

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



Report of the Standing Committee on International Control
(STACTIC)
9-10 May 2011
London, UK

NAFO
Dartmouth, N.S., Canada
2011

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1. Opening by the Chair, Gene Martin (United States)

The Chair opened the 2011 NAFO STACTIC Intersessional Meeting at 09:00 hrs at the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) Headquarters in London, United Kingdom, and welcomed participating Contracting Parties to the 2011 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting. Contracting Parties present included Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) the European Union (EU), France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation and the United States. (Annex 1)

Before commencing the Chair introduced the Secretary of NEAFC, Kjartan Hoydal, for a brief opening statement. Mr. Hoydal welcomed NAFO Contracting Parties and noted the important relationship between NEAFC and NAFO.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Brett Gilchrist (Canada) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair noted that four issues were added to the Other Matters Agenda heading:

- *The HTTPs NAF Gateways at the NEAFC and NAFO Secretariats (discussion paper from Norway)* STACTIC WP 11/2
- *Structural Changes to NAFO's VMS (presented by Secretariat)* STACTIC WP 11/3
- *SC Requests for FC Definition of Certain Fishing Gears (presented by the Secretariat)* STACTIC WP 11/8
- *Assessments of NAFO's VMS Data Transmissions (2008-2010) (presented by the NAFO Secretariat)* STACTIC WP 11/9

The agenda, with the addition of the four issues under the Other Matters Agenda item, was adopted. (Annex 2)

4. Compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review (2004-2010), including review of Apparent Infringements

The Chair introduced the agenda item and noted that this is an ongoing process to improve the reporting process on compliance to the Fisheries Commission. The Chair then asked the representative of the Secretariat to present the preliminary compilation of fisheries reports and the 2010 annual compliance review process.

The Secretariat provided a presentation on compliance Profiles and Trends from the NAFO fisheries in 2010. (Annex 3)

The Presentation by the Secretariat highlighted a series of data gaps encountered during the compilation that included:

- Port Inspection reports and Port State Measures
 - Scope of PSM: applies when Flag State of Vessel and Port State are different. Issue: Even if FS and PS are the same, GHL fishing requires 100% port inspection (Art. 7 of NCEM). *Issue: For redfish or shrimp vessels landing catches in home ports, are port inspection reports required?*
 - Start and End fishing dates in PSC 3 are not indicated. *Issue: reduces the utility as one source of cross-verification of fishing trips and catches.*
 - Art. 16.10 – Port State CP shall carry inspections at least 15% of all landings. *Issue: Analysis needed to determine whether 100% coverage has become unnecessary?*

- Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)
 - COX – inconsistent catch reporting. Catch indicated as “catch-on-board”, or “catch-in-NRA”.
 - POS reports – VMS not turned off when going to Newfoundland port without intention of landing catch. Additional scrutiny required in order to exclude these days in the estimation “number of days on fishing ground”.
 - Error Alerts that are automatically generated by the VMS.

The Secretariat asked Contracting Parties to review the circulated Table 1 - Overview of NAFO 2010 Fishing Reports, and note anything that may be missing (see “Next Steps” in slide presentation – slide 22).

Following the presentation by the Representative of the Secretariat, the Chair opened the floor for comments. Contracting Parties raised a number of issues under this agenda item.

Comments on the Problems Identified in the Presentation

With regards to the Secretariat’s concerns about port inspection, multiple Contracting Parties noted that there is no requirement to send port inspection information on domestic fisheries other than GHL and those under a recovery plan. The Secretariat noted that the challenge associated with data gaps is based on the lack of clear justification for the gap. Contracting Parties suggest the Secretariat identify in Table 1 the cases where the submission of a port inspection report is not requested. It was agreed the Secretariat would work with Contracting Parties to verify whether or not missing data associated with their vessels is required or not based on current CEMs.

The representative of the EU reiterated discussions about improving the connection between at sea and in port inspections, and the need to improve reliability and efficiency of the entire process. The EU noted that one option could be to drop the requirement for 100% inspection of GHL landings in the context of a risk-based inspection process, which could be applied to increase overall efficiency.

Norway noted that the rules for Port Inspection are recently established, and should not be renegotiated at this time.

Canada and other Contracting Parties expressed support for Norway’s recommendation that this was not the time for renegotiation of Port Inspection rules, but added that to support the Secretariat Contracting Parties may want to clarify the details of its submissions to avoid any errors.

Respecting the Secretariat’s concern about VMS reporting, it was noted by multiple Contracting Parties that the inconsistencies in catch reporting will in part be addressed by the introduction of the daily CAT message.

With regards to the problems outlined by the Secretariat on POS reports, Contracting Parties noted that there must be some way of excluding location VMS data outside of the NRA. The US recommended geofencing as a possible option.

Canada noted that Canada requires VMS on fishing fleets in Canadian waters in addition to the collateral benefits VMS provides search and rescue purposes.

Iceland noted that the start and end of fishing trips for the purpose of properly identifying time at sea (i.e., for monitoring 3M shrimp effort) could be determined via the COE and COX messages.

Comments on the Overall Report

Canada noted that in connection with the slide on infringements, proper stowage plans are important for conducting at sea inspections, and need to be accurate at all times to facilitate inspections at sea.

DFG and other Contracting Parties noted concern with the number of error reports identified on slide 19, and noted that it is important for the Secretariat to follow up to ensure the CPs do not repeat the errors. The Secretariat indicated that most of the errors are minor and based on the quantity of information received. The error rate was under 5%. The Secretariat also noted that they follow-up on all errors.

The EU and other Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for compiling the report. The EU and Canada also noted that during the 2010 Annual Meeting, STACTIC decided that what is to be presented to the FC on the compliance report would only include patterns and trends. The Secretariat would identify in STACTIC the specific issues before the final report is sent to the FC.

The EU, the US and others noted that in 2010 STACTIC agreed to include VME issues in the compliance report and other relevant issues as necessary (e.g. sharks). The EU also asked that empty columns in Table 1 should be removed and that a Chartering Arrangements column should be added.

Status of the Compliance Report Drafting Group

It was noted by multiple Contracting Parties that the work of the Compliance Report Drafting Group is complete. It was also agreed that there should be a standing working group to do a review of the Compliance Report as prepared by the Secretariat based on last year's example between the intersessional and the annual meeting. All Contracting Parties were invited to participate. US, EU and Canada volunteered to participate. This will be done by email correspondence.

It was agreed that:

- ***STACTIC will form an ad-hoc group to review a draft report prepared by the Secretariat based on last year's example and on the indicators identified by the Secretariat during its presentation, to present the basic trends of the fishing activities in NAFO, in preparation for the Annual Meeting. US, EU and Canada volunteered to participate. This will be done by email correspondence.***
- ***The Secretariat will prepare a VME report for STACTIC to review and possibly include in the Compliance Report at the Annual Meeting.***
- ***The columns in the table presented should be adjusted so that empty columns will not appear.***
- ***A column will also be added to address Chartering Arrangements and other issues as required.***

5. Review and evaluation of NAFO Compliance objectives

The Chair introduced the agenda item and noted that Iceland provided a presentation on agenda Item 5a in the past, and the EU has provided a paper under agenda item 5b. The Chair reminded Contracting Parties that these agenda items remain open based on previous meetings. The Chair then opened the floor for discussion.

It was noted by multiple Contracting Parties that the four categories identified under this agenda item should be standing agenda items but need to be discussed only as necessary, and should not automatically be included in each review and evaluation of NAFO compliance objectives.

Multiple Contracting Parties noted STACTIC's past support for the development of a web page with information on "best practices" regarding compliance objectives, and asked the Secretariat for a status report of the web page. The Secretariat indicated that the web page has not been developed yet, but the process would be relatively simple. Multiple Contracting Parties expressed support for the page, but noted that it does not necessarily represent "best practices", but serves more as guidance for inspectors. The representative of Canada suggested titling the web page more generally, such as "Practices and Guidelines" but asked the Secretariat to think about it. Parties agreed that documents posted on this website do not need to be vetted through STACTIC.

The Chair noted that the title of this section of the agenda also does not reflect its intent, and recommended it be entitled "Review and Evaluation of NAFO Practices and Procedures" which the Parties agreed to.

Multiple Contracting Parties noted the value of the joint patrol opportunities offered by Canadian enforcement officials. Canada indicated that they have had several successful joint patrols over the past few years with multiple Contracting Parties. Canada also indicated that arranging joint patrols can be challenging, and that while Canada is

receptive to further joint patrols at this time, advanced warning of any request would be helpful to facilitate logistical preparations.

It was agreed that:

- *This agenda item will be renamed “Review and Evaluation of NAFO Practices and Procedures” and will be a standing agenda item on STACTIC’s agenda to be discussed only as necessary.*
- *The Secretariat will develop a mock web page entitled “NAFO Practices and Procedures” and present it to STACTIC for review and comments during the 2011 NAFO Annual Meeting. Contracting Parties will forward any information they wish to have included on the web page directly to the Secretariat.*

6. Review of IUU List pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 57.3

The Chair provided a brief overview of the agenda item, and introduced a representative of the Secretariat to present STACTIC WP 11/6.

The Secretariat’s presentation stated that there has been no addition or deletion of IUU vessels by NAFO since the last review in September 2010. Two vessels have been deleted from the NEAFC list. In accordance with Article 57.8 of the NCEM, these vessels will be removed from the list by June 3, 2011, unless there is an objection raised by a NAFO Contracting Party.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on this agenda item.

The EU noted that the listing and delisting procedures in place make it often unclear if a vessel still exists, despite being on the NAFO list.

Norway noted that there may be some confusion with the status of vessels on the list, but said that removing a vessel from a list should be based only on the criteria in Chapter VI of the CEM. Norway argued that the list continues to get smaller, and there is little risk associated with keeping a vessel on the list for an extended amount of time.

The Chair closed the item and said it would be revisited at the Annual Meeting if necessary. The Chair also encouraged Contracting Parties to look at ways to improve the IUU listing procedure and to raise them at our next meeting.

It was agreed that:

- *Contracting Parties will consider ways to improve the IUU listing procedure for consideration at future NAFO meetings.*
- *This item will be revisited at the NAFO Annual Meeting if necessary.*

7. Half-year review of the implementation of new NCEM measures

The Chair opened the agenda item and asked the Secretariat to provide a presentation of STACTIC WP 11/5 concerning the new requirements for daily catch communications (CAT) and catch prior to entry to and exit from Division 3L (COB).

The Secretariat found that there is a very satisfactory level of compliance in the submission of the CAT, with the exception of the month of January. This is in part due to the fact that it is a new requirement which fulfillment needs some time for familiarization. Another reason may be that some vessels commenced their fishing trips at the latter part of 2010, at which time the daily CAT requirement was not yet in force, and continued until January 2011. By February and thereafter, there was virtually 100% compliance.

The Secretariat indicated that compliance with COB requirement was not an issue because 3M was closed to shrimp fishing.

The Chair then opened the floor for questions.

Russian Federation noted that some species are not listed in the NAFO species list, and this creates the potential for data problems. Russian Federation called for all new species to be added to the NAFO species list when encountered.

The Secretariat took note of the comments from Russian Federation and indicated that there are many species covered in the FAO 3 Alpha species code list that can be added to the NAFO list. However, the Secretariat cannot add the entire FAO species list as it is too large. However, the Secretariat adds codes for any new species reported by a Contracting Party. An alternative is to add the MZZ code in the list of species, to be used for other species.

The Secretariat also noted that while the system identifies an error with a new species that is not in the database, no information is lost. The Secretariat also suggested that NAFO may want to add coral and sponges species to the list as well.

The EU outlined a series of issues regarding the new Catch communication system, for consideration at the Annual meeting. The comments were summarized in STACTIC Working Paper 11/13.

Iceland concurred with most of the issues raised by the EU, and called for a review of the new CEM measures to ensure they reflect decisions from the 2010 NAFO Annual Meeting.

Canada raised the possibility of adding discards to daily catch reporting requirements.

The Chair commended Contracting Parties for achieving near 100% compliance with the new reporting requirements. The report will reflect the efforts taken by Contracting Parties to implement these new measures and Contracting Parties should be commended for this.

It was agreed that:

- ***The document drafted by the EU, entitled Discussion Points on “Communication of catches (STACTIC WP 11/13)”, be deferred for consideration and discussion until the STACTIC session of the 2011 NAFO Annual Meeting.***
- ***STACTIC will also consider the recommendation by Canada that day-to-day discards also be added to the requirements for the communication of catch information.***

8. Inspectors Web Page

The Chair opened the agenda item, and asked a representative of the Secretariat to present STACTIC WP 11/7 which outlines a phased in approach to implementing an Inspectors Web Page as agreed to at the 2010 Annual Meeting.

The approach presented was based in part on consultation with NEAFC which has an Inspector’s Web site up and running. A representative of NEAFC provided STACTIC with a brief presentation on the NEAFC version of the Inspectors Web Page.

