

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



Report of the Fisheries Commission

29th Annual Meeting, 24 - 28 September 2007
Lisbon, Portugal

NAFO
Dartmouth, N.S., Canada
2007

Report of the Fisheries Commission and its Subsidiary Body (STACTIC)
29th Annual Meeting, September 24-28, 2007
Lisbon, Portugal

Part I. Report of the Fisheries Commission.....	4
I. Opening Procedure	4
II. Administrative	4
III. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area.....	4
IV. Conservation and Enforcement Measures	10
V. Ecosystem Considerations	10
VI. Closing Procedure.....	11
Annex 1. List of Participants.....	12
Annex 2. Record of Decisions by the Fisheries Commission	23
Annex 3. Agenda.....	26
Annex 4. Scientific Council Responses to Questions from the Fisheries Commission	27
Annex 5. Annex I.A. – Annual Quota Table – Redfish 3M	31
Annex 6. Intersessional Fisheries Commission Meeting – Management of Shrimp in Divisions 3L and 3M; Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems - Agenda.....	32
Annex 7. Amendment to NAFO CEM Article 9.1 a).....	33
Annex 8. Fisheries Commission's Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2009 of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2,3 and 4	34
Annex 9. Amendment regarding Minimum Authorized Mesh Size of Mid-water Trawls in the Redfish Fishery in Div. 3O of the NRA.....	37
Annex 10. Cod Recovery Strategy for Divisions 3NO.....	38
Annex 11. Article 7 – Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO	40
Annex 12. Annual Quota Table (Annex I.A) and Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the NRA Div. 3M, 2008 (Annex I.B)	41
Annex 13. Korean Position for Allocation of Fishing Opportunities in NAFO	45
Annex 14. Port Inspection Report	46
Annex 15. Amendment to Chapter VII – Electronic Reporting, Satellite Tracking and Observers, Article 57 – Follow-up.....	52
Annex 16. Catch Reporting and Notification Procedures between Divisions 3M and 3L ...	53
Annex 17. Amendment of FC Rule of Procedure 5.1.....	56
Annex 18. Amendment of NAFO CEM Article 49, paragraph 6 – Illegal, unreported, And unregulated (IUU) fishing.....	57
Annex 19. Chartering Arrangements.....	58
Annex 20. Annual Compliance Review	59
Annex 21. Boarding Ladders.....	70
Annex 22. Definition of Transshipment	73
Annex 23. Amendment to Annex XX (C) Product Form Codes	74
Annex 24. Interim Measures to Prevent Significant Adverse Impacts on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.....	75
Annex 25. Ecology Action Centre (EAC) Statement to the NAFO Fisheries Commission.	78
Annex 26. Statements from WWF to the NAFO Fisheries Commission	79
Annex 27. Amendment to Article 3 of the NAFO CEM.....	80
Part II. Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC).....	81
1. Opening of the Meeting.....	81
2. Appointment of Rapporteur.....	81
3. Adoption of Agenda	81
4. Compliance Review 2005 and 2006 including review of reports of apparent infringements	81
5. Review of STACFAC's former mandate with regards to STACTIC's new role and responsibilities	82
6. Review of current IUU List pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 49.3	82
7. Possible Amendments of Conservation and Enforcement Measures.....	83
8. Other Matters.....	88

9. Adoption of Report.....	88
10. Adjournment.....	88
Annex 1. Agenda.....	89

Report of the Fisheries Commission

29th Annual Meeting, 24 - 28 September 2007 Lisbon, Portugal

I. Opening Procedure (Agenda items 1-5)

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

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Mr. Vladimir Shibanov (Russia), at 12:00 hrs on Monday, September 24, 2007. Representatives from the following Contracting Parties (CPs) were in attendance: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroes and Greenland) (DFG), the European Union (EU), France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the United States of America (USA) (Annex 1).

Representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and the World Wildlife Fund–Canada (WWF) were also present as Observers. The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) were represented by the European Union, and North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) was represented by Ms. K. Sanderson (DFG).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted with an addition (Annex 3). Elasmobranchs, as proposed by the USA, was included as item 8.14 under “Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2008”. The results of STACTIC June 2007 intersessional meeting, originally intended to be presented under item 11, was to be presented under item 4.

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

The STACTIC Chair, Mr. Mads Trolle Nedergaard (DFG) presented the results of STACTIC June 2007 meeting (FC Doc 07/2). He outlined the pending proposals which would be further discussed in this meeting. The Fisheries Commission commended STACTIC for the great strides it has made at the intersessional meeting and encouraged STACTIC to continue its work. Norway emphasized the importance of its proposal on IUU fishing and reminded STACTIC to deliberate the issues contained in the proposal. It was decided that recommendations from the intersessional meeting would be forwarded to the Fisheries Commission together with the recommendations from this Annual Meeting (see item 11).

II. Administrative (items 5)

5. Review of Commission Membership

It was noted that the membership of the Fisheries Commission was currently twelve (12). All Contracting Parties, except Ukraine, have voting rights.

III. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area (items 6 -9)

6. Scientific Advice

a) Presentation of scientific advice by the Scientific Council (SC) Chair

- Scientific Advice on fish stocks

The SC Chair, Mr. Antonio Vasquez (EU/Spain), presented a summary of scientific advice to the Fisheries Commission. Details of the scientific advice for shrimps stocks are contained in SCS Doc 06/25 from the

November 2006 meeting. Details of the scientific advice for other fish stocks are contained in SCS Doc 07/19 from the June 2007 SC meeting.

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

- **Shrimp in Division 3M.** Advice until 2007 summer survey is completed. Tentatively, exploitation levels should not exceed the 2005-2006 levels.
- **Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO.** TAC is 22 000 t restricted to Division 3L. Mandatory sorting grate with 22-mm bar spacing. This advice was formulated in October 2006 and confirmed by the SC after re-evaluation at this meeting.
- **Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 + Divisions 3KLMNO.** Under the Rebuilding Plan, fishing mortality should be reduced to a level not higher than $F_{0.1}$ (Table 1a); alternatively, catches over the next four years should be reduced by 15% annually from the 2007 TAC of 16 000 t (Table 1b).

F0.1				
Year	5+ Biomass (t)	10+ Biomass (t)	Yield (t)	Fbar (5-10)
2007			20000	0.445
2008	69883	6154	8057	0.138
2009	77374	9280	10191	0.138
2010	84088	17155	10749	0.138
2011	96257	30306	10612	0.138
2012	109528	41109		

Table 1a

Rebuilding Plan II				
Year	5+ Biomass (t)	10+ Biomass (t)	Yield (t)	Fbar (5-10)
2007			20000	0.445
2008	69883	6154	13600	0.250
2009	70422	8242	11560	0.181
2010	74773	13973	9826	0.145
2011	87444	24014	8352	0.120
2012	103032	34433		

Table 1b

The following stocks were fully assessed including elaboration of scientific advice for 2008 and 2009:

- **American Plaice in Divisions 3LNO.** No directed fishery. Efforts should be made to reduce current levels of bycatch.
- **Redfish in Division 3M.** TAC should not exceed 5 000 t in order to maintain low fishing mortality so as to promote female spawning stock recovery.
- **White hake in Divisions 3NO and 3Ps.** Catch of white hake in Divisions 3NO, at current TAC of 8 500 t, is unrealistic and should not exceed their current level.
- **Capelin in Divisions 3NO.** No directed fishery.

The following stocks were fully assessed including elaboration of scientific advice for 2008, 2009, and 2010:

- **Redfish in Divisions 3LN.** No directed fishery.
- **Redfish in Division 3O.** SC is unable to give TAC advice for years 2008-2010 due to insufficient information on which to base predictions of annual yield potential.
- **Cod in Divisions 3NO.** No directed fishery. Efforts should be made to reduce current levels of bycatch.
- **Witch flounder in Divisions 2J + 3KL.** No directed fishery. Efforts should be made to reduce current levels of bycatch.

On the following stocks, scientific advice was provided in 2006 (for 2007 and 2008). The Scientific Council reviewed the status of these stocks at the June 2007 meeting, and found no significant change to alter the advice:

- **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.
- **Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNOPs.** Should be managed as a single unit – Divisions 3LNOPs. TAC should not exceed 11 000 t in Divisions 3LNOPs.
- **Northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4.** TAC for 2007-2008 should be between 19 000 – 34 000 t.

The SC also provided recommendations and comments on the following topics as requested by the Fisheries Commission (see pp.26-30 SCS Doc. 07/19 for details):

- **Evaluation of recovery plans.** Scientific Council noted that the stocks – Cod in Divisions 3NO, American Plaice in Divisions 3LNO, Cod in Division 3M – are at low levels despite a ban on directed fishing for about 12 years. SC recommends that rebuilding or recovery plans for these stocks should be considered.

A working group on management strategies for Greenland halibut was established to consider a comprehensive analysis of the performance of the rebuilding strategy currently in place. The group will meet in Vigo, Spain in February 2008 to investigate and advise on appropriate management strategies for Greenland halibut.

- **Seals.** In order to advance the understanding of the impact of seals on fish stocks, knowledge gaps must be addressed. To this end, NAFO and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans are organizing separate scientific meetings in the coming year. Specifically, NAFO SC is proposing to hold a symposium jointly with ICES on “The Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem in the 21st Century”. The Scientific Council noted that the Seal Symposium will be held in Dartmouth during September 29-October 1, 2008.
- **Redfish at Division 3O (90 mm mesh size and bycatch implications).** The selectivity patterns of mesh sizes 90 – 130 mm were similar. It was believed that the similarity was due to the lack of small redfish in the sampled population. The SC concluded that the mesh size was not the main factor determining mortality. A 22-cm Total Length (TL) minimum landing size is appropriate to a 130 mm mesh size, the retention of that size by that mesh is less than 25%. It is however inappropriate for a 90-mm mesh size, since such retention is around 50% and it would imply a high mandatory discard.
- **Seamounts.** There is no evidence of fishing on Orphan Knoll. Few exploratory tows probably occurred on the Newfoundland Seamounts. Limited commercial fishing activity was observed on the New England and Corner Seamounts. One small area in the Corner Seamounts was repeatedly fished over several seasons. SC recommends that:
 - “any research survey in the closed areas should be reviewed first by the SC before proceeding. Priority should be given to develop surveys that undertake bathymetric data collection, multi-beam surveys, taxonomic studies, and gear-mounted camera systems for habitat mapping.”
 - “such information will be reviewed by the new NAFO Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Study Group”,
 - “the boundaries of the seamount areas be modified to include any peaks close to the current boundaries.”

- Environmental issues and other recommendations (STACFEN Chair)

Mr. Eugene Colbourne (Canada), the Chair of STACFEN gave a presentation on environmental issues affecting fish resources in the NAFO Convention Area. His presentation is in two parts: 1) Updated Climate Report for the NAFO Convention Area, and 2) Climate Effects on Marine Resources. The following are the highlights:

- ocean climate trends in the NAFO Convention Area: periods 1900-1920 and 1970s-1990s are considered cold periods; periods 1920s-1960s and 1996-present are considered warm periods;
 - climate records are currently being set (air and ocean temperatures, sea-ice cover, etc.);
 - the recent climate warming within the NAFO Area is not unprecedented;
 - the decline in many fish stocks in NAFO waters occurred during the cold-unstable climate conditions of the 1980s to early 1990s;
 - indices of marine production are correlated with climate trends, however factors such as predator-prey interactions, competition and exploitation often outweigh environmental effects;
 - time series of climate variability are useful in modelling changes in marine resource, long-term monitoring is essential; and
 - a better understanding of ecosystem processes are needed.
- Other issues (as determined by SC Chair)
 - **Ecosystem Approach Study Group.** SC proposes to establish an Ecosystem Approach Study Group and suggested some draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) concerned with the identification of eco-regions within the NAFO Convention Area and the development of ecosystem health indicators. The membership of the group remains open until appropriate ToRs are developed. Cooperation with ICES will require that SC contributes with its own people, data and analyses for the NAFO Convention Area.
 - **WG on Greenland halibut Management Strategies.** Since 2003 when a rebuilding plan was put in place for Greenland halibut, new tools have become readily available for evaluating management strategies. SC considered that in order to investigate and advise on appropriate management strategies for Greenland halibut, a working group should be formed to consider a comprehensive analysis of the performance of rebuilding strategies, including the one currently in place. The WG plans to meet in Vigo, Spain in February 2008.
 - **Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem.** SC is proposing to hold a symposium jointly with ICES on “The Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem in the 21st Century”. The Scientific Council noted that the Seal Symposium will be held in Dartmouth during September 29-October 1, 2008.
 - **VMS reporting.** SC recommends that vessel position be reported at more frequent intervals than the current interval of 2 hours, and the NAF fields for speed (code SP) and course (code CO) be added in the POS reports transmitted to the NAFO Secretariat. These recommendations were deferred to STACTIC.

b) Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding its work during this Meeting.

Questions and enquiries for further clarification arose in response to the SC Chair’s presentation, to which the SC prepared responses during the meeting. The questions from the FC and the responses from the SC contained in FC Working Papers 7/17-21 are compiled in Annex 4. These concern Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), the shrimp stocks in Divisions 3LNO, redfish in Division 3M and Divisions 3LN.

7. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2008

7.1 Redfish in Division 3M

It was decided to fix the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) at a level of 8 500 t. The allocation scheme (quotas) will be the same as in 2007. The TAC and quotas are applicable in 2008 and 2009. The USA expressed its reservation on this decision because the proposed TAC was inconsistent with the advice of the Scientific Council. A new footnote 19 concerning this stock was **adopted** (FC WP 07/22, Revised) (Annex 5).

7.2 Shrimp in Division 3M

It was decided that the measures in place for 2007 will apply also in 2008. There was no unanimous agreement regarding the management of this stock. Iceland maintained its previous position that the provisions and measures in the NAFO CEM concerning this stock are contrary to scientific advice. The Fisheries Commission noted Iceland’s reservation.

It was decided that an intersessional meeting will be held in Montreal, Canada on 30th April – 2nd May, 2008 to review possible management systems and options for this stock, e.g. TAC-based quota allocation system (FC WP 7/24, Revised) (Annex 6).

8. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Fishing Limits, 2008

8.1 American Plaice in Divisions 3LNO

It was decided that the measures in place in 2007 for this stock will apply also in 2008 and 2009, i.e. no directed fishery and application of by-catch provisions as formulated in the NAFO CEM Article 9.

8.2 Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO (PA Framework)

The USA proposed an increased harvest rate from $F65\%_{MSY}$ to $F75\%_{MSY}$ at a TAC 17 200 t, and that some usable portion of the resulting TAC be provided as a U.S. national allocation (FC WP 07/15). No agreement was reached on this proposal. It was decided that the TAC of 15 500 t and allocation scheme of 2007 be applied in 2008. The USA registered its reservation on this decision.

8.3 White hake in Divisions 3NO

It was decided that the TAC of 8500 t and the allocation scheme of 2007 be continued in 2008 and 2009. The USA expressed its reservation on this decision because the proposed TAC was inconsistent with the advice of the Scientific Council.

8.4 Redfish in Divisions 3LN

It was decided that the moratorium for this stock will apply also in 2008. A proposal to amend Article 9 paragraph 1 a) of the NAFO CEM to make the bycatch provisions applicable to this stock was **adopted** (FC WP 07/26) (Annex 7). The Commission also requested the SC to conduct a full assessment and provide an updated advice in 2008 for this stock for 2009 (see item 2 of FC WP 07/23, Revision 2) (Annex 8).

8.5 Redfish in Division 3O (TAC and mesh size)

It was decided that TAC of 20 000 t and the allocation scheme of 2007 be continued in 2008. A proposal from Russia for a 90-mm minimum mesh size of mid-water trawls for this stock was **adopted** (FC WP07/10) (Annex 9).

8.6 Cod in Divisions 3NO

It was decided that there will be no directed fishery for this stock applicable in years 2008-2010.

A Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy were **adopted** (FC WP 07/7, Revised) (Annex 10). The plan and strategy are aimed at attaining a sustained level of Spawning Stock Biomass or recovery milestone above the B_{lim} of 60 000 t, consistent with the NAFO PA Framework. The SC was asked to monitor and review the progress of this Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy and submit every third year, starting in 2010, an assessment of this progress to Fisheries Commission. Specifically, the SC starting in 2010 will report on annual biomass growth projected for this stock.

8.7 Witch flounder in Division 3L

It was decided that no directed fishery will be allowed for this stock. The moratorium will apply in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

8.8 Capelin in Divisions 3NO

It was decided that there should be no directed fishery on this stock. Consistent with the Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy for Cod in Divisions 3NO (see Annex 10), the moratorium will continue until at least 2012.

8.9 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO (rebuilding plan)

It was decided that the TAC and allocation scheme of 2007 be maintained in 2008. The TAC is 16 000 t in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO (11 856 t in Divisions 3LMNO). The USA expressed its reservation on this decision because the proposed TAC was inconsistent with the advice of the Scientific Council.

Recognizing the existence of compliance issues specifically on harvests exceeding quotas, a proposal to introduce new and stricter measures was **adopted** (FC WP 07/27) (Annex 11).

8.10 Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO

It was decided to fix the TAC at a level of 25 000 t for 2008, an increase from 22 000 t in 2007. The allocation scheme (percentage formula) of 2007 will apply also in 2008. There was no unanimous agreement on the allocation for 2008. A reservation of Denmark (in respect of Faroes and Greenland) on the allocation scheme was noted.

It was decided that an intersessional meeting will be held in Montreal, Canada on 30th April – 2nd May, 2008 to review the management measures, TACs, and quotas (see Annex 6)

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

It was decided to fix the TAC at a level of 12 516 t for 2008. The 2007 allocation scheme will apply also in 2008. The TAC is based on the 26% reduction of the TAC for this stock which is shared with NEAFC. The USA expressed its reservation on this decision because the proposed TAC was inconsistent with the advice of the Scientific Council. It was also understood that these levels would be subject to review following the NEAFC Annual Meeting in 2007.

The USA also expressed concern on the wording of footnote 10 of the Quota Table which stipulates particular action of NAFO contingent on the decisions of NEAFC. This poses difficulty in accepting decisions on the part of the NAFO Contracting Parties which are not party to NEAFC. The USA anticipates the resolution of this issue at the next Annual Meeting.

8.12 Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO

It was decided that the TAC of 13 500 t and the allocation scheme of 2007 would be applied in 2008. The USA expressed its reservation on this decision because the proposed TAC was inconsistent with the advice of the Scientific Council.

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

It was decided that the TAC of 34 000 t and the allocation scheme of 2007 would be applied in 2008.

8.14 Elasmobranchs

The USA presented a proposal on measures concerning the prohibition of possessing porbeagle sharks in the Regulatory Area (FC WP 07/6). No consensus was reached on this proposal. While some CPs indicated support, others considered the current measures as defined in Article 13 of the CEM to be adequate to cover the USA proposal. The USA eventually decided to withdraw its proposal rather than accept a lesser action.

The Quota Table for 2008 and the Effort Allocation Scheme for the Shrimp Fishery in NAFO Division 3M can be found in Annex 12 of this Report.

During the deliberations of items 7 and 8, Korea expressed its views on the guiding principles that should be followed in deciding the TACs and quota allocations of Contracting Parties (Annex 13).

At the conclusion of the deliberations of items 7 and 8, the USA expressed concerns on the decisions of the Fisheries Commission setting harvest levels in excess to what the SC prescribed. The USA strongly urged the Fisheries Commission to follow the advice of the SC at subsequent Annual Meetings.

9. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stock in 2009

The Fisheries Commission **adopted** the paper containing its request to the Scientific Council for scientific advice (see Annex 8).

IV. Conservation and Enforcement Measures (items 10 -11)

10. Review of Chartering Arrangements

A report on the chartering arrangements was presented by the NAFO Secretariat (FC WP 07/2 Rev). The Secretariat indicated in the report some compliance issues and potential interpretation problems with respect to the catch reporting requirements and temporary suspension and resumption within the chartering period. It was noted that these issues were being addressed by STACTIC at this Annual Meeting.

11. Report of STACTIC (from June 2007 intersessional meeting and current Annual Meeting)

The June 2007 intersessional meeting report was presented under item 4.

The Chair of STACTIC, Mr. Mads Trolle Nedergaard (DFG) presented the STACTIC Report to the Fisheries Commission (see Part II of this Report), with the following recommendations for adoption and acceptance:

- a) Port Inspection Report template (STACTIC WP 07/14, Revised) (Annex 14);
- b) Amendment to CEM, Chapter VII – Electronic Reporting, Satellite Tracking and Observers, Article 57-Follow-up (STACTIC WP 07/17, Revised) (Annex 15);
- c) Catch Reporting and Notification Procedures between Divisions 3M and 3L (STACTIC WP 07/24, Revised) (Annex 16);
- d) Amendment to FC Rule of Procedure 5.1 (STACTIC WP 07/27, Revised) (Annex 17);
- e) Amendment to CEM concerning IUU fishing (STACTIC 07/29, Revised) (Annex 18);
- f) Chartering Arrangements (STACTIC WP 07/30, Revised) (Annex 19);
- g) Annual Compliance Review (STACTIC WP 07/33) (Annex 20).

In addition, from the June 2007 Intersessional Meeting, the following recommendations for adoption were presented:

- h) Boarding Ladders (STACTIC WP 07/2) (Annex 21);
- i) Definition of “Transshipment” (STACTIC WP 07/3, Revised) (Annex 22);
- j) Product Form Codes (STACTIC WP 07/19) (Annex 23).

The Fisheries Commission **adopted** all recommendations.

During the deliberation of this item, the USA informed the FC that for the first time in July 2007, the U.S. Coast Guard participated in the NAFO Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme by embarking a Coast Guard officer onboard the Canadian inspection vessel as a NAFO Inspector Trainee. The officer had the opportunity to participate in and observe three NAFO at-sea inspections in Division 3N. The USA is investigating whether to continue and expand this at-sea inspection activity in 2008.

V. Ecosystem Consideration (items 12 - 15)

12. Seamount closure

This item was discussed in item 13 as seamounts fall under VMEs.

13. Proposal to Protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems – Deep Sea Corals

In line with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/105 of 2006 which states,

...83. Calls upon regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries to adopt and implement measures, in accordance with the precautionary approach, ecosystem approaches and international law, for their respective regulatory areas as a matter of priority, but not later than 31 December 2008:...

A proposal from Canada (FC WP 07/9 Rev) and one from the EU (FC WP 07/16) were tabled concerning bottom fishing restrictions to protect of vulnerable marine ecosystems (which includes seamounts, hydrothermal vents, cold water

corals and sponge fields) in the NAFO Convention Area. The proposals were subjected to intense review and discussions. No consensus was reached on either proposal. Instead, interim measures were **adopted** to establish a Coral Protection Zone closing all fishing activity involving bottom contact gear for a large area in Division 3O from January 1, 2008 until December 31, 2012 (FC WP 07/9, Revision 2) (Annex 24).

It was noted that steps were already taken by NAFO in addressing the impacts on seamounts found in the NAFO Regulatory Area (FC Doc 06/5) and that it was important to take further precautionary steps to address the impacts of fishing on VMEs. In this regard, the Fisheries Commission **decided** to hold an intersessional meeting on the Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems from Significant Adverse Impacts in Montreal, Canada in May 2008 dedicated to a more comprehensive consideration of strategies and measures to address VME (see Annex 6).

Specifically, the intersessional meeting will review the UNGA Resolution, assess the processes for fisheries and VME in the context of the Regulatory Area, develop measures to mitigate significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, and develop an exploratory fishing protocol.

During the discussions on this item, observers representing the Ecology Action Centre and World Wildlife Fund – Canada presented their respective statements regarding the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (Annexes 25 and 26).

14. Overview of the present knowledge related to role of seals in the marine ecosystem

Following the 2006 FC special request to the SC on the review of the present knowledge on the role of seals in the marine ecosystem, the SC Chair provided a summary of the review which was conducted at the SC June 2007 meeting (see item 6a). The DFG expressed its disappointment that the summary information provided did not include important key data on population size, biology and ecology of seals stocks in the northwest Atlantic, about which a great deal of information was available. The SC plans to organize jointly with ICES a symposium in September 2008 on the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem were welcomed. DFG reminded the Fisheries Commission that the General Council at the 2006 Annual Meeting had agreed to encourage the SC to explore formal working relations with the NAMMCO Scientific Committee in addressing requests for advice and information on issues related to the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem. The SC was therefore urged to involve NAMMCO in the organization of the planned symposium. DFG also informed the Fisheries Commission about the International Conference on Seals and Society to be held in Finland in October 2007. The Conference flyer was distributed at the meeting.

15. Turtle Resolution

The Secretariat presented a progress report on the submission of turtle-fisheries interaction in the NAFO Convention Area from Contracting Parties (FC WP 07/5 Rev). According to the Resolution, CPs should provide to the NAFO Secretariat information detailing 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. The progress report was noted, and Contracting Parties were urged to diligently provide updates to the Secretariat.

VI. Closing Procedure (Items 16-18)

16. Time and Place of the Next Meeting

The decision was deferred to the General Council.

17. Other Business

Election of Chair. It was decided to postpone the election of Chair to the intersessional meeting in Montreal in May 2008.

Amendment to Article 3 of the NAFO CEM. A proposal to amend Article 3 of the NAFO CEM (FC WP 07/25) was **adopted** (Annex 27).

18. Adjournment

In closing the meeting, the President Mr. David Bevan (who chaired the meeting at the Closing Procedure) recapitulated the actions and decisions taken at this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 16:30 on Friday, 28 September 2007.

Annex 1. List of Participants

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**Annex 2. Record of Decisions by the Fisheries Commission
(Annual Meeting 2007)**

Substantive Issues (Agenda item):	Decision/Action:
6. Scientific Advice	Noted Scientific Council Chair's report
7. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2008	(see 2008 Quota Table)
7.1 Redfish in Division 3M	TAC is 8 500 t. The allocation provision (quotas) for this stock is the same as in 2007. Applicable in 2008 and 2009. The reservation of the USA was noted. Adopted FC WP 07/22 (Rev.) concerning new footnote 19 of the quota table
7.2 Shrimp in Division 3M	The 2007 provisions for this stock will be continued in 2008 and the reservation of Iceland is noted. Adopted FC WP 07/24 (Rev.) concerning an intersessional meeting to review management systems and options for this stock (see also 8.10)
8. Management of Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Fishing Limits, 2008	(see 2008 Quota Table)
8.1 American plaice in Divisions 3LNO	No directed fishery. By-catch provisions as stipulated in the NAFO CEM apply. Applicable in 2008 and 2009.
8.2 Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO (PA framework)	The 2007 allocation scheme for this stock will be continued in 2008. By-catch provisions as stipulated in the NAFO CEM apply. TAC is 15 500 t. The reservation of USA was noted.
8.3 White hake in Divisions 3NO	TAC is 8 500 t. Allocation scheme is maintained. Applicable in 2008 and 2009. The reservation of the USA was noted.
8.4 Redfish in Divisions 3LN	No directed fishery. Adopted FC WP 07/26 on the application of bycatch provisions Article 9.1.a) on this stock. Requested SC for a full assessment of this stock (see adopted FC WP 07/23 (Rev. 2)).
8.5 Redfish in Division 3O (TAC and mesh size)	TAC of 20 000t and allocation scheme are maintained. Adopted FC WP 07/10 concerning the 90 mm minimum mesh size of mid-water trawls for this stock.
8.6 Cod in Divisions 3NO	No directed fishery. Applicable to 2008, 2009 and 2010. Adopted FC WP 07/7 (Rev.) on the Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy for this stock.
8.7 Witch flounder in Division 3L	No directed fishery. By-catch provisions as stipulated in the NAFO CEM apply. Applicable to 2008, 2009 and 2010.

8.8 Capelin in Divisions 3NO	No directed fishery until 2012 (See adopted FC WP 07/7 Rev.) By-catch provisions as stipulated in the NAFO CEM apply.
8.9 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO (rebuilding plan)	TAC of 16, 000 t (11 856 t in Divisions 3LMNO) and allocation scheme are maintained. The reservation of the USA was noted. Adopted FC WP 07/27 on additional control measures for this stock.
8.10 Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO	The allocation scheme remains the same as in 2007. TAC is 25 000 t. The reservation of Denmark (in respect of Faroes and Greenland) was noted. Adopted FC WP 07/24 (Rev.) concerning an intersessional meeting to review management systems and options for this stock (see also 7.2).
8.11 Pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area	TAC is 12 516 t, based on the 26% reduction of the NEAFC TAC. Allocation scheme is the same as in 2007. The reservation of the USA on the TAC and footnote 10 of the Quota Table is noted.
8.12 Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO	TAC of 13 500 t and allocation scheme are maintained. The reservation of the USA was noted.
8.13 Squid (<i>Illex</i>) in Subareas 3 and 4	TAC of 34 000 t and allocation scheme are maintained.
9. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stocks in 2009	Adopted FC Working Paper 07/23 (Rev. 2).
10. Review of Chartering Arrangements	Noted FC WP 07/2 (Rev.).
11. Report of STACTIC (from June 2007 intersessional meeting and current Annual Meeting)	Accepted June 2007 Report Adopted STACTIC WP 07/2 – Boarding Ladders Adopted STACTIC WP 07/3 (Revised) – Definition of “Transshipment” Adopted STACTIC WP 07/ 19 – Product Form Codes Accepted September 2007 Report Adopted STACTIC WP 07/14 (Rev.) – Port Inspection Report form Adopted STACTIC WP 07/17 (Rev.) – Amendments to CEM, Chapter VII, Article 57 on Electronic Reporting, Satellite Tracking and Observers Adopted STACTIC WP 07/24 (Rev.) – Catch reporting and notification procedures between Divs. 3M and 3L Adopted STACTIC WP 07/27 (Rev.) – Proposal to amend FC Rule of Procedure 5.1 Adopted STACTIC WP 07/29 (Rev.) – Amendment to CEM concerning IUUs Adopted STACTIC WP 07/30 (Rev.) – Chartering Arrangements Accepted STACTIC WP 07/33 – Annual Compliance Review
12. Seamounts Closure 13. Proposal to Protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems	Adopted FC WP 07/9 (Rev.2) – Measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems Adopted FC WP 07/24 (Rev.) – Intersessional Meeting on Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

15. Turtle Resolution	Noted FC WP 07/5 (Rev.)
16. Time and Place of Next Meeting	Deferred to the General Council
17. Other Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Chair • Amendment to Article 3 of the CEM 	<p>Postponed until the Intersessional Meeting on Shrimps and VME in May 2008 (FC WP 07/24 Rev.)</p> <p>Adopted FC WP 07/25 – Article 3 of the NAFO CEM.</p>

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)

II. Administrative

5. Review of Commission Membership

III. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

6. Scientific Advice (Monday)
 - a) Presentation of scientific advice by the SC Chair
 - Scientific advice on fish stocks
 - Environmental issues and recommendations (STACFEN Chair)
 - Other issues (as determined by SC Chair)
 - b) Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding its work during this Meeting
7. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2008
 - 7.1 Redfish in Div. 3M
 - 7.2 Shrimp in Div. 3M
8. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Fishing Limits, 2008
 - 8.1 American plaice in Div. 3LNO
 - 8.2 Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO (PA framework)
 - 8.3 White hake in Div. 3NO
 - 8.4 Redfish in Div. 3LN
 - 8.5 Redfish in Div. 3O (TAC and mesh size)
 - 8.6 Cod in Div. 3NO
 - 8.7 Witch flounder in Div. 3L
 - 8.8 Capelin in Div. 3NO
 - 8.9 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Div. 3KLMNO (rebuilding plan)
 - 8.10 Shrimp in Div. 3LNO
 - 8.11 Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area
 - 8.12 Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO
 - 8.13 Squid (*Illex*) in Subareas 3 and 4
 - 8.14 Elasmobranchs
9. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stocks in 2009

IV. Conservation and Enforcement Measures

10. Review of Chartering Arrangements
11. Reports of STACTIC (from June 2007 intersessional meeting and current Annual Meeting)

V. Ecosystem Considerations

12. Seamounts closure
13. Proposal to Protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems – Deep Sea Corals
14. Overview of the present knowledge related to role of seals in the marine ecosystem
15. Turtle Resolution

VI. Closing Procedure

16. Time and Place of the Next Meeting
17. Other Business
 - Election of Chair
18. Adjournment

Annex 4. Scientific Council Responses to Questions from the Fisheries Commission
(FC Working Papers 07/17 – 21)

(FC Working Paper 07/17)

Scientific Council Response to Questions on Ecosystem Proposals from European Community

Coral Protection Zone

1) SC is requested to identify or confirm the existence of coral concentrations in the areas identified in the proposal (or elsewhere).

Response: At the SC meeting of June 2006, a presentation on corals was made by Dr. Evan Edinger of Memorial University. The following is from SC's report: *"Deep-sea corals in Newfoundland and Labrador waters are broadly distributed along the continental slope. At least 23 species of corals are present, including skeletal gorgonians (8 spp.), antipatharians (2+ spp.), sea pens (7-10 spp.), scleractinian cup corals (4+ spp.), and alcyonacean soft corals (3-4 species). Most coral species are found only on continental slopes at depths greater than 150 m, except for the alcyonacean soft coral *Gersemia rubiformis*, which occurs at shelf depths. Cold water and lack of hard substrates probably limit most other corals from shelf depths. Major concentrations of all types of corals occur in the Davis Strait – Northern Labrador area, southeastern Labrador slope, the edge of the Northeast Newfoundland shelf, and the southwestern Grand Banks continental slope. Additional concentrations of soft corals, sea pens, and cup corals occur on the north side of the Flemish Cap, but the Flemish Cap data is derived exclusively from fisheries observer data and may be effort-biased. Areas where information on coral distributions are lacking include the south side of the Flemish Cap, the margins of the Orphan Basin, and waters deeper than 1400 m throughout the region."*

Additional information was also available in the WWF report (Edinger et al 2007), but these data had not been reviewed by SC.

2) Identify any historical fishing activity in the proposed zone over the last five years.

Response: SC noted that information on the distribution of fishing effort in relation to coral concentrations had been considered in preparing the Canadian proposal (title). Additional information was also available in the WWF report (Edinger et al 2007), but these data had not been reviewed by SC. SC recommended that appropriate observer and VMS data be made available.

3) Assess the adequacy of an observer protocol for masters and vessel captains.

SC considered the proposed observer protocol to be adequate for the time being, subject to the following provisos: there is a need to collect consistent data on the amount of corals collected per tow or on some other basis; presence/absence data alone is not likely to be sufficient in the long run;

further elaboration of the protocol may be needed in future to ensure that data collected by different CPs is, and remains, consistent or to standardise further treatment of the data collected;

control of the quality of observer data may be needed to ensure that it is reliable;

consideration is given to workloads of observers.

4) Confirm that the correctness of the 800-2000 m depths as described in the proposal.

Response: SC was not sure of the meaning of the term "correctness" in this request. It noted that the coral protection zone, as contained in the proposal, covered the slope area of Div. 3O, from 800 to 2000 m, where some coral concentrations exist. SC also noted that significant coral concentrations were also found in depths shallower than 800 m in Division 3O.

5) Assess the appropriateness of the timing of providing the information of data for the SC by 2009 and 2012.

Response: SC stated that the timing appeared to be acceptable. To assist in its preparations, SC agreed to produce a timetable for this work.

Deep sea Management area

- 1) Identify existing fishing activities in the Area, and species caught.

Response: SC noted that there appeared to be some activity by EU vessels in this area, based on VMS data, but that this was probably erroneous, as no EU bottom trawl fisheries operate at depths of 2000 m or greater in the NRA. Further investigation of this point is required. No other fisheries are known to occur in the NRA in these depths. SC noted that this was related to Question 3, and that the depth contours of the defined area should be checked.

- 2) Identify what current or potential fisheries are available in the deep sea area

Response: There is information from a long-line survey which took place in the spring of 1996 (Murua, H., and E. De Cárdenas, 2005), which sampled depths from 700 to 3000 m. Results of this survey indicate that the main commercial deepwater species, Greenland halibut and roughhead grenadier, did not appear in depths greater than 2000m. Species which were caught by longlines at these depths include armed grenadier (*Nematonurus armatus*), rabbitfish (*Hydrolagus affinis*), blue antimora (*Antimora rostrata*), and some skate (*Raja*) species. At depths greater than 2000 m, longline catches declined by around 50%, and few commercial species were found.

- 3) Confirm that waters defined in the area are of depths greater than 2000m.

Response: SC noted that this was related to Question 1, and that the depth contours of the defined area should be checked.

- 4) Clarify if the proposal only refers to bottom fisheries or for all fisheries.

Response: SC interpreted the proposal to refer to bottom contact fishing

- 5) Assess the appropriateness of the timing for providing data to SC.

Response: SC was unsure of the meaning of this request, as there did not appear to be a request for data in the Deep-Sea Management Area Proposal. SC noted that the area covered by the proposal has not been fished, is in pristine condition, and has not been investigated, and that therefore the conservation objectives of the FC would be well served by deferring exploratory fishing until the area has been investigated by scientific survey.

SC noted that it has referred some of these requests to ICES/NAFO WGDEC for further consideration.

Questions for SC Regarding Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems – from Canada

- 1) Can SC provide any information on major coral concentrations in the NW Atlantic? What additional data does SC need to further delineate these concentrations?

Response: Answer to part 1 covered in response to EC question 1 above. SC noted that additional data on corals is being collected on EU and Canadian surveys, as well as commercial fisheries, and that these data will be reviewed by SC when available, to further delineate the coral concentrations.

- 2) Can SC advise on criteria for identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems or other sensitive areas?

Response: SC referred this question to ICES/NAFO WGDEC, scheduled to meet in March 2008. SC will identify some study group members to address this task.

(FC Working Paper 07/18)

Scientific Council Response to Fisheries Commission Question regarding Shrimp in Div. 3LNO

In response to the Fisheries Commission question:

“What would be the implication for the conservation status of Northern Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO of a TAC of 26,000 t or 30,000 t?”

Scientific Council used the same methodology employed in 2004 to calculate the 2008 TAC. The TAC in 2004 was set at an exploitation rate of 12%, similar to an adjacent Canadian stock (2J and 3K). If the 12% exploitation rate was maintained at the present stock levels then the 2008 TAC would be 25,000 t. The 26,000 t and 30,000 t TACs correspond to 12.5 and 14.5% exploitation rates respectively. Given that current abundance is at a relatively high level and that there is little difference in the exploitation rates, the conservation implications of these TACs would only be marginally different as the exploitation rates are all relatively low.

(FC Working Paper 07/19)

SC is asked to provide a biomass figure for redfish in Div. 3M and in Div 3LN

Response:

SC is unable to provide an estimation of the absolute values of redfish biomass in Div. 3M and Div. 3LN. Analytical assessments have been applied in both cases, but not accepted.

SC advises on the incorrectness of interpreting survey biomass estimates, usually calculated by the swept area method, as absolute figures. Such values may be considered indices of abundance and they are only indicative of trends.

(FC Working Paper 07/20)

SC Response re Updated interim monitoring report for 3M northern shrimp

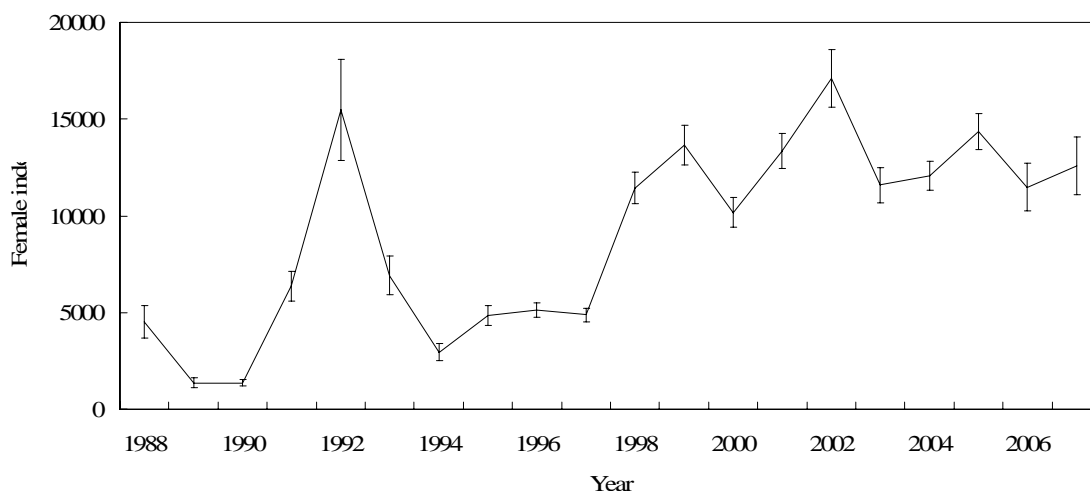


Figure 1. Female biomass index from EU trawl surveys, 1988-2007.

The above figure is an update of Figure 1.2 from the 2006 stock assessment of shrimp in 3M. While this figure indicates that the female biomass index has remained high since 1997, the current exploitation rate is unknown; therefore it is not possible to evaluate whether the perceived stability is due to decreased commercial catches or continued high production.

Scientific Council confirms its advice from the 2006 stock assessment, however, it is not in the position to be more precise. Status of this stock will be revised during the October SC assessment meeting. At that time SC expects to be able to provide advice on this stock for 2008 and 2009.

(FC Working Paper 07/21)

The Fisheries Commission made the following requests for 3LN and 3M redbfish to the Scientific Council:

According to the NAFO Stock Classification of Redfish in Div. 3M, the stock abundance status is “A” (high abundance). The exploitation rate status is “1” (low fishing mortality). The 2007 advice in year 2008 and 2009 is that the TAC should not exceed 5 000 tons. The SC is requested to re-evaluate the advice which seems too restrictive considering the biomass and exploitation status of this fish stock.

According to the NAFO Stock Classification of Redfish in Divs. 3LN, the stock abundance status is “B” (high abundance). The exploitation rate status is “1” (low fishing mortality). The 2007 advice in year 2008, 2009 and 2010 is no directed fishery. The SC is requested to re-evaluate the advice which seems too restrictive considering the biomass and exploitation status of this fish stock.

The Scientific Council responded to both these requests as follows:

The Stock Classification system noted in the June Scientific Council report was not intended as a means to convey the scientific advice to Fisheries Commission. Its purpose was in response to a request by FIRMS to provide such a classification for their purposes. It is clear that there are inconsistencies between the scientific advice and this Stock classification system which arise because the category choices do not fully describe the status of some stocks. The Scientific Council acknowledges some these classifications will require revision in the future.

Annex 5. Annex I.A. – Annual Quota Table – Redfish 3M
(FC WP 07/22, Revised **now** FC Doc 07/5)

(footnote 19 to quotas for Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Korea and USA)

Notwithstanding the provisions of footnote 8 and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.

Annex 6. Intersessional Fisheries Commission Meeting
Management of Shrimp – Division 3L and 3M
Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems
(FC WP 07/24, Revised **now** FC Doc 07/20)

Agenda

Noting the discussions at the 2007 NAFO Annual Meeting and the recognition by Contracting Parties of a requirement to further review outstanding matters related to the management of shrimp in Divisions 3L and 3M of the Regulatory Area;

Noting the discussions related to proposals on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts;

Fisheries Commission has agreed to hold a Special Intersessional Meeting to be held in Montreal, Canada during the dates April 30 to May 7, 2008.

The substantive agendas follow:

Shrimp Management in Divisions 3L and 3M of the Regulatory Area
Wednesday, April 30 to Friday, May 2, 2008

1. Introductory Remarks
2. Review of Scientific Council information and recommendations
3. Review of statistical information on catch
4. Shrimp in Division 3M
 - o Review of management systems/options for Division 3M
 - Current System
 - Possible TAC-based quota allocation systems
5. Shrimp in Division 3L
 - o Management Measures
 - o TAC
 - o Quotas
6. Decisions for 2008 and 2009 management measures, TAC, and allocations in Divisions 3L and 3M

Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems from Significant Adverse Impacts
Monday, May 5 to Wednesday, May 7, 2008

7. Introductory Remarks
8. Review of UNGA Resolution
9. Assessment processes for fisheries and vulnerable marine ecosystems in the context of the Regulatory Area
10. Measures to mitigate significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems
11. Exploratory Fishing Protocol

In preparation for this meeting, Scientific Council is requested to provide their advice and recommendations on the two shrimp stocks prior to December 31, 2007. Additionally, all Contracting Parties are requested to ensure that provisional catch reports are submitted and/or updated, as required for the period ending December, 2006 by December 31, 2007.

Annex 7. Amendment to NAFO CEM Article 9.1 a)
(FC WP 07/26 now FC Doc 07/6)

Add the following to Article 9 paragraph 1 a)

These limitations shall also apply for redfish in Division 3LN in 2008. This provision will be subject to review by the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission for 2009.

**Annex 8. Fisheries Commission's Request for Scientific Advice on Management
in 2009 of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4
(FC WP 07/23, Revision 2 now FC Doc 07/21)**

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 2008 Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for the management of the following fish and invertebrate stocks or groups of stocks in 2009:

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

Noting that SC will meet in Oct-Nov of 2007, FC requests SC to update its advice for 2008, as well as to provide advice for 2009, for both shrimp stocks referenced above.

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 2008 Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for the management of the following fish stocks according to the following assessment frequency:

<u>Two year basis</u>	<u>Three year basis</u>
American plaice in Div. 3LNO	American plaice in Div. 3M
Capelin in Div. 3NO	Cod in Div. 3NO
Redfish in Div. 3M	Cod in Div. 3M
Thorny skate in Div. 3LNOPs	Northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4
White hake in Div. 3NOPs	Redfish in Div 3LN
Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO	Redfish in Div. 3O
	Witch flounder in Div. 2J+3KL
	Witch flounder in Div. 3NO

- In 2007, advice was 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 was 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.

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

- 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, redfish in Div. 3LN and northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4. These stocks will be next assessed in 2011.
- Despite the advice on redfish in Div. 3LN in 2007, the Fisheries Commission requests a full assessment and advice in 2008 for this stock.

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_{2007} in 2009 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 2009 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 2008 Annual Meeting of the Fisheries Commission for all stocks under its responsibility requiring advice for 2009:
 - 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. Regarding pelagic *S. mentella* redfish in NAFO Subareas 1-3, the Scientific Council is requested to review the most recent information available on the distribution and abundance of this resource, as well as any new information on the affinity of this stock to the pelagic redfish resource found in the ICES Sub-area XII, parts of SA Va and XIV and to the shelf stocks of redfish found in ICES Sub-areas V, VI and XIV, and NAFO Subareas 1-3.
 8. With respect to porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) in the NAFO Convention Area, the Fisheries Commission with the concurrence of the Coastal State requests Scientific Council, at a meeting in advance of the 2008 Annual Meeting, to provide the following:
 - a) Information on historical and current catches and bycatches of the species in the NAFO Convention Area and NRA, summarized by NAFO Subarea and fishery;
 - b) Information on the abundance and distribution of the species in the Convention Area and the NRA;
 - c) Identification and delineation of any fishery areas or exclusion zones which might reduce the incidental bycatch of this species in NAFO regulated fisheries.
 9. Noting the FC Rebuilding Plan for 3NO cod adopted in September 2007, Fisheries Commission requests Scientific Council to advise, before September 2010, on a range of possible management measures to ensure by-catch of cod is kept at the lowest possible level.
 10. Recognizing the initiatives on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to:
 - a) Develop initial methodologies for the identification of VME and assessment of individual fishing activities, drawing on relevant international information and objective standards and guidelines as may have been developed, as deemed appropriate for this work;
 - b) Assess, at least on a preliminary basis, using the best available scientific information and assessment methodology, whether individual bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts on identified vulnerable marine ecosystems, with a view to reporting these findings to the Fisheries Commission and ensuring that additional conservation and management measures, where required, are recommended, through a Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Ecosystems Management, to the Fisheries Commission at its September 2008 meeting.
 - c) Develop appropriate scientific methods for the longer term monitoring of the health of VME.

**Annex 9. Amendment regarding Minimum Authorized Mesh Size
of Mid-water Trawls in the Redfish Fishery in Div. 3O of the NRA**
(FC WP 07/10 now FC Doc 07/7)

At the meeting in June 2007 the Scientific Council having considered the request of Fisheries Commission concerning management measures of the redfish in Div.3O 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. 3O.

Annex 10. Cod Recovery Strategy for Divisions 3NO (FC WP 07/7, Revised now FC Doc 07/8)

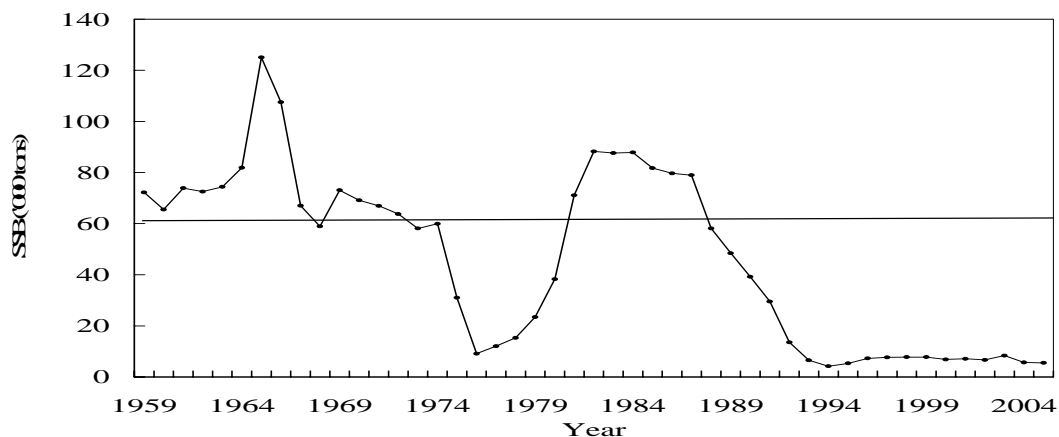
Explanatory Memorandum

Cod in Division 3NO was placed under moratorium in 1994 and since that time there has been no recovery of this stock. During this period, catch of 3NO cod increased in many of these years and there has been an increase in fishing mortality, particularly of young fish.

The 2007 Scientific Council assessment indicates the stock remains close to its historical low with SSB well below B_{lim} and there is weak representation from all year classes. In addition, the total biomass and SSB remain at extremely low levels.

Scientific Council has expressed concern that fishing mortality is now at levels comparable to those during past periods when substantial fisheries existed, even though the stock is currently under moratorium.

The Scientific Council estimate of spawning stock biomass was less than 10% of the biomass limit (B_{lim}) specified in the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework. In 2002, Scientific Council projected that the spawner biomass would double over the next five years with no fishing of the stock.



Despite best efforts to rebuild this stock, including reduced catch in recent years (2400t average annual catch during the 2000 to 2003 period to 700t average annual catch during the 2004 to 2006 period), additional measures are required.

In 2007, Scientific Council noted that there are several stocks, currently under moratorium, for which bycatch is preventing or severely limiting biomass growth. These stocks (including 3NO cod) are at low levels, despite a lengthy ban on directed fishing.

Scientific Council recommended that rebuilding/recovery plans be considered, which should incorporate specific measures to reduce bycatch and that steps be taken to ensure any bycatch taken during directed fisheries are true and unavoidable bycatch.

The 2002 Johannesburg Declaration called for action to restore fish stocks to maximum sustainable yield and a renewed commitment to the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and to the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing. This includes measures to minimize catch of non target species and for RFMOs to adopt appropriate measures to develop and use selective gear and techniques to the extent practicable.

In consideration of the above, Canada makes the following proposal:

New Article 7a or 8 (with Articles re-numbered) - 3NO Cod Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy

1. Contracting Parties shall implement a Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy for cod in Divisions 3NO guided by the following considerations:
 - avoidance of serious harm to reproductive potential of stock such as that arising from a continuously low or unproductive Spawning Stock Biomass;

- sustained growth in total biomass/Spawning Stock Biomass over extended period;
 - improvement in recruitment from the current low levels in this stock; and
 - health of individuals in population as measured in fish condition/growth.
2. This strategy is aimed at attaining a sustained level of Spawning Stock Biomass or recovery milestone above 60,000t (B_{LIM}), consistent with the NAFO PA Framework.
 3. For 2008 and subsequent years, Contracting Parties shall seek to achieve a targeted reduction of 40% from the average annual catch during 2004-2006 period or, through best efforts, specifically to keep incidental by-catch at the lowest possible level.
 4. In the event the targeted reduction is not achieved, the Fisheries Commission will consider additional measures for subsequent years and Contracting Parties will consider additional measures.
 5. Considering the importance of capelin as a food source, consistent with the ecosystem approach, the moratorium on 3NO capelin will continue until at least Dec 31, 2012.
 6. Scientific Council shall monitor and review the progress of this Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy and submit every third year, starting in 2010 an assessment of this progress to Fisheries Commission. Specifically, Scientific Council, starting in 2010, will report on annual biomass growth projected for the stock.
 7. In the interim period, the Fisheries Commission will request Scientific Council to consider a range of possible management measures that may ensure the by-catch of 3NO cod is kept at its lowest possible level.
 8. Scientific Council will review in detail the biological reference points in the Precautionary Approach Framework when the Spawning Stock Biomass has reached 30,000t.
 9. No directed fishery will occur if the Spawning Stock Biomass remains below the recovery milestone (B_{LIM}) of 60,000t. Before Spawning Stock Biomass increases above this level, Fisheries Commission should develop a strategy, following the Precautionary Approach, to ensure Spawning Stock Biomass remains above it.
 10. Scientific Council may also outline any additional research or analyses required to assist Fisheries Commission in assessing recovery potential.

Annex 11. Article 7 – Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO
(FC WP 07/27 now FC Doc 07/9)

Paragraph 6 (d) to be replaced by the following text:

Each Contracting Party shall ensure that its vessels authorised to fish for Greenland halibut shall communicate by electronic means, to its competent authorities, which shall transmit to the Executive Secretary, the following report:

Quantities of Greenland halibut, including nil catch returns, on a five day basis. When accumulated reported catch reaches 75% of the Contracting Party's quota this report shall be sent on a three day basis. The report shall for the first time be transmitted at the latest ten days after the entry into the Regulatory Area or after the beginning of the fishing trip.

The Executive Secretary shall forward this information to Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area.

Article 7 a - Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO - Additional control measures

1. Vessels authorized in accordance with Article 7(6), may only enter into the Regulatory Area to fish for Greenland halibut if they have less than 50 tons of any catch on board.
2.
 - a) However, where an authorized vessel has 50 tons or more of catches from outside the Regulatory Area held on board, it shall communicate to the Secretariat by e-mail or fax at the latest 72 hours prior to the entry (ENT) into the Regulatory area, the amount of catch on board, the position (latitude/ longitude) where the master estimates that the vessel will intend to commence fishing and the estimated time of arrival at the position.
 - b) The Secretariat shall transmit the information to any inspection vessels in the area. If an inspection vessel intends to carry out an inspection it shall communicate to the fishing vessel the coordinates of a checkpoint for an inspection to take place. The checkpoint shall be no more than 60 nautical miles from the position where the master estimates that the vessel will commence fishing. The inspection vessel intending to carry out the inspection shall also inform other inspection vessels that may be operating in the Regulatory Area.
 - c) If the Secretariat does not receive any notification from an inspection vessel within 24 hours of an intention to carry out an inspection, it shall immediately inform the fishing vessel that it may proceed to fish. The Secretariat shall inform inspection vessels and the flag-State FMC accordingly.
 - d) If the fishing vessel receives no communication from the Secretariat or an inspection vessel by the time it enters the Regulatory Area it may proceed to fish. Furthermore, the fishing vessel may commence fishing activities if the inspection vessel has not carried out the inspection within (3) hours following the arrival of the fishing vessel at the checkpoint.

Article 33 - Serious infringements

...
(i) *catch communication violations (Article 7bis and Article 23)*

Annex 12. Annual Quota Table (Annex I.A) and Effort Allocation Scheme (Annex I.B)

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2008 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	385 ^{2,4}	0	0	15112 ⁵		0
Cuba		0	-	0	1750		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		0	-	-	69 ¹⁹		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-
European Union		0 ¹¹	0 ¹¹	0 ¹¹	7813 ¹²	7000	<u>9627^{2,3}</u> 2503 ^{2,15}	0	0 ¹¹	-		0 ¹¹
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-	-	-	69 ¹⁹		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	310 ⁵		-
Iceland		-	-	-	-		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-
Japan		-	-	-	400	150	385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Korea		-	-	-	69 ¹⁹	100	385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Norway		0	-	-	-		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-
Russia		0	0	0	9137	6500	9627 ^{2,3}	-	0	-		0
Ukraine						150	385 ^{2,4}					
United States of America		-	-	-	69 ¹⁹		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-
Others		0	0	0	124	100	-	0	0	78 ⁵		0
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	*	* ²⁰	*	8500 ^{8,16}	20000	12516 ^{10,17}	* ¹⁶	*	15500 ⁹	* ²⁰	*

Species	White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) ¹	Shrimp	
						3L	3NO
Division/Contracting Party	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
Canada	2500	0	2250	1778	N.S. ⁶	20824	
Cuba		0		-	510	278	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		206	-	278	
European Union	5000	0 ¹¹	8500	6951 ¹⁸	<u>N.S.</u> ⁶ 611 ¹³	1392 ¹⁴	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		194	453	278	
Iceland		-		-	-	278	
Japan		0		1215	510	278	
Korea		-		-	453	278	
Norway		0		-	-	278	
Russia	500	0	2250	1512	749	278	
Ukraine				-		278	
United States of America		-		-	453	278	
Others	500	-	500	0 ⁷	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	8500¹⁶	*²¹	13500	11856	34000	25000	*

* 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 01 December 2007 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 1,300 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 4250 tons may be fished before 01 July 2008. 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 2008 as compared to 2007, 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 278 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of a TAC of 25,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union
15. Allocation of 2,234 tonnes for Lithuania and 269 tonnes to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
16. Applicable to 2008 and 2009.
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.
19. Notwithstanding the provisions of footnote 8 and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
20. Applicable to 2008, 2009, and 2010.
21. Applicable until at least 2012.

Annex I.B
Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2008

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 13. Korean Position for Allocation of Fishing Opportunities in NAFO

First of all, we want to apologize that we could not participate actively in the NAFO Conference on the reason that we have no vessels to operate here for the lack of quotas. However we would like to express our position on the allocation of fishing opportunities of NAFO.

NAFO has been regarded for Korean fishing vessels as important fishing grounds before 1993 with annual amount of over 10,000 tons. However, since the accession to NAFO, we had to tolerate the loss of quotas just for the reason of new comer, and which goes up to now just with the obligation of contribution as a contracting party.

Now we believe when we pay our efforts to be a constructive participant for the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystem and a responsible contributor for NAFO, we will be a fishing participant allocated with economically viable quotas.

We are anticipating the positive sign of resource recovery as the result from conservative fish resource rebuilding plans as NAFO, in particular, Scientific Council originally intended and recommended.

Most of all we do believe when additional quotas would be allocated, we should be treated in a fair and equitable manner as one contracting party fulfilling our all duties and obligations to NAFO.

Finally we suggest this Fisheries Commission to consider our catch history in this area before we were a member of NAFO in 1993.

Thank you for your attention.

<Table 1. Catch history by Korean vessels in NAFO>

(ton)

year species	total	1977-1980	1981-1985	1986-1990	1991-1993
total	163,714	884	15,086	110,236	37,508
Atlantic redfishes (ns)	101,026		93	76,270	24,663
Flatfishes (ns)	25,668		11,712	13,921	35
Yellowtail flounder	17,005		1,794	7,241	7,970
American plaice	7,809		1,041	4,305	2,463
Skates (ns)	5,937		175	3,942	1,820
Atlantic cod	3,042		152	2,484	406
others	3,227	884	119	2,073	151

- This data is from NAFO / since 1994, no catch history and no fishing vessel.

Annex 14. Port Inspection Report
(STACTIC WP 07/14, Revised **now** FC Doc 07/13)

Scope:

The present Annex XIII does not show (in part **A**.) where the infringements found by the inspectors during the port inspection can be mentioned and if it is optional or mandatory (in part **B**) to describe and mention them in the comments sections of the report.

The EC, defending the principle of transparency, consider that when infringements that have been found at sea and confirmed later during the port inspection or when new infringements have been found during the unloading operation the Port Inspection Report form shall indicate the final result concerning the violation of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures that are going to be used when the legal action and appropriated follow-up is going to be taken against the master and / or the owner of the vessel.

PROPOSAL:

(see attached annex)

A. "PORT INSPECTION REPORT" FORM

Page n°

1. INSPECTION REFERENCE

Inspection authority

Date of the report

Port of inspection

Vessel Name

2. TRIP INFORMATION 1

Date trip started

Trip number 2

Activity in the NAFO RA :

Date Entry in the RA

Date Exit from the RA

Other areas visited

Date trip ended

3. VESSEL IDENTIFICATION 3

External Identification

International Radio Call Sign

Flag
State

NAFO Contracting Party

Home Port

Vessel owner

Vessel operator

Master name

5. GEAR INSPECTION IN PORT ⁵

5.1 General data

Number of gear inspected

Date gear inspection

Has the vessel been cited ?

If Yes, complete the full "verification of inspection in port" form.

If no, complete the form with the exception of the NAFO Seal Details.

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO

5.2 Otter Trawl details

NAFO Seal number

Is seal undamaged ?

Yes

No

Gear Type :

Attachements :

Grate Bar Spacing (mm)

Mesh Type :

Average mesh size (mm)

TRAWL PART	
Wings :	
Body :	
Lengthening. Piece :	
Codend :	

6. INFRINGEMENTS AND FOLLOW-UP

6.1 Sea Inspection

Infringements resulting from Inspections inside NAFO R.A.

Inspection Party	Date of insp.	Division	NAFO CEM infringement legal reference
------------------	---------------	----------	---------------------------------------

6.2 Port Inspection Infringements results

(a) - Confirmation of Infringements found at sea inspection	
NAFO CEM infringement legal reference	National Infringement legal reference

(b) - Infringements found at sea inspection and not possible to be confirmed during the Port Inspection.	
Comments :	

(c) - Additional infringements found during the Port Inspection	
NAFO CEM infringement legal reference	National Infringement legal reference

Follow-up comments :

B. INFORMATION TO BE INSERT IN THE REPORT

1. INSPECTION REFERENCES

(no changes).....

2. TRIP INFORMATION

(no changes).....

3. VESSEL IDENTIFICATION

(no changes).....

4. RESULT OF INSPECTION ON DISCHARGE

(no changes)

5. RESULT OF GEAR INSPECTION ⁶

(No change).....

6. INFRINGEMENTS AND FOLLOW-UP

6.1 Sea inspection

Data Elements	M/O	Category ; Definition
Inspectors team	M	Contracting party name; Fishery Patrol Vessel name
Date of inspection	M	
Legal reference	M	Mention of the NAFO CEM Chapter; Article(s) paragraph(s) for each infringement

6.2 Port Inspection infringements results

(a) - Confirmation of Infringements found at sea inspection

Data Elements	M/O	Category ; Definition
Identification of the NAFO infringement	M	Mention of the NAFO CEM Chapter; Article(s) paragraph(s) for each infringement
Identification of the National infringement	O	Mention of the National Reg. title Chapter; Article(s) paragraph(s) for each infringement

(c) - Additional infringements found during the Port Inspection

Data Elements	M/O	Category ; Definition
Identification of the NAFO infringement	M	Mention of the NAFO CEM Chapter; Article(s) paragraph(s) for each infringement
Identification of the National infringement	O	Mention of the National Reg. title Chapter; Article(s) paragraph(s) for each infringement

**Annex 15. Amendments to Chapter VII – Electronic Reporting, Satellite Tracking
And Observers, Article 57 – Follow-up**
(STACTIC WP 07/17, Revised ~~now~~ FC Doc 07/14)

Explanatory Memorandum

The NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures have been amended to reflect that the pilot project on Electronic Reporting, Satellite Tracking and Observers is no longer a pilot project but now part of the scheme. As such the NCEM's need to be amended to reflect the changes.

Proposal

Amend Chapter VII, Article 57 to reflect the end of the pilot project on electronic reporting, satellite tracking and observers, to indicate its implementation as part of the scheme and to change the title to reflect the intent of the Article.

Proposal – Revise Article 57 as indicated in the text below:

Article 57 - Follow-up Evaluation

~~1.~~ Each Contracting Party (including those with an inspection presence) shall submit **at the annual meeting a** ~~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 **to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the provisions of Chapter 7** ~~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.~~

Annex 16. Catch Reporting and Notification Procedures between Divisions 3M and 3L (STACTIC WP 07/24, Revised **now** FC Doc 07/15)

Background:

At the STACTIC meeting in Gdynia 5 – 7 June 2007, Iceland was asked to develop a proposal on notification and catch reporting requirements in 3L and 3M shrimp fishery. This proposal should be read together with STACTIC Working Paper 06/24 submitted by Iceland to the 28th Annual Meeting in September 2006. In that Working Paper possible options for Catch Reporting according to areas are listed as well as based on a Canadian proposal for Weekly Catch Reporting are listed as well as suggestions for reporting procedures for Division 3L based on a request of advice to the Advisory Group for Data Communication (AGDC) from the European Union.

At the AGDC meeting in Bergen in April 2007 these notification procedures were discussed further and an additional option for multiple area reporting discussed, to use a so called trailer. The trailer option offers the possibility to repeat the same data elements several times inside a single message. This would involve changes to all systems.

Proposal:

It is proposed to use a Catch report to report the catches onboard according to Division before entering into Division 3L and in the same way use the Catch report to report catches taken in Division 3L before exiting from Division 3L. The proposed template is found in Annex A.

The proposal is based on a solution which not requires any major changes to the systems. The only change needed is to include the Catch report but all of its data elements are already in the current system. The main elements are as follows:

1. The prior notification before entering remains manual
 - a. The vessels will notify their Flag State FMC of their intention to enter into Division 3L and get approval from the Flag State (Art. 12, 2)
 - b. The Flag State will inform the NAFO Secretariat
2. The vessels are required to transmit Catch report prior to crossing the boundaries of Division 3L on entering and exiting.
 - a. In the Catch report the catches are reported by Division indicating catches retained onboard since the last communication of catches.

Further explanations are found in STACTIC Working Paper 06/24.

It should be noted that this proposal also opens the possibility for regular catch reporting in the NAFO Regulatory Area, with which ever frequency required.

Consequently the following modifications to the NAFO CEM are proposed:

1. Article 23. paragraph 1.
 - c) catch prior to entry and exit from 3L. These reports shall be made by vessels that fish shrimp in Division 3L and shall be sent one hour prior to crossing the boundary of Division 3L indicating catches onboard since last communication of catches by Division and species (3 alpha code) in kg (rounded to nearest 100 kilograms). This report shall be identified as CAT
2. Article 23, paragraph 1 c) becomes d) and d) becomes e)
3. Article 23, paragraph 3 to be deleted and paragraph 4 to be paragraph 3
4. The table in Article 23, showing the sequence of messages should be amended accordingly. The table to read as follows:

Report:	Code:	Remarks:
Catch on Entry	COE	6 hours in advance of the vessels entry into the Regulatory Area.
Entry	ENT	The first position report from a vessel detected to be inside the Regulatory Area
Position	POS	Position report every 2 hours
Catch	CAT	Reporting of catches prior to crossing boundaries of Division 3L
Transshipment	TRA	As relevant
Port of Landing	POR	Report on catch onboard and weight to be landed
Catch on Exit	COX	6 hours in advance of the vessels departure from the Regulatory Area
Exit	EXI	The first position report from a vessel detected to be outside the Regulatory Area

5. The template for Catch Report should be inserted into Annex X as table number 2 and the remaining tables renumbered accordingly.
6. The Catch data element in the Catch on Exit report to be modified as follows:

Data Element	Field Code	Mandatory / Optional	Remarks
Catch	CA		Activity detail; Cumulative catch retained on board by species, either since commencement of fishing in the R.A. or last "Catch" report (CAT) or (CAX) if such a report is sent according to Chapter VII, in pairs as needed.
species		M	FAO species code
live weight		M	Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms

7. Annex XXIII, E. Reference to the Catch report should be inserted.

Annex A

2) “Catch” report

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
From	FR	M	Message detail; Address of the transmitting party (ISO-3)
Sequence Number	SQ	M	Message detail; serial number in current year
Type of Message	TM	M	Message detail; message type, “CAT” for 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 Catch species live weight	CA	M	Activity detail; cumulative catch by species retained onboard, either since commencement of fishing in the R.A. ² or last “Catch” report, in pairs as needed FAO species code Live weight in kilograms, rounded to the nearest 100 kilograms
Days Fished	DF	O	Activity detail; number of fishing days in the R.A. ² either since commencement of fishing of last “Catch” report
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 record

¹ Optional if the vessel is subject to satellite tracking in accordance with Article 22(1)

² Meaning the first “Catch” report in current fishing trip in the R.A.

Annex 17. Amendment of FC Rule of Procedure 5.1
(STACTIC WP 07/27, Revised **now** FC Doc 07/22)

At the 2006 Annual Meeting, General Council, General Council decided to approve to merge STACFAC with STACTIC (so that STACFAC would cease to exist as an independent Committee and its mandate incorporated into the mandate of STACTIC). It was noted that this decision entailed a change of the Rules of Procedure and a proposal in this respect put forward by the Working Group on Reform was adopted (GC WP 06/3). At the STACTIC meeting in Gdynia, Poland 5-7 June, this change *to the Rules of Procedure* was overlooked *and therefore there is no further need to merge the Rules of Procedure pertaining to STACFAC into the Rules of Procedure for STACTIC.*

However, STACTIC could consider the following amendment to the current Rule 5.1 of the Rules of Procedure for the Fisheries Commission:

5.1 (m) *to review information regarding non-Contracting Party vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and compile a list of such vessels.*

5.1 n) *make appropriate recommendations to the Fisheries Commission.*

**Annex 18. Amendment of NAFO CEM Article 49, paragraph 6– Illegal, unreported
and unregulated (IUU) fishing**

(STACTIC WP 07/29, Revised **now** FC Doc 07/16)

One way of targeting the global phenomenon IUU fishing, is that an RFMO formally recognise IUU vessel lists established by other RFMOs. Such a joint effort has already been taken by NAFO and the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) as vessel listed by NAFO also formally will be listed by NEAFC, and vice versa.¹ Similar initiatives are under way in the RFMOs managing tuna and tuna like species as a joint meeting among those organisations in Kobe in January this year in principle agreed to establish a common list for all tuna RFMOs.

Recognizing the global nature of overfishing, especially in the field of high seas transshipment and landing of catches outside the jurisdiction of Parties to the relevant RFMO, Norway intends in CCAMLR and SEAFO to propose that they formally recognise the IUU list established by NAFO.

In order to enable these organizations to consider vessels on the NAFO IUU list for placement on their respective IUU lists, it is necessary for NAFO to provide details of the NAFO IUU list, including the reasons for listing or de-listing each vessel. For these reasons, Norway suggests the following amendments to the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures:

Article 49, paragraph 6 shall read:

“The Secretariat shall transmit the IUU List and any relevant information regarding the List, including the reasons for listing or de-listing each vessel, to the secretariats of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Resources (CCAMLR), the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO). The Secretariat shall also circulate the IUU List to other regional fisheries management organizations”

¹ NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures, article 49, and article 44 of the NEAFC Scheme on Control and Enforcement.

Annex 19. Chartering Arrangements
(STACTIC WP 07/30, Revised **now** FC Doc 07/17)

Background

The rules concerning chartering arrangements set down in Article 15 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures do not provide for a suspension of such arrangements. The purpose of this proposal is to introduce such a possibility, whilst still ensuring that when operating under chartering arrangements, chartered vessels shall not utilize at the same time quota or fishing days of their flag state Contracting Party.

Proposal

Article 15 – Chartering Arrangements

.....

2. The chartering Contracting Party shall limit such chartering arrangements to one fishing vessel per flag state of the chartering Contracting Party per year and for a limited duration not exceeding 6 months. The chartering arrangements may be suspended and resumed at a later date during the same year for the same vessel provided that the cumulative time of the charter arrangement does not exceed six months.

.....

10. Both the chartering Contracting Party and the flag State Contracting Party shall inform the Executive Secretary of the termination of the chartering arrangement as well as its suspension and resumption if appropriate, and the beginning and ending of fishing operations under it.

Annex 20. Annual Compliance Review
(STACTIC WP 07/33 now FC Doc 07/23)

Introduction:

Ongoing efforts for Annual Compliance Review as part of STACTIC; the following is a summary / trend analysis of compliance assessment for 2004, 2005 and 2006. The annual review process is a resumption of previous compliance assessment of which 2004 data was completed in 2005. The past two years have been delayed pending NAFO reform priorities. This current review flows from compilation tables and subsequent report tables, drafted in 2007 for consideration by STACTIC. This process intends to provide a more condensed and streamlined review of data to enhance understanding of the compliance trends / fishing patterns, a picture of the Contracting Party reporting obligations coupled with adherence to NCEM provisions.

Data tables were circulated to Contracting Parties as working paper 07/21 for review and discussion. Currently a total of 8 compilation tables and 6 report tables exist as proposed by the working group and should serve as a general annual template. Synopsis of the data tables is outlined below, appended by graphical depiction of same.

The accuracy and thoroughness of these reports is dependant upon the analysis and submission of contracting party reports

Compliance Issues / trends:

From analysis of the report tables, which are summaries of the compilation tables, there are a number of compliance trends.

- **Administrative obligations** for report submission [figure 1]
 - Number of **COE** reports missing is decreasing from 25% in 2004 to 16% in 2006
 - Number of **COX** reports missing is decreasing from 23% in 2004 to 15% in 2006
 - Number of **Observer** reports missing has increased slightly from 32% in 2004 to 36% in 2006
 - Number of **Port Inspection** reports missing has decreased from 28% in 2004 to 19% in 2006
- **Timeliness of report submission** however is not as efficient
 - Late Port inspection reports have increased from 59% late in 2004 to 73% late in 2006 [figure 2]
 - Late at sea inspection reports have increased from 10% late in 2004 to 28% in 2006 [figure 3]
 - Late observer reports have decreased marginally from 83% late to 76% in 2006 [figure 4]
- **Number of active vessels** has decreased from 134 in 2004 to 116 in 2005 to 92 in 2006. [figure 6]
- **At sea Inspections** have decreased from 401 in 2004 to 326 in 2005 to 361 in 2006 however not relative to the decrease in number of vessels. [figure 5]
- **Days Present in NRA** has decreased from 16,480 in 2004 to 12,290 in 2005 to 8663 in 2006. [figure 5]

Common Citations Issued 2004-2006

<i>AI</i>	<i>At Sea</i>	<i>In Port</i>
Stowage Plans	11	0
Illegal attachments	9	0
Mesh Size	9	3
Inaccurate recording	8	15
Bycatch requirements	7	6
Labeling	6	4

- **At sea citation trends** are oriented toward stowage plans, illegal attachments and mesh size, of which most are relatively new NCEM provisions.
- **In port citation trends** are oriented toward inaccurate recording, labeling and bycatch requirements. Total in port citations are increasing within the 3 year period.

