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**Proposal for a Conservation Measure
on the management of redfish in Division 3M**

Explanatory note:

The redfish in division NAFO 3M (RED 3M) fishery is a semi-olympic fishery with¹:

- a TAC (6 500 tonnes for 2013) allocated on a first come first serve basis²,
- individual quotas allocated to some Contracting Parties (for a total of 20 000 tonnes in 2013³), the main shares being allocated to Russia, the EU and Cuba (by decreasing order).

The NAFO CEM provides also that:

- The follow-up of the quota up-take is done by the Executive Secretary, who notifies all Contracting Parties (CP) of the dates of which respectively 50 % and 100 % of the TAC have been taken.
- Not more than 50 % of the TAC may be fished before 01 July of each year.
- Each Contracting Party shall ensure that no more RED 3M is retained on board vessels after notification by the Executive Secretary that 100% of the TAC is taken.

While this system has proven overall satisfactory in the past, it has also led in the past to a number of issues which should be addressed:

- Rules on by-catches are not straightforward.
- Fishing vessels are forced to discard RED 3M after the TAC is reached.
- Delays have been observed when closing this fishery when 100 % of the TAC was taken, leading to some TAC overshoots.

The present proposal aim at addressing two aspects of the management of this fishery which need to be improved:

1- The issues of the by-catch after 50 % of the TAC is taken

The provisions of the NCEM should be made more explicit regarding the fact that by-catches of RED 3M can be kept on board during the suspension period. By analogy with what is done for the "Others" quotas, it is proposed that it is limited to 1250 kg or 5% of the total catches whichever is the greater. These by-catches shall be counted against the quotas of the Contracting Parties and the TAC.

¹ NAFO CEM - Annex I.A

² Though the quota of DFG, France (for Saint Pierre & Miquelon), Korea and USA are "protected". They are allowed to catch their full quota (total = 276 tonnes)

³ Including a quota designated for "Others" (total = 124 tonnes), which benefits Iceland, Norway and Ukraine.

2- The issues of how to manage the closure of this fishery when 100 % of the TAC is taken⁴
The proposal is to amend the NCEM (Article 5.2) so that the Executive Secretary shall notify Contracting Parties 5 calendar days in advance of the date on which, for RED 3M, the catch taken by vessels of the Contracting Parties is expected to reach 50% and then 100% of the TAC.

* * *

It is recommended:

- To modify **Article 5.2 paragraph (b)** of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures as follows:

"The Executive Secretary shall notify 5 calendar days in advance all Contracting Parties of the date on which, for 3M Redfish, the accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of the Contracting Parties is estimated to reach 50% and then 100% of the TAC.

Between the date the accumulated reported catch is estimated to reach 50% of the TAC and 1 July and then after the date the accumulated reported catch is estimated to reach 100% of the TAC, no 3M redfish directed fishing shall take place.

Each Contracting Party shall ensure that after the estimated date when 100 % of the 3M redfish TAC is taken, no more 3M Redfish, caught after that date, is retained onboard its vessels.

The by-catch of 3M redfish taken between the estimated date when 50 % of the 3M redfish TAC is taken and 1 July shall be counted against the quotas of the Contracting Parties or the "others" quota as appropriate and the TAC."

- To modify **Article 6.1 paragraph (b)** of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures as follows:

" (b) In cases where a ban on fishing is in force, an "Others" quota has been fully utilized, or 3M redfish directed fishery is suspended when 50 % of the 3M redfish TAC is taken in accordance with article 5.2, the by-catch of the species concerned may not exceed 1250 kg or 5%, whichever is the greater. However, for cod in Division 3NO vessels of a Contracting Party shall limit their by-catch to a maximum of 1000 kg or 4%, whichever is greater."

⁴ STACTIC may be consulted on this issue, prior to the discussion in the Fisheries Commission.