force 18 May 2017. These amendments to the Convention modernize NAFO, particularly by incorporating an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. This approach includes safeguarding the marine environment, conserving marine biodiversity and minimizing the risk of long term adverse effects of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem. The amendments also streamline NAFO's decision-making process, strengthen the obligations of Contracting Parties, Flag States and Port States, and institute a formal dispute settlement mechanism. In addition, to the traditional total allowable catch (TAC)* and quota decisions, significant decisions were made regarding the following:

- **NAFO agreed to a management strategy for Greenland halibut.** This management plan shall be in force from 2018 to 2023 and the TAC for this stock will be adjusted annually depending on the agreed Harvest Control Rule (HCR).
- **NAFO agreed to relaunch its second performance review.** This performance review will be completed by the next Annual Meeting in September 2018 and will address: conservation and management; compliance and enforcement; governance; science; international cooperation; financial and administrative issues. The previous NAFO performance review took place in 2011, with all of its recommendations having been addressed.
- **NAFO agreed to protect the entire New England Seamount chain,** amending the boundary of the area closed to bottom fishing to include all peaks in the chain. The protection of the entire chain as a whole will help in sustaining the biological connectivity and function of seamount communities at all depths. In addition, procedures leading to these closures were further streamlined.
- **NAFO agreed to a benchmark assessment of cod on the Flemish Cap in 2018.** This benchmark assessment will explore the robustness of the current assessment model and evaluate alternatives including multi-species models, with a number of international experts being invited to review. This assessment aims to improve confidence in future assessments of this stock.
- **NAFO re-elected current President,** Stéphane Artano (France in respect of Saint Pierre and Miquelon), for his second term, and Temur Tairov (Russian Federation) was elected as vice-Chair.

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PART II.
Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

39th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 18-22 September 2017
Montréal, Québec, Canada

1. Opening by the Chair, Judy Dwyer (Canada)

The Chair opened the meeting at 13:00 hours on Monday, 18 September 2017 at the Marriott Château Champlain, in Montréal, Québec, Canada. The Chair welcomed representatives from the following Contracting Parties (CPs) – Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Matthew Kendall (NAFO Secretariat) was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The following additions were made to the agenda under agenda Item 14 – Other Business:

- a) NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process
- b) Catch and Fishing Effort Reporting in Article 28.8. (a)
- c) Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) Update
- d) Recommendations from the Ad hoc virtual NAFO Website Re-design Working Group

The agenda was adopted, as amended (Annex 2).

4. Compliance review 2017 including review of reports of Apparent Infringements

The NAFO Secretariat noted that the compliance review working papers that were discussed at the Intersessional meeting have been revised with comments received from Contracting Parties following the meeting (STACTIC WP 17-01 (Rev. 2), STACTIC WP 17-02 (Rev. 2), and STACTIC WP 17-03 (Rev. 3)).

The NAFO Secretariat presented the draft Annual Compliance Review in STACTIC WP 17-27, and highlighted the inclusion of an analysis of compliance with the provision for 15% port inspections in Article 43.10 of the CEM. Contracting Parties discussed several omissions, additions and edits and the NAFO Secretariat agreed to revise the Working Paper with the suggested changes. Representatives from Canada, the European Union, the United States, and the NAFO Secretariat volunteered to complete Part 4: Trends, Conclusions and Recommendations. This was merged with the agreed changes into STACTIC WP 17-27 (Rev.). Contracting Parties provided additional comments that were incorporated into STACTIC WP 17-27 (Rev. 2) that was agreed to be sent to the Commission for adoption. Contracting Parties requested that the Secretariat conduct further analysis on the compliance with fishing activities in and around the VME closed areas, including fishing speed analysis by fishery.

Canada presented STACTIC WP 17-42 which was a proposal for a revised compliance review outline based on a previous discussion paper (STACTIC WP 17-38). Contracting Parties discussed the outline and the final version (STACTIC WP 17-42 (Rev. 2)) was created and agreed to be used as a template for the 2018 draft Annual Compliance Review.



It was **agreed** that:

- **The Annual Compliance Review outlined in STACTIC WP 17-27 (Rev. 2) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The revised compliance review outline presented in STACTIC WP 17-42 (Rev. 2) be used as a template for the 2018 draft Annual Compliance Review.**

5. Measures concerning repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area

Canada presented STACTIC WP 17-37, a discussion paper on measures concerning vessels demonstrating repeat non-compliance as demonstrated by serious infringements in the NAFO regulatory area, including a proposal for an “IUU like list”. It was a continuation of the discussion at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Following discussions of the three options and the tabulated information presented in the Working Paper. Contracting Parties agreed to submit and/or clarify outstanding domestic legislation/authorities/policies to Canada for inclusion in the table found in STACTIC WP 17-37. Canada expressed its commitment to deal with this issue and presented STACTIC WP 17-43, a proposal on establishing a NAFO Contracting Party “IUU List” to help deal with repeated non-compliance of serious infringements. Several Contracting Parties had reservations about this approach, although they confirmed their eagerness to promote deterrence and transparency. Canada withdrew the Working Paper. The European Union stated they will propose for the 2018 Intersessional meeting an amended format of the compliance review material regarding the apparent infringements issued considered intersessionally, to be included in the annual compliance report. The NAFO Secretariat was also asked to investigate what other RFMO’s are now doing to combat issues of repeated serious non-compliance and report results at the 2018 Intersessional meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will submit and/or clarify outstanding domestic legislation/authorities/policies to Canada for inclusion in the table found in STACTIC WP 17-37 before the 2018 Intersessional meeting.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat would report at the 2018 STACTIC Intersessional meeting on what other RFMO’s are doing to combat repeated serious infringements.**
- **The European Union would propose an amended format for the compliance review material related to apparent infringements, to be included in the Annual Compliance Report for the 2018 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**

6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 17-28 and noted that the presentation that Iceland made at the 2017 Intersessional meeting has been added to the Practices and Procedures webpage.

The European Union thanked Iceland for sharing this presentation but wondered if they could get a live demonstration as they found the technology very interesting. The Chair agreed with the European Union on the value of a demonstration and Iceland agreed to provide one at the 2018 Intersessional meeting. Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) also offered to provide a demonstration of their quota monitoring system for the 2018 Intersessional meeting.

7. Review of current IUU list

The Secretariat noted that there have not been any updates to the NAFO IUU List that was presented at the 2017 Intersessional meeting in STACTIC WP 17-05.

8. NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 17-29 highlighting the recent historical uploading project to digitize and post historic inspection and observer reports on the NAFO MCS Website.

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 17-34 highlighting a demonstration of the catch data query addition to the NAFO MCS website. Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for their work and approved the addition of the catch data query option to the NAFO MCS Website. The European Union also wondered if any of the other suggested enhancements presented at the 2017 Intersessional meeting in STACTIC WP 17-08 could be revisited, including Quota Monitoring. The NAFO Secretariat provided a demonstration of their Quota Monitoring webpage and Contracting Parties agreed to incorporate it into the MCS website.

Contracting Parties agreed that as they all in effect have inspection responsibilities at port States, the further access to some types of information on the MCS website currently restricted to those with an inspection presence at-sea, would be of benefit to their strategic control operations. After some discussion between Contracting Parties the European Union agreed to bring a proposal to address this to the 2018 Intersessional meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat would proceed with adding the catch data query tool to the NAFO MCS website as outlined in STACTIC WP 17-34.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat would begin work developing a quota monitoring enhancement to the MCS website as first detailed in STACTIC WP 17-08.**
- **The European Union would develop a proposal to enable Contracting Parties without an inspection presence access to further information on the MCS website for presentation at the 2018 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**

9. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM

The Chair presented STACTIC WP 17-30, which highlighted editorial changes in the CEM that were necessary following the entry into force of the amendments to the NAFO Convention. The Secretariat noted that these changes were reviewed by the EDG via correspondence since the 2017 Intersessional meeting. Contracting Parties agreed to forward these changes to the Commission for adoption.

The United States presented STACTIC WP 17-41 a proposal on the reinstatement of footnote 21 of the 2015 NAFO CEM quota table. After some discussion an updated STACTIC WP 17-41 (Revised) was created. Contracting Parties agreed to recommend to the Commission that former footnote 21 be re-instated as it appeared in the 2015 NAFO CEM, with Canada and the European Union noting there are differences in interpretation of the footnote. The reinsertion of former footnote 21 will be done without prejudice to NAFO's ability to review the footnote. Canada and the European Union put forward their view that the 15% was a bycatch limit, as is currently reflected in Article 6, and cannot be considered as a quota.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The changes to the NAFO CEM as a result of the entry into force of the amendments to the NAFO Convention presented in STACTIC WP 17-30 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **STACTIC recommends that the proposal presented in STACTIC WP 17-41 (Revised) to reinstate footnote 21 from the 2015 NAFO CEM be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

10. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures – possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

The NAFO Secretariat noted that at the 2017 Intersessional meeting it was agreed that the proposals presented in STACTIC WP 17-09, STACTIC WP 17-10, and STACTIC WP 17-15 (Revised) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

The United States presented STACTIC WP 17-33, a discussion paper on the need to clarify provisions related to the definition of directed fishing as well as on how to apply “move along” provisions to fixed gear, most notably longline fisheries. Contracting Parties discussed this paper, but no consensus was reached. The European Union and Canada oppose a revision of the definition of directed fishing, but agreed to consider new wording for the “move along” provisions when referring to fixed gear. The United States agreed to bring a proposal to the 2018 Intersessional meeting to address the applicability of the “move along” provision to fixed gear.

The European Union presented STACTIC WP 17-19 (Revised) on a proposed amendment to the NAFO CEM Chapter VI Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme. This was originally presented at the 2017 Intersessional meeting where it was agreed to have participants provide comments that would be incorporated into this revised version to be discussed at this meeting.

The objective of this Working Paper was to streamline and modernize the at-sea inspection and surveillance scheme. Contracting Parties discussed the comments and the resulting STACTIC WP 17-19 (Rev. 3) was presented highlighting these changes. After some discussion, Contracting Parties agreed to forward this Working Paper to the Commission for adoption.

The European Union also presented STACTIC WP 17-20 (Revised) proposing amendments to the NAFO CEM Chapter VII - Port State Control. This was also originally presented at the 2017 Intersessional meeting where it was also agreed to have participants provide comments that would be incorporated into this revised version to be discussed at this meeting.

Contracting Parties discussed these comments and the resulting STACTIC WP 17-20 (Rev. 2) was presented by the European Union. Contracting Parties agreed to forward this Working Paper to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The United States would bring a proposal to the 2018 Intersessional meeting to address the applicability of the “move along” provisions to fixed gear, including longline gear.**
- **The proposed changes to Chapter VI of the NAFO CEM found in STACTIC WP 17-19 (Rev. 3) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The proposed changes to Chapter VIII of the NAFO CEM found in STACTIC WP 17-20 (Rev. 2) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

11. Report and recommendations of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)

The STACTIC Chair noted that the Working Group last met in May 2017 and highlighted the decisions and important items from the report (FC Doc. 17-04). The Chair also presented a draft Terms of Reference in STACTIC WP 17-40. After discussions by Contracting Parties suggested edits were compiled into STACTIC WP 17-40 (Rev. 2) and it was agreed to forward this to the Commission for adoption. Contracting Parties discussed timelines for the revision of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM and Contracting Parties agreed to have a final version completed for the 2018 Annual Meeting. Contracting Parties agreed to meet via WebEx later in 2017 to consider the feedback expected from the Scientific Council about the potential utility of observer data for scientific purposes and to decide on a way forward.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The revised Terms of Reference for the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) as outlined in STACTIC WP 17-40 (Rev. 2) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The Working Group would report at the 2018 Annual Meeting with a final version of a new Article 30 of the NAFO CEM.**
- **A WebEx meeting of the Working Group be scheduled for October 2017 following the receipt of the survey results from the Scientific Council.**

