



**38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Recommendations from the WG-EAFFM to forward to FC and SC**

The Joint FC-SC Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management met 10-12 August 2016 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations:

**WG-EAFFM recommends:**

**In relation to the reassessment of NAFO bottom fisheries (EAFFM agenda item 4a)**

1. To support the next re-assessment in 2020, that SC;
  - a) assess the overlap of NAFO fisheries with VME to evaluate fishery specific impacts in addition to the cumulative impacts;
  - b) consider clearer objective ranking processes and options for objective weighting criteria for the overall assessment of risk;
  - c) maintain efforts to assess all of the six FAO criteria (Article 18 Article 18 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas) including the three FAO functional SAI criteria which could not be evaluated in the current assessment (recovery potential, ecosystem function alteration, and impact relative to habitat use duration of VME indicator species).
  - d) continue work on non-sponge and coral VMEs (for example bryozoan and sea squirts) to prepare for the next assessment.

**In relation to widening the scope of the NAFO coral and sponge guide (EAFFM item 4b)**

2. In addition to the VME guide, that SC further develop and compile identification guides for fishes (e.g. sharks and skates) that could be provided to observers.

**In relation to risk assessment of scientific trawl surveys impact on VMEs (EAFFM item 4c)**

3. In consideration of other SC priorities, that SC maintain efforts to conclude the assessment of the impact of survey hauls on VMEs in closed areas and the effect of excluding surveys from these areas on stock assessments.

**In relation to potential impact of non-fishing activities (EAFFM item 4d)**

4. That NAFO Secretariat maintains dialogue with relevant organizations and explore mechanisms to improve the exchange of information. The FC and Contracting Parties may consider other means to facilitate active monitoring of assessments, planning processes and actions taken in other fora in order to identify and, if needed, respond on issues concerning NRA fisheries, fisheries resources, and biodiversity.

**In relation to ongoing matters (EAFFM agenda item 5)**

5. Taking note of the recent SAI assessment from the SC, that FC consider management response, if appropriate, including the possible closure of the areas previously identified as sea pen candidate areas 13 and 14 (Eastern Flemish Cap) if proposals are made at the annual meeting (see Annex 1).

**In relation to Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) (EAFFM agenda item 6)**

6. FC/SC give consideration (possibly through their informal dialogue) to how Fisheries Production Potential (FPP) limits could inform management of NAFO stocks and provide feedback and further direction.

## Annex 1. Maps of Candidate Areas 13 and 14 referred to in Recommendation 5

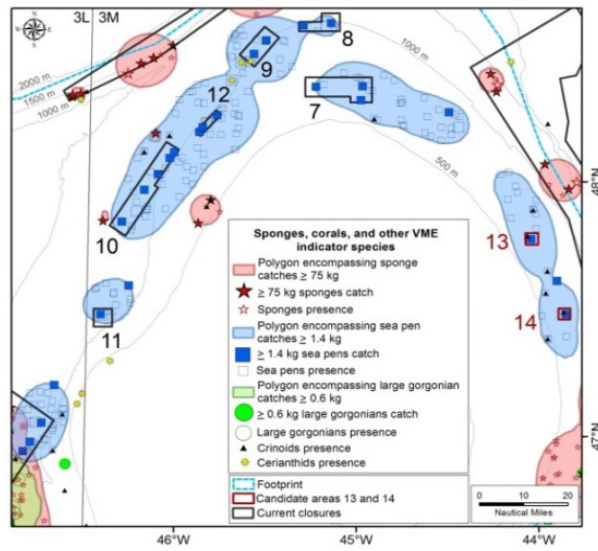


Figure 1. Closed Areas 7 – 12 and Candidate Areas 13 and 14.

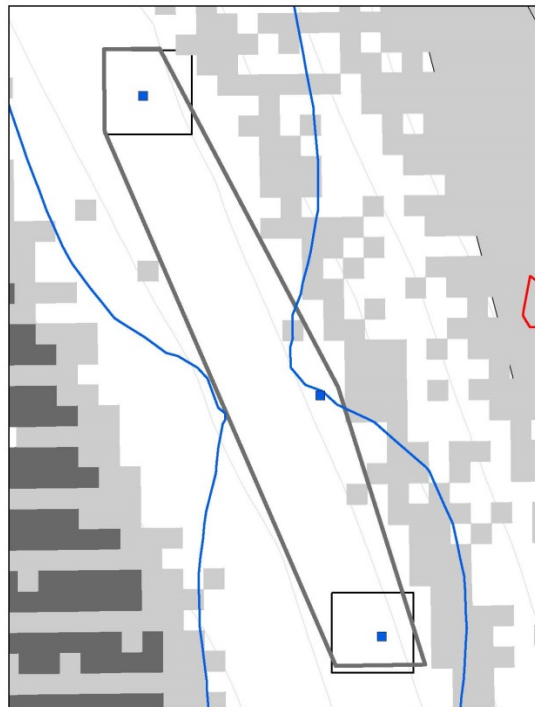


Figure 2. Candidate Areas 13 and 14.