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.