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Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



Report of the Fisheries Commission

28th Annual Meeting, 18-22 September 2006
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

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2006

Report of the Fisheries Commission and its Subsidiary Body (STACTIC)
28th Annual Meeting, September 18-22, 2006
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

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Report of the Fishers Commission

28th Annual Meeting, 18-22 September 2006 Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

I. Opening Procedure (Agenda items 1-5)

1. Opening Remarks by the Chairman, V. Shibanov (Russia)

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Vladimir Shibanov (Russia), at 12:07 hrs on Monday, September 18, 2006. Representatives from the following Contracting Parties (CPs) were in attendance: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroes and Greenland), the European Union (EU), France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine, and United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ricardo Federizon, FC Coordinator (NAFO Secretariat), was appointed Rapporteur for this meeting. As Rapporteur, he was responsible to maintain and prepare the record of decisions made by the Fisheries Commission (Annex 2).

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was **adopted** with an addition (Annex 3). The election of Vice-Chair was included as item 19.1 under "Other business".

4. Guidance to STACTIC necessary for them to complete their work

The STACTIC Chair Mads Nedergaard presented the results of STACTIC June 2006 meeting (see item 7). Most of the agenda items concerning NAFO Reform remained inconclusive and the items were included in the September Annual Meeting agenda.

Recognizing the importance of the Reform issues, the EU suggested that STACTIC should focus on these issues at the September Annual Meeting. If necessary, the other STACTIC agenda items unrelated to Reform would have to be postponed. Norway and Canada agreed with the suggestion. The priority areas with respect to Reform that STACTIC should discuss are:

- Definition of infringements, including categories of seriousness of the infringements.
- Revision of the definition and requirement of re-routing vessels issued with Apparent Infringements to port for inspection.
- Clear interpretation of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures concerning by-catches, directed fisheries, and stowage plans.
- Measures concerning IUU and the establishment of a list of vessels involved in IUU activities.
- Port Inspection procedures.
- Establishment of guidelines implementing sanctions.

Concerning the area of sanctions, it was suggested by Norway that there should be a comparative analysis of the sanctions that flag States impose on their vessels. In addition, recognizing that the Monitoring, Surveillance and Control (MSC) measures might take time before they are implemented, STACTIC should also consider precautionary measures such as withdrawals or suspensions (see item 9).

5. Guidance to Scientific Council necessary for them to complete their work

The Chair of Scientific Council (SC), Antonio Vazquez (EU/Spain) presented scientific advice and other issues. Other than details on advice on yellowtail flounder, shrimp, and Greenland halibut stocks, questions arising from the presentation related mainly to other issues determined by the SC Chair (see item 10b). The deliberations on these issues, as well as the scientific advice, are presented in item 10.

II. Administrative (items 6)

6. Review of Commission Membership

It was noted that the membership of the Fisheries Commission is currently twelve (12), i.e. all Contracting Parties except Bulgaria.

III. Conservation and Enforcement Measures (items 7 -9)

7. Report of STACTIC, June 2006 (Copenhagen)

The STACTIC June 2006 report (FC Doc. 06/2) was presented under agenda item 4.

8. Review of Chartering Arrangements

A report on the chartering arrangements was presented by the NAFO Secretariat (FC Working Paper 06/4). The Secretariat clarified upon an inquiry from the EU that the requirements stipulated in the Conservation and Enforcement Measures concerning chartering arrangements are complied with by the Contracting Parties involved.

9. Report of STACTIC at the Annual Meeting

The Chair of STACTIC, Mads Trolle Nedergaard (DFG) presented the STACTIC Report to the Fisheries Commission. As instructed, the STACTIC focused on the Reform issues on strengthening MSC measures (see item 4). In this regard, STACTIC produced six working papers containing recommendations on the changes of the CEM (STACTIC WP 06/27 Rev. 2 – WP 32 Rev.4). They covered the following specific areas:

- By-catch provisions (Article 9)
- Infringements and Serious Infringements (Articles 32 and 33)
- Follow-up actions under Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme (Chapter IV)
- Enforcement Measures (new Article)
- Provisions concerning Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities of Non-Contracting Parties (Article 48).

The recommendations on the revision of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) contained in these working papers were subjected to intense deliberations and underwent revisions. The agreed revisions (except on IUU) were “packaged” in a single document FC Working Paper 06/23 (Annex 4) which was **adopted**. The new measures are part of the NAFO Reform initiative in accordance with paragraph 4c of the St. John’s Declaration which was adopted at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

The recommendations concerning IUU were forwarded to STACFAC for review. STACFAC forwarded the recommendations to the General Council for adoption (see Annex 9 of the STACFAC report, and the GC report).

In addition, a proposal from Iceland for an Observer Scheme based on the Observer Pilot Project as an option to the current Observer Program was forwarded to the FC for adoption. This is presented in item 13.

The agenda items requiring action by the FC and not related to Reform issues were deferred to the next intersessional meeting.

The Fisheries Commission **accepted** the STACTIC Report.

IV. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area (items 10-15)

10. Summary of Scientific Advice by the Scientific Council

Stock Assessments and recommendations (Scientific Council Chair)

The SC Chair, Antonio Vazquez (EU/Spain), presented a summary of the scientific advice to Fisheries Commission for 2007 and 2008. Details of the scientific advice are contained in Scientific Council Reports (2005) from November 2005 and in SCS Doc. 06/22 from the June 2006 meetings.

The SC Chair also presented trends of the physical environment (oceanography) of the NAFO waters and their influence on the marine resources. The highlights of the oceanographic conditions were:

- Air temperatures were above normal from West Greenland to the Scotian Shelf.

- The upper waters of the Labrador Sea were the warmest in the past 16 years.
- Sea surface temperatures were warmer than normal from the Labrador Sea to the Scotian Shelf.
- Ocean temperatures on the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelf remained well above normal, continuing the warm trend experienced since the mid-to-late 1990s.
- Sea-ice coverage remained below normal for the 11th consecutive year on the Newfoundland and Labrador Shelf.
- Historical data shows evidence that warm-saline ocean conditions were favourable for fish production (e.g. cod, capelin, salmon)
- Periods of colder conditions (e.g. early 1900s) coincided with increased invertebrate production (crab, shrimp).
- Environmental conditions appear to be important at early life history stages for many species as well as influencing growth rates, metabolism and reproduction

The following stocks were fully assessed including elaboration of scientific advice for 2007:

Species	Recommendation for 2007
Shrimp in Division 3M	TAC of 48 000 t.
Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO	TAC of 22 000 t for 2007 and should not be raised for a number of years to allow time to monitor the impact of the fishery upon this shrimp stock. The fishery should be restricted to Division 3L. The use of a sorting grid with a maximum bar spacing of 22 mm should be mandatory for all vessels in the fishery.
Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO	<p>SC noted that the 2004 and 2005 catches of 25 500 and 23 000 tons exceeded the rebuilding plan TAC by 27% and 22% respectively. It strongly recommends that steps should be taken to ensure that any bycatches of other species during the Greenland halibut fishery are true and unavoidable bycatches.</p> <p>Projections were conducted assuming that the catches in 2006 and 2007 do not exceed the rebuilding plan TAC and with catches in excess of 20%. Results indicate that for both scenarios fishing mortality is projected to remain relatively high, and projected biomass remains below the exploitable biomass in 2003 when the rebuilding plan was implemented. In all of these projection scenarios, the 2009 exploitable biomass remains well below the target level of biomass specified in the FC rebuilding plan. The SC noted that F should be reduced to a level no higher than F_{0.1} in order to provide a consistent increase of the 5+ exploitable biomass.</p>

The following stocks were fully assessed including elaboration of a scientific advice for 2007 and 2008:

Species	Recommendation for 2006/2007
Cod in Division 3M	No directed fishery for 2007-2008. Bycatch should be kept to the lowest possible level.
American Plaice in Division 3M	No directed fishery for 2007-2008. Bycatch should be kept to the lowest possible level.
Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO	No directed fishery for 2007-2008. Bycatch should be kept to the lowest possible level.
Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO	TAC should not exceed 15,500 t for 2007 and 2008 based on current harvest level $F=2/3F_{msy}$. Under the Precautionary Approach Framework, the stock is in the safe zone at the current fishing regime. Projections were made under three different fishing mortality levels of 0.67, 0.75 and 0.85 of F_{msy} . The probabilities of the biomass falling below B_{msy} during the next 10 years were low under all of these levels of fishing mortality.
Thorny skates in Divisions 3LNOPs	Should be managed as a single unit – Div. 3LNOPs. TAC should not exceed 11,000 t in Div. 3LNOPs.
Squid (<i>Illex</i>) in Subareas 3+4	TAC for 2007-2008 should be between 19,000 – 34,000 t.

The following stocks were monitored and the SC found no significant change in the status for any of these stocks. There was no reason to change the advice given:

- Cod at Div. 3NO
- American plaice in Div. 3LNO
- Witch flounder in Div. 3L
- Redfish in Div. 3M
- Redfish in Div. 3O
- Capelin in Div. 3NO
- White Hake in Divs. 3NO

Following special requests by the Fisheries Commission the following advice or comments were presented:

Species/Stocks/Topics	Advice and/or Comments
Redfish in Division 3O (mesh size)	The reduction of mesh size from 130 to 90-100 mm for bottom trawl fisheries is not supported.
Spiny Dogfish	Spiny dogfish occurring in the NRA constitute only a tiny fraction of the northwest Atlantic population. Only fish > 58 cm are observed on the Grand Banks indicating that early life history does not occur there.
Black Dogfish	Black dogfish is a bathydemersal species distributed along the entire length of Canadian and NRA slope waters mainly at depths > 700 m and also in the Laurentian Channel at depths of 350-600 m. Information on stock structure is conjectural but all evidence suggests that black dogfish in Canadian waters form a single stock and is different from those off Greenland.
Pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (redfish) in Subareas 1-3 and adjacent ICES Area	ICES continues to work on stock identity. Current studies are inconclusive. ICES recommended no fishing take place unless there are clear indications of recovery.
Identification of deepwater habitats and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSA)	SC recommends that criteria are developed for identifying sensitive areas. The collection of biological information important for safeguarding habitats from CP fishing surveys be incorporated as a standard routine in the surveys in the area, and further studies on bycatch be undertaken. Fishing in sensitive areas, for example on and around sea mounts be monitored possibly by the provision of summary information based on VMS. Contracting Parties should identify the expertise necessary to allow SC in addressing issues relating to safeguarding habitats.
Observer Program	SC recommends that scientific sampling by the NAFO Observer Program should manage to cover sampling catches of those CPs that do not have their own programs, and that the electronic recording forms designed by the Secretariat be adopted for use by the NAFO Observer Program for that purpose.
Seals	NAMMCO's request to be included in the ICES-NAFO WG on Harp and Hooded Seals is rejected.

b) Other issues (as determined by SC)

- **STATLANT21.** The SC Chair apprised the FC of the new deadline for the submission of STATLANT 21A and STATLANT 21B fisheries statistics -- May 01 and August 31, respectively.
- **VMS on catch and effort data be made available to SC for stock assessment purposes.** Concerns were expressed about the confidentiality issues in making the VMS data available. A proposal was made to make

the VMS data available in summary form conforming to the confidentiality requirement (FC WP 06/13 Rev.). The proposal was **adopted**. (Annex 5)

- **Proposal to require monthly provisional catch submissions by flag State.** The EU indicated that this will entail difficulty in implementation. No action was taken on this proposal.
- **OMEGA Mesh Gauge.** FC was informed that this instrument for measuring mesh sizes was adopted by SC as the standard tool in its scientific studies. FC might consider this instrument for the inspectors to use for compliance/inspection purposes. FC referred this matter to STACTIC.

11. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2007

11.1 Cod in Div. 3M

In accordance with the scientific advice, it was decided that the moratorium and other provisions for this stock be continued in 2007 and 2008. By-catch provisions as formulated in the NAFO CEM Article 9 apply.

11.2 American plaice in Div. 3M

In accordance with the scientific advice, it was decided that the moratorium and other provisions for this stock be continued in 2007 and 2008. By-catch provisions as formulated in the NAFO CEM Article 9 apply.

