Northwest Atlantic   Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N5175   NAFO/FC Doc. 05/13

27TH ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2005

**New and amended error codes in the Return messages
and additional data-elements in RET messages**
(Proposal by Iceland) (**ADOPTED**)

Background:

The Icelandic FMC has found the RET messages very useful but the current return error numbers
are very limited in the case the message has the return status "NAK". There are only 3
possibilities to report an error and experiences have frequently shown the need for expansion of
the return error numbers. There should be an indication of what is the actual cause for the error
and furthermore indicate if the message is accepted or needs to be corrected or retransmitted.

Similar amendments to the error codes have been accepted in NEAFC, but as yet not been
implemented.

Serious communication errors which will require a follow up action have numbers from 100 to
149 and less serious communication errors which do not need a follow up action have error
numbers from 150 to 199.

The same logic applies for the other categories.

The aim is to open the possibility for the operator to pinpoint the error and subsequently correct it
as well as the possibility of automatic corrections where that is applicable. As there are multiple
numbers available for each category, future expansions are very easy and do not call for
modifications of the existing numbers. However, such changes must be coordinated to avoid
possible conflict with existing numbers used in other RFMOs.

As it is foreseen that a joint Norwegian/Icelandic proposal on additional data-elements in the
return messages (RET) will be submitted to NEAFC, it is proposed to amend the RET message
accordingly.

The amendments are to add two data-elements into the message to make it more useful. These
are the sequence number and the radio call sign of the vessel. Both of these will be optional as
they are not applicable in all return messages.

Proposal:

The proposal affects Annex XXIII D.2) Return messages. It is proposed to delete the existing table, "Return message format", and insert the following two tables, table A) Return message format and table B) Return error numbers.

A) Return message format

Data Element	Field Code	Mandatory/ Optional	Remarks
Start Record	SR	M	System detail; indicates start of record
Address	AD	M	Message detail; destination, Contracting Party sending the report
From	FR	M	Message detail; XNW is NAFO (who is sending the return message)
Type of message	TM	M	Message detail; message type RET for return message
Radio call sign	RC	O	Reporting detail; international radio call sign of the vessel, copied from the report which is received.
Sequence number	SQ	O	Reporting detail; serial number of the report from the vessel in the relevant year, copied from the report which is received.
Return Status	RS	M	Reporting detail; code showing whether the message is acknowledged or not (ACK or NAK)
Return error number	RE	O	Reporting detail; number showing the type of error. See table B) for return error numbers
Record number	RN	M	Reporting detail; record number of the message which is received
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

B) Return error numbers

Subject/Article:	Errors		Error cause
	Follow up action required	Accepted	
Communication	101		Message is unreadable
	102		Data value or size out of range
	104		Mandatory data missing
	106		Unauthorised data source
		150	Sequence error
		151	Date / Time in the future
Article 15		*250*	*Attempt to re-Notify a vessel*
		251	Vessel is not Notified
Article 22	302		Transhipment prior to Catch on Entry
	303		Catch on Exit prior to Catch on Entry
	304		No Position received (TRA,COX)
		350	Position without Catch on Entry