

33rd ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2011**Communication of catches**

- **Daily declaration of discarded fish within the CAT message**
- **Deletion of the CAX message**
- **Identification of vessels with an observer on board**

NAFO CEM –Chapter VII; Annexes X, XXa and XXIIc**1. Daily declaration of discarded fish by the Master, within the CAT message**

Catches retained on board must be reported on a daily basis by the Master (CAT message).

Discards are recorded in the fishing logbook (Annex VIII). They include the undersized fish which, in accordance with Article 14 of the NAFO CEM, must obligatorily and immediately be returned to the sea, without being subject to identification in the fishing logbook.

The reporting by the Master of discarded quantities, anytime such catch occur, on a daily basis along with the CAT message would improve transparency in fishing activities in NAFO waters, for the benefit of the management of the fisheries as well as in supporting a risk analysis approach for control purposes.

As a matter of simplification, since Masters are not committed to identify the undersize fish among the discarded quantities, it is logical that they should not be requested to edit a field code US in their CAT message. However, for management purposes, that US field code must still be provided by the compliance observer when on board, via the OBR report.

It is therefore proposed to add an RJ field code (discards) in the daily CAT message, following the proposed amendment:

a) Annex X - point 2 (CAT message)

- Insert the following row after the CA field code

Data element	Field code	Mandatory/O ptional	Requirement for the field
Discarding Species Live weight	RJ	M	Activity detail; Catch discarded by species and by Division since last CAT report, in kg rounded to the nearest 100 kg. Allow for several pairs of fields, consisting of species (FAO 3 alpha codes) + live weight in kilograms (until 9 digits), with each field separated by a space, e.g. //RJ/speciesweightspacesspeciesweightspacesspeciesweight//

2. Deletion of the CAX message

When the daily CAX message was introduced the intention was to increase the flow of information from the fishing vessel when operating without an observer onboard and the unique name “CAX” was meant to make a distinction between vessel with and without an observer onboard. As NAFO has now

taken up daily catch reporting for all fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area, it is possible to delete this type of message by including the RJ field code in the daily CAT message, as all the information requested on a daily basis under Chapter VII (CAX message) is now compulsory for any vessel fishing in the NAFO Regulatory area.

The OBR report to be send by the Observer is not affected.

It is proposed to adopt the following proposed amendments:

- a) *Article 62, paragraph 6 – Replace the acronym CAX by CAT*
- b) *Annex XXa*
- Delete the table under point 1: Daily Catch report – Chapter VII (CAX)
 - Renumber the Observer report - OBR table accordingly
- c) *Annex XXIIc*
- In the left column, replace "Chapter VII" by "Observer report – OBR"

3. Identification of vessels with an observer on board

For transparency in the fisheries activities in NAFO waters, it is necessary to introduce an indicator that a vessel is fishing with an observer onboard or not. To that end, a vessel carrying an observer should notify the presence of that observer in advance of its entry in the Regulatory area through a specific field code in their COE message.

It is proposed to adopt the following proposed amendments:

- a) *Annex X*
- In point 1 "Catch on Entry" report, insert the following row after "directed species"

Data element	Field code	Mandatory/O ptional	Requirement for the field
Observer on board	OO	M	Activity detail; "Yes" or "No"

- b) *Annex XXIIc*

- Insert the following row after "Directed species"

Category	Data element	Field code	Type	Contents	Definition
	Observer on board	OO	Char*1	Y or N	Presence of a compliance observer on board