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29TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2007

(Proposal from Russia)

Redfish in Division 30 NAFO Regulatory Area

**Amendment regarding minimum authorized mesh size of mid-water trawls
in the redfish fishery in Div. 30 of the NAFO Regulatory Area**

(ADOPTED)

At the meeting in June 2007 the Scientific Council having considered the request of Fisheries Commission concerning management measures of the redfish in Div.30 of the NAFO Regulatory Area concluded that mesh size of 90-130 mm in the mid-water trawls was not the main factor determining mortality and that trawls with the above mesh sizes caught redfish of the same length starting from those of 19 cm long.

When the trawl is hauled to the surface, up to 30% of “half-dead” redfish escape through 130-mm mesh of the trawl bag, which afterwards die inevitably. This results in a high fishing mortality but a comparatively low catch, as many of the caught redfish escape before the trawl is on the deck. The escapement for a 90 mm mesh was estimated to be twice lower. Therefore, a smaller mesh size actually reduces the overall fishing mortality and the TAC can be filled with less effort and less wastage.

Bycatch of groundfish species in the redfish mid-water fishery is virtually zero and independent of mesh size.

Based on the view of the NAFO Scientific Council, The Russian Federation proposes the following amendments to the Conservation and Enforcement Measures (highlighted in bold):

Article 10 - Gear requirements

1. Minimum authorized mesh sizes shall be as follows:

f) 90 mm for redfish in the fishery using mid-water trawls in Div. 30.

Commercial vessel "Kapitan Gavrilov"
Escaping fish from a bag mesh