11.3 Shrimp in Div. 3M

The Scientific Council recommended a TAC of 48 000 t for this stock. There was no unanimous agreement regarding management measures for this stock. Iceland maintained its previous position that the provisions and measures in the NAFO CEM concerning this stock are contrary to the scientific advice. The Fisheries Commission decided that the 2006 provisions be applied in 2007 and noted the reservation of Iceland.

A proposal to revise the CEM articles relevant to 3M shrimp fisheries (FC Working Paper 06/24) – Article 19 Product Labelling Requirements, and Article 20 Recording of Catch and Stowage – was **adopted**. (Annex 6)

12. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Fishing Limits, 2007

12.1 Witch flounder in Divs. 3NO

In accordance with the scientific advice, it was decided that the 2006 moratorium and other provisions for this stock be continued in 2007 and 2008. By-catch provisions as formulated in the NAFO CEM Article 9 apply.

12.2 Yellowtail flounder in Divs. 3LNO (PA framework)

The USA proposed a TAC of 17 200 for years 2007-2008 and an allocation scheme described in FC Working Papers 06/2 and 06/20. No consensus was reached on this proposal. It was decided that the allocation scheme of 2006 be applied in 2007. The TAC is 15 500 t, based on the scientific advice. The USA registered its reservation to this decision.

12.3 Thorny skate in Divs. 3LNO

It was agreed that the TAC of 13 500 t and the allocation scheme be maintained for 2007. The US noted that the SC advice for this stock is 11 000 t in Divs. 3LNOPs.

12.4 Squid (*Illex*) in Subareas 3 and 4

It was agreed that the TAC of 34 000 t and the allocation scheme be maintained for 2007 and 2008. Canada has noted that this stock has shown a potential for increased productivity and reserves the option to consider a higher TAC for 2008.

12.5 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divs. 3KLMNO (rebuilding plan)

It was decided that the Rebuilding Plan for Divs. 3LMNO Greenland halibut will be continued for 2007. Therefore, the TAC of 11 856 t in Divs. 3LMNO for 2007 which had been adopted in the framework of the Rebuilding Plan will remain unchanged. According to the Rebuilding Plan, the TAC for Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO is 16 000 tons for 2007.

12.6 Shrimp in Divs. 3LNO

No action was taken concerning the TAC and the allocation scheme. Based on the SC advice, the TAC for 2007 remains at the 2006 level, i.e. 22 000 t. It was also decided that the provisions of the 2006 allocation scheme be applicable in 2007. The reservation of Denmark (in respect of Faroes and Greenland) on the allocation scheme was noted.

A proposal to revise the CEM Articles relevant to 3L shrimp fisheries (FC Working Paper 06/24) – Article 6 Shrimp in Division 3L, Article 19 Product Labelling Requirements, and Article 20 Recording of Catch and Stowage – was **adopted**. (Annex 6)

A proposal from Denmark (in respect of the Faroes and Greenland) to amend the time restrictions for 3L fishery (FC WP 06/15) was **adopted**. (Annex 7)

12.7 Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area

It was decided that the TAC in 2007 is 16 914 t. The allocation scheme of the 2006 provision applies in 2007. The TAC is based on a 17% reduction of TAC for this shared stock by NEAFC effective March 14, 2006. It was noted that the 2007 TAC may be revised accordingly when NEAFC determines its new TAC in November 2006, following the procedure described in Footnote 10 of the Quota Table.

The proposal to append an item e) paragraph 1 of Article 10 of the CEM was **adopted** to read (FC Working Paper 06/17 Rev.): Article 10. Gear Requirements 1. Minimum authorized mesh size shall be as follows: e) 100 mm for pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in Sub-area 2 and Divisions 1F & 3K. (Annex 8)

Footnote 10 was revised to read: “In case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2007 as compared with 2006, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted by NAFO and formalized through a mail vote.”

12.8 Redfish in Div. 3O (minimum mesh size)

In view of the Scientific Council stand that it does not support reducing the current minimum mesh size of 130 mm of bottom trawl gears for this fishery, deliberations ensued on the issue of harmonization of the mesh size regulations in the Canadian EEZ (currently 90 mm) and NAFO Regulatory Area. The FC has forwarded a request to the SC to evaluate the scientific justification of the mesh size harmonization (item 8 of FC Working Paper 06/22) (Annex 11), addressing among others the ramifications on the bycatch of American plaice and cod.

12.9 Management of Currently Unregulated Stocks

i. Spiny dogfish

ii. Black dogfish

No specific management measures were formulated for these elasmobranch species. The USA stressed that at the 1998 Annual Meeting, a recommendation from the Scientific Council that catch reporting of elasmobranchs (sharks, skates, rays and chimaeras) be made in a maximum degree of detail, i.e. species level was adopted. The detailed reporting has never been practiced as confirmed by the Scientific Council. The USA reiterated that the practice of catch reporting of elasmobranchs should be consistent with the 1998 adopted recommendation, and that progress should be reported for consideration at the 2007 Annual Meeting (FC Working Paper 06/12).

The Quota Table for 2007, Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in NAFO Division 3M, 2007 and Rebuilding Plan for 3LMNO Greenland halibut (CEM Annexes I.A, I.B, I.C, respectively) can be found in Annex 9 to this Report.

13. Structure and Coverage of Observer Program

Iceland proposed an Observer Scheme based on the Pilot Project on Observers as an option to the current observer program (STACTIC WP 06/33 Rev. 3). The proposed scheme, according to Iceland, has proven to be less costly and more efficient than the current observer program. It entails 25% coverage in contrast to the 100% in the current scheme. Contracting Parties will have the option to implement either the proposed or the existing observer scheme. The proposal was supported by Norway, Denmark (in respect of Faroes and Greenland), and the EU. Russia expressed support for the current Observer Scheme. Ukraine expressed its reservation on the proposal maintaining that any observer scheme should have coverage not lower than 50%. The proposal was **adopted** noting the position of Russia and the reservation of Ukraine. (Annex 10)

14. Reform of NAFO (issues outlined in paragraph 5 of the St. John's Declaration)

Canada presented a discussion paper on the management fishing capacity in the NAFO Regulatory Area (FC Working Paper 06/9) and a proposal for an action plan on fishing capacity management (FC Working Paper 06/10). The proposed action plan entails establishment of a working group to define and assess the problem of overcapacity in fisheries that could undermine the conservation objectives of NAFO. Under the action plan, the working group would make recommendations to the Fisheries Commission on corrective actions and develop a formal NAFO Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity in all its fisheries. The EU indicated it deals with the issue of management of fishing capacity concerning its fleet as an "everyday issue" and considers the proposal in its current form redundant. There was no further discussion on the proposal and no action was taken at the meeting.

15. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for scientific advice on the management of fish stocks in 2008

The Fisheries Commission **adopted** the paper containing its request for scientific advice to the Scientific Council (FC WP 06/22 Rev.). (Annex 11)

V. Ecosystem Considerations (Items 16 -17)

16. Areas of Ecological and Biological Significance in the NAFO Area.

A resolution proposed by USA and Japan on protecting sea turtles in the NAFO Convention Area (FC WP 06/14) was **adopted**. (Annex 12)

With the objective of protecting vulnerable habitats and other ecologically sensitive areas in the NAFO Area, Canada proposed a closure to all fishing activities on and around four seamounts within the defined coordinates. Russia expressed its view that the closure should be limited only to bottom fishing gears. The President (who chaired the meeting when this item was discussed) gave the task to the Secretariat to revise the text of the proposal by incorporating the term "demersal" or "groundfish" to accommodate the position of Russia. The proposal (FC WP 06/11 Rev. 5) was **adopted** with this understanding. (Annex 13). It was also agreed that this action was an initial step that could be followed by additional action.

17. Role of Seals in the Marine Ecosystem

Denmark (in respect of Faroes and Greenland) expressed surprise at the recommendation of the SC to reject NAMMCO's request to be included in the NAFO-ICES Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals, noting that the SC had itself recognised the need to seek expertise in other international bodies on questions related to the ecosystem. Recognizing the importance of seals as top predators in the fisheries ecosystem, it was stressed that NAFO should be abreast with the latest available information on the role of seals and their impact on fish stocks in the NAFO area. In this regard, SC was requested to provide the Fisheries Commission at its next Annual Meeting with an update on the knowledge related to the role of seals in the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Atlantic, taking into account the work of other relevant organizations, including ICES and NAMMCO (see item 7 of FC WP 06/22 Rev.). (Annex 11)

VI. Closing Procedure (Items 18-20)

18. Time and Place of the Next Meeting

This item was deferred to the General Council which decided that the next Annual Meeting will be held during 24-28 September 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.

19. Other Business

i. Election of Vice-Chair

Kate Sanderson of Denmark (in respect of Faroes and Greenland) was unanimously elected Vice Chair to replace Kolbeinn Arnason of Iceland.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 14:00 on Friday, 22 September 2006.

Annex 1. List of Participants

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**Annex 2. Record of Decisions by the Fisheries Commission
(Annual Meeting 2006)**

Substantive Issues (Agenda item):	Decision/Action:
7 and 9. Report of STACTIC June 2006 and Report of STACTIC September 2006	Accepted
8. Review of Chartering Arrangement	Noted FC WP 06/04
10. Summary of Scientific Advice by the Scientific Council b) ii. VMS data be made available to the SC for stock assessment purposes	Noted Scientific Council Chair's report Adopted FC WP 06/13 (Rev.) (FC Doc. 06/6)
11. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2007	(see 2007 Quota Table)
11.1 Cod in Division 3M	The 2006 provisions for this stock will be applied in 2007 and 2008. By-catch provisions as stipulated in the NAFO CEM apply.
11.2 American plaice in Division 3M	The 2006 provisions for this stock will be continued in 2007 and 2008. By-catch provisions as stipulated in the NAFO CEM apply.
11.3 Shrimp in Division 3M	The 2006 provisions will be applied in 2007. The reservation of Iceland was noted. Adopted FC WP 06/24. (FC Doc. 06/12)
12. Management of Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Fishing Limits, 2007	(see 2007 Quota Table)
12.1 Witch flounder in Division 3NO	The 2006 provisions for this stock will be continued in 2007 and 2008. By-catch provisions as stipulated in the NAFO CEM apply.
12.2 Yellowtail flounder in Division 3LNO	The 2006 allocation scheme for this stock will be continued in 2007. By-catch provisions as stipulated in the NAFO CEM apply. TAC is 15 500 t. The reservation of USA was noted.
12.3 Thorny skate in Division 3LNO	Allocation scheme is maintained. TAC is 13 500 t.
12.4 Squid (<i>Illex</i>) in Subareas 3 and 4	Allocation scheme is maintained for 2007 and 2008. TAC is 34 000 t.
12.5 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO (rebuilding plan)	No action taken. The TAC in Divs. 3LMNO of 11 856 t which was adopted in the framework of the rebuilding plan is unchanged.
12.6 Shrimp in Division 3LNO	The allocation scheme in 2007 remains the same as in 2006. TAC is 22 000 t. The reservation of Denmark (in respect of Faroes and Greenland) on the allocation scheme was noted. Adopted FC WP 06/15 – on time restrictions. (FC Doc. 06/8)

	Adopted FC WP 06/24 – on product labelling and catch recording. (FC Doc. 06/12)
12.7 Pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area	TAC in 2007 is 16 914 t, based on the 17% reduction of the NEAFC TAC. Allocation scheme the same as in 2006. Footnote 10 was revised to read: “In case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2007 as compared with 2006, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted by NAFO and formalized through a mail vote.” Adopted FC WP 06/17 (Rev.) (FC Doc. 06/9)
12.9 Management of Currently Unregulated Stocks: i. Spiny dogfish ii. Black dogfish	Noted FC WP 06/12.
13. Structure and Coverage of Observer Programme	Adopted STACTIC WP 06/33 (rev. 3) (FC Doc. 06/13). The reservation of Ukraine on the 25% coverage was noted.
14. Reform of NAFO (issues outlined in paragraph 5 of the St. John’s Declaration)	Adopted FC WP 06/23. (FC Doc. 06/11)
15. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for scientific advice on the management of fish stocks in 2008	Adopted FC WP 06/22 (Rev.). (FC Doc. 06/10)
16. Areas of Ecological and Biological Significance in the NAFO Area	Adopted FC WP 06/11 (Rev. 5). (FC Doc. 06/5) Adopted FC WP 06/14 (FC Doc. 06/7)
18. Time and Place of Next Meeting	Agreed at the General Council – 24-28 September 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.
19. Other Business i. Election of Vice Chair	Kate Sanderson of Denmark (in respect of Faroes and Greenland) was elected Vice Chair to replace Kolbeinn Arnason of Iceland.