STACTIC WP 11/7 sets out the phases and draws comparisons between a NEAFC and NAFO page. The costs associated with each phase have not yet been determined but the Secretariat expects that such costs, at least for the first phase, will be available for review before the Annual Meeting. These funds would have to be identified and approved in the budget for 2012, in order for the first phase to go forward.

Contracting Parties all seemed to support the development of this tool, but noted the potential cost must be considered.

It was agreed that:

- *The Secretariat will circulate a cost estimate that will accompany the recommendation to the FC shortly after the May 2011 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.*
- *STACTIC will recommend to the Fisheries Commission that the Secretariat develop an Inspectors Web Page using a phased implementation approach, based on the estimated costs.*
- *If necessary, STACTIC will forward the estimated costs to STACFAD for their consideration and recommendation.*

9. Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG)

The Chair introduced the Agenda item, and called upon a representative of the EDG group to provide a presentation on the editorial guidance document developed by the Group and proposed timelines.

The EDG representative outlined the key elements and types of changes to be found in the guidance document. Types of revisions to the NAFO CEMs include proposed structural changes, basic edits, and revisions and restructuring to the Annexes.

The draft document prepared by the EDG should be ready for distribution to the participants by mid-June. Contracting Parties will be asked to provide comments within 30 days after distribution so that the EDG can have adequate time to incorporate the comments in order to have a final draft available for distribution to Contracting Parties on July 20th, 60 days prior to the 2011 NAFO Annual Meeting.

The EDG group noted that they will work with the Secretariat to explore options for submitting comments to the NAFO SharePoint website used by the EDG.

The representative of DFG and others thanked the EDG for their hard work.

Contracting Parties were supportive of the format of the guidance document presented by the Representative of the EDG and the proposed timelines for the project.

10. Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

DFG Proposal to Amend Article 15.2 - STACTIC Working Paper 11/1

The Chair invited the representative of DFG to provide an overview of their proposal outlined in STACTIC WP 11/1.

Canada noted that, while it understood the intent of the proposal, the rationale for the establishment of the original coordinates in Article 15.2 was unclear and that it may have been intended as a buffer zone. The Secretariat provided an overview of the details surrounding the original adoption of Article 15.2. However this provided only limited insight into the decision process.

The representative of the EU noted that the provisions appeared to contain two separate elements (200m contour and the line drawn by coordinates). However, because the justification of the coordinates was not clear and the area over the 200 meters curve are very small, the deletion of the coordinates could be considered and replace by the 200 meters curve, taking advantage of the existing VMS technology.

In light of the uncertainty surrounding this issue, and the fact that this provision originated in Fisheries Commission, the representative of Canada felt that additional time to reflect on the matter was required.

It was agreed that:

- ***A decision on this agenda item will be deferred to the next STACTIC session during the 2011 NAFO Annual Meeting to allow Contracting Parties to give further consideration to the issue and the proposal by DFG.***

US Proposal – Modification to Shark Bycatch Reporting and Finning Provisions – STACTIC WP 11/10:

Under this agenda item, the Chair called on a representative of the US Delegation to present its proposal (STACTIC WP 11/10).

Among the key issues raised by the representative of the US Delegation are apparent conflicting provisions of the CEMs that possibly provide a loophole for not identifying reporting shark catch if catch is less than 1 ton. (Article 27.1.f)

While recognizing the general intent of the US proposal, a number of Contracting Parties noted concern with some elements. It was noted by some Contracting Parties and the Chair that the U.S. proposal raises 2 separate questions - one concerning the mandatory reporting requirements of sharks, including skates, rays and chimeras, and another concerning the requirement to land sharks with fins intact.

Canada indicated that the proposed amendment to Article 17. 3 implied mandatory landing of all sharks, which is not required by NAFO. Canada suggested the language be modified as necessary. The U.S. clarified that the proposed amendment was not intended to require mandatory landing of sharks.

DFG noted problems with Article 27.1.f, as it is unclear if the limit of one ton of catch applies to a whole trip, haul by haul, etc. They also suggested requiring species specific reporting for everything 100 kg or greater, which is in-line with NEAFC and their domestic approach.

The EU indicated that the reporting of incidental catch of sensitive species under Article 17 should not be confused with the reporting of commercial catches under Article 27. The EU also underlined that the inclusion of skates, rays and chimeras which implies a modification of Article 17, which is now limited to sharks. The EU also argued that it is too early to come to an agreement on the requirement to land sharks with fins intact. Iceland and other Contracting Parties also noted the limitations with the electronic reporting of sharks. The system is designed to consider weight. The CAT reports excludes discard. CAX includes discards. If shark catch is thrown overboard it is not reported electronically under the CAT report.

The U.S. agreed to revise its proposal for consideration at the Annual Meeting.

It was agreed that:

- ***This proposal will be reconsidered at the STACTIC session of the 2011 Annual Meeting based on a revised U.S. paper.***

Issues Raised by Canada

The Chair recognized Canada's interest in providing a brief overview of some emerging issues that may require future revisions to the CEMs, and invited a representative of Canada to provide a summary of the issues.

Canada provided a brief summary of the following 4 issues:

Labeling Provisions:

1) Canada noted that labeling has improved in recent years with the revisions to the CEMs. However, a recent trend of stowed boxes stacked upside down, concealing the labels, makes it difficult for inspectors to do their job effectively. The spirit and intent of the improved labeling provisions was to facilitate inspections both at sea and in port.

2) Canada noted that it would be useful to have the date and area of capture labeled on groundfish (similar to the provision for Shrimp product marking) given the current situation in the cod fishery whereby 3NO is under moratorium and 3M is now open.

Tows:

3) Canada noted that to effectively monitor by-catch provisions, particularly in respect to moving after exceeding by-catch limits in any 1 tow, it would be useful to have the logbooks reflect the tow information on a set by set basis.

4) Canada noted that there is currently no measure in the CEMs to prevent vessels from returning to the same area where they have recently exceeded bycatch limits (1 tow provision only but not time limitations).

It was agreed that:

- ***Canada will continue to monitor the trends and prepare a working paper(s) if required for the 2011 NAFO Annual Meeting.***

11. Observers Scheme - NCEM Chapter VII and Article 28

The Chair opened this item and after some discussion, the EU presented STACTIC WP 10/29.

The representative from the EU outlined several issues that it considered examples of limitations of the current observer program as outlined in STACTIC WP 10/29, particularly that the observer information is not used by science or the inspection service. He expressed that NAFO has enough information to use a risk based approach to focus inspection activity. The EU argued that the need for observers on all vessels is obsolete. The EU proposed that STACTIC consider the overall concept of observers and redefine the task and requirements for observers. The EU noted that they tabled STACTIC WP 10/29 in September 2010, and that the item remains open for consideration.

