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Reopening of Cod in Division 3M and Redfish in 3LN

Proposal by Canada

Explanatory Memorandum

Following a precautionary approach, it would be sensible to restrict by-catch to 5%, similar to provisions in Article 12(b) of the NCEMs, to ensure further rebuilding of 3M cod and 3LN Redfish stocks. If in 2011 Scientific Advice confirms that further rebuilding of these stocks has occurred, the Fisheries Commission could revisit the by-catch issue.

It is understood that, in accordance with Article 3 of the NCEMs, Contracting Parties shall not conduct fisheries which take catch, including by-catch, beyond the quota allocated to the Contracting Parties. To ensure overall quotas are not exceeded it will be necessary to close directed fisheries before the allocated quota is fully taken and ensure sufficient quota remains for by-catch in other fisheries.

Accordingly, it is proposed that the following specific measures shall be applicable with regard to the cod fishery in Division 3M and the redfish fishery in Divisions 3LN.

Proposal

Article 12 By-catch Requirements

1. By-catch retained on board

a) Vessels of a Contracting Party shall limit their by-catch to a maximum of 2500 kg or 10%, whichever is the greater, for each species listed in Annex I for which no quota has been allocated in that Division to that Contracting Party. However, for cod in Division 3M and Redfish in Divisions 3LN vessels of a Contracting Party shall limit their by-catch to a maximum of 1250 kg or 5% whichever is greater.

b) ...

c) ...

d) In accordance with the provisions of Article 3, a Contracting Party shall close its directed fisheries for cod in Division 3M and redfish in Divisions 3LN when the catches plus the by-catch estimated to be taken in the remainder of the year equals 100% of the quota allocated for that stock to that Contracting Party. After the date of closure of the directed fishery, vessels of a Contracting Party shall limit their by-catches to a maximum of 1250kg or 5% whichever is greater, within their allocated quota.