Annex 3. Agenda

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair, Vladimir Shibanov (Russia)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Guidance to STACTIC necessary for them to complete their work (Monday)
5. Guidance to SC necessary for them to complete their work (Monday)

II. Administrative

6. Review of Commission Membership

III. Conservation and Enforcement Measures

7. Report of STACTIC, June 2006
8. Review of Chartering Arrangements
9. Report of STACTIC at the Annual Meeting

IV. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

10. Summary of Scientific Advice and Other Matters raised by the Scientific Council
 - a) Stock assessments and recommendations (Scientific Council Chair)
 - b) Other issues (as determined by SC)
 - i. Submission of provisional monthly catches by flag state instead of Contracting Party
 - ii. VMS data be made available to the SC for fish stock assessment purposes
 - iii. Omega Mesh Gauge
 - iv. ICES-NAFO Harp and Hooded Seals Working Group
11. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2007
 - 11.1 Cod in Div. 3M
 - 11.2 American plaice in Div. 3M
 - 11.3 Shrimp in Div. 3M
12. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Fishing Limits, 2007
 - 12.1 Witch flounder in Div. 3NO
 - 12.2 Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO (PA framework)
 - 12.3 Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO
 - 12.4 Squid (*Illex*) in Subareas 3 and 4
 - 12.5 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Div. 3KLMNO (rebuilding plan)
 - 12.6 Shrimp in Div. 3LNO
 - 12.7 Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area
 - 12.8 Redfish in Div. 3O (minimum mesh size)
 - 12.9 Management of Currently Unregulated Stocks:
 - i. Spiny dogfish
 - ii. Black dogfish
13. Structure and Coverage of Observer Programme
14. Reform of NAFO (issues outlined in paragraph 5 of the St. John's Declaration)
15. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stocks in 2008

V. Ecosystem Considerations

16. Areas of Ecological and Biological Significance in the NAFO Area
17. Role of Seals in the Marine Ecosystem

VI. Closing Procedure

18. Time and Place of the Next Meeting
19. Other Business
 - i) Election of Vice-Chair
20. Adjournment

Annex 4. Amendments to the Conservation and Enforcement Measures
(FC WP 06/23 now FC Doc. 06/11)

Article 9 – By-catch requirements

1. By-catch retained on board
 - a) Vessels of a Contracting Party shall limit their by-catch to a maximum of 2500 kg or 10%, whichever is the greater, for each species listed in Annex I for which no quota has been allocated in that Division to that Contracting Party.
 - b) In cases where a ban on fishing is in force or an “Others” quota has been fully utilised, the by-catch of the species concerned may not exceed 1250 kg or 5%, whichever is the greater.
 - c) The percentages in a) and b) are calculated as the percentage, by weight, for each species of the total catch retained on board. Catches of shrimp shall not be included in the calculation of by-catch levels of ground fish species.

2. By-catch in any one haul
 - a) If the percentages of by-catches in any one haul have exceeded the percentages laid down in paragraph 1 a) and b) the vessel must immediately move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tow and throughout the next tow keep a minimum distance of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tow. If after moving, the next haul exceeds these by-catch limits the vessel must leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours.
 - b) In the event that total by-catches of all ground fish species subject to quota in any haul in the shrimp fishery exceed 5% by weight in Division 3M or 2.5% by weight in Division 3L, the vessel must move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tow and throughout the next tow keep a minimum distance of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tow. If after moving, the next haul exceeds these by-catch limits the vessel must leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours.
 - c) The percentage of by-catch authorised in any one haul is calculated as the percentage, by weight, for each species of the total catch in that haul.

3. Directed fishery and by-catch
 - a) Masters shall not conduct directed fisheries for species for which by-catch limits apply. A directed fishery for a species shall be deemed to have been conducted when that species comprises the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in any one haul.
 - b) However, when a vessel is conducting a directed fishery for skate with a legal mesh size appropriate for that fishery, the first time that, in a haul, catches of species for which by-catch limits comprise the largest percentage, by weight of the total catch, they shall be considered as incidental. In this event the vessel shall immediately change position in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2a) and b).
 - c) Following an absence from a Division of at least 60 hours in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2a) and b) masters shall undertake a trial tow the duration of which shall not exceed 3 hours. By way of derogation from paragraph a), if in a haul from such a trial tow catches of species for which by-catch limits comprise the largest percentage, by weight of the total catch, it shall not be considered as a directed fishery. In this event the vessel shall immediately change position in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2a) and b).

Article 20 – Recording of catch and stowage

5. Taking into account consideration for the legitimate safety and navigational responsibilities of the master of the vessel, the following shall apply:
 - a) All catches taken inside the NAFO Convention Area shall be stowed separately from all catches taken outside the area. They shall be kept clearly separate, for example with plastic, plywood or netting.
 - b) Catches of the same species may be stowed in more than one part of the hold but the location where it is stowed shall be clearly represented in the stowage plan referred to in paragraph 6.

Article 33a – Enhanced follow-up with regard to certain serious infringements

1. In addition to the provisions of Article 33 the flag state Contracting Party shall take action under this article where a vessel flying its flag has committed one of the following serious infringements:

- a) Directed fishing for a stock which is subject to a moratorium or for which fishing is prohibited (Article 9);
- b) Mis recording of catches (Article 20);

To be considered for follow-up action under this Article the difference between the inspector's estimates of processed catch on board, by species or in total, and the figures recorded in the production logbook shall be 10 tons or 20%, whichever is the greatest, calculated as a percentage of the production logbook figures. In order to calculate the estimate of the catch on board a stowage factor agreed between the inspectors of the inspecting Contracting Party and the Contracting Party of the inspected vessel shall be used.

- c) The repetition of the same serious infringement mentioned in the Article 33 (1) that has been confirmed in accordance with Article 33 paragraph 5 during a 100 day period or within the fishing trip, whichever is shorter.

2. The flag state Contracting Party shall ensure that following the inspection referred to in Article 33 (3) the vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities and an investigation into the serious infringement is initiated.

3. If no inspector or other person designated by the flag state Contracting Party of the vessel to carry out the investigation as outlined in paragraph 2 is present in the Regulatory Area the flag state Contracting Party shall require the vessel to proceed immediately to a port where the investigation can be initiated.

4. When completing the investigation for any serious infringement of mis-recording of catch referred to in paragraph 1 b) the flag state Contracting Party shall ensure that the physical inspection and enumeration of total catch on board, takes place under its authority in port. Such inspection may take place in the presence of an inspector from any another Contracting Party that wishes to participate, subject to the consent of the flag state Contracting Party.

5. When a vessel is required to proceed to port pursuant to paragraph 2, 3 or 4, an inspector from another Contracting Party may board and/or remain on board the vessel as it is proceeding to port, provided that the competent authority of the Contracting Party of the inspected vessel does not require the inspector to leave the vessel.

Article 34 – Follow-up to infringements

1. The competent authorities of a Contracting Party notified of an infringement committed by one of its vessels shall investigate immediately and fully this infringement to obtain the evidence required which shall include, where appropriate, the physical inspection of the vessel concerned.

2. The competent authorities of the flag state Contracting Party shall take immediate judicial or administrative action in conformity with their national legislation against the nationals responsible for the vessel flying its flag where the measures adopted by NAFO have not been respected.

3. The competent authorities of the flag state Contracting Party shall ensure that the proceeding initiated pursuant to paragraph 2 shall be capable, in accordance with the relevant provisions of national law, of providing effective measures that are adequate in severity, secure compliance, and deprive those responsible of the economic benefit of the infringement, and effectively discourage future infringements.

4. paragraph 2 – unchanged

5. paragraph 3 – unchanged

6. paragraph 4 – unchanged

Remarks : delete the paragraph 1 and 5 replaced by new paragraph 1, 2 and 3.

Article 34 a – Enforcement Measures

1. Each flag State Contracting Party shall take enforcement measures with respect to a vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its laws that this fishing vessel flying its flag committed a serious infringement listed in article 33.a.
2. The measures referred to in paragraph 1 may include, in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law :
 - a) Fines
 - b) Seizure of illegal fishing gear and catches
 - c) Sequestration of the vessel
 - d) Suspension or withdrawal of authorisation to fish
 - e) Reduction or withdrawal of the fishing quota
3. The flag State Contracting Party of the vessel concerned shall notify to the Executive Secretary, without delay, the appropriate measures taken in accordance with this Article.

Article 35 – Treatment of Reports from Inspectors

The text of Article 35 is replaced by the following:

1. Inspection and surveillance reports drawn up by NAFO inspectors shall constitute admissible evidence for administrative or judicial proceedings of any Contracting Parties. For establishing facts they shall be treated equally to inspection and surveillance reports of its own inspectors.
2. Contracting Parties shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report submitted by an the inspector under the scheme, subject to the rules governing the admissibility of evidence in domestic judicial and other systems.

Article 36 – Report on infringements

1. Paragraph 1 – unchanged
2. Paragraph 2 - unchanged
3. Addition of a new paragraph 3:
 3. "In case of serious infringement referred to in Article 33.a, the Contracting Party concerned shall provide to the Executive Secretary with a report on the progress of the investigation, including details of any action taken or proposed to be taken in relation to the serious infringement as soon as practicable and in any case within four months following the notification of the infringement and a report on the outcome of the investigation when the investigation is completed".

Annex 5. Revision of Article 22.8 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures
(FC WP 06/13, Rev. **now** FC Doc. 06/6)

Following the deliberation of the Fisheries Commission (FC) on the matter of making available the VMS data to the Scientific Council (SC), the Secretariat was given the task to revise the text of the Article 22.8. The reformulation of the text was made in consultation with the SC Chair. The bold letters indicate the addition to the original text of the article.

Article 22 – Vessel Monitoring System

8. The Executive Secretary shall make available as soon as possible the information received under paragraph 6 to other Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area. All reports and messages shall be treated in a confidential manner.

The Executive Secretary shall make VMS data available in a summary form to the Scientific Council following specific requests from the Fisheries Commission to the Scientific Council to determine fishing effort on and around vulnerable habitats and for any other purpose.

Annex 6. Divisions 3LM Shrimp – New Management Measures
(FC WP 06/24 **now** FC Doc. 06/12)

Background or Explanatory Memorandum

The shrimp fishery in the NAFO Regulatory Area is comprised of two components:

- 3M dominated by lower value industrial shrimp with catch rates of ~10t/day
- 3L dominated by higher value/better quality shrimp with catch rates of ~20-25t/day

Masters advise that the value of 3L shrimp is approximately 3 times the value of 3M shrimp. With higher catch rates in 3L and high operating costs, the motivation to misreport is high. One day in Division 3L, on average, equates to a gross value of \$60,000 while one day in Division 3M, on average, equates to a gross value of \$10,000.

The following measures are proposed to improve the effectiveness of the MCS program:

Proposed Measurements for Shrimp Fishery

The following are proposed measures [**bold**] to improve compliance in the 3L shrimp fishery.

Article 6 - Shrimp in Division 3L

4. Prior to entry into any port, vessels or their representatives shall provide the competent port authority at least 24 hours before the estimated time of arrival with the following:

- i) Estimated time of arrival;**
- ii) Estimate of quantities of shrimp retained onboard;**
- iii) Information on the Division or Divisions where the catches were taken.**

Article 19 - Product Labeling Requirements

1. When processed all fish harvested in the Regulatory Area shall be labeled in such a way that each species, product category **and date of capture** is identifiable. It shall also be clearly marked as having been caught in the Regulatory Area. Furthermore, all shrimp harvested in Division 3L **and 3M** and all Greenland Halibut harvested in Sub-area 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO shall be marked accordingly **with the stock area**.