12. Confidentiality measures in the NAFO CEM

Canada presented STACTIC WP 17-36 on clarifying access to information in the NAFO CEM, specifically proposing changes to the CEM to address access rights to the list of observers, as well as to reflect the current practice of the access to at-sea inspection reports on the NAFO MCS website. The European Union highlighted that STACTIC WP 17-19 (Rev. 3) discussed earlier at this meeting may already address the availability of at-sea Inspection Reports. Canada then presented STACTIC WP 17-36 (Revised) removing the references to access rights for at-sea inspection reports. Contracting Parties then agreed to forward this to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The proposal on clarifying access to information in the NAFO CEM presented in STACTIC WP 17-36 (Revised) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

13. Information Security Management System (ISMS)

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 17-31 outlining an alternative option for the storage of the NAFO Secretariat backup tapes. Contracting Parties agreed with the suggested course of action. The Secretariat also confirmed that the backup tapes are encrypted.

The NAFO Secretariat also presented STACTIC WP 17-32 which provided an update on the enhanced security project within the NAFO Secretariat.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat proceed with the tape storage plan detailed in STACTIC WP 17-31 and that this decision be sent to STACFAD for the allocation of appropriate resourcing.**

14. Other Matters

a. NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 17-35 which was drafted as a response to a recommendation from the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process to facilitate intersessional discussions between NAFO bodies, specifically by inserting a new rule 5.2 to the NAFO Rules of Procedure. After some discussion by Contracting Parties it was agreed to forward the Working Paper to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The changes in the NAFO Rules of Procedure presented in STACTIC WP 17-35 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

b. Catch and Fishing Effort Reporting in Article 28.8. (a)

Japan presented STACTIC WP 17-39, a discussion paper to clarify Article 28.8 (a) of the NAFO CEM on monthly catch and fishing effort reporting. It appears that there are some inconsistencies in how Contracting Parties are fulfilling this reporting obligation. There is also some question about the utility of the Article 28.8(a) reports, in the context of the availability of daily catch reports which can be used to automatically generate reports. Contracting Parties discussed this paper with the input of the NAFO Secretariat on how this data is used. It was agreed that the Secretariat report back at the 2018 Intersessional meeting on whether the data collected in the monthly provisional catch reports is available from other sources. It was also agreed that the Secretariat would look into other catch reporting provisions in the NAFO CEM that may have been made redundant by CATs. It was also agreed to add this topic to the agenda of the next Intersessional meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat would report back at the 2018 STACTIC Intersessional meeting with a review of the utility of the Provisional Monthly Catch Reports as per Article 28.8 (a).**
- **The NAFO Secretariat would look at the NAFO CEM to see if there are any provisions relating to catch reporting that may no longer be relevant due to having CATs, and report their findings at the 2018 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**
- **This topic be added to the agenda of the 2018 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**

c. Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) Update

The JAGDM Chair Lloyd Slaney (Canada) highlighted the latest developments with JAGDM, including that they will be meeting next in October 2017 with a NEAFC only agenda. The main topic for this meeting is updating the NEAFC's ISMS to the latest standard. He also noted that the referral of topics from NAFO has slowed, but JAGDM will meet again in Spring 2018 to address issues of concern to both NAFO and NEAFC.

d. Recommendations from the Ad hoc virtual NAFO Website Re-design Working Group

The NAFO Secretariat presented COM WP 17-29 and COM WP 17-30 on recommendations from the Ad-hoc virtual NAFO Website Re-design Working Group, highlighting the three phases of the NAFO website redesign and particularly Phase II on data classification. STACTIC agreed to provide feedback on Table 1.c of COM WP 17-29 regarding the distribution of information between the public and members pages and identify if any changes should be made, and provide an updated version to the working group following the 2018 Intersessional meeting. Contracting Parties agreed to empower the Working Group to continue their work.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The Ad hoc virtual NAFO Website Re-design Working Group be empowered to continue their work.**
- **STACTIC would provide feedback on Table 1.c of COM WP 17-29 to the working group following the 2018 Intersessional meeting.**

15. Election of Chair and vice-Chair

At the 2015 Annual Meeting, Judy Dwyer (Canada) was elected as Chair and Aronne Spezzani (European Union) was re-elected as vice Chair. The Chair noted that the two-year period has ended and opened the floor for nominations for the Chair and vice-Chair. Contracting Parties agreed that Judy Dwyer (Canada) and Aronne Spezzani (European Union) remain as Chair and Vice Chair respectively for a further two years.

It was **agreed** that:

- **That Judy Dwyer (Canada) would remain as STACTIC Chair and that Aronne Spezzani (European Union) remain Vice Chair for a further two years.**

16. Time and Place of next meeting

The next STACTIC Intersessional meeting will be held at the NAFO Secretariat in Halifax, Canada the week of 08 May 2018.

17. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted on 21 September 2017, prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 13:00 hours on 21 September 2017. The Chair thanked Canada for hosting the meeting and the NAFO Secretariat for their support during the meeting. She also thanked the meeting participants for their cooperation and input. The participants likewise expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for her leadership.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Judy Dwyer (Chair) Natasha Barbour Kerry Bungay Christopher French Mike Hurley Lloyd Slaney	Canada
Meinhard Gaardlykke Petur Jacobsen Mads T. Nedergaard	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Carlos Chamizo Carlos Ferreira Justine Jury Tomas Kazlauskas Epp Meremaa Glenn Quelch Aronne Spezzani	European Union
Björgólfur H. Ingason Hrannar M. Asgeirsson	Iceland
Masahiro Akiyama Masatsugu Nagano	Japan
Hilde Ognedal	Norway
Ilya Skryabin	Russian Federation
Kathy Cyr Elizabeth Etrie Mike Henry Susan Gardner Moira Kelly Gene Martin Richard Usher	United States of America
Jana Aker Matt Kendall DJ Laycock	NAFO Secretariat

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Judy Dwyer (Canada)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Compliance review 2017 including review of reports of Apparent Infringements
5. Measures concerning repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area
6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures
7. Review of current IUU list
8. NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website
9. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM
10. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures – possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
11. Report and recommendations of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)
12. Confidentiality measures in the NAFO CEM
13. Information Security Management System (ISMS)
14. Other Matters
 - a. NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process
 - b. Catch and Fishing Effort Reporting in Article 28.8. (a)
 - c. Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) Update
 - d. Recommendations from the Ad hoc virtual NAFO Website Re-design Working Group
15. Election of Chair and vice-Chair
16. Time and Place of next meeting
17. Adoption of Report
18. Adjournment

PART III.
Report of the Standing Committee
on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

39th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 18-22 September 2017
Montréal, Québec, Canada

1. Opening by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)

The first session of STACFAD was opened by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) on Monday, 18 September 2017. The Chair welcomed delegates and members of the NAFO Secretariat to the meeting.

Present were delegates from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Norway, Russian Federation and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The provisional agenda (Annex 2) was adopted as circulated.

4. Auditors' Report for 2016

Grant Thornton was appointed in 2016 to audit the financial statements of the Organization in accordance with the NAFO Financial Regulations.

NAFO adopted the use of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as the accounting framework for the Organization in 2012. Nevertheless, the Organization has had a number of departures from IFRS standards which has resulted in a qualified audit report. These deviations were clearly reported in the previous years' audit statements which were approved by the Commission. During the current year's audit, Grant Thornton advised that the summary of deviations from IFRS, would not allow them to issue a qualified opinion, as was received in the past from previous auditors.

Before finalizing the financial statements for the 2016 year end, Grant Thornton proposed that the Organization give consideration to its accounting options (STACFAD WP 17-07). A summary of the three options being proposed are:

1. Become fully IFRS compliant

Record all departures from generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), including the pension obligation as well as other non-cash expenses. Additional costs would be associated with receiving an actuarial valuation on an annual basis for both the pension obligation and the termination benefits. A separate statement or reconciliation would also have to be performed to calculate the excess surplus to be given back to CPs as per the financial regulations.

2. Correct sufficient departures so there is not a pervasive error in the financial statements

As long as the cumulative impact on the remaining departures was not pervasive to the financial statements as a whole, a qualified opinion could likely be issued. Due to the size of the pension obligation, this amount would be required to be booked on the balance sheet.



3. Prepare the financial statements under a different basis of accounting

If the actuarial and termination benefit obligation is not relevant to the users of the financial statements and the Organization does not wish to present these on the face of the financial statements, consideration could be made to change the financial regulations.

NAFO has historically not recorded its capital assets, capital leases and the actuarial valuation of its pension obligation and termination benefits in the financial statements. It has however, provided supplementary information in the notes to the financial statement for its members. NAFO members have always been aware that this has been a departure from accounting standards and have been satisfied with this approach. Continuing with this approach allows the Organization to align the financial statements with the annual calculation of billings.

A review of other international fisheries organizations, based in Canada, has determined that:

- none of the three currently follow IFRS standards, instead they follow Not-for-Profit standards;
- their by-laws have been modified to allow for departures from GAAP; and
- their financial statements are prepared to comply with their financial regulations.

It is anticipated that switching from IFRS to Not-for-Profit accounting standards would not have any substantial or negative impact on the day-to-day financial affairs of the Organization. Based on unaudited internal financial statements, it was noted that the total expenditures incurred for the fiscal period ending 2016 amounted to \$1,867,951, which was 6.5% under the approved budget of \$1,997,000.

STACFAD recommends that the Secretariat work with the auditors intersessionally to achieve the following:

- **Use Not-for-Profit accounting standards from the current International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) accounting framework;**
- **Develop language, to be adopted by the Commission via an e-mail vote prior to 31 December 2017, to modify the NAFO Financial Regulations to state that the Organization will follow Not-for-Profit accounting standards and to describe the specific departures from the generally accepted accounting practices**
- **Complete the current year's audit on the basis of the modified financial regulations, once approved.**

5. Administrative and Activity Report by NAFO Secretariat

a. Administrative and Activity Report

The Executive Secretary highlighted NAFO administrative matters and activities for the period September 2016 to August 2017 (COM Doc. 17-06).

b. NAFO website

As the final stage of the NAFO website re-design project, and as agreed at the 2016 Annual Meeting of NAFO, the Secretariat continues to work towards a redesign of the secure sections of the NAFO website. It was agreed that the redesign should incorporate concerns raised regarding transparency in NAFO proceedings taking into account the different users of the NAFO website.

The Website Re-design *Ad hoc* virtual Working Group was established and continued to work intersessionally, in consultation with the Chairs of STACFAD and STACTIC, to develop standards and guidelines of access to documentation contained on secure portals including classifying which documentation requires log-in

credentials. An update on the progress of the group was presented (COM WP 17-29) as well as its recommendations (COM WP 17-30). The Secretariat is thanked for their work in facilitating these efforts.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **NAFO Contracting Parties strongly encourage additional participation in the *Ad hoc* virtual Working Group, in particular individuals from a broader range of Contracting Parties, and especially those with familiarity in either the technical and administrative aspects of NAFO.**
- **The *Ad hoc* virtual Working Group continue to work intersessionally, in consultation with the STACFAD and STACTIC Chairs, to further develop standards and guidelines of access to documentation contained in the NAFO forums for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting of NAFO.**
- **The *Ad hoc* virtual Working Group is empowered to make decisions on moving information that is clearly of a non-sensitive nature that can be migrated immediately from the restricted section of the NAFO website to the public pages, or from a more limited to a broader access within the restricted section, with the view to be as transparent as possible.**

6. Financial Statements for 2017

The Secretariat presented the 2017 financial statements to the Committee. The operating budget for 2017 was approved at \$2,126,000 while expenditures for the year are projected to be at \$1,999,000, or \$127,000 under the approved budget. Savings for the year can be attributed to the following:

- 1) Annual meeting costs being lower than budgeted;
- 2) Fewer SC Inter-sessional meetings; and
- 3) Organizational Performance Review being deferred until 2018.

All remaining 2017 operating expenses are anticipated to be on or near budget for the year. The above noted cost savings of \$127,000 will be returned to the accumulated surplus and will be available to reduce Contracting Parties contributions in 2018.

Assessed Contributions

At the beginning of 2017, the accumulated surplus had \$346,636, which was deemed to be in excess of the needs of the Organization and was allocated towards the 2017 operating budget. Therefore, in order to meet the 2017 operations budget of \$2,126,000, Contracting Parties were assessed contributions in the amount of \$1,779,364.

Balance Sheet

The Organization's cash position at December 31, 2017 is estimated to be \$574,963. The cash balance should be sufficient to finance appropriations in early 2018 pending the receipt of annual payments by Contracting Parties in the spring of 2018.

It was noted that France (SPM) and Ukraine have full outstanding contributions for 2017. However, France (SPM) confirmed that their 2017 contribution was issued and should be received by the Secretariat during the week of the Annual Meeting. It was also noted that Ukraine recently informed the Secretariat that payment for their outstanding contributions would be issued in the near future.

7. Review of Accumulated Surplus Account and Contingency Fund

According to the Financial Regulations, STACFAD and Commission shall review the amount available in the accumulated surplus account during each Annual Meeting. The accumulated surplus account shall be set at a level sufficient to temporarily finance operations during the first three months of the year, plus an amount up

to a maximum of 10% of the annual budget for the current financial year to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses to the good conduct of the business of the Organization.

The Secretariat noted the accumulated surplus account at December 31, 2017 is estimated to be \$656,000.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The amount maintained in the accumulated surplus account be set at \$285,000 of which \$200,000 would be sufficient to finance operations during the first three months of 2018, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.**

8. Personnel Matters

The NAFO Secretariat presented two staff members who were eligible for promotion and the Committee was in agreement with the proposed promotions.

9. Internship Program

The Secretariat presented a report (STACFAD WP 17-01) on the activities of the internship program which occurred during the year including the tasks being performed by the intern, Jessica Randall (USA), hosted at the Secretariat in 2017.

The Committee recognized the benefits of the internship program to not only the Secretariat and the Organization but to the interns as well.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The internship period be maintained for six (6) months during 2018.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat is encouraged to utilize the entire allocation for the internship program annually to fully achieve the benefits of the program.**

10. Implementation of the Amendments to the NAFO Convention

a. Updates to the NAFO Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Rules

One of the changes resulting from the amended NAFO Convention was the merger of the General Council and the Fisheries Commission into one body, the Commission. This entailed changes to the NAFO Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Rules, particularly to replace any references to the “*General Council*” and/or “*Fisheries Commission*” with “*the Commission*”.

Consequently, a STACFAD Working Group was formed in 2010 to revise the NAFO Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Rules in anticipation of the amended Convention entering into force. The Report of the STACFAD Working Group, 28-29 April 2010 (GC Doc. 10-02) was adopted at the 32nd Annual Meeting, 20-24 September 2010.

As there have been numerous amendments to the NAFO Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Rules since the adoption of the 2010 STACFAD Working Group Report, the NAFO Secretariat presented a Working Paper which was an amalgamation of the 2010 Report and adopted amendments made from 2010 onwards (COM WP 17-09 Revised to COM WP 17-11). The revised Rules of Procedure also include a new Rule 5.2 enabling STACTIC to communicate directly with the Scientific Council and other NAFO subsidiary bodies as was proposed by the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG).

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The NAFO Rules of Procedure (COM Working Paper 17-09 Revised); NAFO Financial Regulations (COM Working Paper 17-10) and NAFO Staff Rules (COM Working Paper 17-11) are adopted by the Commission.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat was requested, as per Rule 5 of the NAFO Financial Regulations, to report on the condition of the Scientific Research Fund, including the contributions received and their dispositions, beginning at the next Annual Meeting.**

Norway indicated its intent to review the NAFO Rules of Procedure, particularly Rule 2 regarding Voting, to develop a proposal to improve their clarity and understandability for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting. The Committee would welcome such a proposal but requests that it be provided well in advance to ensure adequate time for review. This proposal, along with any recommendations regarding NAFO Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Rules that may arise from the Performance Review panel will be considered at the 2018 Annual Meeting. The Committee also noted that a holistic review of the Rules of Procedure may be warranted.

b. Adjustment to 2017 Annual Contributions

Under the amended NAFO Convention, which entered into force on 18 May 2017, the formula to calculate the respective annual contributions of Contracting Parties has been revised. Annual contributions for 2017 due from Contracting Parties that were issued in early March 2017 were based on the previous formula in force at that time. Because of the mid-year revision to the billing formula under the recent amendments, it is necessary recalculate annual contributions for 2017.

A summary of the adjustments to the 2017 contributions and amounts owing from or payable to Contracting Parties for 2017 was presented (STACFAD WP 17-02) and is provided in the table below. Contributions from 01 January to 17 May have been pro-rated based on the previous formula and contributions from 18 May to 31 December have been pro-rated based on the revised formula in the amended Convention.

