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Report of the NAFO/NEAFC Working Group
on Oceanic Redfish

13-14 February 2001
Reykjavik, Iceland

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2001

Members of the Fisheries Commission:

Canada
Cuba
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Estonia
European Union
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)
Iceland
Japan
Republic of Korea
Latvia
Lithuania
Norway
Poland
Russian Federation
Ukraine
United States of America

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Report of the NAFO/NEAFC Working Group on Oceanic Redfish

Grand Hótel, Reykjavík, Iceland
13-14 February 2001.

1. Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Kolbeinn Arnason, Ministry of Fisheries, Iceland, called the meeting to order at 10:20 hours. He welcomed the delegates to Iceland and hoped they would enjoy their stay. He expressed the hope that the appropriate setting in the middle of the ocean of concern would further co-operation on the issues at hand. He stressed the importance of the matter to Iceland. He invited on behalf of Fisheries Minister, Mr. Arni Mathiesen, all delegates to a reception at 18 hours.

A list of participants is found in Annex 1.

2. Election of Chairman

Mr. Arnason then called for proposals for a Chairman of the meeting. Denmark (on behalf of Faroe Islands and Greenland) suggested, supported by Norway, Ambassador Eiður S. Guðnason, Iceland, as Chairman. This was approved unanimously.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Canada proposed Mr. Sigmund Engesaeter as rapporteur. This was approved unanimously.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Iceland suggested that in the agenda there should be a consistent terminology for the redfish in question ("oceanic" redfish). The agenda was then adopted (Annex 2).

At this point **the Chairman** invited delegates to present opening statements.

Russia expressed its interest in the fishery for "oceanic" redfish and hoped that a balanced solution would be found based on scientific advice and would be followed by all participating countries.

EU regarded the meeting to be a historical occasion. EU was a member of both Commissions and both Commissions should be able to discharge their responsibilities for conservation. To do this new ground had to be broken, because no precedents could be found for regimes for stocks crossing boundaries between two regional organisations. It was necessary to find solutions for the "oceanic" stock covering the full range of the stock.

Estonia as a Co-operating Non-contracting Party to NEAFC and Contracting Party to NAFO looked forward with great expectations to the results of this meeting.

Canada thanked Iceland for arranging the meeting, which was a good setting for the deliberations. Co-operating Non-contracting Parties to NEAFC and Contracting Parties to NAFO will likely have a different point of view from Contracting Parties to NEAFC. Fair and equitable management and conservation solutions should be our primary objective. This is a challenging issue but it is much broader than redfish. We are discussing the management of "trans-Convention" stocks.

Iceland wanted a speedy solution to a matter important to them and so did **Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)**, associating itself with previous speakers.

Norway pointed out that establishing a regime for a stock crossing the boundary between the two Regional Commissions was setting a precedent in international law.

5. Review of distribution of "oceanic" Redfish in the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic Ocean

Iceland requested Mr. Þorsteinn Sigurðsson to present an overview of the knowledge about oceanic redfish in the North Atlantic, relevant information on physical and biological environment and surveys and data from the area, especially the information from the acoustic surveys on the distribution of the stock.

In all surveys in the 1980's and up to 1997 distribution was concluded to be mostly in the NEAFC area. In general, decreases in abundance were observed going into NAFO Div. 1F to the south and west. There was a general feeling that the majority of the stock range was covered in the surveys up to 1997.

In 1999 the survey was expanded to the south and west. In this survey there was a clear shift in abundance from the east to the south and west. In this survey there were high abundances at the western border of the survey. There was for the first time in the surveys signs of recruiting redfish below 28-30 cm.

(1999 International Survey. Proportion of Redfish Abundance by Area and Depth)

Depth	NAFO		NEAFC		
	Convention Area	Greenland EEZ	Convention Area	Greenland EEZ	Iceland EEZ
<500 m	25 %	21 %	20 %	34 %	0 %
>500 m	5 %	7 %	58 %	18 %	12 %
Sum	18 %	16 %	42 %	19 %	4 %

One theory has linked the shift with a general increase in sea temperatures in the area.

Based on charting of extrusion and 0-group abundance it is clear that the extrusion and larval areas are mainly off East Greenland. The feeding area stretches into NAFO Division 1F. German fishery data show that feeding "oceanic" redfish in 2000 stayed in the NAFO Div. 1F until October. (2nd and 3rd quarters). The fisheries data show an almost clean fishery for mostly mature redfish in both NAFO and NEAFC area.

