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27TH ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2005

EAF Interim Measures
(proposal by Canada) (**ADOPTED**)

Background/ Explanatory Memorandum

It has been recognized that there is a need to reform NAFO to fully implement modern fisheries management tools as reflected by international instruments developed over the past decade, including the United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

One element of a modern RFMO is an ecosystems approach to fisheries (EAF) that gives due consideration to all elements of the marine ecosystem when taking decisions regarding the management of fish stocks under its jurisdiction. To this end, NAFO could explore ways and means of including the ecosystems approach in its mandate and constitutive instruments.

NAFO could also consider some concrete steps to identify and protect sensitive areas in its jurisdiction. This would require that Scientific Council advice be sought with regard to criteria for identifying sensitive and significant areas as well as the identification of such areas pursuant to the established criteria.

In developing the criteria for determining ecologically and biologically sensitive areas, the Scientific Council could consider the numerous initiatives by national, regional and international bodies to develop such frameworks.

It is also proposed that NAFO develop a process to seek additional information on the seamounts in the NAFO Regulatory Area, given their unique character and relative easy identification. As a parallel step, any fishing activity on known seamounts found in the NAFO Regulatory Area must be subject to extensive data collection. This should include detailed information on species and size composition of all catches.

This approach will provide additional data for the Scientific Council to consider and eventually assist the Fisheries Commission to prioritize the areas of ecological and biological significance and determine appropriate management measures to take at the NAFO annual meeting in 2006.

Proposal

It is proposed that the following measures be undertaken in order to implement the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area:

- Fisheries Commission request Scientific Council advice on:
 - The development of criteria for determining areas of marine biological and ecological significance,
 - The identification of such areas in the NAFO Regulatory area
- Amend Article 20 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures by adding the following paragraphs:

As of January 2006, all Contracting Party vessels fishing in those portions of the NAFO Regulatory Area identified in the table below are invited, where possible, to collect the data in accordance with paragraph _

Area	Coordinate 1	Coordinate 2	Coordinate 3	Coordinate 4
Orphan Knoll	50.00.30	51.00.30	51.00.30	50.00.30
	47.00.30	45.00.30	47.00.30	45.00.30
Corner Seamounts	35.00.00	36.00.00	36.00.00	35.00.00
	48.00.00	48.00.00	52.00.00	52.00.00
Newfoundland Seamounts	43.29.00	44.00.00	44.00.00	43.29.00
	43.20.00	43.20.00	46.40.00	46.40.00
New England Seamounts	35.00.00	39.00.00	39.00.00	35.00.00
	57.00.00	57.00.00	64.00.00	64.00.00

For the purposes of paragraph _, the following is a list of suggested data to be collected in accordance with commonly used data collection protocols:

- ❖ Species composition in numbers and weight;
- ❖ Length frequencies;
- ❖ Otoliths;
- ❖ Set location, latitudes and longitudes;
- ❖ Fishing gear;
- ❖ Depth fished;
- ❖ Time of day;
- ❖ Duration of set;
- ❖ Tow opened (for mobile gear);
- ❖ Other biological sampling such as maturity where possible;

The data should be collected on a set-by-set basis and reported to the Executive Secretary, for onward transmission to the Scientific Council, as soon as possible after the end of the fishing trip.

The Scientific Council is requested to review these measures at its meeting in June 2006.

