

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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25TH ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2003

**Pilot Project on Observers, Satellite Tracking and
Electronic Reporting**

The Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall be amended as follows:

1. The text of Article 23.8 shall be replaced by the following:

"The elements of the Observer Program are subject to review and revision, as appropriate, for application in 2005 and subsequent years."

2. The following Chapter VII shall be inserted:

Chapter VII

**PILOT PROJECT ON OBSERVERS, SATELLITE TRACKING AND
ELECTRONIC REPORTING**

Article 45 - Scope

Only vessels of Contracting Parties with functional VMS systems that have the necessary technical facilities in place to send electronic "observer reports" and "catch reports" are eligible for this pilot project.

The total number of vessels in the Regulatory Area at any one time, which are participating in the Pilot Project shall be limited to 20, with the total number of vessels without observers not to exceed 10 at any time. Any Contracting Party shall have no more than 8 vessels participating in the Pilot Project at any one time in the Regulatory Area.

Contracting Parties shall notify the Executive Secretary of their intention to participate in the Pilot Project within 30 days following the adoption of the pilot project by the Fisheries Commission. The Pilot Project shall enter into force 60 days following adoption and, should provisionally continue for a period of two years. They shall also notify the Executive Secretary of the maximum number of vessels concerned that would be in the Regulatory Area at any one time. If the number of vessels notified by Contracting Parties exceeds 20 vessels the Executive Secretary, with the agreement of the Chairman of the Fisheries Commission, shall reduce the number without excluding any Contracting Party and advise the relevant Contracting Parties prior to the commencement of the pilot project.

Each Contracting Party is entitled to at least one vessel to participate in the Pilot Project at any time.

If a Contracting Party does not utilize its right for a vessel to participate or withdraws from the Pilot Project, the right becomes available for another Contracting Party. In such a case, the Contracting Parties with the fewest vessels participating in the Pilot Project at that time shall have priority to choose to utilize the right for a new vessel to participate.

Article 46 - Implementation

Participating Contracting Parties should notify the names of the vessels participating in the pilot project to the NAFO Secretariat. Such vessels shall have observers on board in accordance with Article 23 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures.

However, by way of derogation from these measures a Contracting Party may withdraw observers from vessels participating in the Pilot Project on the condition that the technical facilities on board the vessel necessary to send electronic "observer reports" and "catch reports" have been tested with the NAFO Secretariat and Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area.

The testing of this exchange shall be deemed successful once data exchanges have been completed with all recipients at a 100% reliability rate.

A Contracting Party with one vessel participating in the Pilot Project shall withdraw the observer for no more than 50% of the time that the vessel spends in the Regulatory Area during the year. Other Contracting Parties shall withdraw the observers from no more than 50% of the vessels participating in the Pilot Project that are present in the Regulatory Area.

When withdrawing observers Contracting Parties shall ensure that there is a balance between vessels participating in the Pilot Project with observers and without observers, in terms of the type of fishery in which the vessels are engaged.

Contracting Parties shall not withdraw observers from vessels with catch onboard when entering the Regulatory Area unless such vessels are subject to an inspection.

Participating Contracting Parties shall provide at all times to the NAFO Secretariat the names of vessels participating in the pilot project as well as the period during which they have no observer onboard. The Executive Secretary shall forward this information to all Contracting Parties.

In the case where a vessel without an observer is found by an inspector to be engaged in any infringement, the Contracting Party shall apply the provisions of Article 32, paragraphs 2 to 9 of the Scheme, as appropriate, and, when the vessel is not re-routed, it shall embark an observer without delay.

In addition to their duties under the Conservation and Enforcement Measures observers on board vessels participating in the Pilot Project shall report daily by electronic channels via the FMC to the NAFO Secretariat ("OBR report") of his duties described in Article 23.4. a) i) to iv) of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures.

Article 47 - Daily Reports

- a) Masters of vessels and observers taking part in the Pilot Project shall transmit daily reports by division.

- b) The daily reports are to be received by the NAFO Secretariat by 1200 UTC daily. The report period will run from 0001 hours to 2400 hours of the previous day.
- c) The catch reported in the daily report of the master will correspond with those recorded in the log.
- d) The daily reports shall include as appropriate the amounts, by Division, of the following categories:
 - i) The daily catch by species retained on board
 - ii) Discarding
 - iii) Undersize fish
- e) If the electronic means of transmitting daily reports (to and from FMC) is not functioning, the master and the observer will continue to report daily by other means keeping a written log of these transmissions on board and available to inspectors.

The templates for Daily Catch (CAX) and Observer Reports (OBR) are contained in Annex XXI(a).

Article 48 - Data Collection/Compilation/Analysis

The Executive Secretary shall collect and compile, on a weekly basis, the data provided by the daily catch reports to compare, among other items, catch rates of species caught by Division, by-catch percentage rate, discard rates for similar fisheries. The details of this data compilation are outlined in Annex XXI (b).

The Executive Secretary shall forward this information to Contracting Parties with an inspection presence.

The NAFO Secretariat shall monitor the receipt of daily reports from each vessel participating in the pilot. When a report has not been received for 2 consecutive days, the NAFO Secretariat will notify the relevant Contracting Party as well as Contracting Parties with an Inspection Presence.

The Executive Secretary shall make available as soon as possible the information received under paragraphs 2 and 3 to other Contracting Parties with an active inspection presence in the Regulatory Area. All reports and messages shall be treated in a confidential manner.