Article 20 – Recording of Catch and Stowage

6. Fishing vessels shall keep a stowage plan that shows the location of the different species in the holds as well as the quantities of such species on board in product weight stated in kilograms. **In the case of shrimp, vessels shall keep a stowage plan that specifies the location of shrimp taken in Division 3L and specifies the location of shrimp taken in Division 3M as well as the quantities of shrimp, by Division, on board in product weight stated in kilograms. The stowage plan shall be updated every day for the preceding day reckoned from 0000 hrs (UTC) until 2400 hrs (UTC). The stowage plan shall be kept on board until the vessel has been unloaded completely.**

Annex 7. Proposal from Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland
Amendment to time restrictions for 3L shrimp fishery (CEM Art. 12.1)
 (FC WP 06/15 now FC Doc. 06/8)

Introduction

Without prejudice to the objection to the Division of shrimp in NAFO 3L lodged by Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland in accordance with Article XII of the NAFO Convention, the following amendment to the time restrictions in Division 3L is proposed. In this connection it should be noted that, since objecting to the division of the TAC for 3L shrimp, which DFG considers to be a temporary measure not an allocation as is otherwise NAFO practice, DFG has nevertheless refrained from objecting to the restrictions on time and number of vessels in 3L which are provided for in the Conservation and Enforcement Measures.

Explanatory remarks

It has now been several years since the existing time restrictions for 3L, specifically Article 12, paragraphs 1) and 2) of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures, were adopted by the Fisheries Commission (1999). In the meantime the fishery has developed and the agreed TAC for this fishery has increased from 6000 t in 2000, to 13,000 t in 2003, to the present 22,000 t for 2006. The scientific, conservation and management basis of current time restrictions is unclear.

Given that NAFO's stated management objective for the shrimp fishery in this area is to provide for its gradual development, it would be consistent with these objectives to relax the associated time restrictions in line with developments. This would allow the fisheries sectors of all Parties with a real interest in this resource greater flexibility in the planning of their activities throughout the year.

Under existing CEM restrictions, Division 3L is closed to shrimp fishery from 1 April to 30 June and again from 15 September to 1 December, a total of 5 ½ months. The proposal from DFG would extend the period in which 3L is open by 2½ months (ie the period from 16 September to 30 November), thus allowing better fishing opportunities in the fall/spring period of the year, when the quality of the resource in the area is better than in the summer period.

Proposal for amendment of Conservation and Enforcement Measures:

Article 12:

1. 3L Fishing is prohibited: 1 April - 30 June

**Annex 8. Proposal from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) and Iceland
Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area
(FC WP 06/17, Rev. **now** FC Doc. 06/9)**

DFG & Iceland propose the following amendments to the Conservation and Enforcement Measures (highlighted in bold):

Article 10. Gear requirements

1. Minimum authorised mesh sizes shall be as follows:

e) **100 mm for pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in Sub-Area 2 and Divisions 1F & 3K**

Annex 1.A Annual Quota Table

Footnote 10: In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in **2007** as compared with **2006**, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted by NAFO and formalized through a mail vote.

Annex 9. CEM Annexes IA, IB, IC

Annex I.A - Annual Quota Table

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2007 of particular stocks in Subareas 1-4 of the NAFO Convention Area. The values listed include quantities to be taken both inside and outside the 200-mile fishing zone, where applicable.

Species	Cod			Redfish				American plaice		Yellowtail	Witch	
	3L	3M	3NO	3LN	3M	3O	Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K	3LNO	3M	3LNO	3L	3NO
Canada		0	0	0	500	6000	520 ^{2,4}	0	0	15112 ⁵		0
Cuba		0	-	0	1750		520 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		0	-	-	69		13010 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-
European Union		0 ¹¹	0 ¹¹	0 ¹¹	7813 ¹²	7000	13010 ^{2,3} 3383 ^{2,15}	0	0 ¹¹	-		0 ¹¹
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-	-	-	69		520 ^{2,4}	-	-	310 ⁵		-
Iceland		-	-	-	-		13010 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-
Japan		-	-	-	400	150	520 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Korea		-	-	-	69	100	520 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Norway		0	-	-	-		13010 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-
Russia		0	0	0	9137	6500	13010 ^{2,3}	-	0	-		0
Ukraine						150	520 ^{2,4}					
United States of America		-	-	-	69		520 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Others		0	0	0	124	100	-	0	0	78 ⁵		0
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	* ¹⁶	*	*	5000 ⁸	20000	16914 ^{10,17}	*	* ¹⁶	15500 ⁹	*	* ¹⁶

Species	White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) ¹	Shrimp	
Division/Contracting Party	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
Canada	2500	0	2250	1778	N.S. ⁶	18325	
Cuba		0		-	510	245	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		206	-	245	
European Union	5000	0 ¹¹	8500	6951 ¹⁸	<u>N.S.</u> ⁶ 611 ¹³	1225 ¹⁴	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		194	453	245	
Iceland		-		-	-	245	
Japan		0		1215	510	245	
Korea		-		-	453	245	
Norway		0		-	-	245	
Russia	500	0	2250	1512	749	245	
Ukraine				-		245	
United States of America		-		-	453	245	
Others	500	-	500	0 ⁷	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	8500	*	13500	11856	34000	22000	*

* Ban on fishing in force – The provisions of Article 9, paragraph 1.b) shall apply.

1. Any quota listed for squid may be increased by a transfer from any “coastal state” as defined in Article 1, paragraph 3 of the NAFO Convention, provided that the TAC for squid is not exceeded. Transfers made to Contracting Parties conducting fisheries for squid in the Regulatory Area shall be reported to the Executive Secretary, and the report shall be made as promptly as possible.
2. The Contracting Parties shall notify the Executive Secretary every second week of catches taken by its vessels from this allocation until accumulated reported catch reaches 50%, after which time weekly notification shall apply. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties the dates on which accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of Contracting Parties estimated equal to 50% and then 100% of that allocation.
3. Quota to be shared by vessels from Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), European Union, Iceland, Norway and Russia. Catches in the NAFO Convention Area shall be deducted from the quotas allocated in the NEAFC Convention Area.
4. Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
5. Contracting Parties shall inform the Executive Secretary before 1 December 2006 of the measures to be taken to ensure that total catches do not exceed the levels indicated.
6. The allocation to these Contracting Parties are as yet undetermined, although their sum shall not exceed the difference between the total of allocations to other Contracting Parties and the TAC (= 29.458 tons).

7. In 2005, the previous 935 t “Others” quota was assigned to three Contracting Parties. When the TAC exceeds 30,000 t the next 1,300 t beyond 30,000 will be allocated to an Others quota which can be accessed by those who do not hold Greenland halibut allocation. In deciding the relevant contributions of Contracting Parties to the 1300 t Others quota, the Fisheries Commission will take into account the fact that some Contracting Parties received a benefit from the 935 t quota which was reassigned in 2005.
8. Each Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary every second week of catches taken by its vessels from this stock until accumulated reported catch reaches 50%, after which time weekly notification shall apply. Not more than 2500 tons may be fished before July 1, 2007. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties of the date on which, for this stock, accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of the Contracting Parties is estimated to equal 50% and then 100% of the TAC.
9. The provisions of Article 9, paragraph 1.b) of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
10. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2007 as compared with 2006, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted by NAFO and formalized through a mail vote.
11. Including fishing entitlements of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union and in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7).
12. Including allocations of 1571 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania out of a sharing of 20,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
13. Allocations of 128 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as 227 tonnes for Poland out of a TAC of 34,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
14. Including allocations of 245 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of a TAC of 22000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union
15. Allocation of 3019 tonnes for Lithuania and 364 tonnes to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
16. Applicable to 2007 and 2008.
17. The quota shares in footnotes 4 and 15 can only be fished in the NAFO Regulatory Area. If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 10 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share referred to in footnote 4.
18. Including an allocation of 389 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.

Annex I.B
Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2007

CONTRACTING PARTY	NUMBER OF FISHING DAYS	NUMBER OF VESSELS
Canada	456	16
Cuba	100	1
Denmark		
- Faroe Islands	1606	8
- Greenland	515	14
European Union	3293 ¹	33 ¹
France (in respect of St Pierre et Miquelon)	100	1
Iceland	N/A	N/A
Japan	100	1
Korea	100	1
Norway	1985	32
Russia	2100	N/A
Ukraine	100	1
USA	100	1

¹ Including fishing entitlements transferred from Poland (100 fishing days with one vessel), Estonia (1667 fishing days with 8 vessels), Latvia (490 fishing days with 4 vessels) and Lithuania (579 fishing days with 7 vessels) following their accession to the European Union.

Annex I.C
Rebuilding Plan for 3LMNO Greenland Halibut

Species	Greenland halibut	Greenland halibut	Greenland halibut	Greenland halibut
Division/ Contracting Party	3LMNO 2004	3LMNO 2005	3LMNO 2006	3LMNO 2007
Canada	2223	2112	2056	1778
Cuba	-	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	-	244	238	206
European Union	8203	8254 ³	8038 ⁴	6951 ⁵
France (St Pierre et Miquelon)	-	230	224	194
Iceland	-	-	-	-
Japan	1519	1443	1405	1215
Korea	-	-	-	-
Norway	-	-	-	-
Russia	1890	1796	1748	1512
Ukraine	-	-	-	-
United States of America	-	-	-	-
Others	985 ¹	0 ²	0 ²	0 ²
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	14820	14079	13709	11856

¹ Of which no more than 60% may be fished before 1 May in each year.

² In 2005, the previous 935 t "Others" quota was assigned to three Contracting Parties. When the TAC exceeds 30,000 t the next 1,300 t beyond 30,000 will be allocated to an Others quota which can be accessed by those who do not hold Greenland halibut allocation. In deciding the relevant contributions of Contracting Parties to the 1300 t Others quota, the Fisheries Commission will take into account the fact that some Contracting Parties received a benefit from the 935 t quota which was reassigned in 2005.

³ Including an allocation of 461 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.

⁴ Including an allocation of 450 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.

⁵ Including an allocation of 389 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.

**Annex 10. Icelandic Proposal for Changing of Chapter VII in the CEM
from a Pilot Project to Permanent Measure
(STACTIC WP 06/33, Rev. 3 now FC Doc. 06/13)**

Proposal

In order to achieve this Iceland proposes the following changes to the NAFO conservation and enforcement measures

1. The following Chapter VII shall replace the current Chapter VII:

Chapter VII

Electronic reporting, satellite tracking and observers

Article 50 - Scope

1. Only vessels of Contracting Parties with functional VMS systems that have the necessary technical facilities in place to send electronic "observer reports" and "catch reports" are allowed to apply the provisions laid down in this chapter. **VMS messages have one hour interval.**
2. Contracting Parties shall notify the Executive Secretary of their intention to apply the provisions laid down in this chapter 30 days prior to the start of the fishing season.

Article 51 - Implementation

1. Participating Contracting Parties should notify the names of the vessels intending to apply the provisions of this chapter to the NAFO Secretariat. Such vessels shall have observers on board in accordance with Article 24 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures.
2. However, by way of derogation from these measures a Contracting Party may withdraw observers from vessels applying the provisions of this chapter on the condition that the technical facilities on board the vessel necessary to send electronic "observer reports" and "catch reports" have been tested with the NAFO Secretariat and Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area.
3. The testing of this exchange shall be deemed successful once data exchanges have been completed with all recipients at a 100% reliability rate.
4. A Contracting Party with vessel or vessels applying the provisions of this chapter shall withdraw the observer for no more than **75%** of the time that the vessel or vessels spend in the Regulatory Area during the year.
5. When withdrawing observers Contracting Parties shall ensure that there is a balance between vessels with observers and without observers, in terms of the type of fishery in which the vessels are engaged.
6. Participating Contracting Parties shall provide at all times to the NAFO Secretariat the names of vessels applying the provisions of this chapter as well as the period during which they have no observer onboard. The Executive Secretary shall forward this information to all Contracting Parties.
7. In the case where a vessel without an observer is found by an inspector to be engaged in any infringement, the Contracting Party shall apply the provisions of Article 33, paragraphs 2 to 9 of the Scheme, as appropriate, and, when the vessel is not re-routed, it shall embark an observer without delay.
8. In addition to their duties under the Conservation and Enforcement Measures observers on board vessels applying the provisions of this chapter shall report daily by electronic channels via the FMC to the NAFO Secretariat ("OBR report") of his duties described in Article 24.4. a) i) to iv) of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures.

