

34TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2012

Proposal for a Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies

Recognizing that the Performance Review noted the usefulness of increasing communication between the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission;

Recalling the Performance Review suggests that NAFO consider enhancing its application of risk-based assessment approaches (e.g. the Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation and Kobe Matrix) when evaluating management strategies;

Noting the General Council Working Group recommends in its Action Plan that the Fisheries Commission task the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies to consider the broader use of the Precautionary Approach framework, extension of management strategy evaluation and/or other risk-based management approaches including conservation plans and rebuilding strategies, as appropriate;

Further recognizing the related ongoing work of the Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation and the Working Group on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies;

It is proposed that the Fisheries Commission invite the Chair of the Scientific Council and the Chairs of the Working Group on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies and the Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation to have an intersessional meeting in 2013 (possibly via webex) to develop a draft Terms of Reference and workplan for a joint Fisheries Commission – Scientific Council working group on both conservation plans and rebuilding strategies for NAFO stocks and the application of management strategy evaluation. The terms of reference and workplan would be considered by both the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission at the 2013 annual meeting.

It is recommended that the Terms of Reference include a mandate for the consideration of all matters related to use of the Precautionary Approach framework, the development of proposed management objectives for all NAFO managed stocks and the extension of management strategy evaluation and/or other risk-based management approaches, including conservation plans and rebuilding strategies, as appropriate.

It is also recommended that the mandate incorporate the responsibilities outlined in the revised terms of reference for the Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation and the Working Group on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies, and that these two working groups be disbanded.