Number of Citations

<i>Year</i>	<i>At sea</i>	<i>In Port</i>
2004	18	10
2005	31	6
2006	22	16

Conclusions

- Report Submission is improving however timeliness is still a concern
- General decrease in number of vessels and inspections however not relative to the decrease in number of vessels.
- The frequency of at sea inspections has increased relative to the number of active vessels and fishing days in the NRA.
- From 2004 – 2006 there was a 10% reduction in inspections versus a 31% reduction in vessels and a 47% reduction in fishing days.
- Shift in at sea citations toward new NCEM provisions such as stowage plans and product labeling.
- Increase in port detection of citations oriented toward inaccurate recording and labeling.
- It can take 2 years for follow up to citations
- Additional items for consideration in future as assessment indicators may include:
 - port inspection landings versus amounts reported in COX
 - data source comparison of catch data (VMS, COX, port inspection)
 - electronic mapping of water depth versus directed species
- CP's need to ensure an accurate analysis of data occurs and up to date data is available to secretariat

Table R-1. Submission of fishing reports

Year	2004	2005	2006
Total number of identified fishing trips/periods	337	282	211
Number of COE received	254	235	178
Percentage of missing COE	25%	17%	16%
Number of COX received	258	234	179
Percentage of missing COX	23%	17%	15%
Number of fishing trips covered by Observer Reports or CAX/OBR	228	185	135
Percentage of missing Observer Reports	32%	34%	36%
Number of fishing trips covered by Port Inspection Reports or TRA/POR	243	213	170
Percentage of missing Port Inspection Reports	28%	24%	19%

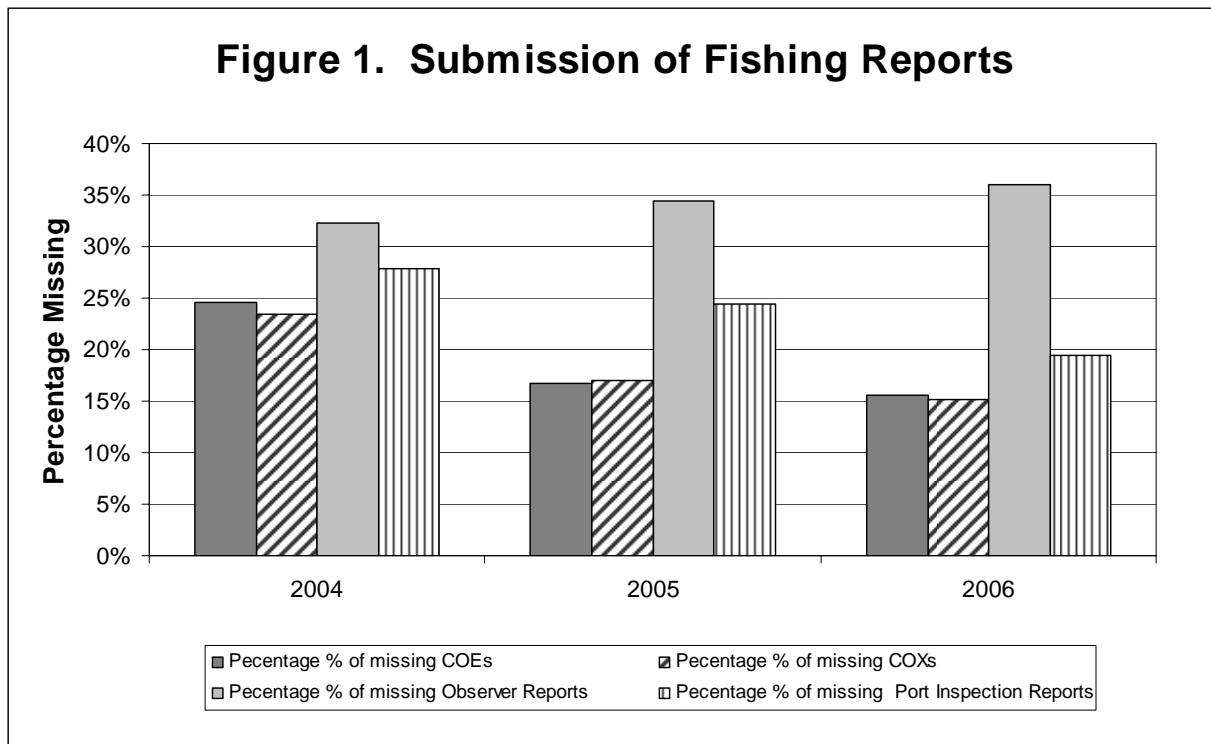


Table R-2. Timely submission of Port Inspection Reports

Year	2004	2005	2006
Total number of identified fishing trips	337	282	211
Total Number of Port Inspection Reports received	243	192	160
Total Number of Port Inspection Reports received late	144	127	117
Percentage of late Port Inspection Reports	59%	66%	73%

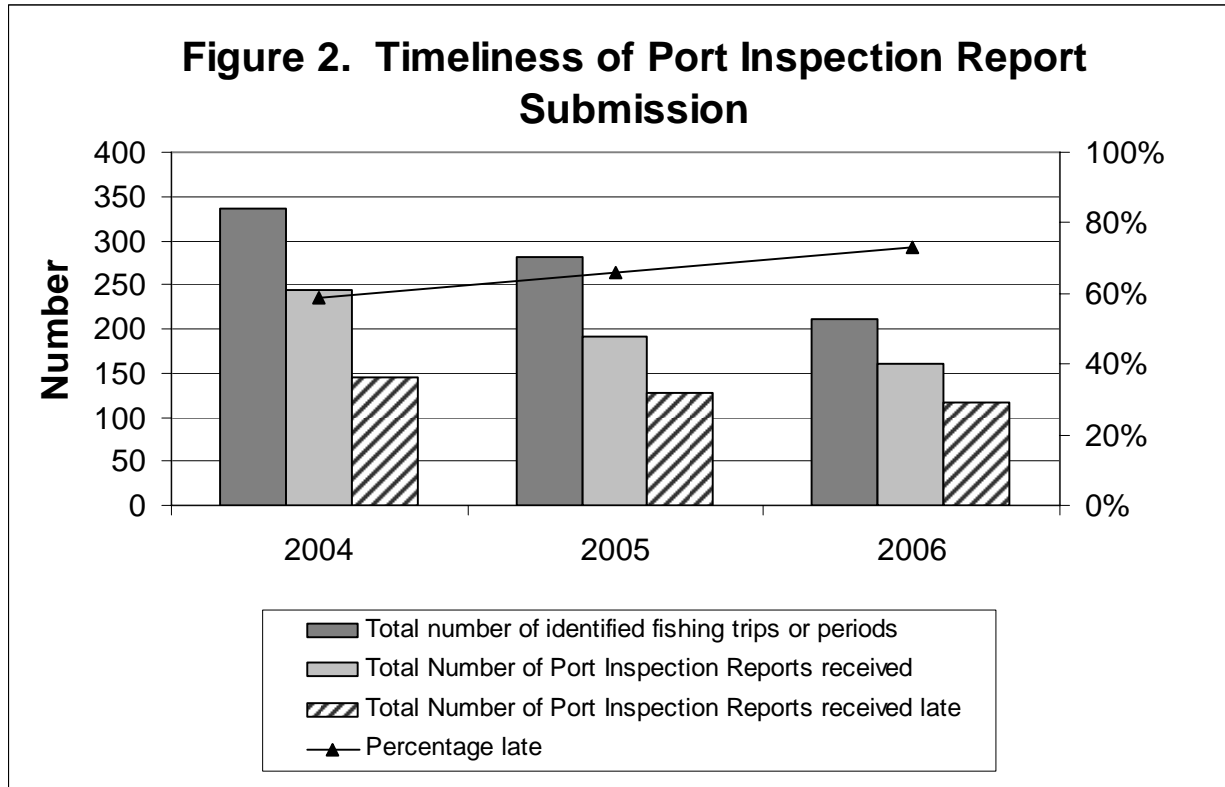


Table R-3. Timely submission of at-sea Inspection Reports

Year	2004	2005	2006
Total Number of at-sea Inspections	401	326	361
Number of at-sea Inspections received late	40	30	95
Percentage of late at-sea Inspection Reports	10%	9%	26%

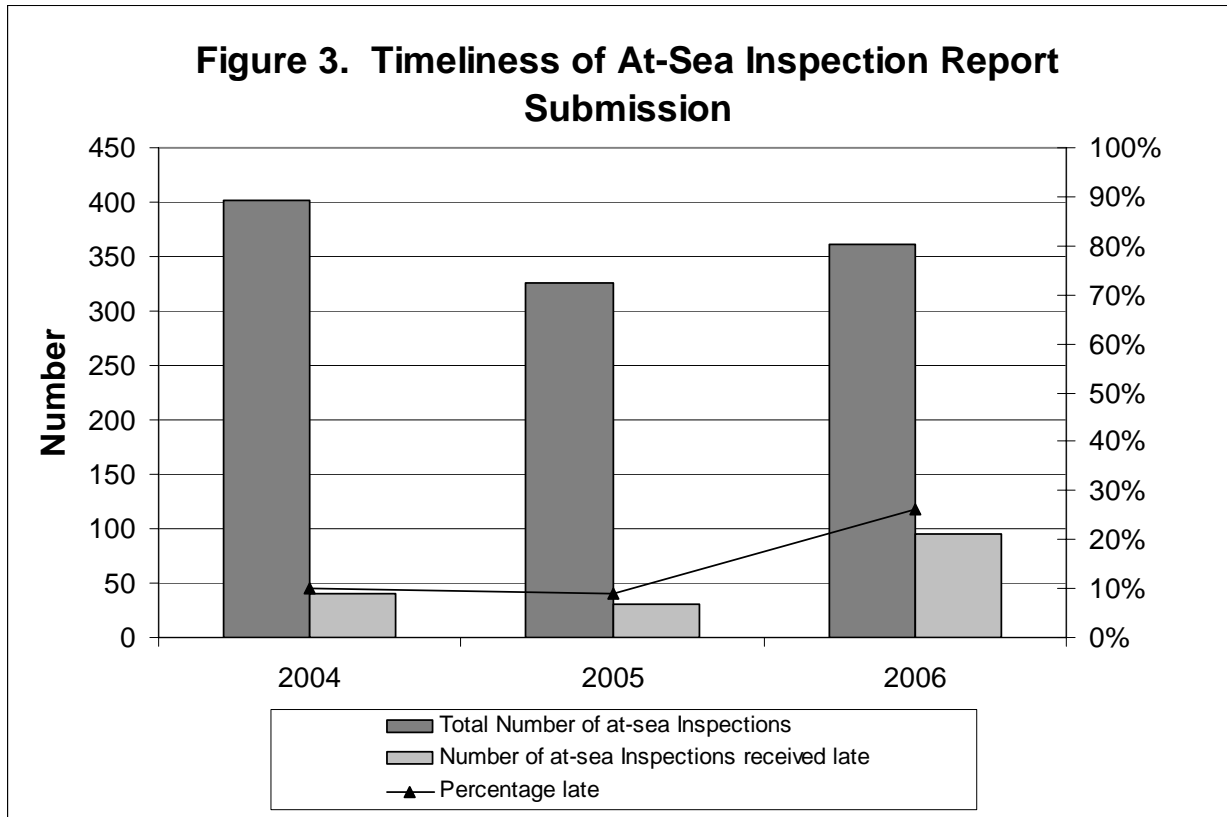


Table R-4. Timely submission of Observers Reports

Year	2004	2005	2006
Total Number of Observers Reports	211	170	114
Number of Observers Reports received late	176	131	87
Percentage of late Observers Reports	83%	77%	76%

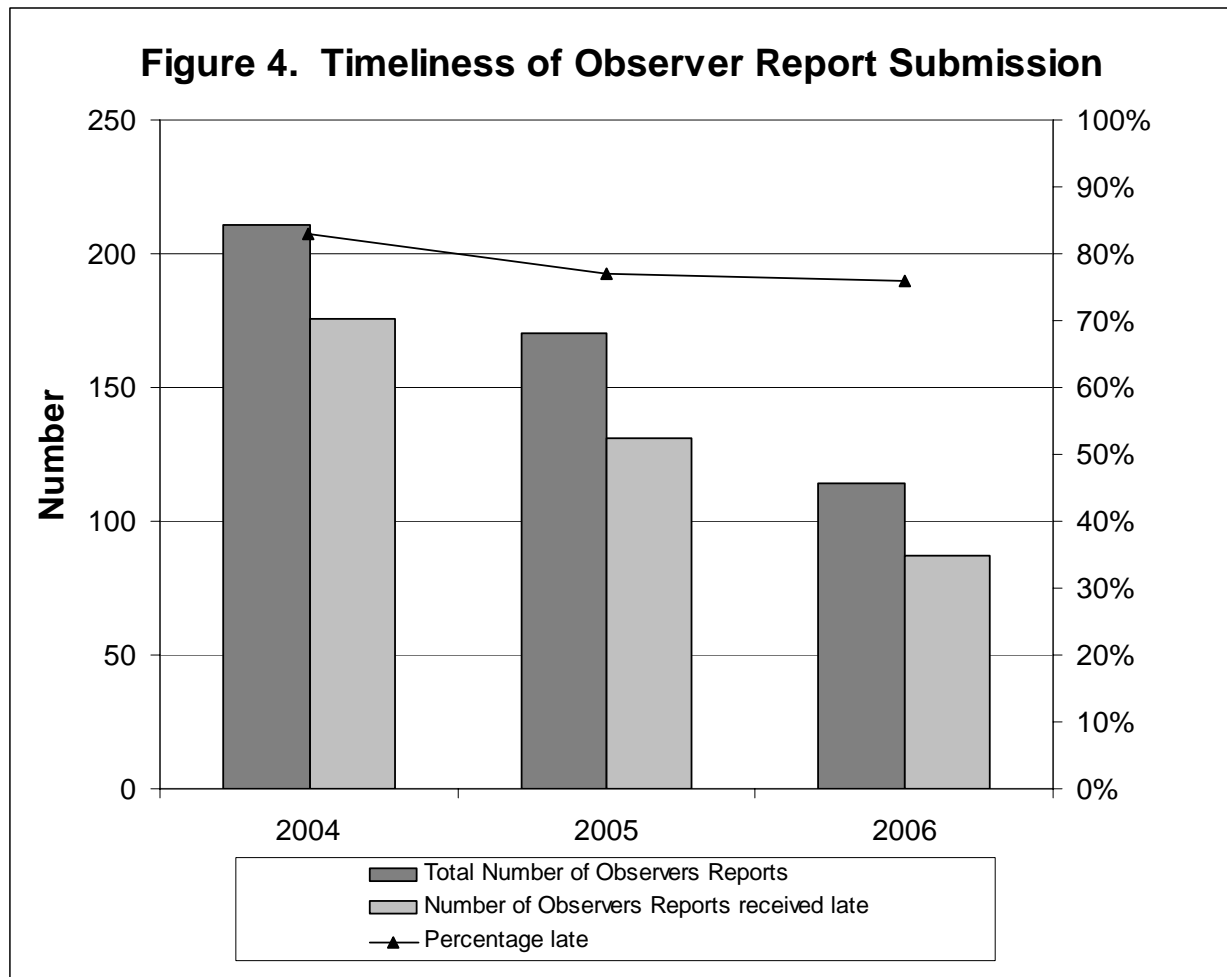


Table R-5A. Effort, at sea inspections, citations by fisheries type (2004)

FISHERIES*	GRO	PRA	REB	Total
Number of vessels	63	33	48	134
Days Present in NRA	9966	5100	1414	16480
Effort (days present x KW x 1000)	13670.6	11810.3	3189.0	28669.9
Number of at-sea inspections	328	73	0	401
Citations issued by category - from at-sea and (port) inspections				
By-catch requirements	3 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (1)
Catch communication violations				
Fishing without authorization	0 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)
Gear requirements - illegal attachments	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Gear requirements - mesh size	5 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (2)
Inspection protocol	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)
Mis-recording of catches - inaccurate recording	0 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (6)
Mis-recording of catches -stowage				
Observer requirements				
Product labeling	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Quota requirements	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Vessel requirements - capacity plans	3 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)
VMS requirements	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Total At-Sea Citations	16	2	0	18
Total Citations	26	2	0	28

GRO = groundfish primarily in Divs. 3KLMNO; PRA = shrimp fisheries in Divs. 3LM; RED = redbfish in Divs. 1F2J

** Some vessels switched directed species within the year.

Table R-5B. Effort, at sea inspections, citations by fisheries type (2005)

FISHERIES*	GRO	PRA	REB	Total
Number of vessels	50	27	53	116
Days Present in NRA	6948	3558	1784	12290
Effort (days present x KW x 1000)	9326.2	8164.4	4277.2	21767.8
Number of at-sea inspections	270	55	1	326
Citations issued by category - from at-sea and (port) inspections				
By-catch requirements	2 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)
Catch communication violations				
Fishing without authorization	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Gear requirements - illegal attachments	2 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)
Gear requirements - mesh size	3 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (1)
Inspection protocol	3 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	4 (1)
Mis-recording of catches - inaccurate recording	5 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	6 (1)
Mis-recording of catches -stowage	5 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0)
Observer requirements	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Product labeling	2 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	3 (0)
Quota requirements				
Vessel requirements - capacity plans	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)
VMS requirements	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Total At-Sea Citations	24	7	0	31
Total Citations	30	7	0	37

* GRO = groundfish primarily in Divs. 3KLMNO; PRA = shrimp fisheries in Divs. 3LM; RED = redbfish in Divs. 1F2J

** Some vessels switched directed species within the year.

Table R-5C. Effort, at sea inspections, citations by fisheries type (2006)

FISHERIES*	GRO	PRA	REB	Total
Number of vessels	45	21	42	92
Days Present in NRA	5908	1776	979	8663
Effort (days present x KW x 1000)	9015.1	4298.5	2101.6	15415.2
Number of at-sea inspections	277	76	8	361
Citations issued by category - from at-sea and (port) inspections				
By-catch requirements	2 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (2)
Catch communication violations	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Fishing without authorization				
Gear requirements - illegal attachments	2 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)	5 (0)
Gear requirements - mesh size	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
Inspection protocol	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Mis-recording of catches - inaccurate recording	3 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (8)
Mis-recording of catches -stowage	5 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	6 (0)
Observer requirements				
Product labeling	1 (4)	2 (0)	0 (0)	3 (4)
Quota requirements	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Vessel requirements - capacity plans	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
VMS requirements				
Total At-Sea Citations	14	6	2	22
Total Citations	30	6	2	38

* GRO = groundfish primarily in Divs. 3KLMNO; PRA = shrimp fisheries in Divs. 3LM; RED = redfish in Divs. 1F2J

** Some vessels switched directed species within the year.

Figure 5. Fishing Days Present in NRA vs. Number of Inspections

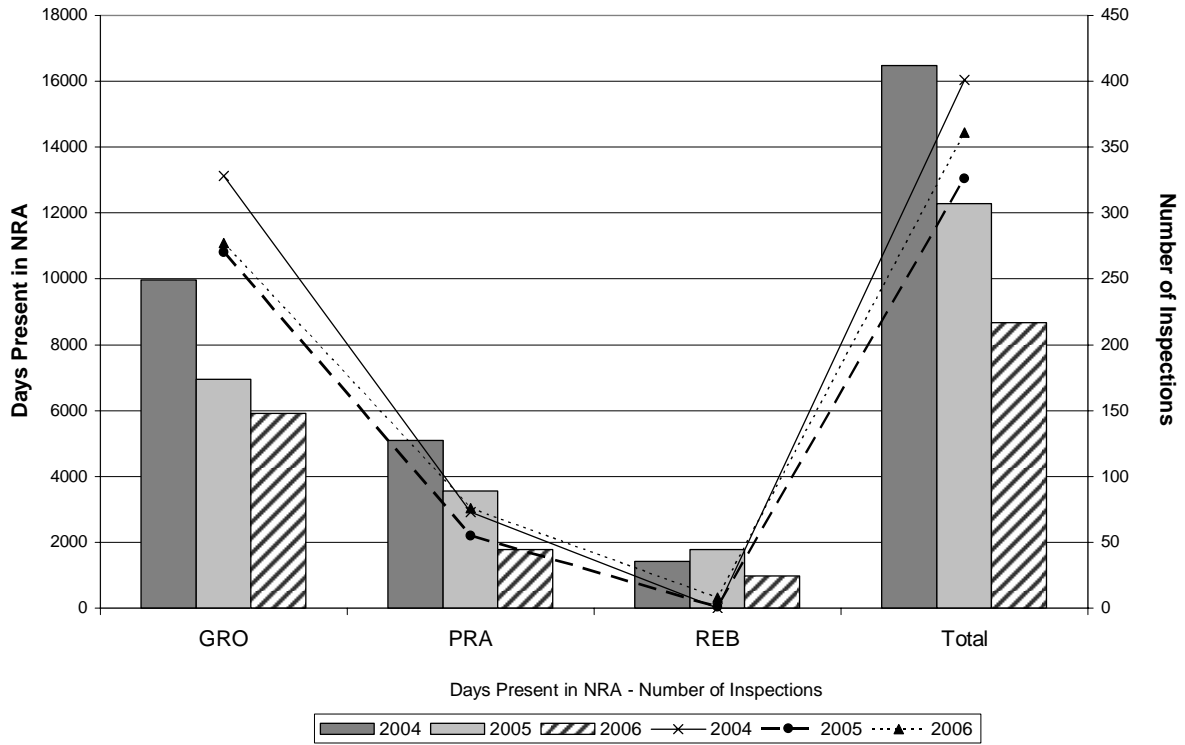


Figure 6. Number of Fishing Vessels in NRA vs. Total Citations

**Total number of vessels is not additive since vessels may participate in multiple fisheries.*

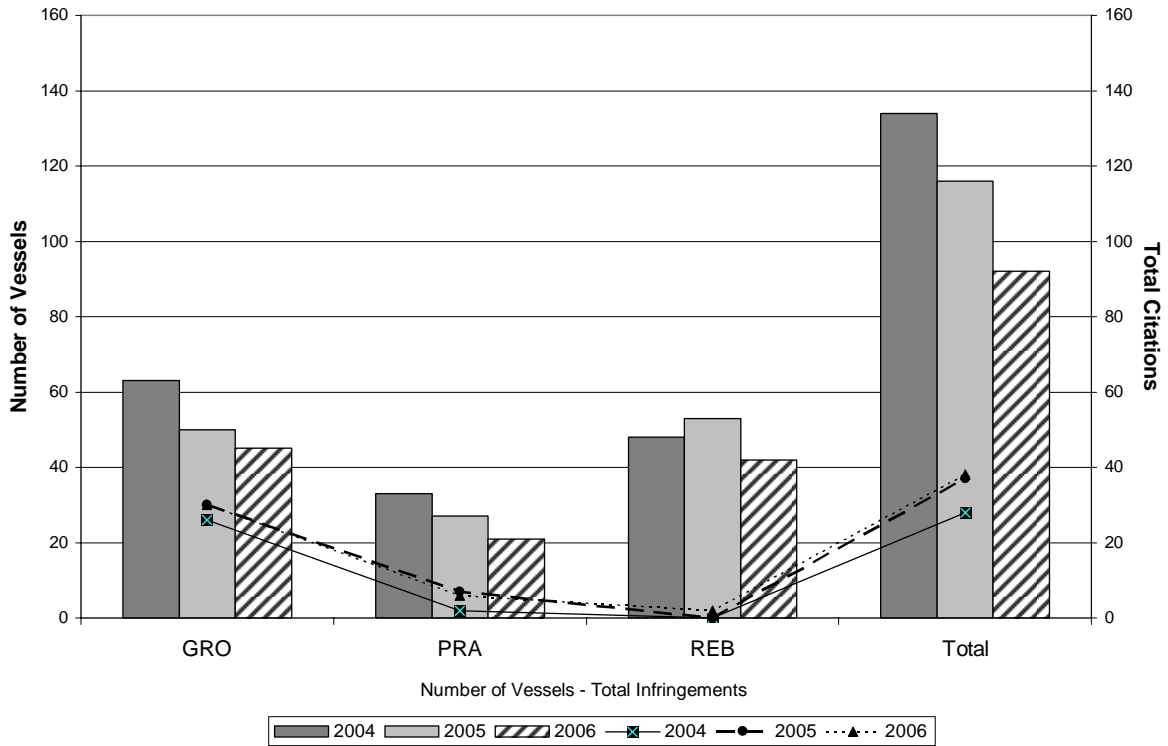


Table R-6. Resolution of Citation Cases (as of July 2007)

Year	2004	2005	2006
Number of Citation Cases Issued*	24	26	29
Number of Citation Cases Solved	24	19	11

* Number of at-sea and port inspection reports with citations.
 Reports serving to confirm previously reported AI incidents are not counted.

Table R-7A. Inspections/Days Present and Citations/Inspections (2004)

2004	GRO	PRA	REB	Total
Number of vessels	63	33	48	134
Days Present in NRA	9966	5100	1414	16480
Number of at-sea inspections	328	73	0	401
Total At-Sea Citations	16	2	0	18
Inspections/Days	3.3%	1.4%	0.0%	2.4%
Citations/Inspections	4.9%	2.7%	0.0%	4.5%

Table R-7B. Inspections/Days Present and Citations/Inspections (2005)

2005	GRO	PRA	REB	Total
Number of vessels	50	27	53	116
Days Present in NRA	6823	3558	1909	12290
Number of at-sea inspections	270	55	1	326
Total At-Sea Citations	24	7	0	31
Inspections/Days	4.0%	1.5%	0.1%	2.7%
Citations/Inspections	8.9%	12.7%	0.0%	9.5%

Table R-7C. Inspections/Days Present and Citations/Inspections (2006)

2006	GRO	PRA	REB	Total
Number of vessels	45	21	42	92
Days Present in NRA	5908	1776	979	8663
Number of at-sea inspections	277	76	8	361
Total At-Sea Citations	14	6	2	22
Inspections/Days	4.7%	4.3%	0.8%	4.2%
Citations/Inspections	5.1%	7.9%	25.0%	6.1%

Figure 7. Relationship Between At-Sea Inspections and Fishing Days in NRA

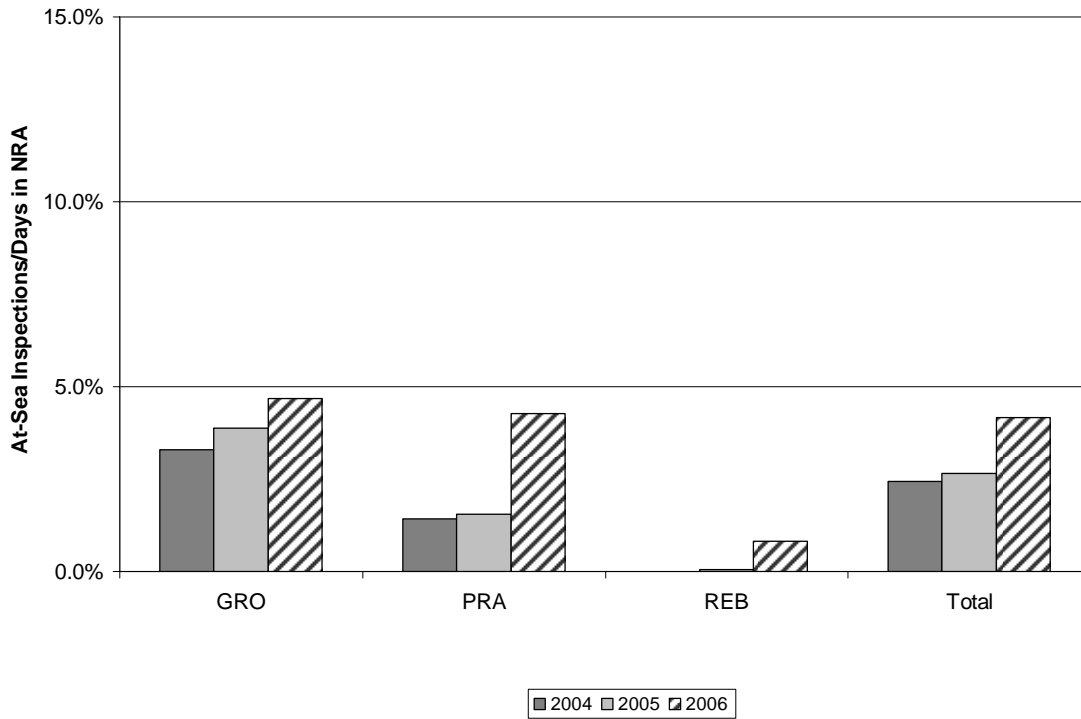
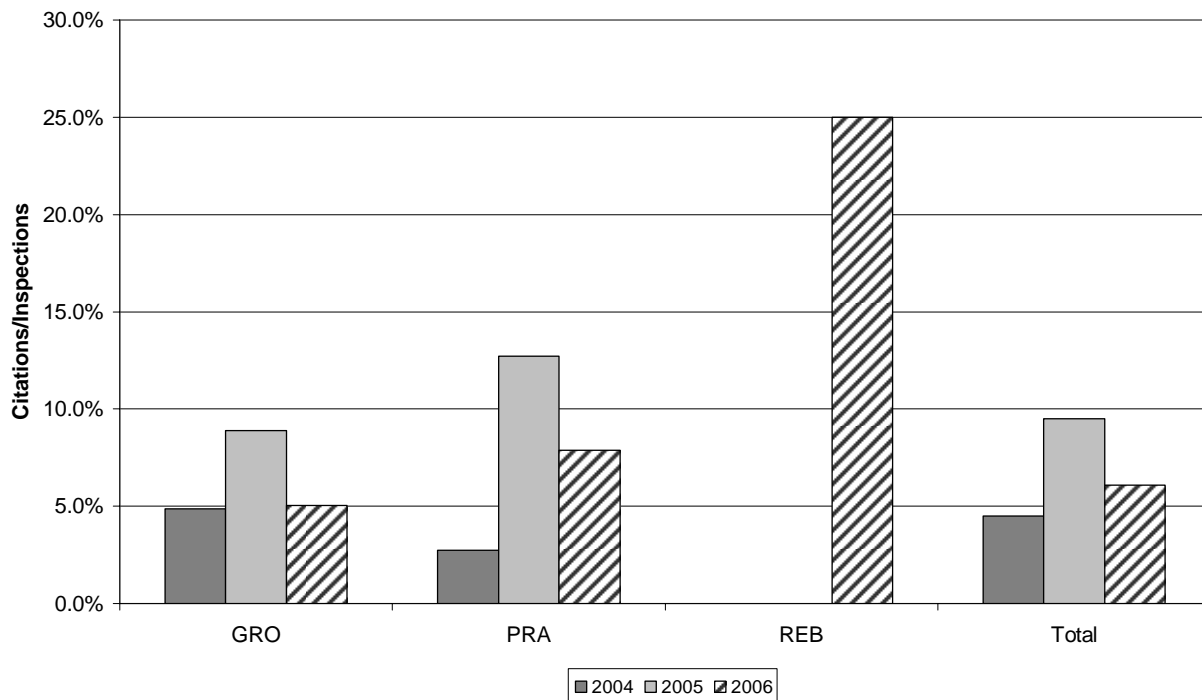


Figure 8. Relation Between At-Sea Citations and At-Sea Inspections



Annex 21. Boarding Ladders (STACTIC WP 07/2 now FC Doc 07/10)

Background:

At the NAFO Inspectors Workshop held in Brussels during 25th to 27th January 2005, the inspectors expressed a need for a reinstatement of provisions concerning the construction and use of boarding ladders into the then present NAFO CEM (FC Doc. 04/1). Following the STACTIC meeting in Reykjavik in April 2005, Denmark (in respect of Greenland and Faeroe Islands) took the task of looking into this issue.

A proposal regarding boarding ladders (STACTIC W.P. 05/22) was tabled at the STACTIC annual meeting in Tallin, September 2005. The proposal was turned down as the mandate to effect these changes was questioned. Greenland has reconsidered the proposal and has found no legal implications. A similar proposal has been adopted by NEAFC in 2006 and is included as Annex 14 in NEAFC scheme of control and enforcement.

In the present CEM only one sentence describes boarding ladders:

Article 30 – Obligations of Vessel Masters During Inspection

1. The master of a fishing vessel shall:

- c) provide a boarding ladder which is in conformity with recommendations concerning pilot ladders adopted by the International Maritime Organisation*

In the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Torremolinos protocol of 1993 the following recommendations are stated concerning pilot ladders:

Chapter VI - Protection of the crew

(7) Embarkation ladders

- (a) Handholds shall be provided to ensure a safe passage from the deck to the head of the ladder and vice versa.*
- (b) The steps of the ladder shall be:*
 - (i) made of hardwood, free from knots or other irregularities, smoothly machined and free from sharp edges and splinters, or of suitable material of equivalent properties;*
 - (ii) provided with an effective non-slip surface either by longitudinal grooving or by the application of an approved non-slip coating*
 - (iii) not less than 480 mm long, 115 mm wide and 25 mm in depth, excluding any non-slip surface or coating;*
 - (iv) equally spaced not less than 300 mm or more than 380 mm apart and secured in such a manner that they will remain horizontal.*
- (c) The side ropes of the ladder shall consist of two uncovered manila ropes not less than 65 mm in circumference on each side. Each rope shall be continuous with no joints below the top step. Other materials may be used provided the dimensions, breaking strain, weathering, stretching and gripping properties are at least equivalent to those manila rope. All rope ends shall be secured to prevent unravelling.*

The above-mentioned recommendations from the IMO are scarce compared to the provisions in the NAFO CEM (FC/DOC. 02/9). The IMO provisions have been designed with a near port boarding in mind, and are not intended for boarding vessels at high seas. The provisions in the IMO lack descriptions of ladder efficiency, purpose, maintenance, replacement of steps, batten requirements, gateway passage, lighting of ladder, lifebuoy, ladder placement and rigging supervision.

Provisions regarding mechanical pilot hoists are not included in the CEM. Since the usages of mechanical pilot hoists are becoming more frequent on larger vessels, Denmark (in respect of Greenland and the Faeroe Islands) believes that the CEM should include provisions regarding the usage of such a device. The European Maritime Pilots' Association (EMPA) has some recommendations concerning mechanical pilot hoists. Denmark (in respect of Greenland and the Faeroe Islands) therefore suggests that the CEM being amended accordingly.

Proposal:

To ensure safe boarding of the inspectors it would be most adequate if detailed provisions are reinstated in the CEM carried onboard the inspection vessels. Denmark (in respect of Greenland and the Faeroe Islands) suggests an amendment of the boarding ladder provisions stated in the CEM. It is recommended to incorporate the enclosed annex, an amended version of the boarding ladder provisions in the previous CEM. This will in addition necessitate an amendment of Article 30, paragraph

1 (c). Furthermore an implementation of provisions regarding mechanical pilot hoists will require an additional section (Article 30, 1. (d)). Following these recommendations Article 30 will be altered as following:

Article 30 – Obligations of Vessel Masters During Inspection

1. The master of a fishing vessel shall:

c) provide a boarding ladder constructed and used as described in **Annex nn**.

d) if a mechanical pilot hoist is provided, ensure that its ancillary equipment are of a type approved by the national administration. It shall be of such design and construction as to ensure that the pilot can be embarked and disembarked in a safe manner including a safe access from the hoist to the deck and vice versa. A pilot ladder complying with the provisions of paragraph 1.c of this article shall be kept on deck adjacent to the hoist and available for immediate use.

ANNEX m

CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF BOARDING LADDERS

1. A boarding ladder shall be provided which shall be efficient for the purpose of enabling inspectors to embark and disembark safely at sea. The boarding ladder shall be kept clean and in good order.
2. The ladder shall be positioned and secured so that:
 - (a) it is clear of any possible discharges from the vessel;
 - (b) it is clear of the finer lines and as far as practicable in the midlength of the vessel;
 - (c) each step rests firmly against the vessel's side.
3. The steps of the boarding ladder shall:
 - (a) be of hardwood or other material of equivalent properties, made in one piece free of knots; the four lowest steps may be made of rubber of sufficient strength and stiffness, or of other suitable material of equivalent characteristics;
 - (b) have an efficient non-slip surface;
 - (c) be not less than 480 mm long, 115 mm wide, and 23 mm in thickness, excluding any non-slip device or grooving;
 - (d) be equally spaced not less than 300 mm or more than 380 mm apart;
 - (e) be secured in such a manner that they will remain horizontal.
4. No boarding ladder shall have more than two replacement steps which are secured in position by a method different from that used in the original construction of the ladder and any steps so secured shall be replaced, as soon as reasonably practicable, by steps secured in position by the method used in the original construction of the ladder. When any replacement step is secured to the side ropes of the boarding ladder by means of grooves in the side of the step, such grooves shall be in the longer sides of the steps.
5. The side ropes of the ladder shall consist of two uncovered manila or equivalent ropes not less than 60 mm in circumference on each side; each rope shall be left uncovered by any other material and be continuous with no joints below the top step; two main ropes, properly secured to the vessel and not less than 65 mm in circumference, and a safety line shall be kept at hand ready for use if required.
6. Battens made of hardwood, or other material of equivalent properties, in one piece, free of knots and between 1,8 and 2 m long, shall be provided at such intervals as will prevent the boarding ladder from twisting. The lowest batten shall be on the fifth step from the bottom of the ladder and the interval between any batten and the next shall not exceed nine steps.
7. Means shall be provided to ensure safe and convenient passage for inspectors embarking on or disembarking from the vessel between the head of the boarding ladder or of any accommodation ladder or other appliance provided. Where such passage is by means of a gateway in the rails or bulwark, adequate handholds shall be provided. Where such passage is by means of a bulwark ladder, such ladder shall be securely attached to the bulwark rail or platform and two handhold stanchions shall be fitted at the point of boarding or leaving the vessel not less than 0,70 m or more than 0,80 m apart. Each stanchion shall be rigidly secured to the vessel's structure at or near its base and also at a higher point, shall be not less than 40 mm in diameter, and shall extend not less than 1,20 m above the top of the bulwark.
8. Lighting shall be provided at night so that both the boarding ladder overside and also the position where the inspector boards the vessel shall be adequately lit. A lifebuoy equipped with a self-igniting light shall be kept at hand ready for use. A heaving line shall be kept at hand ready for use if required.
9. Means shall be provided to enable the boarding ladder to be used on either side of the vessel. The inspector in charge may indicate which side he would like the boarding ladder to be positioned.
10. The rigging of the ladder and the embarkation and disembarkation of an inspector shall be supervised by a responsible officer of the vessel. The responsible officer shall be in radio contact with the bridge.
11. Where on any vessel constructional features such as rubbing bands would prevent the implementation of any of these provisions, special arrangements shall be made to ensure that inspectors are able to embark and disembark safely.

Annex 22. Definition of Transshipment
(STACTIC WP 07/3, Revised **now** FC Doc 07/11)

Background:

In 2006 the working group on the Reform of NAFO expressed a wish to define the concept of transshipment, but considered that this definition should appear in the NCEM and not in the Convention (Reform WG WP 06/16). STACTIC then determined that the definition should be incorporated into the NCEM. It was decided that, in the interest of harmonization, the NEAFC definition should be considered.

Proposal:

Denmark (in respect of Greenland and the Faeroe Islands) proposes an addition to the NAFO CEM Article 2 – Definitions regarding transshipment.

“Transshipment” means the transfer, over the side, of any quantity of fisheries resources or products thereof retained on board, from one fishing vessel to another.

Annex 23. Amendment to Annex XX (C) Product Form Codes
(STACTIC WP 07/19 now FC Doc 07/12)

In order to harmonize the Product Form Codes with NEAFC Product Form Code, it is proposed to revise Annex XX (C) of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures from:

Code	Product Form
A	Round - Frozen
B	Round - Frozen (Cooked)
C	Gutted Head on - Frozen
D	Gutted Head Off - Frozen
E	Gutted Head Off - Trimmed - Frozen
F	Skinless Fillets - Frozen
G	Skin on Fillets - Frozen
H	Salted Fish
I	Pickled Fish
J	Canned Products
K	Oil
L	Meal Produced from Round Fish
M	Meal Produced from Offal
N	Other (Specify)

to:

Code	Product Form
A	Round - Frozen
B	Round - Frozen (Cooked)
C	Gutted Head on - Frozen
D	Gutted Head Off - Frozen
E	Gutted Head Off - Trimmed - Frozen
F	Skinless Fillets - Bone in - Frozen
G	Skinless Fillets - Boneless - Frozen
H	Skin on Fillets - Bone in - Frozen
I	Skin on Fillets - Boneless - Frozen
J	Salted Fish
K	Pickled Fish
L	Canned Products
M	Oil
N	Meal Produced from Round Fish
O	Meal Produced from Offal
P	Other (Specify)

Annex 24. Interim Measures to Prevent Significant Adverse Impacts on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

(FC WP 07/9, Revision 2 **now** FC Doc 07/18)

Background or 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 a 2005 proposal (FC Doc. 05/7) for an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) through interim measures which included a request to seek additional information on four seamounts located in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

In 2005, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General published a report outlining actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations (RFMO) to address the impacts of fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems in response to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 59/25.

At its 2006 Annual Meeting, NAFO adopted precautionary closure of four seamount areas based on the ecosystem approach to fisheries which included strict conditions under which exploratory fisheries could occur within these seamount areas.

Subsequent to the adoption of this measure, in its 2006 resolution, UNGA 61/105.

...83. Calls upon regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries to adopt and implement measures, in accordance with the precautionary approach, ecosystem approaches and international law, for their respective regulatory areas as a matter of priority, but not later than 31 December 2008:

- (a) To assess, on the basis of the best available scientific information, whether individual bottom fishing activities would have significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, and to ensure that if it is assessed that these activities would have significant adverse impacts, they are managed to prevent such impacts, or not authorized to proceed;
- (b) To identify vulnerable marine ecosystems and determine whether bottom fishing activities would cause significant adverse impacts to such ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks, inter alia, by improving scientific research and data collection and sharing, and through new and exploratory fisheries;
- (c) In respect of areas where vulnerable marine ecosystems, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold water corals, are known to occur or are likely to occur based on the best available scientific information, to close such areas to bottom fishing and ensure that such activities do not proceed unless conservation and management measures have been established to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems;
- (d) To require members of the regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements to require vessels flying their flag to cease bottom fishing activities in areas where, in the course of fishing operations, vulnerable marine ecosystems are encountered, and to report the encounter so that appropriate measures can be adopted in respect of the relevant site;.....

..84. Also calls upon regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries to make the measures adopted pursuant to paragraph 83 of the present resolution publicly available;

.....91. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to include in his report concerning fisheries to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a section on the actions taken by States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 83 to 90 of the present resolution, and decides to conduct a further review of such actions at that session in 2009, with a view to further recommendations, where necessary;

- Noting the commitment made by NAFO Members to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management as reflected in the 1995 United Nations Fish Stock Agreement, the 2001 Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem and the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration;
- Noting the commitment made by NAFO members to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management within NAFO, as reflected in the draft amended NAFO Convention;

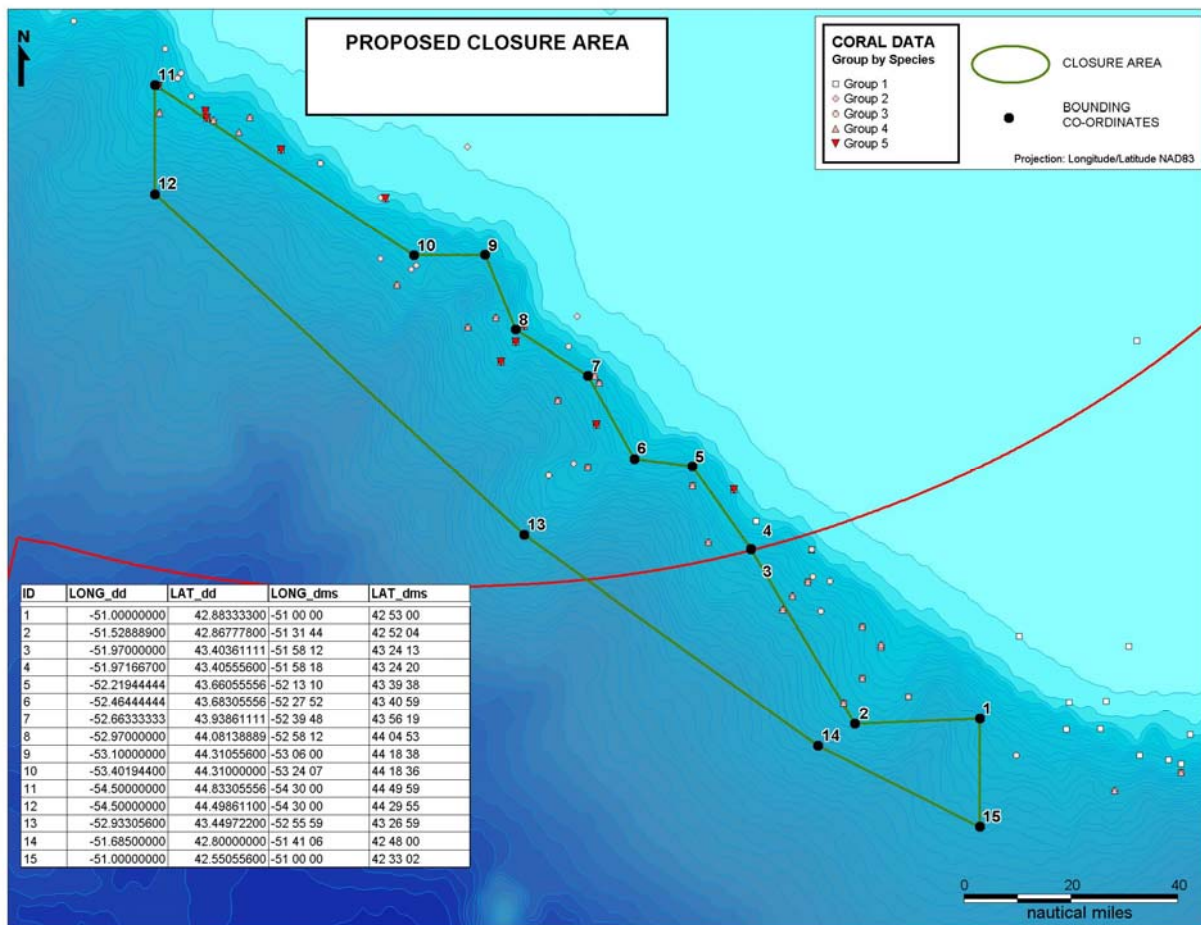
- Noting the United Nations Resolution of November 22, 2006 on Sustainable Fisheries A/61/105 and in particular operational paragraph 83, calling upon Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to adopt and implement measures to address the impacts of bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems;
- Conscious of the fact that the Security Council of the United Nations will report on such measures taken by States and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in its report to the 2009 United Nations General Assembly;
- Conscious of the steps already taken by NAFO to address the impacts of fishing on seamounts found in the NAFO Regulatory Area (FC Doc 05/7 and 06/5);
- Noting the importance of taking precautionary steps to address the impacts of fishing on VME such as benthic habitats, communities and species in areas of the NAFO Regulatory Area; and
- Mindful of the ongoing collaborative efforts internationally at numerous specific scientific workshops and the existing and on-going efforts of ICES and the FAO regarding identification of VME and assessment of impacts affecting them, including the ongoing urgent work and intent of FAO to adopt technical guidelines on deep-sea fisheries on the high seas..

As part of a continuing commitment to implement UNGA Resolution A/61/105, it is proposed that NAFO adopt and implement interim measures to protect the deep sea area of the Regulatory Area and a establish coral protection zone in Division 3O.

Fisheries Commission recognizes the requirement to address precautionary action for non-fished waters in relation to protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impact as well as the requirement for a full assessment process for current fishing in relation to vulnerable marine ecosystems. These matters will be on the agenda of a Special Intercessional Fisheries Commission Meeting to be held in Montreal, Canada in May 2008.

Coral Protection Zone

1. As of January 1, 2008, and until December 31, 2012, the following area in Division 3O shall be closed to all fishing activity involving bottom contact gear. The closed area is defined by connecting the following coordinates (in numerical order and back to coordinate 1).



2. Contracting Parties shall provide the Executive Secretary, in advance of the June 2009 Scientific Council meeting, all existing data from surveys and commercial fisheries that have taken place in this area. The Executive Secretary will forward this information to the Scientific Council for its review in determination of a data gathering program for corals.
3. The measures referred to in this Article shall be reviewed in 2012 by the Fisheries Commission, based on the advice from the Scientific Council and a decision shall be taken on future management measures.
4. Contracting Parties shall establish/incorporate a coral monitoring program into government and/or industry research programs.

**Annex 25. Ecology Action Centre (EAC) Statement to the NAFO Fisheries Commission
September 26, 2007**

Matthew Gianni, Political and policy advisor to the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, of which the Ecology Action Centre, observer present here today, is a member. As many of you know, many DSCC member organizations were disappointed at the time with the outcome of the 2006 UN General Assembly (UN GA) resolution 61/105 in relation to high seas bottom fisheries and their impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems. Nonetheless, after careful consideration, we have come to the conclusion that the resolution, if effectively implemented, could provide real protection to deep-sea ecosystems from the impact of unsustainable bottom fisheries. We have agreed that for the period of 2007-2008 we will work with flag States, RFMOS, and RFMO negotiating processes to fully and effectively implement the UN GA resolution.

We intend to actively participate in the Review process to be conducted by the UN GA in 2009. The agreement reached by UN GA in 2006 was the culmination of a multi year process of negotiation, extending back at least to 2004. All Contracting Parties to NAFO have committed to implement the UN GA agreement, in NAFO and other RFMO areas and areas under negotiation.

We are glad to see the leadership that Canada and the EU have shown in putting proposals forward here at the meeting this week to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems.

In our view, the EU proposal best and most fully reflects the provisions of the UN GA resolution, in particular its Part III in relation to closing areas where VMEs are known or likely to occur, unless assessments have been conducted and effective conservation measures are in place to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs. We also see strengths in the Canadian proposal, particularly in its Article 1 provisions in relation to conducting assessments and Article 4 provisions in relation to establishing a process through the Scientific Council through which to conduct assessments and develop criteria to identify VMEs.

The member organizations of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition have a keen interest in the outcome of the NAFO meeting this week as a test of the commitment of the Contracting Parties to implement UN GA Resolution 61/105 and provide full and effective protection to deep-sea corals, sponges and other vulnerable marine ecosystems. .

(In the interests of time, we limited our verbal statement to the subject of VMEs, however, we intended to also make a statement on the US Elasmobranch proposal. The statement is below.)

We want to express our strong support for the proposal introduced by the US to prohibit the possession of porbeagle shark, in the NRA.

We are cognizant of the application for CITES listing of porbeagle sharks; the IUCN listing of the NW Atlantic population of porbeagles as endangered; the Canadian COSEWIC designation of porbeagles as endangered within Canadian waters and subsequent advice to list porbeagle on Schedule 1 of Canada's Species at Risk Act; and the NW Atlantic population assessment of 12% mature females as compared to 1960 estimates with a projected 100 year recovery time, to 1960 levels.

Recognizing that NAFO does not manage pelagic species, but in light of the incidences of bycatch of porbeagle in fisheries in the NRA, we see the US proposal as an important step towards reducing bycatch, increasing protection and supporting recovery of this species.

Thank you.

Annex 26. Statements from WWF to the NAFO Fisheries Commission September 26, 2007

Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem Protection

WWF is encouraged by the direction of the respective proposals to assess the impacts of bottom fishing and protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

In our view, three things need to happen this week:

First, NAFO must agree on a clear and rigorous process and strategy for meeting the requirements of Article 83 of the 2006 UNGA Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries.

Second, as a precautionary measure, we must immediately freeze the footprint of bottom fishing by closing all areas currently not being fished to all fishing – including exploratory fishing – until proper scientific impact assessments are complete and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems have been identified and protected.

Finally, we must protect known coral concentrations on the southwest slope of the Grand Banks.

3NO Cod Recovery

North Atlantic cod recovery is a global priority for WWF. Members of our global network are actively working on this issue in Canadian and European waters, in addition to efforts within RFMOs such as NAFO.

Specific to 3NO cod, we are encouraged by the proposal to develop a recovery plan for this severely depleted stock. However, we are concerned about the apparent lack of consensus on the need for a recovery plan given the recent scientific advice and the potential economic value of a recovered 3NO cod stock. The advice from Scientific Council is clear: bycatch must be reduced for cod to have any chance of recovery. We urge the Fisheries Commission to commit to a comprehensive recovery plan that includes an immediate bycatch reduction target of 50% from 2006 levels. To take no action on this issue would be inconsistent with a reformed NAFO, international commitments, and the growing expectations from the marketplace.

Annex 27. Amendment to Article 3 of the NAFO CEM
(FC WP 07/25 **now** FC Doc 07/19)

Add to Article 3 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures

6. Where no agreement can be reached by the Fisheries Commission on a NAFO managed stock, through either consensus or vote, the Fisheries Commission shall maintain the existing relative percentage quota shares for that stock, as reflected in Annex I. This shall be deemed to be a proposal of the Fisheries Commission pursuant to Articles XI and XII of the Convention for the succeeding calendar year.

PART II

Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

24-28 September, 2007

Lisbon, Portugal

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 2:00pm at the Hotel Altis, Lisbon, Portugal 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, Cuba and the NAFO Secretariat to the annual STACTIC meeting.

He noted the lengthy agenda, the work of Fisheries Commission and the need to focus on the completion of a compliance report, as well as the comments made at the Fisheries Commission concerning the importance of the port state controls paper.

No opening statements were made.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Brent Napier (Canada) was appointed rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair introduced the agenda and opened the floor to comments.

Mindful of the lengthy agenda, Canada noted that, as a result of Fisheries Commission and/or bilateral discussions, there may be a requirement to table new proposals that fit within the scope of agenda item 7.

The agenda, as attached, was adopted. (Annex 1).

4. Compliance review 2005 and 2006 including review of reports of apparent infringements

The Chair introduced the item and reminded representatives that a working group, made up of participants from Canada, the EU, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), and France (in respect of St. Pierre-et-Miquelon) with the support of the NAFO Secretariat, had been established to review the compliance data tables and develop recommendations to be presented to STACTIC at the annual meeting in 2007. The Chair called upon the representative of Canada to provide a synopsis of the Working Group meeting that took place in Copenhagen July 23-24, 2007.

The representative of Canada introduced STACTIC Working Paper 07/21 and provided a summary of the Working Group's terms of reference, process and suggested table-by-table configurations. He described the group's over-arching objective of developing tables that would facilitate STACTIC's compliance evaluation through the reduction of existing redundancies and more concise trend analysis. The representative of Canada explained that, for clarity, two table types were designated: Compilation Tables (C-tables) that were of a confidential nature and provided only to individual Contracting Parties for their respective information and follow-up and Report Tables (R-tables) that would provide STACTIC with the basis for the Compliance Review.

Representatives from Canada, the United States and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) drafted and presented a compliance assessment.

The representative of the EU indicated that other elements that should be considered include: differentiating between serious and other citations and comments on the effectiveness of port and at-sea inspection in relation to the number of serious infringements detected and a cost-benefit analysis of at-sea and port inspections.

The representative of Canada acknowledged comments of the EU representative but noted that the purpose of the compliance review is to evaluate the level of compliance in the NRA, not to do a cost-benefit analysis of the various enforcement tools. In addition, the representative of Canada highlighted the fact that at-sea inspections provide valuable information as part of a process that makes port inspections more effective. As an example he indicated that at-sea inspections may raise suspicions about possible infringements that can then be fully investigated when the vessel arrives in port.

The representative of Canada emphasized that this should be regarded as only a starting point and that STACTIC should strive to go beyond simple data compilation, by building on the process in future meetings, to allow for improved identification of compliance issues within the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA). As an example, the representative of Canada pointed to the recent Scientific Council Report which detailed signification allocation overruns averaging 25% for the last three years on Greenland halibut stocks and indicated that STACTIC would be remiss if issues such as this were not covered and addressed in the compliance assessment process.

The representative of the EU indicated the Scientific Council's comment on quota overruns of Greenland halibut is not relevant to this assessment. He stated that the inclusion of scientific estimates of Greenland halibut catches was not appropriate for consideration as an assessment indicator because it was difficult to quantify the use of scientific data in this regard. Furthermore the inclusion of scientific data in the compliance review could compromise the relationship between scientists and fishermen.

The representative of Canada disagreed and indicated that STACTIC would not be fulfilling its mandate if it did not comment on information related to significant threats to NAFO regulated species, specifically Greenland halibut. Furthermore, the representative of Canada indicated that the Scientific Council had provided this information without prompting, effectively putting the onus on STACTIC to address this issue of concern or risk being negligent in its duties. The representative of the EU indicated that he could not accept the inclusion of this element for reasons cited during the discussion.

After some discussion it was agreed that the compliance assessment report would not address the Greenland halibut issue, and that Canada's concerns on this issue would be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

It was agreed to adopt and submit the compliance assessment report to the Fisheries Commission (STACTIC Working Paper 07/33).

5. Review of STACFAC's former mandate with regards to STACTIC's new role and responsibilities

The Chair opened the agenda item and asked the representative of the United States to provide an outline of STACTIC Working Paper 07/27.

In order to establish general Rules of Procedure that would allow for possible future inclusion of IUU lists from other RFMO's, the representative of the United States amended the proposal and tabled STACTIC Working Paper 07/27 (revised).

It was agreed to submit the proposal to the Fisheries Commission for adoption (STACTIC Working Paper 07/27 (revised)).

6. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 49.3

The Chair opened this agenda item and indicated that a review of NAFO's updated IUU list, found in STACTIC Working Paper 07/28, was required. The Chair asked the NAFO Secretariat to provide a quick summary of the updated table. The NAFO Secretariat indicated that only one vessel had been added to the list since STACTIC's intersessional meeting in June and pointed out that a vessel on the IUU list had changed name, ownership and call-sign had become flagged to Cuba.

The representative of Cuba was advised that it would be necessary to make the appropriate representation with NEAFC's Permanent Committee on Control and Enforcement (PECCOE), in advance of its meeting in October, to explore the possibility of having the vessel removed from the NEAFC IUU list.

The Chair concluded that the vessel would remain on the NAFO IUU list until it made the appropriate representations at NEAFC and would not be authorized to fish in the NRA until it was removed from NEAFC's/NAFO IUU lists.

The representative of Norway introduced STACTIC Working Paper 07/29 and explained that the proposal calls for the broadening of the scope of the NAFO IUU provisions by amending Article 49 paragraphs 6 and 8 through the incorporation of IUU blacklists from two other Atlantic RFMO's: the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Resources (CCAMLR) and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO) in the same fashion, and with the same objective, as the NEAFC blacklist. The representative of Norway noted that the current IUU blacklists are having the desired impact on IUU activity, however the global nature of this issue requires a more global solution as IUU vessels are apt to change jurisdiction when blacklisted in a specific RFO. He stated that the tuna RFMO's were not included as they were currently involved in a similar IUU blacklist sharing initiative.

