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**(ADOPTED)**

33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2011

*Terms of Reference*  
*Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on*  
*Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies*

Structure

Establish a Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists, which reports to Fisheries Commission, consults with Scientific Council, and provides recommendations to Fisheries Commission.

The Working Group shall be comprised of fishery managers and scientists from Contracting Parties supported by advisors, as required, up to a maximum of three participants per Contracting Party. The Chair/Vice-chair shall be selected from participating fishery managers and scientists with both a fishery manager and a scientist represented in the two positions.

Consideration shall be given by the Fisheries Commission in 2014 to the continuation or dissolution of the working group.

Objective

1. Consider risk management approaches in the review and update of existing Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies, or future development of new Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies.

This work should be presented to Fisheries Commission for consideration at the annual meeting.

Specific Duties

The working group should review and update conservation plans and rebuilding strategies in respect of:

- a) Limit reference points, as provided by Scientific Council, and recovery target(s);
- b) Buffer reference points, developed in the context of precautionary approach framework and in support of robust rebuilding plans;
- c) Timelines or time frames that can reasonably be expected to achieve established targets;
- d) Conditions at which a directed fishery might occur;
- e) Harvest control rules which incorporate target, limit and buffer reference points, as well as, rebuilding timelines or timeframes; and
- f) An implementation strategy which promotes stability in response to natural resource fluctuations that may be expected to occur over the life of the rebuilding plan.

### Possible Principles/Elements

In the conduct of its work, the working group may consider the following principles and elements in the development of Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies:

- a) When the stock has recovered beyond Blim, initial TAC levels should be set at conservative levels to allow for continued recovery and growth;
- b) Bycatch should be kept to the lowest possible level and restricted to unavoidable bycatch in fisheries directing for other species when SSB is below Blim;
- c) Interim target(s) for further growth in the stock prior to re-opening;
- d) Long-term rebuilding target (e.g. Bmsy) and associated timelines and/or timeframes;
- e) Harvest strategy, consistent with the Precautionary Approach, which ensure Spawning Stock Biomass remains above Blim;
- f) Monitoring and review process for each rebuilding plan to enable Fisheries Commission to assess and revise plans as necessary to ensure rebuilding plan targets are achieved.

The working group may also consider refining these principles/ elements outlined above.

### Meetings

The Working Group shall communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically, as required.

Meetings may be held at the discretion of the Chair, in collaboration with Contracting Parties and the NAFO Secretariat.