

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N4904

NAFO/FC Doc. 03/13

25TH ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2003

**NAFO REBUILDING PLAN FOR THE STOCK OF GREENLAND HALIBUT IN
SUBAREA 2 AND DIVISIONS 3KLMNO (New Article 7 of the CEM)**

THE FISHERIES COMMISSION

- Noting with great concern the advice of the Scientific Council on the Greenland Halibut Stock in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO for 2004,
- Noting that such advice has indicated:
 - that the exploitable biomass of the Greenland halibut stock has been declining in recent years and is presently estimated to be at its lowest level;
 - that the recent recruitment has been poor, and
 - that if catches continue at recent levels the stock will decline further;
- Conscious of the need, in light of this advice, to take effective measures to arrest the decline in the exploitable biomass and to ensure the rebuilding of this biomass to reach a level that allows a stable yield of the Greenland halibut fishery over the long term;
- Conscious also of the fact that the rebuilding of the stock is the only means to provide a future for the interested fisheries industry sector,
- Noting that it is necessary to implement a monitoring programme to ensure that the stock is achieving the rebuilding objective in future years,

HAS AGREED AS FOLLOWS

1. Contracting Parties shall implement a fifteen-year rebuilding programme for the Greenland halibut stock in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO.
2. The objective of this programme shall be to attain a level of exploitable biomass 5+ of 140,000 tonnes on average, allowing a stable yield over the long term in the Greenland halibut fishery.

3. For this purpose, a total allowable catch for the following years is established as follows:

2004: 20,000 tonnes
 2005: 19,000 tonnes
 2006: 18,500 tonnes
 2007: 16,000 tonnes

The total allowable catch for subsequent years shall be established taking into account the progress made in the rebuilding of the stock.

4. The Scientific Council shall monitor and review the progress of the programme and submit each year an assessment thereon to the Fisheries Commission.
5. The total allowable catch from 2008 onwards may be adjusted by the Scientific Council advice. However, the total allowable catch shall not be set at levels beyond 15% less or greater than the total allowable catch of the preceding year.
6. The following specific measures shall be applicable with regard to the Greenland halibut fishery in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO in respect of vessels 24 meters in length or greater:
- a) Contracting Parties shall issue specific authorisations to vessels fishing for Greenland halibut (hereafter referred to as 'authorised vessels') and shall transmit the list of such vessels to the NAFO Secretariat.
 - b) Each Contracting Party shall allocate its quota for Greenland halibut among its authorised vessels.
 - c) Authorised vessels may only land Greenland halibut catch in ports designated by NAFO Contracting Parties. Landings in ports of non-Contracting Parties shall be prohibited.

Each landing shall be submitted to inspection in port. The corresponding port inspection report shall be transmitted to the NAFO Secretariat within 7 working days from the date at which the inspection was completed.
 - d) Contracting Parties shall implement a catch reporting regime that ensures effective monitoring of the utilisation of each vessel's quota.
7. Each Contracting Party shall adjust fishing effort commensurate with the available fishing opportunities.
8. In reviewing the implementation of this rebuilding plan, the Fisheries Commission may decide on additional measures to ensure the effective attainment of its objective.
9. Contracting Parties shall prohibit landings from non-Contracting Party vessels that have engaged in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area.
10. Contracting Parties fishing on the Others quota shall be subject to the notification and reporting requirements pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 3 and Article 19, paragraph 3 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures