

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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Precautionary Approach Framework

Proposal by Canada

Canada endorses the application of a precautionary approach framework that can be used by the Fisheries Commission to make decisions for NAFO-managed stocks.

Canada proposes the practical implementation of the PA, by the Fisheries Commission, on selected stocks to ensure there is a sound understanding of the aspects of moving forward within the proposed framework.

It is suggested that the outcomes from the evaluation of these selected stocks be used to guide the Fisheries Commission regarding the most appropriate application of the framework to all NAFO stocks.

Canada proposes that the Scientific Council be requested to provide their advice for selected stocks in 2005 within the PA framework. The SC should be further requested to provide a description of how the advice using the PA framework differs from advice provided in the traditional manner.

With this in mind it is proposed that the implementation of the PA to be considered for the following stocks:

- Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO
 - a data rich stock in good health
 - general production based assessment
 - managed by TAC/Quota

- Shrimp in Division 3M
 - a data poor stock in good condition
 - managed by effort controls