In the 2001 the International acoustic survey is planned to cover areas further west of 53° W.

Iceland In summer, June-July, acoustic signals down to about 400-500 m depth mostly consist of redfish, but in other seasons small size mesopelagic fish are an important part of the acoustic signal, mixed with the redfish.

Canada: Wanted a clarification on the length at maturity of 28 –30 cm. Do this data cover both males and females?

Iceland: Males at maturity are generally 1 cm smaller than females at maturity, but the range covers both sexes.

Denmark (in Respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland): We have according to surveys for a number of years that "oceanic" redfish has stayed in the NEAFC area. In an addendum to NAFO SC Working Paper 01/1 for the June NAFO Scientific Council meeting we see a change. What period in time does this table cover?

Iceland: About one month.

The Chairman drew attention to Redfish W.G. Working Paper 01/5 which had just been distributed and the Russian and EU scientific papers and NAFO Redfish W.G. Working Paper 01/1. These papers, including that from which the table above is drawn, have not yet been reviewed by the NAFO Scientific Council. The Chairman at this point the invited comments on these papers.

The EU paper (NAFO SC Working Paper 01/1) was introduced by Dr. Rätz. He drew attention to the table in the addendum. He had nothing more to add to Þorsteinn Sigurðsson's introduction. Dr. Shibanov introducing the Russian paper (Redfish W.G. Working Paper 01/3) also thought that the Þorsteinn Sigurðsson's introduction was appropriate, and just drew attention to the great detail in the Russian paper on the biology of "oceanic" redfish.

The **NAFO Secretariat** introduced Redfish W.G. Working Paper 01/3) by L. Chepel. This was based on general information from FAO and other literature available in the NAFO archives and interpretation of that information.

Canada: We have one observation on Dr. Chepel's paper. We are talking about *S. mentella* in this meeting, and not *S. marinus*. The NAFO statistics are a mixture of *S. mentella* and *S. fasciatus*. We would suggest that more attention should be drawn to the fact that only *S. mentella* turns up in the oceanic phase. The situation is more complex than the paper suggests.

The EU found in the NAFO paper a confusing mixing of concepts, which needed to be clarified. The NAFO paper uses "beaked redfish" only for *S. fasciatus* and *S. mentella*. There are other clear errors and misunderstandings. There were almost no references to recent literature on "oceanic" mentella. The EU felt that this paper should not be used as basis for the deliberations.

Russia did not agree with fig. 4 of Dr. Chepel's paper. There were no data on spawning or larvae extrusion localities in NAFO Regulatory Area, Division 1F. He noted the absence of well known data on reproductive areas within the NEAFC Regulatory Area above the western slope of the Reykjanes Ridge.

EU: The NAFO Scientific Council at the Annual Meeting of NAFO in September 2000 considered that the oceanic redfish distributed in NAFO Div. 1F is part of the oceanic redfish stock previously distributed inside the NEAFC Convention area. There seems not to be any division of opinion between scientists on this issue.

EU then put some questions to the scientists.

1. Can it be confirmed that there is only a spawning and extrusion area for "oceanic" redfish in the NEAFC Area?
2. From the Russian paper it can be seen that oceanic redfish migrate into the NAFO Area in a feeding migration. Is this for a couple of months or more? What time period does the figure 30 % of the stock in the NAFO area refer to?

Russia: Evidence from ichthyoplankton and other surveys suggest that the extrusion and larval area is only found in the NEAFC Area.

Iceland: The indications from the fishery in 2000 are that CPUE decreased drastically in the 4th quarter.

EU: There is little information on this question, only fleet data, which does not necessarily reflect general abundance. However, the fishery data seem to indicate that "oceanic" redfish leave the NAFO area at the end of the year.

Canada: Are we talking about the fishable component, or do we also discuss larval distribution, which seems to stretch over the whole North Atlantic?

EU: The fishable component is under consideration. The stock structure is still open to questioning.

Canada: Asked about data from Russian fishery on the distribution of their catches during 2000.

Russia: There were some observations from commercial and survey data from NAFO Div. 1F for the period July-October.

Canada: Can we then conclude that there were commercial concentrations of redfish in NAFO Div. 1F for more than two months?

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland): Table 2 in the Russian paper does not seem to indicate an extended period in NAFO Div. 1F.

Canada: Catch evidence indicates that oceanic redfish occurs in NAFO Div. 1F in commercial quantities. Fishery data shows the presence of oceanic redfish for a number of years, with varied concentrations.

Canada introduced a Power Point presentation (WG.WP01/6) on oceanic redfish in the NAFO Convention area. In the old literature there were several references to oceanic redfish in the area. (Templeman 1967)

One problem was that the present survey design did not make it possible locate the western border of the stock (no zero values in the survey to the west).

The suggestion of the presentation was that the redfish from the oceanic areas continued across the ocean into Canadian waters (Sandeman hand line survey data 1969). In a salmon survey from Newfoundland to Cape Farewell echo soundings recorded redfish over the entire length of the track.

Canadian survey data have shown the occurrence of large immature redfish in the Canadian zone that Troyanovsky (NAFO SCR Doc. 89/83) had hypothesized were part of the Irminger Sea population. ICES 1990 stated that "oceanic" mentella were similar to fish found in the Hamilton Inlet. This report also states that currents may take larvae from the main area in the Irminger Sea into shallow areas off Baffinland and Labrador.

This area may be nursery grounds for oceanic mentella. Parasite data, incidence of *Sphyrion lumpii* – suggest a connection between the Irminger Sea and Hamilton Bank.

Alekseev (1999) concludes that "oceanic" redfish probably extend into the waters of Canada.

There have been plans to extend the coverage of the acoustic survey to the Canadian 200 mile limit.

Conclusion: Oceanic redfish extend westward through the Iceland EEZ, Irminger Sea, Greenland EEZ, NAFO Regulatory Area and Canadian EEZ.

EU: Is there any data to quantify the abundance of the oceanic redfish in NAFO and Canadian waters? Scientists in ICES thought that the surveys covered the main distribution of the stock.

Canada. No there are no quantitative data covering the western area including Canadian waters.

Iceland: It is not fair to say that the 1999 survey did describe a normal distribution situation.

Canada: In several years there have been no zeros at the western edge of the survey. ICES probably has been doing a sensible thing aimed at trying to describe the status of the stocks. But we are now concerned with the distribution.

Iceland: We are relatively certain that we cover the main distribution with the ships available.

EU: Are we dealing with one large stock for the whole North Atlantic?

Canada: The information seems to indicate that the presence of the stock in the NAFO area is not a new feature.

EU: The problem is that these data do not give any indication of what quantities are involved.

Canada: The only quantitative data at hand are from the surveys mainly covering the area east of 48° W.

EU: Should we not then base scientific advice and management on the data available?

Canada: There are a number of possible responses. Scientists would likely be pleased with a conservative TAC that would be arrived at if information on a portion of the stock was used to generate a TAC for the entire stock. However, it is more reasonable for scientists to indicate that the information available pertains to only a portion of the biomass.

EU: If there are huge quantities of redfish in the western part of NAFO Div. 1F it is surprising that commercial fishery has not started. The fishermen follow commercial concentrations.

Canada: There seems to be confusion about density and abundance. There could be a large biomass spread over a large area, although density would not make it commercially attractive.

EU: Should the stock not be managed where the fishable concentrations are?

Canada: We would tend to agree, but Canada would certainly want to know what else there is outside the high density area, so as to be able to manage properly in the high density area.

Russia: We have a management unit that moves from the Irminger Sea into NAFO Area. On the slopes of Grand Banks, Flemish Cap and Labrador there are three management units. Are there any indications of movement from the slopes into the pelagial?

Canada: No we have no observations of that. We have observed redfish migrations on the slopes between seasons. There was a fishery of 30,000-40,000 tonnes of redfish in NAFO Divs. 2+3K, but we do not know how much of that was "oceanic" redfish.

EU: We have to conclude that there are no quantitative data on abundance of "oceanic" redfish in the NAFO convention area. We should remember also that pelagic redfish is found in all fisheries zones. But we do not know if this pelagic redfish has anything to do with "oceanic" mentella. Are there any observations on length and genetic data from the Canadian side?

Canada: Yes, but we do not have it here.

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland): The interesting thing is really if the observations of pelagic redfish to the west are observations of "oceanic" redfish in the Irminger Sea. Has Canada set any management measures for pelagic redfish?

Canada: We do manage redfish as one unit.

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland): NEAFC manages oceanic redfish separately. Does Canada do this?

