



Serial No. N6102

NAFO/FC Doc. 12/26  
(Adopted)

34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2012

**Proposal for the improvement of the process to develop questions  
to the Scientific Council**

The NAFO Contracting Parties:

Mindful of the NAFO Performance Assessment Review that took place in 2011;

Recalling the Plan of Action developed by the GC Working Group for the Implementation of the Recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel;

Acting upon the 2011 Recommendation number 25 of the aforementioned Plan of Action;

Recognising the need for better transparency and better communication between the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission highlighted in the Report of the Panel of the Performance Assessment Review;

Noting the increase in scope of management issues in NAFO and the associated increase in workload for the Scientific Council

Noting the need to prioritize work and use the resources of Scientific Council more efficiently;

**NAFO Contracting Parties resolve to establish a clear and transparent process for developing the Fisheries Commissions document entitled “Fisheries Commission Request For Scientific Advice On Management In 20XX And Beyond Of Certain Stocks In Subareas 2, 3 And 4 And Other Matters” as follows:**

- 1) **A Steering Committee composed of the Scientific Council Coordinator and members of Contracting Parties<sup>1</sup> should be established to coordinate all requests for advice and serve as the contact point between the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission regarding any need of clarification on the FC requests for scientific advice during the June Scientific Council meeting or whenever necessary during the year.**

**This Steering Committee should be in place during an interim period until the process is well established within NAFO. After the interim period, consideration should be given to having the Scientific Council Coordinator assume the tasks of the Steering Committee.**

- 2) **Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Steering Committee should:**
  - i. **Update the above FC Request for Scientific Advice document to:**

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<sup>1</sup> Maximum two members should be nominated by the Fisheries Commission.

- **reflect the stock assessment schedule and requests that remain unanswered from the previous year;**
    - **include requests received from Contracting Parties in Advance of the Annual Meeting<sup>2</sup>;**
    - **include requests originating from the various FC Working Groups (WG);**
  - ii. Distribute to Contracting Parties all requests as a draft FC document three days prior to the Annual Meeting.**
- 3) During the Annual Meeting, the Steering Committee should:**
  - i. Update the FC Request document with additional requests<sup>3</sup> and distribute to all Contracting Parties.**
  - ii. Consult with Scientific Council on the feasibility (e.g. workload, expertise, etc.) of the complete list of requests and ensures that intent of requests is clear and aligned with what SC can produce. The FC Request for Scientific Advice should be updated in order to reflect any necessary changes to improve clarification.**
  - iii. Prior to the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, the FC document is discussed in FC Plenary with the SC Chair present. Should the workload exceed SC capacity, prioritization may need to take place.**

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<sup>2</sup> A first set of questions should be submitted by Heads of Delegation or their designate to NAFO Secretariat minimum of one week prior to the start of the Annual Meeting.

<sup>3</sup> Additional requests may result from the unfolding of the meeting. These requests should be provided to the Coordinator no later than Wednesday COB and before the request for scientific advice is discussed in the Scientific Council.