

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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**Modification of NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures
to illustrate and describe Toggle Chains**

(Proposal by Canada)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This paper proposes the creation of an annex to describe and illustrate toggle chains. Vessels fishing for 3L shrimp are required by Article 10, paragraph 7 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures to use toggle chains that are at least 72 cm in length. This provision is in place to reduce the capture of unwanted groundfish bycatch by requiring a minimum spacing between the footrope and the fishing line of at least 72 cm. The proposed revision to Article 10, paragraph 7 is as follows:

7. Vessels fishing for shrimp in Division 3L or 3M shall use sorting grids or grates with a maximum bar spacing of 22 mm. Vessels fishing for shrimp in Division 3L shall also be equipped with toggle chains of a minimum 72 cm in length, **as described in Annex XXII.**

Annex XXII

Shrimp Trawl Toggle Chains

Toggle chains are chains, ropes, or a combination of both, which attach the footrope to the fishing line or bolchline at varying intervals.

The terms “fishing line” and “bolchline” are interchangeable. Some vessels use one line only; others use both a fishing line and a bolchline as shown in the sketch.

The toggle chain length should be measured from the center of the chain or wire running through the footrope (center of footrope) to the underside of the fishing line.

The attached sketch shows how to measure the toggle and chain length.