Adjustment to 2017 Annual Contributions			
Contracting Party	Previously issued 2017 Contributions	Revised 2017 Contributions	Amount Owing from or Payable to
Canada	\$663,374	\$720,432	-\$57,058
Cuba	\$45,445	\$50,164	-\$4,719
DFG	\$312,330	\$250,610	\$61,720
EU	\$97,865	\$144,932	-\$47,067
Fr-SPM	\$51,147	\$55,390	-\$4,243
Iceland	\$44,484	\$48,758	-\$4,274
Japan	\$44,484	\$48,758	-\$4,274
Norway	\$48,861	\$55,566	-\$6,705
Korea	\$44,484	\$48,758	-\$4,274
Russia	\$59,004	\$72,782	-\$13,778
Ukraine	\$44,484	\$48,758	-\$4,274
USA	\$323,402	\$234,456	\$88,946
	\$1,779,364	\$1,779,364	\$0

STACFAD recommends that:

- **Any difference in 2017 annual contributions either owing from or payable to Contracting Parties, resulting from the revised calculation versus the 2017 billing previously issued, will be applied against 2018 annual contributions. Any Contracting Party with a balance owing to the Organization may instead request an invoice from the Secretariat to remit payment prior to the end of the 2017.**

11. Report on the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS)

The Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) was co-hosted by the Pacific Salmon Commission and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission during 19-21 April 2017 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The Secretariat provided the Committee with an update on the highlights of the meeting. Background information on the pension plan, investment performance, financial status, as well as future administrative support was included with the information paper (STACFAD WP 17-03).

The latest actuarial valuation of the pension plan's assets and liabilities was performed on 1 January 2017. Based on the current economic data, several key assumptions in the valuation were revised, including the expected rate of return, mortality projection and retirement rates. These revised assumptions played a significant role in the pension fund deficit increasing from \$2,296,000 to \$3,206,00, since the last valuation was performed in 2014. Annual supplemental payments of \$320,600 will be required for the next 10 years, to address the pension deficiency. Consequently, additional funding of \$54,872 per year is required to cover this increase in liability from the previous valuation.

12. Update on implementation of the NAFO Performance Review Panel (PRP) recommendations tasked to STACFAD

One PRP recommendation tasked to STACFAD remains outstanding. PRP Recommendation 7.2.3 suggests amending certain provisions of the NAFO Staff Rules pertaining to the rights and obligations of NAFO Secretariat Staff, particularly dismissal or termination of appointment. A review of this agenda item has been deferred in prior years until the conclusion of the current wrongful dismissal legal case against NAFO.

Now that the legal case has been concluded, the NAFO Secretariat began a review of the current Staff Rules related to dismissal or termination, with the assistance of its lawyers. Once the review has been completed, a copy of the final report and any proposed changes will be presented to STACFAD in advance of the 2018 Annual Meeting.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **PRP Recommendation 7.2.3 be recognized as a stand-alone item, as this is the final PRP Recommendation to be completed from the first Performance Review of NAFO, and any resulting proposed changes to the Staff Rules be considered at the next Annual Meeting.**

13. Budget Estimate for 2018

The Committee reviewed the 2018 budget estimate as detailed in COM WP 17-03(Revised).

<i>Approved Budget 2017</i>	<i>Preliminary Budget Forecast 2018</i>	<i>Budget Estimate 2018</i>
<i>\$2,126,000</i>	<i>\$2,051,000</i>	<i>\$2,297,000</i>

The 2018 budget estimate of \$2,297,000 represents an increase of \$171,000 or 8.0% over the prior years approved budget.

The Committee noted that the latest actuarial valuation of the NAFO pension plan showed that the plan is in a deficit or unfunded position of \$3.2 million vs. the unfunded position from three years ago of \$2.3 million. The unfunded pension liability requires annual supplemental payments of \$320,600 for the next 10 years. This supplementary payment has been included in the Superannuation and Annuities budget line item.

As NAFO's second Performance Review was deferred until 2018, it was noted that \$93,000 originally earmarked for 2017, has once again been budgeted to cover expenses associated with the external review panel members' fees and travel, printing, etc.

It is anticipated that two additional inter-sessional scientific meetings, specifically the Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF) and the COD 3M Benchmark meetings, will be necessary to provide answers for requests for advice from the Commission. Therefore, an additional \$35,000 has been added to the inter-sessional scientific budget for 2018. As recommended by STACTIC to improve data security, an additional \$5,000 will be needed for external data storage.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The budget for 2018 of \$2,297,000 (Annex 3) be adopted.**

14. Budget Forecast for 2019 and 2020

STACFAD reviewed the preliminary budget forecast for 2019 (\$2,225,000) and 2020 (\$2,263,000) (Annex 4) and approved the forecast in principle. It was noted that the budget for 2019 will be reviewed in detail at the next Annual Meeting.

15. Adoption of 2017/2018 Staff Committee Appointees

The Secretariat members nominated the following people to serve as members of the Staff Committee for September 2017–September 2018: Justine Jury (EU), Joanne Morgan (Canada) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA).

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The Commission appoint the three Staff Committee nominees, Justine Jury (EU); Joanne Morgan (Canada) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), for September 2017–September 2018.**

16. Office Relocation Update

The current lease of the NAFO Secretariat headquarters has been extended and is scheduled to expire on April 30, 2018. The Secretariat has been informed by the Government of Canada that it will not likely be renewing its leases at 2 Morris Drive and therefore the NAFO Secretariat will have to relocate.

At last year's Annual Meeting, STACFAD noted the importance of ensuring the Secretariat is provided with appropriate space to meet the needs and interests of the Organization, including computer and data security, conference meeting space, security, etc.

Although a smaller footprint has been proposed for NAFO's new premises, due to its unique operational and special-purpose space requirements, an exemption from the Government of Canada's normal Workplace 2.0 Fit-Up standards was approved by Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC). This will provide for additional offices, a large conference room, medium-sized publications and storage rooms, and reception area in addition to the standard common amenities. As PSPC has now given its approval to NAFO's office space

requirements, work will begin on a suitable office design and layout for the new premises in downtown Halifax. The Committee encouraged the NAFO Secretariat and Canada to begin discussions to plan this work shortly following the Annual Meeting.

The Committee noted that the timing of the office relocation be considered to minimize its impact on workflow, particularly the second Performance Review of NAFO taking place in early 2018. It was further emphasized that disruption of web and data servers be kept to a minimum. Canada noted that no additional expenses are anticipated to be incurred by the Organization for the move.

17. Other Business

No other business was raised by the Committee.

18. Election of vice-Chair

According to the NAFO Rules of Procedure "*The Committee shall elect from among its members, to serve for two years, a Chair and a vice-Chair who shall be allowed to vote.*"

The present vice-Chair, Élise Lavigne (Canada), was nominated and re-elected for a two-year term.

19. Time and Place of 2018-2020 Annual Meetings

As previously agreed, the 2018 and 2019 Annual Meetings will be held 17-21 September and 23-27 September, respectively. The meetings will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The 2020 Annual Meeting to be held (to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) to be as follows:**

21-25 September 2020

20. Adjournment

The final session of the STACFAD meeting adjourned on 21 September 2017.

The Committee thanked the Chair for her efficient and expedient work. Gratitude was expressed to Committee for its constructive cooperation this week, and to the NAFO Secretariat for its excellent support.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Élise Lavigne	Canada
Rasmus Bæk Pedersen	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Karen Eva Abrahamsen	European Union
Christiane Laurent-Monpetit Benoît Tourtois	France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)
Masanori Wada	Japan
Hanne Østgård	Norway
Julia Badina	Russian Federation
Leah Fine Elizabethann Mencher Deirdre Warner-Kramer	United States of America
Fred Kingston Stan Goodick Lisa LeFort	NAFO Secretariat

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Auditors' Report for 2016
5. Administrative and Activity Report by NAFO Secretariat
 - a. Administrative and Activity Report
 - b. NAFO website
6. Financial Statements for 2017
7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Contingency Fund
8. Personnel Matters
9. Internship Program
10. Implementation of the Amendments to the NAFO Convention
 - a. Updates to the NAFO Rules of Procedure, Financial Regulations and Staff Rules
 - b. Adjustment to 2017 Annual Contributions
11. Report of the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS)
12. Update on implementation of the NAFO Performance Review Panel (PRP) recommendations tasked to STACFAD
13. Budget Estimate for 2018
14. Budget Forecast for 2019 and 2020
15. Adoption of 2017/2018 Staff Committee Appointees
16. Office Relocation Update
17. Other Business
18. Election of vice-Chair
19. Time and Place of 2018-2020 Annual Meetings
20. Adjournment

Annex 3. Budget Estimate for 2018

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Budget Estimate for 2018

(Canadian Dollars)

	Approved Budget 2017	Projected Expenditures 2017	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2018	Budget Estimate 2018
1. Personal Services				
a) Salaries	\$1,026,000	\$1,028,000	\$1,069,000	\$1,080,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	348,000	348,000	350,000	466,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	93,000	89,000	99,000	93,000
d) Employee Benefits	62,000	64,000	65,000	68,000
Subtotal Personal Services	1,529,000	1,529,000	1,583,000	1,707,000
2. Additional Help	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
3. Communications	23,000	23,000	23,000	24,000
4. Computer Services	42,000	42,000	42,000	47,000
5. Equipment	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	50,000	50,000	41,000	41,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
8. Internship	11,000	6,000	11,000	11,000
9. Materials and Supplies	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
10. NAFO Meetings				
a) Sessional	118,000	96,000	120,000	109,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	55,000	34,000	25,000	60,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	32,000	36,000	32,000	35,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	205,000	166,000	177,000	204,000
11. Other Meetings and Travel	35,000	35,000	35,000	32,000
12. Performance/External Reviews	93,000	-	-	93,000
13. Professional Services	51,000	61,000	52,000	51,000
14. Publications	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
15. Recruitment and Relocation	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
	\$2,126,000	\$1,999,000	\$2,051,000	\$2,297,000

Notes on Budget Estimate 2018
(Canadian Dollars)

Item 1(a)	Salaries Salaries budget estimate for 2018.	\$1,080,000
Item 1(b)	Superannuation and Annuities Employer's pension plan which includes employer's contributions, administration costs, actuarial fees and the required annual payment towards previous pension plan deficits.	\$466,000
Item 1(c)	Group Medical and Insurance Plans Employer's portion of Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Group Life Insurance, Long Term Disability Insurance and Medical Coverage.	\$93,000
Item 1(d)	Employee Benefits Employee benefits as per the NAFO Staff Rules including overtime, repatriation grant, termination benefits, vacation pay, and travel to home country for internationally recruited members of the Secretariat.	\$68,000
Item 2	Additional Support Other assistance as required.	\$2,000
Item 3	Communications Phone, fax and internet services Postage and Courier	\$24,000 \$18,000 6,000
Item 4	Computer Services Computer hardware, offsite backup storage, software, supplies and support.	\$47,000
Item 5	Equipment Leases (print department printer, photocopier and postage meter) Purchases Maintenance	\$28,000 \$15,000 9,000 4,000
Item 6	Fishery Monitoring Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) annual maintenance fee including programming changes as required due to changes to CEM Oracle database annual maintenance	\$41,000 \$38,000 3,000

