

**35th ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2013****White hake in Divisions 3NO**

Recalling that White hake came under quota regulation when NAFO, at its Annual Meeting in 2004, set a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 8 500 t for 2005-2007 in Divisions 3NO

Further Recalling that the TAC for white hake in Divisions 3NO was reduced to 6,000 t for 2010 and 2011, with subsequent reductions to 5,000 t (2012) and 1,000 t (2013);

Noting the 2013 Scientific Council Advice which indicates that:

- the stock biomass remains at relatively low levels;
- recruitment has been low since 2000;
- fishing mortality is low; and
- catches of White hake in Div. 3NO in 2014-15 should not exceed their current levels;

Further noting that the assessment is considered data limited and as such associated with a relatively high uncertainty;

Considering that recruitment was higher in 2011 but not comparable to the high recruitment observed in 2000;

Mindful that adjustments of the TAC should be based upon scientific advice

It is recommended that:

1. **The overall TAC for 3NO White hake be maintained at 1 000t for 2014**
2. **The current provision (NCEMs Footnote 27) which allows for the in-season adjustment of the TAC be revised to state:**

Should a Contracting Party experience higher than normal catches per unit of effort (CPUE) and conclude that a shift to high availability levels of white hake during the fishing season – such as what was apparently the case in 2002 and 2003 –is taking place, then that Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary and submit a summary of evidence for its conclusion (higher than normal CPUE and any other additional relevant information) within one month. On this basis, a mail vote will be submitted to the Fisheries Commission as to whether an exceptional increase in the availability of fish occurs. The TAC shall remain at 1000t until the results of the vote are complete and the catch limitation provided for in Annex 1 A of the NCEM will apply. In case of a positive vote, the TAC is confirmed to be 2,000 metric tons. In the case of negative vote, the TAC shall remain at 1000 metric tons.