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30TH ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2008

(ADOPTED)

STANDARDIZATION OF TERM USED IN THE CONSERVATION AND
ENFORCEMENT MEASURES FOR FISHING GEAR THAT COMES INTO CONTACT
WITH THE OCEAN BOTTOM

PROPOSAL BY UNITED STATES

Background:

At the STACTIC meeting in Nuuk, Greenland 2-4, July, 2008, NAFO staff, in STACTIC Working Paper 08/05, noted the following different terms used in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM), Article 14 and 15, to identify fishing gear which comes into contact with the ocean bottom:

Article 14 - Area and Time Restriction

5. *As of January 1, 2007 and until December 31, 2010, the following areas shall be closed to all fishing activities involving **demersal fishing gear**. . . .*

Article 15 – 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**. . . .*

NAFO staff proposed that STACTIC should recommend to the Fishery Commission a standardized term for describing such gear. Several terms were identified as candidates for a standardized term based on staff recommendations and similar terms currently in use in other international texts. The United States proposed using terms consistent with the FAO draft technical guidelines on deep-sea fishing which describes bottom contact gear as fishing gear that “is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations.” There was insufficient time at the STACTIC meeting for contracting parties to come to a consensus on the United States proposal. The Chair asked the U.S. if it would prepare a written proposal to recommend the use of a standardized term. After reviewing terms used in the FAO draft technical guidelines on deep-sea fishing and other international documents referring to bottom fishing activities, the U.S. proposes the following terms to describe fishing activities which interact with the ocean bottom.

Proposal

The NAFO CEM is proposed to be amended by adding the following term and its definition to the Article 2 Definition section:

“bottom fishing activities” means any fishing activity involving gear that contacts or is likely to contact the ocean bottom during the normal course of fishing operations.

AND

by amending Articles 14 and 15 as follows:

Article 14 - Area and Time Restriction

5. *As of January 1, 2007 and until December 31, 2010, the following areas shall be closed to all **bottom fishing activities**.*

Article 15 – 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 **bottom fishing activities**.*