

**34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2012****Product Labelling under Article 24 - All product must be clearly labelled by species and identify the division of capture****Background**

Currently, the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures require that all fish harvested in the NAFO Regulatory Area must be labelled by species and product category, and in the case of shrimps, the date of capture. The measures further require that GHJ and shrimp be marked by Stock Area.

The NAFO Performance Review Panel Recommendations (GC Working Paper 11/2) suggests that Article 23 (now known as Article 24) be improved to take into account the traceability of fish. It is recommended that the labelling requirements for species captured in the NAFO Regulatory Area require that all product be identified by species, product category, and division of capture.

This would improve the traceability of fish from the point of harvest to the point of offloading in port. Vessels regularly cross division boundaries and have onboard species that may have different harvest rules (such as moratorium) in different Divisions. In such cases it is important that inspectors be able to determine from where and when the fish was captured.

It is recommended that as a step towards achieving better traceability of fish from the point of capture that the Division from which the fish was harvested be included on all product labelling.

It is necessary to continue to strengthen the measures on an ongoing basis including improving the accuracy of labelling and reporting of fish captured in the NAFO Regulatory Area. This issue will require regular review at STACTIC.

**Proposed Amendments****Replace Article 24 with the following text.**

- 24.1 When processed, all species harvested in the Regulatory Area shall be labeled in such a way that each species and product category is identifiable. All species must be labeled using respectively the following data:
- a) the Name of the capture vessel
  - b) the 3-Alpha Code for each species as listed in Annex I.C
  - c) in the case of shrimps the date of capture
  - d) the Regulatory Area and Division of fishing
  - e) the product form presentation code as listed in Annex II.K.

24.2 Labels shall be securely affixed, stamped or written on packaging and be of a size that can be clearly read by inspectors in the normal course of their duties.

24.3 Labels shall be marked in ink on a contrasting background.

24.4 Each package shall contain only:

- a) one product form category
- b) one division of capture
- c) one date of capture (in the case of shrimps)
- d) one species