The representative of the United States expressed concern that the proposal may go beyond what the NAFO Convention and Rules of Procedure would allow. The representative of Norway cited sections in Article 19 and Article 2 of the Convention that appear to allow for this expansion in scope of the NAFO IUU list, but was open to further discussion on the issue.

The representative of Norway concluded that, on the basis of the comments and discussion with other Contracting Parties, Norway will defer the part of the proposal concerning the amendment of Article 49 paragraph 8 pending the conclusion of the NAFO Convention reform and the additional information that would be gained by attending upcoming meetings of SEAFO and CCAMLR. The representative of Norway however, indicated that, in order to facilitate the use of NAFO's IUU list by other RFMO's, the proposed changes to Article 49.6 should be dealt with separately. At the suggestion of the Chair, Norway submitted STACTIC Working Paper 07/29 (revised), which proposes to amend only Article 49.6, and STACTIC Working Paper 07/32 which proposes to take up the proposed amendment to Article 49.8 at the annual STACTIC meeting in 2008.

It was agreed to submit STACTIC Working Paper 07/29 (revised) to Fisheries Commission for adoption.

It was agreed to consider STACTIC Working Paper 07/32 at the annual meeting in 2008.

7. Possible Amendments of Conservation and Enforcement Measures

i. Product labelling by species/stock area

The Chair reminded representatives that, after some discussion, there was general agreement on STACTIC WP 07/13 at the June intersessional in Poland.

The representative of the EU indicated that there was a minor editorial inconsistency in the current proposal and tabled STACTIC WP 07/13 (revised). The representative of Canada supported the revised working paper and reminded representatives of the agreement, forged at the intersessional meeting in Gdynia, to evaluate these measures one year from the date that the measures come into effect. The representative of the EU acknowledged the agreed upon evaluation and reminded delegates that the measures would not take effect until July 1, 2008.

The representative of the EU was pleased to note that there were no objections to the proposal, however indicated that internal EU discussion had prompted the need for further review of STACTIC WP 07/13 (revised).

The Chair noted that this subject could be revisited at a later date.

ii. Strengthening ropes, bags, topside chafers

The Chair re-introduced STACTIC WP 07/11 and recalled that representatives generally support the proposal, however indicated that the representative of the EU had requested time to consult with domestic industry.

The representative of the EU provided an update, advising that the EU had consulted with industry and that of the three types of topside chafers identified in Annex XV of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM's): ICNAF-type, multiple flap-type and large-mesh (modified polish-type), domestic industry had advised that only the large-mesh type was potentially detrimental to conservation and could support its removal from the list of authorized topside chafers. He explained that the large-mesh type was not in compliance with the general rule and should therefore be eliminated. As for the other types of chafer described in Annex XV he considered that a cautious approach should be taken. The representative of the EU indicated that, in any event, the NCEM's already provided language prohibiting the obstruction of the net and that it could not support a general prohibition.

The representative of Canada responded that, in Canada's view, the other types can also be detrimental to the conservation of fish stocks and should therefore be banned. He pointed out that the information provided by some Contracting Parties indicated that these types of net attachments had been banned in their respective domestic regulations.

The Chair noted that there was no resolution on this issue and indicated that this item could be revisited at a later date.

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

The Chair opened the agenda item and called for Iceland to discuss STACTIC Working Paper 07/24. The representative of Iceland explained the background, provided a comprehensive summary of the proposed solution and indicated that the

solution would require only inclusion of the Catch report as all of its data elements already existed in the current system. The reporting procedures would also open the possibility of regular catch reporting using the same report template. The representative of the EU questioned the usefulness of providing (24) hour notification to the NAFO Secretariat as this did not generate any follow-up action. It is an obligation under Article 12.2 for flag-State Contracting Parties to ensure that only one vessel could fish for shrimp in 3L at any one time. Against this background he suggested that the prior notification to the NAFO Secretariat be deleted.

It was agreed that a clear reporting requirement be established for vessels entering and leaving Division 3L with a realistic prior notification period of (1) hour.

It was agreed that the proposal be submitted to the Fisheries Commission for adoption (STACTIC Working Paper 07/24 (revised)).

iv. Accurate catch reporting

a. Automated COE/COX comparison between NAFO and NEAFC reports

The representative of Iceland introduced STACTIC Working Paper 07/25 and provided a brief narration of the background and content. The representative of Iceland offered that, under the current system, the automatic COE/COX comparison discussed in the proposal would not be possible due in large part to data quality issues. Therefore an intermediate solution to notify flag-State FMC's of missing reports would be needed. The Chair thanked Iceland for the work on this proposal and stressed the need to address the data quality issue. The representative of the EU echoed these sentiments, however voiced concerns over the workload this would create for the NAFO Secretariat as, at present, the COE/COX reports still had to be dealt with manually. The representative of Iceland indicated that the proposed solution would be fully automated and manual intervention should be minimal. The representative of Canada expressed gratitude for the effort and indicated that NAFO should be moving towards the eventual use of automated reports.

The representative of Iceland added that the issue of data integrity should be looked at in conjunction with the compliance report to shorten the process and make the assessment more accurate. The Chair agreed that the issue of data integrity was essential to address and acknowledge that the quality of data in both NAFO and NEAFC required improvement before proceeding on this initiative. The representative of Iceland agreed but indicated that data integrity improvement is a priority that should be addressed in the short-term. The NAFO Secretariat added that, with the shift to a new service provider in 2008, it may be possible to better control the data management process and address some of the integrity issues.

The Chair observed that this issue was worth further discussion and electronic log books and reporting should be a future objective. The Chair noted that this subject could be revisited at a later date.

b. Stowage plan requirements

The Chair requested that Canada report on its intentions in relation to STACTIC WP 07/16. The representative of Canada indicated that he would not be re-tabling the proposal at this time as there appeared to be little support from other representatives. The representative of Canada added that based on the interpretation of other Contracting Parties, that indicated in cases where stowage plans did not meet the basic requirement outlined in the NCEM's a citation should be issued, Canada has decided to proceed along those lines when enforcing the measures in the NRA.

The representative of the EU reiterated that it would not be feasible to implement the measures as proposed by Canada given the volume of catch that would need to be recorded. The representative of the EU explained that stowage plans (he circulated an example of an acceptable stowage plan) allowed inspectors to gauge the potential for non-compliance and flag suspect vessels for validation during port inspections.

The representative of Norway observed that if masters operating in the NRA are having difficulties adhering to the current measures, complicating them could create even more difficulties.

The representative of Japan expressed concern that these proposals could be much more complicated than current measures.

The Chair remarked that discussions on this item had concluded and that no further action would be taken at this time.

c. Record of start/end coordinates for fishing activity

The Chair introduced the agenda item and recalled that representatives were asked to submit log book examples to facilitate discussion on STACTIC WP 07/18 and, to date, only Iceland and Russia had submitted log books examples. The Chair called upon other Contracting Parties to submit the requested documents. He went on to indicate that both of the examples submitted did in fact call for the provision of start and end coordinates.

The representative of Canada stated that Canada was interested in advancing this issue and would be open to text changes to its proposal that would allow for things to move forward.

The Chair added that start/end coordinates would be welcomed by Scientific Council to allow for analysis of fishing effort and patterns.

The representative of Norway indicated that, at present, the information on start/end coordinates was included in Norwegian log books but might be taken out when Norway moved to electronic log books.

The representative from Russia, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) and Iceland all voiced support for the initiative and indicated that this information was already being collected in their respective log books.

The representative of the EU stated that the elements of the proposal needed further reflection as regard to linkages to other NCEM articles, in particular, concerning the implications of the by- catch requirements in Article 9 for fixed-gear fisheries.

The Chair noted that this subject could be revisited at a later date.

d. Consistency of Catch Reporting

The representative of Canada presented STACTIC Working Paper 07/31 and explained the proposed changes under Article 21 were intended to remove ambiguity and potential misinterpretation of the current requirement and ensure that important information on both catch and effort days for 3M shrimp was provided to the NAFO Secretariat by Contracting Parties. The representative of Norway supported the proposal and indicated that there was currently some mis-interpretation by some Contracting Parties that could be addressed by this proposal.

It was agreed that the language in the existing text was sufficient and that Contracting Parties must report both catch AND effort days for 3M shrimp.

It was agreed that the NAFO Secretariat be instructed to follow-up with a letter to Contracting Parties clarifying this interpretation.

v. Clarification regarding Article 15.2 on Chartering Arrangements

The representative of the EU presented STACTIC Working Paper 07/30 and detailed how the revision would afford a reasonable degree of flexibility to vessels engaged in chartering arrangements that wished to suspend and recommence activity within the same year. The representative of France (in respect of St. Pierre-et-Miquelon) supported the EU proposal.

It was agreed to revise the text to specify that the cumulative time of the charter period could not to exceed (6) months.

It was agreed to submit the proposal to the Fisheries Commission for adoption (STACTIC Working Paper 07/30 (revised)).

vi. Vessel monitoring system (Article 22.1)

The Chair asked the representative of Canada to re-present STACTIC Working Paper 07/10 and to elaborate on the objective. The representative of Canada indicated that the proposal remained unchanged from that provided at the June intersessional, however noted the Scientific Council report of June 21, 2007 which included a recommendation for shorter intervals than 2 hours for VMS reports.

The representative of Japan, who had asked for time to consult on this issue during the June intersessional in Gdynia, reported that although this change would have minor cost implications, it was an important proposal that warranted support.

The representative of the EU again questioned the rationale for this change in VMS reporting intervals and questioned whether an impact assessment had been conducted. The representative of the EU went on to describe how, in the EU inspection context the benefits of this change would not justify the additional cost.

The representative of Iceland supported the proposal and indicated that this was already in effect with Icelandic vessels and a requirement in bilateral agreements. Secondly, this would make the automatic entry and exit reports more accurate. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) echoed these views and indicated that, domestically, this was a useful compliance tool. The representative of Russia voiced support for the concept but indicated that he would not wish this to impact Contracting Party contributions to NAFO. The representative of the United States supported the proposal and indicated that this was already the practice in the United States and that some fisheries even had shorter intervals than (1) hour. The representatives of Norway and France (in respect of St. Pierre-et-Miquelon) also supported this initiative.

The representative of the EU voiced concern that hourly VMS reporting was already provided for under NCEM Article 52 and that this could be seen as an added control that affects the balance between vessels operating with and without observers. The representative of Russia reiterated concerns regarding the potential increase in contribution cost to Contracting Parties and indicated that to better harmonize with NEAFC the VMS reporting interval should remain at (2) hours. The representative of Iceland supported the Russian representative's point on harmonization but indicated that perhaps it would be better if NEAFC would harmonize with NAFO on (1) hour VMS reporting intervals.

The Chair noted that this subject could be revisited at a later date.

vii. Port state measures

The representative of Norway introduced STACTIC WP 07/1(revised) and acknowledged that there was much work to do on this initiative. He hoped that progress could be made at the annual meeting and agreement could be reached at STACTIC on the (4) basic principles of port state measures: notification (master to enter port), confirmation (flag-State confirms legitimacy of catch), authorization (by port-State to land catch) and transparency of process (dissemination of related forms/data by NAFO Secretariat).

The representative of the EU praised Norway for advancing the issue of port state measures and indicated that the work in this regard was important for the eventual integration of port state measures within NAFO's NCEM's. The representative of the EU noted that the scope section of the proposal required clarification. He also commented on the need to examine the text as it relates to domestic vessels, as the borrowed text from NEAFC's was intended to only deal with foreign Contracting Parties and some inconsistencies were evident.

The representative of the EU highlighted some other inconsistencies related to references to NCEM Articles, such as Article 33, which was intended only to deal with activity in the NRA and NCEM Articles related to the Non-Contracting Party (NCP) schemes which did not apply to Contracting Party vessels. The representative of Norway indicated that references to Article 33 were in place to avoid having to duplicate the list but that Norway was open to editorial changes that would address this and other references of concern. Another concern voiced by the representative of the EU was the requirement for 100% inspection of vessels landing NRA fish or fish products. The concern was that one of the rationales for the adoption of the port state measures was to allow for a reduction in port inspections, as was the case in NEAFC, effectively reducing resource constraints while still maintaining effective controls.

The representative of the United States commended Norway for its efforts in this regard and indicated that the United States welcomed the opportunity to work with other Contracting Parties to advance this issue at NAFO. Echoing the EU's opinion that this was a positive step forward the representative of the United States expressed concerns over the clarity of the scope and questioned why NCP issues were not addressed. The representative of Norway indicated that NCP scheme was not addressed to avoid complications at this early stage.

The representative of Canada thanked Norway for this excellent discussion paper and the opportunity to collaborate on this important issue. The representative of Canada expressed hope that, at a minimum, agreement could be reached on the (4) basic principles outlined by Norway, as this would allow for the advancement of this issue. The representative of Canada pointed out that the scope of the Norwegian proposal, specifically 100% port inspections for vessels that fished in the NRA, is the same as the current requirement under the NCEM's. He stated that Canada would be unable to support any reduction to

this requirement at this time. He also suggested that STACTIC should re-consider, at future meetings, proposals that had been made in the past related to standardized port inspection protocols and methodologies.

The representative of Russia shared the feelings of gratitude conveyed by others but remarked that Russia shared some of the concerns flagged by Canada and the United States.

The representative of Iceland again welcomed Norway's proposal but cautioned that the incorporation of the new measures must be done carefully given the number of changes required within the NCEM's. The representative of Iceland also agreed with the general principles outlined by Norway and shared the EU's view that port inspections could be reduced from the proposed 100% threshold. With the view to further advancing this important initiative, the representative of Iceland suggest the creation of a Working Group to work on the text with the view to allowing STACTIC to proceed with this issue at its next meeting.

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) applauded Norway's work on this initiative and indicated that she had no objections to the principles but recognized that some work remained on specific issues.

The representative of Japan thanked Norway but reiterated the point he had made during the intersessional in Gdynia that the required (3) day notification period identified in Article 42 of the proposal would be difficult for Japan to comply with and indicated that provisions found in the former version, that allowed Contracting Parties to make provisions for other notification periods, had been altered to eliminate this desirable option and now only provided this flexibility to port State Contracting Party.

The representative of the EU suggested that trying to retro-fit measures intended to meet other objectives may not be the way to proceed and that perhaps the development of port state measures in a NAFO context should begin by defining clear objectives, then developing a scheme to address them. The Chair reflected that there were already port state measures incorporated within the existing NCEM's, so there is no pressing urgency to adopt something immediately, however elaborated that many Contracting Parties in NAFO were also members of NEAFC and having a port state measures scheme in NAFO that was aligned with the NEAFC scheme would be desirable. The representative of the EU shared that the success of the NEAFC scheme was that the scope was specific enough to allow for broader measures. The representative of Russian disagreed with the EU opinion and noted that the NEAFC scheme had expanded beyond its original scope.

Given the magnitude of the task at hand, the representative of Norway suggested that a specific intersessional meeting of STACTIC should be convened to allow work on this issue to progress. Representatives of Canada, the United States and the EU agreed that this was required but recommended that exclusive time be allocated at the next intersessional, in lieu of having two intersessionals. The representative of Norway supported this approach and agreed to prepare a revised proposal that would incorporate comments provided during the discussion.

It was agreed that the next STACTIC intersessional should focus primarily on this matter.

viii. Electronic reporting, satellite tracking and observers

The representative of Canada informed representatives that STACTIC WP 07/17 (revised) was developed on the basis of comments/discussion that took place on this issue during the June intersessional in Gdynia. The changes were suggested as a means of updating the NCEM's to reflect the transition of the provisions found in chapter VII from pilot project to permanent measures.

It was agreed to submit STACTIC Working Paper 07/17 (revised) to Fisheries Commission for adoption.

ix. Clarification of Article 10.1(e) and Annex I.A

The representative of Russia introduced STACTIC Working Paper 07/26 and explained that the proposal called for the reference to *Sebastes Mentella* in Article 10.1(e) to be stricken from the text to provide for consistency within the NCEM's.

The representative of the EU questioned whether the words "oceanic" and "pelagic" should also be deleted.

The Chair clarified that the desire to harmonize with NEAFC accounted for the need to differentiate in the current NCEM's. The representative of Norway added that previously the gear requirements called for 130mm mesh for redfish, however the desire to harmonize with NEAFC prompted the existing text.

The representative of the United States voiced concerns over the ability to enforce different gear types for the different redfish stocks.

The representative of the EU, Canada and the United States sought further clarification on issues of stock, gear and proper species codes. The representative of Iceland suggested that the only required change was to the addition of the species code "REB" in the annual quota table as the other elements are accurate as defined in the current text.

The representative of the EU suggested that a revised working paper, that included an amended quota table, be drafted for consideration by STACTIC. The representative of Russia agreed to return to the next STACTIC intersessional with a revised working paper.

This issue was deferred to the next STACTIC intersessional.

x. Port Inspection Report

The representative of the EU introduced STACTIC WP 07/14 (revised) and explained that the rationale for the proposal was to have important information regarding infringements, not presently on the form, included. The representative of the EU elaborated that a field was also provided for domestic infringements to alleviate the need for a second report. The representative of Iceland questioned the NAFO Secretariat about whether this report could be produced in an electronic format and received an affirmative reply.

It was agreed to submit STACTIC Working Paper 07/14 (revised) to Fisheries Commission for adoption.

8. Other Matters

i. Coral Protection

The Chair requested clarification on this agenda item that had been suggested by Canada. The representative of Canada informed the Chair that it was Canada's original intention to table an information paper on this subject but that a decision had been made to address this issue at the Fisheries Commission instead.

ii. Information regarding the 2008 Intersessional CWP Meeting

The NAFO Secretariat informed STACTIC representatives that the next FAO intersessional Coordination Working Party (CWP) meeting would be hosted by NAFO in 2008 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. STACTIC was informed that the meeting would address in detail the subject of VMS data and their scientific uses.

The representative of Iceland added that a related questionnaire had been circulated by the FAO on domestic VMS processes and encouraged those who had not yet submitted responses to do so in order to facilitate work in this area.

iii. Time and place of the next STACTIC meeting

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) graciously agreed to host the next STACTIC intersessional meeting in Nuuk, Greenland, time and venue to be determined.

9. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted by the representatives.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:35pm on Thursday, September 27, 2007.

Annex 1. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Mads Nedergaard (DFG)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Compliance review 2005 and 2006 including review of reports of apparent infringements
5. Review of STACFAC's former mandate with regards to STACTIC's new role and responsibilities
6. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 49.3
7. Possible Amendments of Conservation and Enforcement Measures
 - i. Product labeling by species/stock area
 - ii. strengthening ropes, bags, topside chafers
 - iii. notification and catch reporting requirements in 3L and 3M shrimp fisheries
 - iv. accurate catch reporting
 - a. Automated COE/COX comparison between NAFO and NEAFC reports
 - b. Stowage plan requirements
 - c. Record of start/end coordinates for fishing activity
 - d. Consistency of catch reporting (e.g. provisional catch reports, log books and trip reports)
 - v. Clarification regarding Article 15.2 on chartering arrangements
 - vi. Vessel monitoring system (Article 22.1)
 - vii. Port state measures
 - viii. Electronic reporting, satellite tracking and observers
 - ix. Clarification of Article 10.1(e) and Annex I.A
 - x. Port Inspection Report
8. Other matters
 - i. Coral Protection
 - ii. Information regarding the 2008 Intersessional CWP Meeting
 - iii. Time and Place of the Next STACTIC Meeting
9. Adoption of Report
10. Adjournment