

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N2164

NAFO/FC Doc. 92/20  
(Revised)

14TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1992

14-18 September 1992, Dartmouth, N.S., Canada

Determination of the optimum volume and funding of scientific  
research in the NAFO Regulatory Area

Background

The data utilized by the Scientific Council come largely from four sources - commercial fisheries, research surveys, biological studies and oceanographic studies. The difficulties caused for the Scientific Council by the lack and/or incomplete submission of catch and effort data, and poor sampling of commercial catches remain of major significance and have been discussed frequently, although apparently to little avail. The Scientific Council is increasingly concerned that the information from the other three sources is also deteriorating due to funding constraints, rather than being augmented as repeatedly recommended by the Council.

Research is conducted from vessels of a limited number of Contracting Parties. Considerable expenses are involved, and are assumed only by nations that make those studies.

Proposal

With the purpose of understanding the extent of the research being carried out, and the nature of the research that would be desirable, as well as the costs of both current research, and the likely costs of alternate approaches to enhancing the scientific effort, the Fisheries Commission requests

the Scientific Council of NAFO to describe current research being carried out by relevant Contracting Parties on the stocks under NAFO management, together with the costs of such research, and to determine the optimum volume of scientific work by each division and stock needed for monitoring and for estimation of TACs, as well as work necessary to understand the environmental and ecological factors influencing stock abundance. The Council is requested further to consider options for achieving the desired level of research and to provide estimates of cost.