Canada: We have separate mesh size regulation for pelagic trawls.

Russia: Warned against the danger of confusing occurrences of pelagic redfish with the "oceanic" mentella of the Irminger Sea and adjacent areas. Large redfish have been observed in many areas to move into the pelagic waters outside its usual area of distribution. The only quantitative assessments we have on oceanic redfish are from the surveys in the Irminger Sea and westwards (Russia, Germany, Iceland, Norway).

Redfish W.G Working Paper 01/4 was distributed. Norway introduced the paper and said it should assist the discussion under the next agenda item.

6. Management measures for the "oceanic" mentella in the Northeast and Northwest Atlantic Ocean

Canada introduced Working Paper 01/5 on management measures for redfish in the NAFO Regulatory Area for information.

EU agreed with the summary and suggested that the President of NEAFC referred to a paper on NEAFC measures.

Mr. Einar Lemche, President of NEAFC, introduced AM 19/50, revised, that had been circulated by NAFO 1 February 2001. NEAFC took as a basis a TAC of 95,000 tonnes for "oceanic" mentella and pelagic deep-sea mentella and allocated it to 5 Contracting Parties and a co-operation quota, set aside for co-operating Non-contracting Parties. Iceland has objected to the measures introduced, but a part of the TAC had been set aside for Iceland. No information has, as yet, been received from Iceland about national regulations for this fishery. The TAC excluded discards. The mesh size in the fishery for "oceanic" mentella should not be less than 100 mm. He pointed out that the allocations for Contracting Parties were for the NEAFC Area. This was not necessarily a final decision. NEAFC kept the question open so these allocations also could include catches taken in NAFO Div. 1F.

The President of NEAFC then went on comparing NAFO regulations to NEAFC's.

NAFO Redfish regulations and general	NEAFC Redfish regulations and general
100 % observer coverage on all vessels +	-
100 % satellite tracking of all vessels	+
130 mm mesh size and authorised top chafers	100 mm mesh size
Recording of catch (incl. discards) logbooks and production logbooks	+
Incidental catch limits (5 or 10 %)	Not applicable, clean fishery for redfish
Entry and Exit hails	+
Up to date Storage Capacity Plans onboard	+
Inspector for CPs with more than 15 vessels	+
Port inspection of offloading	-
No directed fishery in 3 LN	Not applicable
Bi weekly reporting in 3M. Seasonal restrictions	Not applicable

Canada: Canada noted that while discards in NAFO are counted against allocation, they are not so counted in NEAFC. Canada also commented on the "oceanic" redfish landings in paper 01/4. He pointed out some discrepancies with data contained in other documents tabled at this meeting.

Estonia: Pointed out an error in the table.

Russia: Informed that catch data for 2000 would be revised.

Norway: 2000 figures are preliminary. We invite other delegations to amend them at the meeting if possible.

Canada noted that all catches in the NAFO Convention Area should be reported to NAFO and observed that reporting seemed to be better to NEAFC than to NAFO.

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) pointed out that this could be the effect of a special effort made by the NEAFC Secretariat to get correct figures from Contracting Parties.

EU: Referred to the last official reporting to NAFO (September 2000). There was confusion because there was an entry on catches of redfish in 1F-3O. The NAFO Secretariat was asked to look into the matter.

7. Recommendations on the development of compatible regulatory measures for "oceanic" redfish

EU: With a view to drawing some operational consequences, the current factual situation was recapitulated as follows: The oceanic redfish stock initially occurred exclusively in the Convention Area of NEAFC and has been regulated there as a single stock unit through an allocated TAC since 1996. Irrespective of some remaining uncertainties concerning the exact structure of this stock, the main area of distribution of the stock was known. In any event, under the Precautionary Approach, absence of adequate scientific information should not be a motive for desisting from taking appropriate conservation measures. As seen in 2000, part of the stock was now moving in a westward direction into the adjacent Convention Area of NAFO and fisheries have been following the stock in its new geographical distribution. This movement of the stock was unusual given that redfish was not a highly migratory fish stock in the technical sense. Furthermore, such an unusual configuration was not envisaged at the time of the conclusion of the conventions establishing NAFO and NEAFC respectively. The question was, therefore, how to deal with this phenomenon in the most appropriate way.