Article 52 - Daily Reports

1. Masters of vessels and observers applying the provisions of this chapter shall transmit daily reports by division.
2. The daily reports are to be received by the NAFO Secretariat by 1200 UTC daily. The report period will run from 0001 hours to 2400 hours of the previous day.
3. The catch reported in the daily report of the master will correspond with those recorded in the log.
4. The daily reports shall include as appropriate the amounts, by Division, of the following categories:
 - a) The daily catch by species retained on board
 - b) Discarding
 - c) Undersize fish
5. If the electronic means of transmitting daily reports (to and from FMC) is not functioning, the master and the observer will continue to report daily by other means keeping a written log of these transmissions on board and available to inspectors.
6. The templates for Daily Catch (CAX) and Observer Reports (OBR) are contained in Annex XX(a).

Article 53 - Data Collection/Compilation/Analysis

1. The Executive Secretary shall collect and compile, on a weekly basis, the data provided by the daily catch reports to compare, among other items, catch rates of species caught by Division, by-catch percentage rate, discard rates for similar fisheries. The details of this data compilation are outlined in Annex XX (b).
2. The Executive Secretary shall forward this information to Contracting Parties with an inspection presence.
3. The NAFO Secretariat shall monitor the receipt of daily reports from each vessel applying the provisions of this chapter. When a report has not been received for 2 consecutive days, the NAFO Secretariat will notify the relevant Contracting Party as well as Contracting Parties with an Inspection Presence.
4. The Executive Secretary shall make available as soon as possible the information received under paragraphs 2 and 3 to other Contracting Parties with an active inspection presence in the Regulatory Area. All reports and messages shall be treated in a confidential manner.

Article 54 - Costs

1. Subject to any other arrangements between Contracting Parties, each Contracting Party shall pay all its costs associated with this system.

Article 55 - Follow-up

1. Each Contracting Party (including those with an inspection presence) shall submit an interim report at the first annual meeting of the Fisheries Commission following adoption of the pilot project and a detailed report on the execution of the pilot project containing all necessary information at the annual meeting of the Fisheries Commission following completion of the pilot project. STACTIC supported by the Executive Secretary should evaluate the results of the pilot project at its next meeting on the basis of the criteria set out below as well as the objectives identified, together with any recommendations or proposals:
 - a) Compliance overall and notably comparison between vessels with and without observers.

- b) Assessment by the Executive Secretary on issues related to data compatibility, data collection/compilation, and data transmission.
 - c) Cost/savings; for the industry; for the authorities of the Contracting Party (including those with an inspection presence); for the NAFO Secretariat.
 - d) Interaction with traditional means of control.
 - e) Technical functioning of the Scheme and reliability.
2. **The elements of this chapter are subject to review as appropriate, for application in 2010 and subsequent years.**

2. The following Annex XX shall be added

ANNEX XX (a)

1. Daily Catch Report Chapter VII (CAX)

Data Element:	Code:	Mandatory / Optional	Remarks:
Start record	SR	M	System detail; indicates start of record
Address	AD	M	Message detail; destination, "XNW" for NAFO
Sequence Number	SQ	M	Message detail; message serial number in current year
Type of Message	TM	M	Message detail; message type, "CAX" as Catch report
Radio call sign	RC	M	Vessel registration detail; international radio call sign of the vessel
Trip Number	TN	O	Activity detail; fishing trip serial number in current year
Vessel Name	NA	O	Vessel registration detail; name of the vessel
Contracting Party Internal Reference Number	IR	O	Vessel registration detail; unique Contracting Party vessel number as ISO-3 flag state code followed by number
External Registration Number	XR	O	Vessel registration detail; the side number of the vessel
Relevant Area	RA	M	Activity detail: NAFO Division
Latitude	LA	M ¹	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Longitude	LO	M ¹	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Daily Catches species live weight	CA	M M	Activity detail; cumulative catch by species retained on board (exclusive of discards), either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
Discarding species live weight	RJ	M	Activity detail; discarded catch by species, either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
Undersize species live weight	US	M	Activity detail; undersize catch by species, either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
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

- 1 Optional if a vessel is subject to satellite tracking
2 Meaning the first "Catch Report" in current fishing trip in the R.A.

2. Observer Report (OBR)

Data Element:	Code:	Mandatory / Optional	Remarks:
Start record	SR	M	System detail; indicates start of record
Address	AD	M	Message detail; destination, "XNW" for NAFO
Sequence Number	SQ	M	Message detail; message serial number in current year
Type of Message	TM	M	Message detail; message type, "OBR" as Observer report
Radio call sign	RC	M	Vessel registration detail; international radio call sign of the vessel
Fishing Gear	GE	M	Activity detail; FAO code for fishing gear
Directed Species ⁷	DS	M	Activity detail; FAO species code
Mesh Size	ME	M	Activity detail; average mesh size in millimetres
Relevant Area	RA	M	Activity detail; NAFO Division
Daily Catches	CA	M M	Activity detail; cumulative catch by species retained on board, (exclusive of discards), either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
species live weight			
Discarding	RJ	M ¹	Activity detail; discarded catch by species, either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
species live weight			
Undersize	US	M ¹	Activity detail; undersize catch by species, either since commencement of fishing in R.A. ² or last "Catch" report, in pairs as needed. FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
species live weight			
Log Book	LB	M	Activity detail; "Yes" or "No" ³
Production	PR	M	Activity detail; code for the production
Hails	HA	M	Activity detail; observers verification if the reports made by the captain are correct, "Yes" or "No" ⁴
Apparent Infringements	AF	M	Activity detail; "Yes" or "No" ⁵
Observer Name	ON	M	Message detail; name of the observer signing the report
Date	DA	M	Message detail; date of transmission
Free Text	MS	O ⁶	Activity detail; for further comments by the observer
Time	TI	M	Message detail; time of transmission
End of record	ER	M	System detail; indicates end of the record

1 Only to be transmitted if relevant

2 Meaning the first "Catch Report" in current fishing trip in the R.A.

3 "Yes" if the observer approves the Log Book entries by the captain

4 "Yes" if the observer approves the Hails transmitted by the captain

5 "Yes" if an infringement is observed

6 Mandatory if "LB" = "No", or "HA" = "No", or "AF" = "Yes".

7 Directed species is the species which represents the greatest catch for that day

ANNEX XX (b)

Data to be compiled by Executive Secretary and Forwarded to Inspection Parties

Catch and Catch Rate Report (Weekly)

Vessel Type	Division	Species	Total catch	Total Effort	Catch Rate
With observer –Masters					
With observer – observer					
Without observer					

By-catch Report (Weekly)

Vessel Type	Division	Species	Total catch	Total Overall Catch	By-catch %
With observer –Masters					
With observer – observer					
Without observer					

Discards Report (Weekly)

Vessel Type	Division	Species	Total catch	Total Discards	Discard %
With observer –Masters					
With observer – observer					
Without observer					

**Annex 11. Fisheries Commission's Request for Scientific Advice on Management
in 2008 of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4**
(FC WP 06/22, Rev. ~~now~~ FC Doc. 06/10)

1. The Fisheries Commission with the concurrence of the Coastal State as regards the stocks below which occur within its jurisdiction, requests that the Scientific Council, at a meeting in advance of the 2007 Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for the management of the following fish and invertebrate stocks or groups of stocks in 2008:

Northern shrimp in Div. 3M, 3LNO
Greenland halibut in SA 2 and Div. 3KLMNO

2. The Fisheries Commission with the concurrence of the Coastal State as regards the stocks below which occur within its jurisdiction, requests that the Scientific Council, at a meeting in advance of the 2007 Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for the management of the following fish stocks according to the following assessment frequency:

Two year basis

American plaice in Div. 3LNO
Capelin in Div. 3NO
Redfish in Div. 3M
Thorny skate in Div. 3LNOPs
White hake in Div. 3NOPs
Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO

Three year basis

American plaice in Div. 3M
Cod in Div. 3NO
Cod in Div. 3M
Northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4
Redfish in Div. 3LN
Redfish in Div. 3O
Witch flounder in Div. 2J+3KL
Witch flounder in Div. 3NO

- In 2006, advice was provided for 2007 and 2008 for cod in Div. 3M, American plaice in Div. 3M, yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO, witch flounder in Div. 3NO, thorny skate in Div. 3LNOPs and northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4.

To implement this system of assessments, the Scientific Council is requested to conduct the assessment of these stocks as follows:

- In 2007, advice will be provided for 2008 and 2009 for American plaice in Div. 3LNO, redfish in Div. 3M, white hake in Div. 3NO and capelin in Div. 3NO. These stocks will be next assessed in 2009.
- In 2007, advice will be provided for 2008, 2009 and 2010 for redfish in Div. 3LN, redfish in Div. 3O, cod in Div. 3NO and witch flounder in Div. 2J+3KL. These stocks will be next assessed in 2010.
- In 2008, advice will be provided for 2009 and 2010 for yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO, and thorny skate in Div. 3LNOPs. These stocks will be next assessed in 2010.
- In 2008, advice will be provided for 2009, 2010 and 2011 for cod in Div. 3M, American plaice in Div. 3M, witch flounder in Div. 3NO, and northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4. These stocks will be next assessed in 2011.

The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue to monitor the status of all these stocks annually and, should a significant change be observed in stock status (e.g. from surveys) or in by-catches in other fisheries, provide updated advice as appropriate.

3. The Commission and the Coastal State request the Scientific Council to consider the following in assessing and projecting future stock levels for those stocks listed above:
- a) The preferred tool for the presentation of a synthetic view of the past dynamics of an exploited stock and its future development is a stock assessment model, whether age-based or age-aggregated.
 - b) For those stocks subject to analytical-type assessments, the status of the stocks should be reviewed and management options evaluated in terms of their implications for fishable stock size in both the short and long term. As general reference points, the implications of fishing at $F_{0.1}$ and F_{2006} in 2008 and subsequent years should be evaluated. The present stock size and spawning stock size should be described in relation to those observed historically and those expected in the longer term under this range of options.

- c) For those stocks subject to general production-type assessments, the time series of data should be updated, the status of the stock should be reviewed and management options evaluated in the way described above to the extent possible. In this case, the level of fishing effort or fishing mortality (F) required to take two-thirds MSY catch in the long term should be calculated.
- d) For those resources for which only general biological and/or catch data are available, few standard criteria exist on which to base advice. The stock status should be evaluated in the context of management requirements for long-term sustainability and the advice provided should be consistent with the precautionary approach.
- e) Spawning stock biomass levels considered necessary for maintenance of sustained recruitment should be recommended for each stock. In those cases where present spawning stock size is a matter of scientific concern in relation to the continuing reproductive potential of the stock, management options should be offered that specifically respond to such concerns.
- f) Information should be provided on stock size, spawning stock sizes, recruitment prospects, fishing mortality, catch rates and TACs implied by these management strategies for the short and the long term in the following format:
 - I. For stocks for which analytical-type assessments are possible, graphs should be provided of all of the following for the longest time-period possible:
 - historical yield and fishing mortality;
 - spawning stock biomass and recruitment levels;
 - catch options for the year 2008 and subsequent years over a range of fishing mortality rates
 - (F) at least from $F_{0.1}$ to F_{max} ;
 - spawning stock biomass corresponding to each catch option;
 - yield-per-recruit and spawning stock per recruit values for a range of fishing mortalities.
 - II. For stocks for which advice is based on general production models, the relevant graph of production as a function of fishing mortality rate or fishing effort should be provided. Age aggregated assessments should also provide graphs of all of the following for the longest time period possible:
 - exploitable biomass (both absolute and relative to B_{MSY})
 - yield/biomass ratio as a proxy for fishing mortality (both absolute and relative to F_{MSY})
 - estimates of recruitment from surveys, if available.
 - III. Where analytical methods are not attempted, the following graphs should be presented, for one or several surveys, for the longest time-period possible:
 - time trends of survey abundance estimates, over:
 - an age or size range chosen to represent the spawning population
 - an age or size-range chosen to represent the exploited population
 - recruitment proxy or index for an age or size-range chosen to represent the recruiting population.
 - fishing mortality proxy, such as the ratio of reported commercial catches to a measure of the exploited population.