Some Contracting Parties indicated that they can sympathize with the limitations expressed by the EU with the current EU observer program in the NRA. It was highlighted that effective observer programs are in place in domestic and international fisheries and that the principals of an observer program in NAFO, such as deterrence, remain important and that the performance of the observer scheme cannot be measured on the number of apparent infringement reported by observers. The same Contracting Parties, which included Canada, Norway and Iceland, noted that the observer program should not be eliminated simply because some parts do not work as effectively as they should. However there may be room for improvements to the current programs. Norway underlined that NAFO should also be receptive to new technology to replace observers, as long as the control regime is not weakened.

The Chair suggested that STACTIC consult with the SC regarding the usefulness, etc. of observer reports. The EU and others expressed concern that the FC request to the SC to consider negative scientific impacts from the reduction/elimination of the “scientific observer program” was misleading and confusing because there is not “scientific observer program,” only an observer program. Contracting Parties agreed to reword the request as indicated below to clarify the nature of the request to the SC.

It was agreed that:

- ***The following request will be sent to the Chair of the Fisheries Commission for transmission to the Scientific Council:***

“STACTIC requests the SC to evaluate any negative scientific impacts resulting from the reduction/elimination of the scientific tasks specified under Article 28 of the NAFO CEM.” (STACTIC WP 11/12, Rev.)

- ***This agenda item will be reconsidered at the STACTIC session of the 2011 NAFO Annual Meeting based on a revised paper.***

12. Contingency plans in the case of force majeure

The Chair noted that this agenda item is primarily related to what should be done about upcoming STACTIC meetings when unexpected events occur and interested Contracting Parties cannot attend.

Iceland noted that this is a potential challenge for all branches of NAFO, not just STACTIC. Contracting Parties considered a number of options on how to proceed should such unexpected events affect attendance at future STACTIC meetings.

It was agreed that:

- *Should unexpected events disrupt a STACTIC meeting, and as a result some or all Contracting Parties are unable to attend, the Chair and the Secretariat will continue to consider options on an ad-hoc basis that may include, but are not limited to:*
 - *Consideration of electronic meeting alternatives, e.g. video or teleconference meetings.*
 - *Allowing the meeting to proceed with recognition that some or all issues can be discussed, but no recommendation finalized until Contracting Parties not present during the meeting review and respond to the recommendations.*
 - *The meeting be rescheduled.*
 - *The meeting be held at an alternative location.*
- *It was also agreed that Contracting Parties should notify the Secretariat of their intent to participate in a particular STACTIC meeting and any concerns regarding possible attendance so that they may be considered and included in any ad hoc decisions regarding the holding of such meeting.*

13. Items forwarded to Advisory Group for Data Communication (AGDC)

The Chair opened this agenda item by calling on the Secretariat to present a series of Working Papers. After the presentation the Chair opened the floor to discussion.

The EU noted that the AGDC report of its last meeting on 16 February 2011 mentioned the presentation to STACTIC, at this intersessional meeting, on electronic logbooks. Since such presentation was not done without clear explanation, the EU invited STACTIC to remind the AGDC group that NAFO needs to be fully integrated into the AGDC process, as stated in the reference terms of the AGDC. The EU recalled the request presented by STACTIC to the AGDC to establish in the short term a common system for the daily communication of catches through automated electronic reporting that benefits both organizations (NEAFC, NAFO) in the North Atlantic.

Contracting Parties pointed to the fact that NAFO did not participate in the February AGDC meeting. A representative from Iceland, who is also the Chairman of PECCOE, noted that the AGDC meeting in February highlighted the need for electronic log books. The representative from Iceland noted that he understood the implementation of electronic log books is not as imminent in NAFO, and thus not an immediate concern. If STACTIC wants a presentation of the AGDC report on electronic log books, it should make such a request.

The Secretariat said that they continue to play a role in the AGDC, including housing the web site and holding data and information.

Last year the EU proposed new product code forms (STACTIC WP 10/32). The same product code forms have been adopted by NEAFC.

The Contracting Parties discussed each of the agreed items below.

It was agreed that:

Daily Communication of Catches

- *The AGDC has endorsed the new data elements outlined in FC Doc. 19 Rev (CH-Chartering Flag) and AE (Area of Entry), and the Secretariat has implemented these elements.*

Cancel Message

- *This issue outlined in STACTIC WP 10/15 Rev is deferred to NEAFC and the AGDC to develop the Cancel message system, and once this has been completed, STACTIC will consider its adoption for NAFO.*

Product Code Forms

- *STACTIC will recommend to the Fisheries Commission the adoption of the 3-Alpha codes for product form as set forth in STACTIC WP 11/14 REV (Annex 4). This system does not include, at this time, any special codes for collective presentation of fish and fish parts.*

Observer scheme

- *STACTIC will defer a discussion on the Observer Scheme in the NAFO CEMs and the implementation of a broader electronic catch reporting system pending further discussion on the issue in AGDC.*

Other

- *It was noted that the STACTIC should remind AGDC that NAFO needs to be fully integrated into the AGDC process. STACTIC should be a more active participant in the AGDC to ensure better harmonization of Data Communication Standards and Reporting Systems.*

14. Other mattersProposal from Norway – HTTPS NAF Gateways at the NEAFC and NAFO Secretariat - STACTIC WP 11/2

For this agenda item, the Chair called on a representative from Norway to present STACTIC WP 11/2.

The representative from Norway noted there were unexpected challenges encountered when its security certificate expired. Based on these challenges, Norway's document for discussion outlines proposals to ensure NEAFC and NAFO standards reflect 'best practices'.

Norway's paper also calls on NAFO to switch from self-signed authorities to third-party authorities.

Contracting Parties, including Norway, Iceland and DFG, discussed the pros and cons of self-signed and third party authorities.

It was agreed that:

- *As NAFO has no authority over NEAFC, STACTIC cannot support Proposal 1 of STACTIC WP 11/2.*
- *STACTIC supports the NAFO related content in Proposal 2 of STACTIC WP 11/2. As such, the NAFO Secretariat will review their current procedures for data communication via HTTPS to ascertain if the systems are in accordance with common recognized standards and 'best practice' and to report to STACTIC during the 2011 NAFO Annual Meeting.*
- *Some technical comments from the AGDC would be sought regarding this matter.*

Presentation by the Secretariat - Structural Changes to NAFO's VMS - STACTIC WP 11/3

The Chair called on the Secretariat to provide an overview of STACTIC WP 11/3 to open this agenda item.