It was recalled that no precedents existed for a situation such as the present one where a stock was moving into the Convention Area of another regional fisheries organisation. It was also stressed that a "jurisdictional" solution was not at hand. The line delimiting the two Convention Areas in question was no jurisdictional boundary given that regional fisheries organisations were no entities with original exclusive rights similar to the ones enjoyed by sovereign States in sea areas under national fisheries jurisdiction. Rather the *raison d'être* of these organisations was to provide a forum which allowed their members to effectively discharge their co-operation and conservation obligations. It was also clear that the waters on both sides of the line in question fell under the international regime of the high seas. Under these circumstances, a "jurisdictional" solution would only lead to an artificial and, therefore, inappropriate "salami slicing" of one single stock. This would clearly fall short of the requirement of sound conservation of fisheries resources.

It was emphasised that, in line with contemporary ideas for sustainable fisheries, one should strive for a solution which would be the most attractive from a conservation perspective. Such a solution could be brought about on the basis of the co-operation and conservation obligations, which were incumbent upon the members of both NAFO and NEAFC under the relevant provisions of UNCLOS. In this context, it was re-emphasised that there was no alternative but for parties to co-operate. Furthermore, reference was made to Article 119 of UNCLOS which made it a requirement to *inter alia* take into account "fishing patterns", i.e. – in the present instance – the fact that established fisheries were following the stock in its new geographical distribution. Furthermore, the "due regard principle" as a general principle of international law was relevant in the present context. This principle would make it a requirement for NAFO to act with due regard to both the comprehensive regulatory measures established by NEAFC for the entire stock as well as the established fisheries carried out under these measures. Finally, one could draw inspiration from the "compatibility" requirements of the 1995 UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks inasmuch as the principles of biological unity of the stock and the pre-eminence of previously established and applied conservation measures for the stock were concerned.

On such a basis, it was seen possible to contemplate a solution, which would account for the fact that the main bulk of the stock occurred within the Convention Area of NEAFC and which, therefore, would (a) leave it for NEAFC to establish the TAC for the entire stock and (b) carry with it permission for NEAFC quotas to be taken also in that part of the NAFO Regulatory Area where a small part of the stock now occurred. The latter would also be in recognition of the established nature of the traditional redfish fisheries in the Convention Area of NEAFC.

For such a solution, some support could be found in the practise followed in connection with highly migratory fish stock. Most of the Tuna Conventions (e.g. the most recent MHLA, which is not yet in force) do embody both special co-operation and consistency requirements as well as requirements which aim at

avoiding a duplication of measures for cases of overlaps with areas under regulation by other fisheries management organisations. These requirements have not yet resulted in formal agreements or arrangements. In some cases, however, there has been acquiescence of a regulatory priority for the organisation, within which the bulk of a tuna stock occurred (e.g. the position of the IOTC in respect of the measures established by the CCSBT for southern bluefin tuna). This practice was considered as being of some relevance also in the present instance.

Finally, it was stressed that "due regard" and "compatibility" were no one-way-street and that, therefore, some considered *weighing must* be made inasmuch as collateral conservation and control measures were concerned. In this vein, one should have a closer look at the appropriateness of NAFO measures which have been established on a spatial basis (e.g. the requirement of observer coverage, which might be viewed as being too onerous a requirement for 'isolated' redfish fisheries in NAFO Division 1F, on the one hand, but which, if seen from a NAFO perspective, might need to be maintained in order to avoid creating undue loopholes in the application of NAFO measures, on the other).

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland): Thanked EU for the learned exposé. Consistency, compatibility, due regard and the priority of the organisation, where the main part of the stock resides, leads us to the same conclusion as EU. The coastal state it represented would accept such an arrangement.

Iceland: Thanked EU, and could associate himself with the conclusions of EU and Denmark, also in the role as a coastal state.

Norway: Had no difficulties accepting the state of play. A solution has been found for the NEAFC area and Norway would favour that these measures were extended to the NAFO area. We are not dealing with a new fishery, it has gone on 20 years, but now in 2000 it has spilled over to the NAFO area. This should not lead to new situation. . .

Russia: Took note of the points made by the EU on the boundary between NAFO and NEAFC, There should be an arrangement for the entire stock. Could in general associate it self with the EU remarks.

Canada: We have now heard very clearly heard voices in favour of NEAFC's interest. It is unfortunate more NAFO members were not present so we could have heard more NAFO points of view.