Item 10(a)	NAFO Sessional Meetings Annual Meeting, September 2018 SC Meeting, June 2018, Halifax, Canada SC Meeting, October 2018	\$109,000
Item 10(b)	NAFO Inter-sessional Scientific Meetings Provision for inter-sessional meetings and a general provision for unforeseen expenses necessarily incurred by SC required for the provision of answering requests for advice from the Commission. Special Meetings for PA Framework and 3M Cod Benchmark Review	\$60,000 \$25,000 \$35,000
Item 10(c)	NAFO Inter-sessional Other General provision for Commission inter-sessional meetings.	\$35,000
Item 11	Other Meetings and Travel International Meetings regularly attended by the NAFO Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) 2. Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 3. Co-ordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) 4. Fisheries Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS) 5. International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) 6. Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) 7. United Nations 	\$32,000
Item 12	Performance/External Reviews Costs associated with the performance review of the Organization.	\$93,000
Item 13	Professional Services Professional Services (audit, consulting, legal fees, and insurance) Professional Development and Training Public Relations	\$51,000 \$35,000 11,000 5,000
Item 14	Publications Production costs of NAFO publications, booklets, brochures, posters, etc., which may include the following: Conservation and Enforcement Measures, Convention, Inspection Forms, Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science, Meeting Proceedings, Rules of Procedure, Scientific Council Reports, Staff Rules, Secretariat Structure, etc.	\$14,000

Annex 4. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2019 and 2020

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2019 and 2020

(Canadian Dollars)

	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2019	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2020
1 Personal Services		
a) Salaries	\$1,117,000	\$1,152,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	464,000	461,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	98,000	102,000
d) Employee Benefits	68,000	68,000
Subtotal Personal Services	1,747,000	1,783,000
2 Additional Help	2,000	2,000
3 Communications	24,000	24,000
4 Computer Services	42,000	43,000
5 Equipment	28,000	28,000
6 Fishery Monitoring	42,000	42,000
7 Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000
8 Internship	11,000	11,000
9 Materials and Supplies	28,000	28,000
10 NAFO Meetings		
a) Sessional	129,000	130,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	25,000	25,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	35,000	35,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	189,000	190,000
11 Other Meetings and Travel	32,000	32,000
12 Professional Services	51,000	51,000
13 Publications	14,000	14,000
14 Recruitment and Relocation	12,000	12,000
	\$2,225,000	\$2,263,000

Annex 5. Preliminary Calculation of Billing for 2018

**Preliminary calculation of billing for Contracting Parties
against the proposed estimate of \$2,297,000 for the 2018 financial year
(Canadian Dollars)**

Budget Estimate		\$2,297,000
Deduct:	Amount from Accumulated Surplus Account (pending approval from the Commission)	\$371,000
Funds required to meet 2018 Administrative Budget		\$1,926,000

Part A

Contracting Parties	Catches 2015	Catch %	NAFO Convention Article IX.2.a,b,c			Subtotal
			10%	30%	60%	
Canada	210,530	48.55%	\$105,487	\$48,150	\$561,044	\$714,681
Cuba	1,059	0.24%	-	\$48,150	\$2,773	\$50,923
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (Note 2)	144,472	33.32%	\$72,389	\$48,150	\$385,046	\$505,585
European Union	32,073	7.40%	-	\$48,150	\$85,514	\$133,664
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	1,816	0.42%	\$910	\$48,150	\$4,854	\$53,914
Iceland	-	-	-	\$48,150	-	\$48,150
Japan	-	-	-	\$48,150	-	\$48,150
Norway	2,939	0.68%	-	\$48,150	\$7,858	\$56,008
Republic of Korea	-	-	-	\$48,150	-	\$48,150
Russian Federation	13,146	3.03%	-	\$48,150	\$35,015	\$83,165
Ukraine	-	-	-	\$48,150	-	\$48,150
United States of America	27,569	6.36%	\$13,814	\$48,150	\$73,496	\$135,460
Total	433,604	100.00%	\$192,600	\$577,800	\$1,155,600	\$1,926,000

Part B

Contracting Parties	Subtotal from Part A	NAFO Convention Article IX.2.d (Note 1)					Subtotal	Total contribution
		% Contribution	Catch % minus DFG	10%	30%	60%		
Canada	\$714,681	37.11%	72.81%	\$24,085	\$7,485	\$119,915	\$151,485	\$866,166
Cuba	\$50,923	2.64%	0.37%	-	\$7,485	\$603	\$8,088	\$59,011
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)	\$505,585	26.25%	-	-\$27,446	-\$82,335	-\$164,675	-\$274,456	\$231,129
European Union	\$133,664	6.94%	11.09%	-	\$7,485	\$18,268	\$25,753	\$159,417
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	\$53,914	2.80%	0.63%	\$208	\$7,485	\$1,034	\$8,727	\$62,641
Iceland	\$48,150	2.50%	-	-	\$7,485	\$0	\$7,485	\$55,635
Japan	\$48,150	2.50%	-	-	\$7,485	\$0	\$7,485	\$55,635
Norway	\$56,008	2.91%	1.02%	-	\$7,485	\$1,674	\$9,159	\$65,167
Republic of Korea	\$48,150	2.50%	-	-	\$7,485	\$0	\$7,485	\$55,635
Russian Federation	\$83,165	4.32%	4.55%	-	\$7,485	\$7,487	\$14,972	\$98,137
Ukraine	\$48,150	2.50%	-	-	\$7,485	\$0	\$7,485	\$55,635
United States of America	\$135,460	7.03%	9.53%	\$3,153	\$7,485	\$15,694	\$26,332	\$161,792
Total	\$1,926,000	100.00%	100.00%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,926,000

Note 1

The annual contribution of any Contracting Party which has a population of less than 300,000 inhabitants shall be limited to a maximum of 12% of the total budget. When this contribution is so limited, the remaining part of the budget shall be divided among the other Contracting Parties in accordance with Article IX.2.a,b and c of the NAFO Convention.

Note 2

Faroe Islands 3,767 metric tons
Greenland 140,705 metric tons