For age-structured assessments, yield-per-recruit graphs and associated estimates of yield-per-recruit based reference points should be provided. In particular, the three reference points, actual F, $F_{0.1}$ and F_{max} should be shown.

- 4. Noting the Precautionary Approach Framework as endorsed by Fisheries Commission, the Fisheries Commission requests that the Scientific Council provide the following information for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Fisheries Commission for all stocks under its responsibility requiring advice for 2008:
 - a) the limit and precautionary reference points as described in Annex II of the UN Fisheries Agreement indicating areas of uncertainty (for those stocks for which precautionary reference points cannot be determined directly, proxies should be provided);
 - b) the stock biomass and fishing mortality trajectory over time overlaid on a plot of the PA Framework (for those stocks where biomass and/or fishing mortality cannot be determined directly, proxies should be used);
 - c) information regarding the current Zone the stock is within as well as proposals regarding possible harvest strategies to move the resource to (or maintain it in) the Safe Zone including medium term considerations and associated risk or probabilities which will assist the Commission in developing the management strategies described in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Annex II in the Agreement.

5. The following elements should be taken into account by the Scientific Council when considering the Precautionary Approach Framework:
 - a) References to “risk” and to “risk analyses” should refer to estimated probabilities of stock population parameters falling outside biological reference points.
 - b) Where reference points are proposed by the Scientific Council as indicators of biological risk, they should be accompanied by a description of the nature of the risk associated with crossing the reference point such as recruitment overfishing, impaired recruitment, etc.
 - c) When a buffer reference point is proposed in the absence of a risk evaluation in order to maintain a low probability that a stock, measured to be at the buffer reference point, may actually be at or beyond the limit reference point, the Scientific Council should explain the assumptions made about the uncertainty with which the stock is measured.
 - d) Wherever possible, short and medium term consequences should be identified for various exploitation rates (including no fishing) in terms of yield, stability in yield from year to year, and the risk or probability of maintaining the stock within, or moving it to, the Safe Zone. Whenever possible, this information should be cast in terms of risk assessments relating fishing mortality rates to the trends in biomass (or spawning biomass), the risks of stock collapse and recruitment overfishing, as well as the risks of growth overfishing, and the consequences in terms of both short and long term yields.
 - e) When providing risk estimates, it is very important that the time horizon be clearly spelled out. By way of consequence, risks should be expressed in timeframes of 5, 10 and 15 years (or more), or in terms of other appropriate year ranges depending on stock specific dynamics. Furthermore, in order to provide the Fisheries Commission with the information necessary to consider the balance between risks and yield levels, each harvesting strategy or risk scenario should include, for the selected year ranges, the risks and yields associated with various harvesting options in relation to B_{lim} , and F_{lim} and target F reference points selected by managers.
6. Many of the stocks in the NAFO Regulatory Area are well below any reasonable level of B_{lim} or B_{buf} . For these stocks, the most important task for the Scientific Council is to inform on how to rebuild the stocks. In this context and building on previous work of the Scientific Council in this area, the Scientific Council is requested to evaluate various scenarios corresponding to recovery plans with timeframes of 5 to 10 years, or longer as appropriate. This evaluation should provide the information necessary for the Fisheries Commission to consider the balance between risks and yield levels, including information on the consequences and risks of no action at all.
 - a) information on the research and monitoring required to more fully evaluate and refine the reference points described in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Annex II of the Agreement; these research requirements should be set out in the order of priority considered appropriate by the Scientific Council;
 - b) any other aspect of Article 6 and Annex II of the Agreement which the Scientific Council considers useful for implementation of the Agreement's provisions regarding the precautionary approach to capture fisheries; and
 - c) propose criteria and harvest strategies for new and developing fisheries so as to ensure they are maintained within the Safe Zone.
7. Noting the desire of NAFO to apply ecosystem considerations in the conservation and management of fish stocks in the NAFO area, the Scientific Council is requested to provide the Fisheries Commission at its next annual meeting in 2007 with an overview of present knowledge related to role of seals in the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Atlantic and their impact on fish stocks in the NAFO area, taking into account the work of other relevant organizations, including ICES and NAMMCO.
8. Whether the following measures on Redfish in Division 3O, if applied in the NAFO Regulatory Area, are effective, in particular, in regard to addressing bycatch of species such as American plaice and Cod as conservation and management measure:
 - 90 mm mesh size
 - Limiting the maximum permissible harvest of 15% (by number) of redfish 22cm or smaller, imposing 5% limit on the bycatch of any other groundfish species in the fishery
 - Closure of fishing for a minimum of 10 days after reaching or exceeding of either the small fish or bycatch levels
 - Re-opening of fishery through use of test fisheries

9. Regarding the precautionary closure to four seamount areas based on the ecosystem approach to fisheries (FC Doc. 06/5), using existing survey and commercial data from these seamount areas the Scientific Council is requested to provide the Fisheries Commission, at the 2007 Annual Meeting, recommendations on: 1) areas that could be fished on each seamount and, 2) a protocol for the collection of the data required to assess these seamounts, with a view to future recommendations on management measures for these areas.

Annex 12. Resolution to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in NAFO Fishing Operations
Proposal by the United States of America and Japan
 (FC WP 06/14 now FC Doc. 06/7)

Background/Explanatory Memorandum:

At its 26th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, the members of the International Sea Turtle Society (ISTS) adopted a resolution calling upon the world's regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to urge their members to adopt and implement the FAO "Guidelines to Reduce the Mortality of Sea Turtles in Fishing Operations" (the FAO Guidelines). This ISTS resolution was forwarded to NAFO with a request for action.

It is generally agreed that RFMOs can play a valuable role in support of global adoption and implementation of the FAO Guidelines. Given NAFO's on-going efforts to minimize bycatch and the fledging NAFO initiative on application of ecosystem considerations to the Organization's fisheries management decision-making, NAFO should support global implementation of the FAO Guidelines as appropriate. As the waters of the Convention area include critical foraging habitat for the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), adoption and implementation of the FAO Guidelines would be both proactive and precautionary.

Thus, it is proposed that, in addition to generally supporting adoption and implementation of the FAO Guidelines, NAFO Contracting Parties should provide information on existing domestic data collection (e.g., species identification, fate and condition at release, relevant biological information, and gear configuration) and/or observer training efforts relating to sea turtle interactions in NAFO-managed fisheries in the NAFO Convention Area.

NAFO should also consider, where appropriate, increasing cooperation both among NAFO Contracting Parties and with other regional, subregional and global organizations, to facilitate sharing of data and development of compatible and appropriate bycatch reduction measures. Such efforts may be enhanced by integration of sea turtle interaction data collection by NAFO observers.

Proposal:

Resolution to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in NAFO Fishing Operations

Preamble:

Recognizing the cultural and ecological significance of sea turtles in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean;

Recognizing that the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) endorsed "Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations" at its Twenty-sixth Session, held in March 2005, and that these guidelines are directed towards members and non-members of FAO, fishing entities, subregional, regional and global organizations, whether governmental or non-governmental concerned with fisheries management and sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems;

Further recognizing that implementation of these guidelines should be consistent with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as well as with the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem with regard to ecosystem considerations and based on the use of the best available science;

Taking into account the importance placed by the guidelines on research, monitoring, the sharing of information, and public education on sea turtles;

The Contracting Parties of NAFO resolve as follows:

1. NAFO Contracting Parties (CPs) should, as appropriate, individually and collectively implement the FAO "Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations" (the Guidelines) to reduce the incidental catch of sea turtles and ensure the safe handling of all turtles that are captured.
2. NAFO CPs should continue to enhance the implementation of their existing turtle mitigation measures using best available scientific information on mitigation techniques.

3. NAFO should encourage CPs to collect, and provide to the NAFO Secretariat, all available information on interactions with sea turtles in fisheries managed by NAFO in the NAFO Convention Area and urges them to foster collaboration with other CPs in the exchange of information in this area.
4. NAFO should cooperate with other regional, subregional and global organizations to share data on sea turtle bycatch and to develop and apply compatible bycatch reduction measures as appropriate.
5. Beginning in 2007, CPs should provide to the NAFO Secretariat a detailing of sea turtle fishery interaction data (e.g., species identification, fate and condition at release, relevant biological information and gear configuration), including data collected by their respective national observer programs, in fisheries managed by NAFO in the NAFO Convention Area and any sea turtle-specific training provided to these observers. This information will be compiled by the NAFO Secretariat and reported to the Scientific Council and to the Fisheries Commission.
6. The Fisheries Commission should monitor the progress of CPs in applying this resolution and develop relevant strategies for the further consideration of the Commission in 2008. Information produced as a result of this resolution will be provided by the NAFO Secretariat to the FAO.

**Annex 13. Proposal on Precautionary Closure to Four Seamount Areas
based on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
(FC WP 06/11, Rev. 5 now FC Doc. 06/5)**

Background/ Explanatory Memorandum

At the 2005 annual meeting, NAFO agreed to launch a process to modernize itself by incorporating and implementing modern fisheries management and conservation standards established by current international fisheries instruments, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

As part of this process, the Fisheries Commission adopted in 2005 a proposal (NAFO/FC Doc. 05/7) on ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) interim measures, which included a request to seek additional information on four seamounts located in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

Recently, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General published a report outlining actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to address the impacts of fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems in response to UN General Assembly Resolution 59/25. This issue will be discussed at the UN General Assembly in November 2006. An evaluation of the report indicates that more could be done by RFMOs, including NAFO, to protect potentially sensitive marine areas.

Canada is proposing that a cautious approach be adopted by NAFO to address the impacts of fishing on benthic habitats, communities and species. Consistent with the Canadian proposal, Contracting Parties could allow a small scale and cautious exploratory fishery to gather data to be provided to the Scientific Council. This would enable NAFO to improve its knowledge of these seamount areas and better assess the impact of fishing activities on these areas.

This approach would assist in determining the future management strategy that could apply to these and other seamount areas, on an individual basis.

Proposal

It is proposed that the following measures be undertaken in order to further implement precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches for the protection of seamounts.

Amend Article 12, paragraphs 5 and 6 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures with the following new paragraphs:

5. As of January 1, 2007, and until December 31, 2010, the following areas shall be closed to all fishing activities involving demersal fishing gears. The closed areas are defined by connecting the following coordinates (in numerical order and back to coordinate 1).

Area	Coordinate 1	Coordinate 2	Coordinate 3	Coordinate 4
Orphan Knoll	50°00'30"N 45°00'30"W	51°00'30"N 45°00'30"W	51°00'30"N 47°00'30"W	50°00'30"N 47°00'30"W
Corner Seamounts	35°00'00"N 48°00'00"W	36°00'00"N 48°00'00"W	36°00'00"N 52°00'00"W	35°00'00"N 52°00'00"W
Newfoundland Seamounts	43°29'00"N 43°20'00"W	44°00'00"N 43°20'00"W	44°00'00"N 46°40'00"W	43°29'00"N 46°40'00"W
New England Seamounts	35°00'00"N 57°00'00"W	39°00'00"N 57°00'00"W	39°00'00"N 64°00'00"W	35°00'00"N 64°00'00"W

6. At the 2007 Annual Meeting, the Fisheries Commission shall consider providing access to a small scale and restricted exploratory fishery, effective January 1, 2008, not to exceed 20% of the fishable area of each seamount. These representative areas that may be fished on each seamount will be recommended by the Scientific Council based on existing survey and commercial data from these seamount areas. Scientific Council is requested to provide the Fisheries Commission, at the 2007 Annual Meeting, recommendations on: 1) areas that could be fished on each seamount and, 2) a protocol for the collection of the data required to assess these seamounts, with a view to future recommendations on management measures for these areas.