Canada would also like to secure effective conservation and management of the stock. If we are concerned about due regard and the precautionary approach, attention should be drawn to the NEAFC approach to the management of oceanic redfish in relation to the scientific advice of ICES and the stronger conservation measures on the NAFO side. The NEAFC rule on discards is one example of a laxer attitude of the NEAFC side.

The present fishing pattern had only been established one year. If the 2000 situation was an anomaly should we then go through major exercises modifying NAFO arrangements? If this was a permanent feature, the NAFO countries certainly should have a right to fish the stock.

Estonia: Associated itself with Canadian remarks.

EU: Would like to stress that their presentation was not on behalf of NEAFC. The views were presented at last years annual meeting of NAFO. This was a quite difficult weighing exercise. EU has also stressed the due regard for NAFO.

There seemed to be two possibilities: Fishing within the *limits of the scientific advice* or opening up new fisheries.

With due regard the solution opening up for a new fishery because the stock wanders into a neighbouring area seems not to be in line with good conservation. On the both sides we have international areas, and the movement should not lead to a free for all on the other side.

Canada: For clarification, is the EU position that when a stock moves to another area that traditional fisheries should take priority. The Canadian delegation noted that the EU delegate was indicating his agreement. In this case, Canada added, this approach was not applied to the NAFO management of Greenland halibut.

EU: No general rule can be set. This has to be treated on a case-by-case basis.

Canada: The issues of conservation and allocation are different and not to be confused.

Norway: Restated its view that this is not a new fishery, but a well-established fishery with full utilisation of the stock. It made reference to UNCLOS art. 119.

The Chairman noted the absence of a number of Contracting Parties of NAFO - US, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania.

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland): One important NAFO Contracting Party, Ukraine, is also missing. Referring to the Canadian presentation, he would like to address the question of which area we are talking about. The impression was that there are oceanic redfish in several places in the NAFO area, but we do not know anything about quantities and if we are dealing with "oceanic" mentella from the Irminger Sea. His delegation would propose that we concentrate on the spill over area in NAFO Div. 1F to be included in the management area for the Irminger Sea "oceanic" mentella.

Canada: We have heard about lack of information, but the information on 1F is rather incomplete as well. We could focus on 1F now, but we should be able to revert to the question area of management in light of additional information.

EU: Could accept the Canadian view but lack of information should not hold us back from taking management decisions concentrating on NAFO Div. 1F or parts of it now.

Iceland: Associated itself with EU

Chairman: We seem to be in agreement that we can focus on NAFO Div. 1F, but we will not close the issue in light of further information.

EU: There are a couple of additional topics to be discussed. One important problem is allocation, and allocation should take place according to the NAFO Convention (Article XI(4)). These rules establish that allocation should be based on track record of fishery. This would lead to allocations to the NEAFC CP already fishing for the resource. NAFO rules lead to the same result as the NEAFC proposal. It was also referred to Norway's comment on the excessive use of the co-operation quota by Estonia. This gives rise to grave concern and is hardly acceptable and should not be used to establish a track record. These catches show no considerations for co-operation or conservation, and should not provide basis for future allocation.

Estonia: After receiving a list of Estonian vessels from NEAFC in November 2000, we have compiled catches and introduced mandatory licenses for fishing in the high seas and thus we now have brought the situation under control. At the same time we have the problem of lack of fishing possibilities for the Estonian fleet and we are looking for fishing possibilities for redfish in NAFO Division 1F.

Norway: It is encouraging to hear the Estonian progress to implement the Compliance Agreement. Does the Estonian list include bare-boat charters?

Estonia: There was not on the list of vessels participating in redfish fishery any bare-boat chartered vessels. One vessel which was on the list was not identified as an Estonian fishing vessel because this vessel was not found in the Estonian vessels register.

Canada. NAFO Convention article XI(4) is perhaps not so simple as suggested by the EU. Traditional fishing is not the only factor which could play a role in setting allocation criteria in NAFO. All relevant

factors must be taken into account in the allocation decision. It is NAFO's business to take care of stock in the NAFO area. It is NAFO's business to decide on what measures should be applied to the 30 % of the stock in the NAFO area.

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland): The 30 % refer only to 1 month.

Canada: We know that from the survey data and fishery data that the period is much longer, extending at least from June to October, covering almost six months.