It was agreed that:

- *Proposals by Contracting Parties that require changes to computer systems that in any way affect the obligations, duties and costs of other Contracting Parties should be brought to STACTIC. If they do not affect Contracting Party obligations, duties and costs of other Contracting Parties, the issue does not have to be raised with STACTIC.*

Presentation by the Secretariat – SC Requests FC for Definition of Certain Fishing Gears - STACTIC Working Paper 11/8

The Chair called on the Secretariat to present STACTIC Working Paper 11/8 to open this agenda item.

Following the presentation from the Secretariat, the EU noted that the request is based on a growing trend of blue whiting crossing the NEAFC/NAFO border. The problem is that blue whiting is considered by NAFO as a groundfish subject to a 130 mm mesh size, while on the NEAFC side it is classified as a pelagic species subject to a 35 mm mesh size.

Iceland and others asked if there is any evidence of blue whiting in the NAFO Convention Area. Canada noted that there was no indication that there was.

It was noted that STACTIC is being asked to define the fishing gear for purposes of responding to an FC request to consider the appropriate mesh size for a fishery that is deemed to be “semi-pelagic.” Contracting Parties did not think it was appropriate to define semi-pelagic gear for this purpose because there are already definitions that use the term mid-water trawls and there are ongoing efforts at FAO to further define mid-water trawl/pelagic gears. Contracting Parties felt that Working Paper 11/8 adequately reflects the extent to which STACTIC can respond to a request for definitions of semi-pelagic gear

It was agreed that:

- *In response to the SC request for gear definition, STACTIC will forward WP 11/8 as it adequately reflects the extent to which STACTIC can provide guidance to the SC on pelagic gear definitions.*

STACTIC Working Paper 11/9

There was no substantive discussion on this agenda item.

It was agreed that:

- *STACTIC WP 11/9 shall be forwarded to the AGDC to compliment the steps that have already been taken by NEAFC.*

Other Issues

A Contracting Party raised a concern that vessels of another Contracting Party fishing for cod in area 3M at the same time and in the same vicinity as one of its flag vessels appeared to be reporting significantly lower catch rates than its vessel. The Contracting Party of these other vessels indicated its willingness to investigate this concern, including issuing an invitation to the Contracting Party raising this concern to jointly inspect vessels that were fishing in 3M.

It was agreed that:

- *Relevant Contracting Parties will cooperate and be transparent on apparent compliance issues such as this, including allowing the possibility of joint in port inspections (as per the joint inspection scheme).*

15. Time and Place of next meeting

The next STACTIC meeting will take place during the 2011 NAFO Annual Meeting being held 19-23 September in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

16. Adoption of Report

It was agreed that the first draft of the meeting report will be completed by end of day, May 10, 2011. The Draft will be circulated to Contracting Parties shortly afterwards, and Contracting Parties will be given 10 business days to provide feedback using the MS Word Track Changes tool on the draft report.

A final report will be circulated by the Secretariat once all Contracting Parties confirm support for the report.

17. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 14:30 hrs on May 10, 2011.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CANADA

Head of Delegation

Jenkins, Randy, Director, Enforcement, Conservation and Protection (C&P), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Phone: +613 990 0108 – Fax: +613 941 2718 – E-mail: randy.jenkins@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Advisers

Anderson, Kevin, Director, Conservation and Protection (C&P), NL Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1

Phone: +709 772 4494 – Fax: +709 772 3628 – E-mail: kevin.anderson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Gilchrist, Brett, Senior International Fisheries Officer, International Fisheries Management Bureau, International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Phone: +1 613 991 0218 – Fax: +1 613 993 5995 – E-mail: brett.gilchrist@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Lambert, Bob, Chief, Enforcement Operations, Conservation and Protection (C&P) NCR, NL Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1X 5X1

Phone: +709 772 5482 – Fax: +709 772 3628 – E-mail: robert.lambert@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Napier, Brent, International Fisheries Officer, International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Phone: +613 998 3805 – Fax: +613 941 2718 – E-mail: napierb@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

DENMARK (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Head of Delegation

Trolle Nedergaard, Mads, Fiskerilicensinspektør, Head of Department, Gronlands Fiskerilicenskontrol, Postbox 501, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland

Phone: +299 345377 – Fax: +299 323235 – E-mail: mads@nonoq.gl

Advisers

Gaardlykke, Meinhard, Adviser, Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Yviri við Strond 3, P. O. Box 1238, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Phone: +298 311065 – Fax: +298 313981 – E-mail: meinhardg@fve.fo

Kruse, Martin, Adviser, FMC-Manager, Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Yviri við Strond 3, P. O. Box 1238, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Phone: +298 311065 – Fax: +298 313981 – E-mail: martink@fve.fo

EUROPEAN UNION

Head of Delegation

Spezzani, Aronne, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, 99 Rue Joseph II, B-1049, Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 295 9629 – Fax: +32 2 296 2338 – E-mail: aronne.spezzani@ec.europa.eu

Advisers

Kordecka, Aleksandra, International Relations Officer, International Affairs, Law of the Sea and Regional Fisheries Organizations, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE.B.1), 200 Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 297 4070 – Fax: +32 2 295 5700 – E-mail: aleksandra.kordecka@ec.europa.eu

Dross, Nicolas, International Relations Officer, International Affairs, Law of the Sea and Regional Fisheries Organizations, European Commission, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (DG MARE.B.1), Rue Joseph II, 99, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 298 0855 – Fax: +32 2 295 5700 – E-mail: nicolas.dross@ec.europa.eu

Lansley, Jon, European Commission, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (DG MARE.B.1), Rue Joseph II, 99, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: + 32 2 295 8346 – E-mail: jon.lansley@ec.europa.eu

Pagliari, Giuliano, Administration Officer-NAFO Coordinator, Fisheries Control in International Waters, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II, 99 (01/062), B-1049, Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 296 3834 – Fax: +32 2 296 2338 – E-mail: giuliano.pagliari@ec.europa.eu

Babcionis, Genadijus, Desk Manager, Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA), Apartado de Correos 771 – E-36200 – Vigo, Spain

Phone: +34 986 12 06 40 – E-mail: genadijus.babcionis@cfca.europa.eu

Grosmann, Meit, Leading Inspector, Environmental Inspectorate, Dept. of Fisheries Protection, Kopli 76, 10416 Tallinn, Estonia

Phone: +372 696 2218 – Fax: +372 696 2237 – Email: meit.grosmann@kki.ee

Chamizo Catalan, Carlos, Head of Fisheries Inspection Division, Secretariat General de Pesca Maritima, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, y Medio Rural y Marino, Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid, Spain

Phone: +34 91 347 1949/ 8313 – Fax: +34 91 347 1512 – E-mail: cchamizo@mapya.es

Wolff, Gunnar, BLE, Haubachstrasse 86 , 22765 Hamburg, Germany

Phone: +49 40 306860537 – Email: gunnar.wolff@ble.de

Batista, Emilia, Directora de Servicos, Departamento dos Recursos, Direccao Geral das Pescas e Aquicultura, Avenida da Brasilia, 1449-030 Lisbon, Portugal

Phone: +351 742 3629 – Fax: +351 21 303 5922 – E-mail: ebatista@dgpa.min-agricultura.pt

FRANCE (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)

Head of Delegation

Bigorgne, Matthias, Ministère de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de la pêche, 3, place de Fontenoy 75700 Paris 07 SP

Phone: +33 1 49 55 53 55 – Fax: +33 1 49 55 82 00 – E-mail: matthias.bigorgne@agriculture.gouv.fr

ICELAND

Head of Delegation

Freyr Helgason, Kristján, Special Advisor, Department of Resource Management, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Skulagata 4, 150 Reykjavik

Phone: +354 545 8300 – Fax: +354 552 1160 – E-mail: kristjan.freyr.helgason@slr.stjr.is

Advisers

Thormar, Anna, Quota Allocations Department, Directorate of Fisheries, Dalshrauni 1, 220 Hafnarfjordur

Phone: +354 569 7900 – Fax: +354 569 7991 – E-mail: annatho@fiskistofa.is

Geirsson, Gylfi, CDR Senior Grade, Icelandic Coast Guard, Skogarhlid 14, 105 Reykjavik

Phone: +354 545 2000/545 2071 – Fax: +354 545 2040 – E-mail: gylfi@lhg.is

NORWAY

Head of Delegation

Johnsen, Stein-Aage, Senior Legal Adviser, Resource Management Dept., Directorate of Fisheries, P. O. Box 2009 Nordnes, NO-5817 Bergen

Phone: +47 55 23 80 00 / 8124 – Fax: +47 55 23 80 90 – E-mail: stein-age.johnsen@fiskeridir.no

Advisers

Fasmer, Ellen, Directorate of Fisheries, IT Department, P. O. Box 185, Sentrum, 5804 Bergen

Phone: +47 97 42 96 81 - Fax: + 47 55 23 80 90 – E-mail: ellen.fasmer@fiskeridir.no

Hanne Østgård , Directorate of Fisheries, P. O. Box 185, Sentrum, 5804 Bergen

Phone: +47 46 80 52 05 – Fax: +47 55 23 80 90 – E-mail: hanne.ostgard@fiskeridir.no

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Head of Delegation

Agalakov, Vadim, Chief State Inspector, State Port Control and Convention Areas Div., Barents-Belomorsk Territorial Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation, str. Kominterna 7, 183038 Murmansk

Phone: +7 815 2 798 116 – Fax: +7 815 2 451 945 – E-mail: murmansk@bbtu.ru

Adviser

Volkov, Victor, Deputy Director, West Subsidiary of the Federal State Department "The Centre of Fishery Monitoring and Communication", /Russian FMC (Murmansk)/, 43, Tralovaya, Murmansk, 183950

Phone: +7 8152 47 4167 – Fax: +7 8152 47 4852 – E-mail: volkov@mrcm.ru

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Head of Delegation

McHale, Allison, Fishery Policy Analyst, Sustainable Fisheries Div., US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

Phone: +978 281 9103 – Fax: +978 281 9135 – E-mail: allison.mchale@noaa.gov

Advisers

DeCola, Peter, Captain, United States Coast Guard, Maritime Law Enforcement Branch, First Coast Guard District (dre), 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02110- 3350

Phone: +617 223 8685 – Fax: +617 223 8074 – E-mail: Peter.N.DeCola@uscg.mil

Martin, Jr., Gene S., Attorney, Office of the General Counsel Northwest, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Northeast, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

Phone: + 978 281 9242 – Fax: + 978 281 9389 – E-mail: gene.s.martin@noaa.gov

OBSERVER

North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

Neves, Joao, North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), 22 Berners St., London W1T 3DY UK

Phone: +44 (0) 207 631 0016 – Fax: +44 (0) 207 636 9225 – E-mail: joao@neafc.org

NAFO SECRETARIAT

Ricardo Federizon, Fisheries Commission Coordinator

rfederizon@nafo.int

Cindy Kerr, Fisheries Information Manager

ckerr@nafo.int

George Campanis, IT Manager

gcampanis@nafo.int

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Compilation of fisheries report for compliance review (2004-2009), including review of Apparent Infringements
5. Review and evaluation of NAFO Compliance objectives
6. Review of IUU List pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 57.3
7. Half-year review of the implementation of the new NCEM measures
8. Inspectors Web Page
9. Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG)
10. Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
11. Observers Scheme - NCEM Chapter VII and Article 28
12. Contingency plans in the case of force majeure
13. Items forwarded to Advisory Group for Data Communication (AGDC)
14. Other matters
 - The HTTPs NAF Gateways at the NEAFC and NAFO Secretariats
 - Structural Changes to NAFO's VMS
 - SC Requests for FC Definition of Certain Fishing Gears
 - Assessments of NAFO's VMS Data Transmissions (2008-2010)
15. Time and Place of next meeting
16. Adoption of Report
17. Adjournment

Annex 3. NAFO 2010 Fisheries Profile and Trends

**NAFO 2010 FISHERIES
PROFILE and TRENDS**

**(from the Compilation of NAFO Fishing
Reports for STACTIC Compliance Review)**

In this presentation . . .

- **The big Table 1**
- **Vital Statistics 2010 – Groundfish (GRO), Shrimp (PRA),
and pelagic Redfish (REB)**
- **Trends 2004 – 2010**
 - **Effort – days-at-sea**
 - **Number of vessels**
 - **At-sea inspections**
 - **Inspection Rate**

What is Table 1?

- **Metadata – fishing reports received by the Secretariat**
 - **VMS Hails – COE, COX, ENT, EXI**
 - **Port Inspection Reports**
 - **Observer Reports**
 - **At-sea inspection Reports**

What is Table 1?

- **Presented on “fishing trip” basis**
- **Fishery type – GRO, PRA, REB -- identified**
- **Catch information from these reports**
- **Apparent Infringements issued**

How are “fishing trips” determined?

- Examination of the POS reports
- Start of trip defined by ENT (or COE)
- End of trip defined by EXI (or COX)
- When ENT/COE or EXI/COX reports are missing, the dates are cross-referenced with POS and with other reports, e.g. Port Inspection and Observers.