7. Contracting Parties shall provide the Executive Secretary, in advance of the June 2007 Scientific Council meeting, with all existing data from survey and commercial fisheries that have taken place in these seamount areas. The Executive Secretary will forward this information to the Scientific Council for its review in making the above noted recommendations to the Fisheries Commission.
8. Vessels may only fish in the defined areas in accordance with the protocol established by the Scientific Council and adopted by the Fisheries Commission. In addition to the protocol, vessels fishing in the areas defined in paragraph 5, shall have a scientific observer onboard.
9. If vessels fishing in the areas defined in paragraph 5 encounter hard corals, notification of the location of the coral area is to be provided to the Executive Secretary which will implement an immediate temporary closure of that area to all Contracting Parties pending a Fisheries Commission decision at the next Annual Meeting.
10. The measures referred to in paragraphs 5-9 shall be reviewed in 2010 by the Fisheries Commission, based on the advice from the Scientific Council, and a decision shall be taken on future management measures which may include extending the application of these measures for an additional period or making the closure(s) permanent.

PART II

Report of Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

18-22 September 2006
Dartmouth, Canada

1. Opening of the Meeting (Mads Nedergaard, DFG)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 2:00pm at the Holiday Inn Harbourview, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada and welcomed representatives of Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, France (in respect of St. Pierre-et-Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russia, the United States and the NAFO Secretariat to the STACTIC Meeting.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Brent Napier (Canada) was appointed rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair introduced the agenda and advised that, based on Fisheries Commission instruction, the focus of the STACTIC meeting should be centered on the following (5) NAFO Reform items:

1. Modified procedures for serious infringements in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM), including precautionary measures
2. Re-direction of vessels to port for select infringements under the NCEM
3. Clarification on the interpretation of NCEM Articles (specifically *Article 9 - By-catch Requirements* and *Article 20 - Recording of Catch and Stowage*)
4. Strengthening Port State measures, in particular with regard to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing
5. Possible Observer Program changes

The revised agenda was adopted.

4. Annual Compliance Review

The Chair introduced the agenda item and expressed regret that, due to time constraints, brought about by instructions from Fisheries Commission to focus on key reform issues, this item would have to be deferred to the next meeting of STACTIC. The Chair indicated that, to date, the NAFO Secretariat had been working on modifications to the report, based on the suggestions provided by Canada at the June 2006 meeting (STACTIC Working Paper 06/6). The Chair urged Contracting Party members with delegates participating in the compliance review working group to coordinate their efforts with the NAFO Secretariat.

The Representative of Canada indicated that, given the importance of the Compliance Review, efforts had been made on the part of Canadian delegates throughout the year to work with the NAFO Secretariat and other members of the working group on the compliance review. The Representative of Canada concluded by reaffirming a commitment to continued participation in the compliance review working group.

It was agreed that this agenda item would be deferred until the next meeting of STACTIC and that the Secretariat would be asked to present the current compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review 2005, in addition to the 2006 review.

5. Outstanding Issues regarding the NAFO Reform

The Chair opened item 5

- i. **Strengthen the monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) regimes including:**
 - **Joint MCS systems**

This agenda item was dealt with under “Dissemination of collected data”.

• **Dissemination of collected data**

At the June 2006 STACTIC Intersessional, Iceland was requested to prepare a Working Paper elaborating on the options presented to STACTIC in the Canadian proposal (STACTIC Working Paper 06/5), as well as develop a Working Paper on weekly catch reporting.

Accordingly, the Representative of Iceland introduced STACTIC Working Paper 06/23 and provided a summary of the various options contained within the paper and the technical implications of each. The Representative of Iceland indicated that option three might be preferable given: the level of automation, the need to disseminate only relevant data elements, and the relative simplicity of the required codes. However given the changes required to the North Atlantic Format (NAF), it would be useful to couple this to the larger and more expansive review and modification of the NAF. The Representative of Iceland advised that, in addition to the systemic implications Article 23.2 and Annex 19.3 of the NCEM would need to be amended.

In response the second request, the Representative of Iceland presented STACTIC Working Paper 06/24 – *Weekly Catch Reports and AGDC Advise*. The Representative of Iceland explained the technical issues relevant to this initiative and highlighted possible options/solutions.

The Chair lauded Iceland for its profound effort on this issue and indicated the importance of these initiatives to NAFO, highlighting the potential benefit to both Contracting Parties and NAFO enforcement efforts.

The Representative of the EU thanked Iceland for its efforts in this regard and agreed with the Chairs comments but remarked that questions regarding data quality should be addressed prior to implementation, given the potential for “false alarms” and other negative ramifications.

Given the required changes to both the NAFO and NEAFC systems it was agreed that there will be a need to collaborate with the NEAFC Chair of the Permanent Committee on Control and Enforcement (PECCOE) and the Advisory Group on Data Communication. STACTIC encouraged both the NAFO Secretariat and Canada to work with the Advisory Group on Data Communication on this matter.

• **Cost Sharing of MCS systems in a fair and transparent manner**

This item was briefly introduced as a follow-up to discussions that had taken place at the 2006 STACTIC Intersessional. As Contracting Parties raised no new issues with regard to this subject, the agenda item was closed.

ii. **Establishment of guidelines for sanctions**

Given the complexity of this issue, the priorities that had been identified by the Fisheries Commission for this STACTIC meeting and the time constraints, it was decided to focus the discussions on the EU proposal relating to the adoption of enforcement measures as an interim response to non-compliance situations.

The Representative of the EU introduced STACTIC Working Paper 06/31(Revised) - Proposal to adopt enforcement measures (proposed Article 34a – *Enforcement Measures*). The Representative of the EU explained that the proposed enforcement measures would be applied at an early stage pending more formal administrative or judicial proceedings to avoid the repetition of serious infringements.

The Representative of Canada remarked that the words “may” and “in particular” located in Article 34(a)2 should be removed and that 34(a)2(a) should contain wording indicating the fine would be commensurate with the seriousness of the infringement. As well, 34(a)2(b) should not contain the word “prohibited” as it could be misleading. The Representative of the EU proposed that instead of removing the word “may” that it should be replaced with the word “shall” and indicated that the issue of fines being “commensurate with the seriousness” was addressed in Article 34(a). As well, the Representative of the EU suggested the proposed word “prohibited” could be replaced with the word “illegal”.

The Representative of the United States offered that, in the United States context, the gravity and history of repeat offences is taken into account and could be considerations in the enforcement measures process. The Representative of

the EU acknowledged the comment but indicated that article 34(a) contained interim measures and what was being suggested was more relevant to administrative/judicial proceedings

After extensive discussion, this issue and the associated STACTIC Working Paper were referred to the Fisheries Commission for resolution.

iii. Role of observers

This item was deferred pending the outcome of agenda item 6 ix.

iv. Follow-up on infringements

Under this agenda item the Representative of the EU introduced (2) STACTIC Working Papers:

STACTIC Working Paper 06/29 - Proposal to amend Chapter IV (Article 32 – *Procedures to deal with infringements* and Article 33- *Serious Infringements*). The Representative of the EU explained that the proposed Article 32 listed and outlined the general procedures for dealing with infringements and contained elements from the current Article 33. The Representative of the EU went on to explain the intent of the proposed Article 33 was to identify a short list of serious infringements that may require more effective and immediate follow-up, including re-direction to port.

Under the proposed Article 32, the Representative of Canada questioned the need to list the infringements as they were cited in other parts of the NCEM. The Representative Canada went on to comment that the list of infringements included under the proposed 32.1 was not complete and that another option could be to add text indicating the list was not exhaustive and that the procedures also applied to any other infringements that are mentioned elsewhere in the NCEM but not included on the list.

The Representative of DFG voiced concerns over the re-direction of vessels to port given the current Canadian Port Closure Policy and the considerable time delays that would be involved for vessels of DFG. The Representative of DFG cautioned that clear guidelines were required and indicated that DFG would support the inclusion of the transshipment involving IUU vessels as a serious infringement.

The Representative of the United States reiterated a point made during the June 2006 STACTIC Intersessional that stated there were several serious infringements related to UNFA under Canadian STACTIC Working Paper 06/10 that they would support adding to the list of serious infringements.

The Representative of Canada recommended that the references to “serious” infringements should be amended in the heading and text of the proposed Article 33, as the three infringements under the proposed 33.1 are not an all inclusive list of serious infringements and several of the other infringements listed in the proposed Article 32 could be considered as serious, depending upon the circumstances. He noted that the three infringements listed in Article 33.1 are those that are proposed as requiring enhanced or special follow-up action, but this is not to say that they are the only serious infringements.

The Representative of Canada suggested that the proposed 33.1(c) should be modified from “during the fishing trip” to “within a twelve month period”. As well, The Representative of Canada recommended that, under the proposed 33.1(c), the word “apparent” be deleted as the confirmation of the previous infringement would already have taken place. The Representative of the EU argued that the term “fishing trip” was used to cover situations where there was a change of vessel masters at some point after the first infringement, i.e. so as to not penalize a vessel master for the infringements of another master.

The Representative of Canada recommended that the proposed Article 33(2) and 33(5) be reviewed very closely with a view to clarifying and strengthening the obligations of flag state Contracting Parties to take effective action in all cases where serious misreporting of catch is detected, including specific timeframes within which actions would be required.

The Representative of Canada suggested that the wording of Article 33(3) should be consistent with Article 33(8) of the current NCEM with respect to the provision allowing an inspector from another Contracting Party to board or remain on board a vessel that has been ordered to proceed to port as a result of an infringement, unless the CP of the inspected vessel requests the inspector to leave the vessel.

STACTIC Working Paper 06/30 - Proposal to amend Chapter IV, NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures – improved follow-up to infringements under Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme (Article 34 – *Follow-up to infringements* and Article 35- *Treatment of Reports from Inspectors* and Article 36 – *Report on Infringements*). The Representative of the EU provided a synopsis of the proposed changes.

After extensive discussion, these issues and the associated STACTIC Working Papers were referred to the Fisheries Commission for resolution.

- **Review of provisions of Article 20**

The Representative of the EU tabled STACTIC Working Paper 06/28 *Proposal to amend the Conservation and Enforcement Measures* (Article 20 – Recording of catch and stowage). The Representative of the EU indicated that, for reasons of clarity, the Article was split into practices for catch taken inside the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) and for catch taken outside of the NRA. The Representative of the EU explained that the proposed Article called for a physical separation of catch taken outside the NRA but not for catch taken inside the NRA, where clearly delineated stowage plans would serve the same purpose, not undermine inspection and not burden vessels with unnecessary obligations.

The Representative of the EU also remarked that, as in the case of proposed changes to Article 9, added changes to this Article intended to clarify the measures are necessary given the implications of other proposal that strengthen follow-up action in the case of infringements.

The Representative of Canada expressed support for attempts to resolve and clarify this issue but noted that the proposed measures are heavily dependant on clear and accurate stowage plans and that care should be taken to ensure that any amendments do not lead to added difficulties for inspectors. The Representative of Canada suggested adding wording to having product of the same species stored together to the extent possible.

The Representative of the EU acknowledged the comments but indicated that these concerns were unwarranted given the inspection experience of the EU over the last two years. In addition to the inspection experiences, the Representative of the EU indicated that it would not be practical for fishing vessel masters to scatter species throughout the hold as it would make the eventual offloading of catch difficult.

After extensive discussion, this issue and the associated STACTIC Working Paper were referred to the Fisheries Commission for resolution.

- **Strengthening Port State measures, in particular with regard to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing**

The Representative of the EU introduced STACTIC Working Paper 06/32 (Revision 4) – Proposal to modify the IUU measures (Article 48). STACTIC reviewed the issue and agreement was reached on the range of measures to be introduced to strengthen controls with regard to IUU vessels.

The STACTIC Working Paper was referred to STACFAC for their deliberation.

6. Possible Amendments of Conservation and Enforcement Measures

i. Review of provisions of Article 9 re interpretation.

The Representative of the EU introduced STACTIC Working Paper 06/27 (Revised) *Proposal to amend the Conservation and Enforcement Measures* (Article 9 – By-catch Requirements) and provided a detailed summary of the proposed changes. The Representative of the EU explained that, in addition to reformatting the paragraph for reasons of clarity, the primary changes included; the requirement of vessels to move 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tow where the percentage of by-catches in any one haul exceeds the established by-catch limits, the obligation to leave the NAFO Division for 48 hours if after moving 10 nautical miles the next haul still exceeds the by-catch limits, a derogation for vessels directing for skate and a 3 hour trial tow provision.

