



37TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2015

Recommendations from the WG-CR to forward to the FC and SC

The Joint FC-SC Working Group on Catch Reporting met on 20-21 April 2015 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FC/SC Doc. 15/01):

It is **recommended**:

- 1) that the Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting continues, with the same goals and objectives for at least another year;
- 2) that SC and FC give consideration to the establishment of the Catch Data Advisory Group and adopt its Terms of Reference (Annex); and
- 3) that SC and FC or an appropriate subsidiary body review the utility of data collection more generally, noting that some newer data sets provide more reliable and/ or timely information, making others redundant.



Annex. Proposed Terms of Reference of the Catch Data Advisory Group

Mindful that the availability of accurate catch data is critical for scientific assessment and the sustainable management of NAFO stocks;

Concerned that the reliability of catch data continues to be one of the most significant issues facing NAFO;

Recognizing the importance of communication between the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council and recent efforts to enhance this dialogue and information exchange through the establishment of joint working groups;

Recalling that the Peer-Review Expert Panel highlighted the need for a more coordinated analysis of data (GC Doc 13/4);

Noting the positive steps taken by NAFO to improve data accuracy and data-sharing including sharing daily catch reports with the Scientific Council, as well as the establishment of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Catch Reporting

Further noting the positive steps taken by the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Catch Reporting during its initial meeting in February 2014, in particular, its review and evaluation of NAFO data sources which may be of utility for the validation of catch data;

Following on the instructions of the Fisheries Commission to the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Catch Reporting to develop a framework for the validation of NAFO catch data and generation of catch estimates (FC Doc 14/30)

Convinced of the need for a collaborative approach (Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council) to validate STATLANT data and where necessary, generate catch estimates for use in assessments and overall management of NAFO stocks;

It is **recommended** that:

A Catch Data Advisory Group is established subject to the following Terms of Reference:

Objectives:

1. to identify and provide guidance to the NAFO Secretariat on specific data inputs, gaps and parameters, in particular ensuring the representativeness of data for validating catch and/or developing catch estimates;
2. to provide oversight and endorsement of catch estimate methodology prepared by NAFO Secretariat;

Structure:

The Group shall be comprised of technical experts from Contracting Parties, with knowledge of data sources and reliability thereof and/or operational practices within the fishery, and the NAFO Secretariat.

Specific Duties:

In responding to requests from the Fisheries Commission or Scientific Council to undertake an assessment of catch for an individual stock(s), with initial priority given to SA2 + Div. 3KLMNO Greenland halibut, Div. 3LNO American plaice and Div. 3M cod, the Advisory Group shall:

- review available data sources with reference to Appendix 1 and establish parameters for catch data review; propose a methodology to be used by the Secretariat;
- Report to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council

The NAFO Secretariat shall:

- review the information and derive an estimate (possibly with support from designated experts or agreed upon resource persons), ensuring confidentiality of data;
- provide estimates to the Scientific Council for stock assessment purposes

Meetings:

Meetings of the Catch Data Advisory Group may be held at the request of the Fisheries Commission or the Scientific Council, in consultation with Contracting Parties and the NAFO Secretariat. Timing should be decided on a case by case basis, recognizing the need to conduct catch validation in a time frame that will enable its use for stock assessments;

The Advisory Group shall communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically (WebEx) as required.

Reporting

A summary report, highlighting data sources, parameters of analysis, and subsequent results shall be produced for broad dissemination. Such reports will be limited to aggregate and/or anonymized data/conclusions.

Detailed analytical data and assessments will remain with the NAFO Secretariat for internal use of the Advisory Group to ensure confidentiality.