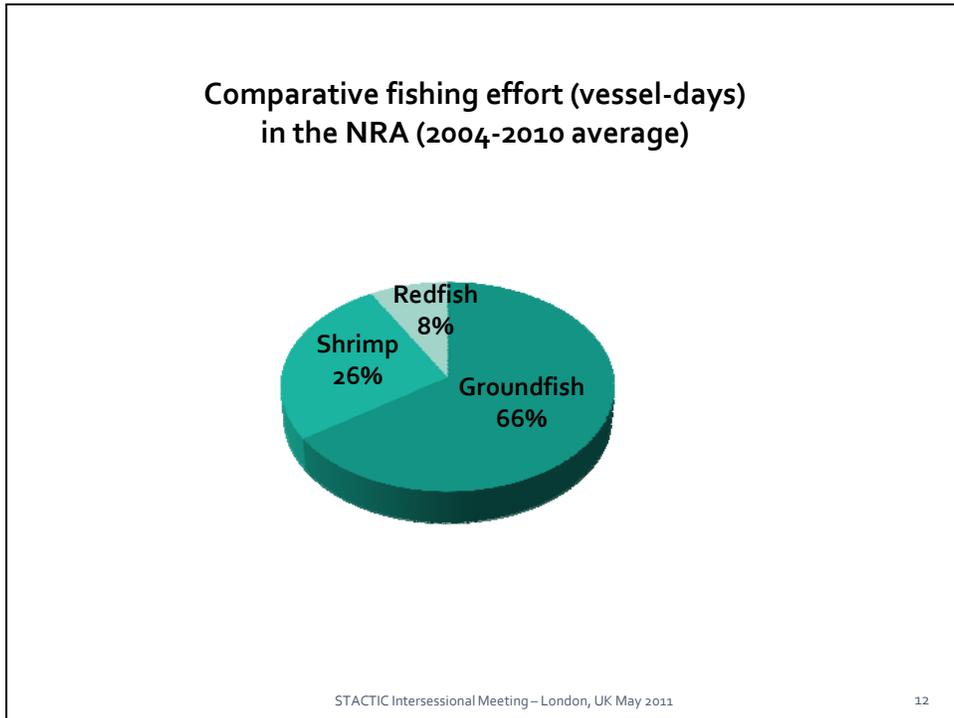
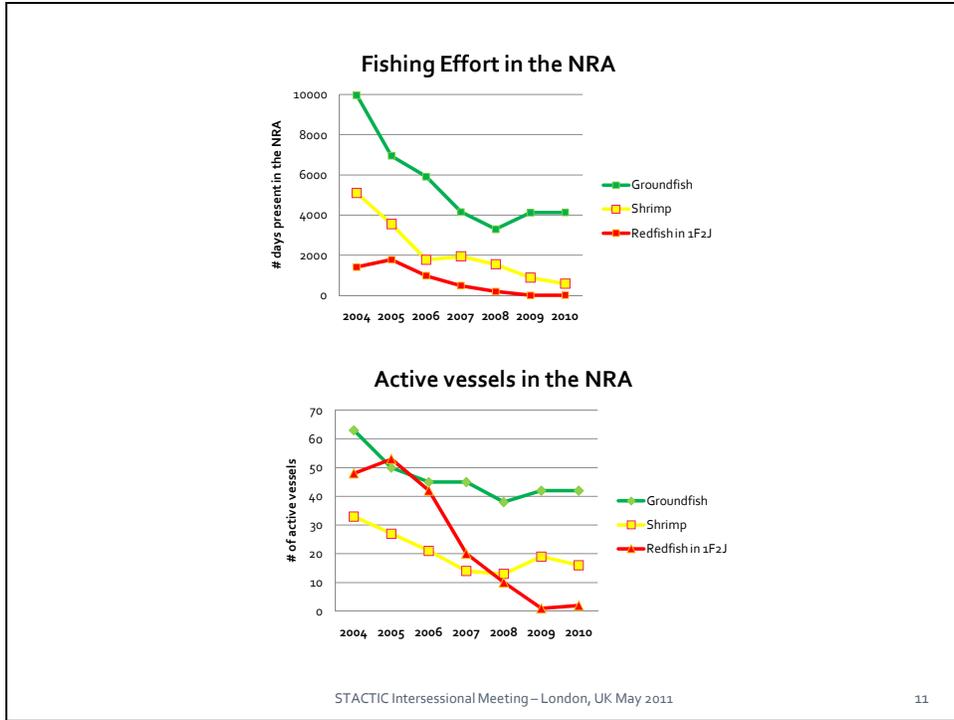
What Table 1 can offer?

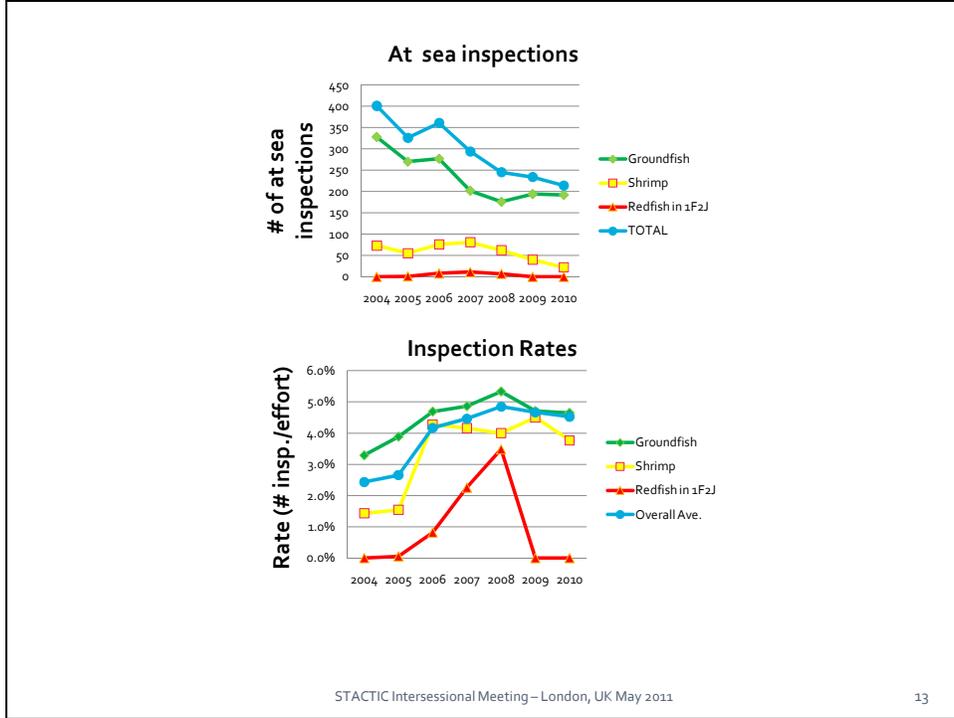
- Identifies missing reports
- Allows derivation of basic statistics – e.g. how many boats, how many days on fishing ground?
- Allows cross verification of catches as reported from various sources