Article 49 - Confidentiality

All data submitted under the Pilot Project shall be maintained by the Executive Secretary for the duration of the Pilot Project as well as the assessment period. When assessing this data at the end of the project, the Executive Secretary and STACTIC will ensure confidentiality by replacing vessel names with a neutral identifier. All other confidentiality rules, as outlined in the Conservation and Enforcement Measures, will apply.

Article 50 - Costs

Subject to any other arrangements between Contracting Parties, each Contracting Party shall pay all its costs associated with this system.

Article 51 – Follow-up

Each Contracting Party (including those with an inspection presence) shall submit an interim report at the first annual meeting of the Fisheries Commission following adoption of the pilot project and a detailed report on the execution of the pilot project containing all necessary information at the annual meeting of the Fisheries Commission following completion of the pilot project. STACTIC supported by the Executive Secretary should evaluate the results of the pilot project at its next meeting on the basis of the criteria set out below as well as the objectives identified, together with any recommendations or proposals:

- a) Compliance overall and notably comparison between vessels with and without observers.
- b) Assessment by the Executive Secretary on issues related to data compatibility, data collection/compilation, and data transmission.
- c) Cost/savings; for the industry; for the authorities of the Contracting Party (including those with an inspection presence); for the NAFO Secretariat.
- d) Interaction with traditional means of control.
- e) Technical functioning of the Scheme and reliability.

3. The following Annex XXI shall be added:

ANNEX XXI (a)

1. Daily Catch Report for Pilot Project (CAX)

Data Element:	Code:	Mandatory / Optional	Remarks:
Start record	SR	M	System detail; indicates start of record
Address	AD	M	Message detail; destination, "XNW" for NAFO
Sequence Number	SQ	M	Message detail; message serial number in current year
Type of Message	TM	M	Message detail; message type, "CAX" as Catch report
Radio call sign	RC	M	Vessel registration detail; international radio call sign of the vessel
Trip Number	TN	O	Activity detail; fishing trip serial number in current year
Vessel Name	NA	O	Vessel registration detail; name of the vessel
Contracting Party Internal Reference Number	IR	O	Vessel registration detail; unique Contracting Party vessel number as ISO-3 flag state code followed by number
External Registration Number	XR	O	Vessel registration detail; the side number of the vessel
Relevant Area	RA	M	Activity detail: NAFO Division
Latitude	LA	M ¹	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Longitude	LO	M ¹	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Daily Catches species live weight	CA	M M	Activity detail; cumulative catch by species retained on board (exclusive of discards), either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
Discarding species live weight	RJ	M	Activity detail; discarded catch by species, either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
Undersize species live weight	US	M	Activity detail; undersize catch by species, either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
Date	DA	M	Message detail; date of transmission
Time	TI	M	Message detail; time of transmission
End of record	ER	M	System detail; indicates end of the record

- 1 Optional if a vessel is subject to satellite tracking
 2 Meaning the first "Catch Report" in current fishing trip in the R.A.

2. Observer Report (OBR)

Data Element:	Code:	Mandatory / Optional	Remarks:
Start record	SR	M	System detail; indicates start of record
Address	AD	M	Message detail; destination, "XNW" for NAFO
Sequence Number	SQ	M	Message detail; message serial number in current year
Type of Message	TM	M	Message detail; message type, "OBR" as Observer report
Radio call sign	RC	M	Vessel registration detail; international radio call sign of the vessel
Fishing Gear	GE	M	Activity detail; FAO code for fishing gear
Directed Species ⁷	DS	M	Activity detail; FAO species code
Mesh Size	ME	M	Activity detail; average mesh size in millimeters
Relevant Area	RA	M	Activity detail; NAFO Division
Daily Catches	CA	M M	Activity detail; cumulative catch by species retained on board, (exclusive of discards), either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
species live weight			
Discarding	RJ	M ¹	Activity detail; discarded catch by species, either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
species live weight			
Undersize	US	M ¹	Activity detail; undersize catch by species, either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
species live weight			
Log Book	LB	M	Activity detail; "Yes" or "No" ³
Production	PR	M	Activity detail; code for the production
Hails	HA	M	Activity detail; observers verification if the reports made by the captain are correct, "Yes" or "No" ⁴
Apparent Infringements	AF	M	Activity detail; "Yes" or "No" ⁵
Observer Name	ON	M	Message detail; name of the observer signing the report
Date	DA	M	Message detail; date of transmission
Free Text	MS	O ⁶	Activity detail; for further comments by the observer
Time	TI	M	Message detail; time of transmission
End of record	ER	M	System detail; indicates end of the record

- 1 Only to be transmitted if relevant
- 2 Meaning the first "Catch Report" in current fishing trip in the R.A.
- 3 "Yes" if the observer approves the Log Book entries by the captain
- 4 "Yes" if the observer approves the Hails transmitted by the captain
- 5 "Yes" if an infringement is observed
- 6 Mandatory if "LB" = "No", or "HA" = "No", or "AF" = "Yes".
- 7 Directed species is the species which represents the greatest catch for that day

ANNEX XXI (b)

Data to be compiled by Executive Secretary and Forwarded to Inspection Parties

Catch and Catch Rate Report (Weekly)

Vessel Type	Division	Species	Total catch	Total Effort	Catch Rate
With observer – Masters					
With observer – observer					
Without observer					

By-catch Report (Weekly)

Vessel Type	Division	Species	Total catch	Total Overall Catch	By-catch %
With observer – Masters					
With observer – observer					
Without observer					

Discards Report (Weekly)

Vessel Type	Division	Species	Total catch	Total Discards	Discard %
With observer – Masters					
With observer – observer					
Without observer					