

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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90 mm Minimum Mesh Size for Redfish Fishery

NAFO CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

Amend Part I - to add new item H:

A 90 mm minimum mesh size for mid-water trawls only be permitted in the Redfish fishery in 1997 in Divisions 3LN on an experimental basis provided that the following additional Conservation and Enforcement Measures apply:

1. A by-catch protocol as follows:

If the bycatch for each individual vessel of species under moratoria or species where there is no national allocation exceeds the prescribed levels in the Conservation and Enforcement Measures, determined in a period of a single day, then this particular vessel must immediately convert from 90 mm mesh to 130 mm. Vessel masters will be instructed in this regard by NAFO inspectors.

This vessel will be required to maintain fishing operations with 130 mm mesh for 10 consecutive days before test fishing with 90 mm fishing gear is permitted. If test fishing indicates that the bycatch levels are within those prescribed this vessel will be permitted to immediately commence fishing with 90 mm gear. If test fishing results continue to indicate excessive bycatch levels the vessel must fish with 130 mm gear for an additional 10 days.

2. Contracting Parties must provide on a timely basis data on the entire project, including the bycatch statistics.
3. The project will not continue after 1997 unless all information collected during this project, as well as the bycatch protocol, is reviewed by both STACTIC and the Scientific Council at the 1997 annual meeting and the Fisheries Commission extends the project.

NOTE: The pilot project for 100% observer coverage currently in effect makes this type of project possible for 1997.