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland): In a NAFO regulation usually something is set aside for "others". If we transplant NEAFC arrangements into the NAFO area, the NEAFC co-operation quota could be compared to the NAFO others quota although it is for non-contracting parties. However the non-contracting parties fishing redfish in NEAFC are NAFO Contracting Parties, so in practical terms the result may be the same.

The question of observers is another issue. In spill over operations in a clean fishery for "oceanic" mentella observers may not be that necessary.

Canada: NAFO already has a system for handling special feature fisheries in respect to the demand for observers and the fishery for "oceanic" redfish could be fit into that. It is the choice of the fishing boats to "spill over" to the NAFO area and they then undertake to meet the NAFO obligations. If the spill over is not a permanent feature NAFO rules should not be modified.

EU: We can concur with the last Canadian statement, but if it were a permanent feature with x % occurring in the NAFO area (1/2x% in Greenland EEZ and 1/2x% in the NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 1F) the question should be handled in a quite different context, and NAFO should decide upon appropriate measures.

However NAFO cannot address this question in an entirely autonomous way. NAFO is bound to have due regard to what management measures exist, fishing pattern etc. Therefore, a NAFO exercise would lead to allocations to the parties already fishing for the stock.

Canada: I referred to this point yesterday. Some NEAFC principles may be regarded as not meeting NAFO standards. NAFO has been more conservation oriented and should not be bound by an organisation less oriented towards conservation.

The Chairman raised the issue of a follow-up meeting.

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) as host for a NAFO Fisheries Commission Meeting to be arranged in Copenhagen 27-29 March 2001, proposed that the March meeting could be extended by one day (30 March 2001) to cover oceanic redfish. This way a decision on redfish could be made during the meeting, and a mail vote avoided.

Iceland supported the approach proposed by Denmark.

EU pointed out the need for introducing management for the stock which is under pressure. If no decision is made we will be faced with an "olympic" fishery this year. EU was of the opinion that decision in March was a must.

Canada referred to the possibility that the spillover fishery was an anomaly and if so it would be inappropriate for NAFO to change its rules. So-called "olympic" fisheries were well known in NAFO and it should not create any major difficulty to continue a year or two without a quota arrangement in the NAFO area. As far as a formal NAFO meeting is concerned, other NAFO parties must agree before a decision is made.

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Island and Greenland) pointed out the situation that this Working Group only can agree on requesting NAFO to arrange a meeting.

Canada pointed at experience from similar management problems in the NAFO Area. A possible meeting should be limited to discussion of a TAC and quotas for oceanic redfish in NAFO Division 1F for 2001.

EU was of the opinion that issue for discussion should be what management systems should be established for 2001 and onwards.

Canada reminded the Contracting Parties that little is known about the distribution of redfish in the NAFO Convention Area. In this situation the work should focus on how to avoid excessive fishing of this stock.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) suggested that in light of the limited time available focus should be on TAC and quotas for oceanic redfish in NAFO Division 1F in 2001.

Iceland supported this.

Chairman concluded that all Parties agreed to the following agenda: "Consideration of TAC and quotas for oceanic redfish in NAFO Div. 1F in 2001".

Based on a question from Norway, Canada responded that the formulation of the agenda item excluded changes in collateral management measures in 2001.

Chairman concluded that collateral management measures could not be subject to decision at the proposed additional one-day (30 March 2001) NAFO Fisheries Commission Meeting in Copenhagen. This does not exclude the possibility to discuss these issues under agenda item "other business" for a later follow-up.

Furthermore **the Chairman** concluded that all representatives agreed that the report for this meeting should be circulated to all NAFO Contracting Parties with the recommendation that the agenda for the Fisheries Commission meeting in Copenhagen include this proposed meeting as agreed.

8. Other business

There were no issues raised under this agenda item.

9. Adjournment

The Chairman thanked everybody for accomplishing this difficult task set out for this meeting within the short timeframe. He thanked the delegates, particularly the Heads of Delegation, for their cooperation during this meeting.

The EU delegate thanked the Iceland host for their hospitality and facilities for this meeting. Canada supported this while also thanking the Chairman for running this meeting efficiently.

The meeting was adjourned at 1845 on 14 February 2001.

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Chairman
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Review of distribution of "oceanic" Redfish in the Northwest-Northeast Atlantic Ocean
6. Management measures for the "oceanic" Redfish in the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic Ocean
7. Recommendations on the development of compatible regulatory measures for the "oceanic" Redfish
8. Other business
9. Adjournment