The Representative of the EU remarked that added changes to this Article intended to clarify the measures were necessary given the implications of other proposals that strengthen follow-up action in the case of infringements.

The Representative of Canada thanked the EU for their proposal and indicated that it was a good starting point but indicated that, when building in added flexibility to allow for due diligence, there must also be a balance with clear rules that prevent abuse. The Representative of Canada indicated that the obligation to leave the NAFO Division, when a second haul also exceeds the by-catch limits, was valid but that 48 hours was perhaps too short a period. As well, the Representative of Canada suggested that the provision calling for a 3 hour trial tow should have a shortened duration. In addition to these comments the Representative of Canada remarked that the derogation proposed for those vessels directing for skate was unnecessary given the nature of the fishery, i.e. the use of large mesh fishing gear in the skate fishery means that by-catch problems should not be a significant issue.

The Representative of the EU indicated that a 3 hour trial tow was realistic given that the duration of normal tows may be between 6 and 8 hours and added that if the period was too short it would not be a good indicator. In relation to the proposed derogation in the skate fishery, the Representative of the EU acknowledged that the need to use this derogation would be a rare event, but that it was unreasonable to punish the vessel master in cases where this did occur.

At the conclusion of the discussion, this issue and the associated STACTIC Working Paper were referred to the Fisheries Commission for resolution.

ii. Product labeling by species/stock area

Given the focus on reform issues and the resulting time constraints this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting of STACTIC.

iii. Strengthening ropes, bags, topside chafers (all delegations to provide national measures on attachments to nets)

Given the focus on reform issues and the resulting time constraints this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting of STACTIC. The Chair urged those Contracting Parties that had not yet provided information on domestic regulations to do so in preparation for discussions at the next meeting of STACTIC.

iv. Notification and catch reporting requirements in 3L and 3M shrimp fisheries

Given the focus on reform issues and the resulting time constraints this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting of STACTIC.

v. Accurate catch reporting

Given the focus on reform issues and the resulting time constraints this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting of STACTIC.

vi. Missing data elements and reference to Annex XXII

The Chair introduced the agenda item and the NAFO Secretariat provided some background and summarized the proposed editorial changes to the Conservation and Enforcement Measures found in NAFO correspondence GF/05-426.

The Representative of the EU explained the rationale for the submission of NAFO correspondence GF/05-426, which called for the editorial changes to be delayed pending a STACTIC discussion on the matter, indicating the issue was a procedural matter that required STACTIC's attention.

The Representative of Iceland acknowledged that changes were required but indicated that a further review of the alterations was necessary given some apparent inconsistencies. He committed to working with the Secretariat to finalize the required modifications. The agenda item was then closed.

vii. Clarification re Article 15.2

The Chair introduced NAFO document GF/05-439 and the NAFO Secretariat provided an overview of the action taken regarding the replacement of a vessel, due to mechanical breakdown, identified in a charter arrangement with the view to obtaining a clarification on the issue.

The Representative of Norway cautioned that this Article was a compromise on the part of Contracting Parties that did not want to allow chartering arrangements, as the original intent of this Article was to limit chartering arrangements, and any clarification or proposed text changes should bare this in mind.

After further discussions on the matter, the Representative of the EU and the Representative of France (in respect of St. Pierre-et-Miquelon) endeavoured to develop a proposal intended to clarify the issue.

The Chair introduced STACTIC Working Paper 06/34, a joint EU and France (in respect of St. Pierre-et-Miquelon) proposal intended to clarify Article 15.2.

STACTIC accepted the proposal and referred the item to the Fisheries Commission for final decision.

viii. Submission of Monthly Provisional Catch statistics

The Chair opened the agenda item and the NAFO Secretariat provided some background and a brief update, indicating that the matter (submission of data by country) was currently with the Fisheries Commission for review.

The item was deferred, pending feedback from the Fisheries Commission.

ix. Changes to Observer Program

The Chair introduced STACTIC Working Paper 06/26 *Participation of Faroese vessels in the Pilot Project on Observers, Satellite Tracking and Electronic Reporting during 2005* and opened the floor to comments.

The Representative of Norway remarked that the intention of the Observer Pilot Project was to gather information on possible changes to the NAFO Observer Program. The Representative of Norway indicated that there had been no new experience on the part of Norway since the winter of 2005 but that Norway's experience, as highlighted in STACTIC Working Paper 06/25, daily electronic catch reports seemed to meet the objectives of the Control and Enforcement Measures. The Representative of Norway indicated that perhaps the Pilot Project should be extended for an additional year to allow for more time.

The Representative of Denmark in respect of the Faeroe Islands and Greenland (DFG) indicated that it was DFG's experience that electronic reporting was effective and that there were no major occurrences of non-compliance. The Representative of DFG support Norway's suggestion that perhaps there could be an extension to the Observer Pilot Project and development of a proposal.

The Representative of Iceland tabled STACTIC Working Paper 06/33(Revision 2) – *Changing of Chapter VII in the CEM from a Pilot Project to permanent measure* and introduced the main elements that included: a reduction in observer coverage to 20%, a NAFO electronic form to be completed by the onboard observer, daily electronic transmission of Observer Forms, a NAFO electronic catch report to be produced by the master, daily electronic transmission of catch reports and two hour VMS messages. The Representative of Iceland stated that the Pilot, from the Icelandic perspective, had been a success and electronic reporting was a better alternative to, and more economical than, the current Observer Program.

The Representative of the EU remarked that the proposed elimination of the title in Chapter 7 requires the creation of a new title but aside from that minor comment was supportive of the proposal. The Representative of Iceland indicated the title could remain the same but suggest simply the removal of the words "Pilot Project". The Representative of Norway and DFG also expressed sympathies for the proposal.

The Representative from Canada thanked Iceland for the proposal and indicated that there were several interesting concepts, however indicated that it might be better to incorporate the concepts, should they be accepted, into the body of the CEM instead of leaving them in an annex. In addition the Representative of Canada indicated that the

proposed coverage level (20%) should be further considered and a rationale for any such decrease should be developed. Aside from the two comments mentioned Canada could support other elements of the proposal, i.e. electronic observer forms and catch reports that would be transmitted on a daily basis. He also suggested that the proposal for two hour VMS messages should be amended to hourly messages.

The Representative of Iceland remarked that the proposal would be best placed as a stand-alone annex and that the proposed coverage reduction was based on Iceland's Pilot Project experiences. Iceland could, however support a reduction for 2 hour VMS reporting to 1 hour.

The Representative of the United States indicated that although there were certainly economic benefits to observer coverage reductions, questioned whether the scientific role and provision of data to the Scientific Council, under the current scheme, would be compromised with proposed reductions. The Representative of the EU questioned the actual scientific benefit of observers under the current scheme. The Representative of Norway commented that under the current Article 24, the primary role of the observer is compliance. The Representative of Iceland agreed with Norway and indicated that scientific data could be collect through other means, such as electronic reports.

After extensive discussion, this issue and STACTIC Working Paper 06/33 (Revision 3) were referred to the Fisheries Commission for resolution.

7. Timely Submission of Fishery Statistical Data

Given the focus on reform issues and the resulting time constraints this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting of STACTIC.

8. Omega Mesh Gauge

Given the focus on reform issues and the resulting time constraints this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting of STACTIC. Some Contracting Parties are currently testing the Omega Mesh Gauge and were encouraged to report on their findings at the next meeting of STACTIC.

9. Other Matters

- **STACTIC Working Paper 06/15 – New North Atlantic Format (NAF) – codes and reports used by Norway in national and bilateral systems**

The Representative of Norway explained that this paper was provided as an information item to demonstrate what was currently being explored within NEAFC and indicated that the codes contained within were not currently relevant in the NAFO context.

- **STACTIC Working Paper 06/17 – Transshipment Issue**

The Chair introduced the item but indicated that, due to absence of delegates from Contracting Parties with a vested interest, the matter would be deferred to a later date.

- **STACTIC Working Paper 06/18 - NAFO CEM regarding Transshipment and Vessel Registry**

The Chair pointed out that the NAFO Reform Working Group was reviewing elements of this matter and advised that this issue would be deferred pending the outcome of this process.

- **STACTIC Working Paper 06/22 - Review of VMS Tender**

The representative of Norway requested information on the outcomes of the NAFO VMS Tender Process.

The Chair introduced STACTIC Working Paper 06/22 (presented by the NAFO Secretariat) and indicated that this document provided a summary of the outcomes. The Chair indicated that STACTIC would now need to develop a process to begin the laborious review and evaluation of the bids and indicated that it was likely not feasible to complete this task during the 2006 Annual Meeting.

The representative of Canada agreed that it was not feasible to complete the evaluation process during the 2006 Annual Meeting and proposed the option of delegating the task to a sub-committee of technical experts.

The representative of the EU volunteered to develop a draft template for the assessment of the VMS call for tender.

The representative of Iceland suggested as an option that the Advisory Group on Data Communication could be requested to undertake a review of the bids during their upcoming meeting in October of 2006.

The Chair, not wishing to delay the process supported the creating of a small working group coordinated by the NAFO Secretariat, which would evaluate the technical components. The Chair also indicated that STACFAD would need to be advised of the process and consulted on the financial elements.

The representative of the EU indicated that, as the current VMS contract was currently providing an adequate level of service, there was no pressing need to replace the current contractor. Notwithstanding the current level of service, the representative of the EU indicated that a periodic call for tenders should be considered to continually assess the availability of other providers and encourage the active provider to maintain an adequate level of performance. The Representative of the EU suggested a three tiered approach which included:

- 1) The NAFO Secretariat would provide a table that would contain a list of the companies that bid, their respective locations and an indication as to whether or not currently providing similar types of services by the end of September 2006.
- 2) Using the assessment criteria table provided by the EU as a template, a working group of technical advisors would conduct the evaluation of the bids and prepare a report for STACTIC.
- 3) The NAFO Secretariat would develop a table that would compare and document the specifications listed in the call for tender with the associated price provided for each element by the bidding companies by the end of September 2006. This list would be provided to STACTIC for eventual distribution to STACFAD.

The Representative of Canada noted that the working group conducting the assessment of the bids would need to take into account the selection criteria provided to the bidders in the original call for tender.

STACTIC members agreed to establish a working group, chaired by Iceland and comprised of technical experts from Canada, Iceland, Norway, the EU and DFG which could meet in the margins of the meeting of the Advisory Group on Data Communication, to be held in Tallinn on 5 October 2006. It was agreed that the working group should review the proposals and return to STACTIC with an assessment of the nine bids received under the VMS Call for tender by mid-November 2006. The Chair committed to coordinating this process with the Chair of STACFAD.

10. Election of Vice-Chair

The decision was deferred pending the merger with STACFAC to assure that the relevant expertise is available within the new group.

11. Time and Place of Next Meeting

Barring commitments from other Contracting Parties to host, the next meeting of STACTIC will take place in Copenhagen, date to be determined.

12. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35am on Thursday, September 21st, 2006.

Annex 1. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Mads Nedergaard (DFG)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Annual compliance review 2005
5. Outstanding issues regarding the NAFO Reform
 - i. Strengthening the monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) regimes including:
 - Joint MCS systems
 - Dissemination of collected data
 - Cost sharing of MCS systems in a fair and transparent manner
 - ii. Establishment of Guidelines for Sanctions
 - iii. Role of Observers
 - iv. Follow-up on infringements
 - Review of provisions of Article 20
 - Strengthening Port State measures, in particular with regard to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing
6. Possible Amendments of Conservation and Enforcement Measures
 - i. review of provisions of Article 9 re interpretation
 - ii. product labeling by species/stock area
 - iii. strengthening ropes, bags, topside chafers (all delegations to provide national measures on attachments to nets)
 - iv. notification and catch reporting requirements in 3L and 3M shrimp fisheries
 - v. accurate catch reporting
 - vi. missing data elements and reference to Annex XXII
 - vii. clarification re Article 15.2
 - viii. submission of Monthly Provisional Catch Statistics
 - ix. changes to Observer Program (Article 24)
7. Timely submission of fishery statistical data
8. Omega Mesh Gauge
9. Other Matters
10. Election of Vice-Chair
11. Time and Place of Next Meeting
12. Adoption of Report
13. Adjournment