2010 Fishing Effort Profile in NAFO Regulatory Area

				TOTAL
	Groundfish	Shrimp	Redfish	
 Number of vessels	42	16	2	53
 Effort (Days present)	4131	584	14	4729

TRENDS 2004-2010





Apparent Infringements and disposition in 2010

AI#	CallSign	Div	Fisheries Type	Apparent Infringement	Article (2010 NCEM)	Disposition - Followup or update	STATUS as of April 2011
1	Vessel 1	3M	PRA	Mis-recording of catches - inaccurate recording	24.2	Case under investigation	Pending
2	Vessel 2	3L	GRO	Gear requirements - illegal attachment	13.6	Case under investigation	Pending
3	Vessel 3	3N	GRO	Gear requirements - mesh size	13.1	Convicted, fined and paid 1848,56 euros	Resolved
4	Vessel 4	3M	GRO	Mis-recording of catches - inaccurate recording	24.2	Case under investigation	Pending
5	Vessel 5	3O	GRO	Vessel requirements - capacity plans	18.5	Case under investigation	Pending
6	Vessel 6	3L	PRA	Vessel requirements - capacity plans	18.5	New certified capacity plan was provided and made available to inspectors at the time of landing in Canada	Resolved
7	Vessel 6	3L	PRA	Mis-recording of catches - stowage	24.6	A proper stowage plan was provided at the time of landing at the home port.	Resolved

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Some Problems Encountered and Issues Identified during
Data Compilation:

- Port Inspection reports and Port State Measures
 - Scope of PSM: applies when Flag State of Vessel and Port State are different. *Issue: Even if FS and PS are the same, GHL fishing requires 100% port inspection (Art. 7 of NCEM). Redfish or shrimp vessels landing catches in home ports, Port Inspection reports required?*

Some Problems Encountered and Issues Identified during
Data Compilation:

- Port Inspection reports and Port State Measures
 - Start and End fishing dates in PSC 3 are not indicated. *Issue: reduces the utility as one source of cross-verification of fishing trips and catches.*

**Some Problems Encountered and Issues Identified during
Data Compilation:**

- **Port Inspection reports and Port State Measures**

- **Art. 16.10 – port State CP shall carry inspections at least 15% of all landings. *Issue: Analysis to determine whether 100% coverage has become unnecessary?***

**Some Problems Encountered and Issues Identified during
Data Compilation:**

- **Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)**

- **COX – inconsistent catch reporting. Catch indicated as “catch-on-board”, or “catch-in-NRA”.**
- **POS reports – VMS not turned off when going to Newfoundland port without intention of landing catch. Additional scrutiny required in order to exclude these days in the estimation “number of days on fishing ground”.**

Issue: Error Alerts that are automatically generated by the VMS

NAKs by Message Types for all Flag States from 2008 -2010

NAK	101	102	104	150	250	251	303	304	350	
CAT	0	52	6	31	0	1	0	0	0	90
CAX	0	59	14	7	0	0	0	0	0	80
COE	0	48	158	11	0	1	0	0	0	218
COX	0	55	16	6	0	0	35	10	0	122
ENT	0	5	5	2	0	0	0	0	14	26
EXI	0	2	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
MAN	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
NOT	0	6	2	26	28	0	0	0	0	62
OBR	0	77	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	124
POR	0	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
POS	0	171	1681	243	0	0	0	0	87	2182

NAK-102 – Data value or size out of range

NAK-104 – Mandatory data missing

NAK-150 – Sequence Error

NEXT AIM: Compliance Tables to be forwarded to STACTIC on 20 June 2011 in accordance with FC Rules of Procedure 5.1.e.

NEXT STEPS (STACTIC WP 10/38):

- 1. CPs, particularly those with inspection presence shall present compliance issues/concerns at this meeting.**
- 2. STACTIC to discuss these issues at this meeting.**

NEXT STEPS (STACTIC WP 10/38):

- 3. At request of STACTIC, Secretariat compiles additional information forwarded 60 days before the Annual Meeting.**
- 4. Compliance Report Drafting Group presents information compiled by Secretariat at the STACTIC Annual Meeting.**
- 5. STACTIC to draft the Annual Compliance Review**

Annex 4. NAFO CEM – Annex XXc - Product Form Codes
(STACTIC Working Paper 11/14, Revised)

The list of product form codes in Annex XXc is not exhaustive enough to cover all the fish product forms on fishing vessels.

It is therefore requested to add additional codification in order to include all traditional product forms produced on board.

Possible amendment

Replace the actual Annex XX (c) with the table below.

Annex XX(c)
Product Form Presentation
3-Alpha Codes

3-Alpha	Presentation	Description
CBF	Cod butterfly (escalado)	HEA with skin on, spine on, tail on
CLA	Claws	Claws only
DWT	ICCAT code	Gilled, gutted, part of head off, fins off
FIL	Filleted	HEA + GUT + TLD + bones off Each fish originates two fillets
FIS	Filleted and skinned fillets	FIL+SKI Each fish originates two fillets not joined by any par
FSB	Filleted with skin and bones	Filleted with skin and bones on
FSP	Filleted skinned with pinbone	Filleted with skin removed and pinbone on
GHT	Gutted headed and tailed	GUH+TLD
GUG	Gutted and gilled	Guts and gills removed
GUH	Gutted and headed	Guts and head removed
GUL	Gutted liver in	GUT without removing liver parts
GUS	Gutted headed and skinned	GUH+SKI
GUT	Gutted	All guts removed
HEA	Headed	Heads off
HET	Headed and tailed	Heads and tails off
JAP	Japanese cut	Transversal cut removing all parts from head to belly
JAT	Tailed Japanese cut	Japanese cut with tail removed
LAP	Lappen	Double fillet, HEA, skin + tails + fins ON
LVR	Liver	Liver only
OTH	Other	Any other presentation
ROE	Roe (s)	Roe(s) only
SAD	Salted dry	Headed with skin on, spine on, tail on and salted dry
SAL	Salted wet light	CBF + salted
SGH	Salted, gutted and headed	GUH + salted
SGT	Salted gutted	GUT+salted
SKI	Skinned	Skin off
SUR	Surimi	Surimi
TAL	Tail	Tails only
TLD	Tailed	Tail off
TNG	Tongue	Tongue only
TUB	Tube only	Tube only (Squid)
WHL	Whole	No processing
WNG	Wings	Wings only