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(Adopted)

**34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2012**

**Standardization of Observer program data and Reporting requirements  
in the NAFO Regulatory Area**

**Background**

Under the Observer Scheme of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures Chapter V, fishing vessels operating in the NAFO regulatory area are required to carry independent and impartial observers.

In the 2012 Progress report of the Expert Panel, the Panel recommends that standard protocols be developed and applied for the reporting of NAFO observer information by all flag states.

This suggests that there is a need within the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures to establish and submit standard data collection templates. This would ensure that data is collected and reported in a consistent and timely manner thereby facilitating the compilation and analysis of the observer data.

**Recommendation**

Establish a working group within STACTIC to identify a standard data collection format and process. The working group will prepare a paper for submission at a 2013 intercessional meeting with a view of adopting provisions in the NCEMS to have a standard observer collection template, and relevant protocols to complete and submit the information. Implementation of the measures would be effective for 2014.

The core Working Group will be based around the existing Editorial Drafting Group and other Contracting Parties are invited to participate.