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FISHERIES COMMISSION INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 2009

Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on Future Management of 3M Shrimp, from the intersessional meeting of the NAFO Fisheries Commission in London, 16 November 2009

The Fisheries Commission, at its intersessional meeting, noted that whereas the Scientific Council in its advice to the Fisheries Commission contained in Report of the Scientific Council Meeting, 21 – 29 October 2009 reiterated its September 2009 recommendation for 2010 and 2011 that the fishing mortality be set as close to zero as possible, the current Effort Allocation Scheme for 3M Shrimp Fishery allows for a high effort in the fishery.

Conscious of the efforts to reach agreed management measures based on the best available science, and challenges contained to reach consensus on the scope of possible adjustments of the current Effort Allocation Scheme or any specific quota allocation, the Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to explore other possible mechanisms to assist in achieving the objective of sustainable management of the 3M shrimp, including but not limited to further seasonal or spatial closure of the fishery, gear modification, any additional requirements for scientific data reporting needed from the fisheries, or any other conservation or technical measure appropriate to achieving the objective.

The Fisheries Commission further requests the Scientific Council to explore the viability and usefulness of a second annual scientific survey in the spring season.

The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to consider these issues and report back to the Fisheries Commission at the Annual Meeting of NAFO in 2010.