Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

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(Adopted)

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Terms of Reference

Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

Structure:

Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems reports to the Fisheries Commission, considers the advice of 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.

Objective:

The main objective of the Working Group is to make recommendations to the Fisheries Commission on the effective implementation of measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems.

Specific Duties:

In responding to requests for advice and recommendations from the Fisheries Commission, the Working Group shall:

Consider the advice of Scientific Council to Fisheries Commission; evaluate associated risks; and make recommendations on mitigation strategies and measures to avoid significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, drawing on relevant international guidance[1].

Review area closures, fisheries impact assessments and other measures outlined in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEMs) with specific timelines.

Update the text in Chapter I bis of the NCEMs as necessary.

Meetings:

The Working Group will meet as required by the Fisheries Commission. Whenever possible, meetings of the Working Group should occur in the week prior to the NAFO annual meeting, and shall communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically, as required.

1 Including but not limited to the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas