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Cod in Division 3NO

Recalling, that the cod stock in Div. 3NO has been under moratorium to directed fishing since February 1994;

Further recalling, the Fisheries Commission (FC Doc. 07/8) 3NO Cod Conservation and Rebuilding Strategy adopted in September 2007 which calls on Contracting Parties, through best efforts, to keep incidental by-catch at the lowest possible level;

Taking into account, the 2010 Scientific Council Advice which indicates that:

- fishing mortality has been declining since 2006 and is currently amongst the lowest estimated during the moratorium;
- recruitment remains low but has been improving in recent years with current estimates of the 2005-2007 year classes comparable to those from the mid-late 1980s;
- total biomass and spawning biomass remain low but are estimated to be at their highest levels since 1992;

Recognizing that the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies has recommended that Fisheries Commission adopt updates to the 3NO Cod Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy while also highlighting outstanding bycatch issues; and

Mindful of the need to minimize incidental by-catch to support the continued recovery of this stock.

It is recommended that:

- 1. The following sentence be added to Article 12.1 b) of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures:**

“However, for cod in Division 3NO vessels of a Contracting Party shall limit their by-catch to a maximum of 1 000 kg or 4%, whichever is greater.”

- 2. The following text be added to the 3NO Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy:**

“The by-catch provisions in the NCEMs for 3NO cod should be reviewed periodically, to coincide with scheduled assessments of the stock by Scientific Council, and adjusted to reflect the overall trend in spawning stock biomass.”