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NAFO/FC Doc. 13/23
(Adopted)

35TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2013

Greenland Halibut Management Strategy – Review and Evaluation

Recalling that Contracting Parties agreed in 2003 to implement a rebuilding programme for the Greenland halibut stock in Subarea 2 + Divisions 3KLMNO;

Recalling that the Greenland halibut management strategy (MS) in Subarea 2 + Divisions 3KLMNO was adopted by NAFO in 2010 and *shall be in force initially until 2014* (NCEM article 10);

Further recalling that the Rebuilding program was updated in 2011 (FC Doc 11/15) to reflect the adoption of the MS and included the adoption of an *Exceptional Circumstances Protocol*;

Recalling the established performance targets for the MSE (FC Doc 10/30);

Noting that the first exploitable biomass target can only be assessed in 2016;

Mindful that a review should assess if the Management Strategy (MS) adopted in 2010 is allowing the stock to reach the defined targets;

Taking into account that in accordance with the *Exceptional Circumstances Protocol*, Scientific Council have annually monitored the survey biomass indicator and have provided advice to Fisheries Commission on implementation of the MS;

Noting that SC has advised that the survey biomass has not fallen below the expected range;

Further noting that the TACs generated by the harvest control rule have been within the expected range (FC doc. 10/30); and,

Taking into account the available information, the MS is performing as expected.

Recommendations:

- 1. FC continue to use the current Management Strategy for three additional years 2015-2017.**
- 2. Request the WG RBMS to provide a recommendation to FC at the 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO (September 2014) on an approach and workplan to review the MS in 2017.**